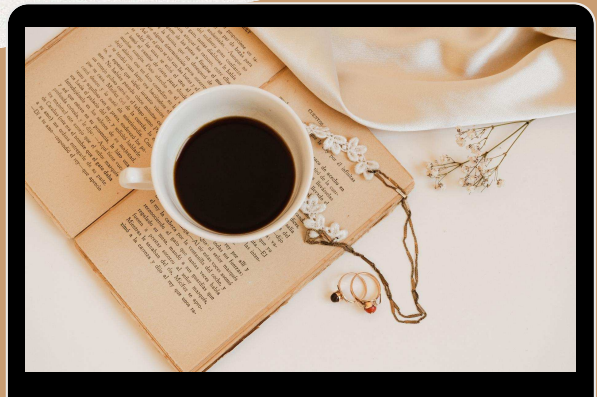


Clarion

Plymouth Church of Christ
January 2024

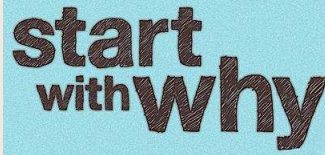
Happy New Year



SIGN UP FOR THE
CLARION!
officepcoc@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

-  4 Jay's Page
-  5 Events & Meetings
-  6 From A-Dub's Desk
-  7 Youth Events & Activities
-  8 Mission of the Month
-  9 Misc. Notes & Announcements
-  10 Church Contacts & Information



start with why

My wife, who is as brilliant as she is beautiful, is a math teacher. She gets math. She understands math. She actually likes math! Calculous, trigonometry, algebra, geometry...she likes that stuff. Sin, cosine, tangent, binomial, polynomial, equilateral...she knows what those words mean and how those things work.

Me, not so much. I hate math. And I rarely use the word “hate” for anything. I remember some basic stuff from High School. I remember a few of the terms and I recognize a few symbols when I see them. I know **what** an equation looks like. I may even remember **how** to do a few equations if my life were on the line. To top it all off, once in a while, I remember **when** something has to be done in the equation.

What I don't understand is **why**.

For the life of me, I have never understood the **why** behind mathematics. Why certain things must be done in a specific order. Why some functions must be done first, no matter where they appear in an equation. I never understood **why** at all. I just focused on the **what, when, and how** to get it over with, solve the problem, and pass the class. It was miserable and I never enjoyed it.

Because I never understood why!

I believe many Christians don't grasp the **whys** of the Christian life. They know **what** to do and **how** to do it. They even understand **when** certain aspects of faith come into play or need to be performed. They get the mechanics of the faith. It's the **why**, the **purpose behind it all**, that they don't understand.

When this happens, we reduce the Christian life down to a list of holy dos and don'ts. Some divine checklist to be knocked out with the hope we get enough right to pass the test and earn our ticket to heaven. Worse yet, it takes the joy and passion out of Christian living and turns it into unfulfilling, meaningless drudgery. We just do the “God stuff” and go through the motions without ever understanding **why** we're doing it in the first place.

Starting in January, we're going to try to change that.

Our first sermon series for 2024 will be “**Start with WHY.**” A series of messages designed to help us know and understand the reasons behind the things we do and believe. We want to rediscover our purpose and reignite our passion by understanding **why**.

We'll start on January 7th. I can't wait to share it with you!

--Jay

JANUARY 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

9

KATIE STALEY
LADIES MEETING
AT 10:30 AM

9

CAREGIVERS
MEETING
AT 6:00 PM



10

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT MEAL &
BIBLE STUDY
RETURNS

14

FAITHFUL
FRIENDS
MEETING
AT 5:00 PM

15

LEADERSHIP
MEETING
AT 7:00 PM

16

SR SAINTS
MEETING
AT NOON



Wed Night Meals

10TH - CHICKEN SALAD

17TH - MEATLOAF

24TH - CHILI & BAKED POTATO

31ST - PORK CHOPS

The New Year

Here it is, the new year! It is that time when everyone starts to set their goals and make their resolutions. Hopefully growth is something that we are all striving for. Maybe some of those goals are we want to read our Bible more, we want to eat better, or maybe we want to create better habits. It is great to make goals, and strive to do better. Sometimes, it's difficult to stay consistent in those goals. We can begin to slack off, and in many cases we just give up. What if there was someone there to encourage you though? What if there was someone always there who wants to watch you grow and mature in life and faith? Well, you do not have to wonder.

John 15:1 says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." When you think about a gardener, I imagine you think of someone who wants to see their garden grow. That is exactly what a gardener wants, so they do everything they can to encourage their garden to grow. God is described in the above verse as the gardener, and as the gardener, he wants to encourage us to grow and mature. So, in those moments where you feel like giving up on your goals, you feel like it's just too much, like it's not worth it, remember that the gardener is always there to encourage you to continue growing.

-Aaron





Youth Events And Activities

For updates on planned youth events, check out our PCOC Youth Facebook group!

GET INVOLVED!



Mission of the Month

NORTH EAST INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION

NEICM was founded in 1974 by Dishington Sohkhet. A Bible Institute, for adults, was started in the early days of the Mission. Dishington's dream of beginning a Christian school for children was realized in 1999. The school began as only a few grades but is now a K-12 school. The Christian school has over 700 students and 35 teachers spreading God's Word in NE India. After Dishington's death, his son, Billton, took over as director of NEICM. Billton graduated from Louisville Bible College in 2002.

NEICM's motto is "Bringing hope, meeting needs and providing a Christian World-View through sound Biblical instruction to the people of North East India as ambassadors for Christ." NEICM impacts NE India by working with 70 churches in NE India, working with village evangelists, distributing bibles, aiding in disasters, providing leadership training to area churches, continuing the "Living Water Project" of providing clean water, providing vaccinations, and in raising poultry to provide food.

Despite these success stories, the needs in India are still great and include salaries for teachers, staff, preachers, and evangelists. Immediate prayer needs are for funds for new dormitories, student sponsorship, water wells, a copy machine for office and tvs for students as well as Bibles, medical supplies, toilets, and many other things Americans take for granted. As with other parts of India, persecution of Christians and other minority religions continues to increase.

Ministry is made difficult when only 2.3% of the population is Christian. Hinduism makes up 79.8%, Islam 14.2%, and other religions make up the remaining 3.7% of India's population. Evangelism is also challenged by the fact that language barriers are common. Hindu and English are the major language but there are 15 other major languages and 844 dialects. Travel in India makes reaching the lost even more difficult as good roads are nonexistent outside larger cities. Many evangelists travel many miles on foot and a simple moped or motor bike is a great help to the ministry.

NEICM may be contacted at tcpreacher@hotmail.com by way of forwarding agent Don Bennett. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 131, Shelbyville, IN 46176, phone number 317-512-3945.

-Missions Committee



7 BASICS OF BELONGING

**NEW MIDWEEK
BIBLE STUDY
KICKS OFF
JANUARY 10, 2024**

February 18th:
Church security training
& meeting day from 11:30-
2:30 pm. Lunch will be
provided. If you're not
currently on the security
team and would
like to be,
please come!

GRIEF SHARE

Support Group Returns
Wednesday Nights, January 10th
6:00-8:00 pm
Register Online at:
griefshare.org/groups/177269/

Contact Us



252-793-5820



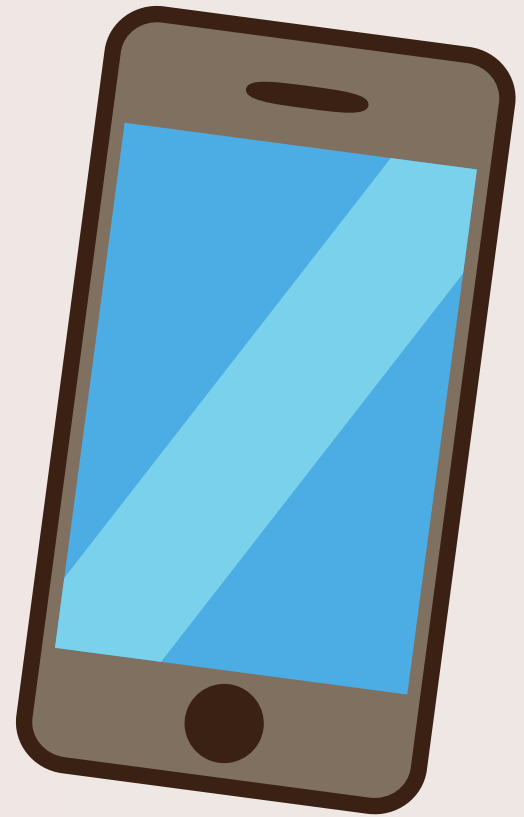
plymouthcoc.org



officepcoc@gmail.com



905 Washington Street
Plymouth NC 27962



Staff & LeaderShip

- ✝ Lead Minister - Jay Hardison: pcocpreacher@gmail.com
- ✝ Youth Minister -Aaron Warwick: agwarwick91@gmail.com
- 💻 Secretary -Leigh Monty: officepcoc@gmail.com

Elders

- Brian Bowen: 252-927-3624
- Bill Lucas: 252-799-8224
- Dwight Respass: 252-799-6309



905 Washington Street
Plymouth NC 27962

Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ST ZIP