

# Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

April 2022

## Origins

One good thing about participating in the United Church of Christ is that I get to see what people are doing in other parts of the denomination. I still get the newsletter from the Northern California/Nevada Conference, and in the latest one, conference minister Diane Weible wrote about United Parish Church in Brookline, Massachusetts and “The Negro Spiritual Royalties Project” that they started.



Many of the songs in the hymnals that we use today, across multiple denominations, come from the body of work that Black Americans and historians call “Negro Spirituals.” These songs, unlike most of the other songs in our hymnals, were published after the names of those who wrote them had been lost to the ravages of time. These songs bear witness to the horror and injustice of racism and slavery, while also lifting up the faith, hope, and love that all Christians share and aspire to. From the time they were first recorded and shared, to the present day, these songs have inspired countless other songs, stories, musical arrangements, and compositions used by churches, schools, choirs, orchestras, and bands all over the world.

When most songs are used in worship, royalties are paid to the owners of those songs, but this is not the case with Negro Spirituals. Imagine what worship would be like without songs like This Little Light of Mine, Every Time I Feel the Spirit, and Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? In honor of the origins of these works, United Parish Church has decided that every time they use a Negro Spiritual in worship, they will pay royalties to organizations that support Black musicians.

So often, we go through life not understanding the origins of the things around us. This is not to point fingers or to make anyone feel guilt or shame; there is a limit to what we are able to perceive as human beings, and it is difficult to question every assumption that we have about the world around us. In fact, many of us would be hard pressed to even identify many of those assumptions. But, when we find out about something like this, it’s important to take a step back and think about the impact that it has on our lives, and how it connects us to the people around us, and to our past. We must work for justice wherever and whenever we can. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It is the only rule that we need.

~ Pastor Charles

## New Communications Intern

Hello everyone! My name is Clayton Ryerson and I am the first Communications Intern at Plymouth Congregational Church. My job involves getting the name, “Plymouth Congregational Church” in front of as many people as I can in order to grow the congregation. This involves promoting Plymouth on social media, and out in the community in a variety of different ways, such as hanging up flyers. My interest in communications has stemmed from a background in videography, graphic design, and computer science, which allows me to create content for the promotion of Plymouth Congregational. Outside of working at Plymouth, I spend my time being a student at Carroll College, running cross country and track, and producing music. Aside from this, I spend my Summers fighting fire, mountain biking, and trail running, and my winters snowboarding. I have lived in Helena for 9 years, attending St. Andrews, and Helena High prior to Carroll. Post college I am interested in pursuing a career in videography, and traveling around snowboarding. So far, I have loved meeting and working with everyone at Plymouth, and I look forward to the next few months!



~ Clayton



## Maundy Thursday

We are partnering with First Christ Christian Church to offer a Maundy Thursday Service. The service will be at Plymouth Congregational Church, Thursday, April 14th at 5:00 p.m. We will have a simple meal together as part of the service to commemorate the Last Supper. Please sign up to let us know that you are coming and if you would like to be a reader.

## In Our Prayers Today

At Home: Giles Walker, Margy Kohl, Jay Shelden, Greg Bolin, and Nathan Schreder as they go through cancer treatment. Lorraine Hopgood, for continued recovery.

Touchmark: Evelyn Nelson, and Art and Clara Gilreath; **Hunter's Point:** Marlyce Taylor; Edgewood: Ed Canty

Continued prayers for Ben Sweeney, the family of Margaret Miller, and the people of Ukraine.

*To add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 442-9883 or email [pccofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:pccofficemgr@gmail.com).*

# *Plymouth Congregational Church*

*Join us for  
Lent & Easter!*

**Lenten Lectio Divina Series**  
**Fridays, March 4 - April 8**  
**6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Lectio Divina is Latin for "divine reading." It is a guided group prayer and meditation that focuses on a selection of scripture. The origins of this practice go as far back as the 3rd century C.E. We will gather for a simple meal, and then move into the practice of Lectio Divina, opening our hearts and minds to the presence of Christ in our midst.



*Easter Sunday*  
*April 17, 2022*

**Worship 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

Join us for music, scripture, and prayer, followed by refreshments and fellowship after the service.

**Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 am**

All ages welcome! RSVPs are not required, but are encouraged, so that we can ensure we have enough treats and eggs for all participants!

