

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE: THE GIVING SEASON

In the “giving” season, a variety of charities request contributions, churches hold stewardship campaigns, and we begin thinking about Christmas gifts. During Thanksgiving, we express our appreciation for the gifts we have received. Perhaps you’ve been blessed with good health, a loving family, a comfortable home, a bountiful garden, a fulfilling career, naturally curly hair, or a financial nest egg that has grown over the years.

Donating appreciated stocks can be a smart way to make charitable contributions. For example, if you purchased some stocks for \$2,000 in 2015 and they are now worth \$10,000, you would pay capital gains taxes on \$8,000. However, if you were to donate that \$10,000 stock to Plymouth (or any other nonprofit), you can claim a \$10,000 charitable deduction and pay no capital gains taxes.

Plymouth’s Financial Affairs Committee suggests a relatively simple way for you to make a stock donation. You may pick up a United Church Funds Stock Donation Form from the church and take it to your stock broker. Your broker will need the information at the bottom of the form and can help you with the information, complete the form, and email it to United Church Funds. Depending on the needs of the church, the Financial Affairs Committee will decide how to process the liquidated funds, by either: 1) depositing the funds into Plymouth’s UCF account, or 2) disbursing the funds into Plymouth’s Ascent Bank account in Helena to be used for the church’s ongoing expenses.

The process is relatively simple for the giver and the church. If you own stocks that you hesitate to sell because of their appreciated value, please consider donating them to Plymouth Church. To ensure that processing pertains to the 2025 tax year, please complete the donation by December 15.

Plymouth’s Financial Affairs Committee has begun developing a budget for 2026, expecting increases in costs, with the exception of utilities because of more strategic use of our sprinkler system and the generation of electricity with our solar panels. In 2025, over 55% of our costs were budgeted for salaries/payroll (including health insurance and pension) and 31% for maintenance, utilities and other building costs. In 2025, total expenses ran about \$4,200 every week, but income from building users covered 17% of those costs.

We are still hopeful that pledges and other donations for 2026 allow us to continue with the level of services provided in 2025. Although our pastor’s salary and benefits constitute the largest portion of the total budget (38%), Charles’ outreach is significant to Plymouth’s image in our community. This Thanksgiving, I feel blessed that Pastor Charles found his way to Plymouth.

Thankfully,
Jan Clinard



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Many thanks to Marcia Lauer for the loan of 5 beautiful quilts, currently exhibited in the Fireside Room. Continuing with the theme regarding the beauty of the earth and the creatures that dwell in it, this particular installation exhibits through needle-craft and textiles illustrations of magnificent animals. Next month we will once again have the pleasure of seeing Rev. Wei's mural, which will remain through the Advent and Christmas season. If you own or produce art that you would like to exhibit at church, let Jennifer Thompson or Pat Buell know.



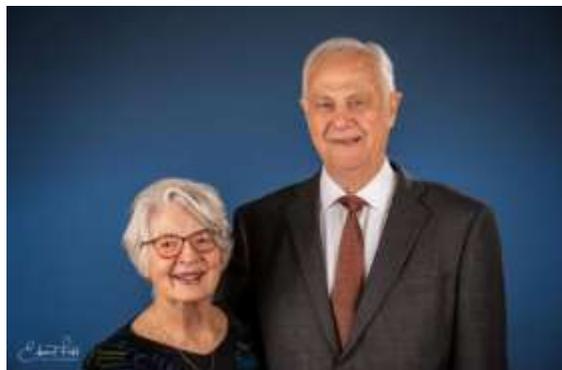
And from our dear Flower Lady...

One frosty winter morning in the 1970's, I was planning to attend church while Loren was representing St. Pete's at an out-of-town meeting. I decided to take some flowers to brighten the winter scene. It was a good idea because attendance was small and we nine met in the Fireside Room. That's my memory of how my "service" as Flower Lady began.

No one objected or made suggestions and the flowers were much appreciated. Sometimes neighbors offered garden flowers or dedicated flowers to loved ones who had passed.

I'll be stepping down from this ministry at the end of 2025. It has been so rewarding! Thank you to all those who have supported this flower ministry. It's been at least 50 years! I look forward to helping to make a smooth transition to those who may wish to contribute to this special ministry.

Carol McKerrow



You're Invited!

Bible Study:

Every Tuesday

9:00 a.m.

Fireside Room

Sandwich Ministry:

Second & Fourth
Wednesday of the
month. 9:30 a.m.
Kitchen

Chime Choir:

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, December 9
Overland Express
Lunch at 11:30
All Women Welcome!

