

THE BEACON

PLYMOUTH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ucc

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

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PASO ROBLES
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PEARL'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Please join us at 11am on Saturday, May 24th for a memorial service to celebrate the life of our beloved Pearl Munak. The service will take place at Plymouth Church, and afterwards we will share in a time of food, fellowship, and remembrances ❤️ If you have any photos of Pearl that you would like to be displayed during this service, please send them to plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Any prayer requests can be submitted to Lucy in the church office by email at plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com or by phone at (805) 238-3321. Prayer requests can either be privately shared with our confidential prayer team or placed in the bulletin and beacon to be shared with our congregation.

PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND



“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but let us encourage one another.”
~~ Hebrews 10:23-25a (NLT)~~

Dear Plymouth Family,

There's an undeniable heaviness in the air these days. So many of us are feeling overwhelmed by the cruelty, division, and fear that are seeping into public life. The rise in hate-fueled rhetoric, increasing attacks on things like “compassion” and “empathy,” and the exclusion and marginalization of the most vulnerable—these aren't simply political issues. They're deeply spiritual ones, that Jesus addressed in his own time boldly and without hesitation.

As people who follow Jesus—the one who welcomed outsiders, challenged the powerful, and healed the broken-hearted—we're called not to look away, but to lean in. Not with despair, but with courage. And not alone, but together.

Our calling is to promote and instill hope. Not shallow optimism, but real hope—hope that is grounded in community, in justice, and in the love of Christ that transcends boundaries.

This is one of the reasons I'm so grateful for our wider UCC community. After some years of being more detached from our denomination, this is a vital moment for us to reconnect. The United Church of Christ—especially our own Southern California Nevada Conference—is offering powerful resources and spaces to ground us spiritually and equip us practically.

I encourage you to check out the upcoming Annual Gathering of the SCNC on May 30–31. There will be deeply engaging speakers, workshops to ground and stretch us, and the chance to be reminded that we are not alone in this work of love and liberation. Click on the link to learn more: <https://www.scncucc.org/annual-gathering-2025/>

Speaking of community—we are once again partnering with the SLO and Atascadero UCC churches to co-host a booth at San Luis Obispo Pride in the Plaza on Saturday, May 31. This is an opportunity to joyfully show up and participate, and to remind our LGBTQ+ community that we are a genuinely safe and welcoming space.

Our church includes a diversity of perspectives, and this is a huge part of what makes us unique. But we go beyond that by continuing to care for each other, even when it's not the most comfortable thing.

So let's keep showing up for one another. Let's root ourselves in Christ, in each other, and in the deep well of hope that comes from knowing we are part of something bigger.

With deep gratitude and hope for the work God continues to do in and through us,

Pastor Wendy

A WORD FROM OUR DIACONATE

Happy May!

Easter was a beautiful celebration. Amazing to see the pews filled up with all of us and the fellowship time was filled with people having good discussions and conversation. Always try to introduce yourself to someone you do not know.



May 11 is Mother's Day and the gentlemen of the church are going to provide the fellowship to celebrate the women. We are going to reciprocate on Father's Day.

Our Estate Sale is going to be May 16 & 17. Keep your ears open for any one sizing down or moving. Or maybe it's time for all of us to clean out our garages and attics.

If you have some flowers in your yard, sign up to bring some.

It is a beautiful time of the year. Join us in Church for inspiration and strength. See you there!

Blessing to all,
Sharon Rowe

Youth and Family

Hi Plymouth Church families, and happy May! Please read on to learn about our upcoming events for this month.

Talent Show and Potluck May 9th at 6pm- Sign up online and invite a friend!

Youth Bible Study Wednesday May 14th from 6:30PM-8PM

Date Night Friday May 16th- Pajama movie night at the Wallace's (see more info below!)

Saturday May 17th Estate Sale Kids' Zone from 10AM-2PM

Youth Sunday May 25th- all youth invited to help lead the service

Youth Group "Let's Talk About That" Wednesday May 28th from 6:30-8PM

SLO "Pride in the Plaza" Saturday May 31st

Grad Celebration Sunday June 8th

More details on our Special Events for this month:

Youth Bible Study: Our monthly Bible study is back! Youth 7th grade and up can join Julia and Trago at the Youth House on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8PM for Bible study and Bible-based discussion. Feel free to invite friends!

May Date Night: Our Fellowship Hall will be full of items for our estate sale, so our monthly Date Night will be at the Wallace family's house! Wear your PJs and come join us for a night of movies, friends, and fun. 5-8pm for all ages, 8-10pm for youth 7th grade and up.

Estate Sale Kids' Zone: While parents shop or help work the estate sale, we will have activities for the kids! There will be a bounce house, face painting, a popcorn machine, and more!

Grad Celebration Sunday: Do you have youth who are graduating high school or college, or have a significant school promotion happening this year? We will have a slideshow during service on Sunday June 8th to celebrate our youth! Please send a photo of your youth and let us know where they are graduating/ promoting from, and where they're going next!

Pssst: Don't forget to check the Upcoming Events section on page 9 for more details on any other church and community events that youth can participate in!

Plymouth Church now has an updated:

Liability & Photo Release Form



SCAN THIS CODE

Open your phone camera, scan the code, and fill out the form for your youth!


We hope everyone has a wonderful month, filled with joy and love. This Mother's Day, let's celebrate all the people who nurture, guide, and inspire us. Whether you're a biological mother, a stepmother, an aunt, a grandmother, or simply a person who has played a maternal role in someone's life, your love and support are deeply appreciated. Your kindness, wisdom, and unwavering presence make a difference in the lives of those around you.

Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director, and Leslie Wallace, Youth & Family Board Chair

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS



Nineteen people created The Plymouth Cares meal on April 1st, which was completely served out for 104 dinners showcasing Alex and Becky's popular Hearty Hamburger Casserole on the cold evening of April Fools Day. Alex and Becky were skillfully assisted by Stu and Susan. Chris made her usual popular Green salad with Ranch dressing. John and Linda T. provided the delicious buttered Hawaiian Sweet Rolls. Leslie W. made a wonderful assortment of cookies and brownies that were well received for the dessert, while Pat and Chuck placed these delicacies into serving baggies. This meal's highly efficient PBJ sack lunch crew was Anne J., Mary, Susan, John S., Carlie, Nikol, Pat and Melinda. Alex, Becky, Stu, Julia, Adan, Hannah and John S. were the servers at the ECHO Shelter and received many a grateful "Thank you." As usual, this activity was accompanied by good cheer, wonderful conversation and the rewarding feeling of helping those in need as instruments of God's work.



The Box for Donations for the Unhoused yielded a wonderful assortment of bath towels and a lovely shirt. These were delivered to the ECHO shelter on April 1st where they were appreciatively received by the shelter residents.

Saturday, April 12, was our second quarterly blood drive for 2025. This blood drive collected 19 donations that will be used for medical emergencies and ongoing medical care. One pint of donated blood can save up to three lives. Thank you to those who could donate.

The One Great Hour Of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering which was initiated on March 30, received \$143 to help the UCC "Be the Light" to provide relief for domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. We appreciate this support from our church to participate in this worldwide mission outreach.

Alex and Becky responded to a request from ECHO to provide a meal at the shelter on April 19, at date which was not previously reserved by a meal provider. They created and served 87 dinners of Hearty Hamburger Casserole, salad, rolls and brownies. The brownies we enjoyed at Easter Sunday's fellowship were perhaps extras from that meal. Thank you to Alex and Becky for providing an additional meal for ECHO.

BIO: Dawn Stemper

I came to Paso Robles in the early 1960's at the age of 5. I am the last girl to have attended 1st grade at the Geneseo School which is now a part of Pioneer Museum. I grew up on an Angus cattle ranch half way between town and Creston. Raising cattle and learning to sew in 4-H rounded out my childhood years.

I went on to have a professional career as a home health and hospice nurse, played adult softball for 30 years and was a 4-H leader for 25 years. Currently retired and spend many hours quilting, working jigsaw puzzles and farming lavender. We have 8 grandchildren who are all local and we love attending all of their school and sports events.

Our family began attending church at the Methodist Church across the street from Plymouth. There were simultaneous clergy changes and my family chose Plymouth Congregational Church in the mid 1960's. I've been here ever since. My spiritual journey began by attending Sunday school and being an acolyte. I married Les Stemper, in this church in 1976. We had 3 children which were baptized here as well as our 1st grandson. My other church activities included being chairperson of Christian Education board along with being Sunday school teacher, member of Plymouth Circle, trustees, Church Council, bell choir and being church sexton for 8 years.

In 2007, Barbara Kossett, Isolde Lata and I began the Prayer Quilt Ministry here at Plymouth. We are Chapter # 630 of the Prayers and Squares International organization. We make quilts for people in the congregation and sometimes the community who are in physical, emotional or spiritual crisis and in need of Prayers through the gift of a quilt. These quilts are physical representations of the biblical principle of "love thy neighbor". Physical evidence of faith in God, in love, in prayer. There are three rules we follow when considering giving a quilt...1) The Ministry is about the prayers not the quilt. 2) Recipient must be asked and agree to accept the gift of prayer in the form of a quilt. We also ask what prayers are requested. 3) No money is accepted when a quilt is given. When the Quilts are selected, they are placed on the altar for 1-2 Sundays for the congregation to tie the knots while saying a prayer for the individual. When you tie a knot, you use your hands. This is symbolic of laying on of hands, a tradition of Christian healing. Resource for our ministry is from the book, "*Fabric of Faith*" by Kimberly Winston.

