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BELL

Annual Business Meeting Sunday, January 22

Please join us following worship on **Sunday, January 22**, for Plymouth's Annual Business Meeting. The **2017 Annual Budget** and the **2016 Annual Report** will be presented, as well as other issues impacting our lives at Plymouth.

ANNUAL MEETING

Casa d'Plymouth January 22—Youth Fundraiser

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser

Join us for our annual "Casa d'Plymouth" luncheon: spaghetti & meatballs, salad, and bread, served cafeteria style, immediately following worship and before the annual meeting! All profits go to the Youth Fund which helps pay for our summer trip.

The kitchen crew will begin at **9:00 am**, while the kids/teens are in Sunday school. Youth will then gather in the kitchen to work and prepare the meal so it's ready on time.

The Youth and adult helpers also will be in charge of cleaning up after the meal; we should be done **by 1:00 pm** for parents to pick up their youth.

Ash Wednesday, March 1



The Christian observance of Lent begins with an evening worship service for Ash Wednesday, **March 1, 7:00 pm**, in the Plymouth sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday worship includes a ceremony for the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of worship participants. Together, we recall the words from Genesis: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:19). The evening service also includes the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The season of Lent places special emphasis upon acts of charity, prayer, and fasting. Through devotion and the practice of faith, we respond to the call of Jesus to embrace more fully the love of God and neighbor.

Upcoming Dates To Remember

- Feb. 28: Shrove Tuesday
- March 1: Ash Wednesday
- March 12: Time Changes
- April 9: Palm Sunday
- April 13: Maundy Thursday
- April 14: Good Friday
- April 16: Easter Sunday
- April 22: Women's Retreat

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Pancake Supper: February 28, 5:30-7:00 pm



Come, celebrate Mardi Gras!

The Congregational Life Board invites all ages to enjoy pancakes and sausage for supper, Mardi Gras hat-making, and games.

Donations of "water only" pancake mix, and syrup are requested and need to be at church by **Sunday, February 26**.

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is the feast before the fasting of Lent.

Upcoming Chapel Classes

Haiku As Spiritual Practice, with Dana Wichern: Reading and writing haiku is sort of like finding meaning in a cup of morning coffee. It's personally specific and universal all at the same time. And, it is one of the rare forms that demands as much of the reader as it does of the writer. Writing and reading haiku can help with seeing oneself in the universe and with growing to value even the little frightening things of life such as frogs, tree toads, or whatever. And poets pack all this into 17 syllables precisely arranged in three lines. Come to the chapel prepared to experience the haiku. **All ages are welcome.** Kindly, bring pen and paper if you think of it.

The focus for the three Chapel sessions will be:

January 29: The What: A haiku hike to learn the form, "ah-ha" moments, and essences.

February 5: The How: The sound and look of the best language and a bit of liberty.

February 12: The Where: Haiku jumping off places and a grand finale.

Wednesday Study Group

Wednesday Study Group, **6:45 to 7:30 pm**, with Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, has begun a new 7-week session, **through February 22**, "Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith," using the DVD, "Painting the Stars."

Among the progressive theologians included are Barbara Rossing, John Shelby Spong, Matthew Fox, and Bruce Sanguin. Each session includes a 20-minute DVD clip followed by lively exploratory discussion. All are welcome.

In Our Prayers

Plymouth people in our prayers:

A.J. Calkins, Dave Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Roger and Tony Crouch, Chrissy Dwire, Morgan Ellingwood, Gail Escosa, Darin Heavner, Maureen Heavner, Becky Hollingsworth, Steve Hollingsworth, Tom Ice, Sr., Tracy Ingram, Susan Towle Jarvis, Sheldon Lockwood, Carol Miller, Bill Nicholson, Carol Patterson, Ian Rolland, Jack Sanders, Charmaine Siekmann, Joan and Alan Simon, Marylynn Sloop, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Jim Watson, Chris Week..

Members and friends serving our country: Nick Brattain, US Navy; Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman; Capt. Brandi Wallace, USAF.

UCC Chaplains serving overseas:

Chaplain Albert Ghergich, Chaplain James Janecek, Chaplain Mark Roeder.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Madeline Louise McCoy, December 30, daughter of delighted parents Andy and Carolyn McCoy, Seattle, WA. Proud grandparents are Mike and Laura McCoy.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Chloe Rose Boyko, January 5, daughter of happy parents Anne and Daniel Boyko, and little sister of Zoey Spath Pinedo and Sophia Boyko. Proud grandparents are Mary and Michael Spath.

