

The Perspective

Volume 47

Number 3

March 2024

March 3

Third Sunday in Lent | Communion

Our Church is Called to be... A Burning Fire | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching
Luke 3:15-16

March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Our Church is called to be... A Hospital | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching
Mark 1:29-34

March 17

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Our Church is Called to be... A Fortress | Pastor Dillon Shipman Preaching
Psalm 18:1-3, Ephesians 2:19-22

March 24

Palm Sunday

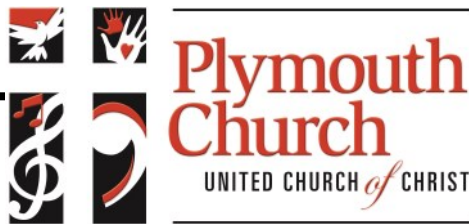
The Message of the Palms | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching
Mark 11:1-11

March 31

Easter Sunday

After the Tomb | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
Mark 16:1-8

Worship is at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary & online 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 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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Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

I pulled my car up to a gas station recently, and was reminded that even the few seconds of waiting for the tank to fill are now filled with the sights and sounds of little screen with its advertisements.

The poet Jean Arp, who died in 1948, gave this warning for the time she lived in: "Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation. Tooting, howling, screeching, booming, crashing, whistling, grinding, and trilling bolster his ego."

Imagine what she would think about the time we live in now.

Gloria Mark is a professor at University of California, Irvine who studies attention, and finds that our culture today is causing more people to experience burnout. Ironically, when we think that technology is improving productivity, it can actual lower productivity because humans are not like machines that don't need rest or rejuvenation. What people need is more silence for breaks and focused work, not more electronic messages.

Speaking with Ezra Klein, Professor Mark said:

"We start our day with a tank of cognitive resources. You can think about it as attentional capacity. And there are things we do during the day that deplete our attentional capacity, like watching kids, or focusing for a very long time on the computer, or multitasking. There are other things we do that can replenish our resources, such as taking a break.

... If a person has the luxury to go outside and take a walk in nature, that's the best break of all, because research shows that even just 20 minutes in nature can really replenish people. But a person can also contemplate or meditate. You can have a conversation with someone. Some people knit. Some people play simple mindless games. The great poet and writer Maya Angelou talked about her big mind and her little mind. And her big mind was what she used for her deep thought and her creativity. But she also did crossword puzzles or small tasks, which allowed her attentional resources to fill back up in the tank."

Lent could be a time to recover silence, whether a walk outside or looking out a window. The next time that you find a few moments of quiet, whether in a car, or waiting for an appointment, or sitting quietly in a church pew, try giving your mind permission to rest and notice what you perceive. For a time, resist the television, the phone, the computer, and the news updates. Resist the thoughts of what you need to do or should have done. Find the silence and let it be a place of rest.

A Hebrew sage said that "the beginning of wisdom is silence. The second stage is listening." M. Scott Peck, author of *The Road Less Traveled*, wrote that "you cannot truly listen to anyone and do anything else at the same time."

Silence allows us to listen. Listening shows people that we love them. Listening to the holy center of your own life is a way to listen to God.

"Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" -Mark 4:9

I'll see you in church!

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



From Dillon's Desk

Dear Friends,

Perhaps we thought it was a quirky challenge this year when Ash Wednesday (the solemn first day of Lent) fell on Valentine's Day. Here's another challenge then for us: the beginning of Holy Week is the beginning of Spring Break. What is supposed to be the holiest, most reverent week of the entire year for Christians will coincide with the start of a break from school.

Spring break - aren't there teen movies about crazy wild times at Daytona Beach? Isn't it party time in Cancún? How can remembering Jesus's last supper with his friends, his death on a cross, and the mysterious empty tomb compete with Disneyworld? I mean, it's a real question!

Family time away is precious and important, especially when there's not much other time for it. Another year when Holy Week and Spring Break coincide, you could consider spending the week with the family in volunteer service - visiting lonely elders, helping to prepare meals for hungry neighbors, or making a religious pilgrimage together. But this year, assuming the tickets are already booked for vacation, we ask: is there any way to honor both the need for family fun and the holiness of Holy Week?

