



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is scheduled this year for January 18-25. This year marks the centenary of the Edinburgh World Mission Conference of 1910, which brought together missionary societies engaged in work in "new places where Christ had not yet been made known." The Conference brought together representatives from numerous Protestant traditions around the world, plus a representative from the Orthodox church. Edinburgh is considered a foundational step in the modern ecumenical movement. The theme for this year: "You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48).

Resources are available through the World Council of Churches to enter more fully into the week of prayer. While we are already witnesses, we can always become more involved in the quest to promote unity. Some helpful guidelines include;

- ◇ by praising the One who gives us the gift of life and resurrection;
- ◇ by knowing how to share the story of our faith with others;
- ◇ by recognizing that God is at work in our lives;
- ◇ by giving thanks for the faith we have received;
- ◇ by confessing Christ's victory over all suffering
- ◇ by seeking to always be more faithful to the Word of God;
- ◇ by growing in faith, hope, and love;
- ◇ by offering hospitality and knowing how to receive it when it is offered to us.

We promote a broader understanding of Christian life, indeed we strive for Christian unity, as we daily embrace these eight aspects of faith.

Martin Luther King, Jr.—A Remembrance

We Must Learn to Live With Each Other in Peace

"Some years ago a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored being this one: 'A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together.' This is the great new problem of (humankind). We have inherited a large house, a great 'world house' in which we have to live together—black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu—a family unduly separated in ideas, culture, and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn to live with each other in peace."

Written in *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*

Annual Business Meeting

Be sure to attend the
**Plymouth Congregational Church
Annual Business Meeting**
on **Sunday, January 24**,
immediately following worship.

Our Plymouth youth will be serving the traditional Casa d'Plymouth Lunch (\$5 adults; \$2 children 10 and under) as a fundraiser. So come support our kids and then stay to hear about and approve the 2009 Annual Report and 2010 operating budget.

Mission Team to Haiti

Associated Churches is responding to the earthquake that devastated Haiti last week. Trip dates are **April 13-22, 2010**. The team being developed will include doctors, construction workers, and caregivers led by Rev. Dan Layden, St. Albans Episcopal Church.

For further information, please contact Associated Churches at 260-422-3528. There will be an organizational meeting at Associated Churches, 602 E. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, on **February 2 at 7:00 pm**.

Throughout the UCC there is concern for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. One Great Hour of Sharing emergencies monies are already at work. Prayers and monetary support are most welcome.

In Our Prayers ...

During the month of January we have been asked to pray for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference delegation preparing for a February visit to the Pentecostal Church of Chile, and UCC missionary Elena Huegal. We also remember Felix Ortiz, our Global Ministry leader for Latin America.

Conditions of Special Need:

Karen Anderson, Gregg Bingham, Mark Chancey, Tanya Hattingh, Betty Henning, Richard Payne, Wanda Pohl, Barb Rigdon, Terri Stumpf, Stephanie Williams, Tina Worthman, and Bob Younger.

In the UCC, every day is a day of prayer for peace.

SSgt. Rick Foster, SPC Matthew Johnson, and David Worcester; and chaplains from the UCC, Bruce Farrell, and Anthony Taylor.

New life is welcomed with the birth of Cooper Joseph Hackett, November 12, to proud parents Lindsay and Zach Hackett.

New life is welcomed with the birth of Tristan Vaughn to proud parents Deb and Ben Fogt on December 19.

New life is welcomed in the birth of a daughter, Lena Hope Adams, January 8, 2010, to Laurel Longardner Adams and Tim Adams. Grandparents are Larry and Carla Longardner, and great-grandparents are Walt and Joann Schmidt.

Sympathy is extended to Dan D'Angelo on the death of his mother, Phyllis Porter, of Michigan, who died November 12.

Sympathy is extended to Vicki D'Angelo on the death of her mother, Anastacia Lelis, of California, who died December 22, and to grandson, Christopher Young.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Robert McConnell, who died on January 18,

From the Senior Pastor

Dear friends,

The new year brings anticipated change into the life of the church, specifically with regard to the staffing of ministry. Rev. Ruth and I have adjusted our areas of responsibility, and we look forward to working with the standing committees to which we are assigned. As previously reported, Ruth will be working with the Christian Education Committee and will be assuming a good portion of the duties previously assigned to John Whitebread. We realize John had some gifts for ministry that we can't and won't replace. Yet we are encouraged by what we face, sensing change brings opportunity for new adventure and a re-visioning of how we practice our faith.

