

# Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

January 2025

## A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

I pray for joyous blessings for you in the coming year.

I pray that you receive all of the gifts that God has for you,  
And that you truly understand the gift that you are to the  
world.

I pray that you are overwhelmed by God's outrageous  
generosity and love.

I pray that you feel God powerfully in your lives,  
That you know that God is always with you, and cares about  
who you are and what you do.

I pray for you to find your true calling, and I hope that it brings you peace.

I pray that your labor is fulfilling, and that you can find a vocation in which your joy meets  
the world's need.

I pray that the Holy Spirit empowers and emboldens you to do the work that Jesus is calling  
you to do.

I pray for you to be moved by mercy and compassion for the needy in your midst,  
And I pray for help to come if ever you need it, and that you have the grace and humility to  
accept it.

May your lives be filled with people that you love,

May the food that you eat be delicious, and the beverages that you drink be refreshing and  
comforting in equal measure.

May you see vistas that fill you with inspiration, and breathe in scents that remind you of  
your best days.

May your hearts be filled, and may laughter fill the air around you,

May you be brave and spirited, steadfast and bold in your endeavors,



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May you find solitude when you need solitude, and company when you need company.

May God open your eyes to all of the beauty that surrounds you.

May you know true peace, hope, love, and joy, and always remember just how important you are to your family, your community, and to God.

Amen.

~ Rev. Charles Wei



HARRT Solstice Concert

During the Solstice performance on St. Paul's United Methodist on December 21, the children from Afghanistan and Congo, sang some of the songs learned at the art and music class taught this past fall at Smith School. Directed by Judy Fjell (left with ukulele) and Katie Knight, these beautiful children charmed all those present. Very nice accolades were extended to Plymouth for the support of this program.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PLYMOUTH—YOU'RE INVITED!**

Bible Study: Every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Chime Choir Rehearsal: Tuesday, January 7 at 1:30 p.m.—Sanctuary.

PCC ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, January 26, immediately following the service—in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

## Moderator's Message

As we look ahead to another year, your Church Council members are busy writing their summaries for the Annual Report, which must be available to members in time for the Annual Meeting, January 26. This year has been busy, with grant-writing and installation of solar panels and new windows in the daycare wing, among many accomplishments.

In 2024, we welcomed new members to the Council, including Gail Tronstad as treasurer, Gus Byrom as coordinator for Outreach and Social Justice, and Jeanne Wolfe, secretary. We appreciate their new perspectives and hard work. At this point, all members of the Council are willing to be nominated to continue in their present positions.

Critical to operating within our budget this year was volunteer work for cleaning and lawn care. I am especially grateful to Kathe Simons and her team and to Ed Fields and his lawnmower. Everyone agrees that they have kept our building and grounds in better shape than “hired hands,” saving members about \$12,000 this last year. They have graciously volunteered to continue this service. We all must take some responsibility to care for “our” home of worship and fellowship.

Many more helpers have made 2024 successful. Every Sunday, our disciple groups greet us, hand out bulletins, and pass the offering plates; and serve communion monthly. Pat Buell organizes the groups and runs the slides. The Drysdale, with grandson Rhys, stream the service online. We’ve come to expect a pastor’s message that speaks to us personally and music that’s delightful. In the office, Alane Dallas ensures that donations are banked, bills are paid, and all manner of building and activity details get done.

Together, we will have a fulfilling and spirit-filled New Year!

~Jan Clinard



PCC SOLAR STATS as of January 1, 2025	
<b>Lifetime Revenue</b>	<b>\$698</b>
<b>Lifetime Energy</b>	<b>4.69 MWh</b>
<b>CO2 Emissions Saved</b>	<b>7,265 lbs</b>
<b>Equivalent Trees Planted</b>	<b>55</b>

## OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Our Committee continues to explore ways to help Helena's unsheltered community as well as refugees attempting to start new lives in Helena.

At our last Outreach meeting, Sunday, December 21, our Committee agreed to the following disbursement of our remaining \$777 in Outreach Committee funds for this year:

- HARRT - Helena Area Refugees - \$100
- United Way for affordable housing project on Cedar Street - \$200
- Our Place - \$200
- YWCA - \$100
- Individual support - Gift Card - \$50
- Friendship Center - \$127

New members are always welcome!

~ Gus Byrom, Chair

### Town Pump Charitable Foundation Grants Awarded

Once again, Plymouth was awarded two \$500 Adopt a Family grants from the Town Pump Charitable Foundation to assist with our efforts to provide care for our neighbors in need. Thank you, Town Pump, for recognizing the good work of Plymouth folks and for your support in the many ways that we reach out.



~ Jennifer Jeffries Thompson



Prepared for the Plymouth Women's Fellowship Group Christmas Brunch. This recipe was served and it was **DELISH!** A perfect "hot" dessert for the chilly days of winter. ENJOY!

### HOT CURRIED FRUIT

3/4 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup butter

4 tsp. curry

3-15 oz. cans drained fruit (which can include pineapple slices, pear halves, peach halves, apricots, pitted prunes or cherries for color).

Drain canned fruit of your choice. Melt butter, add brown sugar and curry, stirring to blend. Pour mixture over fruit, cover and cook slowly at 325 degrees for 40 minutes. Baste occasionally. Let flavor marry 25 hours before serving. When ready to serve, bake in slow oven for 1/2 hour. Especially good with ham or chicken. Serves 6-8.

## Building and Grounds



Building and grounds has only one thing to report, but it is a cause for celebration. All the windows in the education wing were replaced the week of December 16. The new windows are energy efficient, egress windows that replace the old damaged, inefficient ones. Thanks to our congregation, we have continued to make our building more safe and more energy efficient. Blessings to all and Happy New Year!  
~ Terry Tatchell



## Treasurer's Message

It has been a joy to serve as your treasurer this past year and work with the committee to carefully and thoughtfully manage Plymouth's financial resources.

In November and December the committee met to prepare a draft budget. To do so, we carefully estimated the sources of income and received requests from committees of their hoped for budgets for the coming year. These committees included Human Resources, Outreach and Social Justice, Worship, and Buildings and Grounds. The committee will meet one more time in January for a final review all of the estimated income and expenses. The 2025 draft budget will then be presented to the Council to accept or modify. The budget that is approved by the Council will be presented to the membership at our Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 26 following the worship service. I hope you will be able to attend this important membership event.



Throughout this year some of the articles in Waymarks have used the statement "Leave space in your budget for a miracle." While we do not yet have final accounting reports for 2024, there were many miracles in our budget this year. I look forward to our Annual Meeting and am excited to share the successes and miracles of 2024 as well as the hopes of 2025 as we move forward "to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things."

Happy New Year!

~Gail Tronstad



FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTORS

**What a Wonderful Year it's been for music at Plymouth!**

The year 2024 has been a jam-packed year for wonderful music at Plymouth Congregational Church.

With sincere gratitude to all of our many Guest Musicians this year:

- Shaun Deola (Trumpet)
- Amy Allen, Amy Casne-Fetz, Mike Swisher, Sarah Whitlatch, Mayor Wilmot Collins (Vocalists/Soloists)
- Luke Michelson and Mary Lou Weddle (Violinists)
- Mary Drysdale (Tongue Drum)
- Barbara Berg (Flute)
- Don Stone (Trombone)
- Cheryl McKenty (Pianist)

I'd like to also thank all of our "regulars" who are even more special because of their commitment and faithfulness:

Choir: Marcia Lauer, Marcia Warner, Lynn Bolin, Kathleen Culver, Kathe and Al Simons, Boyce Fowler, Hal Fossum, Robbie Culver, Jennifer Thompson, Mary Lou Weddle.

New this year—Plymouth Chime Choir and Chime Quartet: Donna Disher-Hathy, Mary Drysdale, Alane Dallas, Pastor Charles, Steve and Nancy Michelson, and Kathe Simons.

And we don't want to forget our ever faithful back up folks: Pat Buell, who runs our PowerPoint for virtually every service, and the Drysdale family who handle our streaming.



Looking forward to another amazing musical year at Plymouth!

~ Nancy Michelson



**"You do not lose until you quit trying"**  
**Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Sammy Lee Davis (U.S. Army, Vietnam, 1967)**  
***Galatians 6:9 "Let us not lose heart in doing good,  
for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."***

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP 2025**

### Winter 2024—2025 Sleeping Bag Campaign

The winter of 2024-2025 Sleeping Bag Campaign was a huge success...AGAIN!!! Once again, two years in a row, with the tireless efforts of Susan and Chuck Butler and the Women's Fellowship Group, Plymouth Congregational Church raised enough money to purchase another 100 sleeping bags for our homeless and unsheltered neighbors.

### January Women's Fellowship—Ring in the New Year

Let's celebrate the New Year together with music and friends!

Are you curious about the handchimes you've heard in church recently?

Come to the January 14 meeting to explore these amazing instruments up-close through song as we welcome 2025. See you there! ~Kathe Simons

### January meeting schedule:

Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

*Note: Next lunch meeting at Overland Express will be February 25*

## **In Our Prayers Today**

In treatment/healing: Greg Bolin, Lynn Bolin, Linda Burns, Gus Byrom, Nancy Michelson, Karen Mills, Kelly Murphy, and Brenda Senne.

Bereavement: The family of Jim Powell, and the families of the victims of gun violence and natural disasters. Prayers for us and the families around the world as we mourn the loss of our loved ones.

Special Prayers: Ann Chivlicek, Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker. The people of Israel, Palestine, Russia, Ukraine, Venezuela and all who are experience the horrors of war. The victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

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



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## Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

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**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)

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

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