400 South Oakes Street, Helena, MT 50601



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



## Who Is My Neighbor? Learn More

Elinor Edmunds Miller of Helena Afghan Refugee Relief Team (HARRT), who spoke so eloquently at Plymouth last month, will provide two cultural sensitivity training workshops during the month of April at Plymouth. For those who plan to work alongside the Afghan refugees, as well as those interested in learning more about our new neighbors, this workshop is for you. The first is scheduled for Thursday April 21 at 6:30 PM; the second will be Tuesday April 26 at 9:30 AM. Each session is 1 ½ hours. Sign-up sheets are provided on the table in the Narthex, or call the church to register your intent to participate in one or the other.



Elinor Edmunds Miller and Rev. Dick Weaver, March 20, 2022

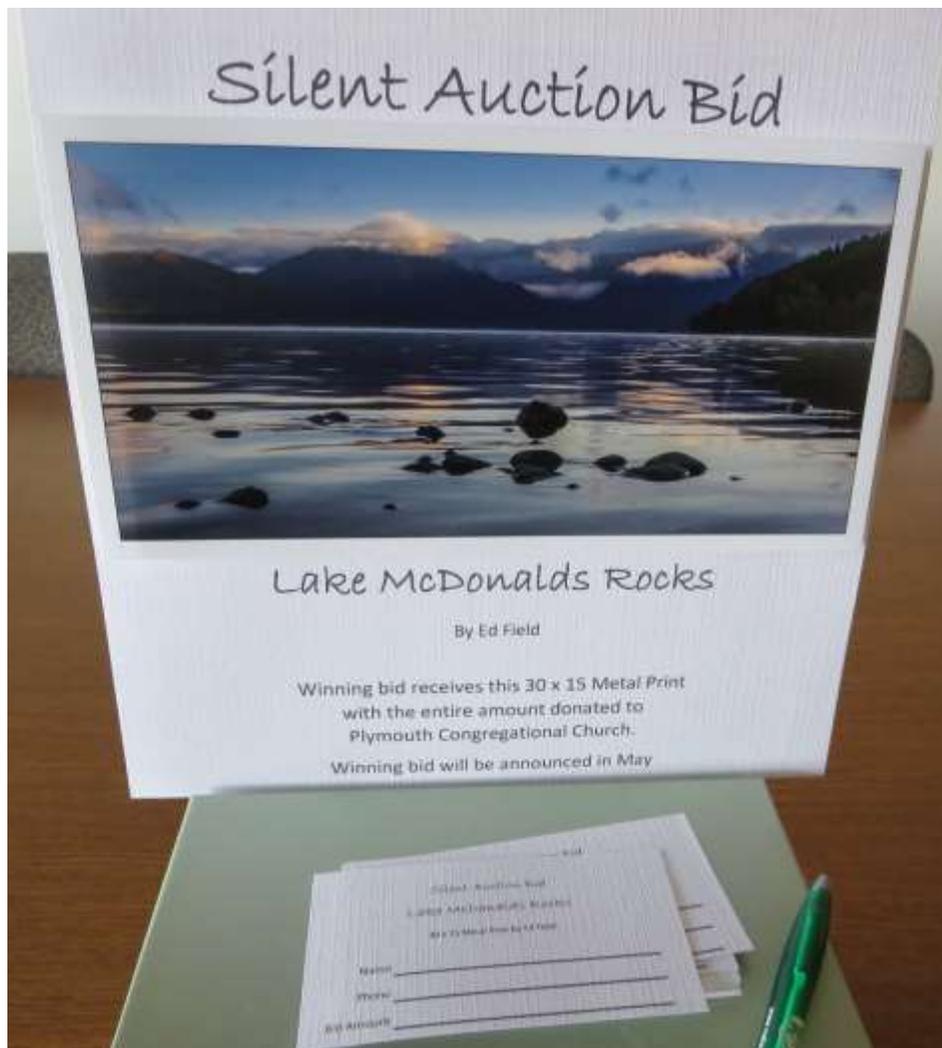
Working with HARRT, the Outreach and Social Justice Committee drafted a comprehensive plan to serve the Afghan families in a variety of ways in the coming months. Sewing instruction, gardening, newborn support, instruction in car maintenance, ping-pong, parking lot fishing (!), kite flying and food preparation are a few of the ways we hope to be involved in their lives. If you would like to know more about ways you can be involved, we would be glad to hear from you. Speak with Brenda Senne, Gus Byrom, Kathleen Culver, Frank Kromkowski or Jennifer Thompson. Thank you to all who so generously provided sewing machines, fabric and notions. Your gifts are most appreciated.

