

# PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**Sunday School: 9:15 AM Worship: 10:30 AM**



## 2018



The days of Lent stretch from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday we “remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return”. On Good Friday we witness the death of Jesus in preparation for Easter’s resurrection. This is the culmination of the religious calendar and church year. But this year the church year intersects with the secular calendar in two very interesting ways: this year Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day, and Easter Sunday is on April Fools’ Day. What a wonderful reminder that we live our lives of faith in response to love, and in pursuit of things the world calls foolish!

As we gather this February to receive ashes on our foreheads, I hope we can let the red hearts in store windows remind us of the amazing act of love that the cross embodies. God enters into the depths of human suffering as an act of love. And we are connected to God till death and beyond death by that love. This connection means that death for us is not triumphant in our life story. The triumph over death in Jesus resurrection is foolishness to the world, according to Paul, but by faith it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1) An Ash Wednesday worship service will be held at Plymouth on Wednesday, February 14. I hope you will begin your journey of thanksgiving for God’s amazing love this year, with us.

The worship theme this Lent is: “Follow Jesus: The Time is Now”. One way to respond to the amazing act of love that God shows us is by following Jesus in our lives. Each week between February 18 and March 18 the worship and preaching texts on Sunday morning will focus on another way to follow: through temptation and suffering, to healing and even glory. I hope each one of us will discover some new way to follow Jesus in our lives this Lent. There’s no time like the times in which we live to bear witness to the faith that makes a fool out of hate and turns life toward God’s loving-kindness.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David Hutchinson



Nancy	Hutchinson	2	3
Jassa	Gunn	2	9
Ron	Stites	2	9
Judy	Gilbert	2	11
Hal	Lowry	2	14
Randall	Dunn	2	24
Wylie	Childs	2	25
Sue	Dacus	2	28



**PRISCILLA CIRCLE JANUARY 10, 2018**

The first meeting in January, 2018 began with eleven present to share fellowship and delicious treats from hostesses Becky Frazier and Michele Rae (in absentia). The tables were festively decorated for the winter season and Charlotte Wilburn, who was unable to be present, sent more of her beautifully-made magnets to delight everyone. Thanks again, Charlotte.

After Carol Jones read the minutes, Fran Pickering gave a short recap of Priscilla Circle for 2017. It was a great year with good attendance, and the small group gave generously to our two mission endeavors—Makindu Childrens' Center in Kenya and providing jammies, underwear, and socks for children coming to DHS. Thanks again, Carol, for stretching our dollars! The year provided many interesting programs given by various members. Fran also read a story from the Makindu newsletter and a thank you from Winnie Barron was related.

For the January program, everyone told of their interesting holiday happenings and how much was affected by the weather—including food preparations, and going/coming. Family time with good food seemed to dominate...some had dinner, some had dessert!

After joys and concerns, Becky read Michele's devotion from "Because of God Ministries".

The next meeting will be February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. with hostesses Fran Pickering and Helen Purkerson. Devotions will be given by Becky Frazier and Sue Dacus will share her Journey of Faith with us



**December 2017 Income and Expense**

	December 2017	YTD 2017
Income	\$10,339	\$ 118,415
Expense	\$7,918	\$124,157
Net Income	\$2,421	\$(5,742)



View from the Pews

**Attendance**

December 24	28
December 31	27
January 7	45
January 14	43
January 21	30



### Lectionary Readings For February

#### February 4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

#### February 11 Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

#### February 14 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12;  
Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### February 18 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

#### February 25 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 7:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday morning Bible study continues each Sunday morning **at 9:15** in the library with Pastor David and Elder Linda Dunn leading. All are welcome to attend as we study the lectionary readings for the day. Bring your Bible and your comments and/or questions.



### Evening Study Group

Ruth the Moabite: Insiders, Outsiders and God's Covenant

During the weeks of Lent (February and March) the Monday Night study group will read and discuss the Old Testament book of Ruth. This story is concise, well told, and maybe a little more challenging than we first think. The story of this amazing woman is full of insight for our present day. Each evening after the first one, we will focus on a particular chapter, so if you have to miss one you can read along in the Bible and join us the following week. The class is led by Pastor David and all are welcome and encouraged to bring a snack to share (though it is not required).

**Class meets Mondays from 6:30pm-7:45pm** in the social hall at church. You may want to also attend the ½ hour prayer service that precedes the study from 6 pm-6:30.

February 19 - Introduction to the book of Ruth and main themes

February 26 - Ruth chapter 1

March 5 - Ruth chapter 2

March 12 - Ruth chapter 3

March 19 - Ruth chapter 4



**Ash Wednesday Evening Worship Service  
Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m.**

Each year as we anticipate the coming of Easter Sunday, we have an opportunity to spend time in renewed or increased prayer, contemplation, or service. The season for reflection and prayer, service and sacrifice begins February 14, "Ash Wednesday," with a service of imposition of ashes. This ancient Christian practice is a way to acknowledge our mortality and to thank God for our precious lives. If you wish there will be an opportunity to receive the sign of ashes on your forehead.



**Lenten Monday Evening Prayer Services**

**Each Monday evening in Lent at 6:00pm:  
Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19**

Gather in the social hall for a time of prayer and reflection and singing.

Services last one half hour and conclude at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome and encouraged to stay for the study that follows, but if you choose to attend only the worship service, there will be an opportunity to leave at 6:30 p.m.

