“Fear not, 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.”

Isaiah 41:10

I believe the four most important words in the Bible are, “I am with you.” There is such comfort in knowing God is always present, both in times of celebration and challenge…and amidst the spread of the coronavirus.

In my first sermon at Plymouth Church, I shared the story of Rev. William Barber and his grandmother who exhorted him to “Hope somebody!” That was what she was doing when she distributed meals to people in need. It is an excellent mantra for all of us in these odd and frightening times as we sanitize our hands, keep a certain distance from each other, and seek the healthy, common sense response to the coronavirus.

Here’s what I know: this is a time to lean into our trust in God. We trust the Divine More not to wave a magic wand and make it all go away, but to guide us in good decision-making, to reassure us when we’re afraid, and to give us courage and resilience in the face of an uncertain circumstance. In a time such as this, we give thanks to God for doctors, nurses, health care workers and first responders of all stripes. We thank God for the world’s problem solvers – for those individuals who use their intelligence, curiosity, and creativity to make
the world a healthier and safer place. At the same time, it is incumbent on us to follow the guidance of health officials and do our part to prevent the spread of the virus. There is an ancient Islamic phrase that says, “Trust in Allah and tie up your camel.” What excellent advice that is for this moment: trust in God and do what is necessary to protect yourself and others.

Today I encourage you to hope somebody! We can all watch for opportunities to support, encourage, and care for one another, because that’s one of the many ways God is with us.

Blessings,

Deb

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No In-Person Worship
March 15 & 22

In response to the coronavirus, Plymouth Church will not have in-person worship on March 15 and 22. At that point we will reevaluate the situation. We made this decision with leadership of the church after a briefing by Governor DeWine and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, which urged cancellation of large gatherings. We have also cancelled all meetings at the church; the building will still be available to the 12-Step programs. These meetings are smaller and especially important in anxious times. Voting on March 17 will go forward as scheduled.

Please join us on Facebook Live Sunday morning at 10:30 AM for an online worship experience. Grab a candle, round up the family and we’ll journey together!

Our mantra is prevention and a commonsense response to a very serious situation. Health authorities are telling us the top priority must be to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to prevent an overload of the healthcare system. Together we will work together to protect vulnerable members of our community while remaining in spiritual community with each other. Please keep an eye on your email and social media for news about how we’ll be staying connected.

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Congratulations to Rev. Matt & Mary Pat on the arrival of their son, Francis Joseph Bauhof!

Welcome to the world Francis Joseph Bauhof, born on March 12 at
1:29 AM. Everyone is happy and healthy and Francis is very excited to meet everyone at Plymouth. Let’s give Matt & Mary Pat lots of space at this time as they settle into their new routine as a family.

Stay tuned for a message from Rev. Matt early next week!

CHURCH HOURS
Office hours are 9 AM to 2 PM, Mon-Fri. Building hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Mon-Fri and Saturdays by appointment only. In the case of a building emergency, please call Facility Manager, Paul Holter, at 216.751.0584.

You can view the Plymouth Church Event Calendar here.

GIVE BY TEXT!
Simply enter the Give by Text number and the amount you wish to donate making sure to use the dollar sign before the amount, like this:
855-914-1060 $XXXX.00
Our text giving is supported by Vanco Payments, 800-675-7430. Any questions please contact our Finance Administrator Kathryn at kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org.

HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING REALM?
Contact Kathryn Kundrat at kkundrat@plymouthchurchucc.org and she will send you a password reset to your e-mail address on record.
PASTORAL CARE
If you have a pastoral need, please call Rev. Dr. Deborah Lindsay at 216.921.3510 x25.

Click here to view the Annual Report: 2019 Annual Report
Click here to view our newsletter: The Perspective, March 2020

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