

The Perspective

Volume 45

Number 10

November 2022

November 6

All Saints Sunday | Communion

They in Glory Shine | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Ephesians 1:15-21

November 13

Annual Congregational Meeting | Celebration of 50+ Members

The value of Visionary Thinking | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Isaiah 65:17-25

November 20

Reign of Christ Sunday | Transgender Day of Remembrance

Before All Things | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Colossians 1:11-20

November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Advent sermon series *God in Real Life*, part one

Swords or Ploughshares? | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Isaiah 2:1-5

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 2022

Council President	Mary Bright
Council Vice-President	Val McClelland
Secretary	Jeannie Clarkson
Treasurer	Juanita Faulx
Assistant Treasurer	Jennifer Gerard
Adult Faith & Life - Chair	Mendle Adams
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	David Turner
Partnership & Service (P&S) - Chair	Robin Johnson
Worship - Chair	Norma Storer
Personnel Chair	Kenyon Mau
Foundation Chair	Christine Bretz
Council Member @Large	Ros Gauchat
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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Leslie Szalay

Director of Christian Education

Temp. Communications Coordinator

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Office Administrator

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Rose Munn

Facilities Staff

Church Office

216-921-3510

Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

November brings colder weather and longer nights. In worship, November moves from All Saints Sunday on November 6 to the first Sunday of Advent on November 27. We journey from singing “for all the saints” to “O come, O come, Emmanuel.” And, along the way, there are other milestones in church and community life: Veterans Day, Transgender Day of Remembrance, the annual meeting of Plymouth Church, the Thanksgiving holiday, and an election day in the United States.

In addition to these dates we share, I know that all of you will have significant events and anniversaries in your own lives: endings and beginnings, things you planned for and surprises you didn't see coming.

With all that calls for our attention, how do we navigate our lives from day to day, and from season to season? How do we receive and contribute to the blessings of life, rather than being drowned in worry, distraction, or the fatigue of being overwhelmed?

I propose that it is good to start with the saints. Start by remembering the people who lived their lives in ways that you want to reflect in your own. Receive from them the wisdom they earned through their mistakes and regrets. Let them remind you that life is precious. Let their vision help you to let go of the things that are not of lasting importance, so that you are free to take hold of what is eternal.

As the poet Henri-Frédéric Amiel reminded us:

*Life is short.
We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.*

I'll see you in church.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



Music Ministry

All the Bells on Earth Shall Ring Concert with a Cause—supporting Family Promise

Organists Sol Rizzato and James Riggs play Christmas music on the organ with additional music by the Plymouth Choir and the Plymouth Ringers. Congregational singing will take place too. Save the date, **Sunday, December 11, 3:00 pm**

The Cleveland Transgender Choir to Sing for Worship

Once again, The Cleveland Transgender Choir will return to sing for worship on Sunday, November 20. Each year between November 13-19 people and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility about transgender people and issues members of the community face. November 20 is an annual observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence that year. Following worship, ArtsPlymouth will host a coffee hour for an opportunity to greet and dialogue with members of the choir.

New Piano for Choir Room

We offer an expression of gratitude to the estate of Alice-Mae Suits for the donation of her Yamaha baby grand piano to the choir room. The piano will primarily serve to accompany the choir during weekly rehearsals and will be used for other events that take place in the choir room. The choir is grateful for this generous gift.



Pageant Orchestra Returning for Christmas Eve

Dust off those instruments and plan to join in an Intergenerational Pageant Orchestra to play on Christmas Eve prior to the start of the Christmas Pageant at 4:30 pm. Music will be distributed by Nov 20. Two rehearsals will be held—one on Saturday, December 17 from 10:30-11:15 am and prior to the service on December 24 from 4-4:15 pm. Signup in the Welcome Area. Additional questions can be addressed to Jim Riggs (jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org).

Music Ministry

From the Bench—Jim Riggs, 25 years in reflection

Part 2: 2003 to 2006

During my time at Plymouth, I have met and heard an array of musical performances by outstanding artists. On March 23, 2003, The Cleveland Cello Society premiered *Cello, Celli* by jazz legend Dave Brubeck. Brubeck along with his wife attended the performance in the Plymouth sanctuary followed by a reception. I still have a photo of him and the performers in my office. That same year labyrinth walks were taking place on a quarterly basis and discussions began about a permeant outdoor installation on the church property. That did not come to fruition. I, however, still have the drawings.

