

# The Perspective

Volume 47

Number 1

## January 2024

### January 7

#### **Celebration of Epiphany | Communion**

*What If?* | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching

Matthew 2:1-12

### January 14

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend**

*Remembering Backward* | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching

1 Samuel 3:1-10

### January 21

*Will You Come and Follow Me?* | Pastor Dillon Shipman preaching

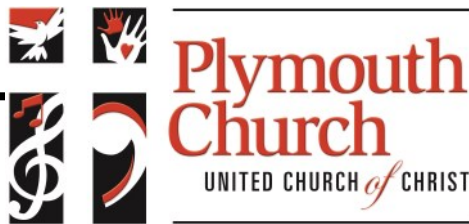
Mark 1:14-20

### January 28

*Everything is God's* | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Worship is at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary & online at [plymouthchurchucc.org](https://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 2024**

Council President	David Turner
Council Vice-President	Russell Lamb
Secretary	Andrew Cleminshaw
Treasurer	Jennifer Gerard
Assistant Treasurer	Linda Sempliner
Adult Faith & Life - Co-Chairs	Ken Rogers Brenda Grauer
Building & Grounds (B&G) - Chair	Steve Kaufman
Caring - Chair	Yaa Ansah
Children & Youth (C&Y) - Chair	Carolyn Jillson
Evangelism & Growth (E&G) - Chair	Jonathan Kraft Carrie Wise
Giving - Chair	Mendle Adams
Partnership & Service (P&S) - Chair	J. Horner
Worship - Chair	Kendalle Cobb
Personnel Chair	John Markt
Foundation Chair	Mitch Sanborn
Council Youth Member @Large	Catherine Cleminshaw
Council Member @Large	Mary Smith
Council Member @Large	Lucas Hershberger
Council Member @ Large	Sara Martin
Council Member @ Large	Robert Woolfrey

### **Plymouth Staff**

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Designated Associate Minister

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Temp. Communications Coordinator

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#### **Kathryn Kundrat**

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#### **Linda Watson**

Office Administrator

[office@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:office@plymouthchurchucc.org)

#### **Rose Munn**

Facilities Staff

#### **Church Office**

**216-921-3510**

# Pastor's Corner

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Dear Plymouth Church,

The changing of the calendar year sends me into reflections on the passage of time, reflecting on what has been learned and what has been lost, and what to make with the shape of my life?

2024 is the new year. I remember when the year 2000 seemed like something big and meaningful. How can that be a generation ago?

It can be distressing to realize how fast the time goes, but I think that discomfort can be helpful, especially if it helps me to be aware of just how valuable is the time we have. It makes me more conscious of the gift of this day—and more intentional about how to spend this valuable time.

I was struck by a reflection from the writer Anne Lamott, from her column last month in the Washington Post. She described this outing with her dear friend:

*Pammy and I went shopping a few weeks before she died. I needed a new dress for a concert with a new boyfriend. At the time, she was in a wheelchair and a wig. I came out of the dressing room wearing a short dress, tighter than normal, and asked if it made me look big in the hips.*

*She looked me in the eyes, calmly. "Annie," she said, "you don't have that kind of time."*

*That sentence shocked me into getting real about how I was spending my life. We know by a certain age the great palace lies of the culture — if you buy or do or achieve this or that, you will be happy and rich. Nope. Love and service make us rich.*

Lamott is sharing good news here, and finding new language for the teachings of Jesus. This time is valuable, and it is love and service that make us rich.

I'll see you in church!

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



# From Dillon's Desk

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Dear friends,

They might have been Punjabi, the wise ones who traveled to Bethlehem looking for a Great One. It's possible they were Persian. Most likely they were Zoroastrians by religion, that ancient faith that precedes even Judaism. At the time and place Jesus was born, religious pluralism was in full force. Roman roads led everywhere, and international trade was bustling. Many different faiths and philosophies bumped into one another, and the great teachers of each religion swapped theological ideas, music, and stories. Besides that, the new cities brought together people who had been raised in other countries, or out in the country on farms or in villages.



