Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne

Volume 76, Issue 2 March 19, 2015

UNITED CHURCH OFCHRIST





Lucy Hess Presented 2015 Amistad Award



During worship on **Sunday, March 8**, Lucy Hess was honored as the 2015 recipient of the Amistad Peace & Justice Award by the Peace & Justice Committee of Plymouth Church.

Lucy was recognized for her service in both church and community that reflects Plymouth's commitment to be a "**just peace**" congregation within the UCC.

Three members of the Peace & Justice Committee participated in bestowing the award. Jan Evrard, chairperson of the Peace & Justice Committee (PJs), gave a brief review of the history of the Amistad Award.

Rick Stoerker expressed appreciation for the years of leadership Lucy provided while serving as chairperson of the Peace and Justice Committee; he also called attention to Lucy's work with Habitat for Humanity, Northeast Indiana Friends of Public Education, and Cedars Hope, and her work as Study Connection Coordinator with Nebraska School. Tony Kell then presented Lucy with the special plaque of commendation.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil April 3, 2015, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

The solemn day of Good Friday will be observed at Plymouth Church with a 12-hour prayer vigil. One person is needed for each of the 15-minute intervals to form the continuous link of prayer from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

You will need your phone to receive a call when your prayer time begins and to place a call at the conclusion of your prayer time. <u>The signup sheet is posted on an easel in the Folsom Room</u>. Please select an available time slot there. You will be contacted by Deacon Mary Bir prior to Good Friday, early in Holy Week, who will give you the name of the person calling you and the name and number of the person you are to call.

It is our shared hope that the Good Friday Prayer Vigil will create new spiritual connections, deepen our experience of this holy day, and have a profound impact on those who pray and on those for whom prayers are offered.



March 29, Palm Sunday

Christian Education: 9:00 am Worship: 10:00 am

April 2, Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion:

7:00 pm

April 3, Good Friday

Prayer Vigil: 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Service of Tenebrae: 7:00 pm

April 5, Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service: 7:00 am

Breakfast: 8:30 am (Please use signup sheet on bulletin board)

Festival Worship & Communion: 10:00 am

In Our Prayers

Plymouth people in our prayers (Please contact the office to add or remove a name from the prayer list):

Jack Ade, Sally Ade, Elizabeth Bayle, Laura Benya, A.J. Calkins, Audria Carter, Karen Carter, Matt Carter, Lisa Worthman Chiddister, Ondalee Cobler, Judy Combs, Evan Conner, Curt Conrad, Roger and Tony Crouch, Kim Crowell, Matthew Day, Liz Dube, Gail Escosa, Mildred Harris, Hyvarinen family, George James, Ginny Laudadio, Gerald Lockwood, Shirley Nicholson, Dulanna Rothert, Russ Siples, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Mary Jo Stoffer, Ardella Wing, and Melody Worsham.

Members and friends serving overseas: Major Marc Lovelace; Chantel White; SSGT Christopher Black; LCpl Jesse Chapman; MSgt. Nathan Keller.

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

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Reid William Thomas Gibson, on February 4, in Louisville, KY, to parents Emily and Greg Gibson, and big brothers Gavin and Asher. Delighted grandparents are Jan and Tom Gibson.

Congratulations to Christine Leggett and Laura Kinner who gained their legal marriage on February 21, their eighth anniversary of being together, in a ceremony in Plymouth's chapel.

Congratulations to Anne Hughes on her election to the Crossroad Board of Directors.

Sympathy is extended to Dick and Deb Conklin and family on the death of his brother, Steve Conklin, January 15, in Mexico.

Sympathy is extended to Myron Henderson and family on the death of Loretta Henderson, January 26.

Sympathy is extended to Elaine Drummond and family on the death of her husband, Jack Drummond, February 11.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Art Seddon, who died March 15.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Joann Schmidt, who died March 16.

Plymouth's Poetry Contest Continues: Subject is "Oasis"

Although the literal meaning of *OASIS* is a green spot in the desert, it can also be used to describe a peaceful area in our everyday lives; someplace serving as a refuge, relief, or pleasant change from what is usual. Just such a place is being created within the walls of Plymouth Church.

All Plymouth members, former members, and friends of Plymouth who love to write poetry are invited to submit their impressions of what an oasis means to them. Selected poetry will be framed and hung in the newly remodeled Oasis Room. The entries will be judged anonymously.

