

Plymouth Presbyterian  
Church



March, 2026

Dear Friends,

Lent is a season when the road becomes quieter. The crowds thin. The journey becomes more intentional. We walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem—not with triumphal certainty, but with trust. In many ways, this season may feel familiar to us. There was a time when this church was fuller. The sanctuary rang with choir voices. The programs were many. The energy was different. And now, things are quieter.

This can bring many feelings—gratitude for what has been, grief for what has changed, and sometimes questions about what lies ahead. Lent reminds us that quieter does not mean abandoned. It reminds us that God often does God’s deepest work in seasons that feel smaller, slower, and more fragile. When Jesus walked toward the cross, he did not look successful by the world’s standards. The crowds faded. Even his closest friends struggled to understand. Yet that road—the quiet road—was the very place where God’s greatest work was unfolding.

The promise of Scripture speaks directly to seasons like this: “Even to your old age I am Yahweh, even when you turn gray, I will carry you. I have made you, and I will bear you; I will carry you and will save you.” (Isaiah 46:4) God has not forgotten this church. God has not forgotten you.

Your faithfulness over the years—the prayers you have prayed, the love you have shared, the doors you have kept open—these things matter more than we can see. The world teaches us to value size, strength, and constant growth. But God values faithfulness. And faithfulness is something this congregation has lived.

Every time you show up, you bear witness.

Every time you pray, you participate in God’s work

Every time you encourage one another, you embody Christ’s love.

This is holy work.

Lent reminds us that endings and beginnings often exist side by side. What may feel like loss is not the end of God’s story. God is still present. God is still working. God is still bringing life in ways we may not yet see.

Our calling in this season is not to recreate the past, nor to carry burdens that were never ours to carry. Our calling is to be faithful—to trust that the God who has led us this far will continue to lead us forward. The same God who was faithful to this church decades ago is faithful now.

The promise of Lent is this: the road that leads through the cross also leads to resurrection. We walk it together. We do not walk it alone. God is not finished with us yet.

Join us for the Lent Study Series that is meeting every Wednesday during Lent at 3:00 pm in the Church Library. We are studying *Meeting Jesus on the Road*, by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr, Westminster John Knox Press, 2026.

In the Grip of Grace,

*Pastor Peter*

## MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS

March 1: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4a and Psalm 121;  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or  
Matthew 17: 1-9

March 8: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17: 1-7 and Psalm 95;  
Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

March 15: 4th Sunday in Lent

I Samuel 16: 1-13 and Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41

March 22: 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 and Psalm 130;  
Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

March 29: Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a and Psalm 31: 9-16;  
Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14—  
27: 66 or Matthew 27: 11-54

## 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 Wednesday, February 4,  
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.

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

March 8 – Nancy Federici  
March 17 – Patricia Ayerza  
March 23 – Adrienne Schilling



## ATTENDANCE

January 11 -- 26

January 18 -- 26

January 25 -- 25

February 1--27

February 8 – 30

February 15--30

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Just a reminder to those who signed up for the Women's Retreat on March 13. It promises to be a fun filled day, from 10 to 5 in the Fellowship Hall. The morning will be filled with visiting, crafting and snacking. Lunch will be provided, along with more snacking. There will be a \$7.50 fee for each lady to participate in a watercolor painting session, which includes supplies. And more snacking!

## EASTER BRUNCH

Please plan to stay after church on April 5 for the Annual Easter Brunch. There will be a sign-up sheet for food in coming weeks.

## SUNDAY HELPERS SCHEDULE

### March 1

**Communion set-up:** Adrienne Schilling

**Servers:** Zelda Anderson, Gina Harrington, plus one

**Greeter, usher:** Karen Roldan

**Lay leader:** Pat Berger

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

### March 8

**Greeter, usher:** Pat Berger

**Lay leader:** Gina Harrington

**Coffee hour:** Ken and Zelda Anderson, Helen Purkerson

### March 15

**Greeter, usher:** Pat Brown

**Lay Leader:**

**Coffee Hour:** Linda Gaskill, Helen Purkerson

### March 22

**Greeters, ushers:**

**Lay leader:**

**Coffee hour:** Jill Turner, Anita Kjos, Helen Purkerson

### March 29

**Greeters, ushers:**

**Lay leader:**

**Coffee hour:**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Plymouth's website ([plychurch.org](http://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!



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

## COMMUNITY MEALS NEEDS

**Community Meals needs your help.** Supplies for the food bank are slim.

Butter shower for Community meals: Please bring butter and put it in the PPC refrigerator. Kathleen will count it and put it in the Community Meals Freezer.

Shelf stable items for Community Meals. Community Meals uses these items each month for scheduled meals:

- 16 pounds of spaghetti,
- canned green beans,
- canned tomato sauce.