PipeScreams, a Halloween organ demonstration/concert began taking place each Halloween. ArtsPlymouth bused 275 children from our then partner school, Buckeye-Woodland Elementary (now closed). That day we did 3 performances. On my way home that evening I was pulled over in Cleveland Heights by the police for turning right at a light where there were not one, but two signs posted not to do so. I was dressed in costume and when the cop came to the window he started laughing. He said, “given the way you are dressed I guess you don’t travel these parts often, so I am giving you a warning.” Plymouth partnered with the youth from Church of the Savior (COTS) to offer a youth musical, *The Tale of the Three Trees*. We did one service at Plymouth and one at COTS.

In 2004, ArtsPlymouth received the Sunshine Award from Young Audiences (now known as the Center for Inspired Arts Learning). The award was given for recognition of our work with Buckeye-Woodland School—the first time the award was given to a religious organization. ArtsPlymouth funded an artist at the school to help the students create a large mural, “Seasons of Learning.” When the school closed, we investigated removing the mural for installation elsewhere but it was cost prohibitive.

Plymouth hosted the UCC Musicians National Network for a full day of workshops, worship, lunch on the lawn with a steel drum band, and Ten-Thousand Villages set-up for shopping. Fairmount Presbyterian and Plymouth choirs partnered to offer the *Requiem* of John Rutter at Plymouth. During the summer of 2006, ArtsPlymouth moved away from yearly programming to using our outdoor space to celebrate our 10th anniversary. Two programs were offered: “Burning Leaves” with Leon Bibb and a “Caribbean Carnival” with steel drummers, stilt walkers, giant puppets, and East Coast Custard.

Until the next time, I’ll see you on the bench.



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Juanita Faulx, Treasurer

Below are the financial results for the nine months ending September 30, 2022.

General Fund		YTD			%
		Annual Budget	9/30/2022	Variance	
Income	Offerings - Pledges/Member Gifts	\$597,852	\$507,663	\$90,189	84.91%
	Foundation Fund Support	263,363	59,417	203,946	22.56%
	Building Use	89,943	93,009	(3,066)	103.41%
	Other Income	25,468	31,647	(6,179)	124.26%
	Total Income	\$976,626	\$691,735	\$284,891	70.83%
Expenses	Professional Services	\$10,500	\$8,002	\$2,498	76.21%
	Partnership & Service	61,024	0	61,024	0.00%
	Children & Youth	7,695	3,210	4,485	41.72%
	Caring	1,951	736	1,215	37.71%
	Adult Faith & Life	850	165	685	19.44%
	Evangelism & Growth	6,413	3,341	3,072	52.09%
	Building & Grounds	198,206	136,050	62,156	68.64%
	Worship	9,150	6,474	2,676	70.75%
	Giving	1,700	0	1,700	0.00%
	Council	21,710	8,356	13,354	38.49%
	Compensation	598,716	405,567	193,149	67.74%
	Total Expenses	\$917,915	\$571,900	346,015	62.30%
Net Total	YTD Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$58,711	\$119,836		

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 nine months ending September 30, 2022 are summarized below.

Special Fund	12/31/2021 Ending Cash	Net Increase (Decrease)	09/30/2022 Ending Cash
Buildings & Grounds	\$85,776	\$56,425	\$142,201
Caring	5,680	\$807	6,486
Children & Youth	61,533	(\$5,949)	55,584
Partnership & Service	9,349	(\$3,429)	5,920
Worship	19,084	\$1,627	20,712
ArtsPlymouth	28,984	(\$1,230)	27,754
Council – Fellowship	938	\$0	938
Totals	211,343	\$48,251	\$259,594

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 09/30/2022 is as follows:

Ending Balance at 12/31/2021	7,002,241
Net Capital Additions/(Withdrawals)	\$ 1,600
Reinvested Income/Dividends	\$ 7,242
Reinvested Capital Gains (Losses)	\$ (1,621,818)
Fees and Charges	\$ (17,435)
Ending Balance at 06/30/2022	5,371,830
Net Change in Value of Investments	\$ (1,630,411.20)

The 09/30/2022 balance of the Foundation Fund accounts compared to the prior quarter end.

