

# 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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# OCTOBER



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# PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND



Last week our Thursday Bible study completed the book of Ruth. We went through this relatively tiny book—just four chapters—in three weeks, but it was time filled with vibrant discussion and thought-provoking insights.

You might be most familiar with Ruth 1:16b, heard frequently in wedding ceremonies:

*Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.*

But this wasn't originally a vow made between loving partners. It was a promise made by a young woman, Ruth, to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Years before, Naomi, her husband Elimelech, and their sons, Mahlon and Chilion, left Bethlehem for Moab during a famine, desperate to survive. During their time in this foreign land—a scary place for anyone constantly warned against associating with those who were different—Mahlon and Chilion married Moabite women. But eventually Naomi's husband and sons pass away, and she returns to Bethlehem with only Ruth, the widow of one of her sons.

Originally Naomi discourages Ruth from coming with her, and we can imagine that this is for multiple reasons. She would be fully aware of the discrimination Ruth would face, and that this would be a difficult adjustment. But Naomi would also be aware of the judgment she herself would face, not only for having left Bethlehem for a foreign land, but for bringing back a Moabite daughter-in-law. And Naomi makes no effort to hide her distress, telling everyone who would listen that she is deeply bitter.

Ruth, however, had long before committed to Naomi and her family, and fallen in love with the God of the Israelites, and she reminds Naomi of this in the passage above.

I don't want to give away plot points if you're not familiar but what we end up seeing is that Ruth—continually referred to as an outsider and a foreigner—is the one who cares for and restores Naomi's faith, while also trusting God to restore and redeem their circumstances. In doing so she's a powerful reminder to her new community that God's real concern isn't with our status, or how we identify.

God's concern is how we intervene for those who need us, that we do it in a way that points back to God's love, and that strengthens and encourages the people around us to do the same.

There is no more effective way to tear down barriers and build unity.

Spend some time in the book of Ruth this week, and then watch for God's presence and redemption through unexpected people, in unexpected circumstances.

With so much gratitude for each of you,

*Pastor Wendy*

## A WORD FROM OUR DIACONATE

Greetings from the Diaconate Board. 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 amazing people who attend our church. Make sure to introduce yourself to someone you do not know. We are all part of the Plymouth family.



**DIACONATE**

November 3rd 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. We will have a table where you can place a photo of your loved one.

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.

If you have wanted to be a liturgist and have not been asked, contact Gail Tannehill who arranges the liturgists. If you have been anxious to be a greeter let me know.

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 Plymouth families, and happy October! I hope everyone's month gets off to a great start, and I hope you can join us for all of our fun upcoming events!

To kick off October, we will be resuming our Youth Bible Study! On the second Wednesday of the month, 10/9, Youth Group (6th grade and up) are invited to the Youth House from 6:30-8:00PM for an evening of Bible study, where we talk about different scripture and passages, and discuss them with a group of peers. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to myself, Pastor Wendy, or Trago Wallace. We hope to see you there!

Saturday October 12th is the Pioneer Day Parade in downtown Paso, and Plymouth Church is doing a float in the parade! First, we need to get the float set up, cleaned, and decorated, so join us for our float decorating night on Friday October 11th in Plymouth's Fellowship Hall and back parking lot from 4-7PM. We will prep everything for the following morning and get our float all set up, plus we'll have pizza and fun with our church friends!

If your youth wants to ride on the parade float (or if you are interested in walking alongside the float), we will be meeting in Plymouth's back parking lot at 9AM on Saturday the 12th. At 9:15AM, we will move to our street assignment for the parade and park there, and then the parade starts at 10AM! Everyone who plans to participate in the parade needs to sign the participation waiver, which will be available on Friday night and Saturday morning to sign. Thanks in advance to everybody for their help and involvement in such a fun event!

Our monthly Youth to Yogurt will be the 3rd Sunday of the month, October 20th. 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 will 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 11:45 AM, so I hope you can join us!



The 4th Wednesday of the month, 10/24, will be 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. We hope to see you there!

The last Sunday of the month, 10/27, 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 for this Sunday, please join in! It's always a great opportunity to get our youth involved in church.

Thank you all, and please reach out to me if you have any questions about anything. Have an amazing beginning to your autumn.

Take care,  
Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director

**MISSION  
OUTREACH  
NEWS**



**Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering on October 6:**

This year's theme for the UCC's Neighbors in Need offering is "Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right" as the UCC focuses on supporting those needing emotional healing. The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 6, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through the national Love of Church Ministries, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues online at <https://tinyurl.com/2bfyatb>. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

With your assistance, together we can help our Neighbors in Need, achieve the goal of "Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right.". Giving begins on October 6 and can be done by using one of our offering envelopes, making checks payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for NIN, or going online to [PlymouthChurchPaso.Com](http://PlymouthChurchPaso.Com) and clicking on the "Giving" tab. Thank you.

