

Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

August 2021

Breakfast by the Lake—August 8th



Photo by [Corina Rainer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The annual Breakfast by the Lake was scheduled by Roger for August 8, which seemed reasonable, but when I turned over my calendar to August yesterday, I realized that is NEXT Sunday!

We hold this event on the meadow next to Holter Lake on Cathy Campbell's ranch. You take Interstate 15 north toward Great Falls and follow the signs to the Gates of the Mountains. You drive through the ranch, and you'll see signs directing you off the road and out to the meadow at the ranch buildings.

Breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and orange juice will be served at 9 a.m. and church will follow at 10 am. Please bring your own chairs.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

~ Rosana Skelton

A Message from Dedicated Pastor, Rev. Charles Wei

Dear Members of Plymouth,

I've never been great at asking for help. I was always taught that a person should figure things out for themselves, pull themselves up by their bootstraps, and all that. I always took great pride in being able to accomplish something by myself. But, this is not how we live in community. So, leave it to God to teach me one final lesson before heading off to Montana.

Last Wednesday morning, around 11:00, I pulled a muscle in my shoulder while doing yardwork. At first, it wasn't such a big deal, I mean I hardly noticed it all day, and because my symptoms up to that point were just some chills and some aches in my body, I thought I was maybe coming down with the flu. Well, I woke up at 3 in the morning, completely stiff, in so much pain I couldn't figure out what was going on. It took me a full 10-15 minutes to get out of bed, and I knew I was in a world of trouble. I was supposed to be packing to move to Montana! How in the world was I going to do that with a wrenched shoulder? To compound it all, the moving company that was supposed to deliver the box for me to pack all of my stuff delivered the box 5 days late!

Thankfully, I was able to get past my resistance to asking for help. At that point, what other option did I have? My wonderful community of friends and congregants came together to help see me through this difficult time. Because I haven't been able to drive, they've been taking turns driving me to doctor's appointments and to the grocery store. Other friends worked out the moving box situation, and my moving box finally arrived! And, there has been such an outpouring of well-wishes, and prayers for my health and healing.

It's sad to leave such a loving, tight-knit community, but from what I can tell, I will be joining one that is just a full of love, and hope, and help, when the need arises.

Grace and peace,

Charles Wei



Shortly after we received this article, we learned that Rev. Wei's shoulder injury was worse than he initially thought and he has been hospitalized. He is undergoing multiple surgeries and we pray for a full recovery.

(Please see page 3 for a message from the Moderator.)

Letter from the Moderator about Rev. Wei's Injury

Dear Members of Plymouth:

All of us have been looking forward to welcoming the Rev. Charles Wei, and he has been eagerly looking forward to beginning his ministry among us. He was scheduled to preach at the August 29 service, but that may be delayed.

Charles injured his shoulder while trimming a tree at church. He didn't think it was serious enough to go to urgent care, but it turned out to be worse than he originally thought. I spoke with his father and learned that Charles finally went to the emergency room last Saturday, July 31. With internal bleeding and a blood infection, he required immediate surgery. He is expected to fully recover, but must have follow-up surgery this Saturday, August 7. At this point, we don't know how long it will take him to recuperate.

I hope Charles can still be with us on August 29, but since it's not certain, I have spoken with Mark Wilson and Steve Brehe, our interim ministers, and they are available to serve if Charles is delayed. If necessary, Mark would carry most of the work in September because Steve tentatively will be in France September 12 through 26.

Most importantly, hold Charles in your hearts and keep him in your prayers. You can offer written encouragement by sending a card to him at 220 Van Winkle Drive, San Anselmo, CA 94960. We will have a greeting card to sign at Breakfast by the Lake, as well as next Sunday.

The Council and I will keep you up to date.

~ Jan Clinard,

New Prayer Request Cards

You may have noticed that there are new cards that say “Please Pray For” located in the book rack on the backs of the pews in the church sanctuary. At the July 14th Church Counsel meeting, a decision was made to try to be more timely and focused in praying for members of the Plymouth congregation. Each of you can now assist with this process.

First, you can fill out a prayer card if you or someone you know is in need of prayer. You can let other members know about this by requesting that requests for prayer be published in the bulletin or in the monthly Waymark newsletter. You can also request that sensitive or confidential information not published if you deem privacy to be a concern. Publishing prayer requests is way to let all members of Plymouth know who to pray for and when (for example: Mrs. Johnson is being admitted to the hospital for surgery on “such and such” a date.)

Secondly, you can help with this by committing yourself to pray for those who have requested prayers from the congregation. You might even consider setting aside a special time each day (early in the morning often works well) to devote to prayer so that you can pray for needs of your Plymouth congregation sisters and brothers who have requested you to petition God on their behalf.



Please pray for

- Yes, please publish in Waymarks.
- Yes, please announce in Worship.
- No, Pastor only please.

Place your prayer request in the offering plate. Be sure to print. After four weeks, please renew your request so our list is up to date. Blessings to you and yours.

In Our Prayers Today

At Home: Ed Canty, Margaret Miller, Pete McKinley, and Giles Walker. Margy Kohl, Nathan Schreder, and Jay Sheldon as they go through cancer treatment. Peggy Coggeshall and Lorraine Hopgood, for continued recovery. Connie Erickson, bereaved.