## Exhibit on Loan to Plymouth

Ed Field, photographer, and Kathy, his wife, are currently exhibiting some beautiful scenes of Montana landscapes, waterways, and animals in Plymouth's Fireside Room. A native Montanan and raised in Helena, Ed received early training in photography at Capital High School, then Montana State, and went on to spend two years in Germany with the U.S. Army where he served as a photographer. Ed and Kathy have two sons, Ryan and Paul, and have been members of Plymouth since 2005.

All of the photographs exhibited at the church are for sale. The Fields have graciously offered the proceeds from the "silent" sale of one print in particular, "Lake McDonalds Rocks" (30" x 15"), be designated to Plymouth. You are welcome to register for the silent auction by placing your bid (forms provided) in the box provided on the conference table in the Fireside Room. The winning bid will be announced in May, so don't delay.

Thank you, Ed and Kathy, for not only photographing our membership for a new church directory, for the loan of this beautiful exhibit, but also for your generous donation to Plymouth.



## Bridging Divides: Opportunities to Learn



### Restoring Creation: Theology, Policy, and Practice Earth Day Teach-in—Wednesday, April 20th

Lexington Theological Seminary's Green Task Force will be hosting zoom panel on Wednesday, April 20th, at 5:00 p.m. (7 Eastern). To register: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Xsw9Qg3XR0my50T79x3EOQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xsw9Qg3XR0my50T79x3EOQ)



What are the theological foundations of environmental issues that intersect with engaging racial justice, supporting urban and rural congregations, and cultivating a deeper, greener faith? How can congregations support policies that will ensure clean water, air, land, and healthy communities? And what can churches do to be part of the movement of restoring Creation that will sustain their ministries and connect with their communities?

### Enliven, Envision, Embody:

#### A Workshop in Music & Worship with Paul Vasile and Leah Silvieus

Join St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Helena, Montana, for a three-day participatory workshop with Paul Vasile and Leah Silvieus. Paul, a visionary leader in music and worship, and Executive Director of Music that Makes Community, and Leah, an author and poet interested in liturgy and language as a touchstone of worship, bring unique gifts for discovering God's voice through song, word, and movement drawn from many times and traditions. This event is part of the St. Paul's George Harper Expanding Faith Series, enlivening the church of today and envisioning the church of tomorrow.

This workshop will take place Thursday, June 2—Saturday, June 4, 2022. All are welcome to stay for a special worship experience on Pentecost, June 5, at St. Paul's UMC.

Register before May 1 for early bird tuition! <https://forms.gle/baG6ANKJ3PUiwcWA>

Sliding scale tuition is \$60-\$100 per participant before May 1; \$100-\$150 after May 1. Scholarships are also available.

# Creation Care Tips

Taking care of our world can seem like a daunting task, but there are simple things that we can all do to make the world a better place for everyone.

Did you know that real change can be as simple as changing which search engine you use when browsing the Internet? Ecosia dedicates 100% of its profits to climate action, with at least 80% of that going towards planting trees. Since they started in 2009, they have already planted over 144 million trees all over the world!

Ecosia is free and easy to add to your browser. Go to [Ecosia.org](https://Ecosia.org), and follow the simple instructions to start planting trees with every search that you make!



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## **Plymouth Church, U.C.C.**

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

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**Plymouth's Mission is to nurture our congregation and the wider community with acts of love and a vision of God's image in all things.**



### **Plymouth Church**

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

### **Office Hours**

- Pastor Charles Wei: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Tues. & Thurs.), and by appointment.
- Office Manager Gloria Soja: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (Wed.-Thur.)
- Bookkeeper Gail Tronstad by appointment.

**Sundays**  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
In Person and Online

### **Contact Us**

**Church Office:** 406.442.9883

**Web:** [www.plymouthmontanaucc.org](http://www.plymouthmontanaucc.org)

**Email:** [pccofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:pccofficemgr@gmail.com)

**Also:** [www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational](http://www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational)