

# Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

September 2023

## Holy Week (Part 5)



In this penultimate article in my series about my mural, *Faith, Hope, & Love*, we are going to look at the section representing many of the events that we commemorate during Holy Week, including the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection, as well as the Sermon on the Mount.

I wanted to depict the Last Supper in a less traditional way, with Jesus and the disciples all sitting in a circle. I felt like this would be a little more egalitarian than what we usually see with renditions that mimic Leonardo da Vinci's painting of this scene. The letter "V" hidden here is fairly easy to find, by following the white portions of the table.

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

The hidden letter “E” can be found by lining up the third cross, made with polished petrified wood beads that a friend gave me for this project, with the gray-tile portion of the stone used to cover Jesus’ tomb. Another ichthus is also hidden here between the upper two arms of the “E”. I also used more of the blue tiles that my sister and nephew found while hiking, mostly in the portions of the sky that are part of the hidden letters. The “V” and the “E” are, of course, the last two letters of the word “LOVE” that is hidden in the New Testament portion of the mosaic.



As I mentioned in the previous articles, I used the gold and orange tile here for Jesus in the Last Supper scene, as well as the Sermon on the Mount, which is to the upper left of the Last Supper. Terra cotta tiles are used here for the platter and the cup, to tie in with terra cotta tiles used for the swaddling clothes and the cross, as the things that held Jesus. I used different hues for Jesus’ face, to show that he came for all of humanity, and does not belong to any single group of people. As mentioned previously, much of the black tile for these scenes are reclaimed slate roofing tiles from San Francisco Theological Seminary, where the mosaic is located. And, the black and white floral tile used for one of the disciples in the Last Supper, and one of the people in the Sermon on the Mount, came from the vase that was smashed as part of a friend’s senior sermon.

One of the more interesting hidden images is here, just to the right of the Last Supper scene, at the bottom of the mural, below the first of the three crosses. I was in the administrative office one day, talking about how expensive this mural project was, and the woman who was in charge of housing at the time gave me a check for \$100 to help cover the cost. Her last name was Walker, and her nickname around school was Walker Bear, because of her fierce personality and no nonsense yet protective nature. I wanted to commemorate her generosity, so I Googled “walker bear” just to see if anything would come up. It turns out, Walker Bear is the title of a children’s book, with an adorable cover of a bear walking on its hind legs, with an old-fashioned candle holder in its paws, lighting the way ahead of it. There’s a line of pink frosted glass that runs parallel to the black tiles, and then curves away from them. The line continues in dark green tiles. These pink and green tiles outline the figure of “Walker Bear,” including the glow from its candle. A close inspection of this figure will reveal an eye, nose, mouth, ears, the candle holder, and the lit candle.

Finally, although they are not hidden, they are often overlooked, so I want to point out the three women heading towards the empty tomb.

In the next and final article in this series, we will look at the Ascension.

~ Rev. Charles Wei

## Moderator's Message

We're fortunate here to enjoy God's creation on a daily basis—lakes, valleys, mountains, trees, and remarkable sunsets. I spent decades riding a succession of horses—Lady, Sir Ruby, Tabatha Jill, and Wind—in the beautiful Travis Creek area past Unionville. Over the years, I grew attached to certain aspen groves, ancient fir trees, and towering pine; then I began to see trunks oozing the tell-tale signs of pine beetle infestation, watched their needles turn red, then die. Deadfall finally rendered my favorite trails impassable and I gave up my summer pasture, overtaken by noxious weeds after the dead trees were logged. This week, I hiked with my friend Mary on the rehabilitated Barking Dog and Wakina Sky Meadow trails, flanked by countless piles of trees and branches, awaiting burning this winter. We plan to hike up to an ancient fir I remember to see if it's surviving whatever is now killing fir on Mount Helena.



Plymouth's south-facing roof is not shaded by trees. A subcommittee of the Council (Pat Christian, Jill Van Alstyne, Mary Drysdale, and me) will continue to pursue solar to offset our electric costs and do our part in fighting climate change. First, we need new roofing, not only for the steep roof, but for the leaky flat roof over the north side of the sanctuary. But the great news is that grants and incentives are now available that could bring our out-of-pocket cost for solar panels down to around \$12,000, with a potential pay-back in less than five years. That's astonishing! Stay tuned, because we hope to begin a fundraising campaign to secure the match needed for a USB grant.

Back to trees. As a child, I loved the Cottonwoods that my grandfather (like other homesteaders) had planted on the edge of a reservoir he carved with a stone boat and a team of horses. After too many years without water, only one straggler remains. In the 40's and 50's Montana's dry land farmers were urged to plant shelter belts. I remember our disappointment when little bare-root sticks arrived from the Extension Office, but we dutifully planted them in rows, west and north of the house. My job was to water them, one by one, with buckets of gray water. Many of the Russian Olives and Caragana bushes survive still.

