

The Perspective

Volume 47

Number 7

July 2024

Sermon Series July and August

Be Curious: Surviving and Thriving in an Angry World

July 7

Sacrament of Communion

Be Curious: An Introduction | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
Romans 12:2

July 14

Be Curious: Compassion | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
Matthew 20:29-34

July 21

Be Curious: Wonder | Pastor Dillon Shipman preaching
Psalm 19

July 28

Worship on the Lawn

Be Curious: Resilience | Pastor Dillon Shipman preaching
Exodus 16:1-17, 31, 35

Worship is at 10:00 am in the chapel & online at plymouthchurchucc.org
Worship on the lawn will be held on July 28 and August 25, weather permitting.



***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 2024

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Council Vice-President	Russell Lamb
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Council Member @ Large	Sara Martin
Council Member @ Large	Robert Woolfrey

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Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

During worship in July and August, we'll be exploring an important theme over eight weeks of sermons. The full title of this series is *Be Curious: Surviving and Thriving in an Angry World*. This is an invitation to explore the faithful practice of curiosity as a means of resisting and overcoming the anger and division among people.

Do you recognize that phrase about "an angry world"? In our society, it seems that people are at odds over many issues at the same time, and these divisions are too often marked by anger and vitriol, fueled by misinformation and assumptions that don't mark reality. This division affects workplaces, schools, neighbors, and even friend and family relationships.

The themes of this sermon series respond to all of that, especially in a year marked by debate and protests, accusations, and elections.

The outline of this series was developed by a group of pastor-theologians who serve churches around the country. Working together to study the scripture, they identified distinct practices that are related to a faithful sense of curiosity, and developed a plan for worship that includes suggested scripture readings, hymns, and prayers related to themes for preaching. In case you are wondering, they did *not* write the sermons. Every sermon should be authentic to the specific context of the local church and the relationship of the minister and the congregation, and Dillon and I always write our own sermons. (This last point is probably understood, but sometimes people ask if I get my sermons on the internet. No! And I'm certainly not using AI to write them).

As the sermon series invites us to be curious, we will encourage curious questioning. You'll find a "question box" to submit written questions for the pastors at every worship service in July and August. And we will address them as the series continues, either in preaching or writings in our newsletters. Who knows? Maybe the questions will inspire the next worship series. Years ago, I preached a series of sermons based completely on questions that children of the church had asked me to address. They asked some good ones! I bet that you will, too.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



From Dillon's Desk

"For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread; a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!"

Dear friends,

Shirley Erena Murray's hymns transcend time and place. The New Zealander has collaborated with writers and composers from all over the world to tell stories of our faith. Murray penned the beautiful lyrics of this hymn, "For Everyone Born," over two decades ago, and every time I have the honor of singing them, I am reminded of the great hope and joy that can be found in our faith when we as Christians get it right.

The words of this poetic hymn weave together a tapestry that reflects on the table on which we break bread. Everyone, regardless of their stature, deserves clean water and bread and a safe place to live. All people, who are created in God's image, deserve a life where they are celebrated for who they are.

Our table is a table of equality. Too many people, throughout history and still today, have been deemed second-class citizens in the home, church, and society at large. Murray's words preach to us that someone should not be regulated to certain tasks or roles because of their gender or sexuality or race or class or ability. The roles must be divided fairly with no group ever possessing power that hinders others. It is through the wisdom and grace that only comes from God that there can be a system that's fair for all people.

Our table is a table of acceptance. It is a place where no matter the age, people's voices will be heard. Young and old will have a part in the song. This table reflects a place where those of all generations walk hand-in-hand and support each other no matter the circumstances. It is a place where everyone belongs.

Our table is a table of reconciliation. This truth is not without controversy because it is radical. This is the table where the just and unjust, those wanting to forgive and those needing to be forgiven, come together. A table where those who have hurt and those who hurt find themselves together can be difficult to accept. We strive for a table where the anger and hurt can be let out in a safe place and where mercy and grace can help begin the healing process that brings about a new way to live.

Our table is a table of dignity. It is a place where people can safely live without fear, and simply be who they are and love who they love. This table is a space where people can speak their truth and worship in the ways that fill their spirit. It is a place where everyone has the right to be free.