We continue looking for a new Financial Administrator. I'm working with Laura Coon, Church Treasurer, and Jeffrey Markley from the Personnel Committee on this, and together we are interviewing some excellent candidates for this position. We hope to have someone with us by the end of January.

One further position has been filled. Sarah Springer has consented to serve as our Child Care Coordinator through the end of the program year. This is an important area of staffing for our young children, and we are confident that Sarah will do a great job.

Over fifty years ago, when the United Church of Christ was in its formative stages, Fred Hoskins of the Congregational Christian Churches wrote:

"We move in the hope ... that God will provide us with light according to our need, guidance according to the demands of the time, and strength to the requirements of every situation. Our hope is that we may keep ourselves enough out of the way that God can move in and find us useable instruments for doing God's will." I find this teaching fresh and worthy of our embrace as we stand on the cusp of a new year.

Many unknowns lie before us. Yet as Hoskins suggests, hope informs faith and provides clarity: God will provide light, guidance, and strength. Such hope, we believe, does not disappoint. In this Gospel work, convinced by the love of Jesus that we are useable instruments for doing the divine will, may God be glorified!

Rev. John P. Gardner

Parents of Infants, Children & Youth

Be sure to save the date of **Sunday, February 28, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm**, for a "Parents and Pastors Conversation." Rev. John P. Gardner and Rev. Ruth E. Phillips invite you, and of course your children, to a light lunch and some time for sharing your ideas, concerns, and hopes for our education and nurture of your youngsters. Child care and activities for the children will be provided during the conversation time. You will be receiving an invitation in early February.

Next Bell Deadline

The next deadline for submission of material for *the Bell* is **Wednesday, February 10**. We appreciate your prompt submission of articles! Want to be an E-Beller? Send request to bellonline@plymouthfw.org.

Knife and Fork

The next gathering of Knife and Fork is **Friday, February 12, 11:30 am** at Spyros on West Jefferson. Isabelle Shockney is the coordinator for the event. Please call your reservations into the church office by Thursday, February 11. Transportation can be arranged if needed.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party

Tuesday, February 16, 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Come! Enjoy the Food! Have Some Fun! Congregational Life Committee invites you to bring the whole family for pancakes, sausage, balloons, games, face painting, and some of Plymouth's outstanding talent for light-hearted entertainment! Donations of "water only" pancake mix and maple syrup are requested. Bring them to church by February 14.

Ash Wednesday at Plymouth

Plymouth members and friends are encouraged to gather for worship on **February 17, 7:00 pm**, for Ash Wednesday worship, will include the imposition of ashes and the order of Holy Communion.

This special midweek service begins the season of Lent, which leads us through the passion of Holy Week, the celebration of Easter, and the resurrection proclamation of alleluia joy!

Women's Retreat, Save the date!

A Women's Retreat will be **Saturday, March 20, 2010**, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, at Victory Noll Center in Huntington, Indiana. Women's Retreat Task Force: Judy Kuelling, chair; Lucy Hess, Jan Gibson, Sandy Moliere, Karen Nesius-Roeger, and Rev. Ruth E. Phillips. Information will be sent to all Plymouth women in early February.

Thank You, Plymouth

I want to send a special "Thank You" to my church family for all of your prayers for my son, SSG Nathan Glassley, while he was in Iraq. Nathan arrived home on December 22, which was a true Christmas gift. Our prayers go out to all the men and women serving overseas fighting for our freedom.

Peace, Mark Glassley

F	1	Terry Anderson Dave Cornwell
e	2	Jonathan Duch Stacey Hammond
b	3	Allen Haynes Jakob Feasel Theo Garcia
r	5	Jim Eitsert Marjory Leas
	6	Dick Hill
u	7	Ginny Laudadio
	8	Jim Graham Dee Harding
a	11	★ Jeff Moore ★ Bill Whitworth
R	12	Ruth E. Phillips
	13	Robin Grissom
y	14	Colette Legg Dulanna Rothert
	15	Gale Cunningham Sara Hodges
	16	Allyn Beifus Christopher Butler
B	18	Wally Bonham Kris Jensen
i	19	Halley Woehner Kiley Dove
	20	Andrew Spath Donna Childs
r		Chuck Knox Blaine Schroeder
t	21	Nick Eitsert
	22	Brian Augspurger Riley Kuhns Ren Moore
h	23	Verne Mitchell
d	24	John Escosa Kevin Lawrence
	25	Karen Anderson Linda Balthaser Robert Hartwig
a		Juliana Bordner
y	26	Martha Cummings
	27	Heidi Hall
s	28	Tony Niewyk