Touchmark: Evelyn Nelson and Art and Clara Gilreath

Hunter's Point: Marlyce Taylor

Prayers for Shasta, our interim pastors, Steve Brehe and Mark Wilson, and our future dedicated minister, Rev. Charles Wei, especially as he recuperates from his injured shoulder.

To add someone to the prayer list, please call the church office at 442-9883 or email pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Moderator's Message

In 2011, I wrote an article for Waymarks that described my fondness, accompanied by frustration, with some junipers I had planted in 1985 along my front stairs. When I wrote ten years ago, they were still “green and feathery” despite the fact that every winter, “snow blew eastward and blocked by the juniper hedge, formed deep, crusty drifts, obliterating the stairs.” I used that story to launch into a discussion about the need to fix Plymouth’s roof. Over these past ten years, those junipers lost their appeal and I decided to remove them this week. As the branches were cut, I was amazed by the size of the trunks, the odd and gnarly shapes, and the astonishing length of the branches—dead-looking for several feet, but with lush green tips. Now, I have a large empty space, a blank slate to create something new.

How do we know when it’s time to start anew? Do we cling to old habits that only marginally succeed? Are we firmly rooted in old, gnarly traditions?

A year of pandemic protocols, capped by Roger’s and others’ departures has in many ways given Plymouth a clean space, too. Pastors Brehe and Wilson are showing us new ways to worship and new approaches to church business. I’m envisioning new ways for the Church Council to organize meetings. People from many denominations are discussing new ways to look at the Bible in a class led by Pastors Brehe and Wilson on Wednesday mornings. We have negotiated a new contract with the Little Sprouts Daycare; we have a newly-ordained minister (Gloria) serving as our office manager; we are hiring a new book keeper; we have new janitors. And—on August 29th we will welcome a new Designated Term Pastor, Charles Wei.

We’re not quite sure what we will do that’s special and welcoming for Charles Wei, because we’re not quite sure how this new Delta variant of the coronavirus will impact our health.

With a Designated Term Pastor serving Plymouth, we are trying something new. Marc Stewart described the relationship of pastor and congregation under this model simply: “We will live and grow in ministry together.” To quote from the book we’re reading for Steve and Mark’s class, “What matters most is not simply where we’ve been...but where we are with God now in the moment...living in the moment is key to vibrant communion with God” (p. 98, Enns, *The Bible Tells Me So*). Near the end of the designated term (one year), we will decide jointly if we wish to continue our ministry together.

During this term, we must be open to experiencing new approaches to worship, new outreach to the community, new kinds of fellowship. I will put a few new plants in the blank space by my front stairway and watch them grow; we Congregationalists will sow some new ideas in our community and watch Plymouth grow.

Blessings to Plymouth and to our Pastors, past, present, and future!

~ Jan Clinard, Moderator

Farewell From Steve Brehe and Mark Wilson

Dear Friends at Plymouth Congregational Church:

It has been such a privilege to serve as your interim pastors during July and August as Plymouth awaits the arrival of the Rev. Charles Wei, the new dedicated pastor. Thank you also for the opportunity to utilize Plymouth facilities for our summer theology book study, "The Bible Tells Me So." Some two dozen or so Christians from various churches around Helena took part each week, including Plymouth members. It has been a pleasure preaching for you, worshiping with you, and getting to know so many of you. We found many great folks at Plymouth. We especially wish to thank Jan Clinard, Jennifer Jeffries-Thompson, Lynn Bolin, Karen Wynne, Charlotte Dike, Gloria Soja, as well as members of the Council and everyone who assists with planning and making worship go smoothly each week. All of you have been wonderful to know and to work alongside. We pray that the congregation and each of you will flourish under the tenure of Pastor Wei. May you always be bright lights of righteousness and love throughout Helena and area.

Grace and peace to all of you,

Steve Brehe and Mark Wilson

(Editorial Note: This was written prior to the update on Rev. Wei's injury.)

A COVID-19 Update

According to Time Magazine, Lewis & Clark County is now at high risk for Covid cases. The latest studies show that those of us who are vaccinated could still transmit the virus to those who aren't vaccinated. After consulting with our Moderator, we've decided it's important to return to masking when in the sanctuary and Fireside rooms, and please try to distance yourself from each other.

Since our service this Sunday will be outside at the lake, masks are optional.

We will also be checking blood pressures on the second Sunday of each month.

~ Lynn Bolin

Treasurer's Report

Here is a snapshot of our income and expenses at the halfway point of the fiscal year. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me at christian.patricia72@gmail.com.

Budget v. actual revenue and expenses 1/1/21 – 6/30/21:

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>
TOTAL INCOME Jan – June	\$84,731	\$86,491
TOTAL EXPENSES Jan – June	\$96,763	\$99,791
DIFFERENCE	(\$12,032)	

~ Pat Christian

Plymouth Church, U.C.C.

400 S. Oakes St.

Helena, MT 59601

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

- Interim Pastors: 9:00 a.m.—noon and by appointment:
Mon/Wed—Steve Brehe; Tues/Thurs—Mark Wilson
- Office Manager Gloria Soja: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (Wed.-Thur.)
- Bookkeeper by appointment.

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

Contact Us

Church Office: 406.442.9883

Web: www.plymouthmontanaucc.org

Email: pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Also: www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational