Plymouth Congregational Church

Waymarks

November 2026

CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

FROM PASTOR CHARLES



A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Conference Annual Meeting in September! It was truly a labor of love, and we could not have pulled it off without all of the wonderful volunteers who contributed to the set-up, decorating, cooking, serving, cleaning, and everything else that needed to be done in order to have a successful event. I know our guests felt honored and awed by our efforts, and very welcome, indeed.

Throughout the weekend, friends were able to catch-up and get reacquainted, share stories and ideas, and learn from each other's experiences. We got the work of the church done, including passing the budget for 2027, hearing about the various ministries happening in our conference, and the installation of new officers.

We unfortunately also had to officially acknowledge the disaffiliation of First Congregational Church of Sheridan and United Community Church of Colstrip, from the UCC. For various reasons, both congregations felt it was better for them to go their own way, and we pray for their continued faith journeys, that they listen to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit, and that they use love and wisdom as their guide. We also mourned the dissolution of our Committee for Outdoor Ministries, which was necessary as it has become increasingly difficult to keep our outdoor programs going over the last few years, as the numbers of both participants and volunteers continued to decline. It is with a heavy hearts that we say goodbye to these two churches and this committee, but we know that when God closes one door, She always opens another one.

We are approaching the season of Advent, we may even be in Advent by the time you read this article. Remember that Advent is a time of hope and anticipation. It is always darkest before the dawn, but we know that the sun will rise. No matter the difficult situations we have to deal with in our lives, God is with us, and we can always take comfort in that.

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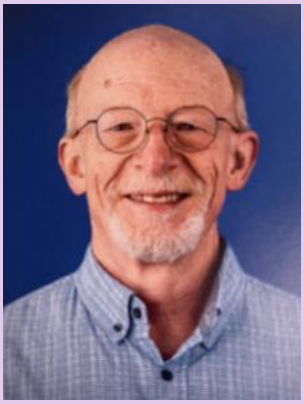
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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS from Dick Weaver



Thanks to all of you, the church building and grounds are ready for winter, whenever it gets here.

A special thanks to Don Harriott for his extra landscaping work on the north side of the building, not to mention those of us who helped get rid of the overgrown shrubbery and all the other work on Clean-up Day.

We've also got some new trees planted, and Kathe Simons' custodial volunteers are keeping the inside of our church in great shape, too.

It seems like we're getting things taken care of, sometimes before anyone else knows there's a need. Dare I repeat myself by saying Thank you to all of you who've been helping?

Winter Musical Performances
by Jennifer Jeffries Thompson



Plymouth hosts two community choirs that rehearse and perform in the spring and winter. Thanks to our Music Director, Dr. Steve Michelson, these 18 member choirs (Mirinesa, a women's choir, and the Memorial Choir, men and women) appreciate our beautiful sanctuary and wonderful performance acoustics. You are invited to attend. Here are some dates you may want to add to your holiday schedule:

December 12 the choirs are performing with Ironhorse Children's Choir at 4:00 PM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church singing "Some Children See Him."

December 13 Mirinesa and the Memorial Choir will sing at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary at Plymouth.

December 14 Mirinesa and the Memorial Choir will present the same concert at 7:00 PM also at Plymouth.

Dr. Greg Bolin will accompany these performances. There is no cost to attend, though there is opportunity to donate what you wish for the support of these musical offerings.

LYNN BOLIN — MODERATOR'S REPORT



We are entering the holiday season with Thanksgiving, let us consider our blessings and consider Paul's message.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

