

The Perspective

Volume 46

Number 1

January 2023 Happy New Year!

January 1

Epiphany Sunday | No Communion

Pilgrimage | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8

Communion | Ritual of Affirmation of Baptism and Renaming

Water and Spirit | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend

Grace and Peace and Thanksgiving | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster preaching
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

January 22

Guest Preacher

January 29

Words to live By | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching
Matthew 5:1-12

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	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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Director of Christian Education
Temp. Communications Coordinator

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Rose Munn

Facilities Staff

Church Office

216-921-3510

Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

The spiritual journey through the season of Advent to Christmas is well known, but do you know about the journey from Epiphany to the mountaintop?

I invite you on a spiritual journey from now until February 23, when the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. These weeks can be a spiritual journey of learning, revealing, deepening understanding, receiving the goodness of God and making (or renewing) our commitments of faithful response.

In the liturgical calendar, Epiphany is celebrated on January 6, the day after the twelve days of Christmas-tide. January 6th falls on a Friday this year, so, at Plymouth, we will observe Epiphany on Sunday, January 1. New Year's Day seems like the perfect day to celebrate the first revelation of Jesus to the wider world, and to reflect on the pilgrimage that the magi made, which is an invitation for our own spiritual pilgrimages.

The last Sunday before Ash Wednesday is the annual remembrance of the transfiguration of Jesus in dazzling light on the mountaintop. It is a mystical experience that reveals both the divinity of Jesus and the potential of every person to enter into mystic communion with the divine. The journey of Epiphany calls us to lives that become so full of God's Spirit that we are also transfigured!

Okay, I realize that those last sentences have a lot to unpack, and maybe all of that "mystical" language strikes you as esoteric or just a bit too 'out there.' And yet, what is more down to earth than God being known in human life?

In the journey of Epiphany, Jesus moves out into the world, bringing the goodness of God to places where it is needed for comfort, healing, and creating reconciliation and right relationships.

In this new year, I invite you to think about how God may be meeting you in this season? How might your life be different by the time the season of Lent begins, because of the way that God meets you? I find that knowing what I'm looking for will help me to see it when it arrives.

Will God meet you with wisdom for an important decision?
Will God meet you with healing for your pain?
Will God meet you with strength to do a brave thing?
Will God meet you with comfort in your grief?

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

I'll see you in church.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



Annual Campaign

Thanks to those who have pledged to the 2023 Annual Campaign, as of 12/21/22

Mendle Adams	Ella & Milton Davis	Layton & Patti Ives
Gerry & Pam Beck	Mary Ann Davis	Carolyn Jillson
Ben Beckman & Ali Day	Al & Linda Day	Rick Johnson & Debbie May-Johnson
Harriet Bengston	Donna Dickinson	Robin Johnson
Marisue Besse	Gad Diri	Barbara Kacir
Suzanne Blaser	Ed & Debbie Dudley	Chris & Beth Karr
Jim & Mary Bright	Dan Farmer & Michelle Rose	Clare & Evan Katz
Bob Brucken	Patti & Scott Fine	Steve & Betsy Kaufman
Nancy Brucken	Robb Forward	Tracey Key
Bill & Susan Bruner	Ruth Garwood	C.J. Keyes
Dee Burt	Faye Gary	Florence Knight
Joyce Butze	Barbara Ginn	Karen & Craig Kolendo
Ruth Anna Carlson & Albert Leonetti	Brenda & Donald Grauer	Jonathan Kraft & Carrie Wise
Jim & Jeannie Chaney	Raymond Graves & Angela Zawada	Russell & Julie Lamb
Cindy Chapman & Wai Sung	Rich & Barbara Gray	Zachary & Nicole Lewis
Bebe Chiarito	Bill Green & Norma Storer	John & Nicole Lozier
Marilyn Christian	Brian & Amy Grube	Donald & Linda Mann
Jeannie Clarkson	Joann Hall	George & Lisa Mann
Andrew Cleminshaw & Kendall Cobb	Cindy Hill	John & Pam Markt
Paula Colahan-Sederstrom	Marion (Mrs. Roland) Hill	Dale & Jennifer Markworth
Jane Corteville & David Blumenthal	Holly Hitchcock	Scott & Kathryn Marsh
Tom & Janet Daniel	J. Atlee Horner	Kathleen Mau
	Hans & Lisa Hunziker	Kenyon Mau

