



The Bell

PLYMOUTH CHURCH
FORT WAYNE + UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PLYMOUTHFW.ORG

From the Senior Pastor

Congregational Financial Assistance in Such Times

Over the past five months, life has changed for practically all of us. One way it has potentially changed is in terms of employment and income. Some of us may have lost income and employment. Others might have increased expenses around medical care.

During this time, Plymouth Church has sought to offer support to our members and participants. While this support includes spiritual and relational support, **it also includes financial support.** In response to the needs we were seeing, many members and friends made special offerings to our “Congregational Emergency Funds” account, including giving during a special music fundraiser Maestro Nance organized several months ago.

Since that time, the church has been able to provide some financial support to several members who needed it. Meanwhile, Rev. Phillips and I have spoken to others that we thought might need some help, some of whom have declined. So while we have distributed some of the donations, there are more funds left that need to be distributed to assist other members and friends.

There may be a cultural element around hesitancy to receive assistance. Many Christians like to think of themselves as “those who help people in need,” rather than being someone in need. Given how highly individualistic the dominant culture is, with the rhetoric of self-reliance, and shaming of the “undeserving,” this is not surprising. However, it is also not biblical.

Each of us is both someone who helps and someone who needs help at different points in our lives. We were dependent on others when we were born, depend on others throughout our lives when we are sick or hurt, and we depend on others at the end stages of life. Life is a constant stream of dependence and independence; it is best to say **we are interdependent with one another.**

There is no shame in needing another’s support, whether it is emotional, spiritual, or financial. We are here to love and support one another in this time. If you are in need of financial assistance in this time of unemployment, underemployment, or economic exploitation, **please reach out to me or Rev. Phillips.** Jesus’ love can free us from any shame we may feel, because Jesus wants us to love one another as God loves us.

Peace,

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



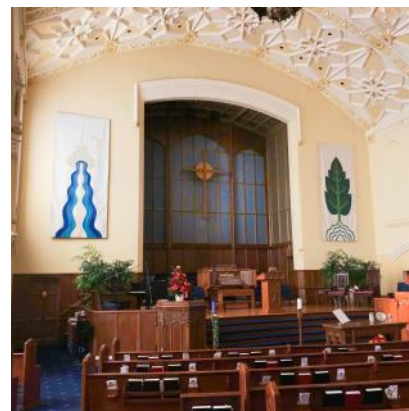
Living Faithfully Into the Future

Worship and Plymouth

Livestream services begin at 10:00 am every Sunday on our [YouTube Channel](#). We have also recently started having limited in-person attendance for these services. Registration is required to attend and is sent out as an eBlast in advance. These services are live online events but the recordings will be available to be watched at any time after the service ends. A link to our YouTube Channel will be posted to our Facebook page and via eBlast every Sunday morning.

Plymouth also has a private Facebook group available to members called [Plymouth Generations](#). Join this Facebook group to communicate easily with other Plymouth people! You must already have a Facebook account to join this group.

Plymouth Church sends out the Weekly Bulletin to keep you up-to-date on things like online gatherings, ways to help others while social distancing, and other news. The Weekly Bulletin is sent out on Sundays at 9:00 am. If you are not receiving these messages, please check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact Mackenzie at mmg@plymouthfw.org.



Peace & Justice Committee

August is the month for the Peace & Justice Committee annual retreat in which we brainstorm and plan our focus for the next year. Although Covid-19 has prevented us from following through with many of the issues we wanted to work on this past year, we know that there are many social justice issues in which we can participate to bring about change.

The Peace & Justice Committee is a very small group with a very large mission. What has become apparent is that we need a project that brings the congregation together - perhaps a long-term project - but one where visible change is evident. Plymouth has so many causes we support as a church, and even more that we as individuals are involved in. Imagine the power of a united congregation behind a project and what that would look like!

So we are asking for anyone interested in getting involved at the next PJ meeting on Thursday, September 17, at 5:30 via Zoom, using meeting ID 863 430 8357.

No dues, membership fees, or signed contract required, however, we won't complain if you decide to join the committee. Hope to see you soon.

Jan Evrard

Search Task Force – Associate Pastor

With the retirement announcement of Rev. Ruth Phillips, Plymouth Church has formed a Search Task Force for our next Associate Pastor. Its members are: Roger Eversole, Linda Hite, Dee Hoffman, Kristen Miller, Kyle Miller, Sandy Moliere, Chris Randolph, Bill Vrabel, and Beth Walker. Please pray for them as they begin this important work and look for updates from them as the process moves forward!