YOUTH EVENTS

January

- 24 Youth prepare and serve lunch for Congregational Meeting
- 27 Midweek Youth at WNL
6:00 to 8:00 pm
- 31 All Youth Group
12:00 to 2:00 pm

February

- 3 Midweek Youth at WNL
6:00 to 8:00 pm
- 7 Youth Group
12:00 to 2:00 pm
*Service project at Matthew 25
Lunch provided, \$3 suggested donation*
- 10 Midweek Youth at WNL
6:00 to 8:00 pm
- 14 Youth Group
12:00 to 3:00 pm
Ice skating at Headwaters Park—note ending time change. Lunch provided. You pay for skate rental.
- 17 Midweek Youth at WNL
6:00 to 8:00 pm
- 21 Youth Group
12:00 to 2:00 pm
Plymouth Rocks fundraiser prep work day—lunch provided, \$3 donation.
- 24 Midweek Youth at WNL
6:00 to 8:00 pm
Work at Matthew 25
- 26 Plymouth Rocks! Fundraiser
Dinner starts at 6:00. Youth gather at 4:30 for setup.
- 28 Youth Group
12:00 to 2:00 pm
Gathering at Kara Fultz's home

Plymouth Rocks! February 26

Why yes, yes it does ... but that isn't what we mean! It means it's time to dance your socks off in the Folsom Room to the awesome band, *Endgame*, featuring our very own John Escosa and Tom Gibson. Mark your calendars now for **Friday, February 26**, as we boogie the night away at our annual Plymouth Rocks! As usual, an evening of fun, music, food and dancing is on the agenda! Meet your friends at 6:00 pm if you want to have dinner, or come anytime you'd like for dancing and refreshments! On the menu for dinner ... back by popular demand, Burgers, Fries & Milkshakes! So, come and dance till your feet hurt, or 10:00 pm, whichever comes first. As always, the youth of Plymouth Church will be your hosts for the event, preparing and serving food and beverages to keep your energy levels high. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kara at kkjaurigue@verizon.net.

Attention Youth: Please plan to meet Kara Jaurigue at church at 4:30 pm to set up. If you can't get there that early, come when you can. Please let Kara know you want to help!

Scholarship Reminder

February 15 is the deadline for completed applications for scholarship awards from the **Richard C. Hess Peace Studies Scholarship**, the **Richard Nelson Kent Memorial Fund**, the **R. Donald Sinish Fund**, and from the **Van Gorder Scholarship Fund**. Application forms may be requested by calling the church office (423-9424). Incomplete applications are not eligible.

Peanut Butter Sunday

The next opportunity to collect our *100 jars* of Peanut Butter for the Wellspring Food Bank is **Sunday, February 21**. You can contribute jars of Peanut Butter on any Sunday by putting them in the box near the front office.

Think Before You Trash It

In the effort to support Plymouth in being a greener church, take a moment and think about that item you are tossing in the trash. Recycling stations have been placed in all the restrooms and the Folsom Room for your convenience by the Green Task Force.

Is it printed paper or cardboard that can be placed in one of the paper recycling baskets located throughout the church? Is it a plastic 1 or 2, tin or glass? Place it in one of the recycling cans located in all the restrooms or the Folsom Room. Is it an aluminum can? Place it in the Habitat for Humanity collection box in the Folsom Room. If you are working in the kitchen, look at the packaging of the items you are using for the possibility of recycling them in the bins right by the refrigerator.

This may take a little effort on your part, but you will be setting a great example for all those around you, changing some old habits, and helping Plymouth be a greener church.

Final Foods Resource Bank Crop Report – 2009

Yes, the 20 acres of corn were finally in condition for the harvesting machinery to be able to enter the field and complete the harvest on December 1 – just over 6 weeks after we shared a worship service, very good meal, and enjoyable activities with our friends at Salem UCC, Magley, on October 18! Although the corn’s moisture content was above average and the field was still quite muddy, providing some real challenges for the harvesters, the crop was sold, the expenses covered, and the combined donations from Plymouth and Salem have been sent to the Foods Resource Bank offices.

