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BELL

Luminous Night Service Of Lament and Promise Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 pm

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

Promise: an indication of future improvement

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

Luminous Night Service offers you a safe place to lament, to mourn, to complain, to feel your anger and disappointment, without being told to "get over it."

Our **Luminous Night Service of Lament and Promise** allows us to express our grief, anger, discouragement, sadness, and longings, as we also affirm God's love, compassion, forgiveness, and presence with us. We listen and remember God's promise "never to leave or forsake" us.

The service is interwoven with song, prayer, scripture, readings, interpretive dance. Candle lighting is included in the liturgy so that you who wish to light a candle may do so in remembrance of a loved one who has died, in hope, in prayer, as a symbol of searching for the "light in the darkness."



Dove ornaments made of paper seeded with wildflowers are new for this year's service. You will be invited to write the name of person(s) you wish to memorialize and place the dove on the Christmas tree in the Folsom Room. It will remain there through Christmas, at which time the paper doves will be saved for spring planting in Plymouth's gardens. You may also wish to take home a dove ornament to place on your own tree and then plant in your yard.

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

"O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest."

Psalm 55:6

Interfaith Service at Temple Achduth Vesholom

Members and friends of Plymouth are invited to attend a 7:00 pm interfaith Thanksgiving worship service on **Tuesday, November 24**, at Temple Achduth Vesholom, located at 5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne. The 2015 service features guest speaker Sister Elise Kriss, President of the University of St. Francis. An offering will go to help fund the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, a ministry of St. Mary's Mother of God Roman Catholic Church. The pastoral assistant at St. Mary's, Mr. Tony Henry, will be participating in the service.

Thanksgiving Day At Plymouth

Chapel Worship at 10:00 am Thanksgiving Dinner at 11:45 am

You are invited to gather around our Plymouth table for a Thanksgiving Day dinner. Your plates will be filled with warm greetings, caring smiles, and a gracious welcome. There will be plenty of turkey, both white and dark meat, as well as flavorful dressing, buttery mashed potatoes, a variety of vegetable dishes and desserts to delight your appetite. Once again, our chef will be Bill Nicholson.

A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board outside the office to register how many people in your group will be attending. When signing up, please note the dish you will share at this Thanksgiving Day Feast.

In Our Prayers

During the month of November, we pray for **Matthew 25** and the **Positive Resource Center**, partners in mission and recipients of Plymouth benevolence.

Plymouth people in our prayers:

Tom Adams, Jack Ade, Sally Ade, Elizabeth Bayle, Wally Bonham, A.J. Calkins, Roger and Tony Crouch, Barbara and Bob Davidson, Elizabeth Dube, Gail Escosa, Norman Grandos, Bill Hambrick, Rosemary Hardt, George James, Sandra Lockwood, Gail and Dave McKinnon, Timothy Price, Steve Riethmiller, Dulanna Rothert Kelly Smith, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel.

Members and friends serving overseas:

Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman.

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

Congratulations to Leslie Frohberg and Tina Logan who were united in legal marriage on November 15 in Plymouth's chapel. Leslie and Tina have been together for 15 years. Rev. Ruth E. Phillips officiated.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of William Harold Theurer, November 10, to parents Rachel and Michael Theurer, Portland, IN. Cousins are Kristen, Eric, Lyra and Evan Miller.

Sympathy is extended to Michael and William Theurer, husband and infant son, in the unexpected and tragic death of Rachel Theurer, age 25, wife and mother, on November 11, Portland, IN. Rachel died unexpectedly of an extremely rare and undiagnosable condition following the birth of her first child. We also extend sympathy to Michael's cousins, Kristen, Eric, Lyra and Evan Miller.

Sympathy is extended to Rebecca, Savannah, and Gabby Manns, on the death of husband and father, Jeff Manns, October 12. Services were held at Plymouth, Sunday, October 25,

Sympathy is extended to Rev. John Gantt and family on the death of wife and mother, Nadine Gantt, on October 14, 2015.

Sympathy is extended to Carole Green and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Tom Pitts, October 23, in Lawrence, KS.

Sympathy is extended to Marty Kabisch on the death of her mother, June Fletcher, October 26

Be A Part Of Plymouth's Advent Calendar



Have you written a grocery list, balanced a checkbook or signed a document? Then we want your handwriting to add to Plymouth's online Advent calendar.

The instructions are simple: on a white piece of paper, write one of the words that corresponds to the four candles in the Advent wreath: Hope, Peace, Joy, or Love. Then write your name on the paper and leave it in one of the collection boxes in the Folsom Room. That's it!