Annual Campaign

Thanks to those who have pledged to the 2023 Annual Campaign, as of 12/21/22

Warren McClelland & Val Arbie-
McClelland

Conrad & Carol McWilliams

Cliff & Lynne Megerian

Bill & Robin Menges

Harry & Helen Mercer

Richard & Michael Merte

Carol Miller

Rebecca Molyneaux

Bea Muller

Marsha & Jack Myslenski

Janet Neary

Norma Nelson

Charlene Nevans

Noel & Carolyn Nilson

Virginia Nix

Karen Nordstrom

Bill & Tique Oeflein

Dick & Gail Ogle

Ginny Perkins

Toby & Judy Perry

Doug & Mary Powell

Arthur & Janet Purinton

Margaret Reuthinger

Curt Reynolds

Jim Riggs

Merce Robinson

Bob & Suzanne Ruff

Mitch & Beth Sanborn

Michael & Suzanne Schiavoni

Pat Schinabeck

Linda Sempliner

Terry & Barbara Shockey

Tom & Eve Sliwinski

Chris & Shelli Smith

Gretchen Smith

Kathy Smyth

Fred & Betsy Stueber

Gloria Sturghill

Peter & Kristin Sweeney

David Daniel Turner

Tim & Linda Tuthill

Don & Jane Underwood

Christina & Byron Webster

Nancy West

Alissa Wible & Marcus Henry

Curtis & Holly Witchey

Robert & Tanya Woolfrey

Matthew & Betsy Wooster

Pastoral Relations Committees at Plymouth Church

When you see Pastoral Relations as a department of the church, what do you think? Is it needed? What do they do? In short, they support the ministers. The Pastoral Relations Committee serves to enhance the church's ministry and support a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation, to be a sounding board/advisory group to the pastor, and to help him or her work through ideas, dreams, expectations and/or concerns.

What the Pastoral Relations Committee is not: a place to circumvent church processes or decision making, to relay anonymous feedback, or for individuals or groups to be adversarial. The Pastoral Relations committees are in place to encourage assessment of the ministry/congregation relationship, but do not lead pastoral evaluations. They are also not members of Council. In the event of potential conflict, congregants are encouraged to speak to the pastor directly (with the member of the Committee in attendance if both sides agree), as anonymous complaints will not be forwarded.

The health of the relationship between the minister and the congregation is crucial. The Committee works in confidentiality and honesty with the minister, and also promotes healthy communication in the congregation as a whole.

For 2023, these are the members of the Pastoral Relations committees. These committees are comprised of overlapping three-year terms, and are appointed by Church Council, in consultation with the Nominating Committee and the ministers.

Pastoral Relations Committee for Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster, Senior Minister
Kendalle Cobb, Tom Cullinan, Amy Grube, Beth Sanborn, Gloria Sturghill.

Pastoral Relations Committee for Jim Riggs, Minister of Music and the Arts
Robb Forward, Charlene Nevans, Brian Shields, Molly Warmbein, Alissa Wible

Concert Hosting

Beginning at the end of January, Plymouth will again host various concerts through May. There are opportunities to sign up in the Welcome Area to be a concert host. Our first concert is January 28.

Any questions can be directed to either Kathy Smyth (kathleensmyth6@gmail.com) or Jan Wilkens (janetwilkens@yahoo.com).

Sunday Choir

Sunday Choir will sing for worship next on Sunday, January 22 with a rehearsal at 9:45 am. All ages and stages are welcome. It is helpful to let Jim Riggs (jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org) know of your intention to sing.

Worship Talk Back Session, January 22

In conjunction with ARE, the ministers will host a worship feedback session on Sunday, January 22 following worship for the purpose of discussing the service, asking questions, and dialogue about what goes into planning the service. All are welcome.

News & Events

Plymouth Honors Members 90 and 90+ in 2022

A beautiful, delicious, entertaining and joyful Fellowship Reception followed Worship Service at Plymouth Church on December 18th, honoring members who turned 90 years old in 2022, and others who had celebrated 90 in previous years.

Coincidentally, the sermon on December 18th---"*Family as Choice*" - *God in Real Life* Part 4, delivered by our Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster---seemed to describe the close bond which developed among 1932 birth-year members over the course of 10 years, beginning with their first joint birthday celebration in 2012 when that group of 12 members all turned 80 years old.

The 2022 Reception, honoring Dick Brubaker, Joanne Dickinson, Barbara Hawkins, Marion Hill, Norma Nelson and Pat Pogue, was attended by approximately 125 Plymouth congregants, friends and several family members from other States. It was creatively planned and smoothly accomplished by Plymouth members Pat Schinabeck, Beth Sanborn, Norma Storer and J. Attlee Horner III, with help from new members Gad Diri and Lucas Hershberger, Williams Family and other volunteers, and Plymouth's entire staff. The Williams-Nelson family hosted the occasion, welcoming guests and providing participatory entertainment.

Plymouth's 1932 birth year members now thank everyone who attended the December 18th Worship Service and/or Reception, and contributed in some way to honor them and all others in their 9th decade of life. We are also most grateful for the countless birthday cards and well wishes received, and for your gifts of any kind to Plymouth Church, including your friendship, love, time, resources, and your continued prayers. Thank you!

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a faithful, compassionate, peace-filled New Year!



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

Volunteer at the Cleveland Foodbank

Volunteers are invited to join Plymouth Church members at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank each month. The new address is 13815 Coit Road, Cleveland.

The next gathering will be 6-8pm on **January 18**

Contact Paul Qua at pqua@driveclassic.com.



Sugar Plum Workshop 2022

Thank you to the 30+ volunteers who helped to make this wonderful event possible! We helped 71 children make 679 crafts!



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 16

SEND TO:

Happy Birthday!

To our Four Score Plus

Dick Brubaker
Gail Hall
Janet Neary
Pat Pogue
Gus Schrader
Gretchen Smith