The sources of income for this year’s project included the following:

John Deere Foundation	\$500.00
Troxel Equipment (local John Deere dealer)	\$500.00
Plymouth UCC donations	\$9,273.05
Plymouth Corn bag contributions	\$851.95
Salem UCC donations	\$2,385.40
Salem Corn bag contribution	\$603.27
Noon meal donations	\$801.00
Salem bake sale at the Oct. 18 celebration	\$300.01
Salem kettle corn at the Oct. 18 celebration	\$82.75
Sale of 20 acres of corn (183 bu. per acre)	<u>\$12,462.62</u>
Total income	\$27,760.05

Expenses for the project:

Norm’s Preble Garden (meal on Oct. 18)	\$1,030.75
Farm expenses submitted by Salem farmers	<u>\$4,247.20</u>
Total Expenses	\$5,277.95
Net contribution to Foods Resource Bank	\$22,482.10

Projects supported: **Cambodia South.....\$7,495.00**
Democratic Republic of Congo..... \$14,987.10

This year’s contributions were designated to support two projects. In the Cambodia South project, the communities will have increased food production and security, improved water access, and training for farmers on better growing techniques. The communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be enabled to have more disease resistant, higher yielding cassava, dwarf palm trees, peanut seed, and cowpea plants, as well as additional training in improving ways of food production. Both programs also continue to receive support through the UCC’s One Great Hour of Sharing as well as other Foods Resource Bank member groups. The nearly 87,000 people in these communities will certainly be helped through our contributions! The support we have been able to provide will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you!
 The Doug Cunningham Foods Resource Bank Task Force
 Gale Cunningham, Laura Rudolph, and Dan and Judy Kaufman

AMAZING GRAYS

**MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR NOW
WITH THESE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES!**

CELEBRATING GROUNDHOG DAY

Bill and Betty Deans of the *Meet and Eat Group*
have made an early date with Punxsutawney Phil
to celebrate Groundhog Day at the Baker Street Grill, 4820 North Clinton
(Baker Street Grill is across the street from Northcrest)

Monday, February 1, at 7:00 pm

*The Baker Street menu is magnificent, their restaurant is delightful,
and Bill and Betty have planned an evening of fun and food.
Make your reservations by email to Linda Balthaser linda4.sb@verizon.net or by calling
482-1478 by Wednesday, January 27. All church members and friends are invited.*

CELEBRATING LOVE AND CHOCOLATE (or celebrating the love of chocolate)

A reviewer wrote, "I hope that when I die, it is with a **DeBrand's** truffle in my mouth."

The *Out and About Group* will be sponsoring a private tour of
DeBrand's Chocolate Corporate Headquarters, 10105 Auburn Park Drive
Thursday, February 4, at 11:00 am

*All church members and friends may join us for this delectable opportunity.
Cost: \$5 which can be applied to a purchase of \$10 or more.
Reservations: Carol Shedd or Dee Smith by February 2*

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT LINCOLN and ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

The *Enrich Your Mind Group* has scheduled
Sara Gabbard of the Allen County History Center,
who will give a talk,
Love is Eternal: A. Lincoln
Sunday, February 14, 11:30 am in the chapel

*Sara served for many years as editor of the Lincoln Lore magazine,
a publication of the former Lincoln Museum of Fort Wayne. You will enjoy her sense of humor
as she relates little known stories of Lincoln's life and loves.
All church members and friends are welcome to attend.*

*A **Valentine Box Luncheon** will follow in the Folsom Room. Cost: \$5
Email: Dee Smith cd5134@yahoo.com or Carol Shedd cjsldh@hotmail.com
or call 492-9500 or 482-1185 to reserve your box lunch*

