

Plymouth Presbyterian
Church



February, 2026

Dear Friends,

In the January edition of The Presbyterian Outlook Magazine (January 13, 2026), I found this article on “The Church That Gave Itself Away”. In it, I read about a small coastal congregation who choose risk over fear. As a result, they saw resurrection. Here is a summary:

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Yachats Community Presbyterian Church—a small, aging congregation in a coastal Oregon town—chose not to focus on its own survival but instead gave itself away, beginning with a risky \$5,000 relief fund for displaced workers. Offering no-strings-attached cash, listening to stories, and responding to real needs, the church quickly became a lifeline for workers, families, and small businesses, eventually distributing nearly \$400,000 and helping ensure that no local business closed during the pandemic. As generosity multiplied, donations poured in, ministries expanded, and the church experienced new life—growing in attendance, mission, and hope. What began as an act of faith rippled outward, leading to ongoing community ministries, global connections, and inspiring broader generosity across the Presbytery, revealing that the church came alive not by saving itself, but by giving itself away.

Please read the full article to catch the miracle that happened there. A couple of questions jumped out at me as I read their story:

“If we’re not here for this, then why are we here at all?”

“If not now, when?”

We face a challenging year ahead (and this only February)! There will be challenges facing us as a congregation that will cause us to make a choice: risk or fear. What will we do?

We are coming to grips with “why we are here” and “if not now, when?”

See you in the trenches,

Pastor Peter Blank

FEBRUARY LECTERNARY READINGS

February 1: 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Micah 6: 1-8 and Psalm 15;
I Corinthians 1: 18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

February 8: 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12) and Psalm 112: 1-9 (10); I Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16);
Matthew 5: 13-20

February 15: Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 24: 12-18 and Psalm 2 or 99;
II Peter 1: 16-21; Matthew 17: 1-9

February 22: 1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2: 15-1, 3:1-7 and Psalm 32;
Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11



MEETING SCHEDULE

Deacons

The next Deacons meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 10:30 a.m., at the church in Hutchinson Hall in the library.

Worship and Nurture

Worship and Nurture committee will meet next on Tuesday, February 6, at 1:00, in the church library.

Session

The next Session meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m., in the church library.



February 3 – Nancy Hutchinson
February 9 -- Ron Stites
February 13 – Robert Harmen

ATTENDANCE

December 14 -- 28
December 21- 28
December 24 -- 27
December 28--28
January 4 – 28

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Fellowship and Outreach Plans 2026:

February 8 – anniversary celebration for the Coles (they are bringing food)
March 13 – one-day women's retreat
April 5 – Easter brunch
May 10 – ice cream sundaes – Mother's Day
May 24 – Pentecost
June 21 – root beer floats – Father's Day
July 19 – Volunteer Appreciation Sunday
August 14 – possible date for Hwy 30 Cruise-In
September 12 – church picnic (local park)
October 11 – Pastor Appreciation Sunday
November – Bazaar
December 11 – Christmas party and potluck

SUNDAY HELPERS SCHEDULE

February 1

Communion set-up: Adrienne Schilling

Servers: Zelda Anderson, Marilyn

Brinster Gina Harrington

Greeters, ushers: Ken, Zelda Anderson

Lay leader: Pat Berger

Coffee hour: Anita Kjos

February 8

Greeter, usher: Linda, Roger Liefeld

Lay leader: Marilyn Brinster

Coffee hour: Ken, Zelda Anderson (Cole's anniversary; they will provide food)

February 15

Greeter, usher: Jill Turner

Lay Leader: Gina Harrington

Coffee Hour: Linda, Roger Liefeld

February 22

Greeters, ushers: Pat Berger, Linda Gaskill

Lay leader: Linda Gaskill

Coffee hour: Gina Harrington

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!

ANNUAL REPORT ADD-ON

My report for the Annual Report went into hiding; here is what was found:

Pastoral Associate Annual Report

I am grateful and it is an honor to be serving as Parish Associate at Plymouth – thank you all, very much!

This is a position in the Presbyterian Church that means whatever a particular congregation encourages it to mean. Since you all asked me to serve in this position, I have been privileged to edit the church newsletter and create the announcement page for the Sunday bulletin each week. (And please let me know what you would like to see in either of those that I might not have figured out . . .) I have been asked to lead worship in Pastor Peter's absence (thank you!), and have moderated a Session meeting when he was unable to be there. I get to assist in worship on communion Sundays. After participating in worship at Avamere, I (usually accompanied by a Deacon) get to take communion to Leanne Fischer, which is a joy. I get to visit with (sometimes in person, sometimes on the phone) members who cannot be with us in worship – also a joy. This year, I had the privilege of presiding at the memorial service for Cliff Earls at the Warm Springs church. Participating in leadership of Bible studies is my kind of fun; also I have been able to provide Advent and Lenten study materials for us. Attending Presbytery meetings on our behalf is great (and officially, I don't count, so we can still have two ruling elders attend!).

