A large, stylized purple cross graphic is centered in the background. The cross is composed of four thick, slightly irregular arms that meet at a central point. The background is a light, muted purple color.

LENT 5
THE WAY OF THE CROSS

11:30 GATHERING OF GRACE

Sunday • March 22 • 2026

Lent 5 THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Sunday • March 22 • 2026

please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Welcome and Announcements

Mission Moment

Chili Cook Off

*What a Friend We have in Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry,
Everything to God in prayer.
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.**

Have we trials and temptations,
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

*Passing of the Peace

*Invocation

*Gloria

Glory to the Creator,
and the Christ and the Spirit so near,
as it was from the start,
so it shall be forever, one God, always here.

Scripture Reading

John 19:1-16a
Pew Bible NT pg. 113

Reader The Word of God for the people of God.
All **Thanks be to God!**

Word Through Music

Sermon

Rev. Michael Brecke

Call to Offering

Prayer of Dedication

*Plymouth Covenant *(Please, join in reading.)*

**In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus,
we unite for the worship of God, and the service of all.
We seek to know the will of God and to walk in God's ways,
made known or to be made known to us;
to love one another; to proclaim the Gospel to all the world;
to work and pray for the progress of knowledge,
the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,
and the realization of our shared humanity.
And we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness
and the gift of life eternal. Amen.**

Jerusalem

Steve Earle

People's Prayer

Respond after each petition with "**Lord, Hear Our Prayers.**"

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me

In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When the shades of life are failing.
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me.
In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart within is aching,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

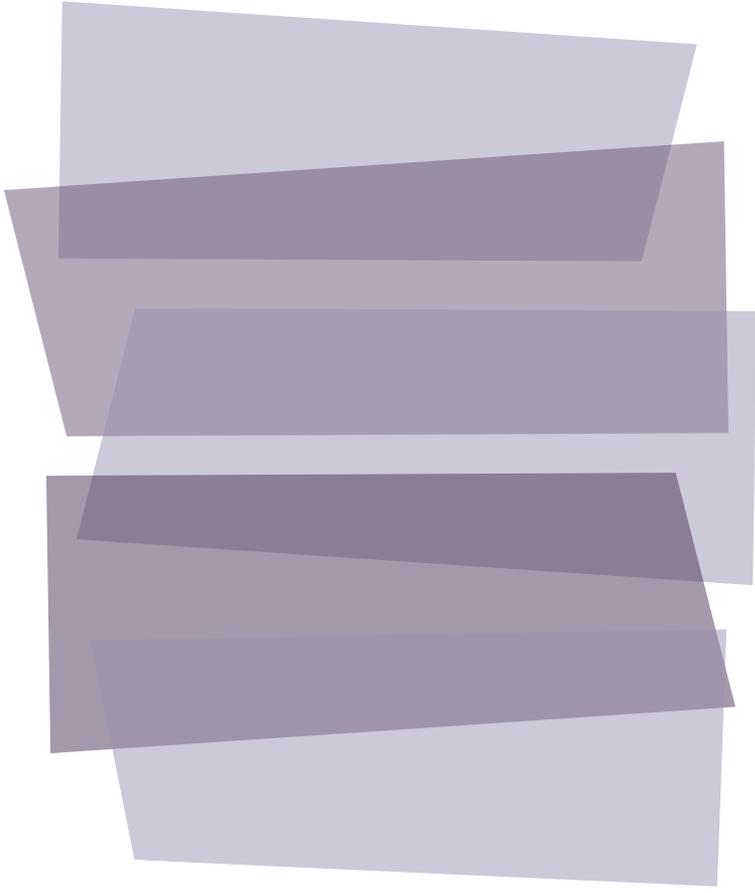
*Blessing

*Closing Song

God be with you 'til we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you 'til we meet again.

