

February 2023

February 5

Children and Youth Sunday | Communion

Worship is led by the Children and Youth of Plymouth Church
Isaiah 58:1-9a

February 12

Open and Affirming Anniversary

Rocking the Boat | Pastor Dillon Shipman preaching
Mark 4:35-41

February 19

Transfiguration Sunday

We're Only Human | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
Matthew 17:1-9

February 22

Ash Wednesday Worship

Shared worship with Heights Christian Church
Noon and 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

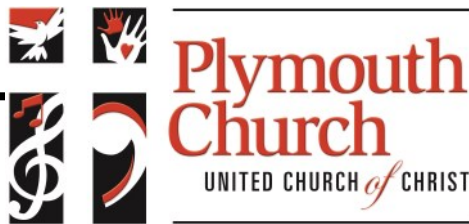
February 26

First Sunday in Lent

Lenten Sermon Series: God in the Wilderness, part 1

Jesus was Ready | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching
Matthew 4:1-11

Worship is at 10:30am in the Sanctuary and livestreaming at 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 2023

Council President	Val Arbie-McClelland
Council Vice-President	David Turner
Secretary	Andrew Cleminshaw
Treasurer	Jennifer Gerard
Assistant Treasurer	Peter Sweeney
Adult Faith & Life - Co-Chairs	Alissa Wible Brenda Grauer
Building & Grounds (B&G) - Chair	Russell Lamb
Caring - Chair	Dave Faulx
Children & Youth (C&Y) - Chair	Carolyn Jillson
Evangelism & Growth (E&G) - Chair	Margaret Reuthinger
Giving - Chair	Chris & Beth Karr
Partnership & Service (P&S) - Chair	J. Horner
Worship - Chair	Kendalle Cobb
Personnel Chair	Kenyon Mau
Foundation Chair	Mitch Sanborn
Council Youth Member @Large	Devan Bhatia
Council Member @Large	Jan Wilkens
Council Member @Large	Richard Merte
Council Member @ Large	Sara Martin
Council Member @ Large	Robert Woolfrey

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

Senior Minister

mwooster@plymouthchurchucc.org

James P. Riggs

Minister of Music & The Arts

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Pastor Dillon Shipman

Designated Associate Minister

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Leslie Szalay

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Temp. Communications Coordinator

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Linda Watson

Office Administrator

office@plymouthchurchucc.org

Rose Munn

Facilities Staff

Church Office

216-921-3510

Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

Let us now praise God for acts of beauty and bravery.

Thank you, God, for the nurse who spoke a kind word and took time to tell a joke before using the needle she carried, even though she was probably busy and had many more rooms and needles to go. And thank you for the couple who helped a family of refugees to settle in a new country with blankets and winter coats. And thank you for the neighbors who learned American Sign Language in order to communicate with a baby who was born to a couple on their street.

And thank you for the man who works in the check-out line and does his job with such infectious joy when the job could so easily be done without it; and for the people who clear the sidewalks of snow, or draw fun pictures with chalk when the sidewalks are dry.

Thank you for the artist who spent many hours honing her craft so that we could see a tree, or a tall building, or a human face in a way we never had before.

Thank you for blood donors, bus drivers, mail carriers and sanitation crews.

Thank you for teenagers who know more than you think it is possible to know about their favorite book, or sports team, or musical.

Thank you for drivers who volunteer to pick people up at 6:00 a.m., and for home cooks who deliver homemade soup to someone who is having chemotherapy, or who is grieving the loss of a beloved pet.

Thank you for friends who make up excuses to drop by for a visit with someone who is trying to get used to a smaller home, or being sober, or living alone.

Thank you for people who don't need you to explain yourself, or to look your best, or even to use proper language, but love you just as you are.

Thank you, God, for all of the beauty and bravery in the world.
This is all your doing, isn't it?

I'll see you in church.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



Welcome to Pastor Dillon Shipman

Dear Members and Friends of Plymouth Church,

It is with joy that we announce to you the call of Pastor Dillon Shipman as Designated Associate Minister of Plymouth Church, starting February 1, 2023! Dillon comes to us from Chicago, where he completed his Master of Divinity at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and preparation for ordination. Over the past decade, Dillon has served in church ministry at St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church in Glencoe, Illinois, and at Hope Ridge United Methodist Church in Concord, Ohio, with experience in pastoral care, intergenerational and youth ministry, and music ministry.



At Plymouth, Dillon will share in pastoral care to the congregation, worship leadership, confirmation and youth faith formation, among other ministry roles. He is currently pursuing licensed ministry in the United Church of Christ, on the way toward ordination, having recently discerned his call within the UCC rather than the Episcopal Church, in which he had previously been in discernment.

You may recall that when the position of Associate Minister became vacant, a search was initiated for an interim or designated minister. The distinction of those terms, in this setting, is that a designated minister may be considered at a later time for the settled ministry position, whereas an interim minister would serve only for a limited time until the church called a settled minister. The process for mutual discernment will lie in our future. For now, we are grateful for the opportunity to welcome Dillon to ministry at Plymouth Church, and confident that he will be a blessing to our community.

Please hold Dillon in prayer as he begins. You will have the opportunity to meet him on Sunday, February 5, when we celebrate Children and Youth Sunday. On February 12, Dillon will deliver his first sermon at Plymouth.

Yours in faith,

Matt Wooster
Senior Minister

Val Arbie-McClelland
Council President

David Turner
Council Vice-President

Music Ministry

From the Bench - Jim Riggs, 25 Years in Reflection

Part 3: 2011-2017

The summer of 2011 had an enormous impact on my musical career. I applied for a week of study with well-known composer, Alice Parker at her Singing Brook Farm in western Massachusetts. I was accepted along with five others. I stayed at the main farmhouse sleeping in the bedroom that Alice slept in as a child. Morning walks, seeing a bear, communal meals cooked by the students, hearing amazing stories, and learning were all part of the week. To be blunt, in many ways I had my butt musically kicked that week. It exposed my growing edges; yet it inspired me. A highlight was a community Sing led by Alice. For over an hour Alice led us in a cappella singing from the simplest tunes to rounds to 4-part harmony. I wanted to become a song leader. I wanted the Plymouth community to begin singing a cappella. I wanted us to struggle just as I did, but also to flourish feeling the chill of our voices blended into one.

The fall of 2011 saw a full offering of concerts by the Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, the Cleveland Chamber Music Society, Bluewater Chamber Orchestra, and Les Delices. Average attendance for the season between the four groups was 3,500-4,000 guests in our building. This led for the need of concert hosts to greet people as they entered the building, to offer directions to restrooms, and to guide folks to will call/tickets. A large group of volunteers managed by Kathy Smyth and Jan Wilkens volunteered their time to serve as concert hosts. While the group is smaller, this practice continues today.

During this time frame an Instrumental Task Force was launched to investigate and to address issues with the chapel organ and to address needed repairs to both the chapel and sanctuary Steinway grand pianos. Both pianos were completely rebuilt using genuine Steinway parts. I wrote a grant that was accepted by the Kulas Foundation to produce additional funding to assist with needed repairs and work to the 1864 George Stevens pipe organ in the chapel.

While now an integral part of our music ministry, the Plymouth Folk Revival (PFR) began during the 2012/2013 season. We began exploring more diverse offerings of music. ArtsPlymouth undertook a huge project of transforming the chapel into a banquet hall for the Christmas season. Teams of people decorated the chapel in fresh pine, cooked and served a three-course meal, and the choir offered an array of music and carol singing. A juggler entertained us even throwing fire over the harpsichord borrowed from Sally Menges which caused me great concern! I must have been overly eager in my younger days scheduling a Saturday evening performance followed by worship the next morning and then a second performance at 12 noon on Sunday.

Music Ministry

From the Bench - Jim Riggs, 25 Years in Reflection (*cont.*)

Part 3: 2011-2017

The music ministry embarked on a recording project producing a CD recording, “Prayer and Praise.” The CD was a nice marker of that moment in time. It was the first time since the 1970’s a recording had been made. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, I began to lead “Sunday Sings” a few times a year. Singers would gather in the choir room for an hour of a cappella singing of folk songs, hymns, and to share stories. Sometimes these events followed with a meal. Our then organ scholar, David von Behren, began hosting Kids Konzerts. Several organ recitals took place during the 2015-2016 season. ArtsPlymouth commissioned three pieces of music for Plymouth’s Centennial in 2016. All three pieces were published.

ArtsPlymouth purchased advertising space on the large screens at the Shaker libraries advertising all our music and art events. Near the end of 2016, an in-depth study was done to determine the cost to the church for hosting concerts. This study enabled us to make recommendations to ensure Plymouth was covering its costs for the extra time of staff and for the use of the building. The Doane College Choir gave a concert at Plymouth as part of their East Coast tour and the Cleveland Orchestra Children’s Chorus returned to Plymouth (they used to rehearse at Plymouth) for their 50th anniversary concert.

Until the final installment of this series in April, I’ll see you on the bench.



Music Ministry

Two Opportunities to Hear Sol Rizzato in Concert

Saturday, March 11, 3 pm—Lake Erie College, Painesville

Sunday, March 26, 3 pm—Plymouth Church

February Concert

Sunday, February 26, 4 pm

Les Delices presents *Enchanted Island*. Soprano Sherezade Panthaki joins Les Delices in a program of French baroque cantatas that celebrates the abundance of nature. Tickets available at www.lesdelices.org

Kids Konkert, February 26

Our next Kids Konkert will take place on Sunday, February 26 after worship. All ages and stages are welcome to sing, dance, and/or play an instrument in a nurturing environment. Signup in the Welcome Area. For questions either see or contact Organ Scholar, Sol Rizzato (sxr954@cim.edu).

News from ArtsPlymouth

As we emerge from the pandemic, ArtsPlymouth has had several thoughtful meetings discerning what is next for the group. After several exercises and discussions, we are focusing on several areas for the coming months. ArtsPlymouth will launch on Feb 12 a year long recognition of Negro spirituals by each quarter donating to either a local or national organization supporting the development of Black musicians and/or artists. When a church buys music, the composers usually receive money as royalties. Enslaved people who composed this music were never paid for their art. This practice is one way of repaying the individuals who created this genre of music by supporting their descendants. Check out the bulletin and your weekly email for ways you can participate in this offering.

A second item is a showing of the movie, “Why We Walk” produced by Eric Bishop, an American documentary filmmaker and son of Plymouth member, Patti Fine. This movie has premiered at several film festivals. This event is being organized for late April followed by a community walk of our neighborhood partnering with other organizations in Shaker Square. Stay tuned for more details soon. Here is a link to the trailer of the film. <https://trails.film/film/why-we-walk/>

ArtsPlymouth has commissioned Carson Cooman to compose an organ work to honor Jim Riggs’ 25th anniversary at Plymouth. The work will be premiered on May 14 during the morning worship service of celebration.

The current ArtsPlymouth team consists of Nathan Bachofsky, Patti Fine, Karen Reich Kolendo, Zach Lewis, Jim Riggs (staff), Kathy Smyth, David Turner, Jane Underwood, and Janet Wilkens.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Juanita Faulx, Treasurer

Below are the financial results for the twelve months ending December 31, 2022.

General Fund		YTD			
		Annual Budget	12/31/2022	Variance	%
Income	Offerings - Pledges/Member Gifts	\$597,852	\$626,368	(\$28,516)	104.77%
	Foundation Fund Support	263,363	41,143	222,220	15.62%
	Building Use	89,943	129,157	(39,214)	143.60%
	Other Income	25,468	36,765	(11,297)	144.36%
	Total Income	\$976,626	\$833,432	\$143,194	85.34%
Expenses	Professional Services	\$10,500	\$11,303	(\$803)	107.65%
	Partnership & Service	61,024	61,499	(475)	100.78%
	Children & Youth	7,695	4,147	3,548	53.89%
	Caring	1,951	1,204	747	61.73%
	Adult Faith & Life	850	338	512	39.74%
	Evangelism & Growth	6,413	3,751	2,662	58.50%
	Building & Grounds	198,206	185,366	12,840	93.52%
	Worship	9,150	7,540	1,610	82.40%
	Giving	1,700	367	1,333	21.58%
	Council	21,710	18,506	3,204	85.24%
	Compensation	598,716	539,412	59,304	90.09%
	Total Expenses	\$917,915	\$833,432	84,483	90.80%
Net Total	YTD Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$58,711	\$0		

Special Funds

Special Funds are those used for unique purposes such as one-time offerings and other expenditures falling outside of the General Fund. Special Funds have account balances and activities that roll over from one fiscal year to the next as compared to the General Fund which starts with new account balances on January 1st of each year.

Special Fund balances for the twelve months ending December 31, 2022 are summarized below.

Special Fund	12/31/2021 End- ing Cash	Net Increase (Decrease)	12/31/2022 Ending Cash
Buildings & Grounds	\$85,776	\$17,346	\$103,122
Caring	5,680	\$262	5,941
Children & Youth	61,533	(\$6,253)	55,279
Partnership & Service	9,349	\$2,948	12,297
Worship	19,084	\$1,118	20,202
ArtsPlymouth	28,984	(\$1,720)	27,264
Council – Fellowship	938	\$128,174	129,112
Totals	211,343	\$141,875	\$353,217

Treasurer's Report

Foundation Fund

The Foundation Fund is Plymouth's endowment fund and allows members and friends of Plymouth to give gifts that sustain the work of Plymouth for generations to come. Foundation Fund investments are managed by six Trustees (Plymouth's Treasurer and five others appointed by Church Council for five year terms).

The Foundation Fund's activity through 12/31/2022 is as follows:

Ending Balance at 12/31/2021	7,002,241
Net Capital Additions/(Withdrawals)	\$ (94,401)
Reinvested Income/Dividends	\$ 7,242
Reinvested Capital Gains (Losses)	\$ (1,210,935)
Fees and Charges	\$ (17,471)
Ending Balance at 12/31/2022	5,686,677
Net Change in Value of Investments	\$(1,315,564.84)

The 12/31/2022 balance of the Foundation Fund accounts compared to the prior quarter end.

