



Wednesday Night Live Resumes September 6

On Wednesdays from September through May, fellowship, food, Bible Study, music activities, and more are regular features of life at the church house each week. Make plans now to take advantage of the opportunity to enrich your mind, body, and spirit right here at Plymouth Congregational Church each week during Wednesday Night Live!

Schedule:

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Children's Music
	Sanctuary Singers
5:15 - 6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	with Rev. John P. Gardner
5:45 - 6:30 p.m.	Dinner in the Folsom Room
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.	Youth Music Ensemble
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Plymouth Bell Ensemble
6:45 - 7:30 p.m.	Book Group with
	Rev. Ruth E. Phillips

For more details on these various programs, check out the variety of articles in this issue of *the Bell*, and watch for updates in the Sunday bulletins.

Get back in the Swing at Plymouth!

On **August 23 at 5:45 pm**, our **Annual Potluck and Carriage/Pony Rides** takes place. In anticipation of the fall season, we come together to share in some good food, fellowship and fun. Giddy-up Y'all!!

WNL Dinner Resumes September 6

Our Wednesday Night Live dinners will resume on September 6, 5:45 pm. Stephen Monnier will cater the meal each week. Please remember to sign up for each week's dinner on the sheets posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Menus will be posted there and shared in the weekly bulletin as available. We look forward to seeing you!

Music Ministry Opportunities

Starting **Wednesday, September 6**, the regular schedule of music rehearsals and worship services begins. The Music Ministry has many opportunities for all ages, and all are welcome to participate. Questions? Contact Director of Music Robert Nance, or Music Associates Phil Slane and Tim Cunningham. Then add your voice and/or instrument to the musical life of Plymouth Congregational Church! Plymouth Music Ensembles include:

Sanctuary Singers – this choral ensemble sings for worship most Sundays, and for all major events including Boar's Head, Music Series concerts, and special holiday services. Rehearsals **Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm**, and regularly on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am**. Additional special rehearsals scheduled as needed.

Plymouth Bell Ensemble – rings for worship once each month, and for all major events including Boar's Head, choir clinic, and holiday services. Rehearses **Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm**.

Plymouth Children's Choirs – this program provides a creative outlet for children K-5 and includes singing, choir chimes, Orff instruments, and occasional drama and art. This group will perform for worship once each month, and for special services throughout the year. **Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 pm**.

Youth Music Ensemble (instrumental and vocal) – Music opportunities are varied for this middle and high school level ensemble including praise orchestra, Orff orchestra, soloists, small ensembles. Youth music ensemble rehearses on **Wednesdays at 6:30 – 7:15 pm** and participate in worship regularly. All youth are invited to bring their instruments and voices!

Additional opportunities for music leadership are always possible and will be considered; contact Robert Nance (robert@maestronance.com) for more information. For now, please take this time to review your schedules and make a commitment to participate in the first-rate programs provided by the music ministry, where everyone is welcome to experience new ways to explore faith, restore hope and discover God.

Welcoming Group in September

Welcoming Group will meet **Sunday, September 24, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm**. If you have been attending Plymouth for several months and your faith journey is leading you to explore becoming a member, this is a one-time required session.

Whether you are confident, confused, or curious, our time together is focused on orientation, conversation, interpretation, and exploration. It is an opportunity for you to ask questions and to meet others who are considering affirming their formal relationship with Plymouth Church, UCC. Please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, rep@plymouthfw.org, or 423-9424, ext. 322, to register. An accurate number is needed for the light lunch that will be provided by Congregational Life Board.

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Education is every Sunday at 9:00 am in the Amistad Room. Join us for a 12-week DVD study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars. Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan lecture on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem.

This series also provides excellent background for the upcoming Jesus Seminar on the Road event coming up at Plymouth on October 27 and 28.

In Our Prayers

During the month of August, we pray for **Vincent Village** and for **Associated Churches** (Baby's Closet, Food Bank), whose work is supported, in part, through Plymouth benevolence.

Plymouth people in our prayers:

A.J. Calkins, Jeanette Boerger, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Gail Escosa, Marcia Federspiel, Tom Ice, Sr., Sheldon Lockwood, Janet Markley, Kerry Mills, Deb Cochran Mulherin, Virginia Nance, Mimi Rolland, Jacqueline Sanders, Joan and Alan Simon, Marylynn Sloop, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Ruth Anne Sprunger, Sheryl Stallman, Peggy Summers, and Chris Week.

Congratulations to Karen Goss and Traci Hamilton on their marriage which took place in Plymouth Chapel on Friday, July 14.

