

Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

November 2022

Simply Put, Stewardship is What You Do With What You Have!

Plymouth has always been blessed with a very generous congregation and we are fortunate that many folks have been longtime members and supporters of Plymouth and its mission of reaching out to help others in our community.

In October I asked a couple of our very longtime members to share with the congregation some personal thoughts about Plymouth and Giving in this Season of Thanksgiving.

Jay Sheldon grew up attending Plymouth from the time it was established 60 years ago.

Florence and Dick Mayer and their family have a deep love for Plymouth and the many Plymouth friends they've made at church since they arrived in Helena in 1970.

And Plymouth is blessed to have Pastor Charles, who after a year of leading us in worship and mission outreach, was recently 'formally' welcomed by a unanimous vote of the congregation as our permanent Pastor.

Please complete the Pledge Card you will receive in your mail and return it to the church office as soon as possible. We would like to conclude the Pledge, Giving Season by Thanks Giving.

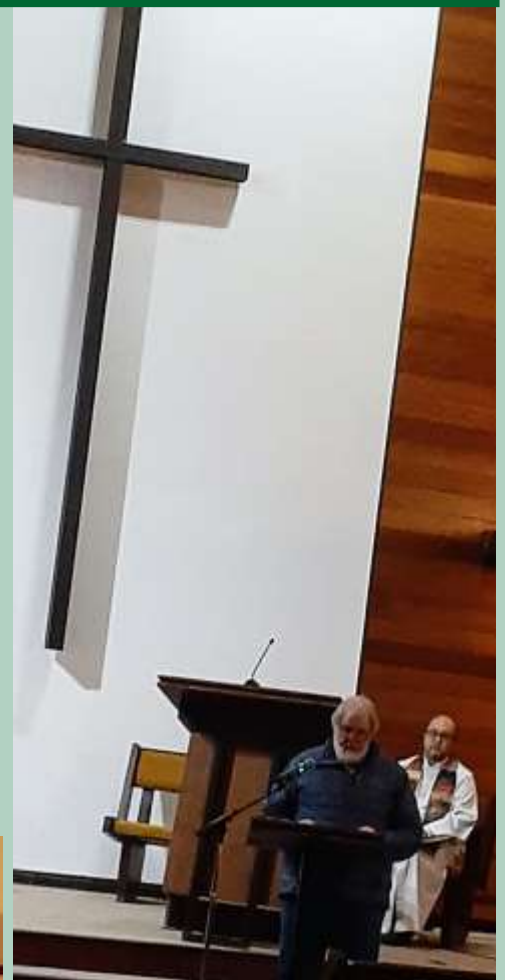
~ Chuck Butler, Stewardship Chair

**FROM
BREAD
AND
CUP
TO
FAITH
AND
GIVING**





Jay Sheldon's stewardship message (10/16/2022). As Jay put it, there are many ways of giving—financially, of course, and giving of yourself as he emphasized this season's Stewardship theme: "Stewardship is what you do with what you have!"



Florence Mayer (10/23/2022) reminded us of how caring and giving Plymouth's congregation is and how meaningful Plymouth has been in the lives of many folks in our community and the Mayer family. With her ever present smile, Florence noted, "Plymouth is on the move and it's fun to be a part of it."



Pastor Charles (10/23/2022) spoke of how we are in the "Giving Season" of the church and how our 'gifts' support the church and the many mission projects of Plymouth. As he put it, "Giving is an expression of love and joy."

Step Aside, Jesus!

Have you ever said something in the spur of the moment, not really thinking too much about it, that just stopped you in your tracks? This is how we communicate all the time: in conversation, when giving instructions, when we're yelling at the TV or the other drivers on the road. We don't stop to ponder each and every word that comes out of our mouths. Most of what we say isn't worth writing down, but sometimes, something shocking, or profound, or both, will come out of our mouths.

Susan Butler and I were in my office on Sunday, discussing the new slogan for the congregation. As Susan was putting her things down, she noticed the tiny plastic baby Jesus lying on the center of my desk. You might remember, this tiny plastic baby Jesus was the subject of one of my sermons. She asked about it, and I told her that was where he lived, and I said, "If he's in your way, just move him to the side." And, I immediately froze, realizing what I had said.

If Jesus is in your way, just move him to the side.

We both laughed about it, and I said I needed to write that down, so I could use it for a sermon someday. But, I haven't been able to stop thinking about it. How often do we just "move Jesus to the side," when listening to him might be inconvenient, or maybe even in opposition to what we want to do? How often do we do ignore what we've been taught, or ignore that gut instinct to do the right thing because it makes us uncomfortable or because we've already decided what we want to do? How often do we think that we know better than God?

With so much going on this time of year, it can be easy to "move Jesus out of the way." Many of us have to deal with difficult family members, figure out what to do with our limited finances, or decided what to do with our limited time. It's almost a cliché to ask, "What would Jesus do?" But, if we're not asking that question, then what might be guiding our decisions instead?