Anyone can make a request for a quilt on behalf of someone in need. If anyone would like to help with the ministry, let Barbara or myself know. Remember, it's about prayer, not quilts. Donations can be made to the Prayer Quilt Ministry fund at the office or offeratory envelope with specific notation.

Dawn Stemper
dsstemper73@gmail.com

PS: Stay tuned for a new Bio next month featuring someone else in our church family!

Upcoming Events



ESTATE SALE

Friday, May 16th
Saturday, May 17th

ANTIQUES • BOOKS
APPLIANCES • & MORE!

Plymouth Congregational Church, 1301 Oak Street



Pride IN THE PLAZA

Plymouth will share a booth with other local UCC churches at SLO's pride festival, on May 31st, to kick off pride month in June. Our youth (and any of our churchgoers) are welcome to come join us at our table, or stop by to say hello and check out the event!



A TALENT SHOW POTLUCK PARTY!

Bring a friend and a dish to share!

May 9th, 6:00 PM

Cinco de Mayo Potluck Theme

Drinks for Purchase

Are you excited about an upcoming event in our community? Please share by sending an email to plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com to have the event featured in next month's beacon!

CELEBRATIONS & PRAYERS



- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Jessica Learned | 15. Stu Stoddard |
| 3. Chelsea Hope | 20. Ryan Tannehill |
| 4. Lilah Waters | 21. Kalista Peterson |
| 4. Trago Wallace | 27. Tom Moore |
| 5. Avery Hope | |
| 6. Narda Krum | |
| 10. Austin Hope | |
| 15. Katherine Reisig | |



8. Robby Smith & Jennie Doherty

-
- Prayers of comfort for the family of Kraig Kelso, who passed away on April 30th
 - 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

- Barb Hill
- Rev. Wendy Holland and family
- Prayers for Hart & Nancy Junge.
- 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


MAY CALENDAR

| SUN MARCH 30 | MON MARCH 31 | TUES APRIL 1 | WED APRIL 2 | THUR MAY 1 | FRI MAY 2 | SAT APRIL 3 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--|---|---------------|
| | | | | Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm | *Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month) | |

| SUN MAY 4 | MON MAY 5 | TUES MAY 6 | WED MAY 7 | THUR MAY 8 | FRI MAY 9 | SAT MAY 10 |
|--|-------------|---|---|--|---|--------------|
| Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Holy Communion Sunday | | Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm | Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am | Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm | Talent Show Potluck Party Fellowship Hall 6pm  *Just for Today Youth House 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month) | |

| SUN MAY 11 | MON MAY 12 | TUES MAY 13 | WED MAY 14 | THUR MAY 15 | FRI MAY 16 | SAT MAY 17 |
|--|--------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Diaconate Board Meeting 11:30am  | | 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 Youth Bible Study Youth House 6:30-8pm | Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm | Estate Sale Fellowship Hall Date Night: Pajama Movie Night at the Wallaces' 5-8pm all ages, 8-10pm for youth 7th grade and up | Estate Sale Fellowship Hall  |

| SUN MAY 18 | MON MAY 19 | TUES MAY 20 | WED MAY 21 | THUR MAY 22 | FRI MAY 23 | SAT MAY 24 |
|--|--------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Mission Outreach Meeting 11:40am | | Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm | Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am | Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm | *Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month) | Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Pearl Munak 11am  |

| SUN MAY 25 | MON MAY 26 | TUES MAY 27 | WED MAY 28 | THUR MAY 29 | FRI MAY 30 | SAT MAY 31 |
|---|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 Let's Talk About That (Youth) Youth House 6:30-8pm | Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am | *Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month) | SLO's Pride in the Plaza  |

MAY SERMONS

| SUN MAY 4 | SUN MAY 11 | SUN MAY 18 | SUN MAY 25 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| "Troubles" John 16:33, 20:19-31 | "Don't Just Stand There" Acts 1:1-11 | "Eating with Strangers" Acts 11:1-18 | "Lit" John 14:23-29; Revelation 21:22-27 |



To access our online worship, to find out more about Plymouth Congregational Church, or to make an offering online, please visit: plymouthchurchpaso.com.
May God bless us all!