Sympathy is extended to Donna Riethmiller and family on the death of her mother, Margaret Bridges, November 23.

Sympathy is extended to Heather Brackeen Moore and family on the death of her father, Roger Brackeen, November 25.

Sympathy is extended to Dwight James on the death of his father, George James, December 11.

Sympathy on the death of Rev. Kim Moor, December 14, is extended to her husband, Scott, and to daughters Kate and Jenna. Kim was an ordained UCC minister.

Sympathy is extended to Roy and Mary Gilliom and family on the death of his brother, LaVerne Gilliom, who died December 16, in Berne.

Sympathy is extended to Jane Meredith and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Larry Sloop, December 17, in Statesville, NC.

Sympathy is extended to Stan Fahl, Kara, Elyse, and Andrew Jaurigue, and family on the death of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Rosemary Hardy, December 26.

Sympathy is extended to Brian and Linda Elzroth on the death of his father, Ralph Elzroth, December 28.

Sympathy is extended to Suzanne and Tom Studinski on the death of his sister, Nancy Pence, December 31, in Jasper, IN.

Sympathy is extended to Brian Beifus and family on the death of his sister, Wendy Beifus Webster, January 2, in Madison, CT.

Sympathy is extended to Patty Pendleton and family on the death of her partner and love, Doug Pinner, January 4.

Sympathy is extended to family and friends on the death of Charles Eckman on January 15.

Fulfill A New Year's Resolution To Make A Difference!

Many of you made New Year's resolutions for 2017 to "make a difference this year," in some way. Here is an opportunity to fulfill that resolution!

Plymouth is the host for *Just Neighbors* IHN during the week of **Sunday, January 29 through Friday, February 3** (*Yes, we just had a week of hosting at Just Neighbors right before Christmas and are called back to do the same the end of January*). Plymouth members and friends provide the evening meal and after-dinner activities for the children during our week of hosting.

Just Neighbors is the only shelter in Fort Wayne that provides temporary housing to families that need a place to stay together (the key word is "together"). No matter what the family unit consists of, *Just Neighbors* is there to provide a safe, warm place to be for children, while the adults receive support and counseling to address their housing and job needs.

If you have an hour or so to spare during that week, consider making a contribution to the evening meal or create an after-dinner activity for the children. In doing this, you will be extending that warm Plymouth welcome and making a tangible difference in the lives of neighbors right here in Fort Wayne, as well as crossing something off your "to-do list".

The sign-up for this activity is done online through *Sign-Up Genius*. Once you go to this site, you can select to provide any part(s) of the meal you would like on the day that meets your schedule. Directions to the *Just Neighbors* center is on this site, as well as other helpful information. You are asked to bring your portion(s) of a meal capable of serving 24 hungry adults. Do remember when making your meal choices, that the majority of our guests are children under the age of 12.

This is a great way to start-off the new year, helping others and extending that warm Plymouth welcome of, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

If you have questions, want more information or would like to be added to the E-vite list, please contact: Laura Rudolph – rudyfw@yahoo.com, or 485-2285.

Thank You Christmas Decorators

Gratitude is expressed to Michael Thomas, coordinator of sanctuary and building decorating, for his dedication to "decking the halls" of Plymouth. His creative finesse gave us new pew swags, which enhanced the beauty of the sanctuary. The day of decorating was completed by Michael, Ed Gomez, Dwight James, Vida McCray Gardner, and Rev. John P. Gardner.

A word of gratitude goes to Charles Van Camp who single-handedly accomplished ALL of our outside decorating, which meant climbing the ladder, braving some very chilly weather, and checking strings of lights and timers. He also did all the un-decorating of the outside just prior to the weather turning colder and the rain starting.

The un-decorating day volunteers were: Shawn Conner, Barb Duch, Roger Eversole, Mark Glassley, Ed Gomez, John P. Gardner, Vida McCray Gardner, Monty Millage, Nada and Karen O'Neal, and little Michaela O'Neal provided smiles and hugs.



| | | |
|---|----|--------------------|
| F | 1 | Terry Anderson |
| | | Dave Cornwell |
| E | 2 | Allen Haynes |
| | 3 | Jakob Feasel |
| B | | Theo Garcia |
| | | Merideth Minchski |
| | 5 | Jim Eitsert |
| R | | Dick Hill |
| | 7 | Ginny Laudadio |
| u | 8 | Jim Graham |
| | | Dee Harding |
| a | 10 | Sara Sprunger |
| | 11 | Nicholas Brattain |
| r | | Jeff Moore |
| | 12 | Ruth E. Phillips |
| y | 13 | Robin Grissom |
| | | Karen O'Neal |
| | | Andrea Reichard |
| | 14 | Collette Legg |
| | 15 | Gale Cunningham |
| | | Sara Hodges |
| | 16 | Allyn Beifus |
| | | Christopher Butler |
| | 18 | Kris Jensen |
| B | | Nathaniel Richman |
| | | Halley Woehner |
| i | 19 | Andrew Spath |
| | 20 | Donna Childs |
| | | Chuck Knox |
| r | | Blaine Schroeder |
| | 21 | Nick Eitsert |
| t | 22 | Brian Augspurger |
| | | Miriam Brown |
| h | | Riley Kuhns |
| | | Ren Moore |
| D | 23 | Elle Hollingsworth |
| | | Verne Mitchell |
| a | 24 | John Escosa |
| | | Linda Balthaser |
| y | 25 | Vicki Braun |
| | 27 | Claire A. Roney |
| s | | |





The Amazing Grays
will feature

A Tribute to Valentine's Day

With
**Maestro Robert Nance
& Members of
Heartland Sings**

**Sunday,
February 12**

Lunch will be served im-
mediately after the 10:00
am service.

Reservations should be
made by Friday,
February 10.

**Moved? Changed your
phone number or
email address?**

If so, have you contacted the
church office to let us know?

Remember, our records are
only as good as information
YOU provide to us!

A BIG Thank You!

To all of you who took time out of your busy holiday schedules to reach out to the families who called *Just Neighbors* home during the holidays—a BIG Thank You! What a wonderful way to exemplify the care and compassion everyone in this world deserves!

Many thanks to the following people who helped provide wonderful, tasty and nutritious meals and to those who provided entertaining evening activities to the guests at *Just Neighbors* Interfaith Homeless Network during the week of December 18 – 23, 2016: Sally Felger, Gail McKinnon, Sandy and Dave Moliere, Clare Walter and Carole Green, Lucy Hess, Anne Hughes, Kathy Kolb, Mary Ellen Argus Ahnee Conner, Vida Gardner, Rev. Ruth Phillips, Steve Etheridge, Diana Bauer, Carol and Randy Roberts and their family, Lois Steere, Jim and Diane Lasley, Ann, Steve and Laura Filler and their friend, Emily and Madeline Redman, Bill Nicholson, Cathy Clifford-Nicholson, Miles and Kennon Nicholson, and Kris Connerly and The Friends.

A little bit of effort and time donated by many provides a whole lot to those who are in need! If you are interested in being involved with *Just Neighbors* IHN, by providing food or activities during Plymouth's hosting week, or helping with the coordination of these activities several times a year, please contact Laura Rudolph – 485-2285 or rudyfw@yahoo.com.

Collecting For Bloomingdale School

This year, Plymouth's Study Connection match of "church and school" is Bloomingdale Elementary School. They are in need of:

- Boys' and girls' scarves
- Boys' and girls' gloves
- sweat pants boys' or girls,' any size 5-16
- girls' shoes size 2, 5, 9+
- girls' boots any size 10-9
- Boys' and girls' underwear, sizes 5, 6, 7, 8

Take advantage of sales. Please bring items to the church and put them in the designated bin in the Folsom Room. Items will be collected **through the middle of February**. Thank you for your wonderful support of these children.

Name Tags Reorganized

The name tags, on the hanging racks in the narthex, have been recently reorganized, with hopes that finding them will be easier. If you find one out-of-place, or one you don't know where to hang, please use the extra hooks at the top and they'll be put back in the correct spot.

If yours is missing or in the wrong place, please contact **Jan Younger** (janyounger@yahoo.com), or **Sandy Moliere** (smoliere@msn.com), and they will do their best to get them right.

