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***Celebration of Worship***  
**January 11, 2026**

# Celebration of Worship

January 11, 2026

10:30 am

## Baptism of Christ Sunday

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

### Opening

*I Love to Tell the Story*  
Christopher Shaw, organ

arr. Robert A. Hobby

### Welcome and Announcements

### Introit

*Joyful Is the Dark*

Wren and Clemens

Joyful is the dark depth of love divine,  
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,  
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.  
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

### Call to Worship

### \*Opening Hymn

*Summoned by the God Who Made Us*

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### \*Responsive Reading

Ken Arnold

One: Let us come together rejoicing. For nothing can separate us from the love of God.

**All: Not life nor death.**

One: Not prejudice nor power.

**All: Not our grief nor our fears.**

One: Not the wrongs we have done nor the wrongs done against us.

**All: Love comes to us still.**

One: When nothing feels certain, this truth remains:

**All: The Spirit is our constant companion, ushering us toward life.**

One: Let every heart be lifted!

**All: The Empire of God is so close. Nothing can keep love from enfleshing among us.**

### \*Response of Praise

Arise, Your Light is Come!

FESTAL SONG

A - rise, your light is come! The spir - it's call o - bey; show  
forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.

## \*Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Spirit of God, you intercede through us with your sighs too deep for words. In the midst of all that aches, we know that you are with us. As we feel it all. As we hope for more. As we work together to find our way through uncertainties and loss. You accompany us with compassion and wisdom. Encourage us, O God, in the journey before us. Teach us again to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, they 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 Readings

Luke 13:20-21

To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God?  
It is like leaven that a woman took and concealed  
in three measures of flour until it was all leavened.

## Welcoming Song

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

KINGDOM

(Let the children come forward.)



Child of bless-ing, child of prom - ise, love's cre - a-tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from  
God, re - fresh our spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

## A Moment with Our Children

Lindsay Miller

**Solo**

*Come, Thou dear Redeemer*  
Clifton Vogt, soloist

Cesar Franck

Come Thou dear Redeemer. Come Lord Jesus to set us free,  
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Hope of all the earth Thou art. Joy of every longing heart.

Come Thou dear Redeemer. Born a Child, yet Thou art a King.  
Born to reign in us forever. Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.  
Rule in all our hearts alone. Raise us to Thy glorious Throne. Amen.

**Prayer Concerns****Pastoral Prayer****Prayer Response****Invitation to Offering****Anthem**

*Send Out Thy Light* Balakireff, ed. Cherwien  
Send out thy light, O send thy truth,  
That they may lead me to thy holy hill,  
My soul shall trust in God the lord;  
For I will yet give thanks to God,  
Who is the truth, that they many lead me,  
Lord, to thy dwelling place.

**Sermon**

*"Experiencing the Gospel: The Sourdough Starter"*

Dr. Robu

**\*Closing Hymn**

*For the Healing of the Nations*

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**\*Benediction****Closing Voluntary**

"Declamation on "Dix"

arr. Craig Phillips

\* Please stand in body, or in spirit.

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#### **Plymouth Staff**

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Senior Minister  
Christopher Shaw, Director of Music & Organist  
Marisa Callan, Assistant Dir. of Music  
Julie Martin, Administrative Assistant  
Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher  
Robert Safley, Youth Group Leader  
Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer  
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech  
Jacob Prickett, Video Tech Substitute

# Summoned by the God Who Made Us

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D

A7 D A D G A7 D

1 Sum-moned by the God who made us rich in our di-ver-si-ty,  
 2 Ra-diant ris-en from the wa-ter, robed in ho-li-ness and light,  
 3 Trust the good-ness of cre-a-tion; trust the Spir-it strong with-in.  
 4 Bring the hopes of ev'-ry na-tion; bring the art of ev'-ry race.  
 5 Draw to-geth-er at one ta-ble all the hu-man fam-i-ly;

A7 D A D G A7 D

gath-ered in the name of Je-sus, rich-er still in u-ni-ty:  
 ev-'ry per-son in God's im-age, ev-'ry per-son, God's de-light.  
 Dare to dream the vi-sion prom-ised sprung from seed of what has been.  
 Weave a song of peace and jus-tice; let it sound through time and space.  
 shape a cir-cle ev-er wid-er and a peo-ple ev-er free.

Refrain A7 D G D A7 D G D

Let us bring the gifts that dif-fer and, in splen-did, var-ied ways,

A7 D A D G A7 D

sing a new church in-to be-ing, one in faith and love and praise.

