

# Plymouth First United Methodist Church

## BEACON

### Message from Pastor Bob

*“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”  
(2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV)*

As we enter into a new calendar year, I find myself reflecting on the relatively recent past, and pondering upon what lies ahead in this new year of 2023 (*I suspect you are doing or have done the same*). The last two years have been anything but a *walk-in-the-park* for me, as the saying goes (*I suspect you might be tempted to say the same here as well*). And there are lots of reasons any one of us may feel this way ... some unique to our individual experience, and some more common to the overall human experience.

But interestingly, I have discovered that I am quite encouraged for the overall future that lies ahead for us in 2023. This is not to say that I don't think there will be substantial challenges and possible hardship that may come our way ... I expect there will be. But I genuinely believe that the opportunities and positive movement that we will experience will outshine the negative experiences.

Here is why I am genuinely encouraged for our future in 2023:

- Our new Digital Campus initiative already has 70 followers, even though it only soft-launched in mid-December, our formal launch is planned for early February
- We already have a couple Fresh Expressions groups in the early stages of forming
- We continue to see growth in worship attendance, including new faces of all ages
- We are formally re-booting Sunday morning children's programming, including Confirmation
- We are adding to our community partnership activities
- The offering of time, talents, and resources continues to be strong
- We have strong, Christ-loving, God-motivated Lay Leadership

But most of all, the biggest reason I am encouraged about our future in 2023 is that God continues to demonstrate over and over again how God answers prayer, illuminates the path to follow, enables and equips us for success, and is *always* present. On this, I have absolutely no doubt, and it strengthens my encouragement more and more with each passing day. For God continues to demonstrate that the prophet Isaiah's words are indeed true: *“do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”* (Isa 41:10, NRSV)

Will there be difficult times or painful experiences along the way during 2023? I think one could safely assume such times and experiences will cross our paths from time to time. But do I believe such times and experiences will overwhelm our focus on God's will and God's provision of blessings and strength? Absolutely not! I am absolutely encouraged about what lies ahead for us as a local church of the Body of Christ in 2023, and I hope you join me in such encouragement.

And so my friends of Plymouth First Church, may our God, who is more than able, bless you abundantly, so that in all times and in all circumstances, having all you need, you will continue to abound in every good work, manifesting the living presence of Christ in our world, being empowered by the Holy Spirit ... Pastor Bob

# Message from Pastor Suzy Todd

Friends –

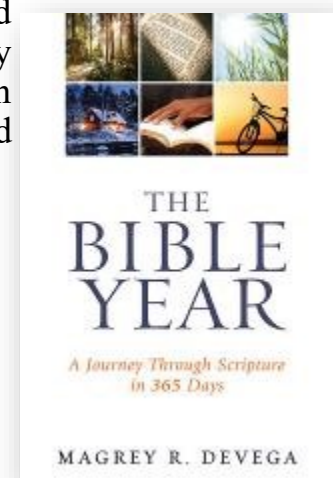
I am excited for what 2023 has to offer for the people of Plymouth and the members of Plymouth First UMC. We are at an exciting crossroads, co-creating with God a new life of ministry and mission. We have had a couple years of self-examination to assess the parts of our story that have been faithful and productive to God's Kingdom and to let go of some things we love that were not productive. We have grieved some losses and celebrated some triumphs. And now we get to dream God-sized dreams.

Our Christian faith teaches us that God is always at work in the world, redeeming and loving and creating. This year we will explore the ways God has always been at work in the world, and discover how we can identify the ways God is at work today in our community and in our lives. We will be journeying together, as a church, through the Bible in 2023. The Bible is the Spirit-inspired accounting of the ways God has been at work in the world and with people since Creation. We will read from Genesis to Revelation over the course of the next 12 months. This strong foundation of Biblical literacy will help us see clearly how our story fits into that grand narrative that God continues to write.

There are a number of ways that you can be part of this life-transforming, church-transforming, community-transforming, world-transforming movement. You can get book, *The Bible Year* by Magrey DeVega, from Cathy. It is written like a devotional, where each day has a reflection and a Bible reading. You could do that plus join me on Mondays at 3PM at the Plymouth Coffee Bean to discuss the week's readings. Or you could do the readings and join a small group where you will have a video and teachings on the week's text and other people to reflect with so that your understanding deepens. Each of these has life-changing potential.

One thing I know about that kind of life-transformation is that it compels us to live differently in the world. Transformation within our hearts is always visible in our words and in our actions. It's undeniable in our relationships with each other, with Creation and with God. Imagine what Plymouth First can do in 2023 and 2024 and beyond, if we all step forward and allow ourselves to be molded by the beauty of the scripture, if we allow ourselves to be caught up in the greatest story of all time. Let's dream a God-sized dream. And let's commit to doing the work of bringing that dream forth.

Blessings, Pastor Suzy



# Music Notes



A huge thank you to all our volunteer musicians who worked hard preparing and presenting music for worship during December. We greatly appreciate you sharing your gifts!

## Location Change for Detroit Symphony Concerts

The Detroit Symphony Concerts originally scheduled to take place at Plymouth First on January 6th and March 10th have been moved to Northridge Church. A limited number of complimentary tickets for both concerts will be available for members of our congregation. If you would like tickets, please contact Marcia Van Oyen—[marcia@pfumc.org](mailto:marcia@pfumc.org) or 734-453-5280 ext 115.



## **Plymouth Community Band**

**Friday, February 10, 7:00 pm**

**free admission**

# Message from Pastor Jackie

Greetings Church!

I'm excited to see where God leads us in this new year! It was a pleasure to spend the Christmas season with all of you. I hope you all had a chance to spend time with family and friends. Unfortunately, many of us were down with illnesses, and I hope each of us will have a healthy 2023!

As we were preparing for Christmas, I was also preparing and launching a Fresh Expressions digital campus. The idea of this campus is to connect with those not already connected to the Plymouth 1st UMC. I will be starting to work with a group of members of Plymouth 1st UMC folks to create Fresh Expression groups in our community this coming spring! Yes, I started a campus called the "Oasis," the idea of being a place where you can be you to belong and connect digitally with others spiritually while doing activities we enjoy doing or activities we have a common interest in doing. If you are interested in checking this campus out, please use the QR code, and it will take you to the Facebook page called; "Oasis Virtual Communities." I also created an Instagram site named "Oasis Virtual Communities." I hope you will check out these sites and interact with those starting to engage with this campus.



Yes, exciting things are happening this new year! If you are curious about Fresh Expressions, I would love to talk with you! I would love to give you the tools to start a group doing an activity you enjoy.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Jackie

Link: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/704438794386797/>



A Unique Approach to Enriching Lives

“Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$356.00 to the Living and Learning Enrichment Center and our clients, who strive every day to become more independent and active in their community.”

Every day, we see young adults blossom! In our mentor program, clients learn appropriate behaviors from peers their own age who are often not on the autism spectrum. The results are significant. We see increase self-esteem, decreased social anxiety and improved quality of life as clients value their own strengths.

“Thank you again for your support during this critical time in our Living Learning growth. We so appreciate your generosity! I encourage you to make an appointment to visit our campus or visit us on Facebook or online at [www.livingandlearningcenter.org](http://www.livingandlearningcenter.org) to learn more about our clients and our life-changing social and vocational programs.”

received from Rachelle Vartanian—founder, executive director—



# 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!*

## THE BIBLE YEAR

Studying the Bible Every Day *Transforms* You

### THE BIBLE IN 365 DAYS

#### Daily Scripture Readings

*set smaller daily goals*

#### Devotional & Journaling

*concise focused readings & personal application*

#### Summary of Key Themes

*help you better digest and understand scripture*

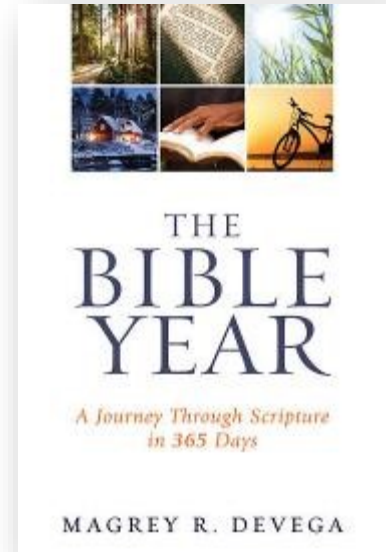
#### Weekly Discussion Groups &

#### Insightful Videos

*experience the Bible together*

#### Daily Encounters with God

*leads to life transformation*



### Discussion Groups

Mondays @ 1 pm  
Room 306/308  
with Cathy Montgomery

Mondays @ 3 pm  
The Coffee Bean DTP  
Informal chat with  
Pastor Suzy

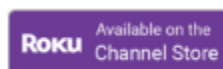
Reading the Bible daily is life-changing. It impacts attitude, gives us insight, calls out our best inclinations, and helps us make good decisions. We literally encounter God in the revelation of scripture. The problem is not if we should read the Bible, but how to keep the promise we have made to make 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, Author and Lead Pastor, Floris UMC*



Get video's for The Bible Year

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



- ⇒ Make a Commitment
- ⇒ Pick up a Devotional (\$15)
- ⇒ Join a Discussion Group
- ⇒ Watch the Videos on Amplify

Questions:  
Contact Cathy Montgomery  
[cathym@pfumc.org](mailto:cathym@pfumc.org)  
(734) 560-3498

**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.

<b>2022, Roof Expense Recovery Initiative</b>			
	<b>2021 Year</b>	<b>2022 Year</b>	<b>Difference of 2022 compared to 2021</b>
<u>Month</u>	<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>
<b>Jan</b>	\$3,941	\$1,538	-\$2,403
<b>Feb</b>	\$8,829	\$5,347	-\$3,482
<b>March</b>	\$10,407	\$8,532	-\$1,875
<b>April</b>	\$11,670	\$11,507	-\$163
<b>May</b>	\$13,010	\$15,642	\$2,632
<b>June</b>	\$14,103	\$18,747	\$4,644
<b>July</b>	\$15,646	\$21,930	\$6,284
<b>August</b>	\$18,384	\$24,830	\$6,446
<b>Sept.</b>	\$20,117	\$33,452	\$13,335
<b>Oct</b>	\$21,265	\$35,566	\$14,301
<b>Nov</b>	\$23,102	\$39,057	\$15,955
<b>Dec</b>	\$24,155	\$0	
<b>Total</b>	\$24,155		

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

## Financial Update November 2022

Income = \$49,403  
Expenses = \$63,532

**YTD 2022**

Income YTD= \$613,361  
Expenses YTD = \$662,943

*Note: The values shown by month are cumulative totals.*

# Prayer Concerns

## Members

Jeff Berliner  
Marge Brown  
Tom Brown  
Lorraine Dermyre  
Lois Maiorana  
Vince Maiorana  
Bill & Mary McCully  
Richard Moore  
Nancy Nelson  
Mary Pauline  
Bill Pickering  
Dennis Piggott  
Bill & Liz Ramsay  
Debbie Single  
Ruth Slade

## Missionaries

Hannah Kappler  
South Korea

## Military

Suzanne Gyde—Hall  
Brian Krautler (Ramsay)



## Family & Friends

Matt Carter, family of Stella Smith  
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.**

## Members Shut In

Cleo Pappin  
Jim Walk

*Our Sympathy* is extended to the family of John Paul, who passed away on November 4, 2022. One month to the day of the passing of his wife, Sydnee.

*Our Sympathy* goes out to Pat Fleming upon the passing of her husband Don on Monday, December 19th.

## Did you know?

...you can donate your IRA assets to the church.

IRS rules mandate that individuals aged 72 1/2 and older take a required minimum distribution from their IRA each year. (This doesn't apply to Roth IRA's which has tax-free withdrawals and no required distributions.) You are allowed to make charitable contributions from your traditional IRA to a church or charity at age 70 1/2. You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your traditional IRA to the Church or Charity. You can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.

Ask your IRA administrator or tax consultant what steps you need to take.

## 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  
45201 North Territorial Rd  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
c/o Susan Henry, Financial Secretary

Pledge electronically by using the following link:  
<https://plymouthchurch.breezechms.com/form/2023pledgecardPFUMC>

RETURN ADDRESS  
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 January 2023

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# January Birthdays

1/1 Chase Best  
1/4 Janet Mason  
Justin Muse  
Christine Schilling  
1/6 Krista Shuler  
1/7 Hayley Rodriguez  
Jacob Zdrodowski  
1/8 Marsha Franklin  
1/9 Julianna Christenson  
Brian Good  
Muriel Gyde  
1/11 Karen Blunden  
Jacob Little  
Virginia Stefan  
1/15 Stephen Rowley  
1/16 Derek Blunden  
Leo Magee  
1/17 Andy Lehmann  
1/18 Autumn Siddall  
1/19 Lois Maiorana  
Valerie Murray  
1/20 Linda Calzone  
Mary Pauline  
1/21 Del Grebe  
1/22 Julie White  
1/23 Joshua Patterson

1/25 Michael Paulsen  
1/26 Rosalie Salter  
1/27 Dot Kornegay  
1/28 Jim Groat  
1/30 Bob Mason  
1/31 Carol Saunders  
Gabe Van Oyen

