



Plymouth Congregational Church ~ UCC ~ 1301 Oak Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 ~ (805) 238-3321
 plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com ~ "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Pastor's Letter ~ March 2024

Reverend Wendy Holland



There's an interesting exchange in Luke 9:49-55 that reads:

⁴⁹ John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn't in our group."

⁵⁰ But Jesus said, "Don't stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you."

for As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out
 his Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for
 arrival. ⁵³ But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was
 on his way to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus,
 and "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned
 and and rebuked them.

We sometimes hear about Jesus's earliest followers and laugh at how unsophisticated they were, or shake our heads at their ignorance. Here the Disciples are just beginning to recognize the power and influence they have as followers of Christ. Not that they were walking in obedience for their own gain. Everyone was making sacrifices. But the perks would be undeniable.

They can actually make a difference in people's lives! And of course, this would in turn benefit *them*. The Disciples would be seen as special, desirable, the cool people to have at a party.

So when they hear that other people who aren't even part of their circle are using the name of Jesus to do good works—and later when they're not received with the celebration and favor they've become accustomed to—they are instantly suspicious. They forget everything Jesus has taught them about grace and inclusion, and are instead ready to divide and conquer.

But Jesus reminds them that everyone else's good works don't have to look like *their* good works, and vice versa. And that wherever people reflect the goodness of God and the Gospel we can find common ground.

There are things happening in the world that absolutely call for critique, and even condemnation. But before we pass judgment based on "outsider" status let's prayerfully, discerningly take a look at their priorities and accomplishments.

When we let go of judgment and ego and fear, we can find Jesus in some unexpected and beautiful spaces.

May the Spirit be our continual guide and constant companion.

Pastor Wendy

Diaconate...

March is upon us and we have some great things happening at Plymouth Church.

Greetings! Spring is around the corner and new growth and blossoms have been beautiful.

- ♦ Palm Sunday is March 24 is Palm Sunday. We will meet in the park at 9:30 to walk back to the church with palm fronds.
- ♦ There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 5:00pm on March 28.
- ♦ Then our Easter Service will be March 31. Anyone that is able, please bring an Easter Lily to decorate the Church. Then you can take it home after or take it to someone that needs cheering up.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to bring flowers and fellowship goodies. It is so nice to have variety. Please check the sign-up sheet on the fellowship wall for empty dates.

We may not still wear Easter hats, dresses, patent leather shoes or suits like in the past, but we have a wonderful congregation filled with spirit, faith, camaraderie and love. Top that!

Spring blessings to you all, Sharon Rowe

See you at Church,



April 7, 2024 ~ The Sermon Will Be "Ask Anything"

Please submit any questions that you have to ...

- ⇒ Rev. Wendy's Email ~ rev.wendy.holland@gmail.com
- ⇒ The Church Office Email ~ plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com
- ⇒ Anonymously through the office door's mail slot
- ⇒ Anonymously in the offering plate on Sundays
- ⇒ Or by phone 805-238-3321

We would love to hear from you. . .

Please send questions early enough to be reviewed.

Thank you!





Happy Easter . .

Friday 3/15: Date Night 5:00-8:00PM at the Youth House; Youth Group Overnight (6th grade and up) in the Youth House

Saturday 3/16: Overnight pickups 10AM at the Youth House

Sunday 3/17: Youth to Yogurt (6th grade and up) after service

Wednesday 3/27: "Let's Talk About That" 6:30-8:00PM at the Youth House (6th grade and up)

Sunday 3/31: Youth Sunday & Easter egg hunt!

Hello Plymouth families, and happy March! I hope everyone is having a wonderful start to your month, and enjoying all the beauty of springtime.

March will kick off with our monthly Date Night on the 3rd Friday of the month, March 15th, at the Youth House. Remember, we now have an updated time of 5:00-8:00PM! Youth of all ages are invited to join us for a night of themed crafts, games, snacks, and time with church peers. Youth are also welcome to bring friends! Parents, if you are available this month to provide food for the night and/or serve as parent volunteer, please let me know, and thanks so much in advance! Date Night will be followed by an overnight for our Youth Group, 6th grade and up. We will stay overnight at the church for games, snacks, and time with friends. Don't forget a blanket and pillow! Youth are welcome to bring a friend.

Pickups will be Saturday morning 3/16 at the Youth House at 10AM, and breakfast snacks will be provided. See you there!

Sunday, February 17th is our monthly Youth to Yogurt! Youth Group members 6th grade and up are invited to join me after service to walk to the downtown Paso park for a frozen treat. We spend some time discussing upcoming youth events and plans. We are typi- cally out for about half an

Our weekly Youth Band & Bible study will be on a hiatus this month to accommodate the school drama rehearsals many of our church youth are part of. We will be resuming in April, so keep an eye out for an announcement about that! The 4th Wednesday of the month will still be "Let's Talk About That", where we meet with Pastor Wendy to discuss topics chosen by our youth. This month, that will be Wednesday 3/27, at the Youth House from 6:30-8:00PM.