Sympathy is extended to Mimi Rolland and Braeden Melo-Rolland and family on the death of husband and grandfather, Ian Rolland, July 1.

Sympathy is extended to Ron Hays and family on the death of wife, mother, and grandmother, Maryellen Hays, July 1.

Sympathy is extended to Sonia Atienzo, Jennifer Fisher, and Isaiah Atienzo-Fisher on the death of Sonia's mother and Isaiah's grandmother, Cristina Atienzo, July 20, in Decatur.

Sympathy is extended to Marlene Crowder and family on the death of her husband, Charles Crowder, on August 3.

Music Series Summer Arts Fest 2017: Thank You!

This summer, Plymouth hosted a series of concerts, fun and engaging performances of "Seussical the Musical, Jr.," as well as a great group of students attending the Vocal Arts Institute sessions during the week of Three Rivers Festival.

We enjoyed record attendances, demonstrating a growing interest and involvement in this mission. All this is due to the support of our many donors and participants, and we are so grateful. Thank you one and all!

The 2017-18 Music Series concert season will be starting soon, so watch for more information in the weeks ahead. Again, thank you for your continuing support!



Heritage Sunday Celebration, September 17

Plymouth Church was chartered on September 20, 1870. On the Sunday nearest that date each year the church at worship celebrates our heritage and honors those individuals who have been Plymouth members 50 years or more.

Benevolence in 2018

The Benevolence Committee would like to share with the Congregation the way that funds are to be allocated beginning with the 2018 grant cycle. Much thought, discussion and deliberation went into this decision and the committee feels that it has come to a good decision to leverage our limited monies to make a greater impact on the community and agencies we fund. We will request applications for one "Capacity Building Grant" in the amount of \$20,000.00 and additional grants in amounts ranging up to \$2,000.00.

There will be only one "Capacity Building Grant" awarded each year. Agencies will be informed that it will be a one-time grant. The application will need to clearly state how this \$20,000.00 grant will permanently impact and improve the agency's ability to carry on its mission while supporting Plymouth's four basic pillars: open and affirming; justice and peace for all people; sound ecological practices; and support for missions both locally and worldwide.

The Benevolence Committee will be giving out fewer grants in 2018 with the focus of having a greater impact on those that receive Plymouth Benevolence Grants.

The Benevolence Committee continues to annually support the following UCC groups: Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) - IN/KY Conference, Chicago United and Eden Seminaries (CUE), and the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC.

Benevolence Committee:

Julie Creek, Steve Etheridge, Roger Eversole, Carole Green, Sandy Moliere, Laura Ramsey, and Laura Rudolph. Staff Advisor – Rev. John P. Gardner

An Illustrated Earth Summer of Stories

An Illustrated Earth is wrapping up in the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who read our Facebook stories, participated in the posted activities, or added pictures of creation to the bulletin board. There are still extra copies of many of the weekly coloring pages in the green box in the narthex, for those who want to remember our summer of earthwise stories into the fall.

Wednesday Study Group Begins September 6, 6:45 to 7:30 pm

Join Rev. Ruth E. Phillips in the Amistad Room after dinner for a small group book study and discussion. Two books will focus our attention this fall.

September 6 - October 11: *Sneezing Jesus, How God Redeems Our Humanity* by Brian Hardin. You will need to purchase the book from your preferred source.

October 18 – November 15: *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth., Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*. Selected prayers will be shared with the group for meditation and conversation.

S e p t e m b e r B i r t h d a y s

1 Dan Lewark
2 Eli Spath
3 Shelley Woehnker
4 Phillip Colglazier
5 Thomas Felger
6 Traci Hamilton
7 Mandy Rush
8 Jarrod Weber
9 Clyde Dively
10 Marie Elena Lyon
11 Stella Hammond
12 Kennon Nicholson
13 Lauren Spath
14 Jayme Chasey
15 Karen Goss
16 Ava Greer
17 Jillian Greer
18 Shirley Laser
19 Robert Nance
20 Veronica Applegate
21 Taylor Dienelt
22 Anna Parry
23 Kim Schiffl
24 Charmaine Siekmann
25 Mariah Widmer
26 Joshua Greener
27 Jeanette Lohse
28 Eric Roberts
29 Natasha Chemey
30 Linda Escosa
Marge Feedback
Susan Chemey
Roger Eversole
Gabe Gardner
Owen Roney
Corrine Wickens
Anne Hughes
Marge Cornwell
Judith Beineke
Ian Wickens-Walther
Shawn Conner
Linda Hite
Sara Kabisch
Vicki Kruse
Samuel Melo
Donna Belch
Mary Louise Shultz
Anne Kolb
Chris Brabbs
Zach Feasel
Beatrice Goings
Emily Grim
Mary Lipscomb
Simon Coffeen
Emma Walker
Dustin Ramsey
Bonnie Pennock
Beth Smith
Gertrude Gardner
Lyra Miller
Jonathan Weber

Artists and Teachers Needed

Our Sunday school is run by volunteers! We are filling up our schedule now with teachers, artists and helpers for the entire year.