Plymouth People In Our Prayers

Dawn Apang, Archer Family, Mariellen Beitman, Trevor Burns, Carleen Carteaux, Natasha Chemey, Wayne Clouse, Dick Conklin, Kris Conner, David Cornwell, Wendy Crispell, Brad Crowder, Hartman Family, Joan Hartwig, Stan Holdeman, Susan Jarvis, Kris Jensen, Nancy Jordan, Diane Lasley, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Joan Lipscomb, Sheldon Lockwood, Bob Miles, Jim Nelson, Carol Patterson, Bonnie Pennock, Mike Popp, Tina Puitz, Noel Resor, Anne Rowland, Rick Schilb, Patrizia Saladini-Stark, Jacqueline Sanders, Barbara Senn, John Shannon, Isabelle Shockney, Johanna Smith, Gordon Walter, Chris Week

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Anderson Joseph Escosa, July 20, Louisville, KY, to proud parents Sara Beth and John Briscoe Escosa III, and big brother J. Briscoe Escosa IV. Delighted grandparents are Linda and John Briscoe Escosa II.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Simon Joseph Western, August 11, to proud parents Mariah and Bryce Western.

Sympathy is extended to Joyce Augspurger on the death of her husband, Fred Augspurger, 84, on July 11, Fort Wayne, IN.

Sympathy is extended to Vicki Kruse and family, on the tragic death of her great nephew Taylor Chavez, age 18, on July 18, Wichita, KS. Taylor died from injuries sustained when he was hit by a drunk driver. His parents generously consented for his organs to be donated to give life to others. He would have entered Kansas State University as a freshman this fall.

Sympathy extended to family and friends on the death of Alice Cline, July 25.

Sympathy is extended to Lois Steere and family on the sudden, unexpected death of her son, Brent Berger, age 61, August 5.

Sympathy is extended to Brian Hartman and family on the death of his brother, Mark Hartman, age 54, August 17.

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.

Plymouth Donations

If you feel the call to donate to Plymouth during this time of uncertainty, please consider using our online method by using your smart phone's barcode scanner. This QR Code/Scanner tag will take you to the Plymouth donation page, or you can click [here](#). To scan this QR code, open the camera on your device and hover over the QR code. Once your camera focuses on the code, an option to follow the link will appear. You can also download a QR scanner app! 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.



Advance Care Planning Webinar

October 11, 2020, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Have you talked with your loved ones about your healthcare choices in the event you cannot speak for yourself? The Advance Care Planning webinar on October 11 is prime time to get motivated and to be informed of your options.



Rather than a fear of dying, most of us live with a fear of being trapped in our body in dependence and disability. If not able to communicate coherently, clearly, decisively on our own behalf, we need an advocate. We also care enough for our loved ones that we want to protect them from such an outcome.

So, have you talked with your loved ones about your healthcare choices? Have you named one person to be your voice, to speak on your behalf? Your healthcare representative is a person you trust to tell medical professionals what you do and do not want regarding medical interventions.

The Advance Care Planning (ACP) staff team at Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) will lead this FREE webinar. We are offering this as an outgrowth of other discussions held at Plymouth in past years. It is sponsored by our new Kairos Visitation Team.

To register please email me at rep@plymouthfw.org by October 4. Names and emails of those wishing to attend will be sent to ACP staff. Prior to the webinar you will receive an emailed packet of information from PRMC.

Be well,

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, Associate Pastor

Advance Care Planning: It's About the Conversation

What if a sudden illness or injury left you unable to speak for yourself?

Who would you want to speak for you?

What would you want them to know about your values and wishes?

Advance care planning is a process that helps you:

- think about your health care values and goals;
- consider health care choices you may have to make in the future;
- talk about your choices with your doctor and your loved ones; and
- make a written plan for the future (advance directive).

Join us in thought-provoking conversation to help make your wishes known.

Learn vocabulary, reflect on your values, choose a healthcare agent, explore goals for treatment, and take the first steps toward completing an advance directive.



Children's Choir

The Children's Choir (parents are welcome and encouraged to participate as well!) will be meeting for socially distanced songs and activities in the Shedd Park area on the west side of the church on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Alternate accommodations will be determined as weather permits, and as we move from Summer and Fall into Winter. While this won't be a "rehearsal" in the sense that we're all used to, it will be an opportunity to come together, make some music, socialize, and maybe even snap a quick picture or video that we can send out to the congregation on Sunday morning.

Contact Phil Slane at philip.m.slane@gmail.com if you are interested and able to participate.

Bell Ensemble

The current plan will have the bells rehearsing in the Folsom Room for 30 minutes from 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm on Wednesdays. We have chosen the Folsom Room so that we can socially distance while wearing masks. Depending on who is comfortable with the plan we visualize 2 people per table. For worship we are working out a plan to record our anthem for Sunday broadcast.

