

# 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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# SEPTEMBER



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### ★ Announcement ★

Mark your calendar Sunday, September 15th at 11:30am in Plymouth Hall for a conversation on the differences between Christianity and what's commonly known as "Christian Nationalism."

We'll be joined by presenter Gordon Fuglie and members of St. James Episcopal Church.

Friends and family are welcome to attend.

## PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND

I'm notorious in my family for leaving tabs open on my computer. Honestly, it could probably be described as "digital hoarding." The Internet is filled with important information, and ministry ideas, and sermon topics, and advice we can share with loved ones. And even if I don't immediately get to whatever I'm finding useful, I want to be able to access it in the future . . . Which is exactly how I justify it when I'm being berated for my [currently 64] open tabs.

One that's been open the longest is a UCC editorial from January, entitled "Preaching an 'Election Sermon' Is Urgently Needed." And just recently one of my favorite podcasters began a series on "Preaching In a Partisan Age," where he's interviewing a variety of Christian leaders on the importance of maintaining unity in spite of differences, and making sure we're prioritizing Jesus in the midst of navigating an election year.

These resources aren't outliers. Denominational and Christian leaders representing a spectrum of views are increasingly putting out a similar call. Where in the past common wisdom called us to avoid controversial topics at all costs, we now live in an age where we're bombarded with information and opinions, and not talking about things that have such an impact on our lives and our society is simply poor stewardship—and even irresponsible.

Here's the thing: Imperfect people create imperfect systems. As much as we want to get it right, and represent God, and care for others, if we aren't keeping Christ at the center of whatever our ideology, we risk getting it wrong. And no political platform corners the market on how we're supposed to live as Christ-followers.

So in the weeks to come we're going to look at how Jesus dealt with the extremely-divided culture he was born into, how he taught his disciples to regard each other, and how to navigate the issues that created rifts among them.

Whether we vote right, left, center, or not at all, our objective should always be to live out the goodness of God that we find in Christ. And our prayers for guidance and unity (and wisdom for me as I preach) couldn't come at a more crucial time.

With so much gratitude for each of you,



**So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.**

~ 2 Corinthians 5:16-18 (NLT) ~

*Pastor Wendy*

## A WORD FROM OUR DIACONATE

Thank you to everyone who came to Church in the Park. There was such a wonderful assortment of delicious food and coffee for the breakfast. Thank you to the Wallaces for the beautiful music. We had tables brought and supplies from the church.

Thank you to all my

Diaconate elves that worked so hard to make this happen. And to the whole congregation, we are such a good team. Everyone chipped in to help this be one of the best events ever. Of course, a huge thank you to Wendy for a wonderful message and service.

If you are not involved with the church in some way, check out the various boards. Youth and Family, Diaconate, Mission Outreach, and Endowment Committee are the different boards you could join. We always need greeters, and liturgists, flowers and fellowship. There is a very good description of each on the Plymouth Church website. Ask and ye shall receive a way to help.

Blessings, 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 September! I hope everyone had an amazing summer and a peaceful transition back into the school year. And best of luck to all our youth heading off to college! Read on to hear about upcoming Plymouth Church events.

To kick off the month, we will be holding an all-church Karaoke and Potluck night on Friday September 13th! A huge thank you to the Wallace family for hosting us at their home for the night. Join us from 5-8PM for a night of karaoke and fun with our church family, and bring along a dish to share for a potluck dinner! If you have any questions about the event, you can reach out to myself, Pastor Wendy, or Trago Wallace. We hope to see you there!

Our monthly Youth to Yogurt will be the 3rd Sunday of the month, September 15th. 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, 9/25, 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! And keep an eye out for an announcement regarding our Youth Band/ Bible Study, which will be resuming soon!



The last Sunday of the month, 9/29, 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. 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 end to your summer and a great beginning to your autumn!

Take care,  
Julia Schulte, Youth & Family Director

# MISSION OUTREACH NEWS



## **Checklist Offering Envelopes Used for Loaves & Fishes and Zozu Youth:**

The offering envelopes in the pews now have a checklist and are the only way to give cash donations to both Loaves & Fishes and for our Zozu boys. While checks and online giving will always be directed to where noted, this means that loose money placed in the Sunday offering plates will go to the church general fund, including loose \$1 bills.

This process allows any cash donations to be given to Loaves & Fishes and to our Zozu boys' Christmas and birthdays. The offering envelopes can also be used for other church giving by marking the checklist. We hope this process makes it easier to donate to Loaves & Fishes and for special gifts to our Zozu boys.

## **Zozu Project Update:**

Please see the Outreach bulletin board for a new letter from Kizito Munguci, one of the two boys we sponsored in Uganda. Kizito, who turned 10-years-old last June, thanks us again for his gift money and shares what he purchased.

The bulletin board also shares two pictures of Kizito's birthday celebration. Remember that half of the \$107.50 that we donated for Kizito's birthday was used to purchase gifts, while the other half was placed in a savings account for his family.

## **Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering:**

The Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering will be taken October 6, and is the third of four annual UCC mission offerings. This year's theme is "Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right." The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering funds a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC through the Council for American Indian Ministries. As you are able, please assist our Neighbors in Need in the United States starting on October 6 to support the focus of "Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right." More information will be coming in the next Beacon.

BY JOHN SVINTH  
MISSION OUTREACH

## Donations Box for the Unhoused

The Donations Box for the Unhoused provided a blanket and bed sheets, shoes, slippers, shorts, pants, shirts, purses, and toiletries. The toiletry items were sent over to the youth house for future Care Kits, while the copious other items were delivered to the ECHO Paso shelter on August 6th. We appreciate these wonderful donations.

## Plymouth Cares

The Plymouth Cares meal on August 6th served 98 dinners and all 75 sack lunches. Fatte's Pizza was the main course with the topping of ground beef, due to all three of our wonderful cooks being unavailable. Chris prepared her usual crisp and colorful green salad with Ranch dressing. John T. and Linda brought bags of crunchy Fritos Corn Chips. Leslie Ivans, Chris' friend, baked a wonderful assortment of scrumptious cookies for the dessert, which were placed in baggies by John T., Jim, Charity, and Mary. Mary also provided a treat of a bag of delicious Pink Lady apples. The amazing sack lunch crew was Sharon W., John S., Carlie, Ari (6-years old), Mary, Anne J., Britt, Olivia, John T. and Linda. Our dedicated servers in the 105-degree heat at the ECHO shelter were Anne J., Sally, Chris, John T., Linda, Carlie, and John S.

Outstanding fellowship and feeding those in need is a superb way to spend part of an afternoon. The next Plymouth Cares meal is September 3rd, with helpers always needed and always appreciated.

## Blood Drive

The Blood Drive on July 27th collected 26 donations! Fellowship Hall was again the scene of lifesaving activities as Vitalant staff collected the precious gift of blood. The supply of blood seems to always be short and the need in July was particularly critical. One donation of blood can save up to three lives, including children and adults experiencing traumatic injuries and those needing blood for ongoing medical procedures. Our blood drives occur quarterly and in partnership with St. James Church. Our next blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2024.

## 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 Svinth, Pearl Munak, Chris Macy, or Sally Vogl.





# CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS



- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. Ann Dixon         | 18. Margaret Schaefer |
| 3. Pattie Simpson    | 19. Anne Jennings     |
| 4. Allen Kossett     | 19. Emma Severson     |
| 5. Mike Learned      | 22. Steven Fairchild  |
| 5. Gail Lloyd        | 22. Jillian Waters    |
| 10. Dexter Wallace   | 23. John Carroll      |
| 12. Olivia McPherson | 24. Lindsay Svinth    |
| 14. Meghan Tannehill | 25. Tanya Railsback   |
| 17. Joy Patterson    | 27. Mary Sayne        |
|                      | 27. Dave Severson     |



- 1. Joel & Dagny Peterson
- 18. Frank & Vicki Teague

- 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

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SUN   SEPTEMBER 1	MON   SEPTEMBER 2	TUES   SEPTEMBER 3	WED   SEPTEMBER 4	THUR   SEPTEMBER 5	FRI   SEPTEMBER 6	SAT   SEPTEMBER 7
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Holy Communion Sunday		Plymouth Cares Meal Meal Prep: 1:30 - 4:30pm Serving: 5 - 6pm  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am	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   SEPTEMBER 8	MON   SEPTEMBER 9	TUES   SEPTEMBER 10	WED   SEPTEMBER 11	THUR   SEPTEMBER 12	FRI   SEPTEMBER 13	SAT   SEPTEMBER 14
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	Karaoke & Potluck Night at the Wallaces' 5-8pm  *Just for Today Library 6pm  NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) <i>*held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month</i>	

SUN   SEPTEMBER 15	MON   SEPTEMBER 16	TUES   SEPTEMBER 17	WED   SEPTEMBER 18	THUR   SEPTEMBER 19	FRI   SEPTEMBER 20	SAT   SEPTEMBER 21
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Youth to Yogurt After Service  Mission Outreach Meeting 11:40am  Presentation and Discussion on Christian Nationalism 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	Pastor Wendy's Bible Study 10-11:30am  Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm		

SUN   SEPTEMBER 22	MON   SEPTEMBER 23	TUES   SEPTEMBER 24	WED   SEPTEMBER 25	THUR   SEPTEMBER 26	FRI   SEPTEMBER 27	SAT   SEPTEMBER 28
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am		Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 8-9am  Let's Talk About That (Youth) 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   SEPTEMBER 29	MON   SEPTEMBER 30	TUES   OCTOBER 1	WED   OCTOBER 2	THUR   OCTOBER 3	FRI   OCTOBER 4	SAT   OCTOBER 5
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am  Youth Sunday  Youth and Family Board Meeting 11:40am						

# SEPTEMBER SERMONS

SUN   SEPTEMBER 1	SUN   SEPTEMBER 8	SUN   SEPTEMBER 15	SUN   SEPTEMBER 22	SUN   SEPTEMBER 29
"United by Christ" Matthew 5:1-16	"Get a New Thought" Matthew 4:17, 5:43-48	"Fearful" John 14:1-7, 23-27	"For All People" James 2:14-26	"We the Church" 1 Corinthians 12:12-26



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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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