Jesus calls us to compassion, generosity, trust, faith, joy, peace, and love. What kinds of decisions are we making if we ask Jesus to step to the side? In the coming seasons of thanksgiving and hope, let's remember why we celebrate. Let's invite Jesus into our hearts, into our lives, and let Jesus be our guide.

~ Rev. Charles Wei



Nancy Michelson (10/30/2022) thanked the congregation for "all the prayers" then shared a personal story about Stewardship and reminded us that it is, "What You Do with What You Have"

Active Stewardship

Stewardship is an ethical value that embodies the responsible management of resources such as the environment, property, or theology. Our Plymouth Church Council Coordinators have embraced their stewardship responsibilities in multiple ways. Vice Moderator Liz Gundersen stewards personnel concerns by maintaining a positive working relationship with the pastor and staff, as well as recruiting, hiring, and conducting performance assessments. Secretary Mary Drysdale records minutes of council and congregational meetings, reminding us of what was discussed, decided, and delegated. Financial Affairs Coordinator Pat Christian oversees the finances of the church, working with bookkeeper Gail Tronstad and our accounting firm to report on and analyze a complex budget. With input from committees, she will draft the preliminary annual budget for January's annual meeting.

Social Justice and Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Jeffries Thompson promotes and oversees activities that help the church serve the wider community, stewarding programs that distinguish Plymouth as a caring and generous community. Buildings and Grounds Coordinator Boyce Fowler, stewarding care and maintenance of the church and its grounds, has overseen a particularly challenging set of building improvements this year. B&G Committee member Terry Tatchell has been particularly helpful as we replaced our 60-year old boiler with two high-efficiency boilers.

Pastor Charles supervises staff, leads the Worship Committee as it plans services, and works with Lynn Bolin, chair of the Pastoral Care Committee, ministering to members in times of need. Others who use their talents and time to do what's needed in the church include the Fellowship Committee, Disciple Groups, and sub-committees working on special projects. This is stewardship in action.

By sharing what we have—time, talent, and treasure--we are stewards of Plymouth Church, responsibly managing a valuable resource in our community and in our lives.

~ Jan Clinard, Moderator

Dave and God's Love

Profound thanks to those of you who contributed to a meat fund in honor of Dave Donaldson and in memory of his partner, Sava. Over the course of two Sundays, Plymouth collected \$500 to purchase meat for God's Love, where Dave ministered when he lived in the Helena area. When coordinating with the folks at God's Love, staff indicated that their freezers are well-stocked at the moment and requested we purchase and deliver meat in February when supplies are super low. Outreach and Social Justice will be happy to do that; we will post another notice after the holidays in case you would like to help with deliveries. Dave joins the Outreach and Social Justice Committee in thanking you all.



Dave Donaldson's new address is: General Delivery US Post Office, Mountain View, HI 96771

Hands on Global Thanksgiving Event

Valerie Hellermann and team from Hands on Global invite all to attend and to participate in a Thanksgiving dinner at Plymouth, November 24, at 3:00 PM. All the Afghan families currently residing in Helena (6 families and 18 children and youth and a tiny newborn!) will be attending, some experiencing their first Thanksgiving feast in their new home. If you would like to attend or contribute a favorite dish, let Valerie know via her email:

Valerie.handsonglobal@gmail.com.





Plymouth Community Garden

Plot #13 in the far northwest corner of the Community Garden is clean and ready for a season of sleep. The last harvest yielded tomatoes, cabbage, beans, herbs and carrots. In other parts of the garden, volunteers gathered carrots for Food Share, as seen in the photo. Supplies, plants and tools for our garden plot came from a city grant prepared by the Outreach and Social Justice Committee, who are very grateful for this financial support. Thank you to those who watered, weeded and harvest this past summer. Let Jennifer know if you are interested in assisting with garden preparations for next year.



Coming Up: 60th Anniversary

Sunday, May 28, 2023

We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the groundbreaking for Plymouth Congregational Church on Sunday, May 28, 2023. To help us do that, you are invited to share recipes for a church cookbook, as well as stories and memories for a booklet we can hand out. Also, if you have any pictures you would like to share, or if you have any other ideas of how we can celebrate, we welcome all of that! Please send your recipes, stories, and pictures to pccofficemgr@gmail.com.



Photo by [NIPYATA!](#) on [Unsplash](#)

SAVE THESE DATES!

Tuesday, November 1st at 9:00 a.m.—PCC Work Bee Session (Contact Linda Burns)

Sunday, November 6th at 10:00 a.m. —Jeff Buscher at Plymouth: Homelessness in Helena

Sunday, November 6th at 3:00 p.m.—Pastor Charles' Installation Service

Sunday, November 20th after worship—Giving Thanks pot-luck

In Our Prayers Today

At Home: Giles Walker, Jay Shelden, Greg Bolin, and Nathan Schreder as they go through cancer treatment. Lorraine Hopgood, for continued recovery.

Touchmark: Evelyn Nelson, and Art and Clara Gilreath;

Hunter's Point: Marlyce Taylor; Jim and Doris Powell.

