

Plymouth Presbyterian Church



2024

Dear friends, here comes Christmas! You know what that means -- intergenerational mixing. Did you know each generation has a name? Keeping up with generational nicknames is like trying to learn a new language—there's always more to memorize! First, we had the **Greatest Generation**, who survived the Great Depression and World War II. Then came the **Baby Boomers**, thriving in post-war optimism and building suburban neighborhoods. **Gen X** followed, the latchkey kids who mastered independence. **Millennials (Gen Y)** entered the scene with smartphones in hand and a craving for meaningful work, while **Gen Z** brought us TikTok and a level of digital fluency that leaves the rest of us googling "how to use Google." Finally, **Gen Alpha**, born entirely in the 21st century, thinks landline phones are ancient relics.

This diversity makes church ministry a real adventure. How do you build community and make disciples when some folks remember ration stamps while others have never touched a paper map? Unlike corporations, churches don't have marketing teams to tailor messages to different demographics. Pastors have the challenge of crafting sermons and programs that speak to seniors, middle-aged parents, college students, and children—all at once.

Thankfully, scripture hands us a roadmap. Psalm 145:4 says, "*One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*" God designed faith to be passed down, and Titus 2:1-8 provides a model for intergenerational discipleship, calling older believers to mentor the young. This isn't just practical; it's central to who we are as the church.

Of course, intergenerational ministry isn't without its bumps. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* reminds us that community is essential for our spiritual growth—but it's also messy. Those in positions of influence, like Boomers and the Greatest Generation, are called to practice radical hospitality (Romans 12:13). This isn't just about letting the kids pick the worship songs. It means truly valuing their voices, even when their ideas stretch us. (Yes, that includes tolerating phrases like "let's vibe on that," and "No worries!")

Younger generations, on the other hand, can take a page from Proverbs 4:1: "*Listen, my kids, to a parent's instruction.*" Older members of the church have stories of faith and sacrifice that are worth hearing—especially over coffee they didn't have to brew themselves.

In a world where loneliness is called an epidemic, the church has an opportunity to bridge generational gaps. Through shared worship and ministry, elders can pour wisdom and encouragement into young people (Proverbs 22:6), while the energy of younger generations can inspire and invigorate their elders (Joel 2:28). Plus, who doesn't love seeing a teenager teach a senior how to send their first emoji? (Wait – what's an emoji? Will sending it take 1 stamp or 2?)

Ephesians 4:16 reminds us that the church thrives when "*each part is working properly.*" When we embrace the joy and mess of intergenerational ministry, we show the world what God's kingdom looks like: diverse, united, and brimming with love. Together, we reflect the beauty of the body of Christ.

Merry Christmas to you generations!

In the grip of Grace this Christmas,

Pastor Peter

Pastor Peter J. Blank (aging Baby Boomer)

DECEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

December 1 First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 and Psalm 25: 1-10; I Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3: 1-4 and Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3: 14-20 and Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18

December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5: 2-5a and Luke 1: 46b-55 or Psalm 80: 1-7; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)

December 29 First Sunday of Christmas

I Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 and Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52



ATTENDANCE

October 13 30
October 20 23
October 27 29
November 3 31
November 10 27



December 2 Pat Berger
December 9 Pat Brown
December 10 Gina Harrington
December 13 Bill Eagle
December 27 Ken Anderson
December 31 Kathleen Dinwiddie

Sharon Fraser is on vacation; we will have major updates next month.

This just in from the traveler: • Plymouth will soon have access to the Presbyterian Foundation Online Giving program – more information soon; • 2025 draft budget will be presented at the December Session meeting, final 2025 budget will be presented to Session at their January, 2025, meeting; • third quarter Fred Meyer Rewards received in October from 13 families were \$29.72.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Worship Committee will meet at the church on Tuesday, December 3, at 1:00 p.m.

DEACONS

The next meeting of the Deacons will be held on **Thursday, December 5, at 10:30, in person, at the church.** Hope to see all Deacons there!

SESSION

Session's next meeting will be on Wednesday, **December 11, at 5:30 p.m., on Zoom.** Please remember our new meeting time: **5:30 p.m.**

AND . . .

We have lots of items for our totes for **Boxing Day**—thank you all very much! If you are still interested in donating, please consider a cash donation to offset previous purchases or to help with last minute needs. If you have any questions, please contact Adrienne.

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. 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. Our newsletter is also available on our website at <https://plychurch.org>. Our website also has up to two years' worth of prior issues of our newsletter.



SAVE THIS DATE!

Plymouth Christmas Party and Potluck is scheduled for Friday, December 13. Lots of yummy food, games and carol singing. It is always fun to see what everyone brings – plan to bring a hot dish, a salad, or dessert. Please plan to attend, and put it on your calendar NOW!! Questions: ask Linda Liefeld.



