

# Plymouth Presbyterian Church



**October, 2025**

Dear friends,

We live in a fearful time. Hardly a week passes without news of more lives lost to gun violence—children in classrooms, worshippers in sanctuaries, neighbors at concerts, friends in shopping malls. These stories of sudden, senseless loss leave us shaken and afraid.

Fear is nothing new. The Bible names it more than 500 times. Today we encounter it not only in shootings, but also in hurricanes and wildfires, in the demonization of immigrants, and in the growing divisions within our communities. I know fear—wondering about the future of the church I love, and fearing for those who may be disproportionately harmed.

Dr. Susan Murray, writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, observes that fear behaves like a virus. It spreads quickly -- through conversations, media, even silence. Once present, it is hard to remove, and if left unchecked, it does terrible harm, especially when mixed with issues of race, privilege, and language.

**Living with Fear,  
Living in Hope**

The question is: how do we resist fear?

New Testament scholar Richard Hays describes a practice he calls *scriptural imagination*—a way of seeing the world through the lenses of God’s Word. This discipline grounds us, reshapes us, and gives us resilience in the face of fear. Scripture not only interprets our reality; it also transforms how we live within it.

The prophet Isaiah knew something of wilderness living, a place of loss, danger, and uncertainty much like our own. Yet even there he proclaimed hope: “*Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear!’*” (Isaiah 35:3–4). Isaiah reminds us that even in desolation, God promises new life: “*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.*”

Christians—all of us—are called to name our fears honestly and yet live in ways that nurture courage, justice, and connection. When we gather, we can still speak truth, walk with one another, and ground change in the deeper story of faith—from sin to redemption, from fear to love, from cross to resurrection.

This is not easy work. We carry our personal fears while walking alongside others, all while placing our lives within God’s greater promise of love and justice. The call is clear: take responsibility, see ourselves connected to one another, share resources with those harmed the most, and live into our vocations “for such a time as this.”

As traumatic as this season has been, I have heard pastors say after leading prayer, standing with neighbors for justice, or proclaiming hope in worship, “*I don’t know where this is going, but I feel energized. This is what God called me to do.*”

Fear spreads like a virus. And Scripture gives us the antidote in hope. By living into our callings and standing together, we can move from fear toward healing, courage, and joy.

Join me “living with fear, yet living in hope” this Stewardship and Fall season.

*Pastor Peter*

## OCTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS

*October 5: 17th Sunday after Pentecost*

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4 and Psalm 37: 1-9; II Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10

*October 12: 18th Sunday after Pentecost*

II Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111; II Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19

*October 19: 19th Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 32: 22-3 and Psalm 121; II Timothy 3: 14-4:5; Luke 18 1-8

*October 26: 20th Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 14: 7-10, 19-22 and Psalm 84 1-7; II Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### Deacons

The next Deacons meeting will be Friday, October 3, 1:30 p.m., at the church

### Session

The next Session meeting will be Wednesday, October 8, at 1:00 p.m.  
IN PERSON, at the church.

### Worship & Nurture

Our next meeting will be on October 7 at 1:00 p.m., at the church.



October 4 – Mark Earhart  
October 14 – Carol Jones  
October 25 – Larry Cole



## ATTENDANCE

July 27 -- 28  
August 3 -- 29  
August 10 -- 23  
August 17 -- 26  
August 24 -- 21  
August 31 -- 26  
September 7-- 29

## PLYMOUTH AT WARM SPRINGS!

On World Communion Sunday, October 5, Plymouth will be worshipping at Warm Springs Presbyterian Church. Several other churches in the Presbytery have done this; Warm Springs is without a pastor, and this helps them quite a bit. Pastor Peter will be leading worship there; Pastor Pat will lead here at Plymouth for those not able to go. There is a sign-up sheet so people can make carpooling arrangements. We have given them much water, and several monetary gifts; now we can meet them and see their location. In addition: we will be among the first to see their renovated manse, to which we contributed! Mark your calendar and stay tuned.