Today's Service Participants

Preaching: Rev. Michael Brecke
Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Gathering of Grace Band: Pam Gibbs,
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty
Lay Reader: Genna Hurd
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Gretchen Meyer
Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey

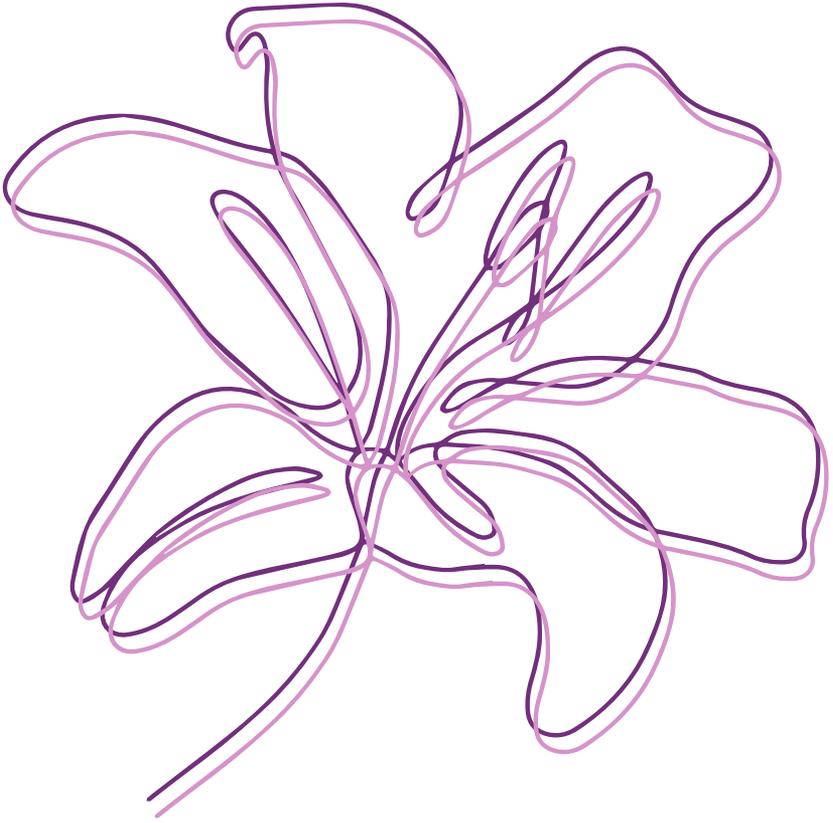


Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!





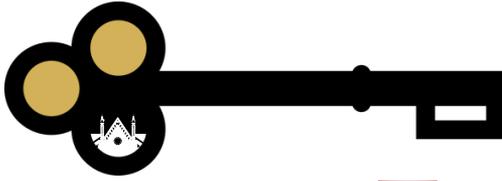
Easter Lilies

Pastors' Emergency Fund 2026
at Plymouth Congregational Church

***Last Day
to order!***



Online
Order
Form



Enter In

Important Update!

At the congregational meeting on February 22, Plymouth voted to adapt the existing chancel for accessibility. The next big challenge is to figure out how. Good accessibility design lines up with our weekly commitment that “wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” But there are space constraints and existing structures to consider. So where do we look for guidance?

Here are two starting points:

1. **Expert advice**– Throughout this project we have followed the advice of experts – for the organ and casework, engineering, acoustics, and more. Experts have training and experience, imagination and problem-solving skills.

Good news! We are blessed with an in-house expert of our own. Plymouth member, **Dr. Dorothy (Dot) Nary**, is a nationally-recognized disability expert, researcher, and advocate. Dot has graciously lent her expertise to the Accessibility Subcommittee, which includes two other members with extensive personal and professional disability experience.



Email Plymouth Moderator,
Jenny O'Brien

2. **Your Stories** – Do you or someone you love have mobility challenges? How do barriers affect your worship experience? What solutions do you prefer? Council would love to hear from you! Please email your comments to me at **tjbrobrien@gmail.com**.

At the Council meeting on **March 24**, the Accessibility Subcommittee will present their findings and recommendations. Council will consider these, and congregational input, to determine the direction for chancel accessibility.

Getting this right means the heart of our worship space will be welcoming to the full participation of all. What a great thing to shout from the rooftops!