Contact Timothy Cunningham at timocunningham@yahoo.com if you are interested and able to participate.



J. Mark McVey concert on July 22, 2020

From the Music Director

You may be wondering if there will be music activities on Wednesdays and Sundays this fall. Well, I am happy to inform you that we WILL have music activities this fall, but in new and different ways in order to maintain safety during the pandemic.

Activities will vary, some Live Stream, some Zoom and a few select moments actually in the church house (of course, we will wear masks and be socially distanced and activities will take place within a short time frame to maintain safety).

Starting Wednesday, September 2 we will begin regular music activities for Children, Handbells and Adults following the schedule below. We will maintain this schedule through October 28. After October, we will re-evaluate and issue a new schedule.

Wednesday Night Live Music Schedule (September 2 - October 28)

5:30-6:00 pm Children's Choir - Shedd Park
6:15-6:45 pm Handbells - Folsom Room
7:00-7:30 pm Sanctuary Singers - Music Room/Zoom

The Music Ministry staff looks forward to working with you to keeping the music flowing from Plymouth Church!

Robert Nance, Director of Music
Phil Slane, Associate
Tim Cunningham, Associate



Sanctuary Singers

Choir practice will be from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm on Wednesdays. A few select singers will join Robert Nance in the Folsom Room to help with a Zoom Choir Rehearsal. Sanctuary Singers will log into a regularly scheduled Zoom Meeting from the Music Room to learn music that we will schedule to record at the church at some future date. The plan would be to find a safe and secure way to record an anthem for morning worship. Details will be shared with the choir at their first rehearsal. PLEASE NOTE: Sanctuary Singers first rehearsal via Zoom will take place on September 9 due to the Music Series Concert that is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm.

Contact Robert Nance at robert@maestronance.com if you are interested and able to participate.

Two Friends, Two Keyboards, Too Fun!

Join Plymouth in person and online for this fun performance on September 2 at 7:00 pm! With four hands, twenty fingers, two keyboards and one hundred seventy-six keys, pianists Robert Nance and Jonathan Young perform music from Bach to Pop. Audiences will delight in these two entertainers as they perform virtuosic standards as well as arrangements of popular musicals and songs, all on Plymouth's Steinway grand pianos.

Click [here](#) to register to attend this event in person or check out our [YouTube Channel](#) to view the livestream!

Kickoff Sunday Gathering at Swinney Park

Families with children or youth at home are invited to Swinney Park at 11:30 am on Sunday, September 13!

At the park, safely spaced, we'll join together for 20 minutes of all-ages worship. After worship, we'll pass out storytelling & worship supplies for each family to use at home. Those who are comfortable doing so are welcome to bring a sack lunch and stick around after worship for food & fellowship. Swinney Park is generally quiet on Sunday mornings. We have reserved the pavilion and the park also has a playground and public restrooms.

Volunteers Needed

Sunday School volunteers look a lot different this year! Currently we are looking for readers to video bedtime stories to post on Facebook and artists to help create our storytelling materials. These materials include illustrations of stories that can be copied and sent home, and figures of biblical characters and props made from wood, clay, or fabric. Please contact Katie at kjwatson4@gmail.com if you would like to help out!

Plymouth Office

If you have a need to visit the office, we'd love to see you.

Remember to schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance. No one is at the front desk, so please arrive on time so a staff member is available to greet you and unlock the door. Please wait at the Berry Street entrance and be prepared to sanitize, sign-in, and wear a mask. Please contact Tina Puitz at tmp@plymouthfw.org or Mackenzie Giganti at mmg@plymouthfw.org to make an appointment. Thank you.



Camp Plymouth Wraps Up

Over the summer, Camp Plymouth offered 8 weeks of camp activities for families. Camp Plymouth's goal was to support parents and have fun with kids throughout this strange summer. We offered programming through online activity ideas, videos of stories and information, weekly Zoom online gatherings, mailed packets of activities for kids, and in-person check-in activities throughout the summer. Each family participated in different ways—but through all the channels combined Camp Plymouth reached over 30 families, and over a dozen of those families were not from our congregation.



