

# Plymouth Presbyterian Church



2024

Dear Friends,

I've been driving in the fog lately. I am reminded of the year between college and seminary; I worked as a landscaper in Oakland, CA. Weekends, I would drive across the Coastal Range of mountains and drop into the San Joaquin valley heading to Fresno. As the season neared Thanksgiving time, the temperature would drop, and, if conditions were just right, Tule Fog would form. Tule Fog is the densest fog I know of. Bone chilling frozen fog! It would blanket the San Joaquin Valley from Sacramento to Bakersfield with gray, so dense that on country roads passengers in a car would get out and walk the roadway in order to help the driver stay between the lines of the road. For months, Tule Fog never lifted. The worst time was the daytime because everything was shrouded in gray, nothing distinct. That is fog!

In an article by Dave Odom entitled "Leading through the fog", he asks, "How can we best navigate the dense mist that surrounds us?" Frankly, I'm glad it's being addressed; we have been driving in the fog. The way forward is not clear. What is being highlighted by Odom and others?

- Practice regular, meaningful traditions. Gather for worship and learning experiences. Mark the seasons of congregational life (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost). These are like lines and signposts along the foggy road. Confession and Communion are the refreshment points for a long journey. Hold to the meaningful traditions, let go of the less-than-meaningful traditions (Halloween decorations for the sanctuary, communion wafers from a previous century, introducing/embarrassing visitors by calling out their names to those gathered for worship).
- Hold on to family and friends. They have traveled with us this far, and have been with us in best of times and worst of times. They have taken us in when we least deserved it. They have held on, even when we pushed them away. Hold on to them. Invest, spend time with them. (For the obnoxious family member/friend: graciously let them go. Your time and energy are precious. Don't waste it. Besides, they, like a vampire, may want to suck the life out of you!)
- Listen to those inside your circle and outside. You never know where insights will emerge. It may be simple: "turn headlights off, it'll reduce the glare", "stick your head out the window to see", from a stranger "let me lead you through this fog." Wisdom is wisdom no matter the source.
- Trust God in all things. The way through may be foggy for us. Feeling lost from time to time is normal. God has traveled the darkest vale; God will comfort and guide us through this stretch. And we...we will learn. We will learn what Jesus has said to us, "For, lo, I am with you to the end." (Matthew 28:20) And "Greater things will you do..." (John 14:2).

In the grip of grace,

Pastor Peter

Pastor Peter J. Blank

# NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

**November 3 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9 and Psalm 119: 1-8; Hebrews 9: 11-14; Mark 12: 28-34

**November 10 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

I Kings 17: 8-16 and Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 10: 17-31

**November 17 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 53: 4-12 and Psalm 9: 1 9-16; Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 12: 38-44

**November 24 Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

2 Samuel 23: 1-7 and Psalm 93; Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37



**ATTENDANCE**

September 15 24  
 September 22 28  
 September 29 27  
 October 6 26



- November 3 Rachel Connor
- November 3 Darla Knytych
- November 4 Sarah Roth
- November 7 Gretchen Daly
- November 10 Jill Turner
- November 22 Bonnie Childs
- November 24 Mark Dinwiddie
- November 26 Linda Easterling



**AUGUST OPERATING BUDGET  
 Income and Expense Report**

	August 2024	YTD 2024
Total Income	\$12,049.00	\$66,847.00
Total Expenses	\$ 8,996.00	\$79,692.00
Net Operating	\$(3,052.00)	\$(5,669.00)

**SEPTEMBER OPERATING BUDGET  
 Income and Expense Report**

	SEPTEMBER 2024	YTD 2024
Total income	\$6,201.00	\$73,048.00
Total expenses	\$7,251.00	\$79,692.00
Net operating	\$(1,050.00)	\$(6,644.00)

## DEDICATION SUNDAY

Stewardship concludes with Dedication Sunday on November 3. On this day, we return our pledge cards and, together, dedicate them to the work of Plymouth Church. If you are unable to attend on this Sunday, you can mail your pledge card to the church office, attention of Carol Jones, our Financial Secretary. Many thanks to Carol for her dedication in receiving our 2025 pledge cards and carefully recording our giving all year long!



