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the BELL

Appreciation Reception Sunday, November 20

Join us after worship on **Sunday, November 20**, as we say "Thank You" to the many HVAC contractors, managers, and laborers who worked over these past months on what was a gritty, dirty, dusty, intensive and often complicated project. We have invited all of these workers to be present with us for cake, punch and some well-earned recognition.

If you are interested in helping set-up, serve, and/or clean up for this event, please contact Laura Rudolph, 485-285, rudyfw@yahoo.com.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service At Temple Achduth Vesholom, November 22

Members and friends of Plymouth are invited to attend a **7:00 pm** interfaith Thanksgiving worship service on **Tuesday, November 22**, at Temple Achduth Vesholom, located at 5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne.

The 2016 service features guest speaker the Rev. Terry Anderson, executive director of Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network, who will address the local issues pertaining to homelessness. The offering will benefit Just Neighbors IHN.

Thanksgiving Day Worship & Dinner

We invite you, your family and friends to join us on Thanksgiving Day for a Chapel Worship Service at **11:00 am**, followed by a delicious Turkey dinner at **11:45 am**! Both ham and turkey will be prepared by our own Chef Bill Nicholson.

Please signup on the bulletin board outside the office to register how many are attending with you, as well as the side dish you are bringing.

Share Your Christmas Greetings

Congregational Life Board invites you to save postage and be green this Christmas. Share your greetings with the entire Plymouth family!

Bring your Christmas cards or letters to the designated mailbox in the Folsom Room beginning **Sunday, November 27**. Cards will be displayed in the Folsom Room during the month of December.

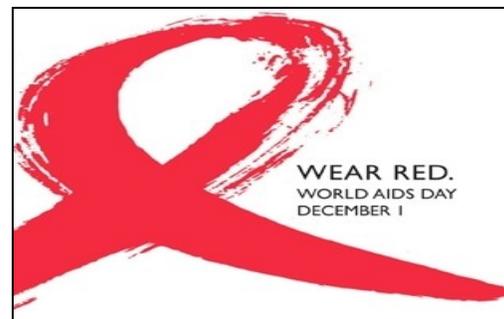
Thanksgiving Offerings

The Benevolence Committee has designated Plymouth's 2016 Thanksgiving offering for the Wellspring Food Bank. Plymouth Church has a long-standing, close relationship with Wellspring, which supports the needs of our neighbors in Fort Wayne's central city. We regularly donate food items through our *Share Your Shopping* ministry.

This Thanksgiving, we are inviting participation with both food offerings and monetary gifts. Offering envelopes will be enclosed in Sunday Bulletins on **November 20**, and the congregation is encouraged to bring food items to worship that day, as well, to be brought forward at the designated time during worship. Both food and monetary gifts also will be accepted **Thanksgiving Day, during 11:00 am** worship.

Special needs include boxed potatoes and dressing, gravy packets, canned vegetables and fruits, especially low or no sodium, and low sugar. Fresh produce such as apples also are needed. Non-perishable items may also be placed in the *Share Your Shopping* bin in the Folsom Room at any time.

May we give generously!



Adult Chapel Classes

**Sundays, November 27,
December 4, 11, 18, 9:00 am**

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips will guide discussions based on the UCC Still-speaking Writers' Group Devotional "Wolves and Lambs," which will be visually enhanced by the spirit art of Mary Southard, CSJ.

The Christian Education Board has 60 devotionals available for a suggested donation of \$5.00 each.

Quinn Caldwell, author, reflects, "because we think that the image of a wolf and a lamb lying down together (Isaiah 11:6-9) should be comforting, yes, even sweet. But it should also be deeply unnerving . . ." ". . .this vision of Isaiah's . . . threatens something bigger, something deeper. It's the creation of a world not that you want or don't want, but a world so weird you can't imagine it well enough to decide if you even like it."

Advent Sunday Worship Theme

**"Wonder of Wonders ~
Revealing the Sacred"**

Each Sunday, we will merge the words of Ruth Duck's hymn "O Word Made Flesh Among Us," and the spirit art imagery of Mary Southard, CSJ. Join us each week as we light Advent Candles:
November 27: Advent 1 HOPE
December 4: Advent 2 – PEACE
December 11: Advent 3 – JOY
December 18: Advent 4 – LOVE



In Our Prayers

Plymouth people in our prayers: Jack Ade, Sally Ade, A.J. Calkins, Tim Chronister, Sharon Conrad, Marge Cornwell, Roger and Tony Crouch, Barbara and Bob Davidson, Morgan Ellingwood, Pat Eltzroth, Ralph Eltzroth, Gail Escosa, Ed Gomez, Bill Hambrick, Darin Heavner, Maureen Heavner, Steve Hollingsworth, Tom Ice, Sr., Bill Imler, Susan Towle Jarvis, Ed Koenig, Luanne Root Koenig, Carol Miller, Carol Patterson, Doug Pinner, Anne Rowland, Jack Sanders, Vera Scott, Charmaine Siekmann, Joan and Alan Simon,, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Jim Stedman, Wendy Beifus Webster.

