

The Perspective

Volume 45

Number 7

August 2022

Isaiah's Prophetic Vision Sermon Series

August 7-21

Isaiah at the Solemn Ceremony

Isaiah at the Vineyard

Isaiah at the Ruins

August 7 | 10am in the Chapel | Communion

Isaiah at the Solemn Ceremony | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

August 14 | 10am outdoor worship

Isaiah at the Vineyard | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Isaiah 5:1-7

August 21 | 10am in the Chapel

Isaiah at the Ruins | Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster Preaching

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

August 28 | 10am in the Chapel

Keeping it Simple—a Bumper Sticker Faith | Rev. Mendle Adams Preaching

Luke 14:1,7, 16-23



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	Vicki Werneke
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	Amy Holbrook
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
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Church Office
216-921-3510

Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

The church is an instrument of growth, change, and transformation. The church is a place for faith to grow.

The disciples made a place for the doubts of Thomas. After the risen Christ appeared to the other disciples, one of the first and best things they did was to make a place for Thomas and his doubts. In the gospel according to John, Thomas missed that first meeting with the risen Christ. When the other disciples told him about it, Thomas said that he would not believe unless he saw the wounds for himself. When Jesus appeared to them again, he showed Thomas his wounds.

It's a wonderful scene, but we usually overlook the amazing thing that happened during that week between the appearances of the risen Christ: Thomas continued to belong with the disciples even though he did not believe. There is always room for people who have doubts and questions. The church is a place for faith to grow.

In fact, I hope that we are always growing. I hope that we are expanding the ideas about God that we had when we were younger. I hope that we are being challenged to live with more love and courage than we had before. I hope that we are getting better with practice at offering forgiveness to others, and welcoming others, even when forgiveness and welcome unsettle us.

Let's keep growing in our understanding of God, like a lifelong student. Let's grow in our capacity to love, like a long-distance runner whose conditioning improves by running. And let's grow in our strength to face the brokenness of this world, like a weight-lifter trains to carry heavy loads with more ease.

A recent survey of the church by the Adult Faith & Life department found that the highest levels of recognized interest and need are in the areas of spiritual growth, religious study, and anti-racism work. I celebrate these responses! Clearly, this is a church community that desires growth, wanting to learn and to practice justice.

There will be opportunities for us to grow together in all of these ways, and we will continue to make room for people who are in different places along the journey.

Our church proclaims faith in God, the Eternal Spirit, made known to us in Jesus our brother, the risen Christ who is the head of our church. And, just like Paul and the other disciples, our church also knows that questions and doubts are real, and they take time. There's room for that here. The church is a place for faith to grow.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster, Senior Minister



Treasures Report

Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Juanita Faulx, Treasurer

Below are the financial results for the six months ending June 30, 2022.

General Fund		Annual Budget	YTD 6/30/2022	Variance	%
Income	Offerings - Pledges/Member Gifts	\$597,852	\$416,001	\$181,851	69.58%
	Foundation Fund Support	263,363	0	263,363	0.00%
	Building Use	89,943	62,601	27,342	69.60%
	Other Income	25,468	20,285	5,183	79.65%
	Total Income	\$976,626	\$498,887	\$477,739	51.08%
Expenses	Professional Services	\$10,500	\$5,524	\$4,976	52.61%
	Partnership & Service	61,024	0	61,024	0.00%
	Children & Youth	7,695	2,250	5,445	29.24%
	Caring	1,951	350	1,601	17.93%
	Adult Faith & Life	850	279	571	32.78%
	Evangelism & Growth	6,413	1,931	4,482	30.12%
	Building & Grounds	198,206	96,005	102,201	48.44%
	Worship	9,150	1,990	7,160	21.75%
	Giving	1,700	-	1,700	0.00%
	Council	21,710	487	21,223	2.24%
	Compensation	598,716	278,222	320,494	46.47%
	Total Expenses	\$917,915	\$387,038	530,877	42.16%
Net Total	YTD Net Surplus/(Deficit)		\$58,711	\$111,849	

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 six months ending June 30, 2022 are summarized below.

