

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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PASTOR'S LETTER

REV. WENDY HOLLAND



“For we are God’s masterpiece . . . created anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

~~ Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) ~~

In some cases we'll join with community partners, and sometimes we'll distribute on our own. We'll have a collection box in the sanctuary each Sunday, but you can also arrange for mid-week drop-off by reaching out to the office.

This past Sunday I mentioned that we all have the potential to make a huge difference, and that there are so many ways to contribute, and some of the most successful things we do at church began as someone's idea. So when you imagine a way to help out, or have a way you'd like to get involved, don't dismiss that as impossible! Your experiences, your areas of awareness and education, the things you're passionate about, and wherever you notice a need—remember you have been created to fill a unique space in the world, and that God has equipped you to make a difference.

As we move into the holidays let's be in genuine, intentional prayer for each other: to have wisdom and guidance; to be blessed, protected, and abundantly provided for, and to have strength and joy in bringing God's love and goodness into the places we occupy.

With love and gratitude,

Dear Plymouth Family,

“Local missions” might sound counter intuitive. Many of us grew up with a model of church missions that focused on helping those in other parts of the world: Areas of famine, or violent conflict, or where resources are lacking. And as kids we were frequently reminded (or reminded our own children) to eat all our dinner, and be grateful and aware, because “children in [insert country here] are going without.” And when we partner with ethical organizations—where we don't only donate, but also teach and empower, while respecting autonomy—it's a valuable use of our time and resources.

However, there are also needs in our immediate vicinity, and Plymouth Church is getting ready to launch something new.

Each month we'll collect donations of different items. This month we'll focus on [new please!] socks and underwear, but in future months it might be diapers and wipes, or care-kit items, or laundry detergent, or non-perishable food items.

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 Wallace's 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 and Rachel Pryor 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 to all,
Sharon Rowe

2025

September Youth Events

New day!

Weds
9/10

Youth Group

Moved back to Wednesdays!

Fri
9/12

Date Night

5-8PM in the Youth House
Crafts, games; All ages event

No
overnight

Fri
9/19

Youth Party

Karaoke, hot tub, and more at the
Wallace's; 7th grade & up!

Weds
9/24

Youth Group

7th grade and up; Bible based discussions
in the Youth House 6:30-8PM

Sun
9/28

Youth Sunday

Youth of all ages invited to participate in
service; reading, greeting, music & more

Sat
10/11

Pioneer Day Parade

Mark your calendars for next month!
More info coming soon

For more information, email
plymouthchurchpaso@gmail.com

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS



The Plymouth Cares meal on August 5th served 110 dinners at the ECHO Paso shelter and was prepared by nine participants. Two slices of Fatte's Pizza were the main dish and topped with cheese and ground beef or cheese only. Chris created her delicious green salad with Ranch dressing with assistance from Pat. In place of our regular buttered rolls, tortilla chips were served to complement the pizza. The dessert of chocolate chip cookies was store bought and was bagged by Chris. This month's highly efficient sack lunch crew was Anne J., Pat, Kitty, Carlie, Sharon W. and John S. Our wonderful servers at the ECHO Paso shelter were Stu, Melinda, Carlie and John. While nine participants were our smallest number to date, we were successful through experience and enthusiasm. We again enjoyed outstanding fellowship amid the glow of doing God's work. Thank you to those who were available to share their time and talent to make this meal. Our next Plymouth Cares meal is the first Tuesday of next month, on September 2nd ; helpers are requested and always appreciated.

BY JOHN SVINTH
MISSION OUTREACH

The month's Donations for the Unhoused was delivered to the ECHO Paso shelter on August 5th and consisted of three pair of sneakers, four pair of shorts, and three pairs of slacks. We are thankful for these wonderful contributions. A donation of a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss were set aside for our youth group to create Care Kits. Thanks so much for donating to those who have so little.

Please recall that our support for a food pantry ministry was switched from the Paso Robles Loaves & Fishes to the SLO County Food Bank. We believe the Food Bank is the best local ministry/organization that is aligned with Plymouth Church's commitment to grace and inclusion, as stated in the Food Bank's website at slofoodbank.org:

- Every human being has the right to nutritious food, regardless of the reasons that they may not be able to obtain it for themselves.
- The SLO Food Bank's intent is not only to help make nutritious food available through programs and agencies, but also to encourage and support each person served, recognizing their possible vulnerabilities and sensitivities.
- Everyone the SLO Food Bank serves, whether individuals, families or agencies, deserve to be treated with kindness, respect, and dignity.