Teachers work through our curriculum to share Bible stories with our classes for three-month terms. Visiting Artists stop by for a session or two to share a skill or complete a project. If you have time to share with our kids or a skill to share with a class, please contact Katie Watson today, kjwatson4@gmail.com.

Bibles Presented September 10

Plymouth presents illustrated story Bibles to our Kindergarteners, and NRSV Bibles to our second graders each year. If you know a child in either grade who would like a Bible, please contact Katie Watson, kjwatson4@gmail.com.

September 10 Amazing Grays “Laughing Matters”

On Sunday, September 10, 11:30 am, Rev. Ruth E. Phillips will reflect on her sabbatical theme of Laughter’s benefits, some of her family’s humorous experiences, and how we all need a “laugh track” in our lives.

“Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.” said theologian Karl Barth. Laughing needs to be a spiritual practice! What makes you laugh? Family stories or inside jokes? Memories of funny experiences? Movies, Sit-coms, comedien-nes? Laughing relieves pain and increases the flow of endorphins – good brain chemicals. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Sunday School Returns on September 10!

Sunday School for all ages Kicks Off this year on September 10! Children and youth, please join us upstairs at 9:00 am as we get our classes started, and stick around during worship as we pass out Bibles and celebrate the beginning of the church school year.

Our preschool and elementary ages learners are on year two of a two year trip through the Bible. They’ll start with Adam and Eve, and make their way through to some well-known verses from Paul’s letters. Along the way they’ll meet some important characters that we missed last year, like King David, Mary and Martha, and Zacchaeus. You can follow the stories they’ve learned by peeking in on the Bible Timeline Wall in room 204 -- it’s getting quite full!

Youth in grades 6-9 will be following an eclectic curriculum this year. We’re switching up their format about once a month to let us explore many topics in a mix of thoughtful and hands-on ways. From baking bread, to watching movies to yes, sometimes some old-fashioned Bible study, we’ll be exploring what the old stories say to our lives today.

High schoolers in 10-12 grade are invited to our Covenant Class. This year-long class guides youth in exploring our church’s traditions as they articulate their own beliefs. Families with youth in this age group, please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips to learn more about this program.

Seniors who have already completed Confirmation are invited to continue their learning and share their talents through a Senior Project this year. If you know seniors interested in developing their own way to serve the church this year, please have them contact Katie Watson, kjwatson4@gmail.com.

Our Whole Lives Teachers Needed

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality.

Our Whole Lives has been an important part of Plymouth’s educational mission for over a decade. Youth who have gone through the program refer back to OWL as equipping them with knowledge and building up their confidence in their own decision making. OWL is possible because of our dedicated volunteer teachers. We are searching for teachers for both our elementary (K-2 and 4-6) and secondary (7-9 and 10-12) classes. If you are interested in supporting this ministry and learning more about teaching OWL, please contact Katie Watson, kjwatson4@gmail.com.



In India, Anjala's transformation inspires other women to farm

Foods Resource Bank's India-Namkum program # 1503

Led by Mennonite Central Committee and local partner South Vihar Welfare Society for Tribals

Anjala, 42, has undergone a transformation in her livelihood and outlook and her standing in her community. Just a year ago, she was a day laborer whose family couldn't make ends meet. Now she is a successful farmer and a role model for other women in FRB's India-Namkum program. The program focuses on food security and livelihood training, and includes organic farming, water harvesting, wasteland development, and gender equity awareness to keep people – especially women – on their farms rather than seeking wages in towns and cities.

Villagers like Anjala and her family had not been able to grow enough food on their land because of insufficient farming knowledge, lack of water, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and little access to seeds and other inputs. They worked on their farms for 6 months of the year, then looked for paid work elsewhere. Low compensation and underemployment (on average, they may be employed for less than two weeks a month) merely served to prolong their poverty and hunger.

Anjala and her husband, Robin, have two teenaged children. Robin works in a factory, but even with his income they weren't able to cover all the family's expenses. Anjala joined a self-help group (SHG) in their village. She participated in all the member meetings and trainings on such topics as kitchen gardening, vermi-composting, agriculture, vegetable cultivation, pig raising, income generation, leadership development, and more. She began growing a variety of crops and vegetables on the family's 3.5 acres.

