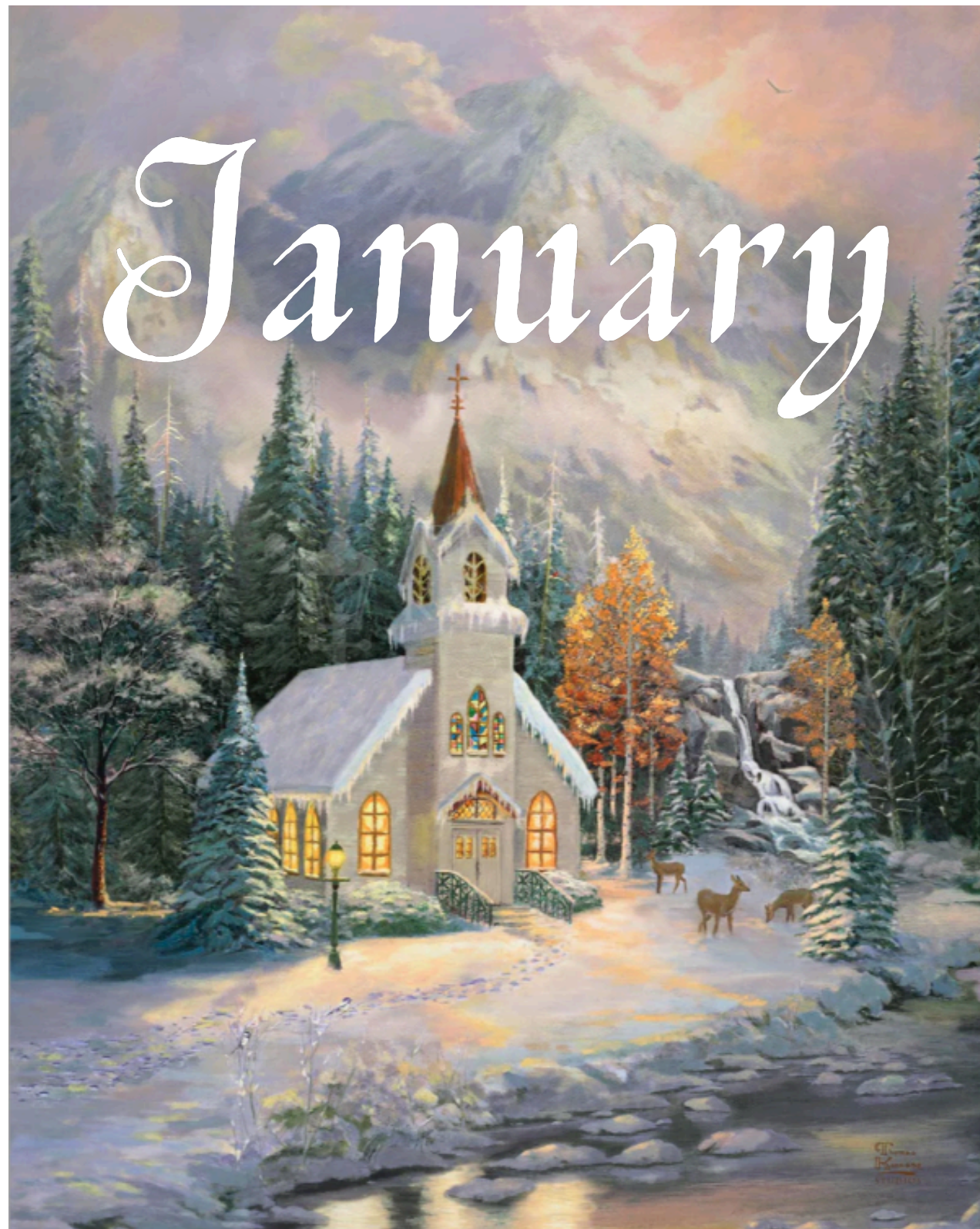


# THE BEACON

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**ucc**

"NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE  
YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE  
WELCOME HERE.

