



Plymouth First United Methodist Church

Message from Pastor Bob

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*“I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord;
they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.”
(Jeremiah 29:11, CEB)*

Nearly four years ago, to the day, Pastor Suzy and I formally began our new appointments here at Plymouth First UMC, preaching on our very first day on Staff, July 1, 2018. To be honest, these past four years almost seem like a blink to me. Which is a bit mind boggling as so much has happened within these past four years. Some of what happened was wonderful, like being embraced by and received into such a committed, talented, and deeply loving faith family ... this I will be grateful for the rest of my life. Some things have been anything but wonderful. Not the least of which was the passing of Rochelle, which rocked all of our worlds. Still, through it all, God did not waste the opportunity to demonstrate how God can be counted on to make good His promises to transform tragedy into triumph, and to lead God’s people to a life more incredible than words can describe.

Yes, we have been dealing with some challenges. Just as we were starting to regain our momentum towards revitalizing our church, the COVID global pandemic pulled the rug right out from under our feet. It not only turned upside down virtually every way we knew and cherished of engaging in church, but it effectively delayed some of the key strategic growth initiatives we had lined up for two years. In addition, the ongoing topic of separation within The United Methodist Church has created confusion and added to the mistrust toward church, with both the un-churched and in-church alike.

Still, given all of this, while we may have lost a bit of weight, and our stride may have shortened accordingly, I believe our present foundational health positions us to build strength and wellness in a way we cannot presently imagine. *(Sorry for all the cliches, but I hope you get what I am trying to say).* We have made continuous and enumerable strategic adjustments in content and facilities that continue to increase the quality of our worship experience. We have been recognized for how we have made that quality worship experience available through our online LiveStream to people that, for a multitude of reasons, could not previously participate. Continuing forward, we will be bolstering our long-term dream of a substantive and growing PFUMC Digital Campus, making us a multi-campus church, but more importantly substantially increasing our outreach of Christ’s Gospel to people historically never before within our reach, by the addition of a dedicated Digital Campus Pastor.

That dedicated Digital Campus Pastor is being made possible by the appointment of Rev Jackie Raineri to the PFUMC Clergy Staff beginning this July 1. Pastor Jackie will also be leading our overall congregation’s new *Fresh Expressions* initiative (by the way, one of the initiatives delayed by COVID). We will be learning much more in the coming months, but in short, *Fresh Expressions* is aimed at creating Spirit-led natural communities and relationships, that especially include people not presently engaged with church life. I think it is also notable that Pastor Jackie’s appointment to us by the UMC Michigan Conference is a huge vote of confidence in who we are and what we are all about here at PFUMC.

Now admittedly, our road ahead *is* somewhat uncharted, but our overall direction has never been clearer. Was well, we can certainly expect some surprises along the way that will undoubtedly require some intentional navigation. But isn’t that the case with just about everything in life that is good and truly important? But even more, we are following a faithful and trustworthy God, whose plans are *“for peace, not disaster, to give [us] a future filled with hope.”* Our view over the horizon shows an incredible sunrise, full of hope and promise, and God’s blessing. And if I have learned *anything* in the past two years, is that with faith, I can count on that with my life. I hope you may believe that as much as I do.



My Good Friends of Plymouth First Church ... May it be so! ... Pastor Bob



Thank you for supporting our
"Amazing Grace "
Teacher Appreciation Baskets!

6 very full baskets were assembled and de-
livered to 6 Plymouth-Canton community
school teacher lounges.

Bless you for your generosity!!



FUSION



June 5th, 12th and 26th
6– 8pm @ church
Bring \$5 for food and come
ready for fun!

June 12th 3:30—5:30
Pizza will be served
Bring \$5 to help cover
the cost of pizza and
snacks.

THANK YOU!

I specifically want to thank Breanna Anderson, Amy Brown, Stacy Buster, Karen Morin, and Chantel Spieth for their help over the couple of years. Chantel, Stacy, Breanna, and Karen have been our Sunday school volunteers. Stacy and Amy have been our Fusion volunteers since I took over leadership, well before the pandemic.

*the pipe organ plays
untouched by feet or fingers
leading hymn singing*



You may have noticed on several recent Sundays during Sanctuary worship, the pipe organ has played without the presence of an organist on the bench, namely me. Our organ console, which was built in 2015, is equipped with a system that allows recording and playback. This is possible because the console, which is where the organist plays, “talks” to the pipes and windchests in the organ chamber through a system very much like a computer. Digital signals get sent from the console as someone plays and those signals help activate the mechanisms that supply wind to pipes that correspond to the keys pressed and make them produce sound.