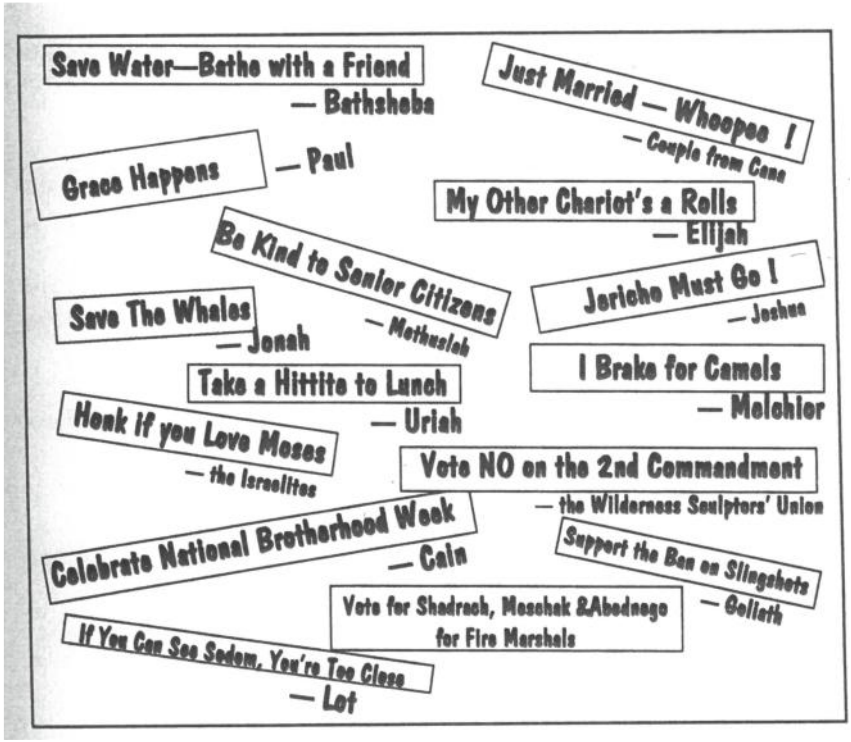
Life doesn't always go the way we hope. There are seasons of joy and seasons of struggle, moments when gratitude comes naturally and moments when it feels almost impossible. Yet in this verse, Paul gently reminds us that thankfulness is not based on our circumstances but on God's unchanging presence.

Giving thanks in all circumstances does not mean pretending everything is okay or being grateful for pain. It means choosing to trust that God is with us, even in the middle of uncertainty. When we pause to thank Him for His love, faithfulness, and daily provision, our hearts are strengthened and our perspective begins to change.

A thankful heart finds peace not because life is perfect, but because God is faithful.

Gratitude is an expression of trust. No matter what we face, we can thank God knowing that He walks with us through every season.

Bumper Crop



Happy Early December Birthdays to:

1 Mary Lou Weddle

4 Marcia & Skeeter Warner

9 Patti Burke

14 Gail Tronstad



TRIP TO BOZEMAN TO SEE THEIR NEW SHELTER

Outreach and Social Justice– Gus Byrom

Our Plymouth Outreach and Social Justice committee continues to focus on Helena's need to meet both short term and long term emergency shelter needs for homeless persons. Our committee continues to learn that there are many faces and facets to the current homelessness issue.

On a recent trip to visit the new Bozeman shelter, Homeward Point, Frank Kromkowski and I learned that approximately 40% of the shelter residents are workers employed in the Bozeman area hotel-motel industry. Approximately another 40% are senior citizens who can no longer support themselves on Social Security benefits alone. Approximately 20% of the residents could be categorized as chronically homeless, those persons who have been unsheltered for many months or even years. Please see attached a photograph of the new sleeping bunks at the Homeward Point shelter.



Any concerns or suggestions for ongoing needs, please call Gus at

(406) 202-8768

Release of Helena Area Community Foundation Report on Helena Homeless

Emily Frazier, Director of the Helena Area Community Foundation, recently presented a report to the Helena City Commission on Wednesday. November 4, emphasizing the need for an emergency shelter and recommending future efforts to coordinate activities among our key nonprofit organizations be organized under United Way leadership.

Sleeping Bag Campaign

We want to recognize Susan Butler's fantastic efforts to provide sleeping bags for our area homeless this upcoming winter, in cooperation with other area churches. Many thanks for all those who were able to assist Susan in anyway as part of this effort!

Ongoing Emergency Assistance Requests

We continue to provide limited emergency assistance to families with our funds within the Missions account and our Outreach and Social Justice account. Those little yellow envelopes marked "Missions" in our pews are very important to our efforts! Feel free to call anytime with thoughts or suggestions! You all are great!



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DOWN, BY REV. MARY LUTI November 6, 2026

Then Jesus came to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented." - Matthew 3:13-15 (NRSV)

John is rattled. "This isn't right," he sputters. "I shouldn't baptize you, Jesus. You should baptize me."

But Jesus says, "Baptize me anyway. It fulfills God's purpose."

