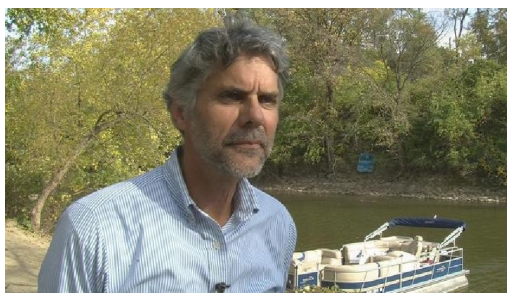




2016 Amistad Peace & Justice Award To Be Presented To Local Environmentalist Dan Wire



Dan Wire, Executive Director of the Tri-State Watershed Alliance, Fort Wayne's "Friend of the Rivers," has been chosen as the 2016 recipient of the Amistad Peace & Justice Award by the Peace & Justice Committee of Plymouth Church.

Wire was born and raised near the St. Joe River, just north of Northside High School, where he later worked as a teacher. Having served on every water-related board or commission in the city over the last 20-plus years, he is today a self-taught expert on the rivers, frequently sought after for his advice on the many facets of the topic.

As a proven "steward of the earth," Wire has been recognized for his service to environment and community, especially his advocacy for good stewardship and the improved quality of our rivers. Dan's advocacy work was considered exemplary of the Plymouth Church commitment to be an "earth wise" congregation.

The Peace & Justice Committee, represented by Jan Evard, chairperson, along with members Tony Kell and Rick Stoerker, will participate in bestowing Wire with the award, which includes a special plaque of commendation. Although the award presentation was originally scheduled for March 13, Wire was not able to attend due to an illness, so will be given the award at a later date.

The mission of the Tri-State Watershed Alliance is to sustain healthy watersheds that support thriving communities and strong economies evidenced by improved water quality with increased recreational and business opportunities.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil Signup

Good Friday Prayer Vigil, **March 25**: signup sheet is in the Folsom Room on an easel. Please volunteer for a 15-minute prayer time in this **7:00 am to 7:00 pm** prayer vigil connection. Each individual needs a phone so that you can receive and make a phone call at your prayer time. Complete instructions with prayer guide will be emailed or mailed to you by Deacon Mary Bir.



March 20, Palm Sunday

Plymouth University
9:00 am
Worship & Communion
10:00 am

March 24, Maundy Thursday

Worship & Communion
7:00 pm

March 25, Good Friday

Prayer Vigil
7:00 am – 7:00 pm
Service of Tenebrae
Fauré Requiem
7:00 pm

March 27, Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service
7:00 am
Message by Eric Black
Licensed Minister
Breakfast
8:00 - 9:15 am
*(Please use signup sheet
on bulletin board)*
Festival Worship
10:00 am

In Our Prayers

Plymouth people in our prayers:

Jack Ade, Sally Ade, Wayne and Carol Bauer, Elizabeth Bayle, A.J. Calkins, Roger and Tony Crouch, Barbara and Bob Davidson, Chuck Doenecke, Pat Eltzroth, Ralph Eltzroth, Gail Escosa, Yolanda Hayes, George James, Sandra Lockwood, Sheldon Lockwood, Timothy Price, Steve Riethmiller, Dulanna Rothert, Vera Scott, Charmaine Siekmann, Joan and Alan Simon, Kelly Smith, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel.

Members and friends serving our country: Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman; Nick Brattain, US Navy, Pensacola, FL.

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

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Morgan Anne Lovelace on January 18. Overjoyed parents are Rachel and Marc Lovelace, Okinawa, Japan; delighted grandparents are Betty and Bill Deans.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of William Alexander Wilch on January 31, son of happy parents Janeen (Lipscomb) and Brandon Wilch. Proud grandparents are Joan and Sam Lipscomb.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Graham Allen Augspurger, February 5, to parents Stephanie and Brian Augspurger. Proud grandparents are Joyce and Fred Augspurger.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Miriam Teura Meriwether-Brown on February 22, to proud parents Allie and Matt Brown and big sister, Lucy.

Sympathy is extended to Bill and Mary Ellen Argus on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Argus, on January 11, in Cincinnati, OH.

Sympathy is extended to Carol Shedd, on the death of her sister, Sharon Mogg, January 16, in Byron Center, MI.

Sympathy is extended to Karen Nesius Roeger, Michael Roeger and Pete Roeger, on the death of Philip Nesius and Carol Nesius, her parents and Pete's grandparents, on January 25, in Montrose, Colorado.