Thank you very much for being the welcoming, caring people that you are, and please let me know how/where/when I can be helpful – I'll do my best.

Blessings!

Pastor Patricia Berger, Parish Associate



The deadline for the March newsletter is February 20. Please send articles to pfbb1202@yahoo.com, phone Pat, give her articles on Sundays, or mail them to her. Thank you!

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Year End, 2025

This summary describes the financial and operational status of Plymouth Church, highlighting its income, expenses, and overall fiscal health.

December Income & Expenses

As outlined in the table below, the status at year-end of the Net Operating Budget was a surplus of \$9,715. The 2025 approved budget included \$12,900 of income transferred from savings to checking. At year-end, very little of that savings income was needed. Therefore, we were able to transfer \$10,000 back to the savings account in December. This indicates good financial health for Plymouth Church. Regular income (pledges, unpledged, loose) in 2025 was 109% of the 2025 budget expectations. Regular expenses (operations, personnel, programs) in 2025 were 100% of the 2025 budget expectations.

DESCRIPTION	DEC 2025	YTD 2025
Total Income	\$15,718	\$95,509
Total Expenses	\$10,728	\$85,794
Net Operating Budget		
Surplus!	\$4,990	\$9,715

Plymouth Investments & Savings

As of December 31, Plymouth Church had \$56,188 in checking and savings accounts combined; plus \$128,512 in our investment accounts. These continue to be strong reserves.

Carry-Forward Balances as of 12/31/25

These funds are dedicated to specific purposes. Distributions require authorization with the remaining balances being carried forward at month- and year-end.

Boxing Day	\$ 348.15
Change for Change	\$ 239.71
Deacons Fund	\$ 443.44
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 250.00
Makindu Children's Program (\$550 was distributed in December)	\$ 0.00
Memorial Funds	\$ 3,513.32
Mission Market	\$ 1,441.47
Alice Brewer Bequeathment	\$ 63,289.09
Total = \$ 72,149	

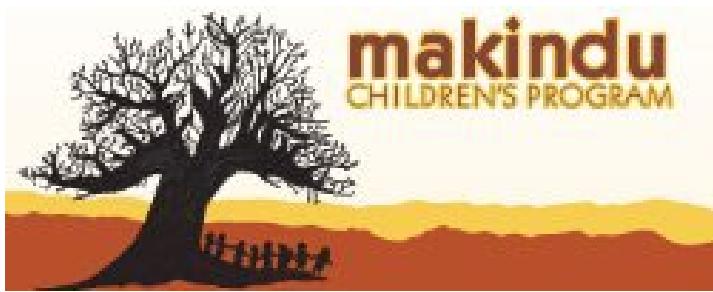
Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Fraser, Ruling Elder
Finance/Stewardship Commission

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.

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.



2025 PSS & EDUCATION SUMMARY

The deep impact of our psycho-social support and community bonding has created a resilient, safe and loving environment for the children. The Children's Center has provided consistent access to vital counseling, crisis intervention, and mental health care, helping children process complex emotions and develop coping mechanisms. Quarterly workshops bring together caregivers, community leaders, and officials to share expertise on critical topics like relationship building, behavioral skills, HIV/AIDS management, and hygiene and sanitation which fosters collective, community-wide problem-solving capacity. PSS in 2025 was crucial for many:

- *17 children received abuse and trauma counseling
- *515 children benefitted from visits from MCC social workers & CHVs
- *19 children received recorded birth certificates
- *363 children attended quarterly PSS sessions which include age-appropriate behavior and communication workshops, check-ins with MCC staff, and a big community meal.

In EDUCATION news, the past year has again been one of academic success and opportunity for the children in our program. We are proud of the achievements in our education program, which continues to be the most powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty.

We have ensured that 542 children in our care have uninterrupted access to education, from primary school through secondary school. MCP's support removes all financial barriers—covering tuition, uniforms, textbooks, and supplies—allowing every child to pursue their studies with dedication and enthusiasm. This stable academic environment helps them focus entirely on learning and growing.

Education is more than just grades; it's building self-confidence, leadership skills, and a hopeful vision for their futures.



FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship, 10:30 Avamere, 12:30	2	3 Worship and Nurture meeting, 1:00, in the library	4 Deacons meeting, 10:30, in the library	5	6	7
8 Worship, 10:30	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship, 10:30	16	17 Session meeting, 1:30, in the library	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22 Worship, 10:30	23	24	25	26	27	28

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ST. HELENS, OR 97051

FIRST CLASS MAIL