

Plymouth

Congregational
Church

Sharing Faith's Journey



Celebration of Worship
October 1, 2023

Celebration of Worship

October 1, 2023

10:30 am

World Communion Sunday Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Enter in Prayer, Worship with Gratitude, Go Forth to Serve

Opening Voluntary Variations on ADORO TE DEVOTE arr. Emma Lou Diemer
Christopher Shaw, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Moment Steve & Kitchel Woods

Introit

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart* (page 8)

***Responsive Sentences** From Psalm 138

One: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable

One: One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

All: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

*Response of Praise

Praise to God, Immortal Praise

DIX

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Praiseto God,im-mor-tal praise, For the love that crowns our days! Boun-teous source of ev-ery joy,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "Let thy praise our tongues em-ploy: Sing-ing thus through all our days, Praiseto God,im-mor-talpraise." The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font below the notes.

Words: Anna L. Barbauld, 1772, altered, public domain; DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838, public domain.

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

By your presence among us this day, renew your people in the way of your wisdom and grace and in the way of the one who taught us to pray ... *Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Scripture Reading

Jonah 3 & 4 Edited DNRSV

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out for Nineveh. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands.

Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish." When God saw what they did, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Welcoming Song *O Little Children Gather* BEAUTIFUL FLOWER
(Let the children come forward.)

O lit-tle chil - dren, gath - er near and learn of Je - sus' glo - ry. Now come and of his
 good - ness hear, his love and pow'r; come list - en to__ his sto - ry.____

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/2 time signature. It contains the first line of the melody with lyrics underneath. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. It contains the second line of the melody with lyrics underneath. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Words: Christopher Dock, trans. by Alice Parker, 1962 © 1991 Alice Parker; Music: BEAUTIFUL FLOWER, Alice Parker *The Philharmonia*, 1875; arr. Alice Parker © 1991 Alice Parker. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722558. All rights reserved.

A Moment with Our Children

Dr. Robu

Solo

Within Thy Heart
Aubrie Culver

Amy Beach

My love to thee I give,
For thou my love hast won,
Deep in my heart to live,
Thy glance a sunbeam shone.

My life to thee I give,
For thou art life to me,
Within thy heart to live
Forever, heaven would be!

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Organ Response

Invitation to Offering

Anthem

Break the Bread, Pour the Wine
Peter Buller, oboe

Mark Hayes

Come to the table, wounded soul,
come, taste his sorrow, be consoled.
Drink the suff'ring of the Lord,
broken spirit, be restored.

Break the bread, pour the wine,
share the feast, come and dine.
All are welcome, none denied,
ev'ry hunger satisfied.

Come to the table, all forlorn,
come, taste his presence, be transformed.
Drink the mem'ry of the Lord,
and be lonely nevermore.

Break the bread, pour the wine,
share the feast, come and dine.
All are welcome, none denied,
ev'ry hunger satisfied.

Come to the table, dying life,
come, taste his body, be revived.
Drink the mercy of the Lord,
everlasting life is yours.

Break the bread, pour the wine,
share the feast, come and dine.
All are welcome, none denied,
ev'ry hunger satisfied.

Sermon

“Eight Chapters of Minority Reports:
The Inescapable Mercy of God”

Dr. Olsen

Celebration of Communion

Prayer

Distribution of the bread

**(Please partake of the bread when served as a symbol of
your individual faith.)**

Distribution of the wine

**(Please hold the cup to partake together as a symbol of
our unity In Christ.)**

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at
your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one
another. As we have been fed by the seed that became
grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the
world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope.
Amen.**

***Hymn of Departure**

Lord of All Hopefulness

(page 9)

***Benediction**

Closing Voluntary

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Wilbur Held

***Let everyone stand in body or in spirit.
*** Ushers will seat late-comers.**

North Entry Greeter Jeanne Thompson

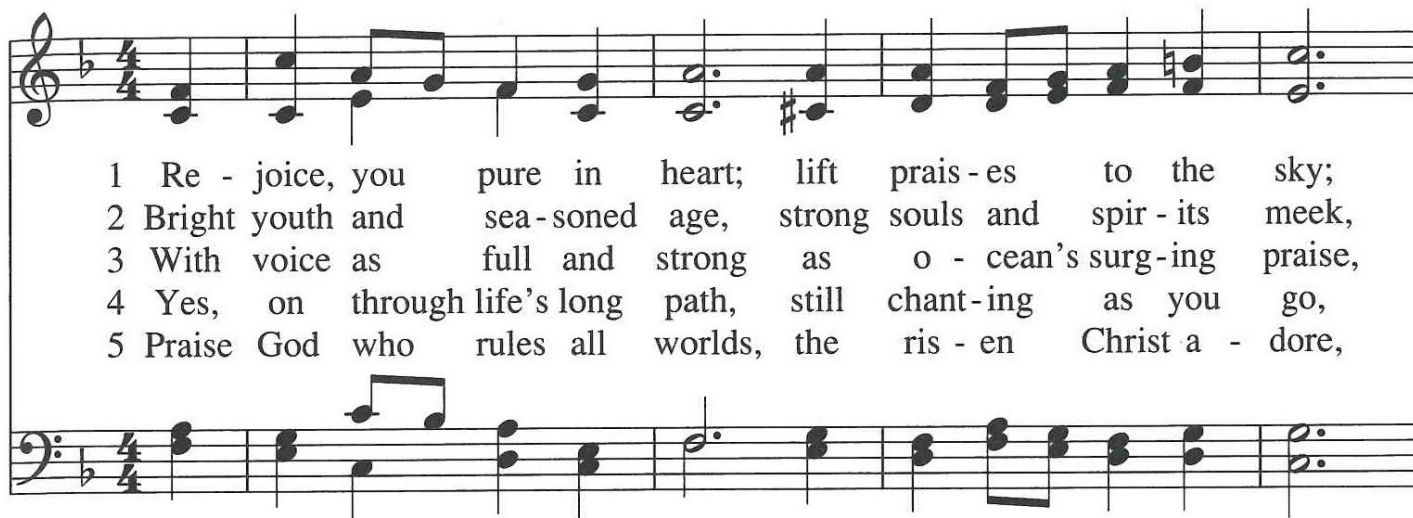
Communion Table Flowers Jeanne Thompson

Cover Attribution “Jonah Thrown to the Whale” by Johannes Sadeler I, circa 1582. 5 Ridiculous Representations of Jonah and the Whale in Art History, <https://www.jewishboston.com/read/5-ridiculous-representations-of-jonah-and-the-whale-in-art-history/>

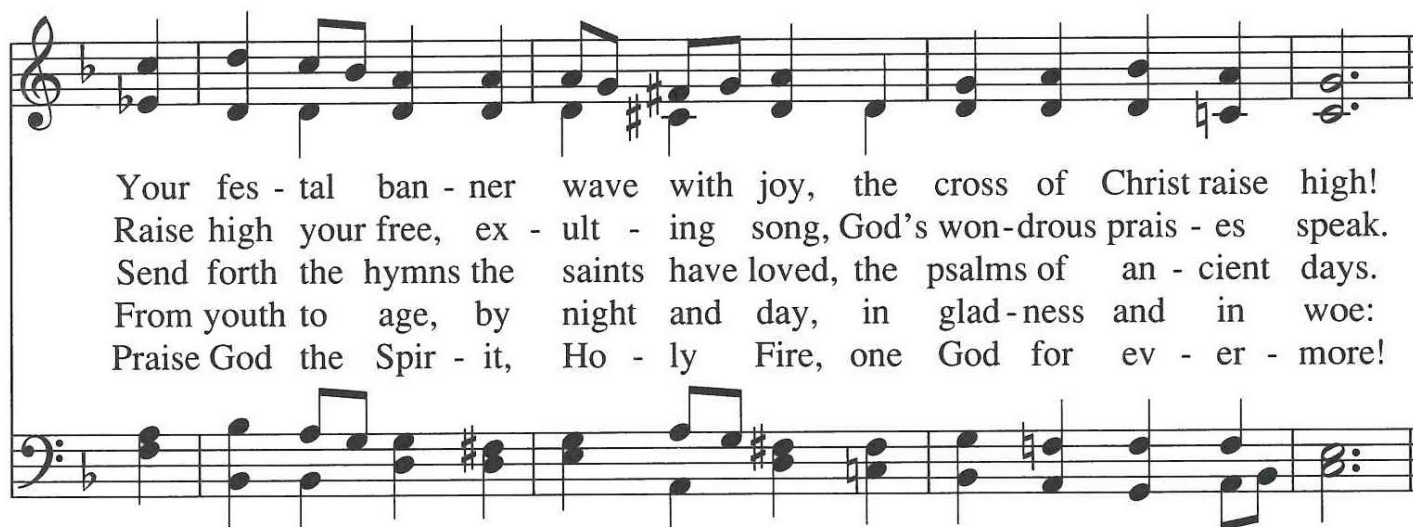
Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen, Senior Minister
Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Associate Minister
Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music
Christopher Shaw, Organist
KD Keim, Financial Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech
John Palmer, Video Tech Assistant

