



Pioneering Voices: Portraits of Transgender People

Beginning January 19, Plymouth is sponsoring and hosting a third exhibit from Family Diversity Projects of Amherst, MA, titled *Pioneering Voices: Portraits of Transgender People*. Plymouth members might remember “Love Makes a Family,” from 2005 or “WE HAVE FAITH,” from 2014. The photo and text exhibit will be on the art wall and around the Folsom Room for approximately two months.

Pioneering Voices is a museum-quality traveling exhibit including photographs and interviews with people of all ages who are transgender and some of their partners and children. Through first-person accounts and positive images, this exhibit seeks to challenge damaging myths and stereotypes about transgender people and to educate people about this marginalized and often invisible group of people.

This exhibit explores the many aspects of gender identity and variance by sharing these important, ground-breaking stories. *Pioneering Voices* celebrates a range of views, opinions, and experiences that are unique and empowering to transgender people everywhere. At the most basic level, *Pioneering Voices* combats transphobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. By encouraging people of all ages to affirm and appreciate diversity, this traveling exhibit contributes to the process of dismantling the destructive power of prejudice and intolerance. As a remarkable tool designed to prevent bullying and increase empathy, *Pioneering Voices* will help make the world a safer place for all people.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting date is Sunday, January 27, immediately after the morning service. Preceding the meeting is a pasta dinner prepared by our youth as an annual fundraiser. This will be followed immediately by our business meeting which will review the past year in a variety of ways, including the Annual Report, and present an overview of what 2019 holds in store for Plymouth.

This is a “voting” meeting where we, the congregation, set the direction for the remainder of the year. Every vote is important to our spiritual life in this place, so please plan on being present for this very significant gathering. See you there!



Hockey Night, February 17

Congregational Life invites Plymouth Church to a night out with the Fort Wayne Komets on Sunday, February 17. The Komets meet the Wheeling Nailers at 5 pm at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. You are invited to bring your own skates, as the ice is open to fans after the game.

Tickets are \$20 per seat and are available on Sundays in the Folsom Room. Hope to see you there!

Casa d’Plymouth

Immediately following worship on January 27, our Plymouth youth will be serving the traditional Casa d’Plymouth spaghetti lunch as a fundraiser. Please come and support our youth, enjoy a good meal, and join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting afterwards!



Plymouth Music Series

Sunday, February 17, 2019 – 2 pm
A WOODWIND RECITAL | Jonathan Snyder, Oboe & Gavin Arnold, Clarinet

Accompanied by Robert Nance, Jonathan Snyder and Gavin Arnold will present a varied program of classical to contemporary music.

Friday, March 8, 2019 – 7 pm
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
WOMEN'S CHOIR | Nancy Menk, director

This outstanding choir is a select 35-voice ensemble that regularly commissions and performs new works for women's voices. An outgrowth of this emphasis is the publication of the Saint Mary's College Choral Series, a collection of new works for women's voices published by earthsongs of Corvallis, Oregon. The Choir has performed all over the world and has made five recordings that are highly acclaimed.

Sunday, March 24, 2019 – 2 pm
A PIANO RECITAL | Andrew Nesler, pianist

Andrew Nesler has performed regularly throughout the region since coming to Fort Wayne to study at PFW with Hamilton Tescarollo. Currently serving as the staff pianist for Heartland Sings, Andrew combines great skill and sensitivity in his playing – don't miss this program!

Saturday, April 20, 2019 – 4 pm
EASTER VIGIL CONCERT

We present a special Easter Vigil Concert featuring the following music for reflection: STABAT MATER by Pergolesi (for soprano and alto soloists with orchestra), MISA CRIOLLA by Ariel Ramírez (for choir, soloists, guitars, mandolins, keyboards and percussion), and SICUT CERVUS by Palestrina (a cappella choir). This hour long, inspirational concert is open to all, and a light supper will follow.

From the Senior Pastor

Happy new year, Plymouth Church! I am very much looking forward to what's in store for 2019 and in our collective work for sharing God's good news of love, justice, and compassion. As part of this effort, on January 8 I presented to the Executive Council an article I have prepared for the Journal Gazette on the importance of Indiana finally passing a hate crimes bill. After conversation, the Executive Council approved adding Plymouth Church's endorsement to this letter. There is so much injustice and anti-gospel systems present in our society. We can't do everything. But if we are faithful in bringing a little bit of light wherever the opportunity presents itself, we can witness to the love we have known to the end that others may have life and have it abundantly.

Below is the article as submitted, though it may change slightly in the newspaper's editing process.

