

Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

November 2021

The Importance of Pledging

What do we, as a church community, want to support in the coming year? Programs like the Let's Talk About It series on "Creation Care," fellowship, community partners like Family Promise and Food Share? Do we want to improve worship by investing in video and audio technology? Do we want to continue bringing in talented and inspiring musicians for worship and concerts?

It's that time of year when the Plymouth Stewardship Committee starts talking about the importance of pledging support to the church. As your Treasurer, I want to take a moment to talk about how your pledge impacts the church budget. Your pledge goes towards paying the pastor and the janitor. It helps us to keep the church building insured and to keep the heat and the lights on. We also try to estimate necessary repairs and improvements we might need, like new doors, repairing the elevator, and a new fire security system.

When we build the budget for 2022, we'll start with revenue estimates based on our expected income from the day care and other regular users. The other really important number is – you guessed it – the pledge commitments from our members, which we get from the pledge cards you return to the church by January 1, 2022.

When we have our projected expenses for the upcoming year, we'll look at our revenue estimate and start adjusting. The more pledges we have, the more we can support our church, our programs, and our community. If you have any questions or ideas for the 2022 budget, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the council. We are here to represent you in the budget process.

~ Pat Christian, Treasurer



Treasurer's Report: What does it take to run Plymouth Church?

The table below is a snapshot of our income and expenses 75% of the way through the fiscal year. For an explanation of why expenses were lower than usual, see the following table and explanation.

Budget v. actual revenue and expenses 1/1/21 – 9/30/21

	Actual	Budgeted
TOTAL INCOME Jan – Sept	\$125,727	\$128,050
TOTAL EXPENSES Jan – Sept	\$127,434	\$147,324

Here's a closer look at the third quarter, July – September 2021. During the third quarter we were without a full-time pastor, so our personnel costs were much lower than usual. We expect that in the fourth quarter our expenses will return to normal.

Expense	3rd Q 2021 (July 1 – Sept 30)	Average quarterly
Personnel (salaries, wages, benefits, payroll taxes)	\$13,528	\$30,254
Building (utilities, insurance, property tax, repairs and maintenance)	\$10,787	\$11,730
Overhead (administrative, conference, supplies, misc.)	\$5,863	\$5,727
Ministries (worship, programs, education)	\$550	\$1,843
Total	\$30,728	\$49,553

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Christian, Treasurer

In Our Prayers Today

At Home: Ed Canty, Giles Walker, and Margaret Miller. Margy Kohl, Jay Shelden, and Nathan Schreder as they go through cancer treatment. Lorraine Hopgood, for continued recovery. Connie Erickson, bereaved. Ali VanHouten, bereaved.

Touchmark: Evelyn Nelson, and Art and Clara Gilreath

Hunter's Point: Marlyce Taylor

Continued prayers for Ron, Shasta, Pat, Greg, Pete McKinley, Robin McKinley, Ted Scherf, and our dedicated minister, Rev. Charles Wei.

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



Moderator's Message: Time for Thanks and Giving

Wind has nearly stripped the last yellow leaves from my trees. With our first cold nights, we've transitioned to the browns of early winter and can see a dusting of snow in the mountains. Although I've always been thankful to live with distinct seasons, I'm looking forward to spending Thanksgiving week with my daughter, son-in-law, and grandson in Los Angeles, where I'll see green again and it's always warm enough to skip the long underwear and wool socks. I'm thankful that I'm able to spend time with family, enjoy laughter and play with a five-year-old, and share meals and conversation.

As the Columbarium Committee met to discuss the possibility of adding more niches and to show Pastor Charles and others the intricacies of urns, we saw Cathy Barker and Dick Weaver removing unsightly sunflowers from the labyrinth. We're thankful for all the committee members and friends of Plymouth who help keep the grounds, the church, and its assets in order.

We've heard messages about serving others and the power of stories from Pastor Charles and we look forward to learning more from him about how to practice our Christian faith. We're thankful that he's reinvigorating our Council and our committees and settling into his new community.

This week, as world leaders study the ravages of climate change and ways to invest in a green future, Plymouth continues its series, Let's Talk About It: Creation Care. We are thankful that leaders and scientists are exploring ways to combat this existential threat. We will need to give up some of our own wasteful habits.

Plymouth has just hired a new custodian and has begun the search for a new music director. We hope we can offer competitive salaries to our employees in this economy. Each time the Council considers expenditures for building safety and maintenance (such as a fire alarm system, elevator repairs, a new door locking system or crash bars) we are shocked by the cost estimates. At the same time, we are thankful that members have funded salary increases and building upgrades in the past.

Thanksgiving: a time to be grateful and a time to share God's blessings with loved ones and with Plymouth through your pledges of support.

~ **Jan Clinard**

A Message from Dedicated Pastor, Rev. Charles Wei

Beloved Community,

It has truly been a wonderful first month for me here at Plymouth Community Church. Thank you all for being so kind and welcoming, and understanding when I have to ask for a reminder of your names. There are so many new faces and customs to learn, and even though I have to take it slow because of my injury, I am excited by the energy and enthusiasm that I have felt from this congregation.

We lost some of the functionality of our committees during Covid, and it's important that we get things up and running again so that we can be a "light on the hill" church, drawing the community in, and providing leadership for the people around us. We have made some progress on this in the last few weeks, and I am happy to announce that we now have a robust Worship Committee, and have started putting together a Personnel Committee, and a Pastoral Care Committee. The Columbarium Committee now has new leadership, and we are working towards reestablishing our Outreach and Social Justice Committee.

The committees are the backbone of the church, as they handle most of the day-to-day decisions and work of the congregation. Some committees, like the Worship Committee, meet on a monthly basis, while others only meet as needed, but all of them are important. If you feel God calling you to take a more active role in the church, please let us know! There are positions available for all kinds of skills and skill levels, and whether you can give 1 hour a week, or 1 hour every six months, we can find a job for you.

It warms my heart to think about all of things that we will be doing together as a community. The Spirit is at work here at PCC, and I hope that you can feel Jesus moving in you to build up the church, the community, and the world.

Grace and peace, **Pastor Charles**

Bridging Divides: Opportunities to Learn



Let's Talk About It: Creation Care

Landscape photographer, Jeff Van Tine, will be the final speaker in the "Let's Talk About It" series, scheduled for Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 PM. Using some of his images of beautiful as well as endangered Montana scenes, Jeff's power point presentation will take place in the church sanctuary. As usual, reservations are preferred by calling the church office, 442-9883, so that distancing requirements due to Covid can be anticipated. Some of Jeff's photographs will also be exhibited in the church building until the end of the year.

This series is made possible by the generous contributions given in memory of Jim Erickson.



Hangings of the Greens

**Please join us after worship
on November 21, 2021, to
decorate the church for the
Christmas season.**

Lunch will be provided.

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

- 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

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Also: www.facebook.com/plymouthcongregational