

# Plymouth Presbyterian Church



November, 2025

Dear Friends,

## **What's Next for Plymouth as we move into November? Small Steps, Big Heart**

Let's be honest — we're not the bustling church we used to be. We're smaller now, and yes, most of us have a few more birthdays behind us. But that doesn't mean the story's over. It means that God's inviting us to write a new chapter — one filled with connection, kindness, and hope.

*So what's next for Plymouth?* It comes down to three simple ideas: Invite. Welcome. Befriend.

**Invite** -- Growth starts with a simple invitation. Not everyone is ready to come to worship on a Sunday morning - that's okay. Some people might first say yes to a movie night, pancake breakfast, or gardening day. Others might love a "Stories of St. Helens" afternoon or a craft-and-coffee get-together.

Think about your own circle of friendship — a neighbor you wave to, a friend from your walking group, or someone you see at the grocery store. Most folks are just waiting for a reason to say yes. You could simply say, "Hey, our church is doing something fun this weekend. Want to come along?" Invitations work best when they're personal and warm.

**Welcome** -- When someone shows up, let's make sure they feel at home. A smile, a handshake, and a simple "Hi, I'm [Your Name], I'm glad you came today!" go a long way.

You can ask, "What brought you to town?" or "Have you lived in St. Helens long?" and then just listen. Everyone has a story. Walking with someone to coffee hour or helping them find a seat might seem small, but it tells them, "You belong here."

**Befriend** -- Inviting and welcoming open the door — friendship builds the home. Be ready to hear great stories and to learn something new. People will surprise you — with humor, with heart, and with courage.

Friendship takes time, but it's worth it. Send a short note, text, or invite them for coffee later in the week. These small gestures can make a big difference. As we listen, laugh, and share life together, we'll see how God keeps weaving new relationships right into the fabric of our church.

## **Will This Change the Plymouth Family?**

Yes — and that's a good thing! When we open our hearts wider, the Plymouth family doesn't shrink — it stretches. We'll see new faces, hear new ideas, and feel fresh energy in the room. We might sing new songs, share new laughter, and find joy in unexpected places.

The love that's carried Plymouth through the years is still here — it's just growing in new directions.

## **Our Next Step**

Here's a simple challenge: this month, invite one person, welcome one guest, and befriend one newcomer. That's how change begins — one friendly step at a time. God's still doing something beautiful here at Plymouth. Let's keep walking into it, together.

In the grip of Grace,

*Pastor Peter*

## NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

*November 2: 21st Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 1: 10-18 and Psalm 32: 1-7;  
II Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12;  
Luke 19: 1-10

*November 9: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost*

Job 19: 23-27a and Psalm 17: 1-9;  
II Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17;  
Luke 20: 27-38

*November 16: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

Malachi 4: 1-2a and Psalm 98;

II Timothy 3: 14-4:5; Luke 18 1-8

*November 23: Christ the King Sunday*

Jeremiah 23: 1-6 and Luke 1: 68-79  
or Psalm 46; Colossians 1: 11-20;  
Luke 23: 33-43

*November 30: 1st Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2: 1-5 and Psalm 122;  
Romans 13: 11-14;  
Matthew 24: 36-44



## ATTENDANCE

September 14 -- 26

September 21 -- 22

September 28 -- 22

October 5 -- 28 (19

at PPC, 9 at

WSPC)(19 at WSPC,

including PPC)

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### Deacons

The next Deacons meeting will be Thursday, November 6, 10:30 a.m., in the church library.

### Session

The next Session meeting will be Wednesday, November 12, at 1:00 p.m., at the church

### Worship and Nurture

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 4, 1:00 p.m., at the church

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

November 3 – Rachel Connor

November 3 – Darla Knytych

November 4 – Sarah Roth

November 7 – Gretchen Daly

November 7 – Addison Wells

November 10 – Jill Turner

November 22 – Bonnie Childs

November 24 – Mark Dinwiddie

November 26 – Linda Easterling

## DID YOU KNOW?

Plymouth's website (plychurch.org) has printed copies and audio of each week's sermon. Gina posts the audio the same week of the Sunday sermon. Check it out!

## SUNDAY HELPERS SCHEDULE

### November 2

**Communion set-up:** Adrienne Schilling

**Servers:** Zelda Anderson, Gina Harrington, Adrienne Schilling

**Greeters, ushers:** Ken, Zelda Anderson

**Lay leader:** Pat Berger

**Coffee hour:** Sharon Fraser, Karen Roldan

### November 9

**Greeter, usher:** Pat Brown

**Lay leader:** Linda Gaskill

**Coffee hour:** Anita Kjos

### November 16

**Greeter, ushers:** Kathleen, Mark Dinwiddie

**Lay Leader:** Gina Harrington

**Coffee Hour:** Kathleen, Mark Dinwiddie

### November 23

**Greeter, usher:** Linda Gaskill

**Lay leader:** Adrienne Schilling

**Coffee hour:** Jill Turner

### November 30

**Greeter, usher:** Marilyn Brinster

**Lay leader:** Sharon Fraser

**Coffee hour:** Ken, Zelda Anderson

## BAZAAR IS APPROACHING

We hope you are thinking about the upcoming bazaar, to be held Saturday, November 22. (That is less than a month 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 November 13, beginning at 9:00.

Set up for the bazaar will be Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> -- beginning at 9:00 a.m. Bring your donations on Sunday, Nov. 16, or on the 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, after 9:00. All helpers are welcome – just stop by. A sign-up sheet will be out soon for kitchen help and Plymouth bakers. 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!

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS

The St. Helens sewer project is moving forward. The city will be compensating PPC \$10,600 for the easement and building activity. Current plans are to use this money for exterior projects for the church.

## 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 December newsletter is **November 20**. Please send articles to [pfb1202@yahoo.com](mailto:pfb1202@yahoo.com), phone Pat, give her articles on Sundays, or mail them to her. Thank you!

### FRED MEYER REWARDS

Thank you, Plymouth Presbyterian Church Members, for setting up your Fred Meyer account to benefit Plymouth Presbyterian Church with every purchase. Thirteen households earned us \$30.30 in Q3 for the church. If you would like help setting up your FM account, contact Kathleen for assistance. This does not take away any of your rewards.

### FELLOWSHIP EVENT MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The PPC Christmas party and potluck is scheduled for Friday, December 12, at 4:30. Put on your holiday sweater and bring a dish to share and enjoy good food, fun games, and carol singing!



## LEARNING POD AT PLYMOUTH

Hello, neighbors! I'm Dr. Jesse Watson, Executive Director of Sheridan AllPrep Academy (SHAPA). I grew up right here in St. Helens (back then as Jesse Eisenschmidt), so this town will always feel like home. When I set out to bring new educational opportunities to St. Helens, I asked if anyone had space for one of our school's learning pods. Thanks to the wonderful welcome from Plymouth Presbyterian Church, I now get to combine two things I love: my hometown and my work.

Sheridan AllPrep Academy is a free, statewide public charter school that blends online learning with small, in-person "pods" where students can connect and grow together. We have pods in Sheridan, McMinnville, and Scappoose, and our newest pod meets right here at **Plymouth Presbyterian Church** in St. Helens. SHAPA serves about 400 Oregon students and has been around since 2009.

Three days a week, our K-5 students get extra academic help, work on projects, and simply enjoy being with friends and their teacher. Families love the flexibility of online schooling combined with a friendly, supportive place to belong, and we value the close relationships we build with homeschool families who want to stay deeply involved in their children's education.

We're so grateful to Plymouth Presbyterian for opening its doors and sharing space with us—it truly makes this pod feel like part of the community. If you'd like to learn more or know a family curious about a flexible schooling option, please visit [www.sheridanallprep.org](http://www.sheridanallprep.org) or email me at [jwatson@sheridanallprep.org](mailto:jwatson@sheridanallprep.org).

Thank you for welcoming SHAPA to St. Helens. We're excited to keep building friendships and learning together!

—Dr. Jesse Watson

## FINANCE NEWS

Submitted by: Sharon Fraser, Finance Elder

### SEPTEMBER INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION	SEP 2025	YTD 2025
Total Income	\$12,311	\$63,262
Total Expenses	\$5,445	\$61,467
Net Operating Budget	\$6,866	\$1,794

The Net Operating Budget shows a surplus of \$6,866 for the month of September and a surplus of \$1,794 for YTD 2025. All the income timing issues that occurred in August were resolved this month. Therefore, the YTD 2025 reflects a more accurate picture of Plymouth's financial status with a modest YTD budget surplus!

### PLYMOUTH RESERVES

As of September 30, Plymouth Church had \$53,269 in checking and savings; plus \$128,089 in certificates of deposit and a money market. These continue to be strong reserves.

### DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES

#### Carry forward as of 09/30/25

Boxing Day	\$ 323.15
Change for Change	\$ 294.77
(Will go to Dolly Parton Imagination Library)	
Deacons Fund	\$ 643.44
(\$100 sent to Warm Springs Presbyterian Church)	
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 200.00
Makindu	\$ 100.00
Memorial Funds	\$ 3,361.31
(\$2,589.50 used for new tables and sign boards)	
Mission Market	\$ 1,441.47
(\$500 transferred to Boxing Day)	
Alice Brewer Bequeathment	\$63,283.09

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Stewardship Season kicked off on October 12 with our theme of **"Look at what God is doing!"** We have heard special messages and testimonies. We have been asked to ponder questions such as **"What do I see?"** and **"What is yet to be?"** at Plymouth Church. Pastor Peter's sermon series has enlightened us to be good stewards of creation and of our resources. Stewardship Season will conclude on November 2 with Dedication Sunday. Remember to bring your pledge card with you so we can dedicate our pledges together on this special Sunday!

### CONGRATS, PRES. OF THE CASCADES!!

Two of our national staff people for the PCUSA attended our Presbytery meeting last weekend (held in person at Westminster-Salem). They led a workshop, and made presentations in the general meeting. One of their announcements was that our Presbytery, Presbytery of the Cascades, is **Number One** of all the Presbyteries in the number of churches participating in the Four Special Offerings of the church! What a fun achievement! Each church participating in all four offerings was then given a certificate acknowledging their gifts. (Yes, Plymouth received one!)

We were also told that, beginning in 2026, the four offerings will be reorganized into three offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing (Lent), World Communion Offering (Fall) and Christmas Joy (Advent). All of the same groups will be receiving the funds; those who had received from the Pentecost Offering will be added to the ones who had received from Peace and Global Witness.

## MAKINDU

### EDUCATION: OPENING DOORS TO THE FUTURE

Goal: Make sure children are enrolled and attending school.

The website tells us that, “Behind every school uniform is a story of perseverance – and it’s your generosity that helps turn those stories. Into bright futures.

“Thanks to your partnership, children had the chance to walk into a classroom wearing their new uniforms with pride. From early learners to vocational students, school fees, uniforms and supplies were fully covered. The new national curriculum is in full swing, and MCC [Makindu Children’s Center] children are adjusting beautifully with the guidance of their teachers and mentors.

“Outcome: High school retention and academic performance continue to improve – testimony to the steady support and commitment of MCC and its partners.”

(from Makindu newsletter)



## CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Do you remember a few **QUARTERS** (!) ago, when we offered the opportunity to get all of those nickels and dimes and quarters out of pockets and purses, and a (usually) local cause would benefit? A different cause would be chosen each ( . . . ) quarter. As per usual, Plymouth people have responded wonderfully, and our offerings per quarter have been mostly in the \$200s, and sometimes in the \$300s.

Notice in our Financial Reports above that this quarter’s offerings went to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and they were just short of \$300! Hurray for us!

We hope you will continue to enjoy the sound of coins hitting the offering plates every Sunday, and enjoy giving to groups that are very much in need, and very appreciative. And: Thank you!

### “POWER OF PRAYER” VIRTUAL GATHERING

**Power of Prayer** is a quarterly Zoom gathering from **Seeds of Multiculturalism**, offering a rich, multicultural experience of prayer. Participants include PCEA Kenyans (INUKA— Swahili for “arise”), Latinx and First Nation members, and partnering Cascades congregations. Space is limited—register soon! **Seeds of Multiculturalism**, a validated ministry of the PC(USA) 1001 New Worshiping Communities, is led by **Elder Linda Jackson-Shaw** and **Rev. Dr. Don Shaw**. (from Pres. Newsletter)

# NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship, 10:30  Avamere, 12:30	3	4 Worship and Nurture meeting, 1:00, at the church	5 Bible study, 11:30, in the library	6 Deacons meeting, 10:30, in the library	7	8
9 Worship, 10:30	10	11	12 Bible study, 11:30  Session, 1:00 p.m., at the church	13 9:00 – Basket Day	14	15
16 Worship, 10:30	17	18	19 9:00 – 4:00 set-up for bazaar	20 9:00 – 4:00 set-up for bazaar	21 9:00 – 4:00 set-up for bazaar	22 BAZAAR!! 9:00 – 3:00
23 Worship, 10:30  <hr/> 30  Worship, 10:30	24	25	26	27	28	29

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2615 SYKES ROAD

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**FIRST CLASS**  
**MAIL**