# For the Healing of the Nations

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with  
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING**

**TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2026**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WICHITA, KANSAS:**

Please take notice that the Cabinet of Plymouth Congregational Church of Wichita, Kansas has called for the Annual Corporate Meeting of all church members. The purposes of this meeting are for the members to: (1) receive reports from staff, officers, boards, committees and organizations, and (2) receive a report on the expansion of the Plymouth Preschool Learning Center, and (3) vote on a proposed constitutional amendment that would reduce the voting membership of the church Cabinet, and (4) transact such other business as may properly be considered at the meeting.

This meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary at Plymouth Congregational Church, 202 N. Clifton, Wichita, Kansas. DATED this 7th day of January, 2026.

### **The Annual Corporate Meeting will also include recognition and awards, including the John Henry Hornung Award.**

Plymouth members should know the origin of the John Henry Hornung award that is presented annually to a member who has rendered outstanding service. Rev. Dr. John Henry Hornung came to Plymouth Congregational Church as Senior Minister in 1924 and remained in that position until 1949. During his tenure Dr.

Hornung oversaw a resurgence of church membership, increased financial stability and a wider representation of Plymouth in civic affairs. He was greatly respected for his preaching style and performed countless weddings and funerals that were widely admired. Dr. Hornung was a progressive leader in the ministerial community and an activist for deeper understanding and cooperation between local Protestant and Catholic churches and the Jewish community. In 1938, Dr. Hornung was a member of a ministerial coalition referred to as the Four Horsemen of Tolerance. These clergymen traveled Kansas to speak out against a pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic candidate for the U.S. Senate who was subsequently defeated: When Wichita's Jewish community needed a place of worship, Dr. Hornung made the Plymouth sanctuary available for their use until a temple was built.

In 1987, the church cabinet decided to institute an award that would be given annually to a member who had provided outstanding service to Plymouth in a variety of capacities, both in leadership and volunteer roles. Naming that award after Dr. Hornung seemed an appropriate way to link Plymouth's dynamic past with the recognition of members who have made a significant impact on our church.

**Word & Note Coming Soon!**  
Contact us to secure your Sponsorship:  
office@plymouth-church.net or (316) 684-0221

# Word & Note

The Divine Arts of Knowledge and Exultation



## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6



7 - 8 PM The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

*Wine & Cheese Reception to Follow*

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7



10 - NOON The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Noon - 2 PM Opus 76 Quartet  
& Lunch

7 PM Opus 76 Quartet

*Wine & Cheese Reception to Follow*

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8



10:30 AM Worship Service  
Dr. Wil Gafney & Opus 76



### OPUS 76 QUARTET



'Known for their expressive power and technical brilliance.'

Hailed as "Kansas City's Gem of a Quartet" by the Kansas City Star.

Weekend Pass ~ \$100 [\$120 value]  
Incl. all events + lunch + receptions  
Single ticket pricing: \$30 Each event



### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

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\$300 to \$499  
- incl. 2 passes

\$500 - \$999  
- incl. 2 passes + Sunday Brunch

\$999 plus  
- incl. 4 passes + Sunday Brunch

*Contact church office for more information*



### THE REV. DR. WIL GAFNEY



*Wading in the Waters of Biblical Translation*

Dr. Wilda (Wil) Gafney is a scholar, pastor, preacher, author, and activist. She is the Right Rev. Sam B. Hulseby Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Ft. Worth, TX.




## New Hallway Art on display now through February!

Becka Jahelka is a watercolor batik painter and printmaker. Becka draws inspiration for her landscapes from the prairies of her home state of Kansas, the mountains of her summer home, and occasionally from travel destinations. She also delves into abstract compositions in her use of various printmaking techniques.


SpunkyHouse has been Brightening Spaces and Lifting Spirits since 2012 through the use of colorful, fun, and vintage fabrics used to make goods and sustainable living items for the kitchen, home, and beyond. Every item is sewn and handmade locally in Wichita by Owner-Maker, Heather, whose late mother (a lover of baking and cooking) was the inspiration behind this small business. Heather learned to sew at age 11-12 and has been surrounded by family sewists her whole life. Her nana, Mary Loveland, was the original owner of the Needle Nook sewing shop here in Wichita.

Our Fine Arts Series final event of the season is Saturday, January 24th, with a special performance by the Alithea Mime Theater, and reception to follow. No tickets required. This is a FREE event!