## FROM YOUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMISSION

The St. Helens sewer project: the sewer upgrade project has been approved by St. Helens City Council. This may mean some disruption in our parking lot; we will keep you apprised as we receive information. Check with Mark Dinwiddie if you have questions.

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### October 5

**Communion set-up:** Jill Turner

**Servers:**

**Greeters, ushers:**

**Lay leader:**

**Coffee hour:** Anita Kjos

### October 12

**Greeter, usher:** Pat Brown

**Lay leader:** Linda Gaskill

**Coffee hour:** Fellowship Committee

### October 19

**Greeter, usher:** Linda Gaskill

**Lay Leader:** Gina Harrington

**Coffee Hour:** Jill Turner

### October 26

**Greeters, ushers:** Kathleen, Mark Dinwiddie

**Lay leader:**

**Coffee hour:** Kathleen, Mark Dinwiddie

## FROM YOUR DEACONS

On September 28, the Deacons provided refreshments after worship. Donations were encouraged, and after the Deacons add \$100 to those donations, all will go to the Warm Springs mission. Thank you for your gifts!

## BAZAAR IS APPROACHING

We hope you are thinking about the upcoming bazaar, to be held Saturday, November 22. (That is less than two months away!).

Get your craft creations started. Think gift ideas as well as holiday décor. Calling all bakers in the church! For the luncheon of homemade soups, we will need rolls, corn bread and your delicious pies. And baked goods always sell. In preparation, Basket Day will be held earlier in November – date to be decided.

A sign-up sheet will be out soon for kitchen help and Plymouth bakers. Why? We have heard it said that Presbyterians are the best cooks around! Let's prove them right! Most who come to our bazaar expect a good lunch – and then they shop to their heart's desire.

Kitchen questions can be directed to Karen or Sharon; other questions to Adrienne. Looking forward to another successful bazaar!

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

If you shop at Red Apple market, save your receipts and put them in the jar in the Fellowship Hall. PPC will receive financial rewards for your receipts.

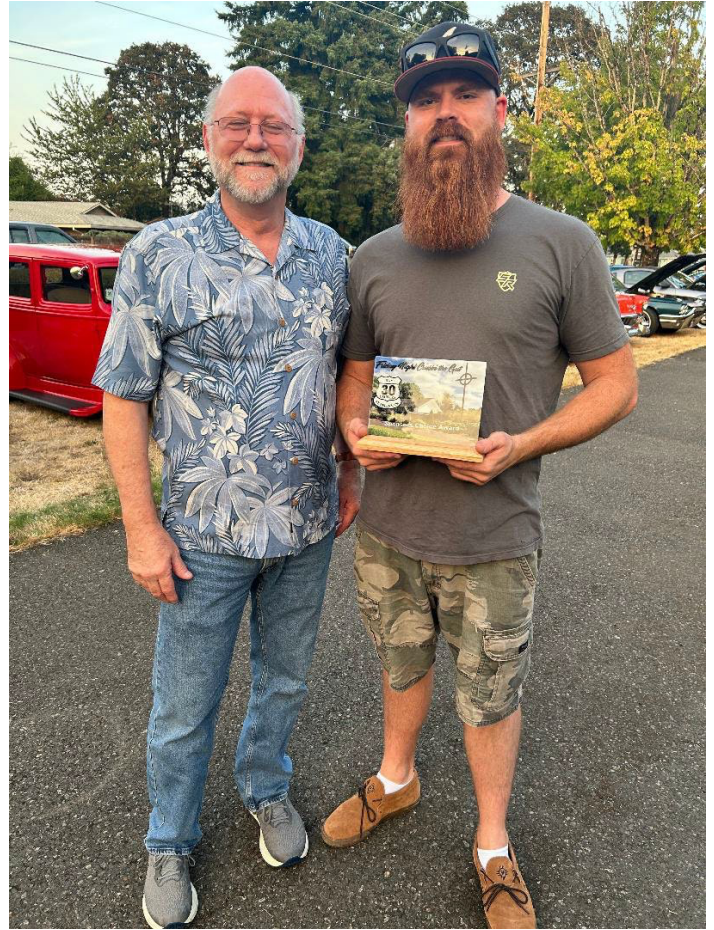


The deadline for the November newsletter is **October 20**. Please send articles to [pfbb1202@yahoo.com](mailto:pfbb1202@yahoo.com), phone Pat, give her articles on Sundays, or mail them to her. Thank you!



