



**Plymouth Congregational Church ~ UCC ~ 1301 Oak Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446
(805) 238-3321 ~ plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com**

**Pastor's Letter ~ October 2023
Reverend Wendy Holland**



I was reminded upon reading the following that not only do we have some extremely talented people in our community, but that as *God's* people we have the opportunity (and responsibility) to communicate hope and encouragement and truth.

If you have something that you feel God has placed on your heart to share – something that speaks to God's goodness, or how God works in our lives, or shows up in life or community—please send it my way. Let's make "Plymouth Voices" a regular part of the Beacon.

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THE HEAD GARDENER  
*Chris Macy*

I've been thinking a lot about pruning ever since I was able to donate 50# of Thompson seedless grapes to a local food bank this summer. That was a huge harvest for only two vines! It was thrilling for me to see such a harvest that then went to a good and worthy cause.

I know it was because I pruned the vines back hard early last spring – well, as Pearl pointed out to me, the extra rain we had probably didn't hurt. Good point, Pearl. I had a great harvest last year also because my friend and I tore into those old vines and took out a whole bunch of dead wood. I ended up running around town leaving bags of grapes on friends' doorknobs - surprise! This year I wanted to do something different.

As a gardener, I love to prune. There are many reasons to prune, all of them good in the big picture. Clearing away dead and tangled undergrowth, to re-invigorate an old plant and stimulate new strong growth, for increased flower and fruit production, for shaping an unruly, overgrown shape into something more pleasing, reducing top-heaviness that can cause breakage and damage, and one of my favorite reasons - to showcase an amazing and beautiful branch and trunk structure.

None of these reasons are to punish or be malicious! Yet when we get pruned, we often feel that we are being punished or cut down unfairly.

It says in John 15 that Jesus is the true vine and God is the gardener. I like to think of God as the head gardener because he always knows what he's doing, and it's for our benefit. Always!

Does God actually deliberately prune us, or does life present situations and conditions for us to be pruned and there is God, overseeing and present, with compassion and comfort and help, offering the opportunity and choice to grow, to have another chance, to become stronger, better, sweeter?

And to showcase that beautiful structure that has been hidden underneath; what faith thru pruning has added to us, and shows the world and ourselves what we've become.

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Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



Greetings from the Diaconate Board

Submitted by Sharon Rowe ~ October 2023

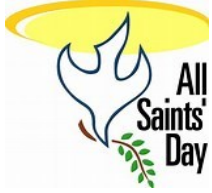
Fall is here and the leaves are turning to the beautiful Autumn colors. We are so lucky to have our wonderful cozy church and it is very nice to have a warm cup of tea or coffee afterwards with the wonderful people who attend our church. Make sure to introduce yourself to someone you do not know. We are all part of the Plymouth family.

November 5th we will be celebrating All Saints Day. Email or call the office if a loved one has passed away this year that you would like to be remembered in our service.

Our caring team has been helping people with prayers, rides, meals, visits, and telephone calls. Contact Jo Anne Stoddard or Becky Dreese if you need any of these services we provide.

We need a couple more people to join Diaconate. We prepare communion, find liturgists and greeters for each Sunday, make sure we have people signed up for fellowship and flowers, change the pulpit and alter cloths, and plan for all the religious holidays.

Talk to me if you are interested in joining us.
Blessings to all, Sharon Rowe



MISSION OUTREACH

October 2023 ~
Submitted by John Svinth

The Mission-Outreach Team seeks more team members. We are operating with only four members on our team/board and would greatly benefit from more to help guide us in our outreach. If you are encouraged by the activities we conduct, or would like more information about how we help those beyond the doors of Plymouth Church, please see John Svinth at church, or contact John at jsvinth@pacbell.net or at 805-674-9464.

The Neighbors in Need special mission offering will be taken on October 1st. The annual Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Donations can be received through October, so please give as you are able, either by check payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for Neighbors in Need, or by turning in a Neighbors in Need offering envelope available at the back of the sanctuary.

Our Plymouth Cares meal on September 5th served 82 dinners at the ECHO Paso shelter, joyfully served by Stu, Pearl, Chris and John S. The dinner entrée was Alex and Becky's Hearty Hamburger Casserole, accompanied by Stu's homegrown cucumber salad, John and Linda T's buttered Hawaiian rolls, and homemade chocolate chip cookies baked by Leslie. The PBJ sack lunches were happily prepared by Chris, Mary, Sally, John S., Carlie and Carlie's cousin Jan who was visiting from Grass Valley. Many heartfelt thank-yous were shared by the guests who enjoyed the delicious homecooked, home baked, and lovingly prepared food. The Missions team appreciates the wonderful participation of the 10 people who helped make this meal. We were a blessing to those in need and were blessed by doing God's work and in the joy of each other's company.

Our next Plymouth Cares meal is October 3rd, with helpers always needed and always appreciated; it is truly a great way to spend part of your day.