Of course. Just like we did an Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day mash-up, doing both is possible. Churches are everywhere, for one. Cody and I visited several churches for worship when we were in Europe earlier this year. It was awesome and wonderful to let another church refresh us and minister to us. Try church wherever you are! Ask around and look at websites. Ask the kids in your family to help brainstorm how to honor Holy Week in a vacation setting - you might get creative ideas, and then you'd also have their buy-in. Go to a Maundy Thursday service somewhere on March 28. Or, have fun all week, but make space ahead of time out of your fun so that on Good Friday you could read the Passion story (have it downloaded on your phone before you leave) and take some time for silence to remember Jesus in prayer this day.



Wherever you are, it will still be Holy Week. Wherever you are, God is with you.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dillon Shipman
Designated Associate Minister

*Our Church is
Called to be...*

A Life Boat

February 18

1 Peter 3:18-20

A Training Ground

February 25

Mark 8:31-38

A Burning Fire

March 3

Luke 3:15-16

A Hospital

March 10

Mark 1:29-34

A Fortress

March 17

Psalms 18:1-3

Ephesians 2:19-22

A LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Worship is at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary & online at
Plymouthchurchucc.org

Maundy Thursday Worship

March 28, 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

It was on Thursday night that Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, and instituted the sacrament of communion. The gospel according to John also describes how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples that evening, giving them an example of loving service to others, and a commandment to “love one another as I have loved you.” The word for commandment in Latin gives us the name for this service: Maundy. Jesus was arrested later that evening, and he went on trial overnight before being condemned and crucified early Friday morning. Worship for Maundy Thursday begins with communion, and moves to an ancient service of Tenebrae, a word meaning shadows. In the Tenebrae service, the lights in the sanctuary are gradually extinguished as we remember the events of that night. Worship will be led by the Plymouth Choir.

Join us for dinner before the Maundy Thursday service

\$8 per person, \$15 per couple,
\$25 family max.

Menu: Oven-fried Chicken, Ramen
Slaw, Veggies and Pita with Hummus,
Dessert

RSVP by Monday 3/25

Dinner to be served starting at 6:15

Ecumenical Good Friday Worship

March 29, Noon – 3:00 pm

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Blvd.**

On Good Friday, Plymouth Church joins an ecumenical service with neighboring Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy to worship from noon until 3:00 p.m., hosted annually by St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The worship service is divided into seven sections, each lasting approximately 25 minutes and focusing on one of the final statements of Jesus as recorded in the four gospels. Pastor Dillon Shipman will preach on the first statement, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing,” between Noon and 12:30 pm.

Other preachers include Rev. Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Fairmount Presbyterian Church; Rev. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, Church of the Gesu; Rev. Andy Call, Church of the Saviour; Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland; Rev. Jessie MacMillan, Church of the Covenant; and Rev. Brandon Ashcraft, St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Holy⁺Week **SCHEDULE**

Palm Sunday

Worship 10:30 AM

MARCH 24

Maundy Thursday

Dinner 6:15 PM

Worship 7:30 PM

MARCH 28

Good Friday

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Noon - 3:00 PM

MARCH 29

Easter Sunday

Egg Hunt 10:00 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

MARCH 31

plymouthchurchucc.org

Lent & Easter



Bringing back “Alleluia” on Easter Day!

Easter brings a change of liturgical color (from purple to white) and the return of the “Alleluias” in our worship services. Did you notice that the Alleluias were gone during Lent? The word Alleluia comes from the Hebrew for “praise the Lord.” It is a joyous announcement God’s goodness towards us. During Lent, we refrain from saying or singing Alleluia. This change reflects the penitential, solemn tone of Lent. The practice also enriches and shapes our prayer and our sense of discipline as we anticipate Easter. It is a kind of fasting from ecstatic praise, letting our “Alleluias” lie dormant for six weeks before we again burst out in joyful and ecstatic affirmation of the Resurrection.

On Easter Day, as we celebrate God’s fullest expressions of Love and Life, which come through the power of Christ’s Resurrection, the Alleluias come back in a big way!

We want to celebrate Easter Day here at Plymouth with a church-made Alleluia banner that will hang across the chancel in the sanctuary and loudly proclaim the great hope we know because of Easter. We will have large letters spelling out “Alleluia” and symbols of Easter (the cross, flowers, butterflies, etc.) available for church members and families to decorate at home. You can get creative and use anything you want – markers, paint, tissue paper, buttons... don’t be afraid to let it be colorful and catch our attention. They will be hung up at the end of Holy Week, and they will greet us as we enter the church on Easter morning.

