

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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January 2021



As the year begins we often make resolutions. Because of that, January is time to consider the things we have been dreaming of, and how to make them a reality in the new year. January is also usually a cold dark month. It is a month when water freezes and light is scarce. But it is nevertheless a month of beginnings that we celebrate with water and light.

The church year makes time to celebrate the baptism of Jesus every January. That is because Jesus began his ministry in baptism. We are united with Christ in our baptism by the Holy Spirit. What that means for us is that our life is claimed by God's amazing love and grace. Our identity as God's beloved children becomes more clear in the waters of baptism. And our names are a reminder that our identity is marked by God's love, as our names are repeated during the baptismal ritual.

So if you are looking for something to do this January, while you are still trying to keep away from large crowds and stay safe and healthy, consider these things: find your baptismal certificate and show it to someone and ask if they remember their baptism; take a walk in the rain or snow and remember how elemental God's love is to our spiritual survival; look up the meaning of your name on Google or some other internet search (which might lead to an exploration of your ancestry).

As we look ahead, we hope for better days this summer as the vaccine is distributed. And as we wait for that, the church continues to meet in ever growing numbers on our virtual internet platform every Sunday. Know that you are loved and our mission to help others is still happening through your gift to things like Boxing Day that was just completed. This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be virtual as well. Church members will receive an email invite and annual report. As we vote on pastoral terms of call and church officers, looking ahead might be a welcome relief to being stuck in place or looking backward, as we have done so much of last year. We continue our plans for worship and music, mission and ministry in 2021!

I hope you will all either commit yourself, or recommit yourself, to hoping and praying for Plymouth. Know that in all of this, we have the light of Christ to guide us, no matter how dark it is outside.

Grace and Peace,
David Hutchinson



January Lectionary Readings

Second Sunday of Christmas—January 3, 2021

Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20;
Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:(1–9) 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14;
Ephesians 3:1–12; b; Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 10

Genesis 1:1–5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1–7;
Mark 1:4–11

Sunday, January 17

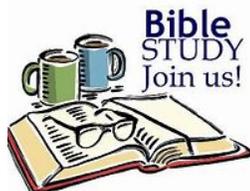
1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20);
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20;
John 1:43–51

Sunday, January 24

Jonah 3:1–5;10 Psalm 62:5–12;
1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

Sunday, January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



On-line Sunday morning Bible Study

Sunday morning Bible study will resume on Sunday, January 10, at 10 a.m. and continue on throughout the month of January.



Worship schedule

January 10

Sermon: Wilderness Wrestling

January 17

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, 12-13

Sermon: In right Outright"

Themes:

How to observe appropriate boundaries

Can we keep wickedness out and our arguments inside the church? The church in Corinth was doing the opposite: They were letting wickedness in and letting their arguments go outside of the church.

January 24

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Sermon: "Living in the Present

Themes:

Live as if time is short Do not be preoccupied by the "structures" or things of this world like financial, social, etc.

January 31

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Sermon: "Free to be Kind"

Themes:

"Love or Knowledge?"

Build up others, your freedom is not for tearing others down.

Freedom is not a right;

it is reality that is given as a gift



Monday Night Study Group

A Journey through the Bible, With a Bird's Eye View

Starting on Monday, February 1, 2021, pastors Dave and Pat will lead an eight week overview of the Bible. There will be occasional close study of a few specific texts, but the goal will be the overview and not the details. Recently we have studied the books of: Exodus, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, Acts and Revelation in more detail. For those of you who have participated in the past or have some experience with the Bible, the emphasis is on making connections that help you understand specific texts more fully. Or if you have never considered the narrative flow of the whole Bible, this will be an introduction. There will be material about the formation, history and geography of the Bible as well as a sprint through the narrative or main story line.

Feb. 1 and 8: Introductory material
March 8: The Gospels of Matthew and Luke
March 15: The Gospels of Mark and John
March 22: Acts and Paul

Class meets online on Monday nights at 6:30pm for an hour.
Contact pastor Dave for an email invitation.



Priscilla Circle

With the pandemic grabbing hold of us early in 2020, Priscilla Circle was unable to meet together in the fellowship hall during the year for our April, September, and December times. It is with great hope that eventually in 2021, we will be able to join together in fun and fellowship...maybe by next December, 2021?

A **huge THANK YOU** goes to all of you **members and friends** who did continue to support our two mission projects---THE MAKINDU CHILDRENS' CENTRE—and the DHS JAMMIES ,SOCKS, and UNDERWEAR MISSION in Columbia County for the children who start through the DHS process often without even a paper bag of clothing.

A donation of **\$1250.00** has been sent to the Makindu Childrens' Centre which will be a gigantic help to them also struggling through this global pandemic time.

Carol was also able to spend over **\$222** to purchase 13 sets of jammies, 48 pairs of socks, and 44 pieces of underwear for the children as they arrive at DHS and we are grateful for her commitment in fulfilling this mission. DHS was extremely appreciative of Carol's delivery in early December.

It is with **much gratitude** to each of you for continuing to show the love and support for these two important missions, and we are grateful for the many blessings that we, ourselves, have received. God is indeed good ! Our fellowship and love will continue into this New Year !

