

The Perspective

Volume 44

Number 7

July 2021

Worship at Plymouth Church will be outside on the lawn every Sunday at 10 AM. We will move indoors in case of rain. Service will also be available on our website, www.plymouthchurchucc.org.

On the homepage of website look for the *WATCH* tab near the top. Click on it and select *Livestream* (to watch in real time on Sunday) or *Recordings* (to view previous services).

July 4 | *Quick-Start Guide*

Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay Preaching
Communion | *Micah 6:1-4,6-8*

July 11 | *Hope Somebody!*

Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay Preaching
Psalm 85:8-13

July 18

Rev. Matt Bauhof Preaching

July 25

Guest Preacher





***An Open & Affirming and Just Peace Congregation
of the United Church of Christ***

Our Mission is to be a Christ-centered community led by the Holy Spirit that supports the spiritual journey of all who strive to boldly live out their faith in the world. We are committed to diversity, spiritual growth, and putting our faith into action locally and throughout the world.

Plymouth Church Leadership 2021

Council President	Brian Grube
Council Vice-President	Mary Bright
Secretary	Vicki Werneke
Treasurer	Juanita Faulx
Assistant Treasurer	Pam Ford
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Caring - Chair	Dave Faulx
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Evangelism & Growth (E&G) - Chair	Margaret Reuthinger
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Personnel Chair	Kenyon Mau
Foundation Chair	Christine Bretz
Council Member @Large	Ros Gauchat
Council Member @Large	Jan Wilkens
Council Member @Large	Nicole Lepley
Council Member @ Large	Shelli Smith
Council Member @ Large	Becky Neal

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Pastor's Corner

Dear Plymouth Church,

I can't quite believe the moment has come to write my final column for the Perspective. I continue to feel the mix of emotions I wrote about last month: sad that we are saying goodbye and joy that a new beginning is just around the corner for Plymouth Church with Rev. Dr. Matt Wooster. As I sit with my laptop in the peace garden, I feel a sense of deep gratitude for the Spirit that led me to Plymouth and infused our time together with hope and light.

Transition is a way of life in the church and in all of creation, isn't it? That sentence seems to call for a deep sigh. For anything to grow, evolve, mature, transform — for something new to emerge or be born — change and letting go is required. Transitions always come with some sort of upheaval; that's why they're particularly challenging for us mere mortals, who are inclined to hang on to the status quo even when we know it's time to move on. The biblical narrative is a series of transitions for God's people and their leaders and every single one necessitates adjustment and readjustment.

Plymouth Church, I am so grateful to you for embracing me as your pastor during a time of uncertainty and transition. I'm grateful for the laughter we've shared, the deep conversations, the prayer, the learning, questioning, and wondering, the profound worship experiences we've shared both in person and online, and the relationships we've established. Of course, there is disappointment that for so much of our time together we had to keep our distance from each other. (I have a tee-shirt that says, "I love you — stay away from me.") I allow myself to feel that sadness and then remember it is a relatively small loss in the shadow of great loss around the world.

At the beginning of the book we've been reading in Bible study, *Dusk, Night, Dawn*, there is a poem by Ursula Le Guin called "Hymn to Time" that strikes me as appropriate for this moment.

Time says "Let there be"
every moment and instantly
there is space and the radiance
of each bright galaxy.

Time makes room
for going and coming home
and in time's womb
begins all ending.

Time is being and being
time, it is all one thing,
the shining, the seeing,
the dark abounding.

May God bless each of you, Plymouth Church, and Matt and Betsy Wooster in this time "for going and coming home."

Much love, Deb

Celebrating the Ministry of Deb Lindsay

Jim Riggs, Acting Staff Administrator

I remember the day well. In fact, it was September 25, 2019, when Matt Bauhof and I were sitting in my office on a conference call with the Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay. Near the end of the call Deb said, “We won’t sit idle during this interim time.” Little did we know how right she would be. Shortly after Deb’s arrival Advent was upon us and then it was a New Year—2020. The Transition Team was hosting brunches, and we were planning for Lent. Our theme was “Just Be.” Deb attended the Chanticleer concert in early March where nearly 500 people packed the sanctuary to hear this concert. A few days later when we left worship on March 8, 2020, everything would change with Covid-19.



Instantly we were relying on Deb’s knowledge from her former career to guide us into this new reality of filming our worship services. She would say, “No, sit like this,” “We must have a good microphone,” “Look at what’s behind you,” I can personally say I would film something three or four times, not be overly excited about how it looked, and feel discouraged. Then Deb would appear on the screen always put together, smiling, and looking right at the camera with this incredible calm presence. In the early days, I would call her saying, “How did you do this?” She was always supportive, offering tips so we all might succeed in this new medium.

