

# The Perspective

Volume 45

Number 4

## April 2022

**Lenten Sermon Series: *God Meets You Where You Are***

**April 3 | Communion**

*Like Those Who Dream*

Rev. Dr Matt Wooster Preaching

Psalm 126

**Holy Week**

**April 10 | Palm Sunday**

*Facing Limitations*

Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Psalm 31:9-16 and Luke 19:28-40

**April 14 | Maundy Thursday**

7:30 PM Service in the Sanctuary

**April 15 | Good Friday**

Service at St. Paul's 12-3PM

**April 17 | Easter Day**

7:30 am Outdoor Worship and 10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

*God's Redeeming Work*

Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

John 20:1-18

**April 24**

*Grounded in \_\_\_\_\_ Authority*

Rev. Matt Bauhof Preaching

Acts 5:27-32

Worship Sunday's at 10:30AM in the sanctuary and live-streaming at [Plymouthchurchucc.org](https://www.plymouthchurchucc.org)



***An Open & Affirming and Just Peace Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ***

**Our Mission** is to be a Christ-centered community led by the Holy Spirit that supports the spiritual journey of all who strive to boldly live out their faith in the world. We are committed to diversity, spiritual growth, and putting our faith into action locally and throughout the world.

**Plymouth Church Leadership 2022**

Council President	Mary Bright
Council Vice-President	Val McClelland
Secretary	Vicki Werneke
Treasurer	Juanita Faulx
Assistant Treasurer	Jennifer Gerard
Adult Faith & Life - Chair	Mendle Adams
Building & Grounds (B&G) - Chair	Russell Lamb
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Children & Youth (C&Y) - Chair	Carolyn Jillson
Evangelism & Growth (E&G) - Chair	Margaret Reuthinger
Giving - Chair	David Turner
Partnership & Service (P&S) - Chair	Robin Johnson
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Council Member @Large	Jan Wilkens
Council Member @Large	Richard Merte
Council Member @ Large	Sara Martin
Council Member @ Large	Robert Woolfrey

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# Pastor's Corner

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Dear Plymouth Church,

Holy Week, the days from Palm Sunday to Easter, reveal to us the very worst and the very best of human life. From the day Jesus enters Jerusalem, when the palms and shouts of Hosanna mingle with the threat of danger, Holy Week moves toward his arrest, torture, and crucifixion.



But the very worst is met by the very best:

Jesus meets wickedness with peace.

Jesus confronts lies with truth.

Jesus offers forgiveness to those who execute him.

And then, after Jesus has died in love, God raises Jesus from the tomb.

Holy Week is a simultaneous reckoning with both terror and the grace. And this dual-encounter should cause us to examine how our lives are balanced.

It is easy for our lives to become imbalanced. On one hand, there is the danger of becoming escapist: chasing pleasure in order to avoid dealing with pain. But there is also the danger of the opposite imbalance. There is a danger in what people have named “doom-scrolling,” which is a kind of endless attention to each new detail of bad news: dysfunction in politics, reactionary laws to stifle education, the destruction of war, and the devastations of climate change. While it is valuable to be attentive and informed, it is also valuable to balance our attention to wrong with a conscious attentiveness to God’s redemptive work. (What term is the opposite of doom-scrolling?)

Holy Week reminds us to pay attention to the places where good work is being bravely and creatively accomplished. Pay attention to where wickedness is met with peace, and lies are met with truth.

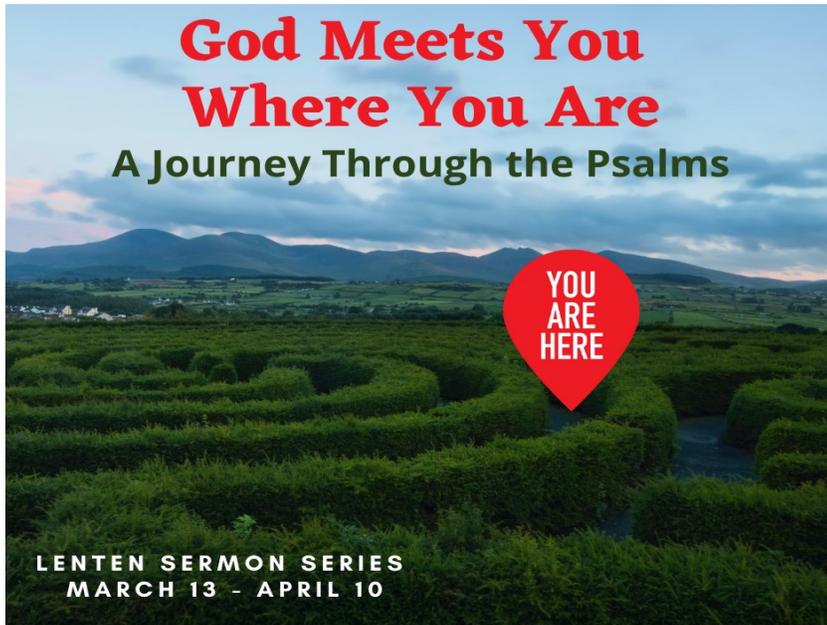
And remember that even when we cannot see it, by faith we trust in the redemption of God, who raises new life out of the tomb.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Wooster". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue rectangular background.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister

# Lent and Holy Week



**April 3**

*Like Those Who Dream*

Psalm 126

**April 10 | Palm Sunday**

*Facing Limitations*

Psalm 31:9-16 and Luke 19:28-40

**April 17 | Easter Sunday**

7:30 am Outdoor Worship

10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

*God's Redeeming Work*

John 20:1-18

## **Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

In the gospel according to Mark, we read that a darkness covered the land while Jesus was on the cross, from noon until 3:00, when Jesus breathed his last and died. On Good Friday, Plymouth Church joins an ecumenical group of neighboring Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy to worship from noon until 3:00, hosted annually by St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The worship service is divided into seven sections, lasting approximately 25 minutes each, focusing on one of the statements of Jesus, as recorded in the four gospels. Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster will preach on the sixth statement, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," between 2:05-2:30 pm. Rev. Matthew Bauhof will also serve as the service officiant between 1:40-2:30 pm.

Other preachers include:

Rev. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, Church of the Gesu

Rev. Percy Grant, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Rev. Ryan Wallace, Fairmount Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Kregg Burris, First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

Rev. Amanda Moseng, Church of the Saviour, United Methodist

Rev. Brandon Ashcraft, St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

# Lent and Holy Week

## A Walk With Jesus

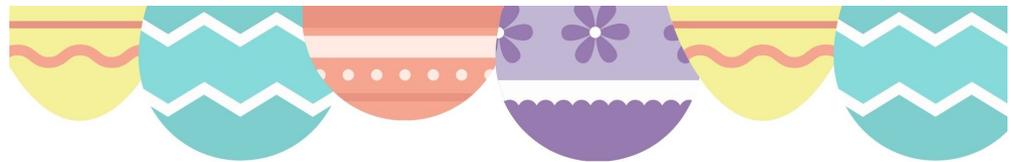
Contemporary Stations of the Cross during Holy Week

Between Palm Sunday and Easter, all are welcome to the sanctuary for a self-guided and interactive time of reflection on the ways in which the suffering of Jesus is embodied in the suffering of people in the world today. This practice is adapted from the traditional stations of the cross, which follows the path of Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane through his arrest and crucifixion. In this contemporary version, participants will read and reflect upon the Biblical stories of Holy Week, and pray for those, like Jesus, endure unjust suffering in the world today. Stations will be set up in the sanctuary and narthex, and participants may visit them in any order, for as little as a few minutes up to an hour. Further details and available times will be announced.

## Maundy Thursday Services

7:30 PM

Join us for a community meal on Maundy Thursday before the Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service at 7:30pm. Dinner will begin serving at 6:45pm in fellowship hall. Please sign-up at the clipboards or call the office to RSVP. Suggested donation is \$7 a person or \$20 per family.



PLYMOUTH CHURCH, UCC

## Junior Easter Egg Hunt

Children 10 and under are invited to meet in the Children's Garden at 10AM, April 17. To register, sign-up in the welcome area or contact Leslie at [lszalay@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:lszalay@plymouthchurchucc.org)



## Guided Meditation on Scripture

Rev. Matt Wooster leads a weekly meditation on passages of scripture on Wednesdays during Lent. Each gathering will last a half hour, and will include guided invitations to set your body and breathing at rest, followed by a guided encounter with a passage of scripture. These practices may be new to many people, and they will be offered with beginners in mind, without pressure or expectation, but simply invitation. The purpose of these practices is to be restful and nourishing.

Wednesdays through April 13.

