

# Plymouth First United Methodist Church

## Message from Pastor Bob

*“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:1-2, NIV)*

This may come as no surprise, but I cannot get enough of science documentaries, especially around the creation of the universe, our solar system, our planet, and the natural world in which we live. I love learning about our ever-evolving understanding of the science behind God’s amazing and loving Creation of everything. And I am so appreciative that God continues to give us glimpses into how God goes about doing what God does. One part that continues to amaze me is the elegance and overwhelming effectiveness of clouds. What I mean is, for all their beauty, for all their range of motion and activity, what they are more than anything, is God’s incredible distribution system for moving the life-critical substance of water around the earth. No clouds ... no rain. No rain ... no water inland of the oceans. No water ... ultimately no life. But God created a water distribution system that, thankfully, functions whether we are smart enough to turn it on or not. And then, God has blessed some of us with the creativity and knowhow to facilitate final steps of distributing that water to where it is needed. Of course, we are still working on completely fulfilling humanity’s part of that final distribution step, but we are making progress.

But getting back to clouds, I believe they offer insight into some of God’s guiding principles. I believe one of God’s major strategies is to create and employ distribution channels to distribute a great deal of God’s life-giving blessings around the world and to all that lives in God’s Creation, and that humanity holds a special role in that distribution process. God has blessed humanity with the ability to learn, reason, create, and implement. But most of all, God has blessed humanity with an ability to be both uniquely aware and connected to the very presence of God. How cool is that?! Now, this certainly applies to the distribution of important materials for life, i.e., water, food, shelter, safety, and things alike. But perhaps even more to the blessings of love, grace, forgiveness, friendship, and the presence of God. In other words, I believe we as humanity have been particularly blessed by God. And as believers in God-in-Christ, we have been blessed, to be a blessing to others, especially as it relates to the blessing of awareness and connection to the presence of God.

But how can we live into that role of being God’s distribution system of God’s blessings, especially as it relates to ultimately opening up awareness and connection to the presence of God? Turns out, we can do this, by simply sharing the blessings we have already been given, and in everyday easily accessible ways we already know how to do. Which, is exactly what our September sermon series is really all about. Specifically, it is 5 ways that we all can do to connect with God and community, i.e., ways to love our neighbor and change the world. Ways that have direct implication upon family, friendships, and the Church. I look forward to walking through these next 5 weeks together, and experiencing together blessings we will receive, and the blessings we will be.

May you have keen awareness of God’s blessing in your life, and in the life of those you love.

Blessings ... Pastor Bob

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# Message from Pastor Suzy Todd

Friends - It is time to dream a new dream. It's time for new life. In John 3 Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'" God is always at work in this world birthing something new. Let's get on board with what the Spirit is birthing in our community.

Here are some seeds that I have observed. There is new birth coming to our children's education wing. We are remodeling for the kids that are here and those who will come. We are creating classrooms that are based on eco-systems. We have a space room, a desert room, an ocean room, a forest room and a jungle room. Kids will be immersed in God's wonder as they learn about how thoroughly God loves them, and as they are equipped to go love their neighbors. It is an exciting time to be in children's ministry at Plymouth First! If you would like to help paint or decorate the classrooms this fall, contact me or Cathy Montgomery. If you would like to teach or assist in a classroom once a month or once a year beginning in January, contact me.

There is new birth coming to our worship experiences. Choir and bells are starting back up at the 10:30 worship. There is room for new people, are you interested in exploring it? New spaces are opening in the band at our 9:15 worship. Have you been banging on your drums, or strumming on your bass or guitar, or singing in the shower? We have space in the band for you!

Our Digital Campus is taking shape and recruiting a launch team. Pastor Jackie is beginning to put shape to ways that the digital community can bond as a group and work together to transform the world. Join this team and dream about how community is formed in this fairly new space.

There is a lot of evidence that God is at work among the people of Plymouth First UMC. New missions are being born in the hearts of people - we are working to equip them for leading others on mission. New ministries are arising through God's calling of people - we are making space for new classes, new servant opportunities and new people.

When you joined the United Methodist Church you vowed to share your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness with the church.

- How are you praying for the church?
- How often are you attending worship? Bible study?
- Which of your gifts are you sharing here for use in the Kingdom of God?
- What mission are you actively engaging in with the people outside the church?
- And what does the way you live your life say about the God you worship?



There is new life - and we are all the caretakers of it. Let's bring our whole selves to nurturing and strengthening what is being born among us.

Peace,  
Pastor Suzy



Creative supplies are ready for eager minds!



Classroom and storage areas have been cleaned and organized.



Classrooms are ready for a fresh coat of paint.

