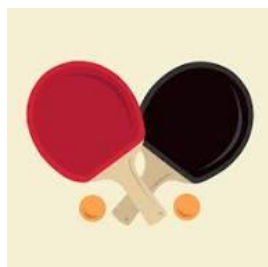


PADDLES BLAZING WITH LOVE FOR OUR 412 HELENA HOMELESS TEENS

More than 100 people participated in a Saturday, March 7th Community Ping Pong Party, co-sponsored by more than 25 Helena community groups and individuals to raise funds for food and basic supplies to be provided to Helena's homeless students from September through March 2, 2026. People stopped by to play a few games of ping pong, sing some songs together and make a donation to help homeless teens .

This fundraiser was organized in response to a report presented at the January 26th meeting of the Helena Housing Crisis Action Network by Michele Zentz, Homeless Students Assistance Liaison/ Coordinator in the Helena School District. She shared the latest, extremely shocking, information about the hundreds of homeless students in the Helena area: 399 homeless students as of January 26, and now 412 as of March 2. Zentz described the very serious homeless students' problems in Helena -- what their situations are, what assistance they are getting, what they need but are not getting -- and, according to Zentz, there is not enough money in the homeless students program's budget for adequate food and needed supplies for these children.

Frank Kromkowski of the Helena Table Tennis Club and the Helena Housing Crisis Action Network said: "It was not a tournament or competition -- it was a ping pong party for players at all levels and ages, even for those who have never played the game of ping pong before. People who came had some great ping pong fun, a free snack, and participated in some sing-along songs using the sound system lent to us by Wilbur Rehmann we listened to some live music together, and people had a chance to make a donation if they were able. We had the 7-time state ping pong champion Anders Truelson of Bozeman with us for the event - he played with all comers for four hours -- all to help raise money for food and supplies for our homeless youth. This event also included fun ping pong match-ups between local "celebrities" and many community leaders and Helena Table Tennis Club players who we lovingly/ jokingly called "Ping Pong All-Stars." We had special instruction, help, and coaching for children and all others who wanted to learn how to play."



In This Issue

Building and Grounds	2
Social Justice	3
Knitters for Peace	4- 5
Upcoming Events	6
Moderator's Report	7

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

A big thank you to our new committee members for stepping into this important role: Rev. Dick Weaver, Marcia Lauer and Ed Field. They would like to express great appreciation for Don Harriott for cleaning up the tree that fell in the windstorm. That was quite a job!



NEW MEMBERS CLASS/JOINING SERVICE

If you are interested in learning more about joining the Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, we will be holding a New Members Class on Sunday, March 15th right after the Potato Bar luncheon. Please be our guest for lunch at 11 AM and join Pastor Charles in the Founders Room at about 11:30. New members will join the church on Easter Sunday!

CLEANING CREW UPDATE

As we look ahead to spring and summer, our church continues to be kept clean and tidy by a wonderful group of volunteers --- Thank you to our Cleaning Crew! We are in need of a couple more volunteers. If you have two hours each month that you could contribute, we'd love to have you join this esteemed group! Dusting, vacuuming, steam-mopping, sanitizing ---what's your preference? Please contact Kathe Simons at 603-860-4539 to join in!

April 3, 7 pm, Good Friday Tenebrae Service: A Good Friday Tenebrae service—Latin for "darkness" or "shadows"—is a solemn, dramatic service focusing on the passion, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus. Held at night, the service features readings from the Gospels, with a gradual extinguishing of candles until the sanctuary is in total darkness, symbolizing the abandonment by the disciples and the death of Christ.

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE — Gus Byrom



Major recent actions and activities were as follows:

- \$180 was provided to an area individual who recently experienced a major health setback to purchase a used starter for his automobile;
- the committee remains active in the community discussion to explore a new or expanded homeless shelter facility for Helena to supplement God's Love, providing emergency overnight shelter, as well as needed services;

-on Saturday, March 7 Plymouth provided space in our Fellowship Hall and co-sponsored a table tennis (ping-pong) fundraiser to support over 400 Helena School District youth who are currently in precarious housing situations, including "couch surfers" and households living in their cars.

By the end of the event almost \$3,000 was collected, with additional funds still coming in. Our Outreach and Social Justice committee contributed \$300 out of our \$1,500 annual budget to support this effort. Committee member Frank Kromkowski deserves special recognition for organizing the event. Also special thanks to Carol Carlson and Kathleen Culver for assisting!

You can still donate to the Homeless Teens Fund! Make checks out to: First Christian Church and send them to: 311 Power St., Helena, MT 59601.



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, Peggy Coggeshall, Brian Coplin, Kat Curtis, Kathy Field, Karen Senne Hayes, Susan Hermion, Kathryn Kern, Frank Kromkowski, Kelly Murphy, Donna Randolph, Rebecca Stanfell, Phyllis Weaver.

To add someone to the prayer list, please fill out the prayer card in the pew backs, call the church office at 442-9883 or email pccofficemgr@gmail.com.



Stitching a Legacy: The Heartbeat of Knitters for Peace

Since 2008, a dedicated group has been proving that a few balls of yarn and some steady needles can truly change the world. Founded by Cindy Holcomb and others, Knitters for Peace began with a simple mission: to keep hands moving and hearts open. While their gathering location has shifted over the years, you can currently find them sharing patterns at Pastimes on Saturdays, as well as gathering at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church on Tuesdays.