11:00 – 11:30 am on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/93374023761>

5:30 – 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

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# HOLY WEEK

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

COMMUNITY MEAL AT 6:45PM

SERVICE AT 7:30PM

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH**

ST. PAUL'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

(12-3PM)

REV. MATT W. PREACHING

AROUND 2PM

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH**

OUTDOOR EASTER WORSHIP 7:30AM

JUNIOR EASTER EGG HUNT AT 10AM

EASTER WORSHIP AT 10:30AM

\*BRING FLOWERS TO DECORATE  
FLOWER CROSS

OUTDOOR EASTER

RECEPTION 11:30AM

# Music Ministry

## Organ Recital

On Saturday, April 23rd at 3:00pm in the sanctuary, organ scholar Sol Rizzato will be presenting the first of two recitals in fulfillment of a requirement for the Master of Music degree in Organ Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music. This program will feature works by J.S. Bach, Brahms, and Vierne, as well as works by American composer Dan Locklair and a portion of Sol's own transcription of Dvorak's Eighth Symphony. All are welcome to attend.



## Sunday Choir

There are two opportunities to sing in the Sunday Choir this month, **April 3** and **April 24**. On each of these Sundays we will gather in the sanctuary at 9:45 am for rehearsal and then sing for worship at 10:30 am. It is helpful, but not necessary to notify Jim Riggs [jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org) of your intention to sing. All ages and stages are welcome.

## Berta Rojas in Concert

**Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm**

This concert marks the in-person debut of Paraguayan guitarist, Berta Rojas. She has been praised as a “guitarist extraordinaire” by the Washington Post and as an “ambassador of the classical guitar” by *Classical Guitar Magazine*. A particular focus of her performances is on promoting the music of her native Paraguay, as well as Latin American music in general. Presented by the Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, tickets are needed for this concert and can be obtained online at [www.cleguitar.org](http://www.cleguitar.org) or at the door.



## Support for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>



### WAYS TO DONATE

- Use the above link to donate directly to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund.
- Look for the QR Code in the bulletin and scan to donate directly to UCC.
- A check payable to Plymouth Church: Mail to Plymouth Church or, drop in the offering plate. Note “Disaster Relief” or “Ukraine” on the memo line.
- Log into your Realm account, select “+enter online gift” and select “Disaster Relief” as the fund and write “Ukraine” in the memo line.

*Thank you for your generous support of Plymouth Church, the National UCC and victims of disaster all around the world!*



**SPORTS GEAR**

**GIVE & TAKE**

**Saturday April 9 DAY**

**GIVE | 9 AM TO NOON**  
**DROP OFF YOUR GENTLY WORN, CLEAN ITEMS**

**TAKE | 2 TO 5 PM**  
**FIND WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR PLAYERS**

**STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES COMMUNITY BUILDING**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**



### Lunch Club

**Wednesday, April 20**

**12:30PM**

April is National Fair Housing Month. We will be joined by Lisa Gold Stat from Shaker Height’s fair housing division to explain their work and educate us on how we can advocate for ourselves and others. UPDATE: We are back to an in-person lunch at 12:30pm and the presentation at 1pm. Please RSVP if coming to the lunch or show up at 1pm if only coming to the presentation.

RSVP to Rev. Matt Bauhof

[mbauhof@Plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:mbauhof@Plymouthchurchucc.org)



On the fourth Sunday of every month, the Cleveland Dinners gives you that safe space around the table, in both virtual and live settings. With their model, they aim for diverse groups of people to share a meal with facilitated dialogue on race and equity, helping bridge the gap that separates many of us. <https://www.clevelanddinners.org/>

## OFFERINGS FROM THE LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION

**Our SPIRE Center: School of Possibility, Inspiration, Reimagining and Exploration has launched.**

The Center is offering 5 opportunities for learning during the spring season. All learning opportunities of the Center's first spring season are free to all.

**1. Christian perspectives on war & peace:** Mondays, April 4 & 11 • 6:30 to 8 pm

Facilitator: The Rev. Steven Savides

**2. Ministry and Burn Out for LAY LEADERS AND PEOPLE:** Saturday, April 23 • 12 to 3 pm

Facilitators: The Rev. Dr. Tracey Dawson and Rev. Wendy Kidd

**3. Assessments and possibilities for your church's future:** May, 7 • 9:30 to 11 am

Facilitator: The Rev. Cean James

**4. Restructuring Church Governance:** Wednesday, May 11 • 6:30 to 8 pm

Facilitator: The Rev. Nayiri Karjian

**5. Re-discovering your congregation's Vision & Mission:** Wednesday, May 18 • 6:30 to 8 pm

Facilitator: Don Hill

More information and registration: <https://livingwaterone.org/spirecenter/>

**Our Spring Vitality Festival, ANXIETY IN THE CHURCH AND ITS POSSIBILITIES, is on Saturday, April 2 via zoom, 9 am – 12 pm.**

Our speaker is Dr. Erica Dollhofpt, the Director of the Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data at the United Church of Christ. Dr. Dollhopf earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from the PA State University and an M.A. in American Studies from Lehigh University. She has authored numerous publications on congregations and faith-based organizations and has vast knowledge and energy for church vitality as well as the anxiety we are all experiencing. **The event is free.**

More information and registration here: <https://livingwaterone.org/event-registrations/>

## Monday Night Bible Study

5:30-6:30PM

Led by Rev. Matt Wooster, Monday Bible Study will continue to meet on zoom during April focusing each week on scripture passages related to upcoming worship services. To register, contact Rev. Wooster, [mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org). These sessions do not require any preparation or commitment to attend every Monday, since each week's discussion will be self-contained.