If you want to get creative, you could write in a colorful marker, use decorative lettering, or add illustrations.

We hope to collect the handwriting of as many Plymouth members and friends as possible!

Advent Sunday School Celebration

On **Sunday, December 20**, all Sunday-schoolers, from preschool through high school, will meet downstairs for an Advent celebration. We will explore learning stations devised by our middle-schoolers, hear the Christmas story, and enjoy snacks. **There is no Sunday school on December 27.** Regular Sunday school classes return to the schedule on **January 3**.



Thank You Sunday School Teachers

Many thanks to the teachers who have served this Fall: **Amy Coursen, Barb Duch, Laura Filler, Rob Getrost, Jan Gibson, and Kristen Miller.** Our kids thank you for sharing your time, talents, and passion for sharing the gospel story.

We are now looking for Spring teachers and assistants for all ages. If you are interested in volunteering with our Sunday school, please contact Katie Watson.

Thank You

To the members and friends of Plymouth Church who have been so kind and considerate in expressing concern and sympathy in the aftermath of Nadine Gantt's death, please accept my sincere gratitude.

John Gantt

From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

The only existing description of the first Pilgrim Thanksgiving was written by Edward Winslow, in December of 1621, in a letter addressed to a **“Loving and old friend.”** According to Winslow, the pilgrims, having gathered the fruits of their first fall harvest, were determined to share together **“in a more special manner.”** No mention is made of turkey and dressing and other elements we might consider traditional. Winslow was most impressed with the great abundance of fish and fowl, and the plenty of berries and plums.



Winslow did note that a company of 90 Indians, under the leadership of their greatest king, Massasoit, joined with the Pilgrim immigrants, and that together they **“entertained and feasted”** for three days. The Indians contributed venison to the fall festival, a reminder that, in the beginning, the native and the newcomer were friends. Without that friendship, the Pilgrims who sailed on the good ship Mayflower would never have survived.

Winslow included in his letter the following assessment:

“... although it is not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us: yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

It is a wonderful turn of phrase offered by Winslow, and appropriate to our time. I’m mindful – not one of us lacks challenge in our lives. Yet by the goodness of God, challenged though we may be, we are far removed from the want of food and shelter and security that afflicts so many in our strife riddled world.

The best of Christian faith breaks obsession of self; when the Holy Spirit is leading our lives, the destination is always set upon goodness and mercy, and a life that overflows with thanksgiving. When our interests align with the love of God, we can’t help but wish others to be partakers of our plenty.

Wherever and with whomever you may sit at table this Thanksgiving, may you be so blessed.

Sincerely,
John P. Gardner

World Aids Day: Tuesday, December 1



Positive
RESOURCE CENTER

Providing HIV Education, Prevention,
Testing and Linkage to Care.

GETTING TO
ZERO
ONE PERSON
AT A TIME.

D 1 Jim Schmidt
Zoey Spath-Pinedo

e 3 Jennifer Ferguson
Isaac John Andrew Spath
Brian Vanderbosch
Tobias Watson

c 4 Tyler Fisher
Alaina Gilliom
Ray Lehman
Brad Stinson

e 6 Andrew Vanderbosch

m 7 Veronica Beifus
Peggy Grant
Bill Hambrick
Keyes McGregor
Nelson Spade

b 8 Mary Gilliom
Donna Rowe
Shirley Slater

e 9 Bonnie Bortnichak
Jennifer Fisher
Dylan Lewark

r 10 Laura McCoy
Jake Price

11 Bill Beard
Jan Evrard
Riley Grim
Melissa Shaw

13 Doris Grandos
Margaret Ann Sponhauer

B 14 George Blossom
Linda Hambrick

i 16 Chance Berger
Rhonda Eitsert
Paul Lewark

R 17 Judy Dahl
Kenton Neuhouser
Johanna Smith
Virginia Zimmerman

T 18 Jared Chasey
Lois Steere

h 19 Marena Lewark
Jayne Staight

d 20 Jan Gibson
Jude Price
Simon Price
Samantha Tyndall
Riet Zwiap

a 21 Ahnee Conner

y 22 Lanna Howe
Connie McAfee
Cheryl Rinehart

s 24 Elena Dupen
25 Michelle Bradley
Carol Lehman
Carol Tyndall
26 Adriene Foster
Betsy Ley
Steve Lauterberg
27 Joe Bir
28 Kathy Hartsch
Steven Vorderman
29 Colton Ames
Sharon Conrad
30 Suzanne Jontz
31 Paige Yarman

Annual Standish Wreath Sale

Sundays, November 22 & 29, before & after worship services.