	6/30/2022	9/30/2022
Unrestricted Fund	\$ 3,061,330	\$ 2,911,563
Perpetual Pledges	\$ 1,642,209	\$ 1,508,850
Property Preservation	\$ 85,532	\$ 77,981
Outreach (Benevolence)	\$ 142,553	\$ 128,594
ArtsPlymouth	\$ 153,957	\$ 146,425
Herr Music	\$ 74,127	\$ 66,948
Youth Programs/Dively	\$ 307,914	\$ 292,850
Youth Mission	\$ -	\$ -
William & Anne Cook Fund	\$ 250,893	\$ 238,619
Total	\$ 5,718,515	\$ 5,371,830

The Foundation Fund's investments as of September 30, 2022 were as follows:

	Investment	% of Total Portfolio
Cash	Fidelity Government Cash Reserves	0.03%
Equity	Invesco Developing Markets	4.68%
	Ninety One Global Franchise Fund	4.92%
	Baillie Gifford Long Term GLBL GR	4.09%
	Cliffwater Corporate Lending Fund	5.90%
	Mondrian Global Equity Value Fund	4.96%
	Goldman Sachs Small Cap Value Insights	5.52%
	Loomis Sayles Small Cap Growth	5.60%
	Nationwide Intl Small Cap R6	5.44%
	Vanguard Instl Index Class	35.68%
	Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral SHS	6.65%
Fixed Income	Federatedd Hermes TTL Return Bond	8.69%
	Lord Abbott Short Duration Income CL 1	7.77%
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	100%

Annual Meeting Agenda

Plymouth Church's Annual Meeting

will be held Sunday, November 13, 2022 immediately following worship.

50+ year members will be celebrated after the meeting.

The Agenda for the Annual Meeting:

- I. Determination of presence of a quorum
- II. Call to Order & Invocation
- III. Call for motion to dispense with reading the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes which appear in the 2022 Annual Report.
- IV. Call for motion to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
- V. Senior Minister's Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. Foundation Fund Report
- VIII. President's Report
- IX. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers
- X. New Business
- XI. Adjournment
- XII. Benediction



Sunday, November 27th

ADVENT WREATH BUILDING

All the supplies will be provided to make your own advent wreath to take home and use throughout the holiday season! Join us for an in-person workshop on November 27 after worship, or order a take home kit.



\$20 per wreath

We accept cash, check or pay online through Realm (select "Advent Wreaths" in drop down menu).

PLEASE SIGN-UP BY NOVEMBER 20TH

PLYMOUTH CHURCH

FOSSIL FUEL

November 2nd & 16th
8:30 am in room 102



THANKSGIVING DINNER BASKETS

We are raising money to provide Thanksgiving dinner to families in the Cleveland school system. \$50 provides a meal to one family, but any size donation is accepted. Donate online through Realm (designate to "Thanksgiving Baskets") or mail in a check to the church. November 15 is the last day to donate.

Thank you!



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

Volunteer at the Cleveland Foodbank

Volunteers are invited to join Plymouth Church members at the Greater Cleveland Foodbank each month.

The next gathering will be **November 16, 5-8pm.**

Contact Paul Qua at pqua@driveclassic.com.

Monday Night Bible Study

5:30-6:30PM on Zoom

Led by Rev. Matt Wooster, Monday Bible Study is a weekly hour to become more familiar with the scriptures, and more engaged in the wisdom that they hold. Each week is a self-contained discussion of a scripture passage that will be the focus of an upcoming worship service. The sessions do not require preparation. To register, and receive an email each week about the scripture passages and the zoom link, contact Rev. Matt Wooster about your interest in joining Monday Night Bible Study.



The Caring Department is looking for volunteers to bake cookies for the 50 plus reception on **November 13th.**

Contact Dave Faulx at 440-683-4653 or drfaulx@yahoo.com.



News & Events

Sugar Plum Workshop

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 3, from 9-11:30am** for the return of Sugar Plum Workshop! For over 40 years, families throughout the community have anticipated this opportunity for children to experience the joy of holiday giving by making handmade gifts for families, friends, teachers and even pets.

There will be over a dozen different craft tables set up with the supplies needed to make gifts such as ornaments, trivets, cookie mix, and much more. Admission is free and crafts range in price from 25 cents to \$4.00, many under \$1.

After being a "take and make" event for the last couple years, we will be watching for CDC guidelines as to what Covid safety protocols to follow.

Volunteers are needed to make this event successful. Help children celebrate the joy of holiday giving by volunteering to work at a craft table from 8:45-11:45am. No skills necessary! Sign-up in the welcome center.



Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm Christmas Pageant

9:00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Plymouth Church, UCC
2860 Coventry Rd | Shaker Heights, Ohio
www.plymouthchurchucc.org

The background of this section is a vibrant red with a dense pattern of gold and white snowflakes and stars. The text is centered and uses a mix of elegant cursive and clean serif fonts. A decorative horizontal line with small circles separates the title from the event details.

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, November 14

SEND TO:

Happy Birthday!

To our Four Score Plus

Kenneth Hegyes
Dick Ogle
Arthur Purinton
Tim Tuthill

