

Plymouth First United Methodist Church

Message from Pastor Bob

BEACON

*“Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it?
I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.” (Isaiah 43:19, CEB)*

This faith thing can be challenging. What I mean is, the Apostle Paul defines faith in his letter to the Hebrews, writing, “*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see*” (Heb 11:1), which can be really challenging for us who live in a “seeing is believing” world. But I think his words are also a source of encouragement and affirmation, because even with all the causes that may be obscuring our view, we can still stand confident that God is always up to something very good in the world and in our lives. The question becomes, can we position ourselves such that we can perceive or recognize it. My position as Lead Pastor uniquely *positions* me the privilege of seeing a great many of the new things that take place within our church. As my last Beacon cover article for this year, let me share with you some exciting new things taking place here at PFUMC as we wind down 2022 and enter into 2023.

Two of those new things involve new partnerships with local community organizations already doing great mission work. First, we are partnering with the *Adult Autism Transition Program*, of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to provide a training venue supporting students being equipped with skills for how to live in the world. Starting this past October, we weekly host a group and provide opportunities to develop various skills, gain experience, and come away with a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem. Special thanks to Jillian Hoard for making this ministry partnership possible.

Secondly, we are partnering with New Hope Center for Grief Support to be a location for expanding their ministry offerings in 2023, initially for their *Circles of Hope Family Fridays* program which provides a family-centered approach to grief support by investing in children, supporting parents, and strengthening the family. I know many of you have personal experience with the commitment and quality of this organization, and this is a perfect fit with our core value of strengthening and equipping families.

On the topic of families and children, I would be remiss if I did not again mention our Sunday School Reboot initiative targeted for formal launch this winter, led by Pastor Suzy and Cathy Montgomery, and supported by the efforts of so many of you. We continue to see increases in children attendance at our Sunday worship services, signaling the importance of quality children focused faith formation. I hope you will prayerfully consider how you may participate in such an important ministry.

Another formal launch taking place early in the new year is our new Digital Campus which is aimed at reaching the ever-growing group of unchurched and de-churched. This exciting new ministry, led by Pastor Jackie, will greatly expand our reach with Christ’s Gospel, doing our part in transforming our community and the world. Thank you for all the support you have already provided and will continue to provide into the coming year.

By the way, a special *Thank You* to all of you who had any part if making our October Happy Festival a success. Your efforts led to our raising funds and sending \$700 to both the Living Learning Enrichment Center and the New Hope Center for Grief Support.

We live in a world where it is so easy to only see desert and wilderness. But we are encouraged to look for what God is up to in the world and, even more, what God is up to with us and in us. I know God is doing new and good things in our midst, and we get to be an intimate part of it. I cannot think of a better Christmas present, as we work our way through Advent and towards our celebration of birth of our Lord Jesus.

May the Christmas Holiday be filled with love of Christ for you and your loved ones ... Pastor Bob





Message from Pastor Suzy Todd

Friends -

Perhaps I have told you before, but I will say it again. I love Christmas! I truly love the season of Christmas. I extend it, both in the preseason and postseason, far beyond what most people consider socially acceptable. I don't mind in the least that stores start playing Christmas music on November 1. And it is not unusual for my Christmas tree to be taken down closer to Valentines Day than New Years Day.

I have a couple theories on why I am so enamored with Christmas. For one thing, I don't like cold weather. So, loving Christmas allows me to stave off the winter doldrums. Secondly, the darkness of winter at this latitude can make me gloomy. But Christmas lights pierce that darkness. Third, there's the anticipation of time with family enjoying good food and conversation. And then, of course, there's that whole Jesus thing.

At Christmas we remember and celebrate the in-breaking of God. God chose to take on human flesh, this flesh with which I have such a love-hate relationship. God chose to walk among a people in conflict, amid systems of oppression and strife in both politics and religion. God chose to be born into humble circumstances, aligning Him with the weakest and smallest of our world. God chose a physical mortality so that we could witness resurrection and have hope for our own eternal lives. God chose to break into our world and creation, our lives and our faith have never been the same again.

Christmas, Christ's Mass, is the church's celebration of this miracle of God's incarnation. It's when we join together to celebrate as a people unified in Christ. Those among us who have deep and abiding faith join with those who have tenuous, questioning faith. Those who have many worldly resources sit shoulder to shoulder with those whose lives are sparse. Those who grieve the losses indigenous to human life join with those who rejoice in the pleasures of human

ness. One body, one Christ; we come together at Christmas celebrating that Jesus knows every circumstance and emotion we carry.