2015 Price List

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Small decorated wreath | \$27.00 | Small undecorated wreath | \$18.00 |
| Large decorated wreath | \$32.00 | Large undecorated wreath | \$24.00 |
| Roping | \$18.00 | Swags (new this year) | \$13.00 |

Annual Friends Of The Third World Sale

Friends of the Third World Shoppe will hold its annual sale at Plymouth on **Sunday, November 22, only**. This is a unique opportunity to find a gift such as a birch-bark basket from the upper Midwest and fill it with a jute angel-tree ornament from Bangladesh, fair-trade coffee from El Salvador, a bracelet from the Philippines, and many other items from the world over.

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

Fresh Baked Bread Sale

The annual Fresh Baked Bread Sale, put together by Plymouth youth and adult leaders, will be held **Sunday, November 22**. Breads of all kinds will be available for purchase before and after worship, including our traditional white and wheat loaves, the ever-so-popular Monkey Bread, as well as zucchini, cranberry-orange, and a few others. The bread sale comes just in time to help fill your Thanksgiving table!

Thanksgiving Offering

We will be receiving our Thanksgiving offering on **Sunday, November 22**, and on **Thanksgiving Day at our chapel service**. The recipient this year will be the **Center For Non-Violence**. The Center provides services for women, men and children whose lives have been touched by domestic violence. We invite your generous support for this important ministry in our community.



Plymouth Music Series Concert November 22

Celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with a Plymouth Music Series concert, **Sunday, November 22, at 4:00 pm.**

The group *Switchback* features Brian FitzGerald (vocals, guitar, mandolin), and Martin McCormack (vocals, bass, guitar). The duo joins forces with the voices of Heartland Singers to present, "The Hiberian Mass."

This work was written by Brian and Martin, created to play upon the words *hibernia* and *hibernate*. With the coming of Saint Patrick to the tribes of Ireland, the people awake from their winter of not knowing Christ and become one with the Lord. In addition to the Switchback Duo, we have the singers of Heartland and other guest instrumentals from the region to bring you a dynamic spiritual experience in the Celtic style!

A Special Amazing Grays Presentation: "A Trip Down Boar's Head Memory Lane"

The Amazing Grays invite you to enjoy "A Trip Down Boar's Head Memory Lane," **Sunday, December 13, at 11:30 am.**

Luncheon will be served: Adults: \$6.00; under-12: \$3.00. Reservations needed by **Thursday, December 10.** Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.



Put Stars In Their Eyes For Christmas



The stars are ready for the choosing! At the *Turnstone Star Child* display, please select a star with the name of a child, and purchase a hat/mittens set and/or a book for them. There are 32 children whose Turnstone teacher is our own Cher Jackson. Children will receive two gifts: a hat/mitten set, and a book to their liking.

Feel free to take both stars for a particular child. The book they want will also give you ideas of characters or themes they might prefer in the hat/mittens.

All gifts need to be returned to Plymouth **by December 10.** Please do not wrap your gift(s), and be sure to include the child's name star with the hat/mittens and the book. We will provide gift bags so that each child will receive the 2 gifts together at their Turnstone Christmas party the week before Christmas.

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



It's Time to Order Poinsettias!



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias. Ordering poinsettias is an easy way to remember, honor, and celebrate loved ones and friends, while helping to decorate our church home for Christmas.

To order, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **Friday, December 4.** Poinsettias are **\$10.00** each. Plants will be placed in the sanctuary the Sunday before Christmas. (We would appreciate your taking the plant home with you, following the 10:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve.)

Name _____

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

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

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church.

Share Your Christmas Greetings

Congregational Life Board invites you to save postage and be green this Christmas. Share your greetings with the entire Plymouth family! Bring your Christmas cards or letters to the designated mailbox in the Folsom Room **beginning Sunday, November 29.** Cards will be displayed in the Folsom Room during the month of December.

Hanging of the Greens

Join in the spirit of the season as we decorate Plymouth for Christmas, **Sunday, November 29**, immediately following worship. Michael Thomas and Ed Gomez will direct the project again this year. A light lunch will be provided. Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

Give A Gift To Just Neighbors IHN

Plymouth is hosting meals at *Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network (IHN)* the upcoming week of **December 27, 2015 through January 2, 2016**. We know this is a very busy time in the life of Plymouth Church and in the lives of families and friends but I ask that you consider taking a few short hours out of your week to help provide a part of a meal or a whole meal for the guests residing at Just Neighbors.