Sincerely,
Timothy C. Murphy, Senior Pastor and Teacher

Time for Indiana to Approve Hate Crimes Bill

There are many challenges facing the state of Indiana in 2019, but there are also opportunities for us to come together. One goal should be to finally pass hate crimes legislation. This should be a nonpartisan issue, one in which Republicans, Democrats, and independents can come together.

There is little doubt that a hate crimes bill would pass if given the chance to come up for a vote. However, in 2018, previous legislation was killed before either our General Assembly or Senate could vote on it. There is no excuse for this to happen again.

As people of faith, it is especially important that our society offer protections for victims of crimes based on their race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, disability, national origin, ancestry and sexual orientation. We continue to see hate crimes committed against LGBTQ persons, people of color, and religious minorities throughout our state. Acknowledging through law that this is happening shows that we value those who have been victimized. It also provides judges the ability to consider such biases when issuing sentences.

There may be those who will nitpick and try to remove certain groups from this bill, but this only serves to divide us. It's not okay to say, fine, we can have a bill, but we're going to exclude Muslims. Or transgender persons. Or Jews. Or Black Americans. None of us are truly free until all of us are free; we have to stick together for a better Indiana.

Passing hate crimes legislation will not prevent anyone from committing such crimes. What it will do is give greater power for officials to hold people accountable when they act out their hatred for various groups. It is long past time that Indiana catch up with the rest of the nation. After all, who wants to be the last state to pass hate crimes laws? Besides Indiana, there are only four other remaining states. We'd better get moving.

Rev. Timothy C. Murphy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, Associate Pastor

Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne, United Church of Christ

Sunday School Winter Affirmations

This year in Sunday school we are working our way through eight statements that affirm what we believe, as progressive Christians. Our affirmation for January is “I will always look for ways to learn and be loving to others.” It’s pretty easy to convince kids that learning is important; they do it all the time! In this month’s units we are remembering that learning happens always, throughout our lives, and we can always find new ways to show our love in the world. In February we will move to the affirmation, “My heart is open to the wisdom teachings of the world.” Following our tradition of exploring a world religion each year, we will be exploring Hinduism through hands-on exploration stations. Keep an eye out for the stations in the Christian Education lounge upstairs and you might learn something new about Hinduism, too!

Sunday School Visiting Artists

This winter several visitors are sharing their passions and talents in our Sunday school. We started the year off by learning about backyard birds and making bird feeders with Carol Roberts. Later in January, Trevor Harkenrider will lead us in some journaling exercises. Finally, as we move in to February, Andrea Reichard will guide us through canvas painting as we make some new artwork for the Easter sanctuary. We love having visitors in the Sunday school, and making connections between Plymouth’s kids and adults. If you have a passion or project you’d like to share some time, please contact Katie Watson at kjwatson4@gmail.com.

OWL Class Begins

Plymouth’s Our Whole Lives sexuality education class for students in grades 7-9 has started up, and we are welcoming in 15 students this year! Over half of our students are from outside of our Plymouth family, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this service to the community.

Information about our spring OWL class for grades K-1 will be coming out soon--watch for it if you know a child that age who would be interested.

Fairfield Elementary School Needs

It is winter again and our partner elementary school is in need of some items for the children. They are: crayons, glue sticks, black dry erase markers, and Kleenex. The Peace and Justice Committee is grateful to all of the Plymouth family for their caring and generous support for our partner school. We will collect these items in the marked bin in the Folsom room until the end of February.

Shrove Tuesday, March 5

Congregational Life presents the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage supper from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Folsom Room. Please join us for a fun family evening!



For the Month of January

During the month of January, the Global Ministries Division of the UCC/DOC invites us to pray for the people of China, especially the Henan Province. We also pray for Pilgrims of Ibillin (Israel); Bright Stars of Bethlehem, and the Diyar Consortium of ministries (West Bank, Palestine).

Film and Faith

Join us for Plymouth’s second Film and Faith event on Sunday, February 10 from 2 to 5 pm. Those who were there for our first event enjoyed it so much that we’re doing it again; you don’t want to miss this one! We will be viewing the thought-provoking 2016 sci-fi film *Arrival*, starring Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner, where Adams plays Louise Banks, a linguistics expert charged with investigating how to communicate with aliens who have landed across the planet. There will be lots for us to discuss after watching; this event is for those ages 18-39. Please email Pastor Timothy at tcm@plymouthfw.org if you or a friend plan on attending!

2019 Bell Submission Deadlines

Information for the printed editions of the Bell must be sent to Mackenzie Giganti at mmg@plymouthfw.org by the following dates:

January 9	August 7
March 6	October 9
May 8	November 6

Please send your submissions in the form of a Word Document by **5 pm** on the above dates to be included in the printed Bell.