The box of "Donations for Homeless" received more wonderful gifts that were gladly accepted at the ECHO Paso shelter. The September donations included shampoo, toothbrushes, a pair of sandals and an assortment of clothes. If you are interested in donating to the homeless, please see the list of acceptable donations attached to the box in Plymouth Hall. Should you wish to donate items not on the list, please see John Svinth about the possibility of gifting them to other local nonprofits that serve those in need.

Read the new letter from one of our Zozu youth on the Outreach bulletin board. We received a letter from Kizito Munguci, one of our nine-year-old boys sponsored by Plymouth Church in Uganda. Kizito sends his thanks for our support. I think you will find his message to be very sweet and sincere.

Save a life by giving blood at our next blood drive on Saturday, October 21st, from 10 AM – 2:00 PM in Plymouth Hall. If you are eligible and would like to be a donor, please join us or attend one of the other local blood drives by making an appointment online at donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa or by calling 877-258-4825. A flyer is at the back of the sanctuary and on the Outreach bulletin board that provides a QR code that can also be scanned to make an appointment. A wealth of information about giving blood is available online at vitalant.org or by calling the above number.

"The highest test of the civilization of any race is in its willingness to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate."
Booker T. Washington



Submitted by Julia Schulte

Wednesday 10/4: Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:00-8:30PM at the Youth House
Sunday 10/8: Pioneer Day planning meeting after service
Friday 10/13: Pioneer Day float decorating night 4:30-7:30PM in Plymouth's parking lot
Saturday 10/14: Pioneer Day parade 10AM! (Meet at 9AM at the church)
Sunday 10/15: Youth to Yogurt (6th grade and up) following service
Friday 10/20: Date Night 5:30-8:30PM at the Youth House;
Youth Group overnight (6th grade and up)
Saturday 10/21: Youth overnight pickups 10AM at the Youth House
Wednesday 10/25: "Let's Talk About That" 6:30-8:30PM at the Youth House
Sunday 10/29: Youth Sunday

Hello Plymouth youth and families, and Happy October! Welcome to a new month full of new and exciting events.

To start off strong, we will be kicking off our Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! On Wednesday 10/4, Youth Group members are invited to join us at the Youth House from 6:00-8:30PM. We'll talk about our plans for a youth band and get organized with instruments, songs, vocals, and more. We'll practice music and get acquainted, and then we will switch over to the Bible study portion! We will have icebreakers, followed by a Bible-based activity and conversation with the youth. I want to extend a huge thank you to Trago Wallace for being a driving force behind this and for lending his talents to our Plymouth youth program. Going forward, our youth band and Bible study will meet every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30PM at the Youth House.

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 10/25, with an updated time of 6:30-8:30PM.



All youth who are interested in participating in the Pioneer Day Parade on October 14th are invited to join myself and Meghan Ball for a meeting after church on Sunday 10/8, where we will make plans for our float theme.



Saturday October 14th is the 2023 Pioneer Day Parade! Friday 10/13, we will have a float decorating night in the church parking lot! Join us from 4:30-7:30PM to decorate our float and have some pizza.



The parade begins at 10AM on 10/14 the next morning; we will be meeting at 9AM, and moving to our street position at 9:15AM, to be ready to go when the parade starts. Hope you can join us to ride or walk alongside the float!

Sunday October 15th is our monthly Youth to Yogurt! Youth Group members 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 typically out for about half an hour before heading back to the church around 11:30AM.

Our monthly Date Night will be Friday, October 20th from 5:30-8:30PM at Plymouth's Youth House! 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 along a friend! Parents, if you are available this month to provide food for the night and/or serve as parent volunteer for the event, please let me know. 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 10/21 at the Youth House at 10AM, and breakfast muffins will be provided. See you there!

Finally, the last Sunday of the month, 10/29, 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.

I hope everyone has a fantastic month and a

Happy Halloween!

Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director



Tired of Christianity that's all about rules and judgment, instead of the love, grace, and inclusion of Jesus?



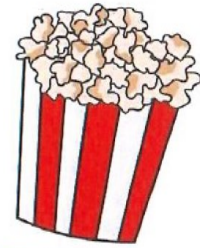
a just world for all
ucc.org

Join us at Plymouth Church for



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Snacks included!



Every Wednesday from 7:00-8:30PM
1301 Oak St., Paso Robles CA

Study based on the book "3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future"

DO YOU PLAY GUITAR, BASS, KEYS, OR DRUMS? JOIN OUR NEW YOUTH BAND FOR REHEARSAL AT 6:30PM BEFORE BIBLE STUDY!

