

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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2024

We are entering the gateway to summer as we begin May. And with us moving into summer, I want you to think about what's next for Plymouth. I have found the book, Being Church in a Liminal Time: Remembering, Letting Go, Resurrecting (Jeffrey Jones and David Frederickson, 2023), to be particularly helpful. In many discussions I've had with you, we have agreed that congregation life has fundamentally changed since Covid-19.

This book takes on that subject to explore both the challenges and opportunities that this church is facing in this period of transition (from what we've been and done in the past) and uncertainty (to what we will need to be and need to be doing in the near future). The writers suggest that the traditional models for doing church no longer will be adequate to engage the complexities of the modern world. The term they use, "liminal time", refers to a period of transition where old structures are breaking down and new ones are emerging but are not in full view yet. Jones and Frederickson point to the changes in worship attendance, declining interest in institutional religion and what it means to do ministry in a post-Christian culture. In the past it was said, "If you build it (a sanctuary, hire a youth minister, etc.), they will come." Today, what we find is "they don't come".

So rather than cling to outdated structures or resorting to superficial methods of evangelism, they advocate for a willingness to embrace change. Change has never been easy for Presbyterians. "How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb? Change!?! Well, my grandmother donated that light bulb and that light fixture! Don't you dare touch it!"

We must embrace change. The state of change is the constant here!

Jones and Frederickson advise to experiment with new forms of worship (like under a tent in the park with dance and art) and community engagement (with a booth at the community fair offering training classes in computing skills). And by so doing, this and more, a congregation like ours could cultivate an authentic witness that resonates with the deepest needs and aspirations of St Helenese people today. I've had to shorten much of what these authors say. And, yet... we have the opportunity before us for renewal and rediscovery of what it truly means to be the body of Christ in the world today. We can discern a way forward in this time of change. Our way forward will include remembering, letting go, and resurrecting.

In the grip of grace,

Pastor Peter J Blank

P.S. Here is an inspiring movie title I recommended to the Tuesday Lenten Study group that I also want to share with you. It is called "August Rush" (2007). It is about a musically talented orphan Evan, played by Freddie Highmore, who runs away from his orphanage searching New York for his birth parents. On his journey, he's taken under the wing of the Wizard, played by the late Robin Williams, a homeless man who lives in an abandoned theater. After discovering his talent, the Wizard gives Evan the name "August Rush" and devises a plan to profit from his talent. Little does Evan know that his parents, Lyla (Keri Russell) and Louis (Jonathan Rys Meyers), are searching for him too. I think you'll enjoy this story for the rich music and the encouraging message.



May Lectionary Readings

May 5 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 and Psalm 98 or Genesis 35:9-15 and Psalm 101; 1 John 5:1- 6; John 15: 9-17

May 12 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 and Psalm 1 or Jeremiah 10: 1-10a and Psalm 108; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17: 6-19

May 19 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezekiel 37: 1-14 and Psalm 104: 24—34, 35b; Romans 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21; John 15: 26-27, and 16: 4b-15

May 26 Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8 and Psalm 29; Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17



Attendance

March 17	26
March 24	27
March 28	33 (Maundy Thurs)
March 31	41 (Easter)
April 7	27



Financial reports for the past three months are in the process of being taken care of and likely will be available for printing in the very next newsletter . . . or the one after that.

PENTECOST OFFERING

Just a few short Sundays from now, we will be celebrating Pentecost (May 19), which means that we will be gathering our Pentecost offering. This offering, as it says on the PCUSA website, unites us in a “church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.”

These young people, who are the church today and the church to come, as well as at-risk children benefit in many ways from our gifts. Since 1980, Youth Triennium has been held, using funds from the Pentecost offering. Of the funds that we gather, up to 40% can stay in the local congregation to support programs that benefit young people. The other 60% supports efforts of the Presbyterian Mission Agency for youth and at-risk children. We hope you will give to this offering as you can. Many thanks!

Change for Change

Our quarters for this quarter (as well as our nickels and dimes and pennies!) will be given to an organization called Fostering Love Kits of Columbia County. You can find out much more information about them on their website, but this will give you a start.

Often when children are moved into foster care, it seems to the child that everything is happening at a very fast pace. The child, of course, has little to say about any of it, including what toys or clothing might go with him or her. Things are stuffed rapidly into a bag and the child is off with people he or she likely does not know. In an effort to make this a bit more child-friendly, kits are put together with age-appropriate items and given to the child. Our coins will be used to help in purchasing some of these things. If you check their website

(put fosteringlovekitsofcolumbia.com in your search engine), you will see items that go into these kits. And we are in the process of arranging for a speaker to come on a Sunday to tell us more about this.



Red Apple Receipts

Remember to save your receipts from Market Fresh (Red Apple) and deposit them in the jar on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Our church receives 1% of all sales from the receipts.

Meeting Schedules

DEACONS

The next meeting of our Deacons will be on **May 7 at 10:30 a.m.** in person at the church.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee will meet next on **May 7 at 1:00** in person at the church.



Session's next meeting will be on Wednesday, **May 8, at 6:15 p.m. on Zoom.**



Plymouth's first-ever Craft Fair and Mission Market was held on April 13th, and all reports are that it was: a huge success!

And it was very much fun. Those who came walked out with wonderful things in their hands. Many thanks to all who made the event the huge success that it was – those who worked (and worked) to set it up and handle it, and all who came and made purchases. Our Mission Fund benefitted in the amount of \$677. Several vendors said they would be back if possible, and vendors who weren't there this year have expressed interest in coming to the next one

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

May 5, 2024	Communion Set-up: Gina Harrington Communion Servers: Marilyn Brinster, Gina Harrington, Doris Perry Greeters/Ushers: Ken and Zelda Anderson Lay Leader: Pat Berger Coffee Hour: Sharon Fraser
May 12, 2024	Greeters/Ushers: Jon Dickson, IdaMae Larsen Lay Leader: Gina Harrington Coffee Hour: Linda Liefeld and Fellowship Committee
May 19, 2024	Greeters/Ushers: Linda and Roger Liefeld Lay Leader: Bill Eagle Coffee Hour: Helen Purkerson
May 26, 2024	Greeters: Kathleen Dinwiddie, Jill Turner Lay Leader: Doris Perry Coffee Hour: Anita Kjos



May 7	Jennifer Daly
May 11	Karen Roldan
May 16	Doris Perry
May 27	Sharon Fraser
May 28	Linda Gaskill

The deadline for the June newsletter is **May 22**. Please send info to Pastor Pat Berger at pfb1202@yahoo.com, call her (503.648.3445), or give it to her.

Fred Meyer Rewards

Please consider signing up for Fred Meyer Community Rewards. Select Plymouth Presbyterian Church as your charitable organization; a reward check is sent to PPC each quarter. It does not cost you anything nor take away any of your rewards. It is Fred Meyer's way of giving back to the community.

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				<i>National Day of Prayer</i>	<i>May Friendship Day</i>	
5 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10:30 Avamere 12:30	6	7 Deacon meeting 10:30, at church Worship/Nurture 1:30, at church	8 Session meeting 6:15, on Zoom	9 <i>Ascension of the Lord Day</i>	10	11
12 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 10:30 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> Worship 10:30	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> Worship 10:30	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

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