## IF YOU HAD LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AT THE DINWIDDIE'S HOME ON ASH WEDNESDAY . . .



## FINANCE NEWS: JANUARY 2026

Submitted by: Sharon Fraser, Finance/Stewardship Elder

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

### January Income & Expenses

As outlined in the table below, the status of the Net Operating Budget was a slight deficit of \$2,224 at month-end. This deficit is mostly due to January regular income not being posted to the checking account until February. This income will be included in February regular income.

DESCRIPTION	JAN 2026	YTD 2026
Total Income	\$5,304	\$5,304
Total Expenses	\$7,527	\$7,527
Net Operating Budget (deficit)	(\$2,224)	(\$2,224)

### Plymouth Savings & Investments

As of January 31, Plymouth Church had \$52,393 in checking and savings accounts combined; plus \$128,887 in our investment accounts. These continue to be strong reserves.

During 2025, Plymouth Church earned \$4,572 in dividends through certificates of deposit. An additional \$227 was earned in rewards, interest, and a SAIF dividend (Oregon Workers' Comp).

### Carry-Forward Balances as of 01/31/26

These funds are dedicated to specific purposes, but are included in the above savings and investments. Distributions require authorization with balances being carried forward each month.

Boxing Day	\$ 348.15
Change for Change	\$ 82.05
Deacons Fund	\$ 593.44
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 250.00
Makindu Children's Program	\$ 0.00
Memorial Funds	\$ 3,538.32
Mission Market	\$ 1,441.47
Alice Brewer Bequeathment	\$ 63,289.09

**Total Dedicated Funds = \$ 69,543**

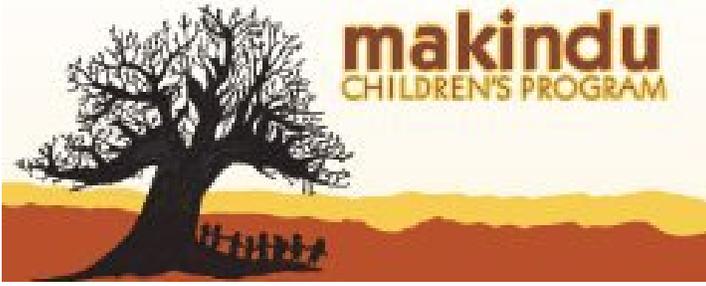
Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Fraser, Ruling Elder  
Finance/Stewardship Commission

### 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 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

IAMM (International Assist Medical Mission) of Springfield, IL partnered with MCC and the Makindu Sikh Hospital again this year to provide a volunteer medical clinic to four of our far rural regions surrounding Makindu. Over four days, 20 clinicians and medical professionals examined 2,000 people with a myriad of health concerns who otherwise have no access to medical care. These clinics have strengthened MCC's relationship with the rural communities as well as the large, local, vibrant Sikh community. The clinics provide outstanding public relations opportunity and help build MCC's reputation and standing in the region. Most significantly, the clinics improve the health of the rural families and communities. We look forward to continuing this partnership by providing another clinic in 2026 and improving the general health of MCC's neighboring individuals and communities.

MCP partnered with Shriners Hospital in Chicago to straighten the spine of one of our teens. Our sweet girl with severe scoliosis is currently in halo-traction at Shriner's Hospital in Chicago, IL. While she had a couple of bumps in the road with feeding tube complications and pneumonia, she is now doing well with the ongoing spinal care. She got her teeth cleaned for the first time ever with no cavities to fill – an amazing testament to the dental health of a no-sugar diet. She went into halo traction the end of November. Modern halo traction allows for some mobility, such as sitting and walking, for more comfort during daily activity, and is a much better alternative to past halos that required confinement to bed. She is able to walk daily to an activity room within the hospital for spinal exercises and enrichment activities. Her mother stays with her in the same hospital room, ensuring safety and peace of mind for both of them. She will be in traction until February, when spinal rods are due to be inserted.



# MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship, 10:30 Avamere, 12:30 <b>Second Lent</b>	2	3 Worship and Nurture meeting, 1:00, in the library	4 Lent study, 3:00, in the library	5 Deacons meeting, 10:30, in the library	6	7
8 Worship, 10:30 <b>Third Lent</b>	9	10	11 Lent study, 3:00, in the library	12	13 Womens' Retreat, 10:00 – 5:00, in the Fellowship Hall	14
15 Worship, 10:30 <b>Fourth Lent</b>	16	17 Session meeting, 1:30, in the library	18 Lent study, 3:00, in the library	19	20	21
22 Worship, 10:30 <b>Fifth Lent</b>	23	24	25 Lent study, 3:00, in the library	26	27	28
29 Worship, 10:30 <b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b>	30	31				

PLYMOUTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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