Please reach out to Pastor Dillon if you would like to decorate one of these letters or symbols and pick up the packet to do so, or if you have any questions. The completed art needs to be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, March 27.



CHILDREN & YOUTH DEPARTMENT
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

Junior Easter Egg Hunt

MARCH 31, 2024 | 10 AM

Children 10 and under are invited to meet us at 10 AM on the Plymouth Church lawn for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. To register, please sign-up in the Welcome Center or contact Leslie at lszalay@plymouthchurchucc.org



Children & Youth



MARCH PLYMOUTH YOUTH CALENDAR

March 3 (Sunday) – Youth Group @ Plymouth in Krumbine, 5:00-7:00pm

March 10 (Sunday) – Confirmation @ Plymouth in Krumbine, 12:00-1:30pm

March 17 (Sunday) – St. Patrick's Day Youth Group Party @ Plymouth in Krumbine, 5:00-7:00pm

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day Party! Bring an Irish dish or a green dish to share for the potluck, and come dressed in as much green as you can as we play a bunch of St. Patty's day games!

March 24 (Sunday) – Confirmation @ Plymouth in Krumbine, 12:00-1:30pm



All youth in 6th through 12th 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. Reach out to Pastor Dillon with any questions you have.

Church, we ask that you continue to pray for 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 Sunday, March 10

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 **March 10, room 204.**

One Great Hour



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

You're here to be the light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**



**OFFERING DATE
MARCH 10, 2024**

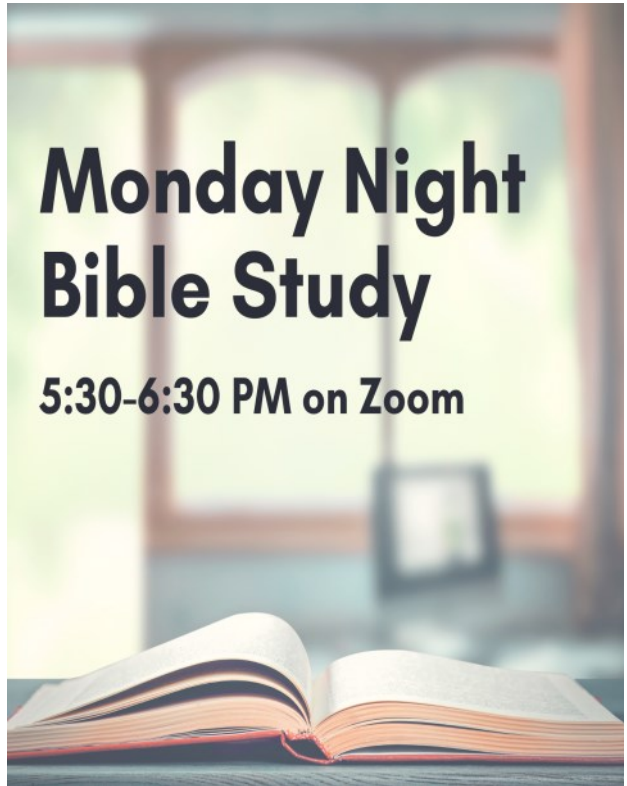


Coffee House

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.