While we have a warm home filled with Christmas spirit, the families at *Just Neighbors* are without a place

to call home at this time of year and your meal donation would go far in spreading holiday cheer. If you have family in town, children home from college, or a group of friends that gather during this week, it would be a wonderful opportunity to create a meal together and bring it to *Just Neighbors*. Now that is the Christmas spirit!

A sign up list—by way of “Sign Up Genius”—will be sent out, soon. If you would like to be included on that mailing list, please contact Laura Rudolph (rudyfw@yahoo.com, or 485-2285), with your email address.

Remember that you can provide part of a meal or the whole meal. The food is delivered to the *Just Neighbors IHN* Family Center at the corner of E. State Blvd. and Santa Rosa Dr. by 5:00 pm on the day you have signed up.

Please make this holiday week a bright one for the guests at *Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network*, the only shelter in Fort Wayne for families.

Please contact Laura Rudolph with questions or to be included in the Sign Up Genius email distributions.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Thursday, December 24

6:00 pm: Communion & Candlelight

10:00 pm: Carols and Candlelight



The church offices will be closed on Fridays, December 25 and January 1.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Boar’s Head Info For You!

By now, all members and friends of Plymouth should have received their Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival patron letters. If you haven’t already done so, won’t you please act immediately and contribute to this wonderful annual Plymouth tradition?

The Festival relies totally on the contributions of its patrons and the free-will offering for ALL of its finances. **We cannot offer this special Plymouth gift without you!** Last year, once again, Plymouth faithful met the challenge. Please be a part of this annual Plymouth tradition by becoming a patron this season!

We would especially invite our new members to become involved as patrons as well as audience members. Better still, become a part of the cast or crews! There is still room in the cast for you—all ages! Established members, please come and enjoy the Festival again...bring new friends. Although one needs tickets to attend any of the six services, **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, December 28, 29 or 30, at 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm**, these tickets are FREE.

Patrons receive first opportunity to obtain tickets. Each church member family may also have six tickets which will be distributed before and after church services on December 6 and 13. An additional six tickets may be obtained on **Box Office Day, Thursday, December 17, with public distribution beginning at 4:30 pm, from the church office.**

Cast members are reminded of the big rehearsals on December 19 and 20, and the dress rehearsal on December 27.

Please join us for this special 41st Annual Festival celebration, which will be dedicated in loving memory of Joan Stanger, Polly Lipscomb, and Russ Siples.

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season of joy, peace, and love. “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful...”

Kara Jaurigue, director

Bob Nance, director

Jim Schmidt, director



Scholarship Opportunities

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

By February 15

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

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

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

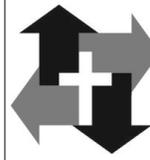
By April 15

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

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

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

Christmas Offerings For Crossroad



Our annual Christmas offering will be received for *Crossroad* again this year, on both **Sunday, December 20**, and

Christmas Eve. Please give generously to support this vital ministry.

2015 Tax Reminder

As you prepare your federal tax return for 2015, a reminder: the IRS will allow you to deduct the donations you made to Plymouth *only* if they were dated and postmarked in 2015. As long as you itemize your deductions, you can generally claim 100 percent of your church donations as a deduction.

Annual Reports Due

The time is quickly approaching for submission of 2015 Annual Reports! The deadline for submission of material is **Monday, January 4**. Reports should be typed in 11-point, Times New Roman font and then emailed as an attachment to Lettie Eagar at: lme@plymouthfw.org.

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

Annual Business Meeting, January 24

Please join us immediately following worship on **Sunday, January 24, 12:00 pm**, for Plymouth's Annual Business Meeting. The **2016 Annual Budget** and the **2015 Annual Report** will be presented, as well as other issues impacting our lives at Plymouth. Lunch will be served by the Plymouth Youth as a fundraiser for youth programs.

Newsletter Guidelines

Please continue sending your information for the **printed Bell** and for the **eBell** to Suzanne at: sls@plymouthfw.org. **Deadline is the second Wednesday of the months** it is printed and/or emailed. Starting this month, the printed **Bell** will no longer include a calendar. (For an updated calendar, visit <http://www.plymouthfw.org/calendar.php>).

The **e-Bell** is emailed on the second and fourth Fridays of the months it is used. To add your name to the e-Bell list, please call the office, 423-9424.

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



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

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LED Bulbs Light the Future

The new LED bulbs boast a lifespan of **25,000 hours**. A single bulb can shave hundreds of dollars off your electricity bill. And if every state in the U.S. were to switch to LEDs, we would save **32.6 terawatt-hours** of electricity each year — enough energy to power **17 million homes!** LEDs are very much the future of lighting.

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

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.