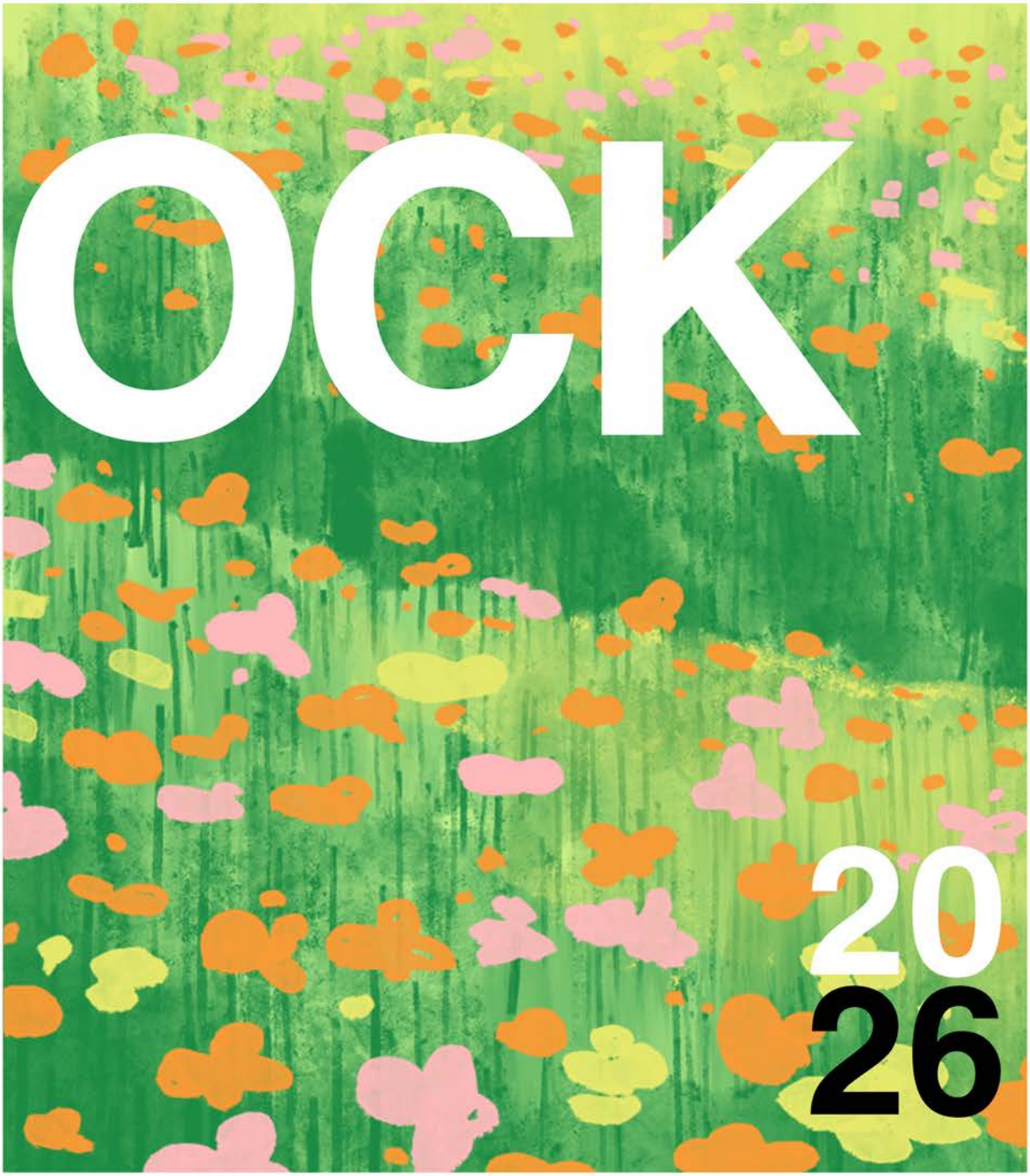
APRIL2026
EASTER EDITION

INSIDE
COMMUNITY + MUSIC &
FINE ARTS + HISTORY

ROCK



PLYMOUTH CHURCH
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Plymouth is a congregation that speaks its mind. In the service of and belief in a loving and accepting God, we gladly own our role as disciples of Jesus Christ in our respective time and place in the world.

SAFE SPACE

TO FIND US ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT:
PLYMOUTHLAWRENCE.COM

They had to learn, slowly, that the invitation of the gospel was wider than they'd imagined. They were, in other words, a lot like us.

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

In this Edition

APRIL 2026
EASTER EDITION

COMMUNITY

03 The View From Here

06 All Things in Moderation

07 2026 Easter Offering

09 New Members

13 Invited: Faith after Fear

13 Chili Cook Off

14 Dads Talk God

15 Accessibility, Environmental Possibilism, and the Future of Plymouth

MUSIC & FINE ARTS

17 The Sailor's Bible Musical

18 Chancel Choir Major Work

22 Culinary Arts Classes

HISTORY

19 50-Year Plus Member Spotlight: Bob Newton

THE View FROM Here

Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller-Coleman

Practicing Resurrection

It's been a long time since I last prepared an Easter brunch for my family. My husband, Ben, usually takes the lead anymore and I will tell you his glazed ham is outstanding. I scoot in once the hard work's done, admire the table and collapse in a chair, grateful for all of it. The weeks of preparation for Holy Week and Easter worship fade into memory along with the scent of lilies and the last notes of the Alleluia chorus.

Monday comes and regular life resumes.

Which is, it turns out, exactly where resurrection is supposed to take us.

Wendell Berry has a poem that ends with the instruction to "practice resurrection." It's buried at the end of a long manifesto about belonging to the land and refusing despair, and those two words have always struck me as the most honest description of what the Christian life actually asks of us. Not achieve resurrection. Not understand it. Practice it. The way my twelve-year-old kid practices playing his trumpet, imperfectly, repeatedly, getting a little better and then a little worse and then a little better again.

This spring, we're going to practice resurrection together.

Our worship series beginning the Sunday after Easter is called Invited: Faith after Fear, and it traces the story of the earliest church, those first followers of Jesus who had witnessed the resurrection and then had to figure out what to do next. Our guide is the book of Acts, which is essentially the story of ordinary people stumbling forward in newfound courage. Paul's letter to the Philippians joins the conversation too. It's written from a jail cell, of all places, and somehow one of the most joy-saturated documents in human history.

What strikes me about those early disciples is that the resurrection didn't eliminate their fear. It just gave them something stronger to stand on. They still got it wrong sometimes.

They argued with each other. They had to learn, slowly, that the invitation of the gospel was wider than they'd imagined. They were, in other words, a lot like us.

We're also going to make space this season for the many people among us who are newer to faith (or returning to it after some time away) or rebuilding it after it was damaged by a church that didn't treat them well. If that's your story, you are not starting from scratch. You're starting from Easter. And Easter, as Mary Magdalene would tell you, has a way of surprising people who showed up expecting nothing but grief.

So come as you are. Bring your questions. Bring your half-beliefs and your hard-won doubts. Bring whatever you have.

We'll practice together.

See you in church,

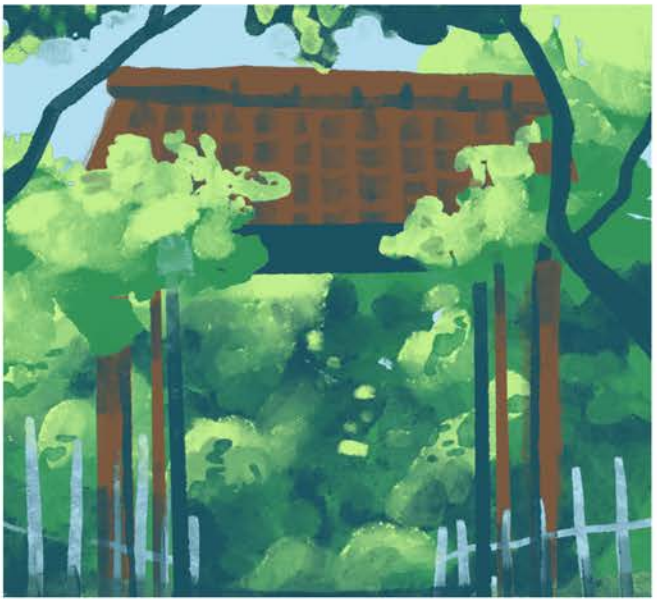
Valerie

SPRING

All Things in Moderation

Jenny O'Brien - Plymouth 2025 Moderator

Decisions, Decisions!