Rejoice, You Pure In Heart



1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
Re - joice Re - joice

Lord of All Hopefulness

Unison



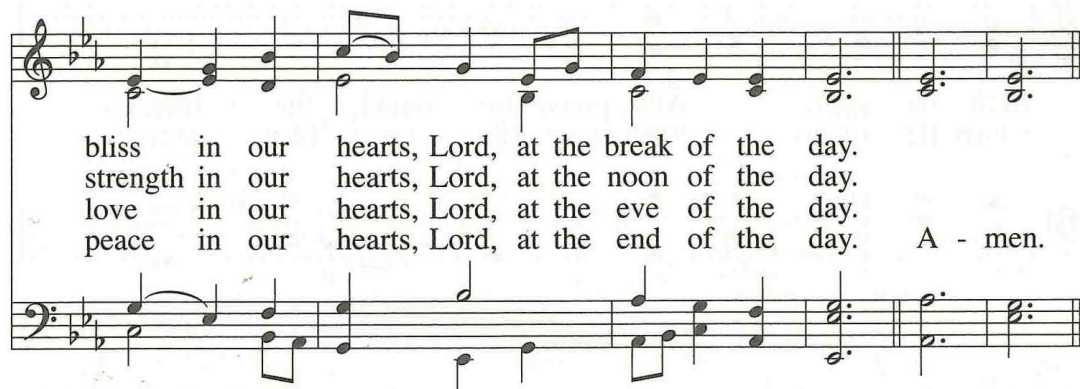
1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, Whose
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, Whose
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, Your
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, Whose



trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy, Be
strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be
hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace, Be
voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm, Be



there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, Your
there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, Your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. A - men.

Rooted in Love... Stewardship 2024 Begins.

We are happy to report that many pledges to our church are received every day. We will be reporting more information in the coming weeks.

As our moderator, Judy Frick, announced on Sunday our 2024 goal is \$440,000. An ambitious goal to be sure but necessary for the annual operation of our church. Pledges provide more than 80% of our annual budget.

Thank you to those members who have returned pledge cards already, and we encourage everyone to consider making their pledge as soon as possible.

A pledge or gift in any amount is important to the work of Plymouth and is gratefully received.

Our Stewardship 2024 speakers are:

Kitchel & Steve Woods	Sunday, October 1
Jennifer King	Sunday, October 8
Matthew Jones	Sunday, October 15
Alan Roskam	Sunday, October 22
Corinne & Clifford Depew	Sunday, October 29
Finley Watson	Sunday, November 5 Stewardship Sunday

We appreciate these dedicated members of our Plymouth Family and thank them for their commitment to this years Stewardship efforts.

As we each offer this prayer, we consider our pledge:

In Sharing what we have, we practice community and solidarity with others and find our own belonging. Your gifts, your talents, your labor, your presence, your resources - Whatever is yours to offer this day is welcome. May it mingle and swell with the gifts of others and be blessed by the Liberating God.

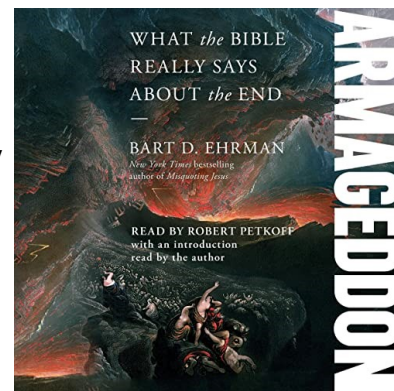
From Enfleshed.com

Let us talk, listen, and learn from each other as we consider the future of Plymouth, and we can celebrate together on Stewardship Sunday on November 5th.

Your stewardship committee: V. Jane Gilchrist, Rich Euson, Chris Bennett, Linda Morgan, Susan Arnold, and Sue and Kurt Watson.

Adult Ed Wednesday Nights Following Dinner

We will study the latest book by Bart Ehrman, our Word & Note Speaker in 2024, "Armageddon, What the Bible Really Says About the End." Syllabuses are available from Dr. Olsen, who will lead the class. Books may be purchase online or at local bookstores.



Food Packaging Event

The Plymouth Mission's Board is pleased to sponsor another food packaging event in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Sunday service on October 15. This event is now overseen by The Outreach Project, formerly known as Numana and the goal that day is 15,000 meals that will go to the Ukraine. Lunch will be provided before packaging begins and our goal is to have at least 50+ volunteers signed up by October 10. Sign-ups sheets will be on the FH bulletin board and we would ask that members sign there. You can also contact the church office and give your name to KD as a volunteer. Non-members and children are welcome to participate.

If you have any questions about this important event in our church life, please contact Steve Woods or Karen Robu.

Progressive Pilgrims book club gathering

Our second book club gathering will take place at the home of Corinne Depew on Sunday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own beverage and a snack to share.

We will be discussing the book *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads With an Indian Elder* by Kent Nerburn. It is available for purchase from the following online locations:

<https://www.watermarkbooks.com/book/9781608686384>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/neither-wolf-nor-dog-25th-anniversary-edition-kent-nerburn/1130391119?ean=9781608686384>

https://www.amazon.com/Neither-Wolf-nor-25th-anniversary/dp/1608686388/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3FW60WQE3LBZL&keywords=neither+wolf+nor+dog+by+kent+nerburn+25th+anniver-sary&qid=1695659295&srefix=neither+wolf+nor+dog+by+kent+nerburn+25th+anniverary%2Caps%2C147&sr=8-1

Plymouth Art Gallery Display Case

Our Display Case features the thoughtfully created products of Dani's Handmade for bath and body. She shared some new fall scents with us recently, including some inspired by Halloween, so stop by and find something you'd like for yourself or for a gift. They are all priced from \$2-\$12. Thank you!

Need ideas for Christmas Gifts?

How about a photo of Plymouth from the Centennial Celebration of the Sanctuary? Please contact Holly Yager at holly.yager@gmail.com if you would like a size that is not on the order form. All order forms are due in the church office by November 26th. Proceeds will be used to promote Plymouth Congregational Church in the community. Check out the following link to view the photos that are for sale

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h0L-OVRBVIQEhWo6FuzkQ6IBWOeHIV2O?usp=sharing>.



Please join us for our second Fine Arts series event:

BACH, BEER, and BRATS

Saturday, October 28, 6 PM



As you dine in the fellowship hall, you will hear a variety of music written by one of the greatest composers of Western music history, Johann Sebastian Bach. This year, we celebrate 300 years since Bach was appointed cantor at the St. Thomaskirche in Leipzig, Germany. He would remain in this position until his death in 1750. For each Sunday of the Lutheran church, there would be a cantata - a musical sermon with voices and orchestra performed directly before the sermon. At the dinner, you will hear one of those cantatas that was first heard in 1723.

The **menu** will include a wonderful spread of German cuisine including brats provided by Peabody Sausage House, potato salad (German and cold), sauerkraut, and of course BEER! Root Beer will be available, too!

Tickets for the event are \$40 per person, which half of the ticket price goes to supporting the musical arts at Plymouth. If you'd like to add a Plymouth logo mug, tickets are \$50 per person. There will only be 60 mugs available for purchase so get your ticket now!

Plymouth Art Gallery Hallway Art

Nicola Raadsma, a Northern California native, currently resides in Wichita, Kansas where she has been living for the past five years with her partner Jean Rhea and their two labradoodles, one cockatiel, and four budgies. She and Jean are good friends of Plymouth Church.

Creativity, as long as she can remember, has served as a unifying center in her life. However, getting to a place where she consciously recognized herself as an “artist” didn’t come until mid-life at which time she decided to pursue a master’s degree in Arts and Consciousness, with a focus on Transformative Art, from JFK University in Berkeley, California. She chose the program because it combined the three things that had fascinated her and she felt most passionate about since her early adulthood: depth psychology, philosophy, and art. She graduated with her Master’s in 1999 but responsibilities and obligations took her away from creating art until 2009 when she took up painting.

The only formal or technical art training she received was in ceramics and sculpture at Laney Community College in Oakland, California during the same time was attending JFK University. Although she loves working with clay, ultimately, she found painting to be more versatile and suitable for her purposes.

Nicola’s paintings are acrylic paint on canvas. In some of her paintings she also includes collage images. Most of her paintings take the form of mandalas. Nicola’s choice to paint mandalas comes from a desire to have art serve as a visual affirmation of inspiration, healing, peace, harmony, and balance. She consciously chooses specific colors, shapes, and symbols for that purpose.

Why I Create

I spent many years looking into why and how art is transformative. I didn’t do it just to satisfy an intellectual curiosity. I believe that the inquiry about the nature of creativity and its transformative power came from deep within my soul.

On the other side of my search for answers I came to believe that creativity is a sacred, universal energy; a manifestation of Divine energy which suggests that art is powerful and has the power to transform both the artist in the creating and the audience in the observing. I also came to understand that transformation can lead to healing. Through the making of art, I experience something in my own nature that is Divine and am transformed and healed through the process of creating.

