

Plymouth Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

Prospective Member Information

New Member Process

- 1st Gathering: The basics about Plymouth
- 2nd Gathering: Hear from members about their ministries
- New Member Sunday

Plymouth Congregational Church

- *The Church in the Garden*
- Part of the historic fabric of the city of Miami
- Founded in 1897; Sanctuary completed in 1917; Cloister Garden completed the following year

Congregational Heritage

- Heirs to the Pilgrims and the Puritans
 - No royal charter needed to form a church, only a covenant based on Jesus' promise that...*wherever two or three are gathered in his name...he would be there*
- A new way of "being and doing" church
 - Each church is free and independent before God, and seeks to understand God's will for itself
 - Each member has a voice
 - Roots of American democracy

United Church of Christ

- Plymouth is a member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)
- The UCC was founded in 1957
- Merger of denominations: Congregational, Christian, Evangelical & Reformed...based on Jesus' words...*that they all might be one*
- Congregational type of democratic governance
- *No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here*

Worship and Church Life

- We gather each Sunday at 10 a.m., bringing our many different traditions and life stories with us, to worship the Lord in Jesus Christ (Livestreamed as well)
- We seek to lift-up the basic tenets of the Christian faith in the context of the modern world, centered on the Word of God and Our Lord Jesus Christ
- We are eager to connect with the spectrum of believers and perspectives in our midst
- Chancel Choir and extensive music program, Dr. Vindhya Khare, Director of Music



- Communion Table – the 3rd Sunday of each month – open to all who desire a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Nurturing Faith (Sunday School) – children stay in worship until after the Children's Moment, and then go to Sunday School – Andrea Burt, Director of Children's Ministries
- Joyful Noise (Children's Choir) – meets after Nurturing Faith – Marie Ferguson, Director of Joyful Noise Choir
- Youth @ Plymouth – meets weekly on Sunday afternoons – Rev. Hollie Schmidt, Associate Pastor for Church Life, Youth and Mission
- Confirmation 2024 – 8th and 9th graders – Pastor Hollie, supported by Pastor Al and Pastor Moira
- Fellowship Hour – where the service, in a sense, continues, as we get to know each other in the Cloister Garden; famous for our secret recipe coffee (ice cream in it)
- Special worship services – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
- Fellowship events – strong Church Life calendar; events such as potlucks, pickleball outings, BBQ's, Luau's, Dinners for 8, Fashion Show, Cinco de Mayo, Lenten Small Groups
- Mission and Outreach opportunities – through BOOM, Emergency Response Fund and This 'N That Thrift Shop

Plymouth Today

- 800 members; 200 on Sundays (post-Covid)
- 11-acre campus with 21 buildings; some staff live on campus
- Healthy growing church – over 350 new members the past 10 years
- Given Congregational roots, a “roll up the sleeves” kind of church
- Every member has a vote at our Annual Meeting each January
- Budget for the church of around \$1.7 million
- Annual needs: Christian Commitment Campaign raises \$900k+ and is the most important source for our budget
 - \$8.2 million Endowment (the “Foundation”) also supports the budget through a 4.7% spending formula (trailing 12-month average)
- Capital Campaign: We have raised \$4.4M towards a goal of \$5M
 - Campaign purpose of upgrading various buildings on the campus to serve our ministries and plan for the future growth of the church
- Boards and Committees – many other ways to get involved, including
 - Council – overall spiritual health and ministries of the church
 - Trustees – financial health of the church and campus
 - Diaconate – supports worship
 - Mission and Outreach: Board of Outreach and Mission (BOOM), This 'N That Thrift Shop and Emergency Response Fund
- This 'N That Thrift Shop on Commodore Plaza in Coconut Grove
- Martha Clinton Plymouth Preschool (ages 2-4); church members priority spaces



Mission Statement

Adopted 2020

*With welcoming hearts
We seek to share the transforming love of Christ
through,
Faith-filled worship, prayer and study
Hope-filled outreach and service
Love-filled fellowship*

New Member Sunday

April 21, 2024

During Worship

Affirmation of Intention (New Members)

*Will you serve as a faithful member of this congregation?
sharing in her worship of God in Christ and in her ministry
joining us as we strive
to live as Christ's faithful disciples
to Love the Lord with all our hearts
And our neighbors as ourselves?*

Response of the Church (Community Uniting)

*We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church.
We invite you to join us in our journey to be Christ's faithful people
in this place and time.
We promise you our love, friendship and prayers
as we share the faith, hopes and labors of Plymouth Congregational
Church.*



