



BELL

From the Associate Pastor...

Dear Friends,

Life together in a congregation such as Plymouth is enriched by myriad and diverse experiences. Along with the wealth of ministries described in this Bell, I want to highlight three significant generational events.

Covenant Class of 2019-2020 begins in September for six youth who will meet regularly to learn about the central affirmations of faith. Most importantly they will be given wide latitude to express, question, and discern their own beliefs and perspectives. Through this exploration, those who choose to be confirmed into the Christian faith and community of Plymouth will do so in worship in late spring.

On Heritage Sunday, September 22, we honor Plymouth members of fifty years or more. We celebrate commitment through service and support as well as longevity. Recently reaching the 50-year milestone are Deb Campagnone and Ann Filler. Heritage Sunday is the beginning of our Sesquicentennial year (see invitations from the Task Force on page 6) which will culminate in 2020 with Plymouth's 150th Celebration on Sunday, September 20 – the exact date when 26 charter members founded Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne.

The Nursery Renovation in Room 11 has been approved by Property Board to be completed within the coming months. Ten years ago the last nursery improvements were made. I am thrilled that Sam Lipscomb and Steve Hollingsworth will be involved in the work, consulting with Child Care Director Michelle Grim, Michael Diekhoff, Cher Jackson, and myself. We offer deep gratitude for a \$5,000 designated gift from Barbara Hill to seed this project and a "Nursery Renovation" special fund has been established. As we get ready to welcome the next generations of faithful people to Plymouth, the Nursery may be their first point of entry!

With appreciation for you, who are this vibrant and vital congregation!

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips
Associate Pastor

During the month of August,

we pray for

Vincent Village

and

Associated Churches

(Baby's Closet, Food Bank), whose work is supported, in part, through Plymouth benevolence.

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT LIVE**

Kick off the new program year with a potluck meal on Wednesday, August 21, at 5:45 pm in the Folsom Room. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this time of food and friendship. Information about the coming year of study groups and music rehearsals will be shared.

This will be an "old fashioned" church potluck! Please bring your own plates, cups, flatware, napkins, serving utensils, and a dish to share. We expect the kitchen will still be closed and no water or kitchen supplies will be available. Plan to take home and wash your own dirty dishes.

Come one, come all, whether or not you plan to attend study groups or music rehearsals. Just come and enjoy a delectable variety of food with your Plymouth friends.

WNL will officially begin the next week on August 28 with the meal catered by Stephen Monnier. Watch the calendar for exact times of groups and rehearsal.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Elizabeth Bayle, Kris Conner, David Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Margie Dougherty, Terry Dougherty, Paul Furtner, Doris Grandos, Norm Grandos, Joan Hartwig, Ray Hoverman, Dwight James, Susan Jarvis, Nancy Jordan, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Carol Lehman, Mel Lehrman, Joan Lipscomb, Sheldon Lockwood, Jack McCombs, Karen O'Neal, Bonnie Pennock, Noel Resor, Anne Rowland, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, Shirley Slater, Dee Smith, Johanna Smith, Rick Stoerker, Camille Wallace and Ervin Walter.

SYMPATHY is extended to Alice Cline and family on the death of her granddaughter, Deanna Jo Hooley, age 57, June 16, Shipshewanna, IN.

SYMPATHY is extended to the biological and chosen families of Andrew Dougherty, who died on July 8.

SYMPATHY is extended to family and friends on the death of Joanne Huber, July 20, Wabash, IN.

SYMPATHY is extended to Bev McFadden and family on the death of her father, Jim McFadden, August 5, Fishers, IN.

SYMPATHY is extended to Mariah Western and family on the death of her aunt, Mary Widmer, August 6.

SYMPATHY is extended to Donna Riethmiller, Dan Riethmiller, Julie McGinley, family and friends, on the death of husband, father, grandfather Steve Riethmiller, August 14.



A Declaration of Resistance & Solidarity

Note: This was a letter to the editor for the Journal Gazette in July.

The passing of a resolution from City Councilman Jason Arp earlier this year made Tuesday, July 16, the first Anthony Wayne Day to recognize Fort Wayne's namesake. However, Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne, United Church of Christ, believes that this resolution looks over the fact that Fort Wayne sits on the ancestral lands of the Miami people. Chief Douglas Lankford of the Miami Tribe sent a letter to the City Council to remind us that almost 200 Miami Tribe citizens still live in and around the city of Fort Wayne and that an accurate historical record is important for all citizens of this country.

We are disappointed in the actions – or rather, inactions – of our city council. Based on this ruling, we see that actions of conquest will be honored and celebrated with no regard to the recorded historical data from the Miami Tribe, nor the Fort Wayne History Center.

As people of faith, we are committed to amplifying the voices of those marginalized in our city. Individually and together, we speak out against economic disparities, racism, homophobia, sexism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and today we invite the Fort Wayne community to resist honoring a day of celebration for an individual who led armed forces to murder and conquer the people of this land. We call for those determined to celebrate “Mad” Anthony Wayne as the founder of this city to listen to our indigenous citizens who have repeatedly asked that we hear them, that we listen to their recorded history, and that we recognize the human beings who lived on this land long before Anthony Wayne and were negatively impacted by his actions.

Plymouth Congregational Church prays that every resident of Fort Wayne commits to building a city that seeks compassionate celebrations of our rich and diverse history. We call on all people of Fort Wayne to resist inaccurate historical records, amplify the voices of the indigenous people whose stolen land we live on, and deepen their understanding about the Miami people. We invite this city's residents to visit the Miami Tribe's website (miamination.com), to tour the History Center in the heart of downtown Fort Wayne, and explore the Miami Indian Heritage Days at the Chief Richardville House at 5705 Bluffton Rd., Fort Wayne, IN on the first Saturday of the month, May-November. We invite the people of Fort Wayne to join us in rededicating ourselves to resist the perpetuation of a culture of white supremacy, side with love, and stand in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of this land, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Murphy, Senior Pastor & Teacher

Share Your Shopping!

Plymouth is a longtime supporter of the Wellspring Food Pantry. Next time you go to the grocery store, please consider buying some nonperishable food items to share with our neighbors who are greatly in need of food for the family meals. The designated bin in the Folsom Room needs filled with food donations. Canned vegetables, fruit, meat, pasta, rice, peanut butter are especially helpful.

A Pastoral Letter after El Paso and Dayton

Here we are looking back on a week in our country that ended in deep violence at the hands of hatred and guns. There is still yet so much to be learned about what happened and why in both El Paso and Dayton, and yet there is enough known to move us towards prayer and action. The individual in El Paso, TX drove nearly 11 hours to a community that was not his own to admittedly attempt to commit a racially motivated crime. While mass shootings and their aftermath are complex, there is no room for racially motivated violence in our country and yet here we are. We have been here before and will likely be here again.

I do not have an answer for our ongoing challenge of mass shootings and violence. I believe the causes are vast, wide, and complex. However, I do not believe that any movement towards a more just world without violence will happen without addressing the hatred behind why a man would drive 11 hours to murder people he does not know. I am reminded of a quote I read recently from Thomas Merton. He says, "We will not save what we do not love. It is also true that we will neither love nor save what we do not experience as sacred." Church, we have a theological tradition that speaks to this very reality of seeing and experiencing all persons as being of sacred worth. We have language and liturgy for speaking to this in transformative ways. We all will share differing opinions on gun laws and how they interact with these outbursts of violence in our society. Additionally, we will differ on to what extent mental illness, video games, or Hollywood is to blame, if they are to be blamed at all. We should be addressing each of these issues of causation and more, but regardless of our opinions on these complexities, I hope we can agree with Merton that we will not save ourselves from hatred and gun violence until we can begin seeing the sacred in each other.

So, Church... What are the sermons we need to preach? What are the liturgies and rituals we need to write? What are the hymns that must be sung? What is the art that must be sculpted or painted? What are the essays and poetry that must be written to give voice to this sacred life that lives within every human being and for which never deserves violation by harm or hatred? I know many of you to be wise and discerning enough to create such a sacred expression and our world needs to see and hear it now more than ever. I look forward to hearing how you are engaging in creating a more just and safe world for all.

My prayers and the prayers of all of our staff in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference are with those impacted by such violence.

Rev. Chad R. Abbott
Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference

Palestine Unlimited Art Exhibit

Plymouth Church is hosting a unique photography exhibit by young Palestinian artists and media students from Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem from August 18 until October 20 in the Folsom Room. You will be surrounded by moving and thought-provoking images of life in today's Bethlehem, which has been surrounded by Israel's Separation Wall since 2002. This year Palestine is experiencing its 50th year of military occupation, the longest occupation in modern history.