Then there was Zoom. Early on we knew just enough to be dangerous. I recall one evening when Deb asked if I would assist with the Call to Worship. We met on Zoom to record the piece. About forty-five minutes later the phone rang and Deb said, “I am not sure what I did, but it did not record.” Back on Zoom we went to record a second time. The phone rang again. This time the reply was, “You can hear the dogs barking in the background. Could we do it again?” It was now 10:30 pm and I was dying laughing as we recorded for a third time. Those Zoom meetings were hard for me. Deb, however, was the queen of Zoom meetings doing four to five meetings a day meeting with the Living Water Association and ministers from local churches to stay informed on the Covid-19 news.



Celebrating the Ministry of Deb Lindsay

Deb played an instrumental role in getting the Cleveland Clinic Lerner School at Plymouth; an example of how Plymouth responded to the community during the pandemic. Deb is always excited the moment she hears the sounds of children. Monday night Bible Study took on a new format - meeting via Zoom and was always a lively discussion. In response to the racial reckoning of last summer, Deb invited Dr. Deborah Plummer to conduct a series of workshops for Plymouth to help our congregation learn more about and address racism in our country. In addition, she led a monthly discussion group focused on movies about racial justice that were written, directed and/or produced by Black filmmakers. When the church council voted to begin exploring with Heights Christian Church the possibility of nesting at Plymouth, it was Deb who started the ball rolling: meeting with their pastor, building visits in conjunction with other staff, talking with other churches who had a similar model, and hammering out contract details.

Words can never fully express our gratitude to you, Deb, for walking this journey with us especially during a pandemic. Your wisdom, your thoughtful sermons, your encouragement, and your generosity have seen us through this interim time preparing us for the next chapter in the life of Plymouth Church. And you were right, we did not sit idle! In parting, I leave you with these words from author, Margaret Clarkson: "We bless the hand that brought you here and richly blest us all in you: As now you leave for wider sphere God's covenant mercies we review."

I hope you will join us on July 11 at 10:00 am when we will celebrate Deb's ministry during worship.



July 11 Worship

On July 11 at 10:00 am we will celebrate and release our Interim Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay. Nayiri Karjian from the Living Water Association will be here to lead a liturgy of farewell. The Transition Team, along with others, has planned a wonderful send off for Deb. The congregation is invited to bring cards to celebrate Deb.



GAMES AND ICE CREAM?!?!

Get Active Thursdays

JOIN US ON THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:30-8PM AS WE PLAY GAMES/SPORTS ON THE PLYMOUTH LAWN AND THEN FINISH WITH SOME ICE CREAM TREATS. ALL SKILL AND INTEREST LEVELS ARE ENCOURAGE TO ATTEND. FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN.

June 24th - Handball/soccer **Aug 5th - Slip N Slide Kickball**
July 15th - Ult. Frisbee/4 square **Aug 19th - Dodgeball/Volleyball**



Summer Office Hours


Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9 am—12 noon

If you need building access outside of these hours, it will be by appointment only.



Thank you!

Together we raised \$1246
for our “Strengthen the
Church” offering



News & Events

Children's Church

Children in pre-school through middle school are welcome to join us in the garden Sunday mornings for our *Caring for Creation* summer program.

No Children's Church on July 4th.

Volunteer at the Cleveland Foodbank

Volunteers are invited to join Plymouth Church members at the Greater Cleveland Foodbank the third Wednesday of each month. The next gathering will be **July 21st, 6-8pm.**

Contact Paul Qua at pqua@driveclassic.com.

Monday Night Bible Study

Monday Night Bible Study will be on hiatus during the month of July. Please watch for more information coming in August.



Giving Statements

By now, you should have received a 2021 Giving Statement covering the period of Jan 1 - June 30. Please review your statement for accuracy. And, please confirm your pledge amount is correct. If you are making a recurring pledge online, please check that you updated your scheduled payment.

Summer can be a time when the payment of pledges can dwindle. If possible, we ask for your continued payment and a "catch up" if necessary. Please contact me if you have any questions or want help with calculations or updating a reoccurring ACH debit from your checking account or credit card charge.

As always, we are heartened by your ongoing support of Plymouth Church!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kundrat, Finance Administrator
kkundrat@PlymouthChurchUCC.org | 216-921-3510 x106

POSTMASTER: Send address change to
Plymouth Church, *The Perspective*

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2860 Coventry Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44120-2200
216-921-3510



Perspective Deadline

Monday, July 19

SEND TO:

Happy Birthday!

To our Four Score Plus

Mendle Adams
Mary Ann Davis
Barbara Ginn
Marion Hill
Barbara Kacir
C.J. Keyes
Noel Nilson
Norma Rodgers
Joanne Ross