She is happy working in the fields and putting her learning into practice. Her children help out, as does her husband during his holidays. She cultivates wheat on 1.5 acres, using System of Wheat Intensification methods: transplanting young and strong seedlings in prescribed spacing to save on seed and water, and "trap cropping" – planting mustard between rows to draw insects away from the crop. Anjala grows cabbage, cauliflower, radish, spinach, wheat, mustard, and peas in season, and uses the community well to irrigate a second crop during the winter growing season.

Anjala has become a role model among the village women and girls. She motivates them to stay in the village and farm rather than migrating to look for work as domestic help, where they run a high risk of trafficking. She encourages them to join SHGs and improve their livelihoods and living conditions through agriculture.



Anjala in her wheat field. She's interplanted mustard to attract insects away from the crop

India Namkum encompasses 5 communities, 684 households, and 3398 individuals

This program has been funded in part by FRB's Community Growing Projects. For more information or to support this program or others like it, please visit the Overseas Program page on our website www.foodsresourcebank.org or call 888-276-4FRB

Foods Resource Bank—2017

I would like to contribute: _____ 1 bushel of CORN seeds - \$200.00 _____ ½ bushel CORN seeds - \$100.00
(please check amount) _____ ¼ bushel of CORN seeds - \$50.00 _____ other amount = \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Climate Boot Camp at Plymouth Church

**Thursday, September 14, 2017
9:00 am—3:30 pm**

The environmental challenges facing Indiana—and our world—are real and pressing. In fact, for people of faith, they have created a moral imperative.

Weather disruptions hurt the most disadvantaged: people who have contributed least to pollution and have the fewest resources for protecting themselves, are often hit the worst. But there is hope: the more we talk about it, the likelier it will be that we ourselves, other citizens, and leaders will act.

Climate Boot Camp is an in-depth workshop sponsored by Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light (www.hoosieripl.org) to equip faith leaders and members to speak confidently and knowledgeably about environmental issues, including climate change and its impacts, and to respond wisely to these challenges. The workshop covers scientific, theological, economic, and pastoral dimensions of the crisis, and offers space for conversation and for planning and implementing specific projects.

Clergy and teachers are especially urged to attend, and all concerned folks are welcome. The workshop is led by IU climate scientist Dr. Ben Brabson, the Rev. Wyatt Watkins, pastor of Cumberland First Baptist Church, Indy, and the Rev. Dr. Trisha Tull, environmental theologian and H-IPL's program facilitator.

Cost is \$15 to cover refreshments, lunch, and materials. Register by going to www.hoosieripl.org/calendar. Immediately after registration, you will receive links to the preparatory readings. For more information, contact Trisha Tull (trishatull@hoosieripl.org).

Boar's Head 2017 – celebrating 43 years! Join the celebration by being involved.

Time to prepare for the 43rd annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival!

We hope that all Plymouth folk may start to plan now to support the 2017 Festival! We would love to have all of you participate in some way in this year's celebration of this Plymouth tradition. We have a number of new members and we hope you will seriously consider being a part of the cast, choir, or crews. The primary commitment is compacted into the week between Christmas and New Years.

Each year at this time this first "reminder" appears in *the Bell*! If you'd like to serve as a co-chairperson of one of the production committees, or as part of the production crews, contact Jim Schmidt at 632-5392. We can always use help in the kitchen, tickets, set crew, props, make-up and COSTUMES. If you have organizational skills or design and sewing skills, please call Katherine Caldwell leaving a message with the office – 423-9424. Please consider offering your time to one of these production needs. Kara Jaurigue will be casting starting September 1st through October 8. If you'd like to be a part of this season's cast, please let Kara know before she contacts you **even if you filled out an interest form last December!** Leave a message for her at church (423-9424) or contact her by e-mail (kkjaurigue@gmail.com) or cell phone; (341-1032). It makes her job easier! To be part of the cast, you will need to be available for rehearsals and services on December 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30—just five days primarily in the evenings. The weekend BEFORE Christmas will be free of Boar's Head rehearsals.

Jim and Kara will co-direct again this season. This year we will hold an ALL CAST meeting on Sunday, November 5, at 1:00 pm to distribute schedules, order tickets, and conclude any pre-rehearsal business. Ticketing will be limited to six tickets per cast family, six for Plymouth members by family, and six per patron as last year. Extra tickets can be arranged. We WILL not hold tryouts this year for any of the dancing parts, but if you are interested, let Kara know—court dancers are high school age; pat-a-pans are middle school/high school age. The directors will then contact those interested. Remember, there are rehearsals just on December 26, 27, 28, with services on December 29 and 30 ... five days to help continue this Plymouth tradition.

