

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

This is the final article in our series about the order of service for Sunday worship. Please refer to the August and October 2025 editions of the Waymarks if you would like to see the first two articles, "Gathering & Preparing," and "Announce & Engage." As we come to the end of the worship service, we have gathered together as a community, shared our news with each other, prepared ourselves, and engaged with God's word. After that, it's time for us to respond.

The offering comes after we engage with God by listening to and learning about the scripture for the week, and through prayer, because the offering is our response to that engagement. On the Sundays when we have communion, that is part of how we engage, as well. We engage with is what God is doing for us, we learn about how God is at work in the world, we acknowledge it and give thanks for it. The offering is our response to that. We have a covenantal relationship with God; it's not supposed to be one-sided where we take and take and take, and never give. We show our love and appreciation for God by contributing to God's plan for healing, love, peace, joy, and justice in the world.

After the service, we go out in peace. There is a saying about this: The service has ended, let the work begin. We say that worship is the great work of the church, and many people believe that worship ends when the service ends. But, that is merely the start of it. We worship God with every waking breath, with every action and thought. The worship service helps to prepare us for our lives of worship within our community. The worship service is when we receive the tools to do this work: the knowledge, courage, patience, empathy, and wisdom we need to do this work. We go out in peace because we need to bring that peace out into the world, a world that is so desperately in need of that peace.

The end of the year seems like a fitting place to talk about the end of the service, especially as we are in the middle of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation. We anticipate the coming of Christ, always with the forward-looking view of how Christ engaged with the world during his life, and what our response to that should be. During Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, and engage with the stories about that. Just as the work of the church does not end with the ending of the worship service, Christmas does not end with the ending of the season.

Christmas is all year long; Christ coming into the world is all year long. The world is being transformed all year long. We go out in peace as God's people, as the church, because that is what God asks us to do. This is our response to God's great love for us, and our response is admiration and awe. Our response is love. Respond and go out in peace.

- Pastor Charles



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PLYMOUTH HOSTS PING PONG FUN FOR PLAYERS OF ALL LEVELS AND AGES

By Frank Kromkowski

The new Coordinator of the Helena Table Tennis Club and Helena's current women's table tennis champion, Tatiana Bogacheva, invites Plymouth members, friends and neighbors to join "blazing ping pong paddles" in the Fellowship Hall Thursdays and Sundays, from 6-9 pm. Consider trying it out at one of our next sessions, December 11, 14, and 18!

For the past ten years, Plymouth has hosted the Helena Table Tennis Club (HTTC), allowing the club to store its four ping pong tables in the corner of the Fellowship Hall. During those years, a few ping pong enthusiasts played on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. But on November 23, eighteen players – women, men and children of all ages and players of all levels, including beginners, joined in the fun and friendship of playing ping pong. Eight of us ping pongers even played on Thanksgiving evening, sharing Tatiana's Thanksgiving Day Cake.

Tatiana has been putting her great, exuberant heart, her infectious friendliness and boundless enthusiasm for sharing ping pong fun into her role as the new HTTC Coordinator. Tatiana is doing a fantastic job of reaching out to persons interested in table tennis, including almost 60 groups and locations (health clubs, businesses, restaurants, libraries, organizations, etc.) all around Helena and the surrounding area, asking to hang the HTTC poster at their locations.

During this past decade, the HTTC organized many exciting ping pong tournaments, including ten yearly "Forrest Gump Memorial" Table Tennis Tournaments, bringing about 25 of the state's best players to Helena. They also organized "ping pong festival/marathon" social-justice fundraisers that raised money for important causes, such as assistance to Helena's Afghan and Congolese refugee families (raising \$8,000 in October 2024), aid for God's Love Homeless Shelter, and the Helena Friendship Center and its Domestic Violence Shelter program. Plans are currently being discussed for a fundraiser for Helena's Homeless Emergency Shelter needs, in conjunction with Plymouth's Outreach and Social Justice Committee and the Helena Housing Crisis Action Network.

I co-founded the Helena Table Tennis Club back in 2011, with Don Hurd. At 81, I'm the oldest player involved, and have been playing table tennis since 1952, at age 8. I have been Helena's men's table tennis champion for many decades.