Donations to the Food Bank can be done via our offering envelopes when marked for "Food Bank"; checks should be made payable to Plymouth Church with a notation for "Food Bank". While donations to the Paso Robles Loaves & Fishes will no longer be processed through Plymouth Church, those wishing to support Loaves & Fishes may find information at their website at loavesandfishespaso.org.

We are pleased to announce that Stephanie Potter of ECHO will be visiting Plymouth on Sunday, September 7. Stephanie will be available during our fellowship time to share information and answer questions about ECHO and the Paso Robles shelter. We hope you will attend to hear of the valuable work being conducted by ECHO and for the unhoused.

You may notice a donation container at Sunday services, placed next the flowers at the front of the sanctuary. This is for donations of targeted items for the residents of the ECHO Paso shelter. The items being sought this month are new tube socks and undergarments. As you can imagine, new socks and new undergarments are very sought after items for comfort and warmth. Any contributions of new forms of these items are appreciated. So, if you bring to church a donation of new tube socks or new undergarments, please place them in the donation container at the front of the sanctuary.

As announced at Church by Anne Crabbe, a clothing drive is being developed to benefit families of local elementary school students. If you would like to donate lightly used clothes of coats, shirts, pants and shoes, please place them on the counter in the partitioned corner of Fellowship Hall. We are looking for a variety of children's sizes and also adult sizes for their parents. As you may know, donations of used undergarments and socks cannot be accepted, but new articles of these items are much appreciated. Thank you!

The Board of the Mission-Outreach Team continues to need at least one more member. We would dearly like to have at least five voting members, which would provide additional ideas and energy for our various ministries, and to make us an official board according to our church constitution. If our activities and purpose tug on your heart, please consider joining us. Those interested can learn more about us at our monthly meetings on the third Sunday, in the Library after the service.

BIO: Britt Fairchild

I was around eight years old when my mom told me that my uncle, her younger brother, was gay. It was summertime and we were at Lagoon, an amusement park about 20 miles from my hometown of Salt Lake City.

My grandpa was a counselor at East High School (before it was rebuilt in 1997 and then featured in the High School Musical movies) and he would get discounted tickets to Lagoon every summer. How I loved this annual family adventure! Eating my grandma's picnic lunch, riding the rides (except the scary Colossus), boy cousins against girl cousins on the bumper cars, and the adults talking mostly amongst themselves which meant I could mainly spend time with my favorite cousin, Laurie.

To this day, I don't know why my mom chose to tell me this news at a crowded amusement park. I don't even remember if my dad and brother were there for the conversation. What I do remember, though, is my mom speaking to me in a direct but understanding and accepting tone.

My mom told me my uncle was gay which meant he was born being attracted to other men. Okay, I think to my eight-year-old self. Can we please go on a ride now?

Fast forward to June 2022. My husband, Steve, and I, and our sons, Cole and Dylan, attend our first Pride event at Laguna Lake Park. Up to this point as an adult, I have attended a few Christian churches off and on over the years. While each one initially seemed to welcome everyone, inevitably, the actions of the church members and leaders didn't live up to their words.