2019 Chancel Flowers

The 2019 calendar is available in the Front Office to dedicate Chancel Flowers, the cost is \$40 per week. For more information, contact Maressa at mfe@plymouthfw.org.



Scholarship Application Deadline

LAST CALL: Completed applications including all supporting documents for Van Gorder, Sinish, or Kent scholarships for tuition and fees for academic credit administered by the Grants and Scholarships Committee are due in the church office by Friday, February 15. Incomplete applications are ineligible for consideration.

\$cholarship Opportunitie\$ for Tuition and Fee\$ for Academic Credit

The Grants and Scholarships Committee has the pleasant responsibility of awarding scholarship grants for tuition and fees for academic credit from the earnings generated by several endowed funds.

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

By February 15:

The **Richard Nelson Kent Memorial Fund** provides educational grants for tuition and fees for academic credit 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 academic credit 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.

To request application packets for these funds or to receive additional information, call the church office (423-9424) and leave your name, phone number, and e-mail address so one of the members of the Grants and Scholarships Committee may respond to your request.

In Our Prayers

Linda Balthaser, Audrea Carter, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Elaine Drummond, Paul Furtner, Joan Hartwig, Emery Hicks, Joanne Huber, Wendy Jackson, Susan Jarvis, Nancy Jordan, Jeannette Kent, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Mel Lehrman, Joan Lipscomb, Gerald Lockwood, Sheldon Lockwood, Rachel Lovelace, Louise Misegades, Karen O'Neal, Kerry Mills, Bonnie Pennock, Art Pflueger, Bob Pugh, Noel Resor, Mimi Rolland, Claire Roney, Anne Rowland, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, Johanna Smith, Julie Smith and family, Sheryl Stallman, Jim Stedman, Kirby Volz, Stan Volz, Clare Walter, Ervin Walter and Joel Walter.

Serving Overseas:

Lt. Col. Kate Conkey, Kuwait
Maj. Marc Lovelace, Special Operations

Celebrate

Forever Family is celebrated with the Nov. 15, 2018 adoption of Amelia Longardner-Graff, 16 years old, by her new moms, Cheri Graff and Adriene Foster; her new brother is A'Qwaun Graff.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to John and Linda Escosa and family on the death of his sister, Gail Escosa, December 15.

Sympathy is extended to Mark Friskney and A.J. Calkins on the death of Mark's brother-in-law, Rick Waterson, Dec. 26, Auburn, IN.

Sympathy is extended to Curt and Dee Smith, on the death of his brother Gordon Smith, age 95, December 22, Warren.

Sympathy is extended to Karen Fraser, Fraser and Charlie Coffeen, on the death of her brother, their uncle, Alexander Fraser, December 22, Norridge, IL.

Sympathy is extended to Helen Hill on the death of her brother, David Ellison, December 27.



January Birthdays



1	Tucker Miller	9	Tina Logan	21	Karen Jenkins
1	Terri Stumpf	9	Ella Moore	21	Peg Schilb
2	Bethany Binkley	11	Brian Eltzroth	21	Max Watson
2	Kathryn Diekhoff	11	Kyle Miller	22	Felicity Nicholson
2	Mike Hollingsworth	11	Maddox Shaw	23	Mary Nance
5	Chloe Boyko	13	Andrew Brooks	24	Larry Jenkins
5	Bob Jensen	13	Mark Glassley	25	Frances Turner
5	Sydney White	13	Joshua Weber	26	Brittany Ramsey
6	Elaine Drummond	15	Carol Shedd	27	Lee MacSorley
6	Elyse Jaurigue	16	Ron Hays	28	Kate Schmidt
6	Mary Voors	16	January Simpson	29	Charlie Belch
7	Tony Kell	17	Laura Rudolph	29	Cher Phelps-Griswold
7	Ricky Talarico	17	Amy Worcester	31	James Evans Jr.
8	Barbara Gregory	20	Dan Kaufman	31	William Wilch

Emma Feigley Fund “Fishes and Loaves” Micro-Grants

“And he said to them, ‘How many loaves have you? Go and see.’ When they had found out, they said, ‘Five, and two fish.’ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.” -- Mark 6:38-44

Perhaps you can’t feed 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread, but do you have extreme coupon skills that could stock a food bank on the cheap, or the ability to turn a little fabric into a whole lot of clothing basics, or maybe you’re a skilled gardener? The Benevolence Committee is excited to announce a new way for Plymouth members to be the church in our community during 2019! Inspired by Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000, the Committee is introducing “Fishes and Loaves” micro-grants.

With the funds made available to the church through the generosity of Emma Feigley, the Benevolence Committee will award ten micro-grants of \$100 each. The purpose of these grants is to use a relatively small amount of resources to generate a disproportionately great benefit to others. The projects funded by the micro-grants should express one of the 3 Great Loves that ground the UCC’s view of a just world – love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation (ucc.org/3greatloves).