If you need a new name tag made, please contact Suzanne in the church office (sls@plymouthfw.org).

Peace & Justice Spotlight: Homelessness

By Allie Meriweather Brown

Unfortunately, we are acquainted with many forms of violence in our world. But as Gandhi once said, “Poverty is the greatest form of violence.”

Plymouth’s Peace and Justice Committee (PJs) exists, in part, to work toward justice in the form of ensuring the basic rights of dignity, freedom, and safety for all people. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of wholeness and flourishing—all things as they are meant to be. We believe that justice and peace go hand-in-hand, and want to do our part to resist violence and injustice.

As you may know, the PJs have committed to learning about homelessness in the city of Fort Wayne. During a September 2016 meeting of the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness, Rev. Dr. Terry Anderson (Just Neighbors) shared that, on average, a city’s homeless population is about 1% of its total population. This puts Fort Wayne’s count around 2,500-3,000 homeless persons at any given time. This is an estimate, but those who work with the homeless population on a day-to-day basis agree that it rings true with their experience (despite other head counts, which often lack the means and scope to include every homeless person). Another council member shared that, at the time, at least one student in every grade of every school in Fort Wayne was living without a home.

Though we may cognitively acknowledge the violence of poverty, we must open ourselves to the reality of our Fort Wayne neighbors whose lives are continuously disrupted by this violence. As we are increasingly affected by their struggle, we’re called deeper into God’s heart of liberation for the oppressed. And in doing so, we see that our liberation is tied to theirs. Liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez said, “I hope my life tries to give testimony to the message of the Gospel, above all that God loves the world and loves those who are poorest within it.”

May the same be said of us—that in our striving toward dignity, freedom, and safety for all—the PJs’ work on behalf of Plymouth church was to offer an extravagant welcome as we saw Christ in every woman, man, and child.

Sweet Pepper Jelly Still Available

Did you eat or give away all of your pepper jelly during the Christmas season? There still are various sizes available for sale, but in limited quantities. The 16-ounce jars are \$9, 12-ounce \$7, 8-ounce \$5, and 4-ounce \$2.50.



Some Plymouth members enjoy the jelly as a glaze on pork or fish, spread on a burger, included in a peanut butter sandwich and, of course, the familiar treat with cream cheese and crackers.

Please contact Joyce Augspurger at jema7749@comcast.net (or 625-3222) for orders and/or questions. As a reminder, we do re-use the jars and welcome them returned at any time.

Thank you for your continued support of this annual project.

2017 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 (423-9424) or email your name, phone number, and email address to Suzanne in the church office (sls@plymouthfw.org). She will then forward your information to a member of the Grants and Scholarships Committee, who will respond to your request.

Save The Date: 2017 Annual Women's Retreat

The 2017 Annual Women's Retreat for Plymouth women members and friends will be **Saturday, April 22, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**, at Epworth Forest Conference Center. We will spend the day enjoying a lovely, peaceful environment. A full lunch is provided, along with morning and afternoon snacks.

Plan now to participate and benefit from a Saturday of reflection and renewal. Program details will be forthcoming. For questions, please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips.

Music Denotes "A Matter of Life and Death"



The IPFW Department of Music and Heartland Chorus will present, "A Matter of Life

and Death," **Sunday, April 23, 4:00 pm**, at Auer Performance Hall, on the IPFW campus.

All three IPFW Choruses will join forces with the Heartland Chorus to present a concert including a Bach motet, a Canadian premier, and Faure's immortal "Requiem."

Admission is free and open to the public.

2016 Tax Reminder

As you prepare your federal tax returns for 2016, a reminder: the IRS will allow you to deduct the donations you made to Plymouth *only* if they were dated and postmarked in 2016. As long as you itemize your deductions, you can generally claim 100 percent of your church donations as a deduction.

Thoughts On Clean Energy

My name is Jan Evrard and I am a 64-year-old mother and grandmother living in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am deeply concerned about the money I&M is requesting to make improvements to the Rockport power plant. There are so many reasons why having customers pay for these improvements is wrong, but basically it makes no sense to pour money into an outdated and tired facility that is polluting our environment and harming the health of our people, regardless of who pays.