1301 OAK ST.  
PASO ROBLES  
(805) 238-3321  
[plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com)



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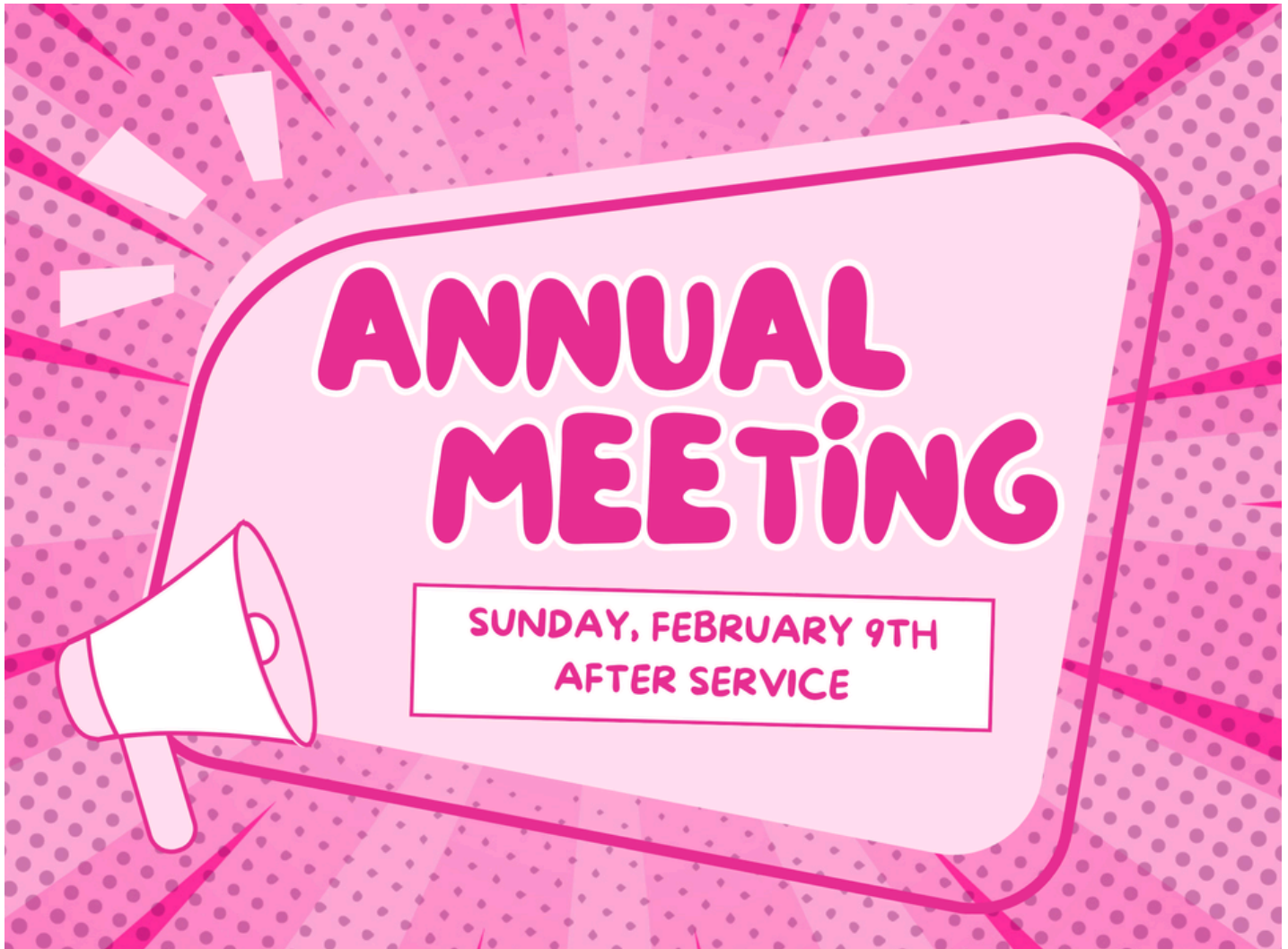
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# PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND



**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.**

**~~1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)~~**

But what began as a simple intention kind of became a dilemma! Because who are our church leaders? Originally I was just thinking church officers and board and committee chairs. But then I started thinking about all the people who make our community what it is: People who serve on boards or committees. Staff. Greeters. Liturgists. People who bring (and set up) snacks to create a genuinely lovely time of fellowship. Those who help ensure that no one's falling through the cracks . . .

And all of you who worked out front—and behind the scenes—to make our Christmas Eve Service a time of blessing an connection for our community. Not just our Plymouth community, but people in our area who came looking for a safe and welcoming church experience and found it.

You may not think of yourself as a leader, but if you're involved in any type of service or ministry, you're contributing in positive ways to the world around us, and that is leadership. So watch for the email with the link to that podcast. No pressure to listen, but you'll learn some interesting things if you do. 😊

One of my favorite life/ministry resources is The Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast. Carey is an interesting guy: he's a Canadian who grew up in "mainline" denominational church, pastored his own church for a couple of decades in a more evangelical setting, and ended up suffering intense burnout that required that he intentionally step back and reset.