## FRIDAY NIGHT CRUISE-IN EVENT

The Friday night cruise-in with the Hwy 30 Cruisers car club was well attended on Sept. 12th. This was the make-up day for Aug. 15th, when it was canceled due to rain. It was a lovely evening with approximately 45 cars in attendance. The fellowship committee members served nachos with lots of nacho cheese leftovers! We had containers filled to give away on Sunday at worship, with a donation basket available. Pastor Peter, as the host representative, picked a car, the Subaru owned by Mike (pictured with Pastor). Thank you, Linda Liefeld and everyone who helped make this a successful event – hopefully we can do it again next year. Kathleen won a prize from the free raffle. The lineup of cars was a good one with the sun in the back also.



Roger Liefeld's car



## TIME TO STUDY!!

An Advent book study is being prepared for us! *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*, by Tracy Daub, will give us some new ways to think about the birth of the Christ child. Do you remember the birth story in Mark's Gospel? Likely not – because there isn't one! And yet, our author says, the story is throughout this Gospel.

We hope you will come to study with us. One advantage? This Advent study will be finished before the really busy days of Advent begin; we will meet Wednesday mornings beginning October 22 through November 15. Bring your lunch; we will meet from 11:30 until 1:00 – except on the day that Session meets: we will finish at 12:45, so Session members can take a deep breath before their meeting begins!

The class will be led alternately by Pastor Peter and by Pastor Pat – both of whom hope to see as many of you there as possible. The book is available through the PCUSA store and from Amazon.



## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Submitted by Elder Sharon Fraser

### FINANCE

Read all about Plymouth's income and expense data ... in next month's newsletter! Due to the timing of deposits and transfers from savings, the "bottom-line" through August was too distorted to be meaningful. Next month, a year-to-date report through September will be published.

### STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Season kicks-off on October 12 this year with Stewardship Sundays continuing through October 26. Our theme will be **"Look at what God is doing!"** where we will ask ourselves: "What do you see? and What was or is yet to be?" as we hear special stewardship messages. Pastor Peter will preach a sermon series on being good stewards of creation and of our resources. Stewardship Season will conclude on November 2, when we turn in our pledge cards on Dedication Sunday.

## FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS

You can contribute to Plymouth Presbyterian Church by signing up for Fred Meyer Community Rewards. For every dollar you spend at Fred Meyer, they will donate a percentage to a charity of your choice. It does not take away any of your benefits or rewards. Go to <https://www.fredmerer.com/i/community/community-rewards>. Or sign into your digital account, search for Plymouth Presbyterian Church or NPO #AC499, enter the name or NPO#, select the organization from the list, and click SAVE.

## MAKINDU

### Ensuring Children Born at Home get Birth Certificates

Many young siblings of the children in our program are born at home. The basic application process of acquiring a birth certificate can be daunting for the desperately poor mothers. Families receive assistance in navigating this process so that the child has an identity number and access to social services – limited as those are.

The kids and families within the Program are given many talks and tools to help guide them to becoming more confident and self-empowered, more capable of advocacy, and more independent and self-sufficient. We want them to understand their rights, feel deserving of them, and learn how to fight for those rights. *(from the website)*



# OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 Deacons meeting, 1:30, at the church	4
5 Worship, 10:00 at Warm Springs, 10:30 at Plymouth Avamere, 12:30	6	7 Worship and Nurture meeting, 1:00, at the church	8 Session meeting, 1:00 p.m., in person, at the church	9	10	11
12 Worship, 10:30	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship, 10:30	20	21	22 Bible study 11:30 – 1:00 at the church	23	24	25
26 Worship, 10:30	27	28	29 Bible study 11:30 – 1:00	30	31	

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