

June 22, 2023

Dear Plymouth Friends and Family,

If there is one piece of scripture you're likely to know, it is Psalm 23, in which God sets us in the midst of challenge (our enemies) and responds with abundance – an overflowing cup. Think about it!

We are writing to you because our church is facing a **major financial challenge**. Everything looks fine on Sunday morning, and we're thrilled that Plymouth is healthy and vibrant: new members, new minister, new programs. Our financial culture as a congregation needs to catch up with the vibrancy we are experiencing.

We need your additional financial support to **sustain the sacred work of Plymouth**.

At our Congregational Meeting in January, we passed a budget for 2023 with a **\$96,445 deficit** that included a hoped-for additional \$40,000 in pledges (of which \$12,800 has come in so far). This represents an income gap of \$83,645 required to meet budgeted expenses. Clearly, that financial picture is not sustainable.

**What precipitated the situation?** The landscape of the American church is changing. Even though Plymouth is vibrant, churches in our midst are declining and closing. Older givers are dying, and some larger givers are moving away. Younger members and folks from different religious traditions may not understand pledging in the way longtime mainline Protestants do. (*Pledges allow us to budget for the coming year.*) That has resulted in **an income gap that is unsustainable**. You can help us **FILL THE CUP**.

### How will we **FILL THE CUP** and address the challenge **NOW**?

We need **everyone's help** to do this. (*If you have not yet pledged your financial support or if you'd like to increase your annual support, do it today! Go to [plymouthucc.org/pledge](http://plymouthucc.org/pledge).)* Different challenges call for new solutions. Last year, our Stewardship Board came up with a fresh idea: **Plymouth Gives Day!** And last year, we raised over \$77,000.

**On Monday July 10**, we will have a one-day funding drive to help bridge the gap in our finances. We encourage everyone to make a one-time gift to help meet the challenge. We anticipate having some **matching gifts** to spur you on in your generosity.

All of us want to **see** Plymouth thrive, not just for the sake of our congregation itself, but for our broader community, for our wider church, and for future generations. **There is only one way to make this happen: YOU**. Please give generously during the **Plymouth Gives Day** effort and plan to increase your pledge to Plymouth for 2024. And keep Plymouth in your prayers.

Unlike other nonprofits, Plymouth gets no funding from foundations or corporations. Aside from building and parking lot rental, all of our income comes from you, our members and friends. Please plan to join your Plymouth family on **July 10 – Plymouth Gives Day!**

Thanks for putting your faith into action by sustaining and sharing the gift of Plymouth!

Grace and peace,



Heather Siegel  
Moderator



Ross Lane  
Stewardship Chair



The Rev. Hal Chorpenning  
Senior Minister