A Global and Local Reach

From the local community to international borders, this group has "clothed their families several times over" and is now dressing the world. Their impressive resume of service includes:

International Care: Crafting items for Lutheran World Relief baby care kits and over 200 hats for the Tibetan Children's Education Foundation.

Serving Those Who Serve: Knitting wool beanies designed specifically for the National Guard to wear under their helmets.

Regional Support: Sending care packages for children and infants in [Hardin, Montana](#), and specialized items to the psych unit at Harborview Hospital in Seattle.

Community Warmth: Providing items for the St. Helena Cathedral Giving Tree, the VA Hospital, "Melt the Ice" hats, and heartfelt scarves for foster care graduates.

More Than Just a Hobby

For the members, the group provides as much peace to the knitters as it does to the recipients. Member Linda Nelson shares that "knitting is something that helps me slow down," while Peggy Collins points out that the practice is even proven to lower blood pressure. It's a space to encourage one another, learn new techniques, and find a sense of peace in a busy world.

Passing on the Craft

Knitters for Peace is also invested in the next generation. They share their expertise with 4th and 5th graders at [Broadwater Elementary School](#) and previously mentored students at [Capital High School](#), ensuring the art of knitting continues to thrive.

How You Can Help

The group is always looking for new members to join their circle. If you aren't a knitter but want to support their mission, they gratefully accept donations of:

Superwashed wool yarn
Natural wool yarn
Cotton yarn

Whether you have a local need that requires some knitted warmth or you're looking for a place to sit, stitch, and slow down, Knitters for Peace welcomes you with open arms.

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



You can catch up with the Knitters for Peace at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM at 3580 N Benton Ave, Helena and on Saturdays from 12:00-2:00 PM at Pastimes at 1410 Birch St, Helena.



From left to right: Jill Myhre, Debby Smith, Linda Nelson, Cindy Holcomb, Barb Pastian, Peggy Collins

OLD DOCUMENTS BEING PURGED

While taking great care to save historical papers, Lynn Bolin and Gail Tronstad have been purging old financial documents that are more than seven years old. Many were much more than seven years old!

John Hilton at EcoSafe Shredding gave us a good price to make sure all of the old documents are properly disposed of, and no one would be able to access members information.

If you see Lynn and Gail in the Founder's Room surrounded by ancient papers, make sure to tell them thanks!

Upcoming events:

March 15, after worship, Potato Bar Potluck - Aren't we all lucky that Kathleen Culver brought us potatoes for a good old potato bake potluck!

March 15, After the potluck, New Members orientation, approx. 11:45 am, right after the potato bake potluck in the Founder's Room. This will also be a good refresher class!

Sunday Fun Day, March 22, celebrate the wonder of Easter. Peggy Coggeshall will lead us in making Ukrainian Eggs -Pysanky - just in time for this special time of year. And the eggs will be coming from Steve Michelson's flock! The sign up sheet is on the Narthex table.

April 3, 7 pm, Good Friday Tenebrae Service: A Good Friday Tenebrae service—Latin for "darkness" or "shadows"—is a solemn, dramatic service focusing on the passion, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus. Held at night, the service features readings from the Gospels, with a gradual extinguishing of candles until the sanctuary is in total darkness, symbolizing the abandonment by the disciples and the death of Christ.

April 4, Saturday, Flower donations 11am—1 pm, Pam Rolfes will be in the Sanctuary accepting flower donations for Easter Sunday.

Happy March Birthdays to:

- 1 Lynn Bolin
- 14 Sunny Mandeville
- 17 Pat Buell
- 28 Boyce Fowler



Would you be willing to drive someone to church who can't get here on their own? Contact Lynn Bolin for details.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” Hebrews 11 - 1

It is with a leap of faith that we are applying for the Lily Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program grant, given that we have limited time to plan and write the grant application. The grant would allow the Congregation and Charles financial flexibility with our plans. The Sabbatical Committee has compiled the Congregation's comments about Charles' sabbatical plan and their ideas for a program or project for the Congregation during Charles' time away. Thank you to all who provided input during the soup luncheon on the 15th. Response to Charles' sabbatical plan was overwhelmingly positive. The Sabbatical Committee chose a music program involving social justice songs throughout the ages for our congregational program. We could also do a book study, as well as a mural depicting Plymouth's history depicting activities that would coordinate with Charles' plan. A special thank you to Jan Clinard and Jennifer Thompson for their time and expertise in writing the grant. Thompson for their time and expertise in writing the grant.

Thanks to Kathe Simons and Marcia Lauer for cleaning and organizing the janitor's closet downstairs. You no longer risk getting injured when you enter for supplies.

Thank you to Frank Kromkowski and the Helena Housing Crisis Action Network who organized the fundraiser for homeless teens, and to the members of our Social Justice and Outreach Committee who helped.

Stay tuned! Kendall, our Administrative Coordinator, has discovered a small UCC church on Hawaii that needs our help. She will provide us with all the details.



**NEW MEMBERS
CLASS/JOINING
SERVICE**

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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

Pr. Charles Wei: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 pm
Tuesday—Thursday,
and by appointment

Administrative Assistant
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](https://www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational)

Sundays

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