## Fossil Fuel

Fossil Fuel meets every two weeks for coffee and discussions. Meetings are Wednesday's 8:30 - 9:30AM in room 102.

The next meetings will be:

April 13 & April 27

## Faith and Life Opportunity

**Living the Questions** is an open-minded curriculum alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring their own Christian faith. People who have used it love the way it creates space for in-depth discussion. Featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians, story tellers who use various progress theologies – liberation, process, experiential, existential, Feminist, Hispanic, Asian, and African to share their experience and questions. On *May 1<sup>st</sup>*, Faith and Life is starting a 7 week series, using the Living the Question curriculum, meeting on *Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30am in Room 102*. People are encouraged to join for the entire 7 weeks or drop in on weeks when they are able. Child care is available through the nursery while the class is meeting. Please consider joining us for this faith group as we explore together.

## Volunteer at the Cleveland Foodbank

Volunteers are invited to join Plymouth Church members at the Greater Cleveland Foodbank the third Wednesday of each month. The next gathering will be **April 20, 5-8pm**.

Contact Paul Qua at [pqua@driveclassic.com](mailto:pqua@driveclassic.com).



The graphic features a central image of the Plymouth Church building, a white steeple, and green trees. Above the image is the text 'Plymouth Church UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST'. To the left of the image are four small icons: a dove, a cross, a treble clef, and a musical note. Below the image is the text 'Plymouth Church UCC Podcast' and 'A PLACE TO LISTEN TO THE WEEKLY SERMONS AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH'. At the bottom, it says 'SUBSCRIBE TO "PLYMOUTH CHURCH UCC" ON YOUR MAJOR PODCAST PROVIDER.'

## Chancel Flowers

We are looking for an individual who might help coordinate the flowers you see at the front of the chancel area on certain Sundays. Coordinating includes monitoring the sign-up sheet, communicating with the office, ordering flowers when needed, and helping the minister distribute flowers after worship. If you are interested in helping out, please contact [office@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:office@plymouthchurchucc.org) for more information.

## Congregational News

### *Our sympathies go out to*

- David Turner, on the death of his cousin Drew Rinner, on March 13, 2022
- Suzanne Blaser, on the death her husband James Blaser, on March 2, 2022

### *Congratulations to*

- Organ Scholar, Sol Rizzato for winning the Immanuel Lutheran Organ Scholar Competition in Chicago.
- Marilyn Christian on the birth of their fourth great grandchild, a healthy boy, Alexander Ellis Lyzen, born 8lbs 3.2oz. Granddaughter Ashley and her husband Zack are all doing well.

## HCC Book Group

**Heights Christian Church Book Group** would like to invite members of Plymouth Church to our book discussions. We will meet the first Wednesday of the month (April 6, May 4 and June 1) at 1:00 pm in room 102. The following books have been selected: Death on the Nile by Agatha Christie for April, Brooklyn by Colm Tobin for May and Born A Crime by Trevor Noah for June. If you are interested please RSVP to HCC office at 216-561-5800

## Upcoming Plymouth ARE Programs

May 1, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 pm, Room 102

"Systemic Racism in Real Estate: Redlining Practices," presented by Dr. Faye Gary.

Dr. Gary will explain how redlining was used locally and nationally to create segregated communities by preventing people of color from buying homes in certain communities and neighborhoods.

May 8, 2022, Guest Preaching

Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice with the National United Church of Christ. Dr. Love will share with us the work of the UCC nationally, locally, and globally, on issues of racial justice. Dr. Love will be available for informal discussion during Fellowship Hour after worship service.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to  
Plymouth Church, *The Perspective*

**PLYMOUTH CHURCH, UCC**  
**2860 Coventry Road**  
**Shaker Heights, OH 44120-2200**  
**216-921-3510**



*Perspective Deadline*

**Monday, April 18**

**SEND TO:**

*Happy Birthday!*

To our Four Score Plus

Roma Blunt

Jim Chaney

Dick Pogue