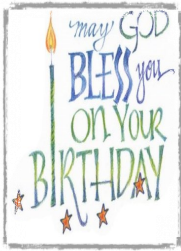
No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

PlymouthChurchPaso.com

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Mottard	2	Clementine Fabre	20
Debbie VanSteenwyk	3	Lonnalee Krans	20
Owen Lameray	3	John Svinth	20
Ronny Cyr	4	Cole Fairchild	21
Gwen Severson	4	Joyce McPherson	24
James Schaefer	6	Shirley Mark	25
Sandra Levoe	10	Maisie Egger	26
Charlene Reaber	11	Jean Ball	28
Stan Case	12	Peter Lameray	31
Barbara Kossett	17		



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Shawn & Sharon Rowe	3
Pat & Mary Sayne	7
Tanya & Jeff Railsback	13
Ryan & Megan Tannehill	29

☆ Pioneer Day 2023 ☆

float decorating night

Friday October 13th
4:30-7:30 at Plymouth
Church's parking lot

pioneer day parade

Saturday October 14th
Meet at Plymouth at 9am;
Parade begins at 10am!

<https://plymouthchurchpaso.com>

HOPE AND HEALING ~



- ✚ Prayers requested for Scarlett Rose Andreotti, 3 years old, diagnosed w/Childhood Leukemia.
- ✚ Prayers for Renee Athey, for healing & strength, body & spirit, as she undergoes chemo f/pancreatic cancer.
- ✚ Vivian Borden ~ A close friend of Chris Macy's who was just diagnosed with lung cancer.
- ✚ Dix DeGraaf ~ Has an upcoming surgery for an aortic embolism. Prayers for healing.
- ✚ Pete DeGraaf ~ Parkinson's
- ✚ Maisie Egger
- ✚ Barb Hill ~ Took a fall and is healing. Prayers for comfort and for her son Ron's recovery/health.
- ✚ Prayers of hope for Chuck Hope and family ~ Chuck has been diagnosed w/cancer and is in the process of additional testing and connecting with an oncology team.
- ✚ Rev. Wendy Holland and family
- ✚ Prayers for Hart & Nancy Junge. ~ Hart is home, recovering well and glad to be home with Nancy.
- ✚ Prayers for Strength & Recovery of Emily, JoAnne Stoddard's niece, diagnosed w/Stage 3 breast cancer. Thankful for prayers!
- ✚ Carolyn Kelso
- ✚ Nanette Moreno ~ John Svinth's niece who is grieving for the loss of her baby who died at 14 weeks old.
- ✚ Sherry Sauret ~ Prayers for healing after hip surgery.
- ✚ Victor, who recently attended our church, was hit by a car while riding his bike & badly injured. Pray for healing.
- ✚ 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 the people in all 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, the church office: (805) 238-3321, plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com

LOAVES AND FISHES

Give a darn. Give a dollar...

Feeding the Hungry with God's

Please remember that every \$1 bill you place in the offering on Sunday morning goes to Loaves & Fishes to assist individuals and families who are hungry. It's not hard to do... and it adds up FAST!

PCC Members have Channeled many dollars To Loaves and Fishes to buy food for people who really need it! Please drop a dollar bill in the basket if you are able!

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

Plymouth Congregational Church

October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am- HOLY COMMUNION  *Neighbors in need offering	2	3 Plymouth Cares - Dinner Prep 1:30 - 4:30pm (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	4 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH) *Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:00-8:30PM	5 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	6	7 God's Garden 8:30am 
8 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am Pioneer Day 'Theme' Planning After Service W/Meghan & Julia 	9	10 Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	11 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH) *Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM	12 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	13 Pioneer Day Float Decorating 4:30-7:30pm PCC Parking Lot 	14 Pioneer Day Parade 10am *Meet at Church 9am 
15 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am Youth to yogurt After Service 	16	17 Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH) *Mission Outreach Mtg. 4:30pm (L) *Trustees Mtg 6pm (L) *Council Mtg (L) 6:45pm	18 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH) *Youth Band AND Youth Bible study! 6:30-8:30PM	19 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	20 Youth Date Night 5:30-8:30 (YH) - Followed by an Overnight for 6th graders and up. Please bring a blanket/pillow	21 Youth overnight pick ups at Youth House 
22 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am *Diaconate Mtg. 11:30AM (L)	23	24 Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	25 Men's Bible Study 8AM (PH) Youth: Let's Talk About That ~ 6:30-8:30pm (YH)	26 Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10:00-11:30 (PH) Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)	27	28
29 WORSHIP ~ PCC SANCTUARY 10am YOUTH SUNDAY	30	31 Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Mtg. 5:00-7:00pm (YH)				

October Worship Plans ~ We hope you are able to join us for our October Sundays, 10am, Church Sanctuary

OCTOBER SUNDAY SERMONS:

- Week One (10/ 1/23): "When 'Yes' is 'No'" ~ Matthew 21:23-32
- Week Two (10/ 8/23): "Bringing Glory and Praise" ~ Philippians 1:2-11
- Week Three (10/15/23): "Attitude" ~ Philippians 2:1-11
- Week Four (10/22/23): "Pressing On" ~ Philippians 3:12-21
- Week Five (10/29/23): "Generously Supplied" ~ Philippians 4:10-20

To access our online worship; To Find out more about Plymouth Church; or To make an offering online; please visit: plymouthchurchpaso.com. God bless us all!