Cleaning Crew

Saturday mornings

Contact Kathe to
volunteer:

603-860-4539 or
kathe@simonshome.
org

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE — *Gus Byrom*

Plymouth's Outreach and Social Justice Committee is particularly engaged at this time in supporting Helena's efforts to address the community challenge faced by the decision of God's Love to limit its capacity to provide overnight shelter during the upcoming winter months. In the past, God's Love would provide space for all homeless individuals to sleep on the dining room floor when the 35 to 40 bed capacity level was reached during times of freezing temperatures. As part of this effort, our committee hosted community meetings at Plymouth on both October 20 and November 3.

In addition, in a special meeting on November 2, our Outreach Committee decided to explore the provision of shelter for five homeless individuals this upcoming winter, supported by two or three volunteers, at locations yet to be determined. Possibly this effort could be coordinated with the three other local area community churches that have already agreed to coordinate with Plymouth to provide sleeping bags to Helena's homeless, namely, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, our Redeemer's Lutheran, and St. John's Lutheran.

Our committee continues to provide limited food and support to members of our congregation, as well as other residents within the Helena area.

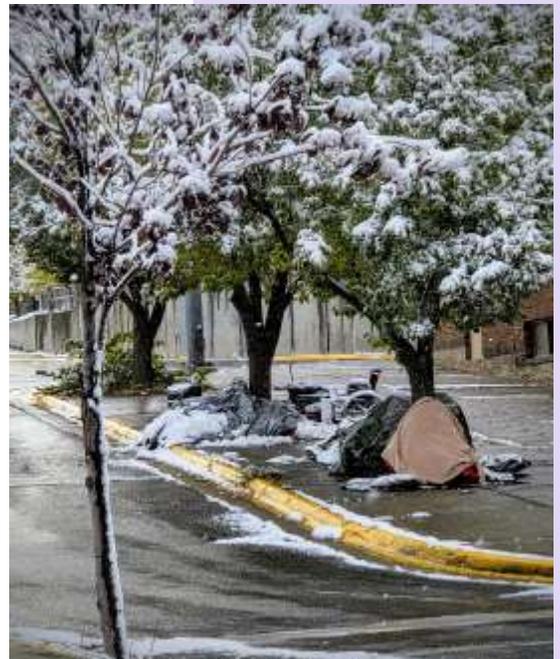
Plymouth members' contributions to the Plymouth Mission Fund are crucial.

If Plymouth members have any thoughts, suggestions, or just wish to share ideas on how Plymouth could most effectively assist area needs, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Thank you for your wonderful support!

Gus Byrom, Chair, Plymouth Outreach and Social Justice Committee

Any concerns or suggestions for ongoing needs, please call Gus at (406) 202-8768



In Our Prayers

Special Prayers: Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker. All those who are experiencing the horrors of war and natural disasters, and those with food insecurities.

Medical Treatment: Michael Blanchard, Greg Bolin, Gus Byrom, Brian Coplin, Kathy Field, Karen Senne Hayes, Kelly Murphy, Donna Randolph, Rebecca Stanfell, Phyllis Weaver.



LET'S CELEBRATE FALL WITH FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP!

Join us for a soup brunch after church on Sunday, November 16th. There will be a delicious selection of soups, breads, salads and desserts. Prospective members of Plymouth Congregational Church are invited to be our guests.



Customers 1st on Unsplash

PROSPECTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS are invited to meet with Pastor Charles and representatives from the Membership Committee on Sunday, November 16 in the Founders' Room right after brunch (approximately 11:45). We look forward to learning more about you and answering any questions you may have about the church. We will have a joining service for new members,

Valerie Hellermann of Hands on Global and HARRT will be leaving for Ukraine next week for 19 days. On behalf of Hands on Global she will be delivering orthopedic equipment to four treatment centers primarily in western Ukraine. A nurse by training, Valerie will specifically transport external fixators for severe limb injuries, tourniquets, and endoscopy instruments for lung treatments. Her work will also include time with an animal shelter. Keep Valerie and her team in your thoughts and prayers.



The Nominating Committee began their deliberations in hopes of suggesting next year's officers. If you are interested in serving on the church council or if you have ideas of candidates for this honor, please let me know at your earliest convenience. The slate of officers—committee chairs—should be available by the Annual Meeting in late January.

With thanks for your help,
Jennifer Thompson.

Christmas is Coming!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

On Sunday, November 30, stay after church to help us to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

Sandwiches will be provided. Many hands make for light work!

Join the Plymouth Singers for Christmas Joy!

If you love Christmas music (and who doesn't?), consider being part of a "seasonal" choir at Plymouth. You are invited to join the Plymouth Singers for three Sunday morning rehearsals, beginning December 7 at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary and to prepare for a performance on Music Sunday, December 21. There is no obligation or expectation to continue choral practices beyond December (unless you want to). Come join us; you will be filled with Christmas joy!



Cookie Bake and Caroling!

We are going to bake cookies for our neighbors, the people who live next to Plymouth Congregational Church, on Saturday, December 6 at 10:00 am. At 4:30 pm that evening, with the help of carol singers, we will deliver the cookies, along with a holiday greeting. Sign-up sheets for bakers and carol singers will be in the narthex.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 NATIVI-TEA DISPLAY

Lydia Norstad Join us for a display of more than 50 beautiful nativity scenes downstairs in Fellowship Hall after coffee fellowship on Sunday, Dec 14. A short while later, the display will be OPEN TO THE PUBLIC from 1-3 PM. Invite your friends and neighbors. Tea, coffee, and sweets will be served.

If you have a Nativity you'd like to display, please contact Peggy Coggshall (406-431-3629) or Marcia Warner (406-439-5656).



BUILDING & GROUNDS —Terry Tatchell

Hello Plymouth from the Building and Grounds Committee:

It's November and I've been thinking about our church building. We have had an amazing three years. First there was the replacement of our 1963 vintage boiler with two new high efficiency boilers. The result was lower energy costs, lower greenhouse emissions, and greater reliability.

The sanctuary roof shingles were replaced and the leaking flat roof on the north side was repaired. Next was the installation of the solar panels that gave us drastically lower electrical bills while caring for our planet.

Last year about this time we had the windows in the education wing replaced. The new windows are much more energy efficient, improve comfort levels, and increase safety.

Helena has been in the middle of discussions on climate change this fall, and I'm very proud of our congregation for stepping up and making a real difference. So thank you all so much for your generosity, your time, and for being part of the process. As a congregation, we have a few items still on our wish list. I am confident that we will continue to support improving our church building.



PCC CLEANING CREW

Thanks to all who are part of our church's cleaning efforts. In teams of 3 or 4, folks volunteer to help keep our church clean and tidy week after week. This effort has been ongoing for nearly two years.

You are ALL APPRECIATED SO MUCH!

If you'd like to participate as a member of this terrific group, please speak to Kathe Simons at church or by phone at 603-860-4539.

New Staff



Hi Plymouth! My name is Kendall Larson, and I'm your new Administrative Assistant.

I was born and raised on the tundra of western Alaska (400 miles from the road), and moved to Montana with my Choteau farm boy in 1993. We have four grown children and two little Chihuahua mix old dogs.

I'm so happy to be here and look forward to meeting you all!



Chihuahuas on guard duty

People's Prayers
for Peace



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” - Philippians 4:6

Dear Colleagues,

For the past year and a half, the People’s Prayers for Peace has provided a space for prayers from UCC members and partners. We received nearly 300 prayers and thank all who offered prayers for the world, for disasters, and for the many issues that affect our lives.

Wars and conflicts continue to escalate around the world. Injustices and inequalities manifest as racism, discrimination, gender-based violence, economic disparities, and other issues at play around us.

Following the strong response to the original People’s Prayers for Peace initiative, I am pleased to continue this movement, as prayer is needed during these tumultuous times. You are invited to join this endeavor. Prayer accompanies the action and advocacy we take as we seek peace and a just world for all.

Please share a prayer, a hope, a drawing or song lyrics or other work of art that you have created, a video prayer or whatever the spirit leads you to share, as we continue to strive for the ending of all violence and bring about peace where it is absent. And, if you have offered prayers in the past, you can still contribute as we continue to “pray without ceasing.” Follow the link to share: <https://tinyurl.com/468zx2m3>

God promises to be fully present and available to us when we seek God wholeheartedly in prayer. Through the sharing of your prayers, let us continue lifting our voices together with God for advancing the presence of God's peace.

May it be so,

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President/CEO, United Church of Christ

God of Light, Truth, and Salvation, we are lost in the shadows. We are overcome with so much fear, shame, and guilt. Our troubles surround us like a fog, obscuring our vision.

Our uncertainty overwhelms us as we search for a path forward. We are naïve and been blinded by what our world has taught us.

Show us the path you have made for us, and give us the wisdom to take it.

-Unison Prayer, 11/16/25



Plymouth
Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
400 S. Oakes St. Helena, MT 59601

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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.



Office Hours

Pastor Charles Wei: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Tues & Thurs), and by appointment.

Office Manager Kendall Larson: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (Mon –Fri)

Contact Us

Church Office: 406.442.9883

Web:
www.plymouthmontanaucc.org

Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Also: www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