## **Plymouth Cares**

The Plymouth Cares meal on September 3rd served 93 dinners and all 75 sack lunches. The main course was a very popular Italian beef pasta created by Melinda with expert assistance from Susan. Susan and John used Chris' recipe for the crisp and colorful green salad with Ranch dressing. John T. and Linda provided the delicious buttered Hawaiian Sweet Rolls. Alison contributed tasty chocolate chip cookies for the dessert. The highly skilled sack lunch crew was Pat, Ronny, Mary, Sharon W., Olivia, Nikol, Susan, Carlie and John S. Our joyful servers at the ECHO shelter were Melinda, Susan, Jake, John T. and John S. Serving those in need and enjoying wonderful fellowship is an amazing way to spend part of an afternoon. The next Plymouth Cares meal is October 1st, with helpers always needed and always appreciated.

## **Mission-Outreach Team**

The Mission-Outreach Team continues to seek more board members.

We are a board of only four and would greatly benefit from additional members. If you feel a tug on your heart when you participate in or hear about the activities we conduct, please consider joining to add your ideas and good energy to help serve those who need a helping hand. For more information, please see John Svith, Pearl Munak, Chris Macy, or Sally Vogl.

## **Donations Box for the Unhoused**

The donations box for the unhoused provided two wonderful sleeping pads that are very popular items for the unhoused and which were delivered to the ECHO Paso shelter on September 3rd . We appreciate these donations.

## **A Reminder of the New Donation Process for Loaves & Fishes and Zozu Youth:**

The offering envelopes in the pews now have a checklist on the back to accept donations of any denomination for both Loaves & Fishes and Christmas and birthday money for our two boys whose education we sponsor through the Zozu Project in Uganda. The offering envelopes can also be used for other church giving by marking the checklist to indicate where you want the donation to go. This means that any loose money placed in the Sunday offering plates, including \$1 bills, will go to the church general fund. Of course, offerings by check and online giving at [plymouthchurchpaso.com](http://plymouthchurchpaso.com) will continue to be directed to where noted. We hope this information clarifies how to donate to Loaves & Fishes and for special gifts to our Zozu boys. If you have any questions, please contact John Svith.

BY JOHN SVITH  
MISSION OUTREACH



# CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS



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



- 3. Shawn & Sharon Rowe
- 7. Pat & Mary Sayne
- 13. Tanya & Jeff Railsback
- 23. Trago & Leslie Wallace
- 29. Ryan & Megan Tannehill

- Send your prayers up for Hildegard Wood, longtime member of Plymouth Church, who passed away this September
- Continued prayers for five-year old Scarlett in remission: healing, comfort, and peace for her and loved ones.
- 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 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
- 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 Marlyn and Chuck Hope.
- Anita Yates
- Prayers for Emily, for successful recovery from reconstructive surgery and continued good health.
- 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



# OCTOBER CALENDAR



SUN   SEPTEMBER 29	MON   SEPTEMBER 30	TUES   OCTOBER 1	WED   OCTOBER 2	THUR   OCTOBER 3	FRI   OCTOBER 4	SAT   OCTOBER 5
		Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm  Plymouth Cares Meal Meal Prep: 1:30 - 4:30pm Serving: 5 - 6pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am	Wendy's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 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>	God's Garden 8:30am

SUN   OCTOBER 6	MON   OCTOBER 7	TUES   OCTOBER 8	WED   OCTOBER 9	THUR   OCTOBER 10	FRI   OCTOBER 11	SAT   OCTOBER 12
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  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	Pioneer Day Float Decorating Fellowship Hall & Back Parking Lot 4-7pm  *Just for Today Youth House 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month</i>	Pioneer Day Parade Meet at Church at 9am, Parade starts 10am  Evening of Dreams benefitting Zozu Project Rava Winery 5:30-8pm   <b>Happy Pioneer Day!</b>

SUN   OCTOBER 13	MON   OCTOBER 14	TUES   OCTOBER 15	WED   OCTOBER 16	THUR   OCTOBER 17	FRI   OCTOBER 18	SAT   OCTOBER 19
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Diaconate Board 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	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am   Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm		

SUN   OCTOBER 20	MON   OCTOBER 21	TUES   OCTOBER 22	WED   OCTOBER 23	THUR   OCTOBER 24	FRI   OCTOBER 25	SAT   OCTOBER 26
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Youth to Yogurt After Service  Mission Outreach 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 6:30pm	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   OCTOBER 27	MON   OCTOBER 28	TUES   OCTOBER 29	WED   OCTOBER 30	THUR   OCTOBER 31	FRI   NOVEMBER 1	SAT   NOVEMBER 2
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	<b>HALLOWEEN</b> 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>	

## OCTOBER SERMONS

SUN   OCTOBER 6	SUN   OCTOBER 13	SUN   OCTOBER 20	SUN   OCTOBER 27
"The Hidden Hand of God" Esther 1 - 2	"Courage in Crisis" Esther 3 - 4	"The Power of Intercession" Esther 5 - 7	"Divine Reversals" Esther 8 - 9:17



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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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