Saturday, January 6, is the Feast of the Epiphany, the end of Christmastide and the day we remember the visit from the Wise Ones. We will celebrate Epiphany together as a church the following day, on Sunday, January 7. As we approach Epiphany, I invite you to take to heart the many images that arise from this holiday. Not just the "We Three Kings" song that is so familiar to many of us, but the entire gift-giving tradition at Christmas comes from the story of learned astronomers from the East bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the child Jesus.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus' first visitors were not poor Jewish shepherds (as they are in Luke), but rather interfaith, intercultural travelers of high estate and high esteem. Expectations differed widely about who Jesus was to be, and people from faraway places brought their expectations too.

This begs the question, for all of us who find ourselves as faithful seekers today: Who is Jesus to be for us? What do we expect? And what do we bring?

Of all the holidays, and of all the seasons, perhaps Epiphany is the one that most speaks to our age and place: an abundance of seeking and searching, foreigners and travelers, attention to the stars and the signs, and the dire need to smartly sift through the hopes and expectations about what will really save us.

May God be with us as we continue on our journey.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dillon Shipman, Designated Associate Minister

# Annual Campaign

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**Thanks to those who have pledged to the 2024 Annual Campaign, as of 11/30/23**

Mendle Adams  
Nate Bachofsky & Kevin Monaco  
Gerry & Pam Beck  
Ben Beckman & Ali Day  
Harriet Bengston  
Brooks Berndt  
Marisue Besse  
Jim & Mary Bright  
Bob Brucken  
Nancy Brucken  
Bill & Susan Bruner  
Heidi Busch  
Joyce Butze  
Jim & Jeannie Chaney  
Cindy Chapman & Wai Sung  
Bebe Chiarito  
Marilyn Christian  
Jeannie Clarkson  
Andrew Cleminshaw & Kendalle Cobb  
Paula Colahan-Sederstrom  
Jane Corteville & David Blumenthal  
Linda Creviston  
Harriett Culp  
Tom & Janet Daniel  
Ella & Milton Davis

Mary Ann Davis  
Al & Linda Day  
Ed & Debbie Dudley  
Patti & Scott Fine  
Robb Forward  
Faye Gary  
Barbara Ginn  
Brenda & Donald Grauer  
Raymond Graves & Angela Zawada  
Lalana Green  
Brian & Amy Grube  
Kenneth & Betsy Hegyes  
Megan Hensley  
Lucas Hershberger  
Cindy Hill  
Marion (Mrs. Roland) Hill  
Joanna & Russell Horn  
J. Atlee Horner  
Lisa Hunziker  
Layton & Patti Ives  
Carolyn Jillson  
Rick Johnson & Debbie May-Johnson  
Robin Johnson  
Chris & Beth Karr  
Clare & Evan Katz

# Annual Campaign

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**Thanks to those who have pledged to the 2024 Annual Campaign, as of 11/30/23**

Steve & Betsy Kaufman

Tracey Key

C.J. Keyes

Florence Knight

Jonathan Kraft & Carrie Wise

Russell & Julie Lamb

Zachary & Nicole Lewis

John & Nicole Lozier

Donald & Linda Mann

George & Lisa Mann

Dale & Jennifer Markworth

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Janet Neary

Norma Nelson

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Chris & Shelli Smith

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Mary Smith

Kathy Smyth

Dylan & Chelsea Stiles

Kathy Stiles

Fred & Betsy Stueber

Peter & Kristin Sweeney

Manuel & Jonah Grace Tacastacas

David Daniel Turner

Tim & Linda Tuthill

Don & Jane Underwood

Christina & Byron Webster

Nancy West

Alissa Wible & Marcus Henry

Marcia Wittenbrook

Matthew & Betsy Wooster

# Children & Youth

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## JANUARY PLYMOUTH YOUTH CALENDAR

**January 14** (Sunday) – Coffee & Christ in room 204, 10:45am

Confirmation @ Plymouth in Krumbine, 12:00-1:30pm

**January 21** (Sunday) – Youth Group @ Pinstripes (Beachwood), 5:00-7:00pm

Join us for an evening of bowling and dinner at Pinstripes. We will meet at the location (111 Park Avenue, Beachwood, OH 44122). A donation of \$20 is suggested to cover the cost of the bowling, and the church will cover the cost of dinner.