Film & Faith for Forty & Over

You are invited to a Sunday Matinee showing of the October 2018 movie *The Old Man and the Gun* on September 29 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. We will gather in the Folsom Room and sign ups are needed to plan seating and snacks. Reviewed as Robert Redford's final movie performance of his illustrious career, he portrays the true life character of Forrest Tucker, a gentlemanly bank robber who was also an escape artist.



Rotten Tomatoes Critics Consensus: A well-told story brought to life by a beautifully matched cast... (it) is pure, easygoing entertainment for film fans - and a fitting farewell to a legend. The cast includes Danny Glover, Sissy Spacek, Casey Affleck.

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips and Rev. Timothy C. Murphy will co-lead this first Film & Faith for Forty & Over viewing and discussion.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Folsom Room or email Rev. Ruth at rep@plymouthfw.org.

Plymouth Resource Faire

On September 8, Plymouth will have a resource faire after worship in the Folsom Room. There will be tables set up on the different ministries and programs that occur in the life of the church. This faire gives the congregation the opportunity to see what is going on, find where they might want to plug in, and ask questions of volunteers from that ministry.

All interested ministries are asked to sign-up in the Folsom Room to reserve a table at the Faire. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kickoff Sunday

Children's Sunday School kicks off on September 8! Kids from preschool (3 years) through 5th grade are invited to join their classes upstairs in rooms 204 and 205, beginning at 9:00 am. We'll meet teachers, catch up on our summers, and start a year of exploring worship.

Over the fall semester, we'll be looking specifically at how we welcome each other in worship, how we share in Communion, and how we give offering. By looking closely at each of these pieces of worship, we'll draw the kids into participation in worship, and encourage them to look at how we live out these values during the week.



Sunday School Teachers

Volunteering in our Sunday school is a great way to meet the newest generation of Plymouth! Teachers serve with a partner for 3-month sessions and work through our curriculum with their classes. Visiting Artists serve for 1-3 weeks, sharing a talent or passion. Past visiting artists have taught us about local birds, how to spend quiet time journaling, and painting.

Please contact Katie Watson for more information about how you can be part of our Sunday school team.

Study Connection Tutors

Last spring, Plymouth hosted a successful Study Connection for nine children who attended Fairfield Elementary school. We plan to offer the Study Connection again beginning early October. If you would like to be a tutor or a substitute, please let Lucy Hess know lrh22@frontier.com or call 484-4430. To apply go to the FWCS Study Connection website: studyconnection.fwcs.k12.in.us. Click the volunteer tab to access the application form. All volunteers must have a background check which is done by the FWCS and two references. Check with Lucy if you have any questions about volunteering to be a tutor or sub.

An orientation for new tutors is provided by the Study Connection. In September there will be an organizational meeting for new and returning Plymouth tutors and subs. If interested, please apply this summer so we can have the tutors in place and assigned when the Study Connection begins in early October. Everyone is welcome to be a special friend to an elementary age child. Providing support and encouragement is the main task for each tutor and sub. Being a tutor is a great way to make a difference in a child's life.

Adult Sunday School Offerings

This year, the Christian Education Board is expanding our Sunday morning offerings for adults. We will be hosting two classes each morning: one in a traditional lecture format and one in a more interactive format. Full schedules are coming soon. Be on the lookout for a book study with January Simpson, painting with Andrea Reichard, lectures on contemporary female poets with Michael Spath and quiet meditation with Christer Watson.

We believe that while Faith Formation happens in a classroom setting, it also happens while playing a board game, making art, or sharing a recipe. We're hoping that offering more short-format classes will fit into your schedules, and mixing up our class structure will spark your curiosity. If you haven't attended Sunday school for a while, we encourage you to pick one week this fall to try out!

Our adult classes are open to all Plymouth friends in grades 6 and above.

Blessing of the Backpacks

School is back in session, and many of our adult jobs are picking up speed for the new season as well. In the busy bustle, Plymouth wants to send you into your week with a breath of Peace. Join us in a Blessing of the Backpacks at Wednesday Night Live on August 21. We'll pass out "Peace Be Upon You" backpack tags (that also attach to purses, briefcases, or slip inside wallets) and share in a short prayer as we start a new year of school and settle into our fall schedules.