With thanks,
Carol Jones and Helen Purkerson, co-leaders



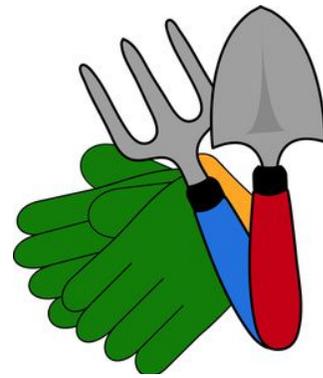
Christmas Joy offering

Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering. Your donations help support church leaders nationwide, past, present and future. The Offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions honoring the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. The Offering also supports leaders in the future by contributing to higher education institutes that equip communities of color. Many of the students receiving this assistance are the first in their families to enroll in higher education. PCUSA has been carrying on this tradition for almost 140 years.



Boxing Day

A reduced number of totes are going out to Community Action Team this year. We found out that some of the items previously included in the totes are being furnished by other entities, so we are concentrating on the items most needed by people that are getting their first permanent home. Thank you for your support in this local mission.



Habitat for Humanity-

The Faith Build Project was so interesting this year in light of Covid. We were not able to do nearly the amount of volunteering we wanted to due to gathering and other restrictions. We did what we could in ways that were safe.

That being said, we got the opportunity to make a big impact on a couple of our church members. We have been able to help build a ramp for Tom and Karen Roldan. Tom has had his leg amputated up to his knee. To be able to go home from the care facility, a ramp from their driveway to their house was needed. Members of the church, as well as friend of the church, Louis Sena, helped clear plants and bushes in front of the house and then help construct the ramp making it possible that Tom could come home during the holiday season. Thanks to all who had a hand in making this happen: Ken Anderson, Mark Dinwiddie, Roger Liefeld, Adrienne Schilling and Louis Sena (with his grandsons, Carter and Grey for the clean-up phase.) Gina Harrington did a little planning to get the ball rolling as well.

All of this is surely the work of the church. Thank you all so much for your contributions of time or funding.



CHURCH CHATTER

An online Christmas fellowship was this years' gathering of kindred souls in December. Twenty two people and two felines shared stories, ornaments and decorations. All were invited into each others' home which made for a cozy, intimate evening.

We learned about the Christmas Pickle and Spider, saw a handblown glass star, nutcrackers, nativities, elf hats, lace angels, and a Christmas monkey. There were stories about a "first" tree in 1972, face painting for children with Autism, years devoted to x-stitching stockings, quilting workshops, a 120 year old cherry ornament and Poinsettia "trees" in RV's.

We saw a Portland State Viking ornament from 1968 and a beautiful tree from vintage costume jewelry. There was an angel wearing pearls, ornaments from Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Snoopy on his doghouse and a bright decoration made from plastic cups, string lights and staples.

All of us were "carried" down the staircase to see a family decorated tree and the sharing wouldn't have been complete without a midnight blue PPE mask with shiny silver snowflakes. It was an evening to remember!



November 2020 Income and Expense

	November2020	YTD 2020
Income	\$6907.05	\$91686.52
Expense	\$7683.11	\$88994.27
Net Gain/Loss	-\$ 776.06	\$ 2692.25



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February newsletter is **January 25**. If you have articles you would like to see in the newsletter, please send them to beckyfrazier35@yahoo.com



Reminder for all members of Session:

Please turn in your annual reports to Gina by January 10 , in preparation for the annual congregational meeting. Please submit it in Times New Roman font.



Don't forget the annual meeting will be held on **January 31** at **12:00 on Zoom**. This is right after our Zoom coffee.



Attendance (by Zoom)

November 15	21
November 22	26
November 27	32
December 6	27
December 13	31
December 14	22
December 20	33

What is Per Capita?



Per capita is the amount of money, per member, that our church sends to the Presbytery. Portions are then sent on to the Synod and the General Assembly. This enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our area and across the country. This year's per capita is \$36.50

You may choose to pay your share of the per capita. If you do, be sure to write "per capita" on the memo line of your check.



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year	2
3  Zoom church and communion 11:00 a.m. NO Bible study	4  Deacons 10:00 a.m. Zoom	5	6	7	8	9
10 Online Bible study resumes 10:00 a.m. Zoom worship/coffee hour 11:00 a.m.	11	12	13  Online Session meeting 6:15	14	15	16
17  Online Bible study 10:00 a.m. Zoom worship/coffee hour 11 a.m.	18  Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22	23
24  Online Bible study 10:00 a.m. Zoom worship/coffee hour 11:00 a.m.	25 Newsletter deadline	26	27	28	29	30
31  Online Bible study 10 a.m. Zoom worship/coffee hour 11:00 a.m. Sunday January 31 online Congregational ANNUAL MEETING at NOON						



I prayed for God to remind you that He not only knows your future, He planned it.
Shanna Noel

“I know what I am planning for you,” says the Lord. “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.”
Jeremiah 29:11 NCV

Even when I hear nothing, I rest in knowing He hears me.
Bryce Avary

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