Members and friends serving our country: Nick Brattain, US Navy; Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman; Capt. Brandi Wallace, USAF.

UCC Chaplains serving overseas:
Chaplain Albert Ghergich, Chaplain James Janecek, Chaplain Mark Roeder.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Joseph Kenneth Graves IV on October 7 in Midwest City, OK. He is the son of proud parents Cassidy and Kenneth Graves III. Delighted great-grandmother is Ruth Bracht.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Emery Jean Riethmiller, November 3, the daughter of parents Dan and Brittany Riethmiller, and the fifth grandchild of proud grandparents Donna and Steve Riethmiller,

Congratulations to Sasha Chemey and Emma Nowinski who were married October 23, 2016 in the Alumni Chapel of MSU, E. Lansing, MI.

Sympathy is extended to Robert Pugh on the death of his sister, Betty Henning, on October 27.

Sympathy is extended to Jim Evans on the death of his mother-in-law, Dorothy Gierhart, on November 6.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Timothy Doyle, who died November 6.

Sympathy is extended to Janice Furtner and family on the death of her father, Joseph Furtner, November 11, in Berne, IN.



It's Time to Order Poinsettias!



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias! Ordering poinsettias is an easy way to remember, honor, and celebrate loved ones and friends, while helping to decorate our church home for Christmas. To order, please fill out this form and return it with your check to the church office by **Sunday, December 11**.

Poinsettias are **\$10.00** each. Plants will be placed in the sanctuary the Sunday before Christmas. (Please take your plant home with you, following 10:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve.)

Name _____

In honor, celebration, memory (please circle which applies) of:

Number ordered _____ x \$10.00 ea. = \$ _____ Total Amount

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed (Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church)

From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

A long, raw, and contentious election year has come to an end. Without knowing the results, we knew this day would come. Now knowing the results, with Donald Trump as President-Elect, and our own Mike Pence as Vice President-Elect, many are apprehensive and full of dismay at the unprecedented significance of what has occurred. In the words of an email I received just this morning: **“We are...stumbling through this...day, dazed by the brutality of our own democracy and fearful of what it has wrought.”**

Few pollsters or pundits saw this coming. What was stunningly underestimated and missed by most was an electoral eruption of fed-up voters voicing contempt at the established political order. That the campaign was often thuggish in manner, indulging racism, misogyny, xenophobia, and general indecency, didn't seem to matter. Hurting people often hurt others. Change, whether blessing or curse, whether welcomed or imposed, is rarely met with glee.

One thing is certain at this junction. The 2016 election signals great change has come upon our nation. And we in the church face great challenge. What behooves us as a faith community is to hold fast to the resources that anchor our lives in hope and trust. I'm comforted by the psalm that speaks: **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.”** (Ps. 46:1-2).

I also find solace in prayers that bring unexpected encouragement. Walter Brueggemann reminds us God enacts **“governance in ways overt and in ways hidden.”** A Vashti Mckenzine prayer also has proven helpful to me: **“Inspire all harassed and struggling souls of every race, nation, creed and hue with the assurance that all the forces of good are working for them and are moving them on to peace, health, and wholeness.”** When dazed and unsettled by current events, it is good practice to concentrate upon such things.

As followers of the Jesus way, we are accustomed to encountering dangers and snares. Let us be patient when we find ourselves dismayed. Pray that we might catch a breath. And then, let us rise with a faith and hope that cannot be quenched. Let us continue the struggle for justice and peace, engaging in gospel work that is earth wise, heaven bound, eager for love, mercy and joy to prevail in our nation, indeed, throughout all the world.

Sincerely,
John P. Gardner

Christmas Worship Services



Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24
4:00 pm: Communion & Candlelight
10:00 pm: Carols and Candlelight

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25
10:00 am: Worship

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26.

Put Stars In Their Eyes For Christmas ☆☆☆

The stars are ready for the choosing! From the *Turnstone Star Child* display, on the main hallway corner bulletin board, please select from 96 stars, each with the name of a child, and purchase a hat/gloves set, and/or a book for each.

Feel free to take both stars for a particular child. Requested colors, characters, and themes are printed on each star.

All gifts need to be returned to Plymouth by **Thursday, December 15**. Please **DO NOT WRAP** your gift(s), and be sure to include the child's name star with the hat/gloves and the book. We will provide gift bags so that each child will receive the 2 gifts together at their Turnstone Christmas party the week before Christmas.

Questions about your child's request? Call Cher Jackson at **494-2580**, or email cherdian@frontier.com.

Hanging of the Greens



Join in the spirit of the Christmas season as we decorate Plymouth on **Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am to noon.**

Michael Thomas and Ed Gomez will direct the project again this year. Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

For more information, please contact: Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, 423-9424, ext. 322, or rep@plymouthfw.org.

Youth's Fresh Baked Bread Sale November 20

The annual Fresh Baked Bread Sale, put together by Plymouth youth and adult leaders, will be **Sunday, November 20**. Breads of all kinds will be available for purchase before and after worship, including our traditional white and wheat loaves, the ever-so-popular Monkey Bread, as well as zucchini, cranberry-orange, and a few others. The bread sale comes just in time to help fill your Thanksgiving table!

Knit & Kibitz Sales November 20 & December 4

Members and friends are invited to stop by the Folsom Room **Sunday, November 20, and Sunday, December 4**, to view and purchase things from the annual Knit and Kibitz sale. The sale will be open both before and after the **10:00 am** services. Along with the usual array of hand-wrought pieces, the group has added a new event: a **Silent Auction** featuring five beautiful and unique handmade items. You're encouraged to bid early, bid often, and be generous! All funds raised at the sale will be used to support non-profit agencies that serve families.

Friends Of The Third World Sale November 27

Friends of the Third World Shoppe will hold its annual sale at Plymouth on **Sunday, November 27**. This is a unique opportunity to find a gift such as a birch-bark basket from the upper Midwest and fill it with a jute angel-tree ornament from Bangladesh, fair-trade coffee from El Salvador, a bracelet from the Philippines, and many other items from the world over.

All items are provided by low-income people working to support their families. These items are provided by volunteers from Friends of the Third World, a non-profit ministry aiding the poor through employment and education programs. So take a few minutes and find a gift that gives TWICE!

Standish Circle's Annual Wreaths, Swags, and Roping Sales November 27 & December 4

Large and small, decorated and not, Douglas Fir wreaths and swags, and white pine roping will be on sale before and after worship on **Sundays, November 27 and December 4**, in the Folsom Room.

In addition to decorating your own sweet abode, these make great early gifts for family, friends, neighbors, co-workers—as well as a bit of seasonal cheer for people in the hospital or in nursing homes.

This is updated pricing information!

Small Decorated Wreath	\$27.00
Small Undecorated Wreath	\$18.00
Large Decorated Wreath	\$32.00
Large Undecorated Wreath	\$24.00
Roping	\$18.00
Swags	\$13.00



Luminous Night Service Of Lament and Promise Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm

Lament: to express sorrow, mourning; to regret strongly.

Promise: an indication of future improvement

The Advent/Christmas season invites us to be gentle with ourselves and one another. During the darkening days of December, and because of high unrealistic expectations in the cultural Christmas rush, many individuals suffer anxiety, depression, sadness, and loneliness during this season.

Luminous Night Service offers you a safe place to lament, to mourn, to complain, to feel your anger and disappointment, without being told to “get over it.” We may express our grief, anger, discouragement, sadness, and longings, as we also affirm God’s love, compassion, forgiveness, and presence with us. We listen and remember God’s promise “never to leave or forsake” us.



The service is interwoven with song, prayer, scripture, and readings. Candle lighting is included, in remembrance of a loved one who has died, in hope, in prayer, as a symbol of searching for the “light in the darkness.”

Following the service, you are invited to linger in the Folsom Room for hot chocolate and cookies, provided by the Evangelism and Marketing Board.

Come, gather with others who feel the need to replace pressure with peace.

Thank You From Just Neighbors IHN

Many thanks go to all those who participated in the recent Empty Bowls event by having a simple meal of soup and bread, as well as to those who purchased a handmade ceramic bowl. Special thanks go to the following who helped dish up soup, sell bowls, and clean up that day: Ahnee Conner, Gale Cunningham, Sally Felger, Jim and Diane Lasley, and Riet Zwiep.

Plymouth raised \$1,042 that will go directly to Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network to shelter displaced families here in Fort Wayne. Plymouth has been a supporter of this agency since it started in 1999. Just Neighbors is the only shelter in Fort Wayne that keeps family units together when they find themselves in a housing crisis. During their time there they receive counseling and support in areas that will enable them to be self-sufficient.

Christmas Offerings For Crossroad



Our annual Christmas offering will be received for *Crossroad* again this year, on both **Sunday, December 18**, and on **Christmas Eve**. Please give generously to support this vital ministry.

Come hear
Christmas Stories
you have never before
heard told by our own
storyteller Bill Deans!

PLUS...
Christmas Songs
by our own Maestro Bob
Nance

Sunday, December 11
(following worship)

sponsored
by the Amazing Grays.

A Christmas luncheon will be
served.

Reservations are necessary by
noon, December 9.

Annual Reports Due

The time is quickly approaching for submission of 2015 Annual Reports! Deadline for submission of material is **before Christmas!** Reports should be typed in 11-point, Times New Roman font and email as an attachment to Lettie Eagar at: lme@plymouthfw.org.

Your help in getting these reports in on time is appreciated. For questions, please contact Lettie at 423-9424.

Annual Business Meeting, January 22

Please join us immediately following worship on **Sunday, January 22, 12:00 pm**, for Plymouth’s Annual Business Meeting. The **2017 Annual Budget** and the **2016 Annual Report** will be presented, as well as other issues impacting our lives at Plymouth.

Lunch will be served by the Plymouth Youth as a fundraiser for youth programs.

D	1	Jim Schmidt	
		Zoey Spath-Pinedo	
	3	Jennifer Ferguson	
e		Isaac John Andrew Spath	
		Tobias Watson	
c	4	Tyler Fisher	
		Alaina Gilliom	
e		Ray Lehman	
		Brad Stinson	
m	7	Veronica Beifus	
		Peggy Grant	
b		Bill Hambrick	
		Keyes McGregor	
e		Nelson Spade	
	8	Mary Gilliom	
r		Donna Rowe	
		Shirley Slater	
r	9	Bonnie Bortnichak	
		Jennifer Fisher	
r		Dylan Lewark	
	10	Laura McCoy	
11		Jake Price	
		Bill Beard	
13		Jan Evrard	
		Riley Grim	
13		Melissa Shaw	
		Doris Grandos	
14		Margaret Ann Sponhauer	
		George Blossom	
B		Linda Hambrick	
		Kaitlyn Roby	
i	16	Chance Berger	
		Rhonda Eitsert	
R		Paul Lewark	
	17	Judy Dahl	
T		Kenton Neuhouser	
		Johanna Smith	
h		Virginia Zimmerman	
	18	Jared Chasesy	
d		Lois Steere	
	19	Marenda Lewark	
a	20	Jan Gibson	
		Jude Price	
y		Simon Price	
		Samantha Tyndall	
s		Riet Zwiep	
	21	Ahnee Conner	
22		Lanna Howe	
		Connie McAfee	
24		Cheryl Rinehart	
		Elena Dupen	
25		Michelle Bradley	
		Carol Lehman	
26		Carol Tyndall	
		Adriene Foster	
27		Betsy Ley	
		Steve Lauterberg	
28		Joe Bir	
		Kathy Hartsch	
29		Steven Vorderman	
		Colton Ames	
30		Sharon Conrad	
		Suzanne Jontz	
31		Paige Yarman	

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Boar's Head Info for You!

By now, every member and friend of Plymouth should have received a Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival patron letter. Won't you please act immediately and contribute to this wonderful Plymouth tradition, if you haven't already done so? For all of its finances, the Festival relies totally on the contributions of its patrons and the free will offerings. **We can not offer this special Plymouth gift without you!**

Though our costs continue to rise, our patronage has remained relatively constant. In order to maintain the Festival, PLEASE won't you contribute? Be a part of this Plymouth tradition by becoming a patron this season. We would especially invite our **new members** to become involved as patrons and as audience members. Better still, become a part of the cast or crews! There is still room in the cast for you—all ages!

Established members, please come and enjoy the Festival again—and bring new friends! Although one needs tickets to attend any of the four services on **December 29 or 30, at 5:30 and 8:00 pm**, these tickets are *free*. Patrons receive first opportunity to obtain tickets. Each church member family also may have six tickets which will be distributed before and after church services on **December 4 and 11**. An additional six tickets may be obtained on **Thursday, December 15**, during public distribution at the church office (Box Office Day) beginning at **4:30 pm**. Our only request is that people take only the number of tickets they will use. We love to see the pews filled.

Cast members are reminded of the changed rehearsal schedule beginning at **4:00 pm on December 26, December 27**, and dress rehearsal **December 28**.

Please join us for this special 42nd Festival celebration. Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season of joy, peace, and love.

“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful...”

Kara Jaurigue, director Bob Nance, director Jim Schmidt, director

Sophie's Café Women's Support Group

During the holidays, while many of us are celebrating and feeling of good cheer, others of us are struggling more than usual – remembering lost loved ones, feeling depression more acutely in contrast to the festivity, or having more difficulty than usual with alcohol and drugs, strained family relationships, or deeper-than-ever loneliness. If this describes you, or if you are seeking safe, compassionate, and affirming sanctuary, Sophie's Café, a women's support group that meets in the Mayflower Room, **Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:15 pm**, welcomes you to our circle.

Not a religious organization or even an advice-giving group, we are a gathering of women of all ages and many different backgrounds who believe that we all live best in community. We are here to speak, to listen, and to give and take support and comfort. Feel free to join us any Monday (except school holidays and snow days). Just enter Plymouth at the Berry Street office entrance, ring bell on wall by office window, and someone will come to open the inner door.

Newsletter Guidelines

Please continue sending your information for the printed **Bell** to Suzanne at: sls@plymouthfw.org by the **second Wednesday of the months it is printed**. (Please **DO NOT USE** office@plymouthfw.org)

Also, the **e-Bell** is emailed on the second and fourth Fridays of the months it is used. Deadlines are the Wednesdays immediately prior.

<u>Printed Bell</u>	<u>E-Bell</u>
January	February
March	April
May	June
August	July
October	September
November	December



Create A Lasting Legacy with Planned Giving



For 144 years, loyal church members have remembered Plymouth Church in their estate plans. These visionary benefactors have helped our generation to have the resources to carry on the good work of Plymouth Congregational Church ...

Have you remembered Plymouth in your estate planning?

Contact Randy Roberts, Chair of Stewardship & Finance, if you have questions.

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!

2016 Tax Reminder

As you prepare your federal tax return for 2016, a reminder: the IRS will allow you to deduct the donations you made to Plymouth *only* if they were dated and postmarked in 2016. As long as you itemize your deductions, you can generally claim 100 percent of your church donations as a deduction.



SAVE THE DATE!
Women’s Retreat
Saturday, April 22, 2017
Epworth Forest
Conference Center



2017 Scholarship Opportunities

The Grants and Scholarships Committee has the pleasant responsibility of awarding scholarship grants for **tuition and fees** from the earnings generated by several endowed funds. Completed applications are due in the church office as noted below.

By February 15

The **Richard Nelson Kent Memorial Fund** provides educational grants for tuition and fees for members of the United Church of Christ in the North-east [Indiana] Association and other qualified applicants who are at least 16 years of age and entering into or continuing ecological studies, conservation biology, or other environmentally related studies.

The **R. Donald and Genevieve M. Sinish Fund** provides awards for tuition and fees for 16-to-24-year-old members of Plymouth Church.

The **Van Gorder Scholarship** is awarded annually for tuition and fees for post-secondary education leading to a degree, certificate, or license for a graduating senior who is a member of Plymouth Church.

By April 15

The **Richard C. Hess Peace Studies Scholarship** will award a \$1,000 tuition and fees scholarship for a college student majoring in peace studies or a related program.

Completed applications with all supporting materials must be received in the church office by the stated deadline. Incomplete applications are ineligible for consideration.

To request application packets, or to receive additional information, call the church office (423-9424), leave your name, phone number, and email address, and a member of the Grants and Scholarships Committee will respond to your request.



**Plymouth Congregational
Church of Fort Wayne**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Phone: 260-423-9424 · Fax: 260-423-9426

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GREEN TIPS for the HOLIDAYS

Take pity on Mother Nature while celebrating the holidays: Stay home, lower the thermostat, and use fewer lights; Buy in bulk; Use real dishes; Recycle wrapping paper, or better yet, use useable gift bags instead; Use a real tree – and recycle it when it's done!

Looking for our email addresses?

Senior Pastor and Teacher
jpg@plymouthfw.org

Associate Pastor
rep@plymouthfw.org

Associate in Pastoral Care
c2cftwayne@gmail.com

Music Director
robert@maestronance.com

Youth Director
kkjaurigue@gmail.com

Office Manager
lme@plymouthfw.org

Secretary/Communications Associate
sls@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator
financial@plymouthfw.org

Custodian
david@plymouthfw.org

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.