Edgewood: Ed Canty

Prayers for David Donaldson and family in their grief over the death of Sava. Continued prayers for Anna Demaree, Ben Sweeney, and Jeff Alberta.

To add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 442-9883 or email pccofficemgr@gmail.com.

Montana Association of Christians: Holy Endings and New Beginnings

Greetings, MT - NWy Conference ministers and church leaders,

As the president of the Montana Association of Christians (Churches), I have been working with the MAC Council for over almost 3 years to discern what the Spirit may be leading around this form of ecumenical relationship. MAC has embodied the "that we may all be one" spirit that is the United Church of Christ. The way unity gets expressed has changed, though, and MAC has no longer been a prominent form for ecumenical expressions of faith. MAC will be dissolved in January 2023.

I am thankful for those who came before me as leaders of MAC, especially those I know of from within the UCC: past administrator, Marge MacDonald, and past president, Rev. Peter Shober, and predecessor Conference Ministers Rev. John Schaeffer, Rev. Rand Hyvonen, and ACM Rev. Michael Obenauer for their work and support of MAC, and for this conference's annual contributions to the work MAC over the years,

God-speed,

Marc Stewart, Conference Minister, UCC in MT-NWy

SAVE THE DATE: January 16, 2023—MAC Celebrates 50 Years at the Capitol

Montana Interfaith Power and Light Presents:
Faith, Science, and Climate Action Virtual Series 2022

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVOCACY FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

6:30 PM - 8PM VIA ZOOM

"Youth Advocating via the Judicial System for Their Rights to a Livable Climate" - **Our Children's Trust; Held v. Montana Plaintiffs**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

6:30 PM - 8PM VIA ZOOM

"Faith, Hope and Action: Climate Justice Advocacy" - **Dave Hemion, MPA**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

6:30 PM - 8PM VIA ZOOM

"Developing Your Personal Story for Climate Advocacy" - **Sunrise Bozeman: Lucy Hochschartner & Isabel Shaida**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

6:30 PM - 8PM VIA ZOOM

"Communicating with Those Who are Different than You" - **Piper Christian**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:30 PM - 8PM VIA ZOOM

"Networking with Climate Action Groups in Montana" - **Environmental Organizations**



Montana IPL invites you to join us as we embark on this opportunity to engage with each other and learn tools for advocacy from those who have gone before us. With speakers from Montana's faith communities and youth activists, take the opportunity to begin developing advocacy tools for your tool box.

This is a great opportunity for communities of faith, individuals of good will, and youth to engage with one another for the preservation and flourishing of our environment to ensure a livable climate for future generations.

MONTANA
INTERFAITH
POWER & LIGHT

CONTACT US

406.282.4730
P.O. Box 633
Bozeman, MT 59771
mtinterfaithpowerandlight@gmail.com

Scan the QR code to register:



HELENA, MT

positive mindset healthcare inner power chi
Body spiritual peace
 optimism feeling fun lifestyle
 energy care balance Reiki eat well Theta Healing
Mind harmony yoga happiness
 meditation wellness

Friday, November 11, 2022

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

at the **Carroll College - Campus Center**, Lower-Level Campus

Enjoy a variety of practitioners from many popular metaphysical...
 Explore meditation • astrology • herbalist • I-Ching • energy
 healing • iridology • Akashic Records • mediumship

Our market vendors offer a variety of...
 water • herbal tinctures • shamanic
 lamps • pendulums • tarot decks •
 unique gift items • and more

Join us! There's something for everyone at the...
 Come with questions—leave with answers... & Holistic Life Expo!
 Change your Life!

Join Gloria Soja at this event. She will be at the
 Body of 9 table. Come and learn your Natural
 Number and how you were designed to relate to
 the world!



FREE ADMISSION (Love Donation Welcome) **30 + VENDORS**

Brought to you by Body Mind Spirit Day, this is not a function of SODEXO or Carroll College

Website: www.1111bms.com | Facebook: [11-11 Body Mind Spirit Helena](#)

Creation Care Tips

UCC Green Team!

Did you know that Plymouth Congregational Church is part of the Green Team of the Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference? We meet every month to talk about the different things that our churches are doing to help take better care of God's creation. I've enjoyed sharing with the group about our Let's Talk: Creation Care series, the success of the community garden on our property, and the fun Meatless Monday dinners that we had. Meanwhile, I get to hear about the seed banks, pollinator gardens, and tree plantings that the other churches are doing.

If you have a heart for creation justice, and would like to get to know some of the other folks in the conference, we are always looking for some fresh faces. Please let me know if you would be interested in being part of the group!

~ Rev Charles Wei



Plymouth Church, U.C.C.

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

Plymouth's Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things.



Plymouth Church

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

Office Hours

- Pastor Charles Wei: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Tues. & Thurs.), and by appointment.
- Office Manager Gloria Soja: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (Wed.-Thur.)
- Bookkeeper Gail Tronstad by appointment.

Sundays
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
In Person and Online

Contact Us

Church Office: 406.442.9883

Web: www.plymouthmontanaucc.org

Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Also: www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational