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BELL

From the Senior Pastor

Since the beginning of 2019, a Visioning Task Force has been developing a process for our congregation to reflect on where we are strong and where we see opportunities to grow in our ministries and life together. Its members are Dee Hoffman, Steve Hollingsworth, Barbara Bugg, Rev. Ruth Phillips and myself. We as Plymouth Church know who we are, and we know our core values. We are a church prioritizing the covenants of Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Earthwise, and Global Mission.

There are many opportunities for service in our region and world, to connect and deepen relationships with each other, and to proclaim the good news of God's love and liberation. That is not in question. The question is where we should focus our attention?

To help us reflect on the opportunities out there and our ability and energy to respond to them, the Visioning Task Force has prepared four initial workshops, each one focusing on one of our four covenants. The first workshop will have already taken place on May 12 when you read this, with the target audience being our church officers and representatives from our seven boards. Its focus was on Global Mission, which is in many ways the broadest of the covenants.

The three remaining workshops will occur during the month of June and are open to all who are interested. They will be on Saturdays from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm in the Folsom Room. There is a signup sheet there to register for one, two, or all three as time and energy permits.

June 1 - Open & Affirming
June 8 - Just Peace
June 22 - Earthwise Stewardship

No one institution can do everything, but we can do many things to continue to partner with the Spirit that has led us this far. We can proclaim the gospel, connect with others, and serve our neighbors and world. How might we do so? Come and explore together; we look forward to your participation!

Sincerely,
Rev. Timothy C. Murphy

CEDARS HOPE

Mother's Day Offering in Support of Cedars Hope

Thanks to our previous support, Cedars Hope was able to provide stable and safe housing, case management, and transportation in support of 25 women with stable mental health issues next door to us on Berry and Fulton. The special offering was accepted on Mother's Day. We appreciate all those who showed their support of this mission again this year!

Laura Ramsey
Mental Health America BOD Treasurer

New Website is Live!

The office staff of Plymouth Church is happy to announce that the new website is officially live and can be found at our usual URL:



plymouthfw.org. We appreciate your patience while we correct any mistakes and continue to add information. If you spot a mistake, please send an email to Mackenzie Giganti at **mmg@plymouthfw.org** so it can be corrected.



Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network

Plymouth Week at Just Neighbors: June 23-28, 2019

Plymouth is the host for evening meals at Just Neighbors for the week of June 23-28, 2019. Many members of our congregation have provided food for this worthwhile program for many years, but we always welcome new participants. Just Neighbors' mission is to serve homeless families by uniting religious congregations, community volunteers, and local agencies in a cooperative effort to provide shelter, meals, and compassionate professional support. Each evening, Sunday through Friday, we provide a full meal which consists of main course, a vegetable, fruit, dessert, and anything else you may want to contribute. Dinner is served between 5:15 pm and 5:30 pm. We ask that you prepare food for 24 hungry adults. There are children and adults staying at Just Neighbors and the number of individuals changes from week to week, so this is the guideline we use. The staff at Just Neighbors often tell me they look forward to the Plymouth weeks because we bring a wide variety of meals.

If you would like to be added to the group mailing list for Just Neighbors, please provide your email address and contact information to Diana Bauer, dcb1120@gmail.com. Questions are always welcome.

Be The Church

Hello Plymouth Community! At the beginning of the year, the Evangelism & Marketing Board offered new bumper stickers to the congregation. Perhaps you've seen them on cars in the lot on Sunday mornings.

The stickers offer the following challenge: **BE THE CHURCH**: Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Plymouth has been quite good at putting our *money* where our mouth is, with our benevolence funds going to organizations that are doing great work locally and globally. This is wonderful! However, the E&M Board wants to give Plymouth the chance, as a community, to put our collective work and time where our mouth is as well. We think it's time for some good old hands-on community outreach!

Before we ask you to donate your time and effort to a community project, though, we would love to know what types of projects you might be interested in. What are some ways we might go into the community together and be the church?

We will take suggestions for as long as you have them, but we would like to be able to get at least one project planned for late Summer or early Fall of this year. Suggestions received by **May 20** will be the batch from which we select our first effort (but please keep suggestions rolling in as they occur to you in the future). Please email suggestions to plymoutheandm@gmail.com - we can't wait to hear from you!

BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject Racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Wednesday Night Live

As the school year comes to a close, so does Wednesday Night Live events. Our last WNL for this half of the year is **May 22**, meaning activities like Rev. Timothy's Bible Study, Rev. Ruth's Small Group Study and choir practices will come to a close.

Wednesday Night Live will return on **August 21** with our Welcome Back Potluck Dinner, which will feature activities for children and music. More details regarding the dinner will be available later in the summer.

Monthly Prayer

During the month of May, we pray for **Mental Health America, Cedars HOPE, and Carriage House**, whose work is supported in part through Plymouth benevolence.

Service Blitz

We're finishing off the Sunday school year with a Service Blitz — a chance to do a lot of good, FAST! All ages (yes, adults too!) are invited upstairs to help our Sunday school students work through 6 service projects in just 50 minutes. Our projects will support local groups like Just Neighbors, Little River Wetlands, Food Not Bombs, and more. We'll get a taste of serving our community, and learn about ways we can continue to support these organizations throughout the year. Join us on May 19 at 9:00 am in room 205 upstairs.



Rev. Timothy helping children during the Escape Room event; December 2018

Sunday School Ends

Sunday school for our children and youth wraps up for the year on May 19. We'll enjoy our Service Blitz during the education hour, and recognize our teachers and learners in worship later that same day. Enjoy your summer, and mark your calendars — Sunday school returns in the fall on September 8.

Plymouth Summer Reading Program

Whether you're practicing your reading skills, taking the time to dive deeper into an interest, or relaxing on the beach with a paperback, summer is the best time for reading. This summer, while many of our programs are on vacation, Plymouth encourages you to keep the learning and the conversations going by participating in our very own Summer Reading Program.



Like the library's summer reading program, ours will include activities and prizes. You'll have a chance to share recommendations of books you've enjoyed and discuss the books you've loved with your Plymouth friends. The fun starts on Sunday, June 2... keep an eye out for ways to participate throughout the summer months.

Indiana Center for Middle East Peace Presents: Archbishop Elias Chacour

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 pm
Archbishop Elias Chacour, affectionately known as "Abuna" ("Father") returns to reconnect with his many friends in Fort Wayne. Retired Melkite Catholic Archbishop of Galilee and founder of Mar Elias Educational Institutions, one of the highest performing K-12 schools in all Israel (3000 students, 200 faculty – Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze), received many honors, including three Nobel Peace Prize nominations, World Methodist Peace Award, French Legion of Honor, Dante Alighieri Human Rights Award, and Niwano Peace Award. Free, open to the public.

Name Tag News

We have updated and reorganized the name tags with hopes these changes will make it easier to use the tags. Please note the following:

The new hooks are longer and more stable and will hold four name tags.

Couples with different last names will usually be put together under the last name that comes first alphabetically. This is to save space.

A longer hook is at the bottom of each section of the stand for any name tags that are found or misplaced. We will take care of these.

If your tag was not on the stand when the organizing was done, please put it on the long hook (see above) and we will find a home for it.

Jan Younger, Sharon Conrad and Sandy Moliere

Strengthen the Church UCC Offering



Each year, on Pentecost Sunday, the UCC conducts a special offering called Strengthen the Church. The purpose of this offering is to support the lay and pastoral leadership of existing UCC congregations, especially as it relates to youth and young adult programming. Additionally, a portion of raised funds are used to build new UCC churches. God empowers us to be change-agents as we incorporate God's still speaking voice in our everyday life. Your generous support of this offering will help the UCC in fulfilling its commitment of creating a more just world as it invests in expanding ministries and developing programming that fit the needs of local communities. Just as farmers plant seeds in fertile ground with expectations of growth, your support of this offering will help "plant" new churches and build on the God is Still Speaking ministries, in parts of the country where the UCC doesn't have a strong presence. **Pentecost Sunday is June 9.** The Benevolence Committee thanks you in advance for your generous support.

Plymouth People in Our Prayers

Tom Baker, Kris Conner, David Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Bonnie Doherty, Paul Furtner, Ed Gomez, Doris Grandos, Norm Grandos, Joan Hartwig, Joanne Huber, Susan Jarvis, Nancy Jordan, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Mel Lehrman, Joan Lipscomb, Sheldon Lockwood, Karen O'Neal, Bonnie Pennock, Eugene Pittsford, Michael Popp, Jim Porter, Noel Resor, Claire Roney, Anne Rowland, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, Johanna Smith, Rick Stoerker, Camille Wallace, Ervin Walter and Joel Walter.

NEW LIFE is welcomed in the birth of a daughter, Alana Alue Markus Hamilton, March 25, to delighted moms Kristi and Megan Hamilton.

NEW LIFE is welcomed in the birth of a son, Jack Richard McCoy, April 30, to parents Jonathan and Amanda McCoy. Proud grandparents are Mike and Laura McCoy.

SYMPATHY is extended to William Beard, husband; to Alice Beard, mother-in-law, family and friends, on the death of Suzanne M. "Suzy" Beard, March 18.

SYMPATHY is extended to David Cornwell and family on the death of wife, mother, grandmother, Marge Cornwell, April 7, Albion.

SYMPATHY is extended to Bill Beard on the death of his mother, Alice Beard, April 27.

SYMPATHY is extended to Mary and Roy Gilliom on the death of her sister, Helen Brooks, age 90, May 6, Bluffton, OH.

SYMPATHY is extended to Steve and Becky Hollingsworth on the death of his sister, Shirley L. Dickman, age 83, May 8, Royal Oak, MI.

SYMPATHY is extended to friends and family in the death of Elaine Drummond, May 10.

Bearing his Name, Carrying his Flame



When: Wednesday, June 5,
7:00 pm

Location: Embassy Theatre
Featuring: Martin Luther King, III

Imani Baptist Temple's CORD Initiative (Conquering Our Racial Divisions) is organizing an event commemorating the 56th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s single visit to Fort Wayne on June 5, 1963. Featuring his son Martin Luther King III and the gospel singers Yolanda Adams and Tramaine Hawkins, the event will highlight the work for racial justice accomplished so far and what remains to be done to achieve King's goal of "the beloved community." It takes place on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 pm at the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne.

Plymouth Church is co-sponsoring the event and we have free tickets available for 20 people. A signup sheet will be in the Folsom Room. Please sign up, be inspired, and support the work that is already happening for the beloved community!

From the Front Office

In order for the office to better serve you, please submit a separate check for each donation made whether it be pledges, flowers, special offerings, meals; any check you write to Plymouth Church. Thank you for your help with this matter.



May Birthdays



1	Judy Crooks	15	Martha Dively	21	Dana Wichern
1	John B Escosa III	15	Linda Eltzroth	22	Gary Kerr
2	Helen Mowan	15	Mariah Grim	22	Carrol Stumpf
2	Lexi Snow	15	Rod Kuhn	23	Dick Conklin
3	Sophia Boyko	15	Gene LeMaster	23	Stan Fahl
3	Helen Hill	16	Kaden Hartman-Crowell	23	Wayne Gerard
5	Daniel Boyko	16	Sophie Stayte	23	Amelia Longardner-Graff
5	Linda Jean Kerr	17	Anna Arata	23	Diana Wilkening
6	Nada O'Neal	17	Tod Ramsey	26	Charlie Coffeen
7	Robin Grimm	17	Mike Thomas	26	Libby Fortunato
8	Corrie Silcox	20	Kara Jaurigue	26	Jim Sidell
9	Michael Mendenhall	21	Samantha Ames	27	Brynn Anglin
10	Erin Harney-Siples	21	Laura Coon	27	Sue Godsell
10	Steve Hollingsworth	21	Jordan Dollarhite	27	Jim Nelson
11	Barb Hill	21	Greg Gibson	28	Richard Robinson
12	Karen Hill	21	Makaylee Hartman-Crowell	29	Andrea Moll
12	Jay Shumaker	21	Judy Madden	30	Janis Mitchell
13	Nadia Patton	21	Patty Meriwether	30	Jon Mitchell
14	Roy Gilliom	21	Michal Miller		

Welcoming Group

The next Welcoming Group will meet **Sunday, August 18**, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. If you have been attending Plymouth for several months and your faith journey is leading you to explore becoming a member, this is a one-time required session. Whether you are confident, confused, or curious, our time together is focused on orientation, conversation, interpretation, and exploration. It is an opportunity for you to ask questions and to meet others who are considering affirming their formal relationship with Plymouth Church, UCC.

Please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, rep@plymouthfw.org, or 423-9424, ext. 322, to register. An accurate number is needed for the light lunch that will be provided by Congregational Life Board.

eBell Schedule

Attention Plymouth Members: during the months of June and July, the eBell will be distributed online. Below is a schedule of all submission deadlines and emailing dates for the summer:

Submission Deadlines: June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24

Email Dates: June 14, June 28, July 12, July 26

Please note that during these two months, there will not be a printed Bell. The printed Bell will resume in August. Submissions for the eBell must be sent to Maressa by the above listed deadlines by 5:00 pm. She can be reached via email at mfe@plymouthfw.org or by calling the front office at 260-423-9424.

A Dixieland Pentecost Worship

Sunday, June 9, is Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the birthday of the church. To capture the spirit of the day, we will be featuring music by our Dixieland Band which includes trumpet, clarinet, trombone, banjo, drums, bass and piano. Don't miss this special service when the sounds of New Orleans fills the sanctuary and everyone comes dressed in the colors of the flame!

Sweet Pepper Jelly Update

There are ten, 16 ounces (pint) jars of the popular pepper jelly available for sale. Each is \$9 (checks payable to Plymouth or cash). The dates for this year's Pepper Jelly Fest are Tuesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 12. Volunteers in Plymouth's kitchen will be busy making 270-300 jars of our delicious, locally famous sweet pepper jelly. Also, the project welcomes used 4 oz., 8 oz. and 12 oz. canning jars.

For further information and/or to purchase jelly, please contact Joyce Augspurger, jema7749@comcast.net or call/text 260-466-5376. Thank you for your interest and support as profits benefit local agencies that help children and families.

Photo Notice

On Sunday, May 5, some Plymouth members might have noticed someone walking around with a camera and snapping photos during service. This was Mackenzie Giganti, our Communications Specialist. Plymouth publications are in desperate need of photos, and Mackenzie may be seen from time to time at services and special events with her camera. If you have photos to contribute to our growing collection, please email Mackenzie at mmg@plymouthfw.org!

Open & Affirming Anniversary

On May 5, 2019, Plymouth Congregational Church celebrated its 18th Open and Affirming Anniversary! Plymouth Church is proud to welcome our LGBTQ siblings in Christ into full participation in the life of the church. In our diversity we find strength, joy, and a greater understanding of God's inclusive love. There are more than 1,500 congregations within the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ — and Plymouth Church is number 382! We are grateful for all the churches that share in the good news of the inclusive love of God.

Following the service, the Gender Identity Taskforce held a workshop in the Folsom Room dedicated to exploring the meaning of gender identity and the "T" and "Q" in LGBTQ. Taskforce members include Dave Jolliff, January Simpson, Tony Kell, Linda Hite, Rev. Timothy and Rev. Ruth.

A handout provided for attendees included three definitions: *Trans*, *Cis*, and *Queer*.

Trans: Experiencing one's gender identity as different from the gender you were assigned at birth, ex: you were assigned as male at birth, but you feel inside that you are female.

Cis: experiencing one's gender identity as the same as the gender you were assigned at birth, ex: you were assigned female at birth, and you feel that you are female.

Queer: a word that has many different meanings.

1. Experiencing oneself as fitting differently from the binaries of sexual orientation (gay or straight) and/or gender identity (trans or cis).
2. A catch all umbrella term for the LGBTQ community, like queer theology, queer activists
3. A term for LGBTQ political activism.

The workshop also included informational videos and group discussion.



Benevolence Committee Distributions for 2019

The Benevolence Committee is responsible for the distribution of Benevolence Funds as allocated by the annual budget of Plymouth Church. In 2019 \$95,916 was designated for this purpose.

Benevolence Funds are used to support our UCC affiliations as well as agencies that submit grant requests. The grant request process requires a lengthy application by agencies followed by a detailed review by the members of the Benevolence Committee. Not all grant applications receive an award.

The grants allocated to local, national and international missions are divided into two categories.

“Capacity Building Grant” is a one-time only grant of \$20,000 that should permanently impact and improve an agency’s ability to carry on its mission. Only one grant in this category is allocated each year.

“Benevolence Grant” are grants of \$2,000 or less that are awarded to agencies for other needs and purposes to support their mission. Twenty-four of this type of grant was awarded in 2019.

This committee has made the following allocations for 2019:

- OCWM-IN/KY Conference (UCC) – \$35,000
- Open and Affirming Coalition (UCC) - \$5,000
- CUE (UCC) - \$5,000
- Capacity Building Grant – Carriage House of Fort Wayne

The following agencies received Benevolence Grants in various amounts:

- Amani Family Services
- Associated Churches, Rising Stars Program
- Blue Jacket
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- Center for Non-Violence
- Crossroad

- East Wayne Street Center
- Easter Seals ARC
- Growing Hope Globally – FRB
- Habitat for Humanity
- Homebound Meals
- ICMEP
- IFDH – Indiana Dental Health
- Just Neighbors IHN
- Lisa’s Legacy
- Matthew 25
- Mental Health America of NE Indiana – Cedar’s Hope
- Mustard Seed
- Neighbor Link
- Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
- SCAN
- Turnstone
- Wellspring

Members of the Benevolence Committee are:

Julie Creek, Margie Dougherty, Steve Etheridge, January Simpson, Jim Lasley, Laura Ramsey, Laura Rudolph and Rev. Timothy Murphy as Staff Advisor.



Scanner Tag For Plymouth E-Donations

Using your smart phone’s barcode scanner, this QR Code/Scanner tag will take you to the Plymouth page at eservicepayments.com. Use this secure and confidential link to support Plymouth Church’s ministry and mission! Your gift helps advance the local and global outreach of Plymouth benevolence. Please be generous!



**Plymouth Congregational
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Vision Statement

Adopted October 2011

Praying for guidance for the journey
... Honoring the mystery of God
... Responding with spirits renewed
... Moving courageously toward wholeness.



Mission Statement

Adopted October 2011

Plymouth Church is an inclusive Christian Community welcoming you as you are, supporting you in your own Journey with God, and challenging you to live out the teachings of Jesus, individually, collectively, globally.

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here.