Entries (one page, double spaced) are due in the church office by Wednesday, April 1.

Help Build 10 Habitat Homes This Year

Volunteer opportunities are available every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from April to December. Our goal is to build homes for ten families before the end of the year!

To volunteer, individuals can sign up online at: <u>http://fortwaynehabitat.volunteerhub.com/Events/Index#16597</u>. All available opportunities are listed as "Construction at Fuller's Landing."

From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

As a young boy, I was a big fan of the Detroit Tigers baseball team. My connection to the team came about primarily because of the radio. Ernie Harwell was the famed voice of the Tigers, and I found his call of the action on the field-of-play mesmerizing. Harwell's broadcasting career with the Tigers spanned forty-two years, and for a good portion of those years, I dialed in to listen.

I mention Ernie Harwell because he was known to begin the first broadcast of a new season by reciting words from the Song of Solomon 2:11-12 (KJV).

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

Harwell never sermonized when intoning these words; I don't recall that he ever quoted chapter or verse. He just offered a simple recitation that signaled a change of seasons. Listening in, you knew winter was waning and spring was soon to follow.

In worship, we've been weaving our way through Lent, the lengthening of days that lead to Holy Week and Easter. We have been reminded that our lives are woven with promises that speak of God being gracious, generous, merciful, and faithful. The promises of God convey hope. And hope is one of the most vital and resilient expressions of our faith. We live in hope that, amidst the volatility of our swift and changing seasons, God is subtly at work breathing life, bringing renewal to the earth and to our spirits.

Outside my office, winter's snow is now melting. The frigid air is gone, the chill is over. All signs point to the coming of spring. Earth's re-creation. And resurrection. I'm eager, so very eager, for the time of joyful singing to return. I'm listening intently for gospel whispers and alleluia anthems that magnify the love of Jesus, that herald life as designed by God for our good.

It is a promise of God that goodness and mercy shall endure. May this hope both sustain and inspire our efforts, as we journey through Lent, following the way of our crucified and risen Savior.

One of the songs we've been singing speaks:

To the One who carves each one of us with a beauty all our own. To the one who weaves the web of life, that we need not feel alone. For creating recreation: time to rest, to play, to be. For surrounding us with wonder, that we through Your eyes might see. We praise You, O God of inspiration. We praise You, for breathing life through creation.

The One we worship is at work in all the seasons of our lives. The God who weaves the web of life is always breathing life through creation. This is our hope and trust and prayer.

In a couple of weeks, we will observe Holy Week, which serves as a tapestry for the fidelity of Jesus, who stayed true to His calling through betrayal and denial, from the Upper Room to Gethsemane; from the Calvary of His death to the Garden of burial; and there also the mystery of the Empty Tomb and Resurrection: God at work, breathing life even into death.

Sincerely, John P. Gardner

Women of Northeast Association Announce Spring Gathering

The Women of the Northeast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference invites you to attend the Spring Gathering, on **Monday**, **March 30**, at **10:30 am**, Peace UCC, 9123 Aboite Center Road.

For reservations, please call Ann Frellick at (260) 483-8641 or email <u>tranannt@frontier.com</u> **Reply by** March 25.

Agenda for the Day:

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Registration
Business meeting
Introduction to card-
making ministry
Lunch & Devotions
Card Making

We will have a brief time to share what each of you are doing in your churches.

Also, we are looking for a host church for the Fall Gathering. The host may set the time and date for the get-together.

For more information, please contact Nadine Scholz, (260) 627-2742, or cnscholz@gmail.com

Has Your Address, Phone, or Email Changed?

To update your information, please email Suzanne at sls@plymouthfw.org, or call 423-9424. Office hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesdays - Fridays.

Sunday School News

Many thanks to the teachers working in our Sunday School this Spring:

Preschool: Jan Gibson and Lucy Hess

Elementary: Katie Watson, Judy Dahl and Misha Chemey

Middle School: Kara Jarigue and Rob Getrost



Learning Seder, Wednesday, April 1

Taste and see the story of the Exodus while learning about the celebration of Passover in Jesus' time and today. At **6:00 pm, April 1**, taste the traditional Seder foods, and share in a simple soup meal with fellow learners. While our shortened Learning Seder is designed to be welcoming to curious children, all ages are invited to attend! A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

Peace Candle Weaving

During Lent, the children have been sharing their Sunday school lessons with the congregation as they create a woven banner around our Peace Candle. Watch what happens to our weaving through the tumultuous events of Holy Week and the joyful celebration of Easter morning!