It's taken a lot of helping hands to get this far.

- Thank You, Jill Leeper  
Phil Daigneau  
Tom Leger  
Diane Anderson,  
Karen Tercala  
Janice Podgers  
Marlene Crow  
Karen Cooney  
Sandy Ofiara  
Liz Ramsay



The work is not done. How can you help?



For more info about concerts or scholarships contact Marcia Van Oyen

marcia@pfumc.org or 734.453.5280 x115



Music Notes

## Congratulations to Aahan Jain!



Aahan has been studying guitar with Mr. Mark McCoy for several years. He recently competed in the American Guild of Music competition where he earned two 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies. We are so happy and proud of him!

In addition to guitar lessons, we also offer lessons in piano, violin, viola, cello, string bass, electric bass, ukulele & mandolin. Please contact Barb Levensgood in the church office for more information or to enroll.

**Registration for fall semester lessons is now open!**

**Frances G. Loiseau Vocal Scholarship**  
for high school and college students

- Scholarship is a \$2,000 award for the first year which will increase by \$1,000 each year, for a maximum of four years and a total of \$14,000 in awards.\*
- Applicants should have choral singing experience but do not need to be soloists or music majors.
- Recipients will sing in the Chancel Choir from September through mid-June. Rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:30—9:00 pm and Sunday warm-up and worship is 9:45—11:45 am.
- A 90% attendance record is expected.

\*Scholarship is paid directly to the accredited college or university where the recipient is currently enrolled full time or held until the student is enrolled.

**encouraging young musicians**  
performance experience/nurturing environment  
diverse repertoire/inspiring worship

# SAVE THE DATE - OCT. 8

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## Entertainment

Comedian, Chris Young  
Music: "Beer" and Hymns  
(That's Root Beer)  
with Tuf & Pastor Bob  
Balloon Art & Magician,  
Dennis Brunzell

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

## Family Fun Activities

Photo Booth  
Pumpkin Patch  
Inflatable Obstacle Course

## GAMES

Corn Hole  
Horseshoes

## Support a Local Mission

Mark your calendar and  
plan to attend.  
Invite your family,  
friends and neighbors!

## FOOD Trucks and Venders

### Be a part of the team.

Pick an area or activity  
let us know you can help.

#### Team Contacts:

Pastor Bob Miller  
Pastor Suzy Hutchison  
Pastor Jackie Raineri  
Cathy Montgomery

## Come and Learn about *Fresh Expressions*

- Formation of new Christian communities
- Gatherings with and for people who are not yet Christians
- Showing the heart of Discipleship

Saturday - Sep 17 - 9am-12pm  
(lunch included at noon)



# Pastor Jackie

SEPTEMBER 2022

Greetings Church,

It has been great getting to know you in person, and I have enjoyed chatting with those watching the two services via live stream. Thank you for making Anthony and I, feel welcome in your community!

Recently you have heard the words “Fresh Expression” talked about during conversations and last week during the worship services. We are starting the discussion for this ministry as it is another piece of what I am bringing to PFUMC. On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, we have Rev. Rachel Gilmore coming to PFUMC for a hands-on experience on how we can start Fresh Expressions here in our community.

So what are Fresh Expressions? Here are a few insights by Ministry Matters:

By simply hearing the name “Fresh Expressions,” some might think it is a laundry detergent and still others a breath freshener.

Some who hear about Fresh Expressions as a movement might interpret it as a last-ditch effort to “save the institutional church.” But Fresh Expressions isn’t another new program but a movement of the Holy Spirit.

Fresh Expressions has a particular purpose for a church or community of faith. Here is the working definition from the Fresh Expressions UK website:

*“A fresh expression is a form of Church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. It will come into being through principles of listening, service, contextual mission, and making disciples. It will potentially become a mature expression of Church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the Church and for its cultural context.”*

Did you know that John Wesley and the early Methodists realized the Church of their day wasn’t connecting with most people?

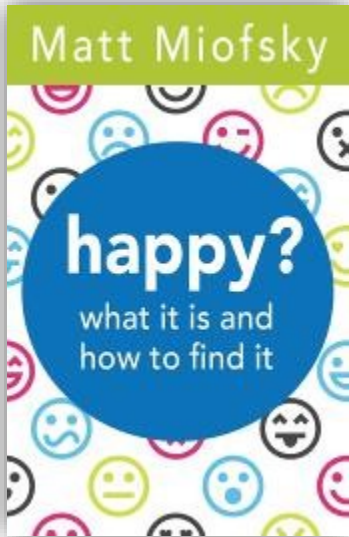
So they went to the fields and found a way to be Church with people who didn’t attend Church. That movement jumped across the pond to a fledgling nation that became the United States, and as they say, the rest is history.