This Christmas our worshipping body at Plymouth First UMC will gather at:

4PM Christmas Eve for a family friendly worship of movement and participation in the Great Hall.

5:30PM Christmas Eve for a band-led worship of Christmas carols and scripture in Impact Center

8:00PM Christmas Eve for a more traditional worship of carols and scripture in the Sanctuary.

10:30AM Christmas Day for a time of good music, scripture and sharing of our stories about how God's incarnation matters in our lives. This service requires an RSVP. Please let Pastor Suzy know whether you will be attending suzy@pfumc.org.

May this season be filled with God's light.
Suzy






Music in Sanctuary Worship in December

Dec. 4th String Quartet and Chancel Choir

Dec. 11th Orchestra and Chancel Choir

Dec. 18th Festival Bells and Chancel Choir

Dec. 24th 8:00 pm
String and Wind Ensemble, Festival Bells,
Chancel Choir, soloist Ko Kaiden

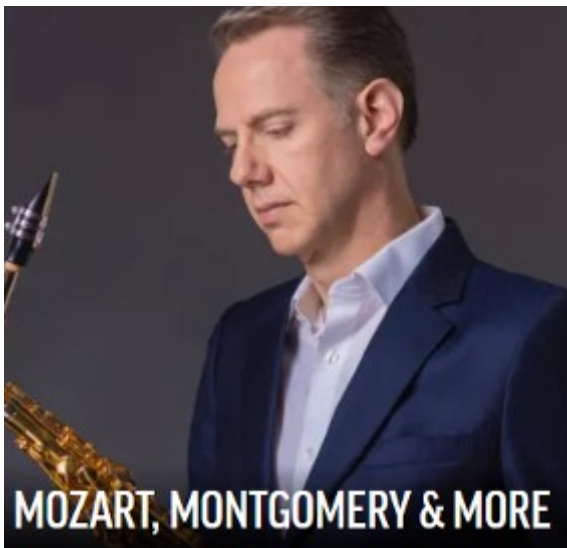


Plymouth Community Band
Friday, December 9th 7:00 pm
free admission

January 6th, 8:00 pm
Detroit Symphony
Orchestra
here at Plymouth First

Bookending this concert are two of Mozart's most beloved works: the overture to his opera about a doomed lothario, and his 40th Symphony, an expressive statement of deep emotion. In between, Jessie Montgomery's piece for strings contains a driving rhythm that draws on American folk music and dance, and Sibelius' plaintive waltz evokes both grief and hope. Timothy McAllister solos in Glazunov's lyrical concerto for saxophone and orchestra.

For tickets, visit dso.org. For those unable to afford to purchase a ticket, complimentary tickets are available. Contact Marcia Van Oyen marcia@pfumc.org or 734-453-5280 x 115.



MOZART, MONTGOMERY & MORE

Commit to reading the ENTIRE Bible in 2023.

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible in a year? Does it feel overwhelming?

Have you started only to give up once you got to Leviticus?

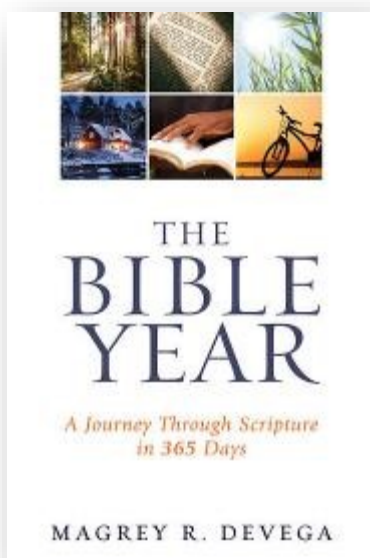
Rather than trying alone, let's do it together!

Journey through the Bible in 365 days!

Not the type to sit down and read the entire Bible? Yes, the goal is to read the whole Bible in a year, but think about it in terms of smaller, daily goals. Think about a commitment to read a short selection from the Bible plus a concise devotional every day. You can do that – especially since The Bible Year has it all mapped out for you day by day. In addition you will also get summaries of key themes and ideas to help you better digest and understand your readings. So you're not just reading verse after verse, you're enriching your spiritual life, developing a deeper faith and forming a closer connection to God and to each other.

THE BIBLE YEAR

Studying the Bible Every Day *Transforms* You



Reading the Bible daily is life-changing. It impacts attitude, gives us insight, calls out our best inclinations, and helps us make good decisions. We literally encounter God in the revelation of scripture. The problem is not if we should read the Bible, but how to keep the promise we have made to make it a habit. Margrey deVega offers us a way to accomplish our goal. Short readings with a devotional guide that help us understand the material and consider what the text is saying to our lives will make this a perfect fit as you let the bible speak to your life.

Tom Berlin, Lead Pastor, Floris UMC and author of Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith

THE BIBLE IN 365 DAYS

Daily Scripture Readings

Devotional

Journaling

Share with Others

Insightful Weekly Videos

Summary of Key themes

Experience the Bible Together

Pray about being a part of this exciting adventure beginning in Jan. 2023.

Pick up a devotional, plan to participate in a weekly discussion group. Open your life to the transforming power of God's Holy Word.

Questions:

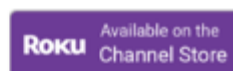
Contact Cathy Montgomery
cathym@pfumc.org
(734) 560-3498



Get video's for The Bible Year

@ <https://myamplifymedia.com/amplify/register>

Access Code: DCBJVY



Greetings Friends,

First, I would like to say thank you all for your kindness in making Anthony and me feel welcome here at Plymouth 1st UMC. It has been a pleasure to be on staff here, and we both enjoy the conversations and encouragement you give us.

These past few months, there have been two training sessions with two of the top professionals in the United Methodist denomination who have come to Plymouth 1st to share and teach us about the idea of Fresh Expressions. First, we had Rev. Rachel Gilmore, who primarily worked with us regarding the Plymouth community. We looked at our demographics through the MissionInsite reports. We saw areas the church could reach out to by forming small groups to build relationships with those in our community.

Then, we had Rev. Dr. Michael Beck come to Plymouth 1st, a conference event we hosted. Michael Beck shared the theological reasons we need to consider Fresh Expressions at our church. With churches declining, we need to rethink how we will reach people for the kingdom; most importantly, as disciples of Christ, we need to go to the people just like Jesus did. Jesus didn't sit in the temple waiting for people to show up. Jesus went out to the people and formed relationships.

There are many ways to start a Fresh Expression, and I hope you may consider what kind of Fresh Expression you can begin. Maybe it's through a book club, running group, or even a group that likes to go out to eat and ask how you can pray for each other that week—so many opportunities for us to connect with those in our community.

If you have questions regarding Fresh Expressions and would love to talk, don't hesitate to contact me. I would love to connect and discuss ways to help you understand Fresh Expressions as much as I would love to hear what ideas you may have in creating a group. You can reach me at pastorjackie@pfumc.org

From my family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jackie



ADVENT 2022

At Christmas

God breaks through the darkness
amidst a hard and dangerous
world with the light of Jesus.



Christmas Eve Services December 24th

- 4:00 pm Family service in Great Hall
5:30 pm Impact Service (led by Praise Band)
8:00 pm Sanctuary Service
(Traditional led by Choir)

Sunday, December 25
10:30 am Informal service

A time of fellowship
Light Continental Breakfast
Carols Singing
Testimonies

To be held in the Great Hall
RSVP church office

Advent Sermons (9:15 & 10:30 am)

Nov. 27	Elizabeth	Longing to Peace	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122
Dec. 4	Magi	Desolation to Hope	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7; 18-19
Dec. 11	Joseph	Fear to Joy	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10
Dec. 18	Mary	Trepidation to Love	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7; 17-19

Christmas Day

December 25th - 10:30 AM

Love Feast

Breakfast - Music - Testimony

in the Great Hall

RSVP Requested - Suzy@pfumc.org

Two TIMES to Worship

Impact
9:15 am

Sanctuary
10:30 am

Two WAYS to Worship

Live
In-Person

YouTube
Live-Streaming
pfumc.org/worshipnow



FINANCIAL UPDATE	
OCT 2022	
Income	\$ 58,653
Expenses	\$ 65,797
YTD 2022	
Income	\$ 563,957
Expenses	\$ 599,411

Fast Easy Secure

VANCO

FAITH



Online

www.pfumc.org/give/
To set up and manage your one-time or recurring gifts.



Text

1-844-208-0637
the amount you want to donate.



Mobile App

Download the Vanco Mobile app to make contributions.



Check/Cash
Direct Bank Bill Payment

Drop off or mail check/cash. Set up automatic giving through your bank provider.

2022, Roof Expense Recovery Initiative

	2021 Year	2022 Year	Difference of 2022 compared to 2021.
Month	<i>Monthly entries shown are cumulative totals received YTD for the trustees Capital Fund in 2021.</i>	<i>Monthly entries shown are cumulative totals received YTD for the trustees Capital Fund in 2022.</i>	<i>The difference of offerings received for trustees Capital Fund. Amount received YTD in 2022 compared to the amount received in 2021.</i>
January	\$3,941	\$1,538	-\$2,403
February	\$8,829	\$5,347	-\$3,482
March	\$10,407	\$8,532	-\$1,875
April	\$11,670	\$11,507	-\$163
May	\$13,010	\$15,642	\$2,632
June	\$14,103	\$18,747	\$4,644
July	\$15,646	\$21,930	\$6,284
August	\$18,384	\$24,830	\$6,446
September	\$20,117	\$33,452	\$13,335
October	\$21,265	\$35,566	\$14,301
November	\$23,102	\$0	
December	\$24,155	\$0	
Total	\$24,155		

Note: The values shown by month are cumulative totals.

The building has undergone major repairs to the flat roofs. This cost was covered in part by the Capital Fund thanks to the many donations we have received over the last few years. However, the cost to replace these areas of the roof have reduced the funds set aside for unexpected future repairs to our building. We are in the process of replenishing the Capital Fund. To the left is a status report on the Capital Fund in comparison to 2021. We will provide you with a monthly update throughout 2022.

The Finance Committee

NOTE: Values are taken from the Finance Balance Sheet. Line #21909 and 21910 Trustees Capital Fund, 2021 and 2022

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

Jeff Berliner
Marge Brown
Tom Brown
Lorraine Dermeyer
Lois Maiorana
Vince Maiorana
Bill & Mary McCully
Richard Moore
Nancy Nelson
Dennis Piggott
Debbie Single

Members Shut In

Cleo Pappin
John Paul
Jim Walk

Missionaries

Hannah Kappler
South Korea

Military

Suzanne Gyde—Hall
Brian Krautler (Ramsay)

Family & Friends

Matt Carter, family of Stella Smith
Don Fleming—Pat Fleming's husband
Clay Good, Dale Good's son
Mike Petri and family, friend of Dale Good



**The Intercessory
Prayer Group
meets the 1st Thursday
of the Month
in the Garden Café.
All are welcome to join.**

2023 Stewardship Campaign



If you have not already turned in your Stewardship commitment, please prayerfully consider doing so, as you are able. The church 2023 Operating Budget is heavily based on pledges received.

Pledge Cards can be turned in anytime
Sunday service offering plate
Electronic device, or by U.S. Mail, Send to:
PFUMC, Susan Henry, Financial Secretary,
45201 North Territorial Rd.
Plymouth, MI 48170

DISCERNMENT PROCESS—Phase 3 Q & A

Small Group Dialog Sessions— Room 306/308
Please Sign Up in the Great Hall

following worship

Dec. 11th 11:45am—12:45 pm

Large Group Status Update Jan. 22 Potluck tbd

RETURN ADDRESS
 First United Methodist Church
 45201 North Territorial Road
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 www.pfumc.org
 Phone (734) 453-5280
 Fax (734) 453-0375

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM—3 PM
 OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAY

PERIODICALS

Printed November 2022

**12/1 Paula Holmes
 Dan White**

**12/2 Doug Schoonover
 Jeanine Lowe
 Alex Hespel
 Marge Rousseau**

**12/3 Stacy Buster
 12/4 Emma Hoy
 12/5 Carol Lewis
 Kim Hanson
 12/8 Chris McClelland
 12/9 Amy Dalton
 12/10
 Tammy Underwood
 Karen Ferrill
 Amy Viergutz
 12/13 Chuck Lewis
 Olivia Zander
 12/14 Ruth Dostie
 William Carter
 Karol Lajoie
 Ken Box
 12/16 Joe Carr**

**12/17 JoAnne Wheelock
 Diane Shoemaker
 Bonnie Cusumano**

**12/18 Thomas Heller
 12/19 Abigail Ryan
 12/21 Beth Box
 12/22 Nathan Walters
 12/24 Clark McKelvey**

**12/26 Brendan Smith
 12/27 Patti Cracraft
 12/27 Rich Hoy**

**12/28 James Lee
 Elizabeth Penney**

**12/29
 Terri Keski-Hynn timer
 Ian Penney**

**12/30
 Matthew Cusumano**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