**Plymouth  
Fine Arts  
Series**

**ALITHEA MIME THEATRE**



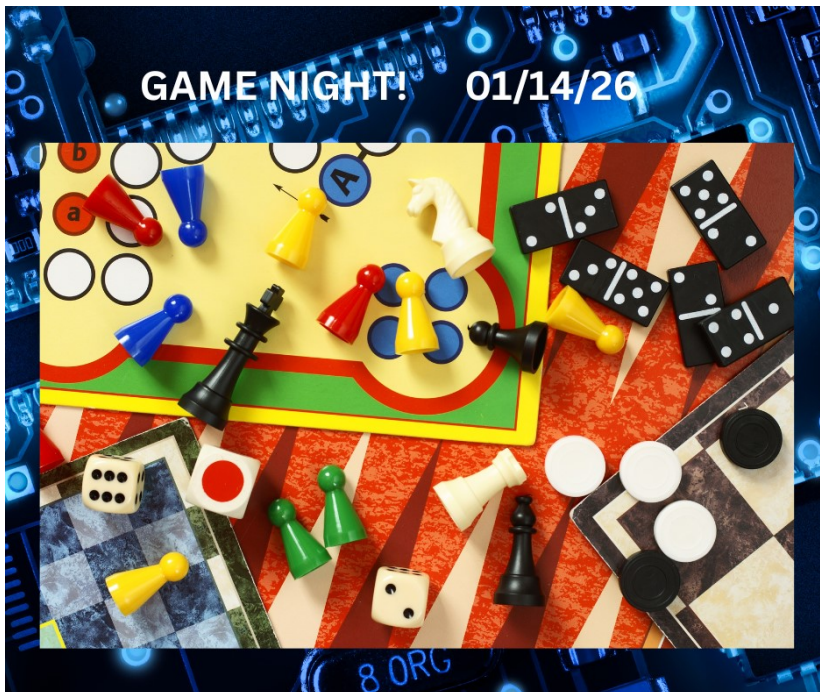
**Plymouth  
Congregational  
Church**

202 NORTH CLIFTON  
JANUARY 24, 2026  
SATURDAY - 7 PM  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW  
NO-COST ADMISSION



(316) 684-0221  
plymouth-church.net

**GAME NIGHT! 01/14/26**



8 ORG

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Youth Fundraising Dinner  
**Game Night!**  
All ages welcome.

January 14th—5:30 pm

Burrito Bowls + Taco Salad  
Chips + Salsa

Robert Anderson  
 Peggy Corman  
 Sharon Fearey  
 Stephanie Anderson  
 Suzannah Young  
 Larry Carey

Jan 3  
 Jan 5  
 Jan 8  
 Jan 10  
 Jan 11  
 Jan 14

Jeanne Thompson  
 Linda Wilson  
 Roxie Mengelkoch  
 Alberta Nichols  
 Linda Morgan

Jan 14  
 Jan 18  
 Jan 22  
 Jan 27  
 Jan 28

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY JANUARY 25TH 11:30 AM		2026				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30 AM WORSHIP	29 AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	30	31 AEROBICS	1 NEW YEARS DAY CLOSED	2 AEROBICS	3
4 9 AM ADULT STUDY 10:30 AM WORSHIP	5 AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	6 5:30 PM CABINET	7 AEROBICS WED DINNER: NO PROGRAM CHOIR REHEARSAL	8 WOMEN'S AA COFFEE	9 AEROBICS	10 2 <sup>ND</sup> LIGHT SHELTER DINNER PREP & SERVE
11 9 AM ADULT STUDY 10:30 WORSHIP 11:30 GROWTH STEERING	12 AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	13	14 AEROBICS WED NIGHT DINNER: GAME NIGHT! CHOIR REHEARSAL	15 WOMEN'S AA COFFEE	16 AEROBICS	17
18 9 AM MISSIONS BOARD 9 AM ADULT STUDY 10:30 WORSHIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST	19 AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	20 INVESTMENT CLUB	21 AEROBICS WED NIGHT DINNER: DULL CREATIVES - CROCHET CHOIR REHEARSAL	22 WOMEN'S AA COFFEE	23 AEROBICS	24 FINE ARTS SERIES: ALITHEA MIME COMPANY 7 PM
25 9 AM ADULT STUDY 10:30 WORSHIP New Member Sunday 9 AM CE BOARD 11:30 DEACONS	26 AEROBICS PRAIRIE WIND FOLK DANCING	27 5:30 PM TRUSTEES	28 AEROBICS WED NIGHT DINNER: BOOK CLUB	29 WOMEN'S AA COFFEE	30 AEROBICS	31