As in any organization, there are weighty decisions to be made here at Plymouth. If we were a business, the management would decide, seeking a good profit margin, and accountable to the investors. But we are a congregation, and we seek to know the will of God and to walk in God's ways. We are accountable to God and to one another.

Decisions are easy when they line up with established rules, have low stakes, follow a precedent, or a point to a clear outcome. But others may be complex, high-stakes, have competing viewpoints, or an uncertain future. Hard decisions need special consideration.

Plymouth has a tradition of bringing hard decisions to Council, or even, for the weightiest matters, to a full Congregational vote. I am a firm believer in the holy, collective wisdom of a group. God's voice sounds within all of us. We make the best decisions when we listen for that voice and let it lead us. These practices can help:

- Prayer and stillness to quiet the noise of the world
- Scripture that speaks to the issue and guides the heart
- Identify the shared values that underlay the decision
- Listen carefully to one another, while working to build a shared vision
- Decide what matters most, but honor what also matters

These practices are great for decisions within a congregation, but they also work for small groups, and even for families. In this Easter season, think about how you can invite God's wisdom into your next big decision.

Yours in Joyful Hope,
Jenny O'Brien

2026 EASTER OFFERING AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Dear Plymouth Members and Friends,

As we prepare for Holy Week, we are reminded that our faith calls us not only to reflection, but to action—to love our neighbors, to seek justice, and to care for one another in tangible ways. Palm Sunday and Easter invite us into a story of hope and renewal, and they also offer us an opportunity to live out that hope in our community.

This year, the Service and Justice Board invites you to participate in a special Easter offering to support two organizations doing vital work close to home: **Somos Lawrence** and **Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA).**

Somos Lawrence works alongside immigrant and Latino neighbors in our community, offering support, advocacy, and connection so that all people can feel welcomed and valued. Their work builds stronger relationships and helps create a more inclusive Lawrence for everyone. We also partner with Somos Lawrence in our work with the Somos Plymouth Language Program.

KIFA ("Kansas Interfaith Action") brings people of faith together across traditions to advocate for justice, protect civil rights, and ensure that compassion guides public life. Their work empowers faith communities like ours to speak out and stand up for dignity and fairness across Kansas.

We invite you to give generously on Palm Sunday (March 29) and Easter Sunday (April 5). Your gift will be shared between these two organizations, extending Plymouth's care beyond our walls and into the lives of our neighbors.

However you are able to give, know that your generosity matters. Together, we can be part of the healing, justice, and hope that these sacred days call us to embody.

There are three ways you can give to KIFA and Somos Lawrence:

- Use the yellow offering envelope in the pews on Easter Sunday.
- Make a gift online.
- Stop by the church office from 9am - 3pm Monday through Thursday to drop off your check.

Checks can be made out to "Plymouth Congregational Church" with "Easter Offering" in the memo line. Contact Rev. Caroline Lawson Dean with any questions.

Sincerely,
Plymouth Congregational Church's Board of Service and Justice

GIVE ONLINE

Somos Lawrence

Somos Lawrence continues to respond to a growing need within our local community, as more families turn to the Somos (Ballard) pantry for support each week. For many, this pantry is not just a place to receive food and supplies—it is a place of welcome, trust, and connection.

Funds from this Easter offering will help ensure that essential items, especially toiletries, remain consistently available for the coming year. These everyday necessities—often overlooked but deeply needed—allow individuals and families to care for themselves with dignity. Your gift will directly support the Friday pantry services dedicated to Somos families, helping create a reliable and compassionate space where people can access what they need without barriers.

In a time when many in our community are living with real fear and vulnerability, Somos Lawrence offers both practical support and a sense of belonging. Supporting this work is one way we live out our commitment to care for our neighbors, recognizing that small acts of giving can carry profound meaning.

Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA)

KIFA brings people of faith together to speak out for dignity, justice, and the well-being of all our neighbors. At this moment, KIFA is working to respond to proposed legislation that would have serious consequences for immigrant communities—measures that could expand protections for ICE agents and limit access to essential resources like local food banks. Funds from this Easter offering will help sustain KIFA's advocacy, education, and organizing efforts so that faith voices continue to be present, informed, and engaged in these critical conversations.

At the same time, KIFA is helping coordinate and support Pride Day celebrations across Kansas this summer. These gatherings are more than events—they are visible expressions of belonging, affirmation, and hope for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. By helping to send participants to support these celebrations, KIFA ensures that communities of faith are part of creating spaces where all people are welcomed and valued. Your gift strengthens this ongoing work of justice, inclusion, and faithful public witness.

New Members at Plymouth Church

Rebecca and Justin Hughes

Rebecca and Justin moved to Lawrence about a year ago and feel so lucky to have found a church like Plymouth! Justin is a credit analyst for a Texas-based bank, and they moved to Kansas because Rebecca is completing a term clerkship for a judge in Topeka. Both are graduates of Oklahoma State University and Rebecca is also a graduate of OU Law. They are expecting a baby boy any day now and are so excited for their baby to grow in an affirming and justice-minded congregation. You will probably run into them walking in East Lawrence with their dog Teddy (and occasionally their cat, Roosevelt, in a cat backpack).

Jill Ice

Jill has called Lawrence home for more than 30 years. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and her Master of Science in Nursing in Organizational Leadership from the University of Kansas. She later became a Board-Certified Patient Advocate and founded Sunflower Health Advocates in 2021.

Jill has three adult daughters: Erin (Sebi) in Austin, Texas; Allix (Luke) in Madison, Wisconsin; and Emily in Manhattan, Kansas. Jill enjoys knitting and sewing in her free time.

Faith has been an important part of her life. After stepping away from organized religion for a few years, she recently felt a need to reconnect with a church community and looks forward to becoming involved in meaningful ways.

Ryan Manuel

Ryan has lived in Lawrence since 2012 and was recently called to find a church home. He is a full-time lead custodian at KU and plays and sings country music around Kansas and Missouri. Ryan also runs Willow Rose's Country for the Kids, an annual effort to raise money and collect toys for the Snowflake Shop at Children's Mercy Hospital every Christmas.

Stephen Miller and Deborah Fuller

Deborah and Steve live in Lawrence, Kansas, and are grateful for their two children and their families. Steve grew up in Missouri and the Kansas City Northland in a family where faith and church life were supported. He studied philosophy at William Jewell College and later earned a Master of Divinity from Louisville Seminary. After a brief pastorate, he returned to graduate school to become a teacher and spent over 31 years in education before retiring in 2024. Steve enjoys reading, cycling, spending time at Clinton Lake, and cheering on KU sports. Deborah is in her 29th year at the Topeka VA as a pharmacist and retirement is on the horizon. She is originally from Iowa and was raised on a farm. She enjoys taking her pups (Teddy and Maple) to the dog park, working in the yard and playing "granny basketball". They're excited to be joining the Plymouth community and look forward to sharing the life of the church.

Janet and Paul Robinson

Paul and Janet lived in Overland Park for 30 years before moving to Lawrence to be closer to their daughter. Their son is married and lives in Rhode Island. Paul and Janet are both retired. Paul was a computer programmer at Commerce Bank and Janet was a teacher in Olathe. While in Overland Park, they attended Atonement Lutheran Church and later, the Church of the Resurrection.

Erika and Evan Shaw

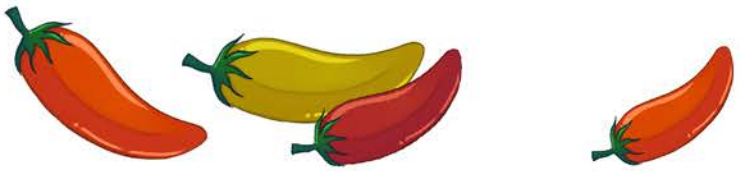
Erika and Evan are excited to be joining Plymouth Church. They have lived in Lawrence for the past 15 years. Evan grew up in Manhattan, KS, and Erika is originally from Staten Island, NY. Evan works as a hospitalist at LMH, and Erika is a cardiology and wound care nurse practitioner. They have three children, AJ (17), Theo (8), and Holland (6). As a family, they enjoy traveling to new places, family game nights, cheering each other on in sports and activities, and caring for their growing menagerie of exotic (and a few "normal") pets. They look forward to becoming involved in Plymouth Church and participating in community service projects.