God's purpose that the one who needs no washing should be washed. That the one sent to us should be a sibling, not a judge. That creation should be healed not from high up, but from down low. So John consents.

This isn't the only time the Gospels report a protest against divine humility. Remember the Last Supper? "No, no," poor Peter cries when Jesus arrives at his feet with towel and bowl. "This is wrong, I should wash you!"

But Jesus says, "You can't be mine unless you let me serve you, unless you've been bewildered by my bended knee." So Peter consents.

So that if we immerse ourselves in our neighbors' need, if we bend to wash their feet, it's not for duty's sake. It's because we've lost our bearings, the old ones that always urged us up. Now, we who have been so vastly loved, so sweetly served, have no bearings at all. Except for Christ. Who heads us down.



The United Church of Christ Daily Devotional:

To subscribe: https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/

Church member Marius Risley of Buffalo, New York, saw this sign in an Episcopal church parking lot:
Clergy Space
You park
You preach

Upcoming fun from Kathe Simons

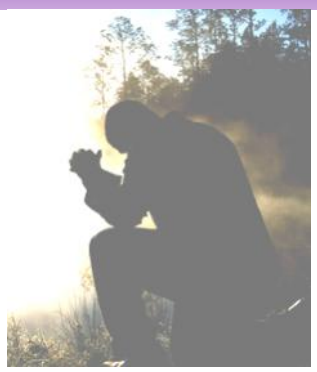
IT'S NATIVI-TEA TIME!



This year's Nativi-tea will be held on Sunday, December 6 th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. WE NEED YOUR NATIVITY SETS to add to our display. Last year, we had about 75 sets and this year, we hope to have as many as one hundred!

Please sign up AND bring your Nativity Set(s) to Fellowship Hall on SATURDAY December 5th at 10 AM so that we can set up the display. Your set may be picked up between 3-4 PM on Sunday, December 6 th or we will store it for you to pick up at a convenient time. Thank you!





In Our Prayers

Special Prayers: Chelsey & Jude Curtis, 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.

Medical Treatment: Jean Goetz, Karen Senne Hayes, Marcia Lauer, Betty Louise, Kelly Murphy, Maureen Nordahl, Suzanne Nybo, Patsy Tompkins, Phyllis Weaver.

Bereavement: The friends and families of Carl Carlson and Lynda Hayes.

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.



From UCC.org:

Tell Congress to Invest in Global Health

Communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo are battling the second-largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded and they urgently need international support. This outbreak is now the second-largest Ebola outbreak on record with cases confirmed in 7 of 26 provinces for a total of more than 9,000 confirmed cases and more than 4,400 confirmed deaths.

Ask your members of Congress to ensure the pledged funds to end the current Ebola outbreak are promptly transferred, in addition to re-investing in outbreak preparedness around the world.

Upcoming Events

Helena Interfaith Climate Action, Thursday November 19, 3-4 pm Fireside Room

First Sunday of Advent, November 25

Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, November 28, 10 am sharp. We will bring the decorations up from downstairs storage after worship on Sunday, November 22.

Women's Fellowship, December 8, Tuesday 11:30 am, Christmas celebration, at the Jade Garden.



"Just coffee" cold brew

1. Buy a pouch of Just Coffee from Gus or Dick Weaver.
2. Put half a cup of coffee in your mason jar, fill with cool water.
3. Refrigerate for 2-3 days. Turn the jar over to mix occasionally.
4. Pour through a paper filter, and clean out the jar.
5. Put the coffee back in the jar and in the fridge. This makes several servings.
6. Enjoy your delicious cold brew plain, or with your favorite dairy or non-dairy creamer!

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 at 1:30

Cleaning Crew

Saturday mornings

Contact Kathe to volunteer:

603-860-4539 or kathe@simonshome..org

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.

God is still speaking, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Office Hours

Pastor Charles Wei:
9:00 am—1:00 pm Tues—Thurs
and by appointment

Administrative Assistant
Kendall Larson:
9:00 am—1:00 pm Mon –Fri

Contact Us

Church Office: 406.442.9883

Web:
www.plymouthmontanaucc.org

Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Also: www.facebook.com/
plymouthcongregational

a just world for all
ucc.org

Sundays 10:00 am Worship Service in person and on You Tube through our website