



The Grapevine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower."

John 15:1

Calendar for December 15-31

Sunday, December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:10 a.m. Session Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Worship - New Members
- 9:45 a.m. Education
- 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Education - Anne Fisher
- 10:45 a.m. Prayer Chain Meeting



Monday, December 19

- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 20

- 6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

Wednesday, December 21

- 11:00 a.m. GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group to SummerWood, Plymouth
- 7:00 p.m. Building and Grounds Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 23 - Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

- 9:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, December 26 - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27

- 6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

Wednesday, December 28

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 1

- 9:30 a.m. Worship - Communion
Gregg Dana Preaching

Monday, January 2 Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

- 12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Zumba
- 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Ministry

Wednesday, January 4

- 9:30 a.m. GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 8

- 9:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Education
- 11:00 a.m. Gal's Gathering

Tuesday, January 10

- 12:00 p.m. **GRAPEVINE DEADLINE**
- 12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Zumba

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From: Rev. Anne Fisher, Transitional Pastor

A Christmas Gift to the Congregation

The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, at 9:00 p.m., is a service that is close to my heart. The format of the service is one that my father did for many years in his church. People would look forward to the service every year and missed it when he retired. His message began with the sanctuary in total darkness except for the lit Christ Candle. He lit candles as he spoke and gradually the sanctuary would lighten. From that one candle came the entire room filled with light. As choir and members sung Silent Night, the congregation would silently process out with lit candles. Taking what we have gotten in the service out into the dark world. It would add to the wonder if snow was gently falling when we left! Even so, the service has left an indelible impression on me. Although I cannot exactly replicate my father's skill, nor the service, I offer this gift of sharing his format with you on Christmas Eve. I have chosen not to include the Sacrament of Communion in either of the Christmas Eve Services, this year, but candles will be lit and Silent Night will be sung.

Be sure to join us for either the 4:00 p.m. Family Service or the 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. Come back for Sunday Morning, Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. The Sacrament of Communion will be served on January 1 at 9:30 a.m.!

We hope you will spend Christmas with us at Plymouth Presbyterian Church, but wherever you do, may God bless you in this holy season.

Anne

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- calendar continued

Wednesday, January 11

9:30 a.m. GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Group
6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 14

9:00 a.m. Officer Training
9:30 a.m. Baker's Group

Sunday, January 15

9:30 a.m. Worship-Installation of Church Officers
9:45 a.m. Education
10:45 a.m. Prayer Chain Group
3:00 p.m. Confirmation Class



December 20-22 and 27-30

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closed December 23, 26 and January 2

From the Office: There will not be a January 1 Grapevine. The next edition will be on January 15.

Youth Christmas Party The Youth Group will be having a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. We'll celebrate by having a white elephant gift exchange, so each person should bring a small gift (no more than \$5.) We will distribute the gifts by playing the legendary dice game.



The Youth will also be wrapping Christmas presents on **Sunday, December 18** as a fund raiser for the 2017 Summer Mission Trip. Please bring your gifts for us to wrap!

Sunday, December 18: A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 18 for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons for the class of 2018 and 2019. We will also be accepting new members during worship.



Congratulations to Tony and Jen Voca and big brother Emmett on the birth of a baby girl, Emma Marie, on Saturday, December 10.

Thank you for your Leadership: In the coming new year, we will be saying good-bye to the class of Elders and Deacons. Let us thank them for serving during a challenging time in the life of Plymouth Presbyterian Church.

Elders who are finishing their terms are: Sandy Hawley, Stacey Larson, Laurie Latimer and Joanne Mann.

The Church Nominating Committee is placing the following to serve as Elders: David Bahls, Belinda Hollman, Erik Koehler, Joanne Mann (nominated for a second three year term) and Suzy Robertson.

Finishing their terms as Deacons are: Gary Gabe (Deacon Treasurer), Nadya Guerro del Castillo, Jane Klein (who filled in for a one year term), Shirley Nivison (Deacon Moderator) and Erin Simenson.

The Church Nominating Committee is placing the following to serve as Deacons: Ann Foote, Sandy Hawley, Joanne Kipp, Abby Larson, Adam Ling and Georgia Motes.

When you see any of these folks, thank them and let them know that whether they are ending their terms of leadership or are willing to serve, they are lifted up in our prayers.

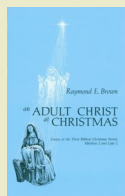
"Keep watch over yourselves and the entire flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son." Acts 20:28

We are in the Second Quarter Last year Plymouth Presbyterian Church celebrated its first quarter century of life. What will Plymouth Presbyterian be like when it celebrates its half a century mark in December 2040? Certainly, there will be new faces and new challenges. There will be memories to cherish and programs to lay aside. As we move into our 27th year, we find ourselves in the second quarter of Plymouth Presbyterian's, first century of life.

JOIN US AS WE PREPARE and CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath Please join us each Sunday during Advent (November 27, December 4, 11, 18) and on Christmas Eve as we light the Advent candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. The white candle is the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve.



December 4, 11, 18: Rev Anne Fisher will lead an Advent Series 'An Adult Christ at Christmas'. Adult Education is appropriate for middle school students and up. They are held after worship in the Fire Side Room.



Fifty percent of the Joy Offering is designated to the devoted and caring church leaders who have spent their lives serving Christ and because of tragedy, health concerns or financial hardship need assistance. The other fifty percent supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders in racially, ethnic Presbyterian colleges so that the church better reflects the diversity of God's people. **The Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 18.** Please prayerfully consider a



Christmas Eve Services – Saturday, December 24

Family Service - 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service - 9:00 p.m. (Choir sings)



Halleluiah! Christ is Born! - Sunday, December 25 Come as you are and join us for worship on Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate the birth of Christ.



**ministry in a changing world
initiative**

presbytery of the twin cities area

Remember the Survey you took last June?

We have not forgotten. Our Presbytery mentors for Ministry in a Changing World would like to meet with different small groups within our membership. These meetings will be set up between January 3-14. As more information comes available, please make plans to attend.

Annual Meeting This year's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **January 29 from 9:30-11:30**. Not only will we conduct the business of the congregation after an abbreviated worship, we will hear the final report of the Ministry in a Changing World and then gather in affinity groups and take steps in our Second Quarter of life. Because we do them so well, there will be a POTLUCK to sustain ourselves along the way! Every voice is welcome, please be sure to join us.



And his name *will be called* Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace*
Isaiah 9:6