August Birthdays



8/1	Anne Boyko	8/13	Mary DeWald	8/22	Riley Ann Fultz
8/1	Stephen Brabbs	8/13	John McCormick	8/22	Carol Patterson
8/1	Leonard Iaquina	8/14	Meredith Stumpf	8/23	Judy Springer
8/2	Ross Binkley	8/15	Michael Jaurigue	8/23	Joan Weber
8/3	Sasha Chemey	8/15	Joan Lipscomb	8/24	Felicia Colclessner
8/3	Tom Lindhuber	8/15	Paul Raiman	8/27	Laura Knox
8/6	Gail McKinnon	8/17	Barbara Bugg	8/27	Ramie Kuhns
8/7	Millie Diekhoff	8/17	Ann Corral	8/27	Sue Nell
8/7	Michaela O'Neal	8/18	Jeanette Boerger	8/27	Tessa Springer
8/8	Deb Conklin	8/18	Molly Jordan	8/28	Michaela Eitsert
8/8	Collin Leal	8/18	Lauren Rudolph	8/28	Dee Smith
8/8	Patty Pendleton	8/19	Ryan Borne	8/29	Natasha Sutter
8/9	David Grim	8/19	Judy Kaufman	8/30	Chloe Price
8/10	Brandy Fisher	8/21	Becky Chasey	8/31	Maggie Miller
8/10	Katie Watson	8/21	Braeden Melo-Rolland		

Young Adult Fellowship Opportunities

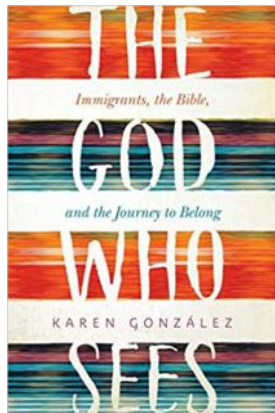
Young adult ministries are on the rise at Plymouth Church! Since December, Plymouth young adults (ages 18-39) have been meeting every other month for "Film and Faith" to watch movies with discussion afterwards. This activity is continuing, and to build community, we are adding additional events such as our recent bowling outing. Our next event on September 15 will be board game-focused. We will watch our next movie titled *Smoke Signals* on October 6. This is the first movie that was written, directed, and starred Native Americans/American Indians. Both events are 2:00 to 5:00 pm with childcare provided. To be added to the email reminder list or to confirm you will be attending one or both of these events, please contact Rev. Timothy at tcm@plymouthfw.org.



Chapel Class

The 9:00 am Chapel Class this Fall begins September 1 with January Simpson leading discussions based on a book, *The God Who Sees- Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong* by Karen Gonzalez.

Available for purchase wherever books are sold.



Sweet Pepper Jelly Update

There are ten, 16 ounce (pint) jars of the popular Pepper Jelly available for sale. Each jar is on sale for \$7.00 (please pay with cash or make checks payable to Plymouth). The tentative dates for this year's Pepper Jelly Fest are Tuesday, September 10 and Thursday, September 12. Volunteers will be busy making 270-300 jars of our delicious, locally famous sweet pepper jelly. The project welcomes used 4 oz., 8 oz. and 12 oz. canning jars.

For further information, to volunteer and/or to purchase jelly, 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.

Sewer Project Moving Forward

Property Board has signed a contract with Bunn, Inc. to fix Plymouth's collapsed sewer pipes. As of July 25 the Bunn project manager informed us that Plymouth would be on their work schedule in the next few weeks. The project work has been divided into two parts.



Phase One: replace existing sanitary tap from the building along the alley; to include removal and replacement of approximately 410 square feet of alleyway and approximately 75 feet of 6 inch pipe and connections. Quoted at costing \$17,600. Hopefully, upon completion of Phase One, water to the kitchen can be restored and restrooms can be fully functional.

Phase Two: replace existing sanitary sewer along the east side of the building approximately 110 feet under the landscaping. We intend to directional drill this line so we will not have to remove the existing landscaping and steps. Quoted at costing \$14,300.

The quoted total for both phases is \$31,900. There may be additional costs once Bunn starts digging and discovering more directly the nature of the problems.