	9/30/2022	12/31/2022
Unrestricted Fund	\$ 2,911,563	\$ 3,037,318
Perpetual Pledges	\$ 1,508,850	\$ 1,624,818
Property Preservation	\$ 77,981	\$ 83,974
Outreach (Benevolence)	\$ 128,594	\$ 138,477
ArtsPlymouth	\$ 146,425	\$ 157,679
Herr Music	\$ 66,948	\$ 72,093
Youth Programs/Dively	\$ 292,850	\$ 315,358
Youth Mission	\$ -	\$ -
William & Anne Cook Fund	\$ 238,619	\$ 256,959
Total	\$ 5,371,830	\$ 5,686,677

How were the 2022 Foundation Fund draws used?

Total 2022 Foundation Funds distributed	\$ 175,000
Restricted Special Funds eg Dively, Herr, etc	\$ (15,583)
General Operating Income on Activities Statement	\$ (41,143)
Restricted Special Funds 2022 Surplus	\$ (118,274)

How was the amount calculated?

Total amount withdrawn was to be 5% of the rolling three-year average total for the fund.

Limiting our draw to this calculated amount is designed to allow us to spend our income without spending down our principal or base. This ensures that

the Foundation will be a source of income both now and into the future.

For 2022 the total draw was calculated as \$278,946.

We were able to decline all but \$175,000 in draw for the year.

The savings from the unused cash was left in the Foundation.

Finance and Council have determined the amount not used in 2022 will remain available for use, as needed and approved by Council.



Ash Wednesday

SHARED WORSHIP WITH HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Wednesday, February 22
Noon and 7:30pm services

Plymouth Church Sanctuary

Monday Night Bible Study

5:30-6:30PM on Zoom

Thank you



FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Family Promise \$2875

Veterans of the Cross \$1520

Heifer International \$2565

SAVE THE DATE

**PRIDE
MARCH**

SATURDAY  JUNE 3, 2023

The **Coffee House** is
open Sundays from
9:30am until 10:15am.
Stop in for coffee, tea
and conversation!



Cleveland Food Bank Volunteers

We will be gathering on **Tuesday February 14th** and **Wednesday February 15th** to pack food for the hungry at the new Cleveland Foodbank, 13815 Coit Road from 6-8pm. What better way to celebrate St Valentine than to give from your heart and help those less fortunate. We will gather afterwards for a bite to eat.

Contact Paul Qua at pqua@driveclassic.com.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH

**FOSSIL
FUEL**

February 8th & 22nd
8:30am in room 102



Valentines Day Cookie Baking

Help us continue this Plymouth tradition of creating Valentine cards and baking cookies to be delivered to Plymouth members.

Ways to help:

Bake a dozen cookies (no nuts please).

Make Valentine's Day cards, the more the better!

We need help making deliveries after church on the 12th.

Sacred Ally Quilt Project

Part of the work of Plymouth ARE is to let the congregation know about things that inform and educate all of us. An upcoming series of events helps us do that. The documentary *[Stitch, Breathe, Speak: The George Floyd Quilts](#)*, tells the story of how members of the United Church of Christ came together to remember the words of a dying man, an event that was part of the catalyst for the formation of ARE.

Please man. Please. I can't breathe.

On May 25, 2020, America and the world watched in horror and outrage the public murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. Handcuffed and pinned to the pavement, Floyd pleaded for eight minutes and forty-six seconds as his life ebbed away under a policeman's knee.

The documentary and quilts will be displayed in several locations over the next month and we are providing the details here hoping that you can find time to see them.

A poster for the Sacred Ally Quilt Project. At the top, it says "THE ANTI-RACISM NETWORK OF THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC PRESENTS...". Below that is the "HEARTLAND CONFERENCE" logo and the title "SACRED ALLY QUILT PROJECT". The poster lists four locations and dates for events: 1. "BLACK LIVES MATTER" (1/25/23 - 1/30/23), 2. "FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH- COLUMBUS, OH" (1/25/23 - 1/30/23), 3. "PILGRIM UCC - CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH" (2/1/23-2/6/23), and 4. "COMMUNITY LIFE COLLABORATIVE - CHAGRIN FALLS, OH" (2/8/23-2/13/23). It also mentions "LAST WORDS GEORGE FLOYD 5-25-2020". At the bottom, it says "FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SACRED ALLY QUILT MINISTRY. PLEASE VISIT SAOM.ORG".

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, February 20

SEND TO:

Happy Birthday!

To our Four Score Plus

Jeannie Chaney
Maggie Oviatt
Toby Perry
Norma Storer