When you make your way to the table that is so graciously set for us as we gather for worship on the first Sunday of each month, know how much God love us, is concerned about our well-being as God's children, is active in our lives, and calls and uses us to make creation a better place for everyone and everything that dwells in it. Never be afraid to let others know about the profound love that radiates within and beyond the walls of our church!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Dillon Shipman



Children & Youth

CHILDREN & YOUTH Parent Meeting & Picnic

C & Y families are invited to come give feedback and share ideas about the faith formation programs & events for families and children at Plymouth Church.

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Sunday school
Children's church
Worship Space
Youth Group
Service Trip
Spooktacular
Sugar Plum
Christmas Pageant
OWL

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS INCLUDING...

First Sundays
Parent study groups
Faith at home
Volunteering/giving
Babysitting club

Bring the kids & let them play while we meet! The agenda will be the same as the June meeting.

Sign Up in the Welcome Center or contact Leslie or Dillon

July 14
11:30 AM



Plymouth Kids Calendar July—August

July 7

Communion | No Children's Church

July 14

Children's Church
Parent Meeting

July 21

Children's Church

July 28

Worship on the lawn | Children's Church

August 4

Communion | No Children's Church

August 11

Children's Church

August 18

Children's Church

August 25

Worship on the lawn | Children's Church



Summer Children's Church

Children in preschool through middle school are welcomed to join us in the garden Sunday mornings beginning at 10 am.

In our *Caring for Creation* summer program, we connect the Bible lesson to the garden through stories, games, & crafts.

News & Events

Volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank

Plymouth volunteers for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank meet on the 2nd Tuesday and the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 6:00-8:00 pm. Volunteers are invited to join us this month on **Tuesday, July 9 and Wednesday, July 17** at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, at 13815 Coit Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44110. We will gather afterwards for a bite to eat and a cup of cheer.

Contact Paul Qua pqua@classicautocampus.com

Or 216-544-7501



**Greater Cleveland
Food Bank**

Coffee Hour



**Volunteer Sign Up
in the
Welcome Center**

**Shaker Heights
Hunger Center
Volunteering**

July 22, 24, 29, & 31
**Shaker Heights
Community Church**

charlene_nevans@hotmail.com

Second Annual Pilgrimage to the Southern Border

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
JANUARY 13-20, 2025
MORE INFORMATION
COMING NEXT MONTH



BE CURIOUS
SURVIVING AND THRIVING
IN AN ANGRY WORLD

July & August Sermon Series

In this series, we will explore, experiment, and challenge ourselves to be curious, celebrating the practices that help us to open in curiosity. Following the example of Jesus, we will explore curiosity in worship and ask plenty of questions. This divided world needs more curious questions. Let's explore together!

Parking Lot Project

The church parking lot will be repaired this summer, beginning the week of July 15. It will be completed in three phases: 1. Southeast half of the lot, 2. Northwest half of the lot, 3. Asphalt layer over whole lot.

This plan ensures half of the parking lot will be available at all times, allowing congregants with disabilities to easily access the church. Street parking is available and encouraged during the project.

The project requires four weeks to complete, concluding by August 16.

Please contact Paul Holter with any questions (pholter@plymouthchurchucc.org, 216-751-0584)

Giving Department

Your generosity enables us to make a difference in the lives of our members and our communities both near and far.

Thank you!



anks



Summer Worship

10 AM (until Sep 1)

Locations

July-Labor Day: Chapel

Worship on the Lawn

June 30, July 28, August 25



Submission Deadline

Wednesday, July 17

Backpack Blessing and Collection

As our children, youth, and young adults head back to school and college, we will offer a prayer of blessing over their backpacks and over each one of them during the 10:00 am worship service on **Sunday, August 11**. We will also pray over our teachers, staff, and administration for the challenging and important job they do in our children's lives and invite them to bring their backpacks and briefcases to be blessed as well! During July and August, we will have a box out to collect school supplies, backpacks, and hygiene products for our friends at Mound STEM School in Cleveland. Look for a detailed list to come.



Happy Birthday!

To our Four Score Plus

Mendle Adams
Marilyn Christian
Mary Ann Davis
Barbara Ginn
Marion Hill
Barbara Kacir
C.J. Keyes
Harry Mercer
Noel Nilson
Joanne Ross