I would like to see I&M generate clean energy and clean energy jobs, and for government to do away with the tax shelters that are given to large corporate owners. This is being done in many areas of the country, and though change is painful, we usually survive it. The folks who once built the steam engines lost their jobs when new ways of travel were invented, but they had to move on to other ways of making a living. Although I sympathize with anyone who loses a job, I believe we can transition into clean energy and make sure that everyone has a part, if we do so in a mindful and careful manner.

In creating clean energy, not only would it create jobs but it could be less costly via the use of wind farms that would increase the local property tax base and support famers and rural schools and towns. Other jobs could be created that we may not even be aware of at this time, as Americans are a creative and resourceful people.

But most of all, I don't know how anyone of us can look into the eyes of our children and grandchildren and not be concerned with what kind of world we are leaving to them. If we continue to spew carbon monoxide and other toxins into the air through the Rockport power plant, we not only damage our environment and natural resources, but the health and quality of life of the people. I know that money is important in this world, but is it more important than doing the right thing for our children and all those coming after us?

I hope that the right decision is made for all concerned, and that it is not too late to turn around the damage that has already been done.

Newsletter Guidelines

Please continue sending your information for the printed *Bell* to Suzanne at: sls@plymouthfw.org by the second Wednesday of the months it is printed.

PLEASE DO NOT USE office@plymouthfw.org

The **e-Bell** is emailed on the second and fourth Fridays of the months it is used. Deadlines are the Wednesdays immediately prior.

| <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> |

Foods Resource Bank — 2016 Financial Report

The Foods Resource Bank Task Force members would like to thank everyone who contributed to the FRB program for 2016. It really was a great project and a good year. The corn yield was 152.61 bushels per acre. This year, the donations will be split between Dominican Republic Bateyes and Uganda Teso, so we will be helping many, many people!

We also acknowledge and thank the Emma Feigley Mission Fund for the continued support of the FRB Global Mission. This grant, administered by the Benevolence Committee of the church, continues to be a constant in the endeavor to help those in need, and so represents Emma's request. We are making a difference!

We also thank the members of Standish Circle for their FRB gift and our Sunday School children who shared their offerings in the "Sunday Morning Corn Bag."

2016 Foods Resource Bank Financial Report

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Plymouth noon meal (expenses) | \$122.91 |
| Salem noon meal (all donated) | |
| Farm expenses (fertilizer, chemicals) | \$3,350.92 |
| Farm rent | <u>\$3,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | -\$6,473.83 |

INCOME

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| John Deere Foundation | \$500.00 |
| Troxel Equipment (local John Deere dealer) | \$500.00 |
| Plymouth Congregational Church UCC | \$12,335.92 |
| Plymouth (corn bags) | \$512.21 |
| Salem United Church of Christ | \$737.81 |
| Noon Meal donations | \$683.50 |
| Bake Sale | \$393.00 |
| Kettle Korn | \$85.50 |
| Sale of 20 acres of corn | \$10,369.79 |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>\$26,117.73</u> |
| | |
| Final total donated to FRB | \$19,643.90 |

Foods Resource Bank Task Force members: Gale Cunningham, Carol Patterson, Kathy Kolb, and Rick and Peg Schilb

Scanner Tag For Plymouth "E-Donations"



Using your smart phone's barcode scanner, this QR Code/Scanner tag will take you to the Plymouth page at eservicepayments.com. 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.

Please be generous!



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

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Save Your Pets From Toxic Chemicals

Consider using **non-toxic de-icing substances** such as clean clay cat litter, sand, or fireplace/stove ash to prevent hazardous waste from chemicals that could harm your pets.

Using more **environmentally friendly automotive anti-freeze** is another option. Traditional antifreeze is made with ethylene glycol, a substance that is highly toxic even in small doses, which unfortunately, also has a sweet taste that pets may find attractive. A better solution is to use propylene glycol antifreeze which, while not completely harmless, is less toxic than traditional antifreeze.

Looking for our email addresses?

Senior Pastor and Teacher
jpg@plymouthfw.org

Associate Pastor
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Associate in Pastoral Care
c2cftwayne@gmail.com

Music Director
robert@maestronance.com

Youth Director
kkjaurigue@gmail.com

Office Manager
lmc@plymouthfw.org

Secretary/Communications Associate (Bell)
sls@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.