Carey's is a classic "lemonade" story, because he went on to utilize those experiences—good and bad—to create a platform for leaders in various sectors to have healthy work-life balance, improve productivity, and build teams in a way that values the contribution of all involved. His slogan is "Helping you live in a way today that will help you thrive tomorrow."

Carey's podcasts usually consist of him interviewing a prominent CEO or ministry leader, but the episode I listened to this past week was just Carey, talking about church trends in 2025. Before I was halfway through I knew I wanted to share it with our church leaders.

With so much gratitude for how you lead and serve,

*Pastor Wendy*

## A WORD FROM OUR DIACONATE

Happy New Year!!! 2025  
Unbelievable!! Advent and  
Christmas were both beautiful and  
memorable at Plymouth. Now we  
plan for the new year.

Taking down the greens will be on  
Sunday, January 5th, following our  
service. All hands needed.

Fellowship was taken care of by the boards all December. We will do that  
once a quarter. Now we need your help. Take a moment to stop by the  
bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Find a partner to do fellowship and  
sign up for a Sunday.

Also, find a Sunday you could bring a plant or some flowers. If everyone  
signs up it would make it so easy to have all Sundays covered.

Do you take note of the prayer list each Sunday? Besides praying for  
people on the list you could send a card to cheer someone up. Just  
knowing someone cares helps the healing of body and soul.

Thank you to all of you that pitch in to help all year round. We have a  
wonderful Church and it is because of all of you wonderful people.

Blessings to all,  
Sharon Rowe  
Head of Diaconate





# Youth Ministry

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## A NOTE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

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Hello all, and happy new year! First of all, I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Eve service, from coming to our rehearsals to being part of the service itself! It was a wonderful celebration of the story of Christmas, and such a beautiful ending to 2024.

Last month, we got such a good reception from having our youth help out with Plymouth Cares that we would like to invite our youth to help again this month! The first Tuesday of the month, January 7th, is when John Svinth coordinates our Plymouth Cares meal preparation and serving for our homeless community members. Meals will be prepped during the time most of our youth are in school, but any who are able to help out are invited to join us at the ECHO shelter in Paso Robles at 4:45PM to help set up, and we will be serving meals from 5-6PM. Please join us if you can and be a helping hand in the community!

Our Youth Bible Study will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1/8, at the Youth House from 6:30-8PM! Youth Group (6th grade and up) are invited to our Bible study led by Trago Wallace, to come talk about different scripture and Bible passages and discuss them with peers. Youth are welcome to invite friends, and there will also be pizza! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please reach out to me or Trago Wallace. We hope to see you there!

Our monthly Date Night will be on the 3rd Friday of the month, 1/17! Youth of all ages are invited to join me at the Youth House from 5-8PM for a night of crafts, games, food, and fun with church friends. Parents, if you would like to volunteer for the night, and/or help provide food for the kids, please let me know! All our church youth are invited and are welcome to bring friends, just make sure to RSVP to me so that we can have a headcount for the night.

Date Night will be followed by an Overnight for our Youth Group, 6th grade and up! Join us for a sleepover in the Youth House, where we'll eat snacks, play games, and have fun in fellowship with church peers. Don't forget a pillow and blanket! Pickups will be the following morning, Saturday 1/18, at 10AM at the Youth House, and breakfast snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Our monthly Youth to Yogurt will be the 3rd Sunday of the month, 1/19. Youth Group 6th grade and up are invited to join me after service to walk to the downtown Paso park for a frozen treat. We will spend some time discussing upcoming youth events and plans, and it's a great way for our youth to be involved in the planning process and to get their input heard. We are typically out for about half an hour before heading back to the church around 11:45 AM, so I hope you can join us!

On the 4th Wednesday of the month, 1/22, we will have our monthly "Let's Talk About That" meeting for our Youth Group. Youth 6th grade and up are invited to join me and Pastor Wendy at the Youth House from 6:30-8:00PM. This is a night of youth-led conversations over pizza, where we discuss the topics our church youth most want to talk about, from faith, church, school, friends, family, and beyond. Youth are welcome and invited to bring friends, just make sure to RSVP so we have a headcount for pizza. We hope to see you there!

Finally, the last Sunday of the month, 1/26, will be our monthly Youth Sunday! Youth of all ages are invited to participate in our service in whatever way they would like; they can read as liturgist, light the candles as acolyte, pass out bulletins as greeters, help with music, run slides, and more! It's a great way for them to be involved in our service, and to showcase their talents and dedication to the congregation. If you're available, please join in! It's always a great opportunity to get our youth involved in church.