Finally, the last Sunday of the month, 3/31, is not only Easter Sunday but also 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, and it will be even more fun to have them sharing in leadership on Easter Sunday!

Thanks all, and I wish you peace and blessings for this month and for the ahead.

Take care,

Julia Schulte,

Youth & Family Director

season
The Easter Egg is hol-
low,
Just as they found the
tomb;
For it is meant to repre-

season



MISSION-OUTREACH NEWS FOR MARCH 2024

By John Svinth

The Mission-Outreach Team needs more members on its board. Our board has only four members and would benefit greatly from additional members to help us plan and develop our outreach activities to our community and beyond. If you feel a tug on your heart when you hear about or help with the activities we conduct, please consider joining our board to add your ideas and good energy to help serve those who need a helping hand. For more information about us please see John Svinth, Pearl Munak, Chris Macy, or Sally Vogl.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is Sunday, March 10th. This is the first of the four annual special mission offerings conducted by the United Church of Christ. This year's OGHS theme is *Share the Light*. Your gifts are combined with others across the United Church of Christ to make a greater impact to the work being done and enables support to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us. Please give as you are able and join us to help *Share the Light* on **March 10th**. Checks for One Great Hour of Sharing should be payable to Plymouth Church and earmarked for OGHS. Thank you!



Daniel Opkobua's 10th birthday was February 26. Daniel is one of our two boys in Uganda whom we sponsor through the Zozu Project. Thanks so much to our congregation for the wonderful birthday monies collected of \$215. This was such an amazing response that it is enough to provide both Daniel and Kizito, our other Zozu boy whose birthday is in June, their birthday gifts for 2024. Half of the amount, \$107.50, was sent to Daniel to help make his birthday extra happy and the same amount will be sent to Kizito for his birthday in June, which assures both boys will know that they are gifted equally. A Zozu staff member will take Daniel shopping to spend half of the money for gifts, while the remainder of the funds was placed in a savings account to support Daniel's family. I'm sure that Daniel and his family felt great joy upon receiving our gift for Daniel turning 10.

The **Plymouth Cares meal on February 6th** saw 19 people organize, prepare, assemble and/or serve 92 dinners and all 75 PBJ sack lunches for the guests on a drizzly afternoon at the ECHO Paso shelter. Alex and Becky organized the truly *hearty* main dish of Hearty Hamburger Casserole and prepared it with Gail and Stu. The wonderful sides were Chris' crisp green salad with Ranch dressing, Linda and John T's buttered Hawaiian sweet rolls, and Alison's chocolate chip cookies. This meal's highly trained PBJ sack lunch crew was Melinda, Mary, Carlie, John S., Olivia, Sharon W., Gail, Jim, Charity, and Nikol and son Andrew Rochez. The dedicated serving crew was Tanya, Alex, Becky, and John S. With just part of an afternoon Plymouth Church became a blessing to those in need and its representatives were blessed in return, all while enjoying the good work and each other's company. Helpers are always needed and appreciated at the Plymouth Cares meals, which are always the first Tuesday of each month, so the next one is March 5th.

The Mission-Outreach Team has a new meeting date. We are now meeting on the second Sunday of the month, after the worship service, at 11:40 AM, except for the month of March when we will meet on the third Sunday due

MARCH CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

MARCH BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Jim Ball	7	Christopher Rowe	23
Sean Boling	7	John Tubb	25
Robert Dudley	7	Amelia Baker	26
Hannah Rougeot	12	David Rowe	26
Jackson Quealy	19	Mark Elterman	29
Colter Tannehill	20	Hart Junge	31
Lei Norman	22	Sharon Rowe	31
Sharon Wood	22		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries Listed



HOPE AND HEALING ~ "DEAR GOD, PLEASE BLESS US WITH GOOD HEALTH AND STRENGTH. HELP US TO TAKE CARE OF OUR BODIES AND MINDS, AND TO ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE. AMEN."

- † Prayers for Renee Athey, for healing & strength, body & spirit, as she undergoes chemo f/pancreatic cancer.
- † Lily Kate Comstock and her family ~ For healing and comfort as she lives with a rare form of epilepsy.
- † Dix DeGraaf ~ Has an upcoming surgery for an aortic embolism. Prayers for healing.
- † Pete DeGraaf ~ Parkinson's
- † Maisie Egger
- † Rachana Feit ~ Prayers of comfort for Cancer
- † Barb Hill ~ Took a fall and is healing. Prayers for comfort and for her son Ron's recovery/health.
- † 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. ~ Hart is home, recovering well and glad to be home with Nancy.
- † Prayers f/Strength & Recovery of Emily, JoAnne Stoddard's niece, beginning Radiation treatments 3/11/24 .
- † Carolyn Kelso
- † Alyssa Reid ~ Alyssa is 35 and her liver has failed. She's waiting for a transplant at Scripps in San Diego. Please pray for Alyssa and her family. Her mom works for Marilyn and Chuck Hope.
- † Anita Yates
- † 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 Ronny in the church office:
(805) 238-3321, or plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com

COFFEE AT CIDER CREEK BAKERY AND DELI

205 OAK HILL RD., STE #102
Paso Robles, CA 93446

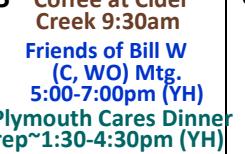
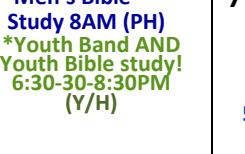
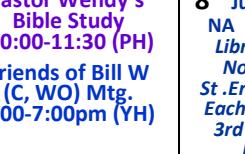
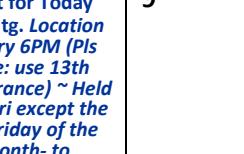
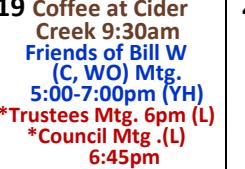
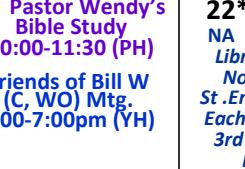
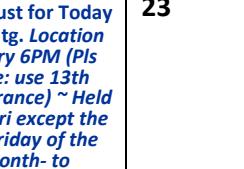
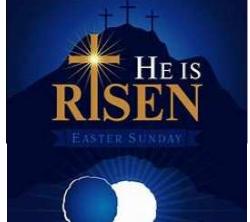


PCC singles and anyone who feels the need for a coffee get together every Tuesday at 9:30am at Cider Creek Bakery and deli. If you are interested in starting this group, please call or text Kathy Johansing (805) 440-5758. This is VERY informal just a nice cup of coffee or a snack with some friends.



Plymouth Congregational Church

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 3 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY	 4 PCC Office Closed Mondays	COULD THIS BE CALIFORNIA ??? PLEASE BE SAFE !			1 *Just for Today NA Mtg. Location Library 6PM (Pls Note: use 13th St. Entrance) ~ Held Each Fri except the 3rd Friday of the Month- to accommodate Date Night	2 God's Garden 8:30 A.M. 
						
Plymouth Hall Closed for California Presidential Primary Election						
10 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am O.G.H.S. *Diaconate Mtg. 11:30AM (L) Daylight Savings Time Begins Turn Clocks Ahead 1 HR	11 PCC Office Closed Mondays	12 Coffee at Cider Creek 9:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH) Plymouth Cares Dinner Prep~1:30-4:30pm (YH)	13 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH) *Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM Y/H (Y/H)	14 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	15 Youth Date Night (YH) 5:30-8:30 Followed by an Overnight for 6th graders and up. Please bring a blanket/pillow	16 *Youth overnight pick ups at Youth House 10AM
						23
24 Meet AT Park and Walk to ~ PCC SANCTUARY With Palms For 10am Sunday Service 	25 PCC Office Closed Mondays	26 Coffee at Cider Creek 9:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	27 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH) *Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM Y/H (Y/H)	28 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH) Maundy Service 5pm Fellowship Hall	29 * Just for Today NA Mtg. Location Library 6PM (Pls Note: use 13th St. Entrance) ~ Held Each Fri except the 3rd Friday of the Month- to accommodate Date Night	30
31 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am YOUTH SUNDAY 	March Sunday Sermons ~ We hope you are able to join us for our March Services, 10am.					
	<p>Week One (3/3/24): "Zealous" ~ Exodus 20:1-17 (NLT)</p> <p>Week Two (3/10/24): "Meeting Jesus On His Way To The Cross" A Tax collector Luke 19:1-10</p> <p>Week Three (3/17/24): "Good Days Ahead" Jeremiah 31:31-34</p> <p>Week Four (3/24/24): "Human" Mark 15</p> <p>Week Five (3/31/24): "Witnesses" John 20:1-18</p>					
	<p>To access our online worship; to Find out more about Plymouth Church; or to make an offering online; please visit: plymouthchurchpaso.com. May God bless us all!</p>					
	A Warming Center may be held on Wednesdays or Thursdays depending on the weather					