The deadline for the December newsletter is **November 20**. If you have articles you would like to see in the newsletter, please send them to [pfbb1202@yahoo.com](mailto:pfbb1202@yahoo.com), or phone her, or give her articles on Sundays, or send them to her home: 459 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Hillsboro, 97124. **All articles received after deadline will be posted in the next month's newsletter.**

### FROM CAROL JONES:

Dear letter, go upon your way, over mountain, plain or sea.  
God bless all who speed your flight to where I wish you to be.  
And bless all those beneath the roof where I would bid you rest;  
But bless even more the one to whom this letter is addressed.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**Worship Committee** will meet at the church on Tuesday, November 5, at 1:00 p.m.

### DEACONS

The next meeting of the Deacons will be held on **Thursday, November 7, at 10:30, in person, at the church.** Hope to see all Deacons there!

### SESSION

Session's next meeting will be on Wednesday, **November 13, at 5:30 p.m., on Zoom.** Please remember our new meeting time: **5:30 p.m.**

### From Deacon Linda Gaskill

I have been appointed a Grand Deputy in International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. I will be attending throughout Oregon, so will not be consistent in worship attendance, but will continue my duties as a Deacon. Our congregation includes some wonderful former rainbow girls – do you know who they are? Rainbow is sponsored by Masonic bodies, and is open to all girls, emphasizing faith, love, service to others, patriotism and other positive character attributes. My work in Rainbow is in thankful faith to our Triune God. Blessings. Linda Gaskill

### SAVE THIS DATE!

Plymouth Christmas Party and Potluck is scheduled for Friday, December 13. Lots of yummy food, games and carol singing. Please plan to attend, and put it on your calendar NOW!!

## WARM SPRINGS NEWS

Soon, all of the water that you have brought to go to Warm Springs will be on its way! Linda Gaskill (thanks, Linda!) has arranged transportation for it. (And: if you might like a little adventure, you could give her your name in case she needs just a bit more room!)

Work on the manse is in very early stages; at least and at last, it has begun. A group from Rose City Park recently spent a few days up there, helping to get the interior down to studs. When you are ready for a day or a weekend or a few days up there, let us know and we will help to make arrangements.

Another exciting thing that happened is: on October 20, they hosted and were led in worship by Pastor Debbie Garber and her congregation from Springwater – Estacada. There was not worship at the Springwater Church that day – all coming to Warm Springs! Keep your eyes on the Omnibus newsletter for an article about their adventure that day.

## GO PAPERLESS!

If you currently receive paper copies of the PPC newsletter, consider going paperless. All you need is a computer. The PPC newsletter will be emailed to you monthly. It is also available on our website at <https://plychurch.org>. The website also has up to 2 years' worth of prior months. The advantages to this are: faster delivery, adjustable print size, it's environmentally friendly, and a cost saving to the church for stamps, paper, and labor in preparation. If this is a good option for you, contact Gina Harrington and let her know you want to go paperless.

## AMANI CENTER IN ST. HELENS

This quarter, our quarters (and pennies, nickels and dimes) will be going to the Amani Child Abuse Assessment Center for Saint Helens. According to its website (please check it out), the Amani Center provides children and families with support and education as they are in the child abuse investigation process. This may include forensic interviews, medical services and access to other necessary resources.

For children who have been abused, or may have been, they provide trauma-informed care and non-invasive medical exams. The judicial arm reviews cases, guides investigations, determines if court action is appropriate, and prepares cases for trial. They send for law enforcement when that is deemed necessary. They contact DHS when abuse allegations are raised, and use their help when children may be in danger. They work with schools to make sure that children are safe and that they are connected with necessary resources.

They sponsor weekly Bingo games, bunco fundraisers, breakfast and brunch with Santa are coming up, and community events to help in funding their services. See the website!