Reminders

- There is no Sunday school on Easter, April 5.
- Children's activities will be provided in the Folsom Room during breakfast on **Easter Sunday**.
- The last day of Sunday School for the year will be **May 24**. We look forward to celebrating Pentecost before summer break begins!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class

Our Whole Lives class for children in first and second grade will be offered this spring. Our Whole Lives is a positive, comprehensive, and ageappropriate educational program that promotes sexual health. Its belief is that sexuality is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and values about identity, relationships, intimacy, and health.

The class will meet after church for six weeks beginning April 12.

Please contact Cher Jackson (744-3023) or Sandy Moliere (485-9862) for any questions and to register for the required one-hour parents' meeting on **Palm Sunday, March 29**, following worship.

Library Resurrection!



Fresh life is being breathed into the church's library! A newly-formed Library Task Force has been hard at work since January on the Louise Folsom Memorial Library, housed in the Amistad Room. With the support and direction of the Christian Education Board (CE), the library is being given some muchneeded attention. The CE

Board recognizes that good literature can be such a valuable part of our individual faith journeys and continued learning, but that sadly, this great church resource has long been under-utilized.

One of the first steps: a deep purging! The library has become over-crowded, not only with books that are outdated or no longer appealing, but also with many good books that just simply don't belong in a church library or that can easily be found elsewhere. These volumes are being removed and will soon be on display in the Folsom Room, available for members and friends to peruse and take home. Freewill dona-



tions will be accepted, and the proceeds will be used to purchase new books. We're happy to receive your suggestions for books that you would like to see on the shelves, so watch for those book tables and a suggestion box in late March or early April!



Other improvements in the works: an online catalog linked to the church website, and a fresh bookstore-style layout with clearly-marked sections to make browsing easy and appealing. We would certainly welcome help with data entry and book labeling!

Finally, a new and easy-to-use "checkout station" is already set up, so feel free to stop by, take a look at the goings-on, and check-out a book!

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to talk with one of the library team members: Karen Nesius-Roeger, Barb Duch, or me.

In energetic service, Cammy Sutter, on behalf of the Library Task Force and the CE Board

UCC Office Support Staff Network Annual Gathering at Plymouth

Plymouth Congregational Church and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference will be hosting the 2015 Annual Conference of the UCC Office Support Staff Network, **April 9-11**. About 50 administrative support staff from churches, conference and association offices, and the national office will be gathering at the Hilton Hotel and here at the church for several days of educational workshops, networking opportunities, and a chance to "Rediscover the Joy of Play," which is the theme for the event.

Plymouth Office Manager, Lettie Eagar, is chair of the planning committee. Lettie has been actively involved with the organization since 2009, attending meetings and serving on the executive board. Rev. John P. Gardner three years ago extended the invitation to welcome the group to Plymouth and Fort Wayne.

Valerie Tutson, storyteller, will be the featured speaker, participating in various ways throughout the event. A welcoming dinner at the Grand Wayne Center on Thursday, April 9, will include IKC Associate Ministers, Revs. Carrie Call and Stephanie Weiner, and Revs. John P. Gardner and Ruth E. Phillips. The group will spend all day Friday, April 10, here at the church, with Rev. Gardner leading a worship service to kick off a very busy day. Workshops, peer sessions, and "recess" time will fill the day, with opportunities to visit several vendor displays, including The Third World Shoppe, Creative Women of the World, and Crossroad, Robert Nance and Valerie Tutson will provide entertainment for the evening. Rev. Ruth E. Phillips is leading a Bible Study on Saturday.

It is a wonderful thing to be sharing our beautiful church with this group of individuals who all serve a vital, often underappreciated, ministry.



In April, 150 years ago, the above memo was sent to Major General Dix with the tragic news of Lincoln's death.

Helping us sort through rumors and stories of this historic event will be Sara Gabbard, renowned Lincoln scholar, at our next meeting of the Amazing Grays, Sunday, April 12, 11:30 am.

> Reservations for the luncheon, prepared by Rhonda, should be made by 5:00 pm, Thursday, April 10.

Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

Women's Retreat, April 18, 2015 Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Victory Noll Retreat Center, Huntington

"Finding Stillness in the Midst of Chaos" is a quest many of us face each day.

We are delighted to welcome again this year as retreat leader, Cheri Krueckeberg. She will offer guidance on living peacefully with self and others, healing spiritual wounds, and practicing gentle yoga. Our retreat morning, 9 to 11:30 am, will be directed by Cheri's wisdom and thoughtfulness. The afternoon will have time for informal conversations, for walking the Labyrinth, or enjoying the beautiful outdoors.



Cheri Krueckeberg, M Div, MSW is Associate Professor of Social Work and is Gerontology Program Director at Manchester University. She has had much training and experience in a range of contemplative and wellness practices, and has led many retreats on these topics, some of which have been at Victory Noll.

All Plymouth women, members and friends, are invited. Feel free to bring someone with you. Our retreat is a wonderful, relaxed setting in which to get acquainted with new folks or get to know someone better. The time will be balanced between presentation and personal reflection. The Victory Noll sisters and staff always welcome us with genuine open hospitality.

Scholarship assistance is available so all who wish to attend may do so. Please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, <u>rep@plymouthfw.org</u> or phone 423-9424, ext. 322, with your request.

Cost remains the same as last year, \$30 per person. You may register with a \$10 deposit and pay the balance by the **registration deadline**, Wednesday, April 8.

Registration forms are available on the main hallway bulletin board and in the Folsom Room. Make check payable to Plymouth Church; memo "women's retreat."

Plymouth Music Series

An Organ Mystery Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm

This program places the audience in the role of detective. Who is the organist? What's being performed? A cryptic program and performances by organists *incognito* are your clues. Come prepared to enjoy great music—while you solve the mystery. Fun for the entire family!



Cedars HOPE Offering To Be Received On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 17

In 1993, Cedars HOPE, Inc. opened as an innovative housing concept in Fort Wayne. The concept was the result of a study conducted by a group of individuals from Plymouth Church concerned about the rising number of homeless women in Fort Wayne. Through their research, they discovered that older women with a serious mental illness were



over-represented in the homeless population, and that they could benefit from supportive permanent housing. Cedars HOPE, Inc. continues as the only permanent housing program in our area serving homeless women with a serious mental illness.

Mission: Cedars HOPE, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization serving homeless women living with serious mental illness by offering permanent:

Housing

Opportunities for growth and companionship

Personal support

Encouragement towards independence

Stable housing is the first step towards managing the debilitating symptoms of mental illness. In addition to ending episodes of homelessness for our residents and the associated cost to the community, their psychiatric emergencies are virtually eliminated.

- Cedars HOPE programs are the only of their kind in our community, providing the permanence and feeling of home so critically needed to maintain stability in the lives of those who are homeless and living with mental illness.
- Cedars HOPE is dedicated to providing permanent living arrangements for women living with moderate to severe mental illness.
- Cedars HOPE helps to reduce the social and financial burden of the cycle of homelessness of one of the most vulnerable populations single women with mental illness.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of financial support. Thank you!

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	3	Alice Beard
-		Sam Lipscomb
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Г	4	Jacqueline Brabbs
		Lindsey Hackett
	6	Kathleen Brian
		Hannah Corral
-		Rev. John P. Gardner
К		Sally Gerard
-6		Paul Ricketts
		Ruth Smith
	7	Heather Brackeen
		Jeffrey Kolkman
Т	8	Jeff Markley
Ι	9	Rev. Clare Walter
		Kenosha Phillips
	10	Colton Shaffer
	11	Courtney Dienelt
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	13	Melanie Hollingsworth
	15	Tess Anglin
		Scott Ridgon
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В	16	Eric Gilliom
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	22	Mary Ann Sidell
6	23	Pat Meyer
2	24	Nicholas Marian
	24	Robin Ames
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		Diane Lasley
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New Wellspring Shoppe Needs

-Blankets/Comforters -New packaged socks (men's and women's) -Towels (new or gently used) -Wooden or strong plastic hangers -Storage totes/bins with lids -Size 2XL or 3XL Men's and Women's Clothing

Current hours of operation are:

- Tuesdays, 3:00 to 7:00 pm
- Thursdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Second Saturdays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.



Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts to assist customers, as well as for sorting, folding, and displaying clothing. Groups of volunteers are welcome!

For more information, contact Lara Schreck: <u>lara@wellspringinterfatih.org</u>

Did You Know?

You can make contributions to Plymouth Church via direct deposit or credit card.

For more information, please contact Plymouth Financial Administrator, Kenneth Athon.



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.

Bequest-giving is vital to Plymouth's ongoing financial health. Unless otherwise specified, gifts become a part of our endowment—earnings from which we depend for a large part of our budget each year: 10% goes to benevolent giving, 30% for building expenses, and 60% for operating expenses.

Thank you to all who have included Plymouth in your estate planning. For questions on your bequest-planning, please contact, Randy Roberts, Chair of Stewardship & Finance: <u>runrandyrun@gmail.com</u>

Newsletter Guidelines

Please continue sending your information for the printed **Bell** to Suzanne at: <u>sls@plymouthfw.org</u> by the second Wednesday of the months it is printed (see below).

(Please **DO NOT USE** the <u>office@plymouthfw.org</u> email address). Event and activity information will be published based on registration timeframes and actual event dates.

In the months with no printed edition of *the Bell*, our electronically formatted *e-Bell* is distributed on the **second and fourth Fridays**; deadlines for the electronic newsletter are the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of those months.

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

April 2015								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
			 <i>NO WNL</i> 8:30a Women's breakfast 8:30a Retired Men's breakfast 6:00p Family Seder 	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00p Worship	<i>Good Friday</i> 7:00a Prayer Vigil begins 7:00p Tenebrae Service	4		
EASTER hare Your Shopping :00a Sunrise ervice :15a Breakfast :00a Sanctuary ingers 0:00a Festival Vorship & Commun- on	6 Office Closed 5:45p Yoga 5:45p Sophie's Café	7 11:45a Women's Book Study 1:00p Staff meeting 5:00p ESC 6:00p Executive Council	 8 WNL eBell deadline 3:45p Study Connection 5:15p Bible Study 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Handbell Ensemble 6:30p Youth/Music 6:45p Small Group Study 7:15p Sanctuary Singers 	9 UCCOSSN Annual Conference	10 UCCOSSN Annual Conference	11 UCCOSSN Annual Conference 9:00a BH sewing		
2 :00a Chapel Com- nunion :30a Hospitality :00a Sanctuary ingers 0:00a Worship with 'alerie Tutson 1:30a Amazing Grays 1:30a Youth Group	 <i>13 Office Closed</i> 5:45p Yoga 5:45p Sophie's Café 	14 1:00p Staff meeting 4:00p Benevolence 7:00p PFLAG	15 WNL 3:45p Study Connection 5:15p Bible Study 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Handbell Ensemble 6:30p 6:30p Youth/Music 6:45p Small Group Study 7:15p Sanctuary Singers	16 5:30p PJs	17	18 9:00a Women's Retreat at Victory Noll, Huntington		
9 200a Chapel Com- union 30a Hospitality 200a Sanctuary ingers 0:00a Worship & ommunion 1:30a Youth Group	20 Office Closed 5:45p Yoga 5:45p Sophie's Café 7:00p HCC rehearsal	21 11:30a Knife & Fork 11:45a Women's Book Study 12:00p HCC Board luncheon 1:00p Staff meeting 4:00p Moderators meeting 5:30p Board meetings	22 WNL 3:45p Study Connec- tion 5:15p Bible Study 5:45p Dinner 6:30p Handbell Ensemble 6:30p Youth/Music 6:45p Small Group Study 7:15p Sanctuary Singers	23 6:00p Cedars Board	24	25		
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501 W. Berry St. · Fort Wayne · Indiana · 46802 Phone: 260-423-9424 · Fax: 260-423-9426

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Rain Garden workshop that Plymouth sponsored **March 7** was very successful. If you missed it, you can call the city at 311 to find out when another session will be offered.

The workshop provides lots of information and practical assistance for those interested in taking this step to help the environment.

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@frontier.com

Office Manager lme@plymouthfw.org

Secretary/Communications Associate sls@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator financial@plymouthfw.org

Custodian maintenance@plymouthfw.org

<u>Vision</u> <u>Statement</u> Adopted October 2011

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

<u>Mission Statement</u> 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.