Part of this digital system allows the organist to activate a recording system, play a piece of music, then save the recording in the organ’s memory. Anyone, organist or not, who knows how to operate the playback can then have the organ play the piece back. The organ’s computerized control system will play the piece exactly as the organist played it while recording –

same tempo, same changes of sounds, as well as any mistakes that are made. Although the organist is not physically present, the organ’s playback system allows that organist to be heard playing just as if he or she were there. Pretty handy!

I’ve used the playback system to record organ music for CDs, which saves a lot of time for the recording technician, allowing a piece to be captured in one take. I also found the playback system handy for making recordings with the choir when we were producing videos for worship weekly. The system has been very helpful as I’ve dealt with some health issues, allowing me to pre-record hymns and organ pieces during the week to be used on Sunday if needed.

Thank you!

Many thanks to Barb Yeatermeyer, Linda Calzone and Carrick Secorski for helping out over the past couple of months, especially during Holy Week and Easter. It is wonderful to have such a great team of musicians who can step in and help. *Marcia*

2022 Graduates



Alex Hespel
Livonia Franklin High School
Alex is still in the process of figuring out what he wants to do this fall. Wherever the road takes him, his future is bright.



Zoe Hetzel
Salem High Scholl
Zoe will be attending Michigan State University this fall. We asked our Seniors to share a favorite memory about church. Zoe said, "One of my favorite memories was getting to know the leaders and students in my confirmation class. I have many fun memories of VBS. I love the tradition of the candlelight service on Christmas Eve, too."



Not pictured: Evan Smith, graduating from Plymouth High School, attending Grand Valley State University in the fall.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

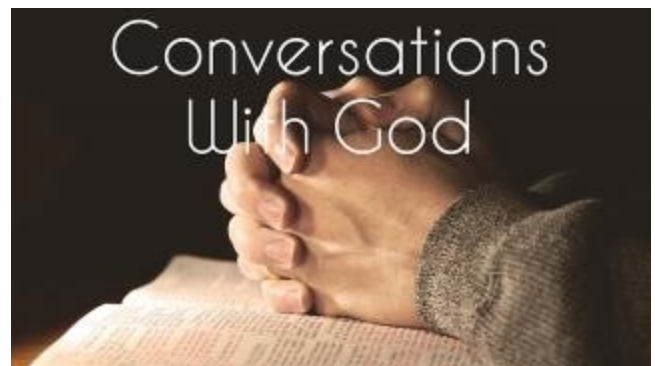
This time of year is always bittersweet. It is always difficult to watch a group of Seniors leave our Fusion youth group. This year is no different we have three High School Seniors who are graduating this year, Alex Hespel, Zoe Hetzel, and Evan Smith. As they prepare for their next steps, would you take the pictures from this newsletter or write their names on a piece of paper and put them someplace you will see them or create an alarm in your phone with their names and commit to pray for them daily for the next year. They will need your prayers now more than ever; pray for their faith in Jesus to be priority, that God would provide them with godly friends, that they would be healthy and safe, and that they would make wise choices.

Life boils down to choices. The average adult makes 35,000 decisions each day. These can range from what you will wear or eat that day to big decisions like what you will do with the rest of your life. Praying for the choices of our graduates is not a flippant request. They will be making choices now that will impact their lives for years to come. The choices they make are important.

Not only that they matter to God. Our choices matter to God, too. Our choices as individuals and our choices as a church; they matter to God. 35,000 is a lot of choices—and I will tell you I don't consult God about all 35,000 of them. I do ask God to guide me as I go through my day and help me to follow him and honor him. I believe he does that. I also know myself, and I make some decisions that are very selfish. The thing about selfish decisions is they aren't always wise. I think they are, but they aren't.

That is why our prayers for our graduates are so important. Children and youth are one of the priorities of this church. Prove that by praying for these out-going youth as they head out into this next chapter of the their lives. Pray for them daily for the next year. Let your next choice be picking a specific time each day to do so and commit to praying for them. It's a choice you won't regret!

Sarah





Message from Pastor Suzy

Friends -

As Christians in the Wesleyan tradition, we often talk about going onward to perfection. We believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, as he said in the Gospel of John. We believe that when we surrender our lives to Jesus we are embraced by sanctifying grace that, when responded to, can lead us into The Way of Jesus and shaping us into his image. Saying yes to that sanctifying grace's power to form us, we begin a sacred journey.