Special Fund	12/31/2021 Ending Cash	Net Increase (Decrease)	06/30/2022 Ending Cash
Buildings & Grounds	\$85,776	\$57,684	\$143,460
Caring	5,680	\$402	6,081
Children & Youth	61,533	(\$5,039)	56,494
Partnership & Service	9,349	(\$4,387)	4,962
Worship	19,084	(\$2,145)	16,940
ArtsPlymouth	28,984	\$230	29,214
Council – Fellowship	938	\$0	938
Totals	211,343	\$46,745	\$258,087

Treasures 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 06/30/2022 is as follows:

Ending Balance at 12/31/2021	7,002,241
Net Capital Additions/(Withdrawals)	\$ 76,600
Reinvested Income/Dividends	\$ 7,242
Reinvested Capital Gains (Losses)	\$ (1,355,111)
Fees and Charges	\$ (12,457)
Ending Balance at 06/30/2022	5,718,515
Net Change in Value of Investments	\$ (1,283,726.80)

The 06/30/2022 balance of the Foundation Fund accounts compared to the prior quarter end.

	3/31/2022	6/30/2022
Unrestricted Fund	\$ 3,544,780	\$ 3,061,330
Perpetual Pledges	\$ 1,901,559	\$ 1,642,209
Property Preservation	\$ 99,043	\$ 85,532
Outreach (Benevolence)	\$ 165,062	\$ 142,553
ArtsPlymouth	\$ 178,274	\$ 153,957
Herr Music	\$ 85,829	\$ 74,127
Youth Programs/Dively	\$ 356,543	\$ 307,914
Youth Mission	\$ 0	\$ 0
William & Anne Cook Fund	\$ 290,521	\$ 250,893
Total	\$ 6,621,611	\$ 5,718,515

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

	Investment	% of Total Portfolio
Cash	Fidelity Government Cash Reserves	1.00%
Equity	Invesco Developing Markets	4.88%
	Ninety One Global Franchise Fund	4.94%
	Baillie Gifford Long Term GLBL GR	4.06%
	Cliffwater Corporate Lending Fund	5.45%
	Dodge & Cox Stock CL 1	0.10%
	Mondrian Global Equity Value Fund	5.26%
	Goldman Sachs Small Cap Value Insights	5.47%
	Loomis Sayles Small Cap Growth	5.24%
	Nationwide Intl Small Cap R6	5.56%
	Vanguard Instl Index Class	35.24%
	Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral SHS	6.52%
Fixed Income	Federatedd Hermes TTL Return Bond	8.53%
	Lord Abbott Short Duration Income CL 1	7.73%
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	100%

News & Events

Summer 2022



News & Events

Summer 2022



News & Events

Change in Plymouth Foundation's Investment Advisor

The Plymouth Foundation has chosen Clearstead Advisors, LLC, as its new investment consultant. Clearstead is an independent, locally based firm which advises approximately \$26 billion in client assets. The Foundation members felt that guidance from a larger firm with designated non-profit advisory staff was needed. This change occurred after several months of discussion and Zoom interviews with various candidates proposed by Foundation members. The team of Anthony Saracusa and Joe Adams at Clearstead was unanimously approved and the final transition of investments was accomplished in April. The Foundation appreciates the many years of service from Bob Perkins, its former investment advisor, prior to this change.

Sunday Choir

Sunday Choir will sing for worship on **August 21** with rehearsal at 9:20am in the chapel. All are welcome. If you have not already tried Sunday Choir, what's holding you back? It is helpful, but not necessary to email Jim Riggs (jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org) of your intention to sing.

Concert Hosting

Plymouth Church will again play host to concerts between October and May of 2023 by four community organizations. Concert Hosts welcome guests to our building offering directions and answering questions. And you get to attend the concert for free. If you feel the nudge to serve once or for several concerts, see the signup sheet located in the Welcome Center. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Kathy Smyth (kathleensmyth6@gmail.com) or Jan Wilkens (janetwilkens@yahoo.com).

Plymouth Social Justice Collaborative

THANK YOU to all who contributed time, energy, items, and funds to the creation of Hygiene Kits for disaster victims! Following worship on July 10, a fantastic, energetic group of volunteers of all ages stuffed 113 packs in less than 25 minutes, boxed, and tidied up. The kits have been delivered to a Church World Service depot, where they are ready to be distributed as soon as needed!

Read Plymouth's weekly e-news for opportunities to focus on and advocate for gun responsibility, living-being rights, civil rights, and the social justice concerns that are important to you. Email your interest to sjcplym4u@gmail.com (Pam Beck)



Preparing the hygiene kit assembly line

Volunteer at the Cleveland Foodbank

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

The next gatherings will be
August 9th & 17th
5-8pm.

Contact Paul Qua at
[pqua@driveclassic.com.](mailto:pqua@driveclassic.com)

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Days

August 11 & December 10

Plymouth Church work days with Habitat for Humanity Faith Build are approximately 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Age 16+ may participate. No experience needed. Contact Paula Colahan-Sederstrom for more info at pmc3697@gmail.com



Monday Bible Study

5:30-6:30PM on Zoom
Begins September 12

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 Bible Study.



Congregational News

Condolences to

- to the family of Yaa Owusu-Bennoah on the death of her father, Professor Emmanuel Owusu-Bennoah, in Ghana on June 24, 2022
- David Tuner on the passing of his grandmother on June 1, 2022

Help Wanted!

There are many ways to get involved and help out here at Plymouth Church! Check out some of our current needs below.



Ushers

We are in need of more ushers. If you might be interested or simply want to learn more, please contact Kendalle Cobb at Kendalle92@gmail.com

Plymouth Tech Team

The Plymouth Tech Team would love 1 more volunteer. At most, we would only need you to stream once a month or potentially, just as a backup in case of shortage. Very limited commitment needed. Technology is fairly user friendly. Please contact J. Horner at jatleehorneriii@gmail.com

The Plymouth Knitting Ministry

In order to continue our tradition of supplying hats and scarves to students to help them through the cold winter, we need some new knitters. The materials are provided. All we need is your time and talent. Contact Dave Faulx, Caring Department Chair.

Meal Train

The Meal Train is back up and running to bring cheer to those feeling stressed. We are in need of volunteer cooks for meals when needed. Please contact Lashawn Caldwell or David Faulx.

Chancel Flowers

We are looking for an individual who might help coordinate the flowers you see at the front of the chancel area on certain Sundays. Coordinating includes monitoring the sign-up sheet, communicating with the office, ordering flowers when needed, and helping the minister distribute flowers after worship. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the church office for more information.

Save the Date!

Service of Ordination for Betsy Wooster

Sunday, September 18, 3:00 pm
At Plymouth Church

Plymouth Church welcomes the Living Water and Metropolitan Boston Associations of the United Church of Christ to celebrate the ordination of Betsy Wooster to Christian Ministry.

Save the date, more details to follow in September.

CAPTAINS' TICKETS & BUFFET

Classic Park
August 5 | 5:30PM

Take Me Out to the Ball Game! For summer fun and fellowship you are invited to root for the other home team - the Lake County Captains, on Friday, August 5. Game starts at 7:00; Buffet dinner in left field begins at 5:30. Meet at Classic Park and enjoy the game, all-you-can-eat buffet, and stay for fireworks. And see Plymouth Church's name up in lights!

Reserve your ticket(s) on the sign up sheet with name and contact information. This event was partially underwritten by special contributions through Evangelism and Growth Department. Baseball is back and so are we.

Free will offerings will be accepted but not required.

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, August 15

SEND TO:



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