Jenny O'Brien,
Plymouth Moderator





Lenten Fellowship Forum

Hard times are easier to bear together. Come reflect on what the life of faith means in a time of great change and uncertainty.

We don't promise any simple answers. *All are welcome.*

Between services in the Heritage Room.



The next in-person Taize service for the 2026 season is this Friday, March 27 • 6pm at St. John the Evangelist Church



Trans Day of Visibility

March 27

Join Unity of Lawrence for a screening of **The Gender Reveal Party**, a powerful, funny, and deeply human solo performance by Jay Pryor.

 **Screening at 7pm**

 **Doors open at 6:30pm**

 **Unity of Lawrence, 901 Madeline Lane, Lawrence, KS**

 Snacks before the show and at intermission, provided by **Plymouth Congregational Church!**

Stay after the screening for a live talkback with Jay Pryor. The Lawrence Trans Coalition will be present with a table and available to answer questions and share resources. Visibility matters. Stories matter. All are welcome.





CHILI COOK OFF

THE BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS TRIP TEAM WILL BE HOSTING OUR ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 10 AT 6PM AT PLYMOUTH IN THE MAYFLOWER ROOM

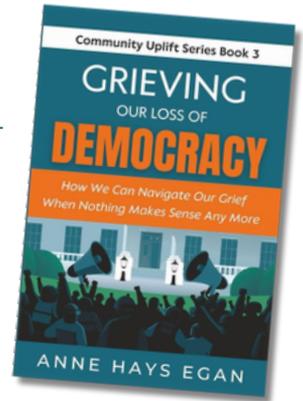
We need Chili Cooks! You must fill out the form to participate as a cook in the Chili Cook Off competition. Sign up by **April 6**.

If you are not able to cook, save the date to attend the Chili Cook Off and support our youth service-learning trip. May the best Chili Cook win!

This year our high school youth and mentors are raising funds for a trip to Bentonville, Arkansas • July 5-10 • **Focusing on Economic Justice**

Grieving our Loss of Democracy Discussion

April 26 & May 3
BETWEEN SERVICES



Watching and reading the news and scrolling on social media can lead to sadness, fear, anger and helplessness. We might even be grieving. But wait, there is always hope at the intersection of our current world crises and our faith!

We can seek to grieve prophetically, seeing our world, even at its darkest, with the spirit and energy of the Hebrew prophets and the resurrected Christ.

We are called to make a difference and contribute to the greater good.

We'll discuss the book, **Grieving our Loss of Democracy** by Anne Hays Egan, with **Rev. Marc Giedinghagen** leading our discussion.

Marc is a retired parish minister, chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator.

Join us **April 26 and May 3** in the Heritage Room between worship services.

HOLY WEEK

AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Palm Sunday Services

Sunday, March 29 • 9:30 & 11:30am

Our Holy Week pilgrimage begins.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2 • 7:30pm

The journey to the cross intensifies.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3 • 7:30pm

Dramatic presentation of the Passion
Narrative using still life characters
and music.

EASTER SUNDAY

AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Sunday, April 5 • 9:30 & 11:30am

Our journey culminates in the
celebration of resurrection life!

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed!

Plymouth Children's Ministry

Welcome to the Gathering of Grace!

Children and youth are encouraged to worship with their families in this service.

Nursery services are available for infants, toddlers and Pre-K children in Room 205 South. We ask you to please bring your children to the nursery by 11:45!

There is also a family room for nursing parents in Room 204 South.

There are worship bags located on the north side of the narthex that are filled for activities and coloring pages for all ages!

If you are interested in learning more about our children's programs, please reach out!

christianed@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman, Senior Pastor

seniorpastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean, Associate Pastor

associatepastor@plymouthlawrence.com

Kim Manz, Minister of Music and Fine Arts

music@plymouthlawrence.com

Colton Pasquale, Director of Faith Formation

christianed@plymouthlawrence.com

Rev. Michael Brecke, Interim Pastor of Care & Welcome

welcome@plymouthlawrence.com

Jenny O'Brien, Moderator (lay leader)

tjbrobrien@gmail.com



**Plymouth
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**An Open & Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ**



SAFE SPACE