The deadline for the January newsletter is **December 20.** If you have articles you would like to see in the newsletter, please send them to Pat Berger at pfbb1202@yahoo.com, or phone her, or give her articles on Sundays, or send them to her home: 459 NE 3rd Ave, Hillsboro, 97124. **Articles received after the deadline will be posted in the next month's newsletter.**

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This month, we will be gathering the Christmas Joy Offering, one of four major offerings of the Presbyterian Church. This one has been a part of the PCUSA since the early 1930s. The offerings received are divided evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The institutions benefitting from the offering provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

In 2022 (most recent year for figures), \$1.1 million of gifts were given to 223 retired pastors and other church workers to enable them to stay in their homes, assisted living settings, or long-term care facilities. In addition, 621 Emergency Assistance Grants helped people facing economic hardship.

One retired pastor who was interviewed told about how she had entered ordained ministry later in life. When it came time for her to retire, she was not going to have enough in retirement pay to be able to live at a Presbyterian-sponsored retirement facility near her. She was reluctant to contact the church for help; she didn't feel that she had had enough years in ministry to merit it. Another pastor convinced her to at least ask the question – and she received a grant paying a portion of her entrance fee to the facility; a later gift helps her to manage the monthly fees.

One student, a member of the Navajo tribe, has been able to attend the Menaul School in New Mexico, getting a much better education than she would have on her reservation. She intends to continue her education, to become an attorney and help others like herself. She feels that the gifts from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Menaul School to hire teachers who are especially qualified to work with that student population.

Many thanks for your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering – they are being well spent! Check the PCUSA website to read other stories like the ones above.



FROM CAROL JONES

Ann Landers wrote: Think about this for a moment. You have a plain bar of iron that is worth about \$5.

Made into a horseshoe, it's worth about \$11.00.

Made into screwdrivers, it's worth about \$15.00.

Made into needles, it's worth about \$3,500.00.

The same is true of another kind of material – you! Your value is determined by what you decide to make of yourself



Bazaar!!

We had a very successful Bazaar again this year. It is always a fun time. Thanks to everyone who helped set up, assisted our shoppers and helped with final clean up. Over the weekend, including a few sales after the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, we brought in a total of \$2,829.60

As always some items remain for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Please remember to check them out.





Sunday Volunteer Schedule

December 1, 2024	Communion Set-up: Adrienne Schilling Communion Servers: Kathleen Dinwiddie, Linda Liefeld, Adrienne Schilling Greeter/Usher: Doris Perry Lay Leader: Pat Berger Coffee hour: Anita Kjos
December 8, 2024	Greeters/Ushers: Linda and Roger Liefeld Lay Leader: Adrienne Schilling Coffee hour: Ken and Zelda Anderson
December 15, 2024	Greeters/Ushers: Helen Purkerson, Jon Dickson Lay Leader: Mark Dinwiddie Coffee hour: Kathleen Dinwiddie, Helen Purkerson
December 22, 2024	Greeters: Ken and Zelda Anderson Lay Leader: Marilyn Brinster Coffee hour: Linda Liefeld
December 29, 2024	Greeters: Karen Roldan, Mark Earhardt Lay Leader: Bill Eagle Coffee hour:

NEWS FROM MAKINDU

The asphalt lanes of the Mombasa highway wind over 300 parched miles from Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, to the port of Mombasa on the Indian Ocean. About a third of the way from Nairobi is a truck stop called Makindu, whose residents eke out a living tilling the red soil and serving the trucks that roar by endlessly. It is a poor place, with few reliable resources. The poverty is further complicated by a lack of food and jobs, with many unable to access education or medical care.

In 1996, Oregon paramedic Winnie Barron volunteered as a medic in Makindu and met the hungry, sick, and dying orphans the community could not find ways to support. Winnie and local teacher Dianah Nzomo planned the Center, and with the help of Oregon friends, they founded Makindu Children's Program in 1998.

Initially, many Makindu residents questioned Winnie's intentions, wondering if hers would be another ill-conceived project that would raise expectations and then disappear. The problems facing the orphans were greater than a lack of food or education. "What are you going to do with the children after you have educated them?" they asked. Without prospects for work, "they will become educated thieves." Today, over 500 children, from infants to 18-year-olds, are served at the Centre at an annual cost of about \$660 per child. A dollar goes a very long way in Kenya, and your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 10:30 Avamere 12:30	2	3 Worship Committee, 1:00, at the church	4	5 Deacon meeting, at the church, 10:30	6	7
8 Worship 10:30	9	10	11 Session meeting 5:30, on Zoom	12	13 Christmas Party and Potluck, 5:00, at the church	14
15 Worship 10:30	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:30	23	24 Christmas Eve worship and fellowship, 3:00	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:30	30	31				

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