If you also care for trees, read Finding the Mother Tree, by Suzanne Simard, a fascinating book Gail Tronstad loaned me earlier this year. Often, I find Jean Goetz demonstrating her commitment to caring for our landscaping, working tirelessly pulling weeds and crabgrass. Hopefully, one day soon, the Plymouth Church roof will also visibly demonstrate our commitment to Creation Care—and save money doing it.

Blessings,

~ Jan Clinard

# Creation Care Tips

## Charles' Birthday Hummus

1 can chickpeas, including liquid

¼ cup lemon juice (to taste)

1 medium clove garlic

½ tsp salt (to taste)

½ cup tahini

1 tbsp olive oil

Combine all ingredients in a food processor, and mix until creamy, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Optionally, drizzle with olive oil, or sprinkle with ground sumac, paprika, or chopped fresh parsley. Serve with pita, naan, crackers, or raw vegetables.



# Women's Fellowship

**The first meeting of Women's Fellowship meeting will be Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship (Fireside) Room. We will be organizing for the upcoming year and have a chance to visit and catch up with each other.**

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm for what we might do this year to make Plymouth Congregational Church a great place to worship.



~Sunny Ray Mandeville

**“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”**

~Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## In Our Prayers Today

Assisted Living: Ed Canty, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Evelyn Nelson, Jim and Doris Powell, and Marlyce Taylor.

In medical treatment: Greg Bolin, Gus and Brenda Byrom, Margy Kohl, Nathan Schreder, Dianne Senne, and Dianne Wei.

Bereavement: Bailey Anna Woods.

Special Request: For Karen Mills, Carol McKerrow, Kelly Murphy, and Giles Walker.

Prayers for us and the families of Andy Tran, Ray Kilius, and all the victims of gun violence, as we mourn the loss of our loved ones.

*To add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 442-9883 or email [pccofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:pccofficemgr@gmail.com).*



ord

pture in the Wild  
brates 10 years as an  
destination' in Lincoln

helenair.com • \$3

## 'We have so many unsheltered people'

Locals gather to discuss crisis in Helena; more lectures coming in series

**NOLAN LISTER**  
nolan.lister@helenair.com

Nearly 100 Helenans met at Lewis and Clark County Library Wednesday to kick off a series of lectures regarding the rise in unsheltered people across the country, and particularly in the Queen City.

Helena's Plymouth Church, in conjunction with United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area, the Montana Jewish Project, Good Samaritan and the Helena United Methodist Churches, organized the five-part series, with the remaining four scheduled every Wednesday at a different location and each boasting a unique topic.

In addition to local experts, the series will draw from "Rough Sleepers," a book by Pulitzer-prize winning author Tracy Kidder, and attendees are encouraged to read the book.

Wednesday's lecture at the library included a historical overview of the unsheltered crisis from a policy standpoint by Carroll College professor Pat Christian.

"The fact that we have so many unsheltered people today is a product of political and economic systems and the outcome of deeply held values and assumptions," Christian said.

She said the reasons often given for why people are without permanent shelter include mental illness, addiction, poverty, poor choices, laziness and criminal backgrounds.

"Research suggests that the greatest correlation with high rates of homelessness, however, is high housing prices and lack of available housing," she said. "People with mental illness and addiction are everywhere in the United States, but homelessness is concentrated in places where housing is in short supply and demand is high."

She said in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, homelessness was not nearly as large of a concern in the country, and the publicly funded poor houses, flop houses and boarding houses created a wide variety of housing options.

As the Great Depression set in and the unsheltered population rose, the

Please see **HOMELESSNESS**, Page A4

# IN THE NEWS!!!

Independent Record, August 31, 2023

We've also been on the local news TV stations!

Check out the following links:

<https://www.ktvh.com/news/housing-crisis-and-unsheltered-discussion-series-draws-large-crowd>



## Outreach and Social Justice Committee (OSJ) Happenings!

### Summer Read and Community Discussion



Pat Christian

“**Rough Sleepers,**” the book and the first of five community discussions continue to create a buzz. The Lewis and Clark Library with the help of Suzanne Schwichtenberg hosted our gathering on Wednesday, August 30. Dr. Pat Christian provided an exceptional look at the origins and history of housing issues and the struggles of the unsheltered.

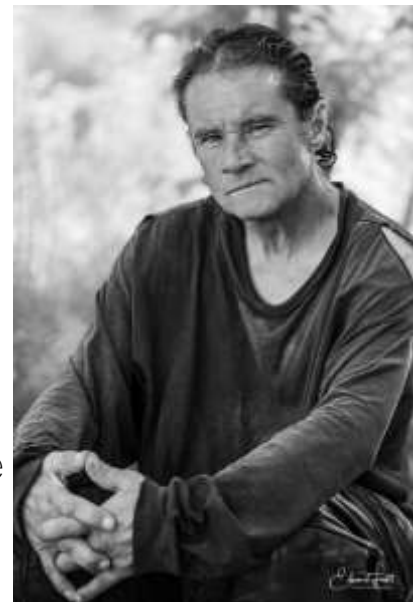
Approximately 90 people crowded into the large meeting room, many standing through the 60-minute lecture and discussion. The event was recorded by HCTV as well as our local television station, KTVH; Nolan Lister from the Independent Record also attended the event.