I pray you will join us on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. – 12noon with lunch to follow. Please plan to stay for lunch as it will give more opportunities for discussion and to hear ideas from those looking to make disciples in your community!

Peace,  
Pastor Jackie



Pastor Jackie & Anthony Raineri



## 4 Week Study coming in October

Week 1—Nothing Will Make You Happy

Week 2—The Art of Forgiveness

Week 3—Beyond Circumstances

Week 4—A Way of Being

- ◇ Attend Worship in October
- ◇ Join a short term small group
- ◇ Pick up a book and read along
- ◇ Check out the videos on Amplify

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



## Sermon Series August 28 - Sept. 25, 2022



### Begin with Prayer

Pray for the people in your life and the places that your in.



### Listen

Listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work.



### Eat

Share meals and spend time with people in your life.



### Serve

Respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways.



### Share

Share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in your life with others.



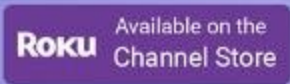
# AMPLIFY

*Grow your faith this summer!*



Amplify provides 24/7 access to motivating stories, insightful teaching, and powerful resources.

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

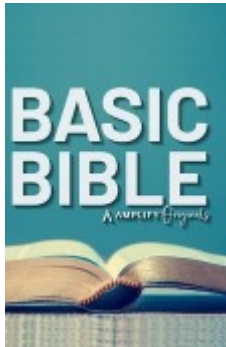


Super Simple Subscription Registration Link:

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/register>

Use the Congregation Access Code: DCBJVY

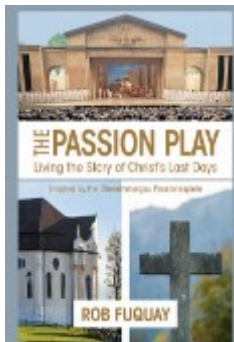
## Here are some things you will find...



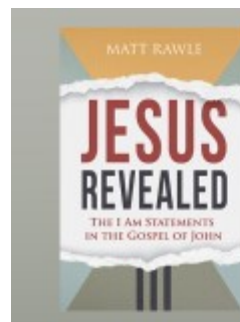
These short 5 minute videos takes you through a different aspect of the Bible, how it is organized, and outline of general themes. Topics include: The Bible, The New Testament, Genesis, The Gospels



**FOR KIDS:**  
Capture kids imaginations with illustrated re-telling of essential Bible stories such as The House on the Rock, The Sower, Calling the Disciples, Calming the Storm. For Grades K-4.



Pastor Suzy is about to leave for her trip to Oberammergau Germany where the inhabitants of the village have been performing this play every 10 years since 1680. For those who can't join her ,take time to watch these videos and experience the Passion Play.



**DISCOVER JESUS' CHARACTER THROUGH THE "I AM" STATEMENTS**

# Intentional Faith Development



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

## WE MADE IT!

What an exciting summer it has been. If you joined me in reading through the New Testament in 10 weeks pat yourself on the back and drop me a note to say how it went.

What did you discover?

What stories moved you the most?

Did you struggle keeping up or was it a breeze to stick to the plan?

Did you read anything that surprised you?

How has the experience transformed your life?

*My first time through I had a hunger for more and a desire to keep going so I plotted out the Old Testament and read that in 12 weeks.*

## What is your **NEXT STEP?**

## New Testament Disciple Bible Study

Mondays

Aug. 29 to Nov. 14

1:00 to 2:30 pm

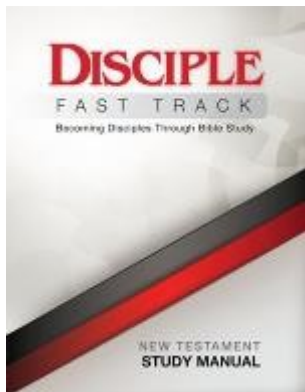
or

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Room 306/308

Dig deeper into the New Testament this fall. This 12-week study immerses the participant in the New Testament. The study includes weekly readings, video, and group discussions.

Contact Cathy Montgomery if you would like to participate. [cathym@pfumc.org](mailto:cathym@pfumc.org) or 734-560-3498



## 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](mailto:cathym@pfumc.org)



**SAVE the DATE**

**HERITAGE DISTRICT**  
Michigan Conference  
The United Methodist Church

**District Gathering on the  
Dixboro Village Green  
Sunday, September 18 3-5pm**

Host Church: Dixboro Church 5221 Church Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Food  
Families  
Fun  
Fellowship  
Live Music

All District Churches are welcome  
(Laity, Families & Clergy)  
Bring a Chair

# Donate to the Food Pantry



**HELP** - the Salvation Army needs to restock their shelves in preparation for children going back to school.

**Donation Dates:  
August 28 - September 11**

- Toothpaste
- Body Wash & Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Razors & Shaving Cream
- Noodles
- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Instant Jell-O and Pudding
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towel

Pick up a grocery bag on Sunday morning and return them to the church entry by Sept. 11.