**January 28** (Sunday) – Confirmation @ Plymouth in Krumbine, 12:00-1:30pm

All youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join us every time we gather for food, fun, and discussion for Youth Group events. Youth, invite your friends to come along! No one has to be of any particular faith background to be welcome and experience a safe space in our Youth Group.

Church, I ask that you continue to pray our seven confirmation participants and their families, as well as our confirmation teachers and mentors, as they journey through this time of preparation and spiritual exploration.

*\*\*\*All Plymouth youth participating in Youth Group or Confirmation events must have an updated **Registration and Activity Release Form** completed and on file for the 2023-2024 year. These can be found in the Welcome Area, and we'll also have them at youth events throughout September. Please return to Pastor Dillon as soon as possible!*



### Coffee & Christ

Senior High students are invited to monthly gatherings for conversation, fellowship and refreshments during the Sunday School hour. Students will meet on the second Sunday of the month. Our next gathering will be **January 14**.

**Note:** We are meeting in a new location, Coffee & Christ will now take place in room 204.



## Valentines Day Cookie Baking

Sunday, February 11

Each year the Children & Youth of Plymouth continue the tradition of creating Valentine cards and baking cookies to be delivered to Plymouth members who may appreciate a visit from other Plymouth members.

There are several ways you can help:

- Bake a dozen cookies (no nuts please)
- Make Valentine's Day cards, the more the better!
- Volunteer to make a delivery of cookies & cards for a Plymouth member after church on 2/11



## Plymouth Kids January Calendar

**January 7**

**Communion**

NO Sunday School

**January 14**

Sunday School

Coffee & Christ

**January 19**

OWL 4th & 5th grade class

**January 21**

Sunday School

**January 26**

OWL 4th & 5th grade class

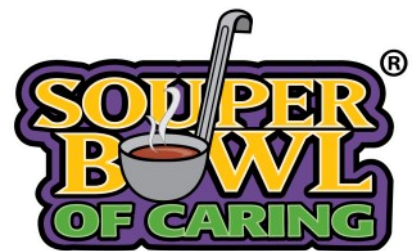
**January 28**

Sunday School

## Children & Youth Sunday & Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 4

The Children & Youth of Plymouth Church will be leading worship on Sunday, February 4. Join us in supporting our young members as they explore the many roles involved in a Sunday worship service. The children will also be collecting donations following worship for the *Souper Bowl of Caring*, a nationally coordinated effort to support local food banks. Look for the children holding pots & pans to donate. All money collected will be donated to the Cleveland Food Bank.



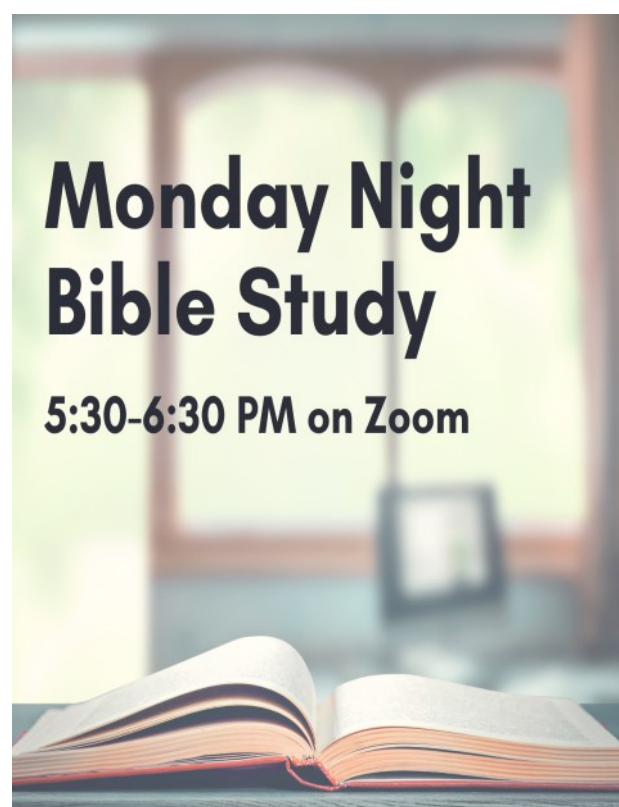
[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)