These grants will require creativity to achieve a big impact, but the possibilities for putting the money to work are nearly limitless. We cannot wait to see what our fellow Plymouth members come up with!

Please email pfbenevolencegrant@gmail.com to request a Fishes and Loaves application. The Benevolence Committee will be accepting applications until March 1, 2019, and grant winners will be announced in service on March 17, 2019.

Friendly Reminders From Property Board

As we start 2019, Property Board reminds all groups and organizations using Plymouth Church facilities about building usage. Please complete a Building Use Form at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting time. Forms are available in the church office. It is important to complete the Building Use Form as it helps us schedule custodial staff. A member of each group or organization must participate in a kitchen training session. Use/misuse of the dish sanitizer continues to be an issue and proper operation of this equipment is essential. In keeping with our "GREEN" policy, groups are to use washable dishes and tableware. Also, use the recycle containers for any recyclable materials. No leftover food of any kind is to remain on the premises after the event. Wash/ sanitize the dishes, clean off the countertops, and sweep the floors in the kitchen after use. All areas are to be left clean and ready for the next use. These small measures keep our kitchen looking great so that it may be used by all groups and organizations.

2018 Tax Reminder

Getting ready to prepare your federal tax return for 2018? Remember: the IRS will allow you to deduct the donations you made to Plymouth only if they were dated and postmarked in 2018.

As long as you itemize your deductions, you can generally claim 100 percent of your church donations as a deduction.



Parking Lot Hang Tags Available Through the Church Office During Office Hours

Due to the increased activity downtown and the limited parking available, all Plymouth members and staff are expected to display a yellow Parking Lot Hang Tag when parking in Plymouth's parking lots for Plymouth activities. This will clearly let the staff know that you are a Plymouth member parking on the Plymouth property.

You will need to provide your name and a phone number at the time of receiving a parking tag. This information will be associated with the tag number you are given and will be kept on file in the church office.

If you still have an old yellow parking hang tag, either write down the number or bring the tag number to the church office, or email it to Laura Rudolph, rudyfw@yahoo.com, along with your name and contact phone number, so this information can be entered into the database.

Please take the opportunity to become familiar with the Plymouth Parking Lot Policy, created by the Property Board and presented to the Executive Council in July 2018.

Plymouth Parking Lot Policy

1. All members and staff of Plymouth church who desire a Parking Hang Tag will be issued one.
2. The Parking Hang Tag is to be displayed at all times on the rear-view mirror on the inside of the front windshield of the vehicle with the numbers facing out so they can be easily read.
3. This Parking Hang Tag is for the express use of parking during Plymouth Church activities or events in Plymouth's parking lot located on the NW corner of Berry St. and Fairfield Ave. and the parking area on the west side of the church.
4. Cars without Hang Tags displayed will have a notice placed on it reminding the car owner to have the Hang Tag displayed or risk towing at the owner's expense.
5. Cars without Parking Hang Tags will be towed at the direction of the church staff.
6. Parking Hang Tags are available through the church office during business hours.
7. A master list of Parking Hang Tag numbers and the associated names will be maintained by the church office.
8. Should a Parking Hang Tag require replacement for any reason, a donation to Plymouth Church is requested.
9. Temporary Parking Hang Tags will be issued to contractors by the church office as needed.

Property Board
June 21, 2018

Women's Retreat

*Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9 am to 4 pm
Lindenwood Retreat Center, Donaldson, IN*

IMAGINE THAT! A day for you to

Relax

Reflect

Renew

Experiencing

Reflecting

Sharing

Walking

Sitting

Praying

Singing

Meditating

Connecting

Enjoying

*All women of Plymouth and their female friends and family are invited.
(Ages 18 years and more)*

Registration due in church office by April 11, 2019

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I can drive _____ passengers \$20.00 Enclosed**

I need a ride _____ * Check #_____

I will meet you there _____ Cash _____

*Carpooling will be arranged for those who need a ride.

**Scholarship assistance available. Contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips 423-9424 or rep@plymouthfw.org



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

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Looking for our email addresses?

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Child Care Director
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Associate Pastor
rep@plymouthfw.org

Office Manager
tmp@plymouthfw.org

Associate in Pastoral Care
c2cftwayne@gmail.com

Communications Specialist
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Music Director
robert@maestronance.com

Financial Administrator
financial@plymouthfw.org

Youth Director
kkjaurigue@gmail.com

Building Maintenance Manager
david@plymouthfw.org

Sunday School Director
kjwatson4@gmail.com

Receptionist
mfe@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.