

Waymarks

Plymouth Church | Helena Montana

September 2021

A Message from Dedicated Pastor, Rev. Charles Wei

Hello Everyone,

Thank you all so much for your prayers and for the get well card. I loved seeing the pictures of you all out by the lake. I am now out of the hospital after four surgeries over three weeks. It meant a lot to me to know you were all praying for me and thinking about me.

I am now at home recovering, but I have to complete a 4 week course of IV antibiotics. I am getting better everyday. I can't wait until I am healthy enough to join you in Montana and start my ministry with you.

I have been thinking of all of you this time and am so grateful to have found such a caring and loving congregation.

Grace and peace to you all,

Reverend Charles Wei



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

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



Image by [Ciker-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Plymouth Singers—KICKOFF—September 8th

Hello Plymouth,

Calling all singers (or want to be singers). Let's kick off the church year with a party! Robie Culver is hosting a pot luck dinner at her house to celebrate music at Plymouth and start to plan to add that important element to our worship services over the next year. Charlotte will come prepared to hear your suggestions and provide opportunity for us to sing together.

When: Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Robie's house (Contact Church Office for directions)

What to bring: Robie will provide a main dish, please bring a salad or dessert to share



Image by [Ciker-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Calling All Plymouth Women

The revival meeting of Plymouth's Women's Fellowship will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will discuss future meetings, ways we can help to welcome our new pastor Charles, and ways to assist to revive our fellowship group. A short devotional program and treats will be provided. We hope you can join us for a time to catch up with each other and plan for our future.

~ Sunny Ray Mandeville

Camp Christikon

Gus, Marcia and I participated in the UCC sponsored camp last weekend hosting folks interested in one or all of the following options: Yoga, Art and Fly Fishing. The camp this year was held at Christikon, a beautiful retreat center about 7 miles further south from Mimanagish on the South Boulder Road. The company was great; the environment so beautiful; and the food prepared by our own Marcia was wonderful. The Committee on Outdoor Ministry is weighing all options for future camp gatherings as well as the possibility of returning to Camp Mimanagish when possible. When summer rolls around next year, and it surely will, save some time for a fabulous, faith-filled time at one of our conference camps. You won't regret it.

~ Jennifer Jeffries Thompson



In Our Prayers Today

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

Touchmark: Evelyn Nelson and Art and Clara Gilreath

Hunter's Point: Marlyce Taylor

Continued prayers for Pete McKinley, Jay Shelden, 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

I wasn't quite ready to flip my calendar to September. We're just now enjoying perfect summer weather, but those yellow leaves falling onto my patio area are a sure sign of the changing season. Plymouth was blessed that the Reverends Brehe and Wilson could extend their summer with us, while Pastor Charles Wei recuperates until October.

The Church Council has been busy addressing current and future challenges. We've monitored Covid 19 as it waned and as it surged in Lewis and Clark County, heeding advice from our parish nurse and medical doctors. Our membership includes many vulnerable people whom we must protect by taking measures that help stop the spread of this rapidly mutating virus. Today, we recommend vaccinations, mask and social distancing.

The Council, with Boyce Fowler leading the effort, has also been examining safety at Plymouth. We have installed a new fire suppression system in the kitchen and are nearly ready to upgrade our alarm system, which is critical for the daycare. We are exploring upgrading the locks on our exterior doors and installing crash bars. We are shopping for a lockbox for cash and checks and considering options for placement. We will have the elevator (lift) inspected to determine whether or not it's feasible to put it back into service. To enhance Christian education and help council and committee members meet remotely, the Council would like to have a large, smart TV installed in the Fireside Room. This is one of the top priorities on the church's wish list, along with a new boiler and safety measures. Your suggestions and contributions will be welcomed.

Every month, the Council examines our Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet, which lists "accounts" that are designated into categories such as Building Reserve, New Boiler, and Sabbatical. We decided to invest some of those accounts in short-term CDs in order to earn a little interest and separate earmarked accounts from our day-to-day operations budget, which continues to shrink slightly as expenditures exceed income. In order to facilitate the work of the Council, Office Manager Gloria Soja is preparing a notebook for members that will include bylaws, letters of appointment, policies and procedures, risk management guidelines, and other reference documents. Liz Gunderson has convened a Personnel Policy ad hoc committee to contribute to the notebook.

Since a Church Council of only five members cannot adequately attend to all of Plymouth's needs, we depend on the work of committees, which include Columbarium, Endowment/Investments, Worship, Outreach, Pastoral Relations, Care, and Christian Education. At this time, the Women's Group is planning to meet again and the Disciple Groups are providing ushers, greeter, and counters. However, these committees and groups all need more active members. Which committee or group would best match your skills and interests? Do you have recommendations for the work of these committees? If you can you volunteer to help please call the church office or me (457-8339).

Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 4.

When I write October's Message, we should know the date for Reverend's Wei's first sermon and announce the purchase of some items on our wish list. We can be certain that when the calendars flip to October, we will be raking leaves and wearing sweaters.

Enjoy a blessed autumn,

~ Jan Clinard



Coming Next Month

We are privileged to live in a part of the world that is stunningly beautiful. Mountains, streams, rolling plains, and of course, the big sky. Over the years people have told me how hiking, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, and other treks into the wild are profoundly spiritual experiences. Some say they find it easier to connect to God by a babbling stream than at church. That's because birds and deer, trees and rocks are saying something to us. Through creation we can commune with our Creator.

At the same time we lay waste to God's creation, slowly destroying this priceless gift by our wanton pollution of sky, water, and ground. The earth is God's cathedral and we trash it year in and year out. Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year. When adopt-a-highway volunteers clean up litter along roadsides they fill their bags with cigarettes, food wrappers and containers, beverage bottles, plastic bags, caps and lids, cups, plates and utensils, straws and stirrers. Many of our cast-offs end up in rivers that carry them to the oceans. An amazing 8 million pieces of plastic wash into the oceans every day. There would be an enormous hue and cry if somebody brought a bag of solid and liquid waste to church and dumped it in front of the altar. But that's what we are doing to the earth.

Christians ought to be at the forefront of being better stewards of creation, finding ways to live in harmony with the earth. Here at Plymouth we are committed to caring for God's creation. We're going to revive a popular program called "Let's Talk About It" in October. We're still in the planning stages, but Jennifer Thompson and others look forward to putting together a church and community program on "Creation Care." Once a month, church members and the public will be invited to come here and take part in a program where we will hear a knowledgeable speaker on the topic and have lively conversation about the great gift of this little blue planet that God has entrusted to us.

Stay tuned for more details.

Bridging Divides: Opportunities to Learn



Electronic viewing: Please click on the images below for more information.

Paper copy: Please call the Church Office or e-mail pccofficemgr@gmail.com for more info.

The Bible, Politics, and Ministry: Guidance for Clergy and Congregations

A Conversation with Biblical Scholars

Cost: \$10

With enough registrants we could make a dinner of it here at Plymouth.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
7:00 EST, 6:00 CST

Sponsored by:



Cost: Free

Begins: September 14th, online.

Reason to Have Hope: A Public Health Response to Racism

Enroll for free



Office Hours

Wednesdays: 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

All others by appointment.

Mark, Steve, Gloria
Council & Church
Members

I want to thank you
all very much for the
opportunity to be the
bookkeeper at Plymouth
this past year and half.
I enjoyed meeting and
working with all of
you and wish you
all the very best.

Karen Wynne

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.

God is still speaking.
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST** 

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