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 National Freedom Day Office Closed 5:45p Yoga 7:00p Amazing Grays@Baker Street Grill	2 Groundhog Day 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p Sitters-C 6:00p EC-FR	3 WNL 8:30a Retired Mens Breakfast @ Atz's 5:00p Children's Choir 5:00p Cherubs Choir 5:00p Adult Studies 5:15p Bible Study 6:00p Dinner-FR 6:30p Bell Ensemble 6:30p Midweek Youth 7:00p Sanctuary Singers	4 11:00a The Amazing Grays@ DeBrand's 1:30p Memorial Gifts Subcommittee-AR	5	6
7 Share Your Shopping 8:00a Morning Prayer-C 9:00a Christian Education 10:00a Worship & Comm. 11:15a Hospitality 12:00p Youth Group@ Matthew 25 5:30p Divorcing Support Group	8 Office Closed 5:30p Property Committee-CR 5:45p Yoga 7:00p PFLAG-MR	9 10:00a Staff Meeting 4:45p Benevolence Subcommittee-AR 5:30p Sitters-C 6:00p Deacons' Worship-MR	10 WNL Bell Deadline 5:00p Children's Choir 5:00p Cherubs Choir 5:00p Adult Studies 5:15p Bible Study 6:00p Dinner-FR 6:30p Bell Ensemble 6:30p Midweek Youth 7:00p Sanctuary Singers 7:00p We the Living-MR	11 6:30p MOYC	12 Lincoln's Birthday 11:30a Knife&Fork@Spyros on Jefferson	13
14 Valentine's Day 8:00a Morning Prayer-C 9:00a Christian Education 10:00a Worship 11:15a Hospitality 11:30a The Amazing Grays: Love is Eternal-C 11:30a PJ meeting 12:00p Youth Group Ice Skating 12:15p Valentine Box Luncheon-FR 5:30p Divorcing Support Group	15 President's Day Susan B. Anthony Day Office Closed 5:45p Yoga	16 Mardi Gras 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras-K, FR 5:30p Personnel Committee-AR 5:30p S&F MTG-CR 5:30p Sitters-C 6:00p Christian Education Committee	17 Ash Wednesday WNL 5:00p Children's Choir 5:00p Cherubs Choir 5:00p Adult Studies 5:15p Bible Study 6:00p Dinner-FR 6:30p Bell Ensemble 6:30p Midweek Youth 7:00p Sanctuary Singers 7:00p Worship and Communion	18 1:30p Moderator's Meeting-MR	19	20 9:00a NEA Comm. on Ministry-CR 9:00a Quakers Cooking Chili-K
21 Peanut Butter Sunday 8:00a Morning Prayer-C 9:00a Christian Education 10:00a Worship & Comm. 11:15a Hospitality 11:30a Quakers Chili Dinner-FR,K 12:00p Youth Group-YC 5:30p Divorcing Support Group	22 Washington's Birthday Office Closed 5:45p Yoga	23 10:00a Staff Meeting 5:30p Sitters-C	24 WNL 5:00p Children's Choir 5:00p Cherubs Choir 5:00p Adult Studies 5:15p Bible Study 6:00p Dinner-FR 6:30p Bell Ensemble 6:30p Midweek Youth 7:00p Sanctuary Singers	25	26 6:00p Plymouth Rocks	27
28 8:00a Morning Prayer-C 9:00a Christian Education 10:00a Worship 11:15a Hospitality 11:30a Parents & Pastors Conversation-FR,K 12:00p Youth Group@ Kara Fultz's 2:00p Music Series-Vince Slater Memorial-S 5:30p Divorcing Support Group						

Abbreviations:

EC—Executive Council
 E & M—Evangelism & Marketing
 MSYG—Middle School Youth Group
 P & J—Peace/Justice Subcommittee
 S & F—Stewardship & Finance Comm.
 WNL—Wednesday Night Live



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

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This year, request an electronic tax refund. You could let the IRS mail you a check, or you can have your refund deposited directly into your account. Every year, the IRS has to print and mail 54 million tax refunds to individual taxpayers across the US.

Looking for our email addresses?

Church General Office and Newsletter

office@plymouthfw.org

Senior Pastor and Teacher

jpg@plymouthfw.org

Associate Pastor

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Music Director

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Associate in Pastoral Care

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Office Manager

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Church Secretary

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Financial Administrator

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Custodian

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Plymouth Outreach Statement

We welcome all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join in our common mission through participation and leadership in this communion of faith. We recognize each individual as a child of God, believing that we are called to be one reconciled body of Christ with many members.

As Christians and members of Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we are a diverse group of people. We are persons of various ages, races, accomplishments and goals, abilities, sexual orientations, theological and political beliefs, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

In our diversity, we find strength and a way to understand the inclusiveness of God.

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