

Clarion

**Plymouth Church of Christ
October 2025**

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When the Days are Evil

My phone chimed during our lunch Sunday. It was another breaking news alert. I'm a bit of a news junkie, so I was quick to see what was going on. I opened the app to see that there was another violent attack on another church. This time it was Michigan. A Mormon church. A truck rammed into their building. The driver started shooting. The building was on fire. People were hurt; others were dead. It was horrific, heartbreaking, and all too familiar.

I followed the story throughout the afternoon. Alert after alert came pouring into my phone. Updates. Press conferences. Casualty reports. Pictures and video. Investigations. Endless commentary from talking heads. All the while a church family was hurting and grieving. Families mourned the loss of loved ones. A community was in shock.

Shootings and attacks have become all too common. From the murder of Charlie Kirk to the shootings in Southport, we have become painfully accustomed to horrific acts of violence here in the US. Sadly, it appears that Christians and churches are quickly becoming the targets of sick and deranged people. You'd be right to think that Christianity is under attack in our nation. Days are evil.

How should we respond? What should believers do when evil is on the march?

Let me share a few thoughts with you:

·**Don't Stop!** A few years ago, Covid negatively impacted the church. Lots of people just stopped attending. Surveys suggest the average church in America lost around 25% or more of its people each week. Many churches never recovered. I fear something similar happening when churches are attacked like this. DON'T STOP attending and being active. Don't forsake coming together for worship. (Hebrews 10:25) That's what the devil wants and it's a surefire way to let evil win. Don't let him!

·**Don't Lose Heart.** Yes, it's frightening. Yes, it's discouraging. This world is in a horrible, sin-sick mess. A mess only Jesus can fix. But don't lose heart. (I Corinthians 4:16-18) This world is not our home. Something better, something greater, something we can scarcely imagine is waiting for us. Our troubles are light and momentary. Heaven is forever!

·**Don't Waste the Opportunity.** Christianity and faith are on the rise for the first time in a decade. More and more people are seeking Christ for the first time. They want to know about spiritual issues and they want answers to some of the things they see going on around them. Don't waste this opportunity! (Ephesians 5:16) Use it as a springboard for spiritual conversations. Use every opportunity you have to point people to Jesus!!

·**Don't Grow Calloused.** There's a real temptation for us to grow cold and calloused toward the unrelenting stream of bad news. We can quickly forget that real people are involved. They suffer and lose lives. They are more than just headlines or numbers. Don't forget that. Don't grow calloused or indifferent. (Philippians 2:3&4)

We can't control what evil and deranged people do. We can't live in fear of what may happen. We can, however, fix our eyes on Jesus and trust Him to lead us through these dark times. Evil only wins for a short time. God wins for eternity.

--Jay

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2025

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- 3rd** - GIRLS NIGHT OUT/YOUTH FUND RAISER 6PM
DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, & CAKE AUCTION
- 4th** - FALL LITTER SWEEP - COME HELP PICKUP TRASH AROUND THE CAMPUS & STREETS 8AM
- 5th** - YOUTH CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE STARTS 6PM
- 7th** - KATIE STALEY LADIES MEETING 10:30 AM
- 10th** - YOUTH LOCK-IN
(DROP OFF AT 6 PM/PICKUP AT 8 AM)
- 14th** - CAREGIVERS MEETING 10:30 - 11:30 AM
- 19th** - TAILGATE SUNDAY! WEAR YOUR FAVORITE
TEAM'S JERSEY * SAUSAGE DOGS SERVED
- 21st** - SR. SAINTS MEETING 11:30 AM
- 27th** - PCOC ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL 4 - 6 PM
- Nov. 1st** - PCOC WORKDAY! COME HELP KEEP
OUR FACILITIES MAINTAINED.
- Now thru
Nov 16th** - SENIOR SAINTS COLLECTING FOOD
FOR THE PLYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY



OCTOBER 3RD AT 6 PM

DINNER
\$15 PER ADULT
\$10 AGES 12 & UNDER
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PCOC YOUTH

ENTERTAINMENT
SILENT CAKE AUCTION
PROVIDED BY FAITHFUL FRIENDS

N.C. Department of Transportation
Biannual Cleanup Drive

October 4th
8:00 AM
Plymouth Church of Christ

October

PCOC Youth

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christmas Play Practice at 6pm!	6	7	1 Wednesday Night Meal @ 6pm Lesson @ 7pm	2	3 Youth Fundraiser! FLC @ 5:30pm Serve for Faithful Friends!	4 Youth Serve! Trash Pick-Up @ 8am
5	6	7	8	9	10 Youth Lock-In	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Fall Fest!	27	28	29	30	31	32

Youth Christmas Play

Practice begins October 5th at 6 pm

All youth are encouraged to participate!

BRING A FRIEND TO

PCOC'S LOCK-IN!

OCTOBER 10TH

DROP OFF AT 6 PM

PICK UP SATURDAY MORNING BY 8 AM

ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED! ADULT CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED! CONTACT LESLIE ASKEW

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26th

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Games - Inflatables - Food
Face Painting - & More!

TAILGATE

Sunday!

October 19th

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM'S JERSEY

SAUSAGE DOGS SERVED



Join us to help keep our facilities maintained & beautiful!





November 2nd

PHOTOS FOR CHRISTMAS



Hosted by Faithful Friends for a small donation



CCYC

2026

FEBRUARY

13-15

COST IS \$100
\$50 DEPOSIT
DUE BY 12-28-2025

Now through November 16th



FOOD DRIVE!



PCOC Senior Saints are collecting food for the food pantry in Plymouth through November 16th.

This year the donations will be given in honor of Ms. Betty Mebane.