Jytte Klarlund

Jytte is from Copenhagen, Denmark. She immigrated with her husband first to Canada, then the US where they became citizens. After some time in NJ, they settled in Missouri where they kept a small farm.In 2011 they followed their granddaughter and her parents to Lawrence. Her husband passed away in 2013. She has three children and three grandchildren. She enjoys gardening, creating stained glass items & writing her life's story as a Danish immigrant.

invited: FAITH after fear

acts & philippians



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

Sundays, April 12 - May 3
Services at 9:30 & 11:30am

Following Easter Sunday, we'll gather around post-resurrection stories of faith formed by grace, not fear. The early disciples discovered faith through partnership, humility, and belonging.

If you've been burned by faith or told you don't fit, you are welcome here. Come as you are and discover a place where you belong before you believe.

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!

We know schedules get crazy, so don't worry if you can't arrive right at 7:30.

For questions, contact:
Ben Miller-Coleman
benjamin.t.coleman@gmail.com
or Brantley Dean
brantleyqdean@gmail.com

Accessibility, Environmental Possibilism, and the Future of Plymouth

Dot Nary, PhD
Retired, Assistant Research Professor
University of Kansas
Plymouth Church member

Thirty-two years ago – in 1994 – I sat on the lawn of the White House and celebrated the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. At that time, we knew the world would not change overnight. We knew that advocacy would need to continue for the "shameful wall of exclusion" (as President George H.W. Bush described disability discrimination when he signed the legislation) to come tumbling down. But we also knew that being recognized with major civil rights legislation would designate us as a bona fide minority population and raise public awareness. And while most of the public does not understand the scope of the ADA, most do recognize that it represents rights for disabled people.

Fast forward about 20 years. My husband and I were searching for a spiritual community in Lawrence. We saw the invitation in the LJW to attend Christmas services at Plymouth and, impressed with the social involvement of Plymouth in the community, we thought we'd give it a try. We arrived at the candlelight service and were seated at the rear of the seating area. It was a lovely service with beautiful music but as I am a wheelchair user and my husband is a short-statured person, we could see none of it when the congregation stood—we saw people's backs. After being segregated, however unintentionally, at the back of the church, we decided Plymouth was not for us. Forty years of involvement in the disability movement had raised our expectations to not just be present in a setting but to have choices and to be visible.

Fast forward another five years. We were still interested in Plymouth and decided to try again. Since the only seating options were the front or back rows, we insisted on sitting up front where we had an unobstructed view of the chancel. There were some minor hiccups—e.g., being told that fire laws prevented us from sitting up front--but we continued to insist and things worked out. We appreciated past efforts that had made many facility features accessible (entrance ramps, elevator, restrooms, etc.) and we felt welcome as members. Through our presence, we tried to demonstrate that the expectations of disabled people to be integrated have changed and that the back row as the only seating choice was unacceptable.

Now, the issue is accessibility to areas that have not accommodated many people with mobility limitations in the past; specifically, the chancel. This is important due to our aging society in which more people are living longer lives and staying active in the community, albeit with some limitations due to advanced age.

But access is also critical due to the "ADA generation." This is the generation that has grown up under the protection of the 1990 ADA and whose disabled members expect the full access and community participation that

they were promised under multiple pieces of legislation, including the ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Help America Vote Act. Disabled members of the ADA generation and those coming after gained accommodation in education, unlike previous generations like mine. They subscribe to the social model of disability which regards disability as a natural aspect of the human condition. This generation of disabled people were typically mainstreamed in schools with their peers, instead of being segregated in separate schools or classrooms, thus experiencing inclusion early on in life and modeling it for their classmates. They expect to be fully visible and participatory in American life, even if it can be uncomfortable for others to observe their differences.

Because of these expectations, I believe that the concept of environmental possibilism, which presents the environment as offering a range of possibilities, versus environmental determinism, is relevant here. Environmental possibilism acknowledges the influence of the environment on human activities but also recognizes that choices can be made and that unique adaptations can be devised to meet current needs, despite environmental constraints. I suggest that this concept is particularly relevant in the case of our historic building, which is cherished due to its history but has been adapted in the past and needs further adaptation to accommodate current and future users.

So, in this context, I ask some questions:

- Given Plymouth's longstanding support of social justice movements, how does the congregation support and model that support for disabled people and the disability rights movement?
- What are we called to do as a congregation to embrace populations that have historically been excluded and segregated?
- How will decisions made now regarding accessibility meet the evolving and future expectations of disabled people, and make them fully welcome, not just to be present but to fully participate?
- Would the installation of a lift in the background versus a fully visible ramp relay the unintentional impression that disabled people should not be visible as they move about space?
- What might happen in the future if a minister using a wheelchair were to be called?

As a wheelchair user, I much prefer a ramp versus a lift. I say this as a New England native, where historic structures are highly valued, and with the understanding that accessibility modifications often disrupt what we are accustomed to. My expertise is based on my participation in the disability rights movement, my career as a researcher on health promotion and community living for disabled people, and my lived experience with a disability since birth. In my life, adaptive environments have made it possible for me to live, work, play, participate, recreate, worship and, indeed, survive. The presence of a ramp tells me that everyone's needs have been considered and that all are fully welcome. Also, ramps are not subject to mechanical breakdowns.

Plymouth is making a significant investment in building preservation and accessibility. The question is, do we bite the bullet now and install a ramp or do we kick the can down the road and leave it to a future capital campaign? Martin Luther King wrote about another civil rights movement in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, saying "wait has almost always meant never."

Understanding that installation of a ramp would represent a momentous change at Plymouth, I still hope that the decision is not "never."

THE SAILOR'S BIBLE

YOUTH MUSICAL

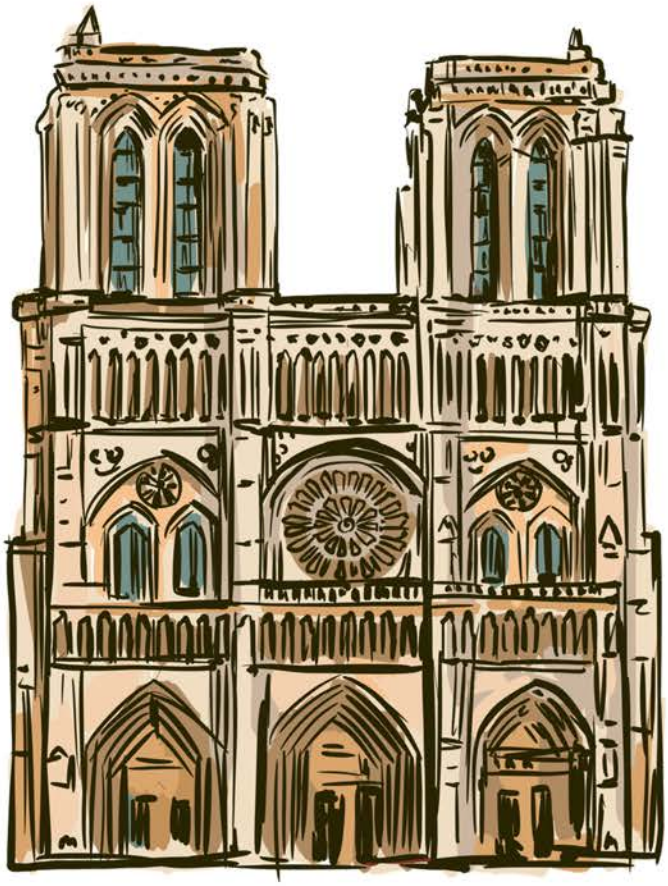
SUNDAY, MAY 17 • 2026

IN THE 9:30 WORSHIP SERVICE

Come set sail with the Carol and Chapel Youth Choirs on Sunday, May 17 as they present their spring musical, The Sailor's Bible!

You will be guided through the stories of Noah and the Great Flood, Jonah and the Great Fish, and Paul's Shipwreck. Each tour contains colorful characters and songs that will educate, enlighten, and entertain.

Frequently, the Bible uses the ocean as a symbol for the chaos of life that is beyond our control. Only the power of God is greater than the natural forces of wind and wave; only the presence of God can bring peace to the hurricanes of life. Don't forget to mark your calendars to attend and support the youth choirs and actors at Plymouth!



Requiem

Gabriel Fauré

Gabriel Fauré finished composing Requiem in 1888. This 'first version' consisted of five movements and was accompanied by strings, harp, timpani, and organ. An expanded version included two additional movements, the "Offertoire" and the "Libera me." The noted American choral conductor Dennis Keene observed, Requiem "depicts the timelessness of human existence, the procession of generations, human longings, profound sorrow, fear of the unknown, as well as light, hope, the ultimate joys of heaven, and, above all, peace."

Fauré commented about the work, "Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."

This a great Sunday to invite friends to worship and support the Chancel Choir!

Plymouth Chancel Choir
Major Work
Sunday, May 3 • 2026
in the 9:30 Worship Service

Celebrating Plymouth's 50 Plus Year Members

by Stacy England

Bob Newton

Bob and Pat Newton moved to Lawrence for the second time in 1974. "When I got out of the Army, we moved back, bought a home, and started looking for a church."

"We visited Plymouth, and happened to go on Sunday when they were doing Handel's Messiah. They had the brass, the organ, and the big mass choir." Bob said, "We sat in the balcony because it was so crowded, and we thought, 'Oh, wow, this is it.'"

They joined in 1975 and got involved immediately, serving on multiple boards and committees. Bob was on the board of trustees and served as chairman. He was moderator in 1997. He was a member and chair of the church council, and has served on other boards and committees.

Bob began leading the sound team after the 1992 remodeling, when the current sound system was installed. While he wasn't involved in the design back then, when they started using the system, he became the person who knew how it worked.

The church bought a new digital mixer a few years ago, which Bob installed. A group of volunteers runs sound on Sundays, and Bob trains them. Two of the original volunteers are still doing it, and several others have come and gone. Four volunteers now take turns. "I've been able to do minor repairs on it myself. A local company helps to maintain it and replace components as needed."

Bob recently learned about proposed modifications to the sound system for the sanctuary renovation project. "I'm playing catch-up now. I'm interested in what the best sound system is for everyone."

Before Plymouth and Lawrence, Bob and Pat's story began in Tulsa, where they grew up, and then ended up as students at KU. They got married on Dec. 27, 1969, at First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, during the middle of Bob's senior year and Pat's junior year.

Bob earned a degree in journalism and was an Army ROTC distinguished military graduate in 1970. It was during the Vietnam War, and he was commissioned as a second lieutenant when he graduated. He attended graduate school in Radio-TV-Film at KU during Pat's senior year, and then worked at local radio station KLWN.

Shortly after Pat graduated in 1971, Bob received his orders for active duty and reported to Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he completed Signal Officer Basic Course. He then served as Chief of Public Information for Fifth Corps of the U.S. Army in Frankfurt,

Germany. “I wrote news releases, escorted media, responded to news queries, all that kind of stuff. But it was not without a little bit of excitement.”

A terrorist gang called the Baader-Meinhof gang put a bomb in the building and blew the door out of Bob’s office about 20 minutes after he left work one day. A person was killed in the lobby. Pat and Bob bought a Fiat station wagon and drove it all over Europe. “We would travel almost every weekend I didn't have to work.”

After two years of active duty, they returned to Lawrence. Bob joined an Army Reserve unit in Kansas City, Kansas. He was their public information officer and was promoted to captain. There were too many conflicts with his regular job, so he gave that up after a few years.

“When we left Lawrence for the Army in 1972, the Booth family that had owned KLWN, pretty much, gave me an open invitation. ‘You know, we'd love to have you back when you get out of the Army,’ so I knew that was a possibility.”

Upon his return, Bob worked at KLWN/KLZR from 1974 until 2006 as station manager, operations manager, and technical director, and Pat began her teaching career at St. John School.

In 1984, Bob began moonlighting for the Jayhawk Radio Network. “My job was producer/engineer. At the beginning, Bob Davis provided play-by-play with Max Falkenstien as the first color commentator on the new Jayhawk Radio Network. When Max retired, Chris Piper took over color analysis for basketball, and David Lawrence for football. Later, Greg Gurley came on for basketball as color analyst. Bob Davis retired in 2016, and Brian Hanni took his place as the play-by-play caller. I worked with all those guys until I retired in 2018.”

“I took care of the technical stuff. I was the audio engineer and set up the equipment in the booth or at courtside, operated the equipment, and timed the breaks. I told them in their ear, when there was a time out on the field, whether to take a break or keep it, and count them back, station ID when it was time, and hand them little drop-in cards that they read. ‘Jayhawk football is brought to you by...’ I handled all of that. It was actually not my primary job. It was fun moonlighting work in addition to my full-time job at the local station.”

During that time, Pat, who has bachelor's and master’s degrees in education, was the principal of St. John Catholic School for 20 years. She was an associate member of Plymouth during that time, but when she retired in 2019, she returned to Plymouth as a regular member. In the meantime, Bob was also busy with some other part-time jobs. For 25 years, beginning in 1996, he was a part-time duty officer for Douglas County

Emergency Management, supervising volunteer weather spotters during severe weather operations, responding to hazardous materials incidents, and working with fire, medical, and law enforcement agencies to gather information and make reports. He later also served as Public Information Officer for emergency operations.

After leaving KLWN in 2007, Bob started volunteering with Theatre Lawrence when they were still in their old location near downtown. Theatre Lawrence moved to its new location in 2013. Bob performed in 16 musicals and has designed sound for more than 100 productions

"I've been on the board for a long time. I was on the board and then served as president and chaired the search committee for our current executive director for Theatre Lawrence." As facilities chair for the board, he takes care of HVAC system maintenance, fire alarm inspections, fire sprinkler system inspections, fire extinguisher inspections, and elevator maintenance.

To be effective, Bob understands the whole production and designs the sound, in consultation with the director and technical director. "I keep trying to find somebody who can learn the more intricate parts of designing the sound. It's not hard to find people to learn to operate it. I don't know what it is about running sound in the theatre that appeals to people. I've got a few high school kids who are really good, and then the adults who run sound include two medical doctors, two PhD biology professors, and an attorney. I've got all these people who are academics, but they love to learn and do the sound, and they're good. And they're smart."

Bob and Pat both balanced work with raising a family. The Newtons have two adult children. Bill was born in 1977, and Christy in 1979. They grew up in Lawrence, were confirmed at Plymouth, and graduated from KU.

Bill and his wife, Jen, and their three daughters live in Athens, Ohio. Bill works in the admissions department, and Jen is a professor in the College of Education at Ohio University. Their oldest daughter, Isley, is a junior at OU. Twins Brek and Maelle, who are 16, are juniors at Athens High School.

Christy lives in Colorado Springs, where she handles athletic department travel for the Air Force Academy. She works for a travel agency that specializes in providing in-house travel agents for college athletic programs. Her boyfriend is the IT manager for the Air Force Academy athletic department.

There are pets, too. "We have dogs, always rescues." Bob also learned to fly at the Lawrence airport, "'Cause I'm all about buttons, knobs, and dials."

Bob's volunteer service has included the Kansas Association of Broadcasters board, the Lawrence Aviation Advisory Board, the Douglas County Extension Council, the Red Cross board, Chamber board, Emergency Management Board, Leadership Lawrence board, and Leadership Kansas board.

Bob was inducted into the Theatre Lawrence Volunteer Hall of Fame and the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

The Newtons enjoy traveling. Pat retired a year after Bob did, and they celebrated her retirement and their 50th anniversary with a family cruise to Alaska. "That was fun, because the grandkids were young, and they really enjoyed the big ship and everything." They love driving the West and the National Parks.

Culinary Arts Classes

Do you have a signature dish?

A recipe that you would like to share with others?

We invite you to share your kitchen talents and passions from Apple Pie to Ziti!

The Music & Fine Arts Board is busy working on a slate of culinary classes for this spring through next winter.

Please contact Kim Manz **music@plymouthlawrence.com** to visit about a class you would like to offer.

EASTER EDITION

APRIL 2026

ROCK

administration@plymouthlawrence.com
785-843-3220 • **www.plymouthlawrence.com**

925 Vermont Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044