I hope that everyone has a lovely close to the holiday season and a wonderful start to their new year. See you at our upcoming events!

Take care,  
Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director



# MISSION OUTREACH NEWS



**Twenty-six people contributed to our Plymouth Cares meal on December 3rd** that served 111 dinners, all 75 PBJ sack lunches and 103 Christmas blessing gift bags on a chilly evening at the ECHO Paso Shelter. We were blessed with excellent servers in eight youth coordinated by Julia who were Julia's sisters Marie & Hazel, as well as William and Templeton High Drama peers recruited by William in Georgia, Jordan, Ayla, Audrey and Meridian.

The main dish of Hearty Hamburger Casserole was a recipe prepared by Alex and Becky with help from Stu. Chris prepared her popular green salad with Ranch dressing with assistance from Susan and Linda. John T. and Linda provided tasty buttered Hawaiian Sweet Rolls. Chuck provided a variety of cookies for the dessert, which were bagged by Chris and Nanette. The highly trained PBJ sack lunch crew was Pat, Melinda, Sharon W., Chuck, Mary, Anne J., Terri, Nanette, Carlie and John S. The Christmas blessing gift bags were put together by Chris, Anne J., Susan, Pat, Chuck and John S.

As usual the preparations and serving was accompanied by delightful conversation and warm laughter, as we enjoyed doing God's work to serve those in need. If you would like to be a helper in this wonderful ministry, you are welcome to join us at our next Plymouth Cares meal on Tuesday, January 7th, with food prep starting at 1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall and in the church kitchen, while serving is from 5-6 PM at the ECHO Paso Shelter. If you will be a first-time helper, please contact John Svinth. Please see the Outreach bulletin board for pictures of the people who prepared and served this meal (Regrettably, Stu was out of camera range while replacing light bulbs.).

**The Donations Box for the Unhoused** received a pair of cozy slippers, a sweater, a jacket, and several pairs of men's underwear. These were delivered to the ECHO Paso Shelter on December 3rd . Thank you for this expression of caring and sharing.

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON MISSIONS UPDATE**

**The Zozu Project Youth Donations for Christmas and Birthday gift monies** collected an amazing \$613! Checks for \$125 were sent to Uganda for our 10-year-olds, Daniel and for Kizito, as their Christmas gifts from our congregation. The remaining donations will be used for the boys 11th birthdays in 2025 and toward their Christmas gifts for 2025. You may recall that when youth in the Zozu Project receive monetary gifts, one half is spent shopping for their gifts with a Zozu staff member, while the other half is placed in a savings account to support important needs that arise for each child's family. Your incredible support will make a very Merry Christmas for Daniel and Kizito.

**The Salvation Army Bellringers from Plymouth were a success on December 6th at Walmart.** The red kettle was full of donations at the end of the day from the ringing by Alex & Becky, Sally, Terri, Pat (2 shifts!), Mary, and Carlie & John S. and little Ari. While the weather was cold, the ringers were warmed by doing a most worthy deed for the Salvation Army that brings help around the world. Our ringers undoubtedly enjoyed the appreciation and chatting with donors, friends and passersby sharing holiday cheer.

**Paso Robles Toy Bank Collection:** Our Toy Bank box in Fellowship Hall was brimming with new, unwrapped toys that were delivered to the Toy Bank's sorting location at the Paso Robles Event Center. Our toy donations were added to the other donations from the North County and distributed on the Toy Bank's "Day of Giving" on December 14, to children in need in Paso Robles, San Miguel, Bradley, Shandon and Heritage Ranch. Thank you for helping to make Christmas mornings merry for children who might otherwise have no gifts to open for Christmas. The spirit of Christmas lives on!

**The UCC Christmas Fund Offering** results were not yet available for this Beacon, so an update will be in the February Beacon. The Christmas Fund is an annual special mission offering providing support for financial difficulties among active and retired UCC clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses. Donations may be made using offering envelopes marked for Christmas Fund, while checks should be payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for Christmas Fund.

**The Heifer Project "Living Gift Market"** concluded on December 29th , so an update will be available in the next Beacon. The Heifer Project helps to end world hunger and poverty through success in agriculture by providing farmers with training, resources, and marketing support, after which the successful farmers pass on their training and resources to the next generation. Donations are going well; Terry Reid would be pleased!



# CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS



- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 5. Michelle Richardson | 15. Debbie Wallace |
| 6. Cynthia Anthony     | 17. Scott Mottard  |
| 7. Natalie Rougeot     | 18. Amy Baker      |
| 7. Donovan Holland     | 19. Bruce Mark     |
| 8. Harleigh Learned    | 22. Chris macy     |
| 10. Nolan Severson     | 23. Chuck Hope     |
| 10. Erik Smit          | 24. Nancy Junge    |
| 12. Linnea Schaefer    | 26. Robby Smith    |
| 15. Maddy Wallace      | 28. Barbara Hill   |



- 4. Jessica and Mike Learned
- 6. Paul Burkle and Joy Patterson
- 7. John and Linda Tubb

- Prayers for Shirley Mark's sister, Marilyn, recently diagnosed with breast cancer
- Continued prayers for five-year old Scarlett in remission: healing, comfort, and peace for her and loved ones.
- Lily Kate Comstock and her family ~ For healing and comfort as she lives with a rare form of epilepsy.
- Pete DeGraaf ~ Parkinson's
- Maisie Egger
- Carilyn Payne, mother of John Svinth's niece ~ on kidney dialysis due to kidney failure
- Rachana Feit ~ Prayers for comfort of Cancer
- Barb Hill


- Rev. Wendy Holland and family
- Mary Hyatt ~ Friend of Pearl Munak. Extreme trouble breathing-AST, COPD, Crohn's Disease, etc.
- Prayers for Hart & Nancy Junge.
- Carolyn Kelso
- Prayers for Craig Kelso as he suffers with Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's
- Anita Yates ~ Prayers for strength and comfort in the hospital as she deals with a blood clot in her lung
- Prayers for Nicole, for strength and comfort to her and family as she battles with breast cancer
- For multiple families dealing with health and cognition issues.
- For the continued good health of all.

- For God to bless PCC with continued, abundant, love and unity, and to add to our numbers, as we can be a mutual blessing to those who join us.
- Prayers for all people in War Torn Countries.
- May God heal, bless, comfort; and give wisdom to the doctors and all medical personnel.



TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST OR MAKE CHANGES, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL LUCY IN THE CHURCH  
OFFICE: (805) 238-3321, OR PLYMOUTHCHURCHPASO@GMAIL.COM

# JANUARY CALENDAR

SUN   DECEMBER 29	MON   DECEMBER 30	TUES   DECEMBER 31	WED   JANUARY 1	THUR   JANUARY 2	FRI   JANUARY 3	SAT   JANUARY 4
			New Year's Day 			God's Garden 9am

SUN   JANUARY 5	MON   JANUARY 6	TUES   JANUARY 7	WED   JANUARY 8	THUR   JANUARY 9	FRI   JANUARY 10	SAT   JANUARY 11
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Holy Communion Sunday  Taking Down the Greens After Service		Plymouth Cares Meal Serving Meal Prep: 1:30 - 4:30pm Serving: 4:45 - 6pm at ECHO Shelter  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am  Youth Bible Study Youth House 6:30-8pm	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)</i>	

SUN   JANUARY 12	MON   JANUARY 13	TUES   JANUARY 14	WED   JANUARY 15	THUR   JANUARY 16	FRI   JANUARY 17	SAT   JANUARY 18
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Diaconate Board Meeting 11:40am		Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Date Night Youth House 5-8pm  Youth Group Overnight (6th grade and up) Youth House 8pm	Youth Overnight Pickups Youth House 10am

SUN   JANUARY 19	MON   JANUARY 20	TUES   JANUARY 21	WED   JANUARY 22	THUR   JANUARY 23	FRI   JANUARY 24	SAT   JANUARY 25
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Youth to Yogurt After Service  Mission Outreach Meeting 11:40am		Mission Outreach Library 4:15pm  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm  Trustees Meeting 6pm  Council Meeting 7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am  Let's Talk About That (Youth) 6:30p-8pm Youth House	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)</i>	

SUN   JANUARY 26	MON   JANUARY 27	TUES   JANUARY 28	WED   JANUARY 29	THUR   JANUARY 30	FRI   JANUARY 31	SAT   FEBRUARY 1
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Youth Sunday  Youth and Family Board Meeting 11:40am		Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)</i>	

## JANUARY SERMONS

SUN   JANUARY 5	SUN   JANUARY 12	SUN   JANUARY 19	SUN   JANUARY 26
"Who's in Charge Here?" 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	"God in All the Places" Psalm 29	"The First Miracle" John 2:1-11	"Good News for Who?" Luke 14:14-21





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To access our online worship, to find out more about Plymouth Congregational Church, or to make an offering online, please visit: [plymouthchurchpaso.com](http://plymouthchurchpaso.com).

May God bless us all!

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