Plymouth Congregational Church

Waymarks

October 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



As we enter this fall's stewardship season, I've been thinking about what drew me to Plymouth: our welcoming, inclusive attitude; our commitment to social justice; and the ways we care for our community. I'm grateful to be part of this congregation and to help with the good work we do together.

Our theme, **What You Do with What You Have**, invites each of us to consider how we can support that work as a response to faith.

We recently mailed stewardship letters and pledge cards to Plymouth members and friends. Please return your completed card by **Sunday, November 1**, to the green box on the table in the narthex or in an envelope marked "Stewardship" in the church office. Your pledge helps Church Council plan our budget for the coming year. If you didn't receive a card, please stop by the church office to pick one up.

Thank you for the many ways you contribute to the life of Plymouth.

With gratitude,

Tommy Williams
Stewardship Chair



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NAMI REPORT FROM JAN CLINARD

Plymouth Helps Support the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

For many years, Carol McKerrow has led Plymouth's fundraiser for the NAMI walk. For this year's walk, September 20, Plymouth raised $1,195. Last year, NAMI raised $107,182 from all sources during its walk, a major source of funding for the organization.

NAMI Montana connects individuals and families across the state with free, confidential peer-led support groups and resources that foster understanding, hope, and healing. Through local affiliates and virtual options, NAMI creates safe spaces that reduce isolation and remind Montanans they are not alone.

Through evidence-based workshops, trainings, and community programs, NAMI equips Montanans with the knowledge and tools to navigate mental health challenges and support loved ones. From classrooms to community centers, its education efforts build awareness, confidence, and compassion statewide.

NAMI also champions policy reforms at the state capitol and in local communities to improve the lives of all Montanans and families who are affected by mental health conditions. Through coalition partnerships and grassroots action, it works to expand access to care and strengthen Montana's mental health system.

Thank you, Plymouth, for your ongoing support of this vital organization.



New Zoom events from the UCC:

The Who, What, When & How of UN Advocacy, October 20, 9:30 am

Reshaping Narratives & Decolonizing the Christian Church, October 21, 4 pm

One Great Hour of Sharing: Stories of Love, October 27, 3 pm

And many more!

Find them at ucc.org/events/category/

LYNN BOLIN — MODERATOR

As I reflect on the successful 2026 Conference Annual Meeting, I am so thankful that I belong to Plymouth, a community that is always available to help when there is a need. Thank you to all who helped with the Annual Meeting. I'm also reminded of our denomination's rich heritage. The following are some of the events that define us.

1620 — Seeking religious freedom, the Pilgrims, progenitors of the UCC prepare to leave Europe for the New World.

1636 — Harvard is founded, then Yale in 1701, by the Puritans and Congregationalists.

1700 — Rev. Samuel Sewel lays the first foundation for abolition.

1773 — Phillis Wheatly, a member of the Old South congregation, becomes first published African American author. She gained her freedom from slavery soon after.

1785 — First ordained African American pastor – Lemuel Haynes

1798 — Christians seek liberty of conscience and oppose authoritarian church government.

1812 — First group of Congregationalist foreign missionaries are sent to India.

1817 — Thomas Hopkins cofounds the American School for the Deaf.

1846 — The Amistad case spurs the conscience of Congregationalists who believe no human being should be a slave. Organizes the American Missionary Association - the first anti-slavery society in the U.S. with multiracial leadership.

1853 — Antoinette Brown is ordained as the first woman pastor.

1957 — The Evangelical and Reformed Church unite with the Congregational Church to form the UCC.

1959 — Rev. Martin Luther King asks the UCC to intervene when the southern television stations impose blackouts on the civil rights movement.

1976 — General Synod elects first African American leader, Rev. Joseph H. Evans

1972 — Ordination of first openly gay minister, Rev. William R. Johnson.

1995 — The New Century Hymnal is introduced, honoring in equal measure both male and female images of God.

2005 — General Synod passes a resolution supporting same gender marriage equality.

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Weather Report:

For those of you who may be new to the area, don't panic. This is just first winter, which follows first fall. First fall was those three weeks of really nice, cool weather without a lot of wind that we just left. First winter is what you're experiencing now, an early snowfall that leaves the unprepared wondering what hit them.

But don't worry, we will be back to second fall by the end of the day today, maybe by tomorrow at the latest. Second fall will last until close to the end of November usually, at which point second winter will come and last through March. In March you should expect first spring, followed by third winter, followed by second spring.

SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

FIREARMS POLICY

Moderator Lynn Bolin called the special meeting to order immediately following the church service on September 13, 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the amendment to the Church Bylaws concerning the Firearms Policy. The Policy reads as follows (amendment in italics):

> Section 3. Safe church policy. The council and pastor shall ensure implementation of the safe church policy and procedures.
>
> 1. *Firearms of any type, either openly carried or concealed, are not permitted on the premises of Plymouth Congregational Church at any time. This policy excludes authorized law enforcement personnel acting in performance of their official duties.*

A motion and second was made to put the amendment before the body for consideration and Lynn asked for discussion. A question was asked as to why the policy was necessary. Lynn stated that someone had attended the Universal Unitarian service earlier this year and came carrying a firearm. He was not a threat, but when asked about the firearm, he said that nothing was posted to prohibit firearms. This led to research and discussion within the Church Council with this amendment being drafted. Discussion ensued wherein two church members said they were neither for nor against the policy, but that because of the social issues our church engages with in the community, we could become a target. They stated that there are some churches in Helena that have some members who do carry concealed firearms for the safety of their congregation. A second question was asked as to whether law enforcement includes certain federal agents. Lynn stated that she had looked that up and that federal agents can enter a church, but since it is a private residence, they have to have a warrant. A third question was asked about whether the amendment could be modified to consider an exception for protection. It was stated that if that were to become an option in the future the policy could be amended at that time. The question was called for and the amendment was passed by a majority of those in attendance. The amendment will be added to the bylaws. A motion was called and seconded for adjournment and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes taken by Jeanne Wolf, Secretary

Notice: Pastor Charles will be on vacation from

October 19 through November 9

Happy late October Birthdays to:

18 Carol Carlson

21 Tommy Williams

27 Mary Jacobson

And Happy Early November Birthdays to:

9 Rhys Jensen

12 David Broussard







From a letter from Amanda Coyle, board chair for Helena Community Gardens:

I'm sure you have heard by now, but HCG needs new board members. You do not have to be currently involved with HCG. You don't even have to have a garden, but you should know that we do talk a lot about seeds and soil and compost.

HCG has one part-time employee, and the rest of this organization runs on volunteer time and effort. Our board is responsible for, among other things, ensuring that HCG has enough funding to remain solvent and making decisions to ensure that our organization continues to be in a strong position in order to accomplish its mission to build gardens, provide tools and knowledge to grow food, and increase access to healthy and affordable food.

Board members attend one meeting on the third Thursday of each month and assist with various fundraising and community activities throughout the year. If you or someone you know is looking for an opportunity to make impactful change, please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you!!

The United Church of Christ Daily Devotional:

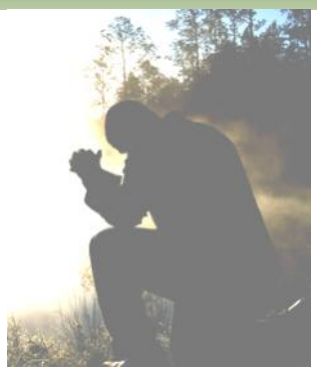
To subscribe: https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/

From 10/19/26:

"To the rich: your comforts are your affliction. To the consumer: your hunger is eternal. To the carefree: your spine crumples under the world's burdens. But to the poor: you are closer to God than anyone. To the grieving: you are loved long before laughter returns to you. To the discouraged: your name is a song to God's credit."

Being blessed—or cursed, for that matter—isn't all we believe it to be. It's not as permanent as we might hope, not as damning as we might fear. Fortunes change. So do people.

And every day dawns with the same choices: to love the blessed and cursed alike, to be merciful to those in want as well as those with plenty, and to release ourselves from burden of judging others.



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, 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.

Can you see the new baby trees?



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2023 - General Synod elects First woman and first woman of African descent as General Minister and President of UCC, Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson.

We have been in the forefront of the civil rights movement fighting for women's rights, gay rights, and African American rights and continue to fight for the rights of all.

Upcoming Events

Women's Fellowship Lunch, 11:30 am October 27, Tuesday at the Overland Express—all ladies invited! This is the last luncheon until January.

Helena Interfaith Climate Advocates, Noon, October 28, Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

Election Day, all day, Tuesday November 3.

Funeral for Sheila Harris, 2 pm November 7, in the Sanctuary.

ACLU Know Your Rights, 6 pm Wednesday November 11, Fellowship Hall.

Table Tennis, 6 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship hall.



A presentation for the Summer Read program this August.

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



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