



Gospel of John

The Way. The Truth. The Life.

John 3:1-21

11:30 Gathering of Grace

Sunday • January 25 • 2026

How can we reclaim the
promise John offers for
our own time and context?
What kind of savior are we
longing to receive? What
in us and in our world
cries out for redemption?
How can we find our way?
Where do we turn to find
the truth about ourselves
and the world around us?
What brings us life?



Gospel of John

The Way. The Truth. The Life.

please stand in body or spirit when you see an *

Welcome and Announcements

*Sweet Hour of Prayer

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer.
That calls me from a world of care.
And bids me at my Father's throne,
Make all my wants and wishes known.**

**In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.**

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer.
The joys I feel, the bliss I share -
Of those whose anxious spirits burn,
with strong desires for thy return.**

**With such I hasten to the place,
Where God my Savior shows his face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.**

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Wait for thee, sweet hour of 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 3:1-21

Pew Bible NT pg. 93

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

Word Through Music

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

For God So Loved the World

Call to Offering

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

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.**

Can't Take it with You

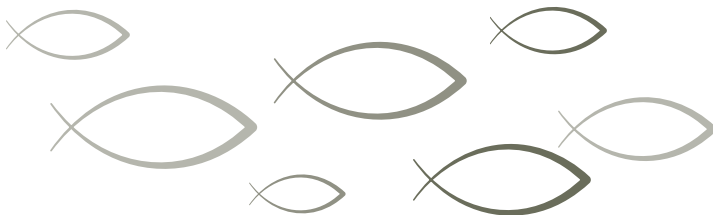
Kelly Willis

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.**



*Let Me Be There

Wherever you go, wherever you may wander in your life.
Surely you know, I always wanna be there.
Holding your hand and standing by to catch you when you fall.
Seeing you through, in everything you do.

Let me be there in your morning, let me be there in your night.
Let me change whatever's wrong and make it right, make it right.
Let me take you to a wonderland that all of us can share.
All I ask you is let me be there.

Watching you grow, and going through the changes in your life.
That's how I know I always wanna be there.
Whenever you feel you need a friend to lean on, here I am.
Whenever you call, you know I'll be there.

Let me be there in your morning, let me be there in your night.
Let me change whatever's wrong and make it right, make it right.
Let me take you to a wonderland that all of us can share.
All I ask you is let me be there.

*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. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman
Liturgist: Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean
Lay Reader: Cynthia Dunham
Gathering of Grace Band: Pam Gibbs,
Arthur Dodge, Tom Holland, Patrick McCarty
Sound, Lights, and Radio: Mark Maziar
Cameras and Video: Jeremy Winfrey



Welcome

New to Plymouth?

Please, let us know!

JUST FOOD CLASSROOM CUPBOARD FOOD DRIVE

The second half of the school year has begun, and Plymouth Church is conducting another food drive during the month of January to provide snacks for schools, ranging from crackers and sunflower seeds to dried fruits and breakfast bars. Throughout the month you may drop food items off in the Just Food Barrel at the North and South entrances to the Church.

A list of the items we are collecting can be found at the Mission table.



**DONATION BARRELS
ARE LOCATED AT THE
NORTH AND SOUTH
ENTRANCES TO THE
CHURCH.**





The Light Still Shines

Plymouth's 2026 Annual Meeting

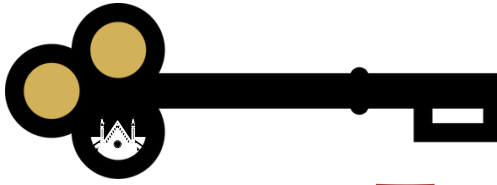
The 2026 Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 1**, immediately following a combined worship service at 9:30am.



2025 Annual
Report online

[PDF]





Enter In

UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

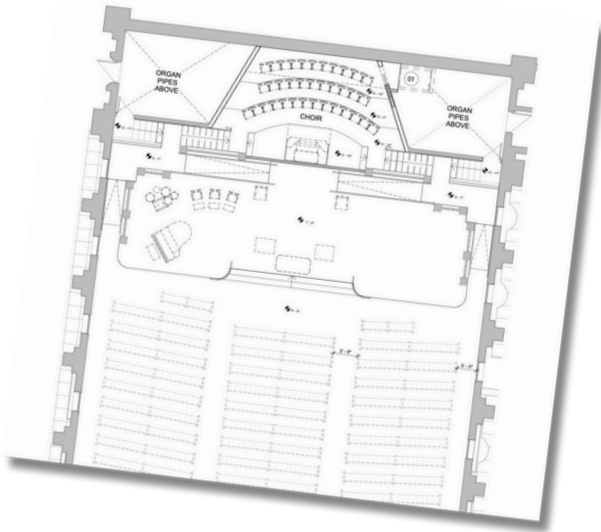
The Project Management Committee is planning a series of information exchange sessions with Plymouth Congregants. Significant progress has been made with the Enter In Project. Note these important dates and plan to attend one or all of them. Families are encouraged to attend.

Interactive Learning Session

TODAY • 10:45 - 11:30am

The Mayflower Room

Interactive Learning Session with Eric Keebler of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania: Eric will join Plymouth Congregants via a Zoom link. He will discuss his preparations to design the renovated west end of the sanctuary through a study of changes made with Plymouth the pipe organ, the choir loft, and organ casework. Eric has completed the new casework design for Enter In with acoustic improvements for Plymouth's new organ.



Soup, Learn, Share

Wednesday, February 11 • 6:30pm

The Mayflower Room

The Project Management Committee will host a soup supper beginning at 6:30pm with several information roundtables available to share current news from the Project Management Committee and to answer your questions and hear your concerns. Some of the roundtables will include: **Designing a Worship Experience with an Enlarged Chancel, Touring the Sanctuary to See/Hear About Proposed Changes, Financing “Enter In,” How it Works with Risks/Rewards, Worshiping in a Renovated Sanctuary – What and How, and Sharing Facts About Enter In.**

The History of Change at Plymouth Church

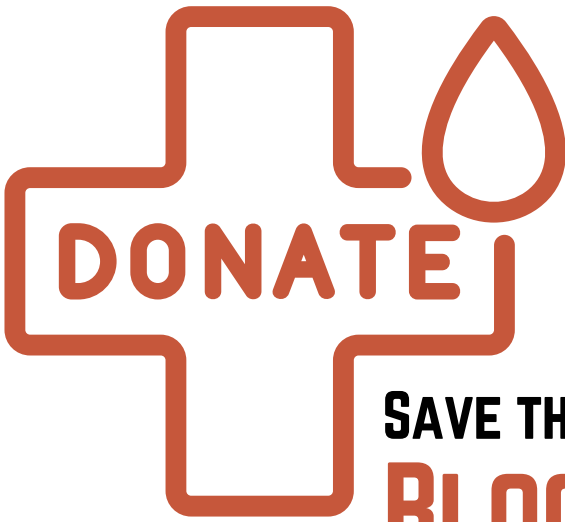
Sunday, February 15 • 10:45 - 11:30am

The Mayflower Room

The History of Change at Plymouth Church presented by Plymouth Congregant Susan McCarthy from the History Committee. Susan will review the significant changes made with the Plymouth Church structure, giving special attention to sanctuary changes. Time will be allotted for questions and comments.

Save the Date:

Called Congregational Meeting February 22



SAVE THE DATE!

BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 3 • 10AM-3PM

**We need another volunteer
for our Sunday morning
sound and lights team!**



Training is provided for this volunteer position involving running sound and lights for both services approximately once every 4-5 weeks.

Please contact Bob Newton if you're interested by email at **bnewton@sunflower.com** or by phone at 785-331-5787.

TATTOOS ON THE HEART

RETURNING TO OURSELVES

PLYMOUTH WOMEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2026

SOPHIA SPIRITUALITY CENTER

ATCHISON, KANSAS

**FULL DETAILS AND
REGISTRATION
ONLINE HERE**



TOGETHER WE WILL EXPLORE PARABLES OF KINSHIP ILLUMINATING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND EACH PERSON'S INHERENT GOODNESS THROUGH SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES, INDIVIDUAL JOURNALING, PRAYER PRACTICES AND THE ARTS.

FATHER GREGORY BOYLE WRITES BEAUTIFULLY ON THESE THEMES IN HIS BOOKS "TATTOOS ON THE HEART" AND "CHERISHED BELONGING."

THERE IS NO REQUIRED READING FOR THE RETREAT; HOWEVER, READING EITHER/OR (OR EVEN A PART OF ONE!) WOULD BE AN INSPIRING WAY TO DEEPEN YOUR RETREAT EXPERIENCE.



DADS TALK GOD

THE LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
JOHNNY'S WEST • 7:30PM

Join fellow Plymouth Dads to take time out of your busy schedule to reflect and talk about your own faith and spiritual growth. Whether you are deeply rooted in faith, full of doubt, new to Christianity, or a lifelong practitioner, you are welcome and encouraged to bring your experience to the group. A conversation prompt will be given each month – no study or prep work necessary.

This group is for any Plymouth dad with high school aged kids or younger. We hope you can join the conversation!

Prompt for this week's meeting:

"What's one thing you used to believe about God that you're not sure about anymore?"

We know schedules get crazy, so don't worry if you can't arrive right at 7:30. Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

For questions, contact:

Ben Miller-Coleman

benjamin.t.coleman@gmail.com

or Brantley Dean

brantleyqdean@gmail.com



FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

NAVIGATING NEW DIRECTIONS

TALL OAKS CONFERENCE CENTER
LINWOOD, KANSAS

MARCH 6-8 2026

The **First Annual Men's Retreat** will be led by **Pastor Keith Herron** as we explore **Navigating New Directions**, learning to travel in our stories, even as they change.

Life can be seen as a cycle of from dependence to independence to interdependence and circling back again.

We'll explore stories we hold in the library of our own lives, and we'll explore how we change the trajectory of our lives by navigating new directions as we consider the threshold moments of formation, integration, and intimacy as part of a meaningful whole.



**MORE DETAILS
& REGISTRATION**



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

Rich Bireta, Moderator (lay leader)

rbireta@gmail.com



**Plymouth
Congregational
Church**

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



SAFE SPACE