Donations of cash, medical supplies, school supplies and new toys are always welcome. Also, if you would like to donate some of your time to the Amani Center, they would be happy to talk with you about how that might work. There is a "Wish List" on the website, if you would like to see items that are particularly helpful – everything from drinking water to mattresses!

Plymouth Presbyterian Church  
Annual Bazaar  
Saturday, November 23, 9AM-3PM

- \* Hand Made Arts & Crafts
- \* Home Baked Goods
- \* Holiday Décor
- \* Gifts & Gift Baskets
- \* And much more!

FREE COFFEE

Bring a friend... shop and share coffee  
and a treat!



The labyrinth at Christ Episcopal Church, where our Ladies Lunch Group ate their lunches and did their walking recently



# Sunday Volunteer Schedule

<b>November 3, 2024</b>	<b>Communion Set-up:</b> Gina Harrington, Pat Berger <b>Communion Servers:</b> Gina Harrington, Zelda Anderson (+1) <b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Karen Roldan <b>Lay Leader:</b> Pat Berger <b>Coffee hour:</b> Gina Harrington
<b>November 10, 2024</b>	<b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Marilyn Brinster <b>Lay Leader:</b> Mark Dinwiddie <b>Coffee hour:</b> Kathleen and Mark Dinwiddie
<b>November 17, 2024</b>	<b>Greeters/Ushers:</b> Kathleen Dinwiddie and Jill Turner <b>Lay Leader:</b> Gina Harrington <b>Coffee hour:</b> Jill Turner
<b>November 24, 2024</b>	<b>Greeters:</b> Ken and Zelda Anderson <b>Lay Leader:</b> Bill Eagle <b>Coffee hour:</b> Anita Kjos

## NEWS FROM MAKINDU

Hello Friends,

This World Food Day, we celebrate the success of our Relief Food Distributions.

This summer, Winnie and I had the profound opportunity to attend a relief food distribution for a rural Guardian Group, an experience that would forever reshape my understanding of gratitude and need. As our vehicle jolted along a dusty, rutted road, approximately 20 kilometers off the Nairobi-Mombasa Highway, the landscape around us transformed into an expanse of parched earth and scattered scrub. Eventually, we arrived at a shaded clearing where about two dozen villagers had gathered, their rickety bicycles parked nearby, a testament to their resilience and determination.

A large delivery truck stood prominently in the clearing, brimming with 90 kg bags of rice and beans - an invaluable lifeline for these rural families who live in a region where the earth yields little. The excitement and anticipation in the air were palpable as each family was allowed to scoop half a bag of each food type. It was heartwarming to witness the joy and relief on their faces, knowing this food would sustain them for the coming weeks, providing one warm, nourishing meal each day.

As the distribution concluded, the guardians began the arduous task of balancing their hefty bags atop their bicycles. With the weight proving cumbersome, many required stabilizing assistance to gain momentum, the sight both poignant and humbling. Each wobbly journey home symbolized the fragility of their circumstances, yet also their unwavering spirit.

With crops struggling due to harsh conditions over recent years, this distribution was a crucial lifeline. The nourishment from the relief efforts, combined with the chicken eggs and goat milk they manage to raise at home, has allowed most children to thrive in school and maintain good health.

Please join us in supporting these families by continuing your donations to the Makindu Children's Program. Your contributions are vital to keeping the children fed and fostering hope in their community.

We are truly grateful for your support,

*Diana Richardson*

Diana Richardson, Executive Director

# November 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>
Worship 10:30 Pledge Dedication Sunday  Avamere 12:30		Worship Committee, 1:00, at the church		Deacon's Meeting 10:30, at the church		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Worship 10:30			Session meeting <b>5:30</b> , on Zoom			
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Worship 10:30			Newsletter Deadline	Basket Day 9:00-3:00		BAZAAR!! 9:00-3:00
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Worship 10:30						

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2615 SYKES ROAD  
ST. HELENS, OR 97051

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**