Monday Night Bible Study

5:30-6:30 PM on Zoom



PLYMOUTH CHURCH

FOSSIL FUEL

March 6th & 20th
8:30 am in the Candy Circle Conference room

**Sign-up to
help with
coffee hour
in the
Welcome
Center**





Spring Forward

Set your clock forward one hour
MARCH 10

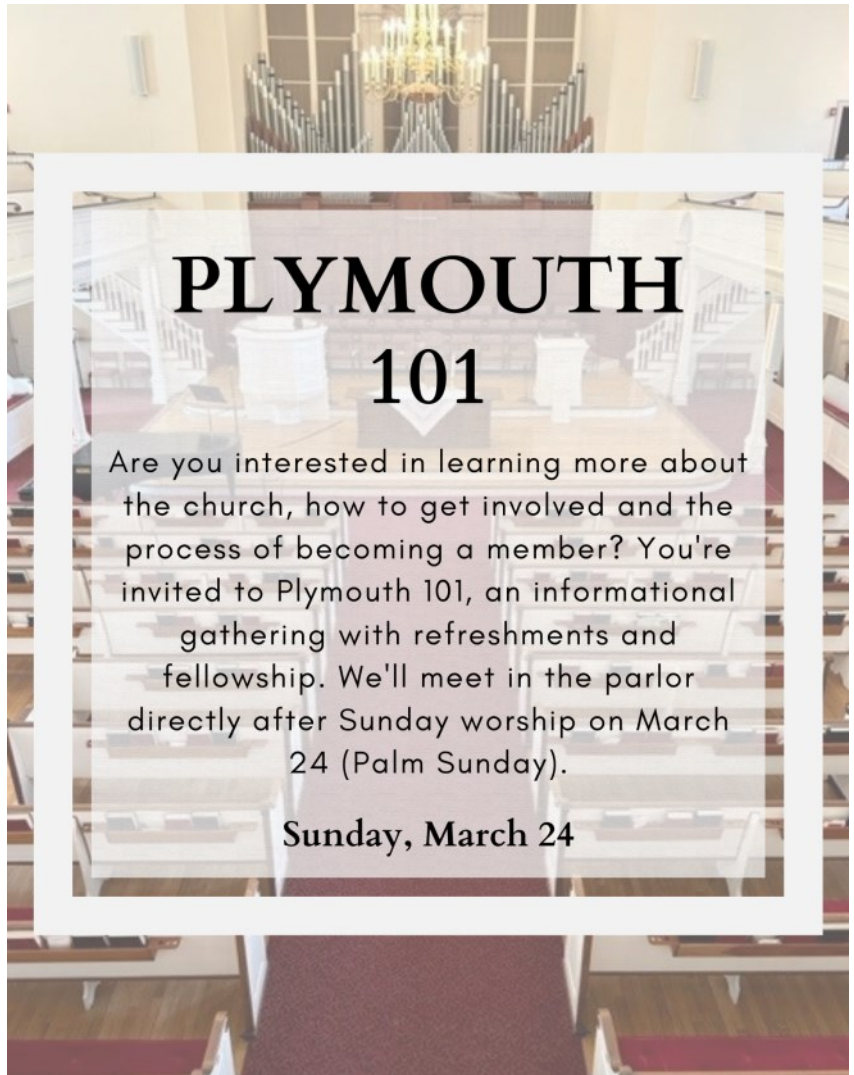


Shaker Heights Hunger Center Volunteers

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) if you can help with this community service project.



Adult Faith & Life

Israel and Palestine Presentation

As part of the Adult Faith and Life committee's ongoing discussions on the Israel/Palestine conflict, we'd like to promote upcoming presentation:

Israel and Palestine: History and Current Conflict, **March 3**. Judge Dan Polster was appointed to the federal bench by President Clinton in 1998. He is a lifelong Clevelander who has been to Israel approximately 10 times since 1971. Meet in room 102 following worship.



Photos from the
*Moving Right
Along* Event

Watch next month's Perspective for a list of other, expanded congregational opportunities beyond the southern border focus, that will help Plymouth "Become an Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation" (BIWC)

Volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank

Volunteers are invited to join us this month on **Tuesday, March 12** and **Wednesday, March 20** from 6-8pm at the Greater Cleveland Foodbank.

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



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank

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, March 6 at 1:00 pm The Book Group

The Book Group will meet - Wednesday, March 6 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 *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict

Wednesday, March 13 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.



Wednesday, March 20 at 12:30pm Lunch Club In Fellowship Hall

Join us for lunch and fellowship, as well as a time of getting to know about Humble Design. Leaders from Humble Design will share their work with us of being an organization that seeks to change lives and communities by custom designing and fully furnishing home interiors for individuals, families, and veterans emerging from homelessness.

The suggested donation for lunch is \$10. RSVP to Pastor Dillon at dshipman@plymouthchurchucc.org, which is necessary for food preparation.



Lunch Menu: Turkey Meatloaf, Corn Casserole, Carolina Coleslaw, Dessert

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, March 18

SEND TO:

Happy Birthday!

To our Four Score Plus

Pam Beck

Kay Brenneman

Joyce Butze

Eva Garden

Rose McIntyre

Virginia Nix

Ginny Perkins

Doug Powell

Michael Schiavoni

Elizabeth Swenson



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