I paint because in painting I am transported out of time and space into an imaginal, intuitive realm where I feel uplifted, excited, inspired, alive, happy, in the flow and calm. Painting for me is an intuitive practice; a meditative practice that allows me to let go of thoughts, concerns, worries, obsessions, fears, etc. and be in the here and now.

Men's Club Fundraiser

The Plymouth Men's Club is selling Red Wheel products from September 3rd through October 8th. Product distribution will be the late afternoon and evening of October 25th. Please support the club in this venture by purchasing and enjoying good products. Funds will go to the betterment of Plymouth Church.



Ways to Give

If you would like to make a donation to Plymouth Church's general operating fund or one of their special missions and you don't have a check or cash for the offering plate just scan the QR code to donate using a credit card.

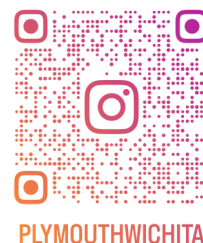


Health as a Spiritual Practice

Join us at Plymouth on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and bring a healthy sack lunch. We will spend 30 minutes walking at our own pace in Fellowship Hall. It's a nice flat surface, with air-conditioning, and benches to sit if you need to rest. Corinne Depew will be there to take blood pressures for anyone who would like. When we're finished walking we will all sit and eat lunch together. Bring a friend!

You can now find us on Instagram!

We are also on Threads <https://www.threads.net/@plymouthwichita>



Date: October 1, 2023
To: Members of the Plymouth Congregation
From: Judy Frick, Moderator

TRANSITION COMMITTEE:

Thank you to several of you who volunteered to serve on the Transition Committee. We followed the guidelines in our Constitution but we added the Moderator-elect and three at-large members instead of two.

The following persons will serve on the committee: Moderator Judy Frick, Moderator-elect Alan Roskam; Katy Brammer, Deacon; Alan Fearey, Deacon; Ken Arnold, Trustee; Paul Uhlig, Trustee; Holly Yager, at-large; Claire Watson, at-large; Michael Aumack, at large.

Note: A small nominating committee composed of Cabinet members determined the representatives from the Deacons and Trustees as well as those who submitted their names for the at-large positions.

TRANSITION MESSAGES

Plymouth will be undergoing a transition over the next two years as Dr. Olsen plans to retire in June 2025. We are most fortunate to have this much lead time and Dr. Olsen's continued involvement. A transition affords us the **opportunity** to do the following:

- Assess where we are as a congregation
- Determine where we are going and how we will get there
- Formulate specific goals & objectives that include current priorities such as our building maintenance plan, the proposed preschool expansion, and membership growth and retention

Activities will include: (Timeline: November 2023 – March 2024)

- Reviewing our 2023 spring survey results
- Conducting focus groups with congregation members In conjunction with a Wednesday night dinner (advice from the NACCC) in January.
- Completing the Church Information Form
- Creating a position description that incorporates the above feedback
- Determining the need for a search

Communication is always important and becomes even more so during this time. The Transition Committee will include updates in the weekly E Blast, the Sunday Bulletin, at Wednesday night dinners, and in church announcements.

We hope you all will participate in the focus groups in January to provide your feedback. We will also offer a paper or online survey for those who aren't able to participate in the focus groups. Stay tuned for the focus group date!

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Communion Sunday 9am Confirmation Class 10:30am Sunday Worship	2 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	3 5:30pm Cabinet 5:30pm Growth Steering	4 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	5 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects	6	7
8 9am Confirmation Class 10:30am Sunday Worship	9 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	10 5:30pm Growth Steering	11 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	12 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects	13	14
15 9am Confirmation Class 9am Fine Arts Brd 10:30am Sunday Worship 12pm Food Packaging Event	16 2 pm Prairie Wind Folk Dancers	17 5:30pm Investment Club	18 9am Present Day Club 5:30pm Wednesday Night Dinner 7pm Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30am Walk & Lunch 2pm Plymouth Projects 5:45pm CE	20	21

**Please join us for worship next Sunday, October 8th
 Participants in the Pine Ridge Trip
 will be talking about their experience.**

The Plymouth Covenant

Believing in Jesus Christ, the Interpreter of God to humankind, we accept His teachings as the guiding principles of our lives and consecrate ourselves and our church to their fulfillment. We therefore join in covenant, one with another, to worship, work, and serve together that we may express through our Church and our individual lives the love and faith taught by Jesus Christ.