Camp Plymouth was made possible by a village of adult and youth volunteers. Special thanks to Kara Jaurigue for gathering with our youth group counselors each week to encourage their participation. Throughout the summer, the following volunteers created videos or helped out at our online gatherings: Allyn Beifus, Heather Brakeen, Amy Coulter, Julie Davidson, Jan Gibson, Emily Grim, Robin Grimm, Ann Filler, Andrew Jaurigue, Elyse Jaurigue, Maggie Jordan, Spencer Jordan (and their cousin Issac), Linda Kerr, Vicki Kruse, Kyra Mendenhall, Jane Meredith, Kristen Miller, Candace Murphy, Timothy Murphy, Claire Roney, Tessa Springer, Christer Watson, Toby Watson, and Audrey Velagapudi. Thank you to each of you for being a part of Camp Plymouth!

Sunday School Plans in a Pandemic

This fall, our Sunday school structure will look quite different. We will not be holding classes together, and with many of our kids doing e-learning through school, we will not be trying to recreate the classroom experience online. Instead, we will be focusing on what families need during this strange time - connection, worship, and practice connecting our current stories with God's big story.

For connection and worship, we hope to meet outdoors once a month. Families with children and youth are welcome at these gatherings. To reduce our risk of spreading COVID-19 in large groups, folks without children at home are encouraged to follow along with photos & videos of these gatherings online.

Instead of working our way through a weekly curriculum, this year we will be focusing on 6 main stories. We will introduce these stories at our outdoor gatherings and will emphasize the common themes between the old stories and our challenges today. Each family will receive a set of storytelling supplies so they can continue exploring the story at home.

While we will not have weekly gatherings, keep an eye on Plymouth Generations on Facebook for additional videos that dive deeper into our main stories, and for bedtime books presented by guest readers.

If you are unable to attend the in-person gatherings, the stories will also be available online. Please contact Katie at kjwatson4@gmail.com if you would like her to bring your family a set of the storytelling supplies.

Call to Action: No Excuse Mail-In Voting

Indiana remains one of only a few states that does not consider concerns about COVID-19 a valid excuse for absentee voting. We need to have no excuse mail-in ballots for Indiana voters. Planning and the allocating of resources to keep Indiana voters safe while voting should be done now. Please contact Governor Eric Holcomb <https://www.in.gov/sos/2752.htm>, 206 State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204, and Connie Lawson, <https://www.in.gov/sos/2341.htm>, 317-232-6531, 201 State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204 telling them you want No Excuse Absentee voting available for the November Election. It is imperative to urge both of these folks to act since they are dragging their heels on implementing the necessary plans.

For those currently eligible to vote by mail, click here and select the “Apply Online/Get Forms” button under VOTE BY MAIL in the center of the web page. This web page includes other resources such as online voting registration, the option to check your voting status, and poll location details.

A link with these instructions is also available on the Plymouth website at plymouthfw.org/service-opportunities.

Christian Education Board Survey

Plymouth’s Christian Education Board is looking for ways to make it easier for us to stay connected during this time of social distancing. To better understand the needs of our membership, we have created a short survey that can be filled out online. You can access the survey by clicking [here](#) or on the image below.



Growing Hope Globally



Growing Hope’s goal is to assist people in developing nations to become more food secure and independent. It engages in a number of efforts, such as building water storage facilities, developing new seeds, and improving farming techniques—which can lead to increased opportunities for surplus crops to reach local markets. During COVID-19, we have found that the ability to readily wash one’s hands is extremely important. According to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, “Worldwide, three billion people - 40% of the global population - lack basic facilities to wash their hands with soap and water at home.” These opportunities increase money available to the family and potential for an improved quality of life. More important is the commitment to “pass it forward.”

Plymouth’s generosity to Growing Hope has directly improved the lives of over a million people by moving them from subsistence to surplus agriculture. Plymouth’s Global Mission Covenant calls us to support programs such as Growing Hope that impact the lives of our sisters and brothers globally.

Absentee Ballots

If you want to vote absentee, send in your request as soon as possible at least before September 18. Do not wait until October as the post office may not be able to get it to you in time to vote.

To request your absentee ballot from the Allen County Elections board: www.allencounty.us/electionboard/1224. This ballot request will need to be downloaded, printed, filled out and returned by mail or email. If you do not have a printer most branch libraries will print it for you or you can call the Election Board at 449-7329 to have them send you a request form. They may also take your request over the phone. You may also be able to fill it out and send it online.

You may also request your ballot online at indianavoters.in.gov selecting Visit My Portal and after filling your identification information selecting Vote by Mail under the question ‘Do you want to apply for an absentee ballot?’. You will be guided through the on-line request procedure.

The following reasons for voting by mail for the General election:

- Are at least 65 years old.
- Expect to be absent from the county on Election Day.
- Are confined to your home or a hospital on Election Day by illness or injury.
- Are caring for someone confined to their home.
- Are scheduled to work the entire 12 hours the polls are open.
- Do not have transportation to the polls.
- You have a disability.
- You are in the military or are a public service officer.

All available excuses for an absentee ballot can be found on the request form.



Oxford Community Association

Oxford Community Association began in November of 1972, when a group of property owners came together under the leadership of Josephine Williams. Early meetings were held at Steve's House of Wigs at 1434 Oxford Street, as well as the Union building at 3422 Robinwood Drive. In June of 1973, the Weisser Park Association joined with OCA, and the current boundaries were established. These boundary lines extend from Pontiac Street to the north, Rudisill Blvd. to the south, S. Anthony Blvd. to the east, and Lafayette Street to the west.



In November of 1976, the building at 1421 Oxford Street was acquired by Neighborhood Care for use as a center for the Oxford Community Association, with OCA only being responsible for the utilities. The first meeting was held in the building in March of 1977.



Oxford Community Association was incorporated in 1977 and became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1985. Fort Wayne relinquished ownership of the building at 1421 Oxford, making it the first and only association to own their building. It still holds this record.

OCA has worked through the years for increased lighting on streets and alleys, increased safety and cleanliness in the neighborhoods, and support for businesses that better the community. However, use of the building has not really lived up to it's potential, and has fallen into disrepair through the years.

This was until Diane Rogers became involved in the organization 2 years ago and became trustee of the building. Since then, they have had renters in the upstairs apartment who bring income to keep the building running, but there is so much more to do.

The building is quite large and contains a full kitchen, but needs new heating/air, plumbing and electrical work. They have received a quote around \$60,000 to get this accomplished and have already connected with other groups who have donated services and materials.

This building belongs to the community and OCA has a vision that they want everyone in the southeast side of Fort Wayne to see also. There is office space as well as a meeting hall for special events, community outreach, fitness classes – the list goes on. But there are many neighbors who are not members of the association, \$25 per year, and many who don't even know anything about the building at 1421 Oxford. For this reason, they have been creating awareness of OCA, through carwashes all summer at the building, and asking folks to become members. There will be several members who will walk the neighborhood in the near future to continue this push. However, they can't do this alone and can definitely use help.



I became involved personally with OCA after getting to know Diane Rogers through Faith in Indiana, and I saw her passion to make this association and the people and power structure that could make real change. I wanted to help and work alongside them in order to see their vision and power come to fruition in ways they were happy to accept. I have attended Southeast Area Partnership meetings and learned about an area of the city that many people ignore. Most importantly, I can be the only little old white lady on Oxford Street on a Saturday afternoon washing cars with friends and people I just met; people I would not have otherwise gotten to know.

So, this has been an introduction to what I hope can be a partnership between Plymouth and Oxford Community Association. However, I know this is not the best of times to try to meet new people, so take some time to look at their website at oxfordcommunityassociation.org and start following them on Facebook.

Jan Evrard



September Birthdays



1	Dan Lewark	9	Kim Schiffl	23	Shawn Conner
1	Eli Jarred Spath	10	Charmaine Siekmann	23	Bonnie Doherty
1	Shelley Woehner	10	Mariah Western	23	Linda Hite
2	Michael Spath	11	Joshua Greener	23	Vicki Kruse
4	Phillip Colglazier	14	Natasha Chemey	23	Samuel Melo
4	Thomas Felger	14	Linda Escosa	24	Donna Belch
4	Traci Hamilton	14	Marge Feedback	24	Simon Coffeen
4	Mandy Rush	15	Roger Eversole	24	Mary Shultz
4	Jarrold Weber	15	Gabe Gardner	25	Dee Hoffman
4	Dawn Wiley	17	Owen Roney	25	Anne Kolb
6	Clyde Dively	19	Anne Hughes	26	Zackery Feasel
6	Marie Elena Lyon	19	Elka Jackson	26	Emily Grim
7	Kennon Nicholson	19	Hannah Moore	27	Emma Walker
8	Jayne Chasey	20	Melissa Stayte	28	Dustin Ramsey
8	Karen Goss	20	Ryan Tuttle	29	Bonnie Pennock
8	Shirley Laser	22	Judith Beineke	29	Beth Smith
8	Bob Nance	23	John Congdon	30	Lyra Miller

Financial Report

July 2020

	Month Actual	Month Budget	Month Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
Total Income	\$ 75,780	\$ 64,499	\$ 11,281	\$ 531,270	\$ 528,147	\$ 3,123
Total Expenses	\$ 53,961	\$ 58,698	\$ (4,737)	\$ 452,923	\$ 486,774	\$ (33,851)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 21,819	\$ 5,801	\$ 16,018	\$ 78,347	\$ 41,373	\$ 36,974

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Whoever You Are, Wherever You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!