We are optimistic that this project can be completed by early fall. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience as we work through this project. We are keeping our fingers crossed that nothing else will be uncovered once the repair/replacement begins.

Sincerely,
Diana Bauer
Property Board Chair

Art of Hope Exhibit

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana (MHANI) is pleased to announce a three-month exhibit called the Art of Hope joining the arts and mental health to raise awareness. Art of Hope will be hosted at Manchester University's Gallery 101 from October 24, 2019 through January 24, 2020, with an opening reception to be held on October 24.

This art exhibit will highlight local artists and share inspiring stories about recovery, healing, and hope.

Featuring artwork from artists who have experienced mental health challenges, Art of Hope will encourage candid conversations around mental illness and wellness.

SAVE THE DATE



Grand Opening

October 24, 2019

6:30 - 8:00 PM

**Gallery 101 at Manchester University's
Fort Wayne Campus**

PLYMOUTH'S

SESQUICENTENNIAL

CELEBRATION

On September 22, 2019 Plymouth will turn 149 years old and we will begin our 150th year. Kicking off our sesquicentennial year, we will be sponsoring a celebration of food, fun and fellowship in the Folsom Room after worship until 2 pm. Reservations are required and a sign-up sheet will be in the Folsom Room. Mark your calendars to be part of this historic event!

Help the Sesquicentennial Task Force make our celebration a truly historic event by volunteering! You don't need to be a history buff to help out. We need help poring through the church archives, assistance with set-up/clean-up/logistics around our celebrations and activities throughout the coming year as well as our rotating displays of artifacts and archives, and more! We have short-term, one-time opportunities available.

While Plymouth has an extensive archive, we believe there are many hidden historic gems tucked away in the closets and attics of our long-standing church families. Maybe a grandmother's baptism gown or a great uncle's Plymouth softball team trophy. The Sesquicentennial Task Force would be interested in seeing if those items could add a physical, tangible element to our sesquicentennial year celebration. All items need to have a direct tie to Plymouth Church.

If you are interested in volunteering or find items relating to Plymouth's history, please contact Dave Craker, Sesquicentennial Task Force Chair, at 260-436-6736 or dave@craker.net.

Plymouth Pledges

My fellow Plymouth members and friends:

Wow! It's August 2019 already. Where have the first seven months of the year gone? We'll soon be into those late-year activities which we all love so much at Plymouth.

As your treasurer, I feel it necessary to communicate with you regarding an important matter facing us. As you know, our 2019 budgets were predicated to a great extent on the results of the Every Member Campaign which was conducted in late 2018. Based on our pledge commitments, the finance team was able to establish expected levels of operation for 2019. Since 2019 is now more than halfway through, I feel you should be updated on our progress.

First, the good news—our Boards and Committees are operating efficiently and doing a great job of staying within the confines of their various budgets, while maintaining all of those programs and community support functions for which Plymouth is known.

So what's the bad news? Unfortunately we are not meeting our revenue projections for Pledge Income. According to the latest figures available to me, of \$207,067 projected, we have gathered only \$176,204—some \$30,863 less than we had projected based on the pledge commitments made last fall. I offer a sincere “thank you” to the 80% of you who have fully honored or exceeded the amount you pledged. But that means 20%--or 1 in 5—have not met the commitment they made, which leaves us in a rather serious situation. I realize that some of that 20% perhaps make a one-time contribution sometime near the end of the year. But 15% of those who pledged support have not made any contributions in 2019 thus far.

I realize sometimes circumstances change after you make the commitment. If that is your situation, please know that we understand. We don't want anyone to go without the necessities in life. We simply ask that you notify us if that is your position so we can make adjustments accordingly. But if making your weekly, monthly, or quarterly contribution is just one of those things you have been putting off, we ask that you prayerfully consider honoring the commitment you made last fall. Plymouth, likewise, has made commitments to programs here and the community alike that must be honored, and we are counting on your contributions to do that. If you did not make a pledge last fall for whatever reason, you may still do so by securing a pledge card from the church office.

We all must depend on each other to enable Plymouth to continue the many ministries, programs, and community outreach ventures which make our church so special.

Please do your part. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Roger D. Eversole
Treasurer



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
Church of Fort Wayne**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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| Sunday School Director
kjwatson4@gmail.com | |

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.