### **Coffee House**

Stop by the Candy Circle Room and enjoy a cup of fresh-brewed coffee, tea, or hot cocoa while reading the Sunday Plain Dealer, or enjoy casual conversation with old and new Plymouth friends. The Coffee House will be open 9:30 -10:15 am Sunday mornings.



## Volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank

Volunteers are invited to join us this month on **Tuesday, January 9th and Wednesday, January 17th** from 6-8pm at the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, 13815 Coit Road.

Join us afterwards for a cup of cheer at Muldoon's. Please let Paul Qua know which shifts you are available to work.

[pqua@driveclassic.com](mailto:pqua@driveclassic.com)



**Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank**

## Shaker Heights Hunger Center Volunteers

Plymouth has partnered with Shaker Heights Community Church for over three decades to supply needed food to qualified applicants in Shaker Hts. and surrounding communities.

Most clients are senior citizens, and they receive a 3-5 day supply of non-perishable food once a month. **Volunteers are needed on the last two Monday and Wednesday mornings of each month** to fill bags and stock shelves with food from the Cleveland Food Bank and from individual donors. The Hunger Center is located at Shaker Heights Community Church, lower level, 20120 Lomond Blvd.

Please contact Charlene Nevans ([charlene\\_nevans@hotmail.com](mailto:charlene_nevans@hotmail.com)) if you can help with this community service project.

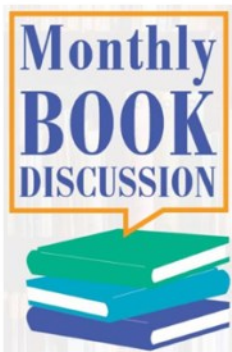
## Sugar Plum Workshop 2023

A big *"Thank You!"* to our Sugar Plum organizer, Shelli Smith for her years of volunteering to lead this wonderful community event! And, thank you the many volunteers that helped to make it all possible!



## WEDNESDAY'S Together

Plymouth Church, UCC and Heights Christian Church are both blessed to call our building at 2860 Coventry Road home. This coming year, both congregations are looking forward to growing friendships between our members, as well as discerning what ministry opportunities and events we can embark on together! One way we will seek to expand our relationship is through sharing "Wednesdays Together." On the first three Wednesdays of each month, we will share in fellowship and formation with one another. We look forward to seeing many folks from HCC and Plymouth at each gathering!



### Wednesday, January 3 at 1:00 pm The Book Group

The Book Group will meet - Wednesday, January 3rd at 1:00 pm in Room 102 at Plymouth Church. If you would like to have lunch before the meeting, bring your own and come at 12:30.

We will be discussing the book  
***Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng.**

### Wednesday, January 10 at 1:00 pm The Meditative Arts Group In the Atrium

Everyone is welcome to join us for Zentangle, coloring or other relaxing art activities.

We look forward to sharing our art while listening to meditative music.



### Lunch Club

will be on Winter Break for the month of January. We look forward to sharing a meal and discussion with everyone in February!



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, January 15**

**SEND TO:**

# *Happy Birthday!*

**To our Four Score Plus**

Dick Brubaker

Gail Hall

Janet Neary

Pat Schinabeck

Gretchen Smith