In the month of June, we'll take seriously that invitation to walk in the Way that Jesus did. June 3 - 24, we will engage in a sermon series called Jesus Apprentice. We will learn the defining attributes of Jesus.

We'll hear how Jesus commanded his disciples/apprentices to travel in the world. We'll hear the Good News that the scriptures have been fulfilled in Jesus. We'll hear how Jesus heals those who are sick and suffering. And we'll hear how Jesus pushes back the evil in the world.

This series will draw from stories in the Gospels. They are interesting to learn and fun to read. But that is not why we do this. We embark on this journey because Jesus has transformed us. And we have been called to be the living Gospel, the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our time and place. So we read these stories and learn these lessons as a means to be transformed by them.

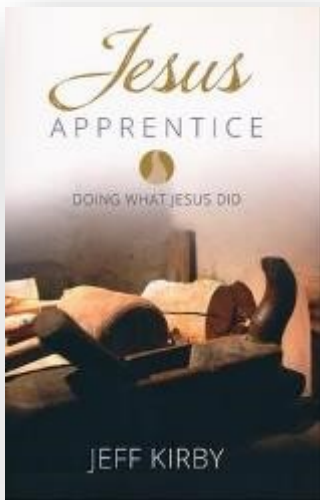
God has gifted each of us in a unique way. We each have a role to play in the work of the Kingdom. And when we all stand up and say yes, this world will be transformed. I encourage you to not limit this apprenticeship to Sunday mornings. I encourage you to get a book from Cathy, invite a few friends over once a week, they can be from church or from your neighborhood or even on Zoom. And I encourage you to study together the way that Jesus lived, so that you can find your own pathway in his footsteps.

Blessings, Pastor Suzy



Intentional Faith Development

What is your NEXT STEP?



Christian belief through Christian action—it's like an apprentice who learns from a master carpenter not only by listening, but also by following the master's example. We aren't truly following Jesus until we do as Jesus...until we become a Jesus apprentice. Learn how to sweep aside the clutter of daily life, getting to the heart of Jesus' message and finding the way to a renewed faith.

June Sermon Series

June 5	The Message and Methods of Jesus	Luke 10:1-9
June 12	Share the Good News of God's Kingdom	Luke 4:14-30
June 19	Heal the Sick and Suffering	Luke 7:1-10
June 26	Push Back the Darkness	Mark 1:21-26

Pick up a book for \$12 and read along with the sermon series to enhance the message from the pastors.

Gather some friends and walk through the study together.

Material is available to host a small group or do a 4 week book club. Contact Cathy Montgomery to get all the material you will need to make your time together a success.



Log on to Amplify Media and watch the video for each week. Don't have access to Amplify Media? Contact Cathy Montgomery to get access to the church account and watch the videos for Jesus Apprentice along with hundreds of other options.

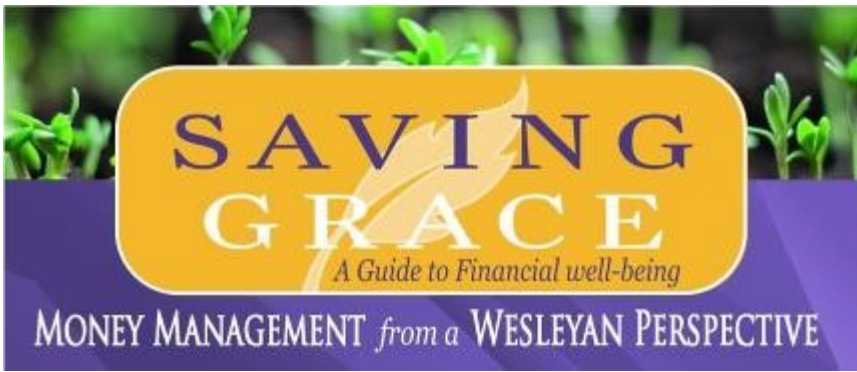
THE JOURNEY



The membership vows serve as guideposts for our Journey.

How can I help? Contact me and let's sit down for coffee, tea, breakfast or lunch. I would love to share in a conversation with you about God and your NEXT STEP that will take you deeper in your faith.

Cathy Montgomery
 Intentional Faith Development
 (734) 560-3498 (cell)
 cathym@pfumc.org.



30 people gathered for 4 weeks to share a meal and learned how to manage our money from a Wesleyan perspective.

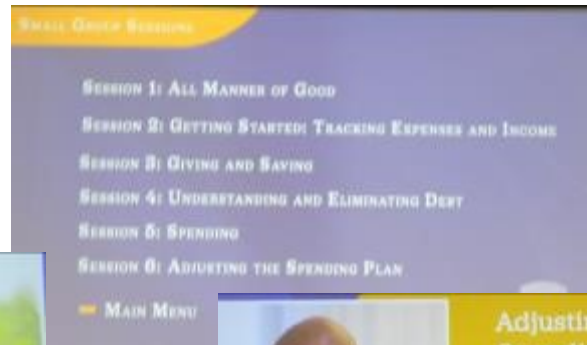
The food was good and everyone was well fed.



We opened by building community, recognizing our common ground.



The video presentation jump started our discussions.



We talked about the daily decision we make that lead us to either foolishly follow cultural messages or faithfully move toward God.

As we move toward God we increasingly become a
Diligent Earner
Generous Giver
Wise Saver
Cautious Debtor
and a Prudent Spender.

As we become financially faithful, we experience a growing sense of financial well-being.





FINANCIAL UPDATE

April 2022

Income \$ 45,370

Expenses \$ 57,925

YTD 2022

Income \$ 213,825

Expenses \$ 246,415

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	\$0	-\$13,010
June	\$14,103	\$0	-\$14,103
July	\$15,646	\$0	-\$15,646
August	\$18,384	\$0	-\$18,384
September	\$20,117	\$0	-\$20,117
October	\$21,265	\$0	-\$21,265
November	\$23,102	\$0	-\$23,102
December	\$24,155	\$0	-\$24,155
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 Dermyre

Lois Maiorana
Vincent Maiorana
Bill & Mary McCully
Richard Moore
Nancy Nelson
Dennis Piggott
Ruth Slade
Peter Slazinski
Marica Van Oyen

Military

Suzanne Gyde—Hall
Brian Krautler (Ramsay)
Andrew D. Piggott

Members Shut In

Cleo Pappin
John & Sydney Paul
Jim Walk

Family & Friends

Rich Brown, friend of George Thompson
Matt Carter, family of Stella Smith
Clay Good, Dale Good's son
Robert Nulty & Phyllis Nulty
Mike Petri and family, friend of Dale Good

Missionaries

Hannah Kappler
South Korea



WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF ANNA FOWLER WHO PASSED AWAY. HER FUNERAL WAS MAY 4TH— please continue to lift her family in prayer.

THANK YOU—from the family of Dawn Harrison, Geo and Muriel Gyde and Dawn's husband Frank— Thank you for your Cards, prayers, calls and support thru health concerns and Dawn's passing



Pray for



ASP in June 19—25, please pray for the leaders and crew as they travel to Fayette, West Virginia.

- Bob Mason
- Cathy Webster
- Michael Marble
- Eric Paulsen
- Rachel Paulsen
- Hannah Rawlings
- Will Robertson

RETURN ADDRESS
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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 May 2022

6/3 Joe Stevens

6/4 David Janda
Micah McClelland

6/5 Ken Zander
Klarissa Box

6/8 Randa Williams
Joshua McClelland

6/9 Kris Stevens
6/10 Melvin Gutherie
Sue Hoy
Adalynn Boyden
Braxton Boyden

6/11 Phyllis DeKiere
Nancy Nelson
Madeline Johnson
6/12 Bob Nelson
6/13 Jonah McClelland
6/14 Josh Styron
6/16 Cora Salter
6/17 Sandy Fine
Debra Single

6/18 Pam Fair
Judy Carr
Belinda Edwards
Carter Ryan
Nicholas Novak

6/19 Dave Spieth
6/21 Jake Anderson
Elena Styron
6/22 Fiona VerKennis
Luna VerKennis
6/23 Jerry Sweet
6/24 Virginia O'Neill
6/26 Paige Spieth
Abby Nabozny
6/27 Kathlyn Juras
Aidan Brunzell
Bridget Brunzell
Benjamin Lukasik
6/28 Ruth Slade
Barb McIlhargey
Jacob Johnson
6/29 Ron Lowe
Eden Sutphin
6/30 Dianne Ammons
Sheryl Picard

JUNE BIRTHDAYS 2022