Now I'm working with Tatiana to make the twice-weekly ping pong gatherings fun for all. State champions Anders and Thor Truelson of Bozeman and Seattle (finalists in Helena's most recent "Forrest Gump" tournament) say they will be coming to play and teach table tennis in Helena soon. We also hope to build a good program for children, teaching ping pong, one of the most popular sports on earth, second only to soccer.

Weekly donations collected from the HTTC contribute to Plymouth's building maintenance funds. For questions, contact Tatiana at 406-438-1675.

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, January 13,
at Overland Express
All Women Welcome!

Cleaning Crew

Saturday mornings

Contact Kathe to
volunteer:

603-860-4539 or
kathe@simonshome.
org

Plans Underway for Annual Meeting

Plymouth's first governing document was a Constitution, which states that the congregation shall elect officers and focus group directors at an Annual Meeting in January. For more detail, Plymouth adopted bylaws in 1966, which were revised in 2007, 2017, and 2022. Over time, the number of officers has shrunk and we have transitioned from "focus groups" to committees. Four of our current officers (we prefer to call them coordinators) chair committees.

Current bylaws specify "Council members shall serve at least 2 years but may not serve more than 5 consecutive years." I will have served as Moderator for five consecutive years come January 2026, having served a previous term 2011-2016. Now, the task of finding two new officers on the Council is in the able hands of a Nominating Committee, chaired by Jennifer Jeffries Thompson, who has also devoted many years to serving on the Council.

Your attendance at the Annual Meeting on January 25 is crucial, since we need a quorum of 30 members, have important reports to hear, decisions to make, and questions to ask. Key agenda items will be the presentation and adoption of your budget and election of officers.

At last year's Annual Meeting, since all Council members wished to continue their terms, officers were elected by acclamation. For the upcoming Annual Meeting, you can look forward to seeing a new slate of officers. We schedule the meeting on the last Sunday of the month when the Big Sky Unitarian Universalist Fellowship holds a late afternoon shared meal in the Fellowship Hall, instead of morning service. We hold our meeting in the Sanctuary, where we have a good sound system and can keep members in attendance until lunch is served afterwards.

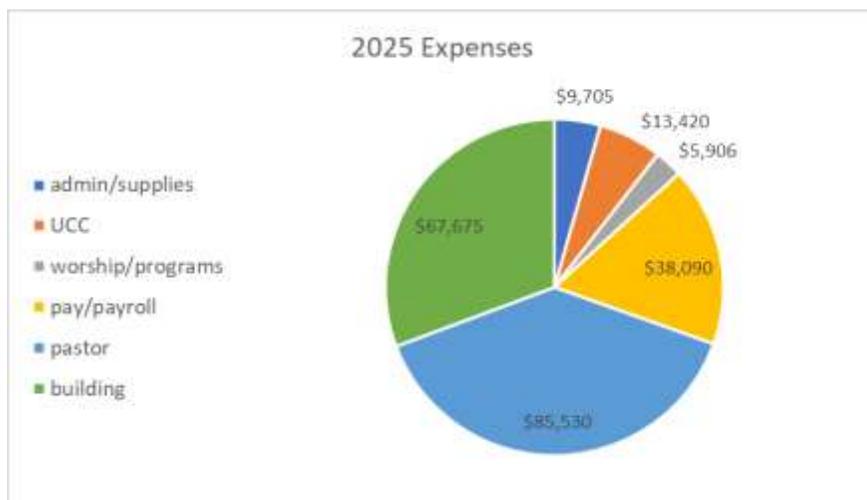
If you chair a committee or another active group, please write a summary for the Annual Report and send to the office administrator by January 12. We hope all of you will take the time to read the Annual Report, which summarizes a year's work of this congregation and its officers. - Jan Clinard



December Birthdays:

- 1 Mary Lou Weddle
- 4 Marcia & Skeeter Warner
- 9 Patti Burke
- 14 Gail Tronstad
- 21 Suzanne Nybo
- 31 Kendall Larson

Wish them all a Happy Birthday!



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

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Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

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

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Kathe Simons, Lynn Bolin, Pastor Charles, Gus Byrom, Brenda Senne and Carol Carlson. Not pictured: Cindy Holcomb and Al Simons.

Eight people gathered on Saturday morning to bake cookies for Plymouth's neighbors. We made Rice Krispie bars, Charles' famous chocolate chip and the state cookie of New Mexico, Bizcochitos. In the afternoon, four carolers and Charles delivered 25 plates to our neighbors and our Care Committee delivered tins to our congregants who can't get to Church.