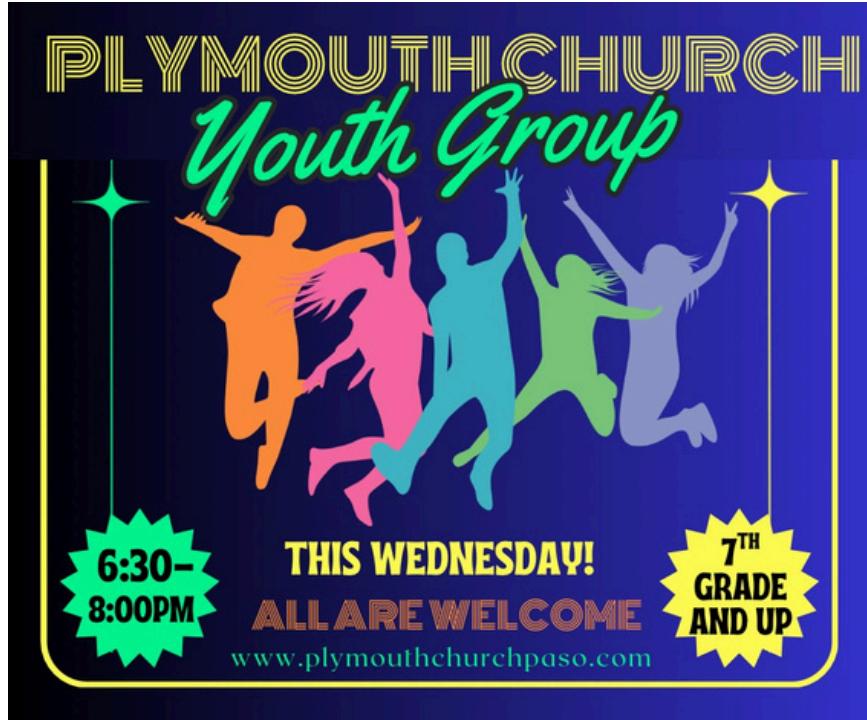
So, when I see the United Church of Christ sign at Pride, I'm optimistic, but skeptical. I walk over and begin talking with Sharon Wood. We have a wonderful conversation, and I leave feeling hopeful. Steve, Cole, Dylan, and I begin attending Plymouth the following month.

You've likely seen Dylan in his spot at the back of the church each Sunday running the slides and recording the service. Dylan is a junior at Templeton High School, runs cross country and track, and performs in the fall and spring theater productions. Cole is a 2024 Templeton High School graduate, who participated in theater throughout high school. He is about to start his sophomore year at UCSC. He is majoring in Literature and plans to teach English abroad so he can travel the world.

Steve is a supervisor at Tennis Warehouse. I work remotely as a technical writer for an IT company based in the Bay Area. We met at Cal Poly in 1997 when we were both Journalism majors. We were married in 2002.

I love to read books, write poetry, hike in the forest, and watch Cole and Dylan perform on stage every chance I get. I honestly never thought I would find a church that truly accepts everyone. This is what I value most about Plymouth Congregational Church and I am happy we are here.

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATIONS & PRAYERS



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



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

- Prayers for Robert Clark, recently diagnosed with prostate cancer
- 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
- Carolyn 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 for her pain from fibromyalgia
- 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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SUN AUGUST 31	MON SEPTEMBER 1	TUES SEPTEMBER 2	WED SEPTEMBER 3	THUR SEPTEMBER 4	FRI SEPTEMBER 5	SAT SEPTEMBER 6
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am		Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 9-10am Plymouth Cares Meal Serving Meal Prep: 1:30 - 4:30pm Serving: 4:45 - 6pm at ECHO Shelter		Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Library 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	God's Garden 9am 
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Holy Communion Sunday Stephanie Potter of ECHO Visiting Plymouth after Service		Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 9-10am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm	Youth Group Youth House 6:30-8pm	Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Library 5-7pm	Date Night Youth House 5-8pm **No Overnight This Month	
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Diaconate Board Meeting 11:30am		Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 9-10am Mission Outreach Library 4:15pm Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm		Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Library 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Mission Outreach Meeting 11:40am						
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Youth Sunday Youth and Family Board Meeting 11:40am		Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 9-10am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm Trustees Meeting 6pm Council Meeting 6:45	Youth Group Youth House 6:30-8pm	Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Library 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	
Worship PCC Sanctuary 10am Youth Sunday Youth and Family Board Meeting 11:40am		Men's Bible Study Plymouth Hall 9-10am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Youth House 5-7pm		Bible Study with Pastor Wendy 10-11:30am Friends of Bill W (C, WO) Library 5-7pm	*Just for Today Library 6pm NA Mtg. (use 13th St. Entrance) *held each Friday except 3rd Friday of the month)	

SEPTEMBER SERMONS

SUN SEPTEMBER 7	SUN SEPTEMBER 14	SUN SEPTEMBER 21	SUN SEPTEMBER 28
“Formerly...” 1 Timothy 1:12-17	“The Cost of Discipleship” Luke 14:25-33	“A Grieving God” Amos 8:4-7; Jeremiah 8:18-22, 9:1	“The Good Fight” 1 Timothy 6:6-19



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!