**The Pumpkin and the Oak Tree**



An old poem tells of a woman who was walking through a meadow one day. As she strolled along, meditating on nature, she came upon a field of golden pumpkins. In the corner of the field stood a majestic, huge oak tree.

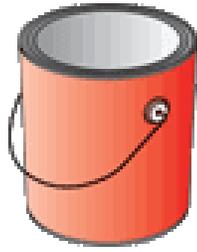
The woman sat under the oak tree and began musing about the strange twists in nature. Why tiny acorns on huge branches and huge pumpkins on tiny vines? She thought, *God blundered with creation. He should have put the small acorns on the tiny vines and the large pumpkins on the large branches.*

Before long the woman dozed off in the warmth of the sun. She was awakened when a tiny acorn bounced off her nose. Chuckling to herself, she amended her previous thinking. *"Maybe God was right after all!"*

In every situation, God knows far more about the people and circumstances involved than we can ever know. He alone sees the beginning and the ending. He alone knows how to create a Master Plan that provides for the good of all who serve him.

*Most people wish to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.*

God's Little Devotional Book



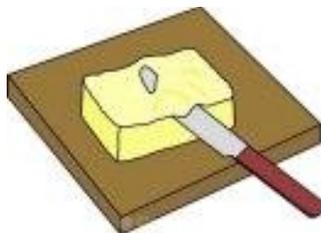
### **Buildings and Grounds is at work**

The loft, the narthex, and the sanctuary have been painted and it looks great! Donations toward this project are always welcome. Just write in the memo line of your check "Building project."



### **"Souper Bowl" Offering Collected Sunday February. 4**

On Super Bowl Sunday, we have an opportunity to give back and help support local efforts to feed people with soup and other good things. This offering supports the Columbia County Food Bank. Watch for the soup pots to give your donation.



### **Butter Collection**

Once again Plymouth will be collecting butter for Community Meals. Please bring your pounds of butter (in quarters) to the church on January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>.



We were blessed with some great music in the past few months, from the ukulele band, to a jazz pianist, to lovely flute music, and our own church choir plus others too numerous to list. But we are always looking for new talent. Are you hiding your talent? Do you sing, play an instrument, or recite poetry? Don't you want to share it with us some Sunday morning? Talk to Gina if you think you want to get involved. And in the meantime, you can look forward to the wonderful things she has planned for us this month.



**The deadline for the March newsletter is February 16.** Please submit your articles and/or information to [beckyfrazier35@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyfrazier35@yahoo.com)



### **Which One Are You?**

Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.

The *pessimist* will see a glass filled to the half-way mark with water as being half empty. The *optimist* will see it as half full. The *optimistically creative* person will see it as a vase for a rosebud. The *optimistic pragmatist* will see it as a means of quenching thirst. The *optimistic pastor* will see it as water to bless for baptism.



## Sunday Volunteer Schedule

<b>February 4, 2018</b>	<b>Communion Set-up:</b> Linda Gaskill <b>Communion Servers:</b> Linda Gaskill, Linda Dunn, and Jill Turner <b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Jill Turner and Pat Brown <b>Lay Leader:</b> Mark Dinwiddie <b>Snacks:</b> Sue Dacus, Helen Purkerson
<b>February 11, 2018</b>	<b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Linda Dunn and Jon Dickson <b>Lay Leader:</b> Wendy Wells <b>Snacks:</b> Linda Dunn
<b>February 18, 2018</b>	<b>Greeters:</b> Roger and Linda Liefeld <b>Lay Leader:</b> Marilyn Brinster <b>Snacks:</b> Wendy Wells and Kathleen Dinwiddie
<b>February 25, 2018</b>	<b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Mark and Kathleen Dinwiddie <b>Lay Leader:</b> Fran Pickering <b>Snacks:</b> Julie Kelly
<b>March 4, 2018</b>	<b>Communion Set-Up:</b> Ken and Zelda Anderson <b>Communion Servers:</b> Ken and Zelda Anderson and Michele Rae <b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Nancy Hutchinson and Mark Earhart <b>Lay Leader:</b> Linda Dunn <b>Snacks:</b> Deacons



### **Welcome Committee: December, January, February**

Mark Dinwiddie, Fran Pickering, Becky Frazier, Michele Rae

Thank you for being especially “welcoming.” Introductions, name tags, the newsletter, and connecting during coffee hour make our church warm and inviting. It’s helped many of us become a part of this congregation. Thank you to all for your kindness

Hospitality is one form of worship.

*The Talmud*



# February, 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship Committee noon Avamere 1:30 p.m.	5  1:30 p.m. Deacons meet	6	7	8	9	10
11 Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30	12 Spiritual Practices noon	13	14 Priscilla Circle 1 p.m. Session 6:15 p.m.  ASH WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	15	16 NewsLetter DEADLINE	17
18   Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	19 Prayer service 6 p.m.   Lenten Bible Study Study group 6.30 p.m.	20	21 Prayers and Squares 1 p.m.	22	23	24
25   Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	26 Prayer service 6 p.m.   Lenten Bible Study Study group 6:30 p.m.	27	28			

*If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:*

When we lift our hearts to God we open ourselves to a never-ending source of divine wisdom and infinite love. Jesus made it clear to his disciples; they should petition God to meet their needs. So should we. *Hugs Daily Inspirations*



*You need not cry very loud; He is nearer to us than we think. Brother Lawrence*

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## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**