If you are new to Plymouth, we'd love to have you be a part of the Festival. No lines to learn, no solos to sing. We always need lords and ladies couples and beefeaters!! **Are you new to Plymouth?** This annual festival is a great way to meet so many members and friends of Plymouth. The cast consists of 200+ roles, so please consider being a part of this grand Plymouth Christmas tradition!

Questions? Contact Jim Schmidt or Kara Jaurigue. Won't you join us and be a part of the 43rd Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival?

Jim Schmidt and Kara Jaurigue

JSOR Event at Plymouth, October 27 & 28

The Q Gospel, Thomas, and the Lost Wisdom of Jesus: Two non-canonical gospels--the Q Gospel and the Gospel of Thomas--are reshaping the way scholars understand Jesus and the early years of the movement he started in Galilee nearly 2000 years ago. Both are “wisdom” gospels, that is to say, gospels in which Jesus appears in the role of sage and prophet. Is this ancient wisdom relevant to anyone living in the modern world?

Speakers

Robert J. Miller (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School) is Rosenberger Professor of Religious Studies and Christian Thought at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. He is the author of several books including *Helping Jesus Fulfill Prophecy* (2016), and editor of *The Complete Gospel Parallels* (with Arthur Dewey, 2012) and *The Complete Gospels* (4th ed. 2010).

Stephen J. Patterson (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School) is Geo. H. Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies at Willamette University. He is the author of many books, most recently *The Lost Way: How Two Forgotten Gospels Are Rewriting the Story of Christian Origins* (2014).

Program Details

Q and Thomas: The Lost Gospels, Friday evening, 7:30-9:00 pm

What is Q, and why does it matter? What is the Gospel of Thomas, and what do we learn from this fifth gospel that we do not learn from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? And why are these gospels reshaping the way scholars understand Jesus? In this opening session, Robert Miller and Stephen Patterson will bring you up to speed on what we know (and don't know) about the lost gospels.

The Q Gospel: A Galilean Gospel? Saturday 9:30-10:30 am

The Q Gospel is arguably the first gospel, composed in Jesus' own Galilean homeland. But this gospel is still lost. So how do we know it existed? How do we know what was in it? Robert Miller will explain what we *do* know about Q, and how that changes the way we understand the story of Christian origins.

Thomas: Plato's Gospel, Saturday 11 am-noon

The Surprise discovery of the Gospel of Thomas in 1945 is an event unrivaled in the study of Christian origins. Who wrote it? Where was it written? And why does it sound so different from the canonical gospels? Stephen Patterson will unlock the secrets of this gospel (some of them!) and explain what this new gospel really tells us about early Christianity.

Questions and Answers on Q and Thomas, Saturday 1:30-2:30 pm

In this session, Patterson and Miller will focus on your questions and ideas about these mysterious gospels.

The Wisdom of Jesus in the Modern World, Saturday 3-4 pm

In the Q gospel and the Gospel of Thomas, Jesus appears in the role of sage and prophet. How could the wisdom of this ancient sage be relevant to someone living in the modern world? Why should Christians take note? What about those who have given up on organized religion? What gems are worth recovering from these lost gospels?

Sponsors: Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

Local Contact and Information: Steve and Pam Etheridge etheridges@my.uwstout.edu

All sessions: Individual rate **\$75**; Pre-registration Rate (by Oct. 13) **\$60**;

Additional Family Members **\$50**

Single Sessions: Friday evening Lecture **\$20**; Saturday Morning Workshop **\$30**; Saturday Afternoon Workshop **\$30**

Refunds are available until two weeks before the event if requested in writing, minus a \$10 administrative fee. No refunds will be given after that date.

To register, go to <https://www.westarinstitute.org/upcoming-events-calendar/fortwayne-2017/>



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

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Summer is an ideal time to stock up on produce. Support local by going to your nearest farmer's market. Stock up on seasonal produce and freeze it to keep it year round for baking and cooking, while supporting local farmers.



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

Sunday School Director

kjwatson4@gmail.com

Child Care Director

davidandmichellegrim@gmail.com

Office Manager

lme@plymouthfw.org

Secretary/Communications Associate (Bell)

(temporary) office@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator

financial@plymouthfw.org

Buildings Maintenance Manager

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.