Future sessions focus on the voices of our unsheltered neighbors, education, local government and ends with a look at health care issues. An agenda of remaining dates, places and topics is provided on page 8 of this issue or can be found on the table in the narthex. **Don’t miss out on learning from this very important topic. You are encouraged to attend whether or not you have read the book.**

The last class, September 27 at 12 noon, focusing on health concerns endured by people living on the streets, will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Plymouth. We plan to provide a sack lunch for those in attendance and welcome those of you who can help us prepare and serve. If you are available, speak with Jennifer or any member of the OSJ Committee.

### Faces of Our Unsheltered Neighbors

A few months ago Plymouth received a check for \$7000 from the Town Pump Foundation to cover the costs associated with **producing a photo exhibit featuring the faces of some of Helena’s unsheltered.** Ed Field photographed many people within a 3 week period of time this summer. One of the ten photos in the exhibit is “**Billy,**” pictured here. Rev. Dr. Jeff Buscher of United Way interviewed the candidates and wrote some of the exhibit narrative. Billy grew up in Butte and is a rock and roll legend at heart. You may hear Billy’s speaker blasting his favorite heavy metal hits as he travels about town. The photos are being developed at this writing; the exhibit may be borrowed at no cost beginning later this fall. The first showing will be at Carroll College, beginning the week of October 9th. After that initial showing the photographs will reside for a time at Plymouth where we hope to celebrate with an opening reception. If you are interested in helping with that event, let us know.



“Billy”

*Continued from previous page*

### **“Dishing Up” with Other Important Events**

Plymouth has long been a faith community of hearty appetites. Being host to many community events is not only our privilege but our responsibility. Though a few months away you may want to add these events to your calendar and plan to help with some food preparation and service. Afterall, isn't that what we like best?

- NEH Big Read, sponsored by the Lewis and Clark Library, will hold a constellation-viewing event in Plymouth's lower lot, October 20 from 8 to 9 PM. We plan to provide popcorn and cider. Can you help?
- Florence Mayer will prepare and serve a meal at God's Love next month, date to be confirmed. Can you help?
- Montana Special Olympics will include a dinner for 50 Olympians in early November. More later, but do you think you can help?

Food, fun, family, fellowship – can't get better than that!

~ Jennifer Jeffries Thompson

### **UPCOMING “ROUGH SLEEPERS” DISCUSSION EVENTS!**

#### **September 6—Our Place, 631 N. Last Chance Gulch—12 noon (sack lunch)**

“Who is My Neighbor?” Stories of people living on the streets. Facilitated by Theresa Ortega, Good Samaritan, and Rev. Dr. Jeff Buscher, United Way.

#### **September 13—Montana Jewish Project Temple Emanu-El, 515 N. Ewing—12 noon (sack lunch)**

“What's Education Got to Do With It?” Information from an educator, social worker and a parent interacting with unsheltered children and adults. Participants include: Siobhan Hathhorn, Chair of the Helena School Board Trustees; Jaymie Sheldahl, Family and Community Partnerships for Rocky Mountain Development Council Head Start with Jennifer Hedges.

#### **September 20—Covenant United Methodist Church, —12 noon (sack lunch)**

“Practical Considerations and Overwhelming Needs.” A perspective from local government regarding low-income housing and the challenges the city and county face. Facilitated by County Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Mayor Wilmot Collins.

#### **September 27—Plymouth Congregational Church, —12 noon (lunch provided)**

“What About Drugs, Addictions, Mental Health and Other Life Threatening Concerns on the Streets.” Facilitated by Teresa Kelly-Brewer, Nurse Care Manager, with Ryan Lehman, Community Health Worker, St Peter's Health..



## GRATITUDE CORNER—THANK YOU

Plymouth Congregational Church is home to so many wonderful loving amazing people who do things tirelessly for the church and give graciously of their gifts and we want to extend our thanks and gratitude to them:

- ◆ Thank you Ed and Kathy Field for providing the unscented candles for worship service.
- ◆ Jean Goetz—Thank you so much for all the cleaning and weeding (pulling crab grass from the sidewalk) and caring for the plants in and around the front entryway.



**Is there someone you'd like to extend a special Thank You to?** Please let me (Alane) know so we can all acknowledge their contribution.



Copyright © 2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing

---

## 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.**



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 Alane Dallas: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (Tues.-Thurs.)

### Contact Us

**Church Office:** 406.442.9883

**Web:** [www.plymouthmontanaucc.org](http://www.plymouthmontanaucc.org)

**Email:** [pccofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:pccofficemgr@gmail.com)

**Also:** [www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational](http://www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational)

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