Thank you!



**FINANCIAL UPDATE  
JULY 2022**

**Income**     \$ 62,718  
**Expenses**   \$ 52,804

**YTD 2022**

**Income**     \$ 399,954  
**Expenses**   \$ 422,193

**Fast  
Easy  
Secure**

<b>Online</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Mobile App</b>	<b>Check/Cash</b> Direct Bank Bill Payment
www.pfumc.org/give/ To set up and manage your one-time or recurring gifts.	1-844-208-0637 the amount you want to donate.	Download the Vanco Mobile app to make contributions.	Drop off or mail check/cash. Set up automatic giving through your bank provider.

**2022, Roof Expense Recovery Initiative**

	<b>2021 Year</b>	<b>2022 Year</b>	<b>Difference of 2022 compared to 2021.</b>
<b>Month</b>	<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>January</b>	\$3,941	\$1,538	-\$2,403
<b>February</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	\$0	-\$18,384
<b>September</b>	\$20,117	\$0	-\$20,117
<b>October</b>	\$21,265	\$0	-\$21,265
<b>November</b>	\$23,102	\$0	-\$23,102
<b>December</b>	\$24,155	\$0	-\$24,155
<b>Total</b>	\$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  
**Bill Ramsay**  
Ruth Slade  
**Connie Slazinski**

### Military

Suzanne Gyde—Hall  
Brian Krautler (Ramsay)

### Members Shut In

Cleo Pappin  
John & Sydney Paul  
Jim Walk

### 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

### Missionaries

Hannah Kappler  
South Korea

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY

“A Divine Invitation to Partnership”

Group Intercessory Prayer is being incorporated in our PFUMC Congregational Care Ministry and is scheduled to begin in September. It is a call to pray as a group for God's intervening goodness in the lives of our members who are sick, unable to attend church services, reside in facilities or have recently lost a family member.

In the past, the congregational Care Ministry reached out to those on our “Prayer List” with a telephone contact, a card or personal visit in an attempt to come alongside and provide comfort in prayer. This added Intercessory Prayer Ministry is a call to our congregation to come together to pray on the first Thursday morning of each month, and anyone who wishes to be an intercessory prayer can meet to form a congregation prayer circle. When we speak of ministry in this way, we mean sharing, praying and inviting the Holy Spirit to be in our midst, to bring help and comfort through our prayers.

Jesus said, “My peace I give unto you. My love I give unto you. My joy I give unto you.” When we pray with others, He give His peace, engages the gifts of the Sprit for our use and comforts us in the process.

We look forward to welcoming you the Intercessory Prayer Ministry.  
Beginning September 8th, we will meet at 10:30—12:00 in the Garden Café.

Resource: Book Title The Secrets of Intercessory Prayer by  
Jack Hayford

Judy (Pryor) Papler-Welliver [jdpapleer@aol.com](mailto:jdpapleer@aol.com)



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 August 2022

*September BIRTHDAYS 2022*

9/2 Olivia Johnson  
9/3 Noah Darragh  
9/4 Richard Pryor  
Allyssa Hollo  
9/8 Ardelle Pickering  
9/9 Dorothy Davenport  
Nicholas Rodriguez  
9/10 Sandy Hackett  
Marilyn Quinn  
Kathy Berliner  
9/12 Betty Barber  
Robert Lowe  
Zane Berlanga  
9/13 Dannette Murphy  
9/15 Jean Gould  
9/16 Ellen Thompson  
David Cusumano  
Suzanne Trinka  
9/17 Gabe Hering  
Brayden Bishop  
Liam Penney  
9/18 George Gyde  
Laura Jameson  
9/19 Erica Freeland  
9/21 John Marshall  
Jan Rolston  
Bob Ankrapp

9/22 Scottie Cracraft  
Linda Hanson  
Katherine Robertson  
9/23  
Julie Spurlin—Hane  
9/24 John Cook  
Abby Dalton  
9/25 Ruth Ann Cook  
Bill Patterson  
9/26  
Gerry Hetherington  
Julie Holland  
9/27 Jan Seamonds  
Vickie Krause  
Raymond Wells  
9/28 Ron Loiselle  
9/29 Beverly Bazzell  
Julie Lewis  
Ryder Kuzak  
9/30 Sandy Bishop  
Richard Morin