Sympathy is extended to Anne Rowland and the family and friends of Cathy Seymoure, who died February 16.

Sympathy is extended to Tim Cunningham on the death of his father, Kay Cunningham, on February 16.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Richard S. Johnson, who died on February 16.

Sympathy is extended to Dwight James on the death of his aunt, Ardella Wing, on February 17.

Sympathy is extended to Joanne, Jody, Zackery, Jakob, and Samuel Feasel, other family and friends, on the death of husband, father, and grandfather, James Feasel, on February 23.



From the Senior Pastor

Dear Plymouth,

I've accepted an invitation from the Rev. Bill McGill to share in Good Friday worship on March 25 at Imani Baptist Temple, located at 2920 Indiana Ave. The service is scheduled for 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Pastor McGill has suggested we work with the "Seven Last Words from the Cross."

The cross of Jesus, and with it a fixation on the death of Jesus, was not always the central symbol of the Christian way of life. It evolved over time, becoming dominant in the western expression of Christian faith in the Middle Ages. Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker, authors of *Saving Paradise*, tell the important and remarkable story of this development.

The "Seven Last Words" have been widely used in Good Friday worship for over 500 years. A traditional order of the sayings is found in a church hymnal I was given at the time of my confirmation. The hymnal had a section, "Penitential Psalms and Hymns," which set each word to song with three lines of interpretive verse. The order of the saying as found there:

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."	Luke 23:34
"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."	Luke 23:43
"Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your woman."	John 19:26-27
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"	Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34
"I thirst."	John 19:28
"It is finished."	John 19:30
"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."	Luke 23:46

Death might seem to rob and destroy life of all meaning, but actually it has an amazing capacity to remind us of what really matters in life. Death rudely expels superfluous thoughts and clarifies ultimate concern. The sayings of Jesus, when harmonized from the different gospel accounts, form a foundational meditation on the mind of Christ. They instruct us on themes suitable to define our lives as we face our own deaths.

The sayings of Jesus from the cross reveal a tremendous depth and range of faith. They were never intended, I suspect, for easy incorporation into our lives. Rather, they serve to grate and challenge and confront us with wondrous love and amazing grace; the lurking uncertainties and indignities that accompany death; and the admirable trust of committing one's life and fleeting breath to the Source that scripted death into life's design from the beginning.

Avail yourself of Holy Week worship. Ponder fresh the last words of the cross. Then prepare yourself for the great mystery: the empty tomb, the risen Christ whose company we share in life, in death, in life beyond death.

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner

Friends,

In early February, I received a mailing from the Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Dicken, my immediate predecessor, who served as Senior Minister of Plymouth Church during the years 1988-1997. Tom included in the mailing two signed copies of a recently published book, *God for an Old Man*. This particular work is a collection of wide-ranging essays and personal reflections exploring art, literature, and the meaning of life. It is an insightful work of a man who is actively engaging in discerning and interpreting the God whose presence in our lives is admittedly "slippery." I've placed copies of *God for an Old Man* in the Folsom Library located in the Amistad Room.

Rev. John P. Gardner

Philip Gulley—A Memorable Visit

Plymouth Church was pleased to welcome Philip Gulley as the 2016 Parry Lecturer the



weekend of February 27 and 28. A large crowd of close to 200 people gathered in the Folsom Room on Saturday afternoon for Gulley's lecture on "The Awakened Soul."

Gulley also brought a stirring message to the Plymouth pulpit when preaching on Sunday morning. He identified two different Americas that are in conflict today, the America that **"despises the different ... and boasts of its greatness while systematically dismantling everything that has made it great ...,"** and the America of **"the open door, its hand extended in friendship. It is the American welcoming the tired, the poor, the huddled masses."** He acknowledged his own preference for the welcoming brand of American, stating, **"I am confident that many Hoosiers still keep faith in 'the better angels of our nature.'"**

Gulley was the first Quaker to be a Parry Lecturer. Some have asked the question, "Why are Quakers called Friends?" Paul Ricketts of the Fort Wayne Friends Meeting offered the following explanation: Quakers are more formally known as the Religious Society of Friends. The name "Friends" is taken from the words of Jesus: "You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John. 15:14). Following Jesus' example, the Quaker way advocates living simply, promoting peace, working for the equality of all people, and speaking truth. Thank you, Paul, for this explanation.

Last Opportunity for Plymouth University is Sunday, March 20, 9:00 am

Our Lenten series of adult classes feature a variety of Plymouth members sharing their passions and practices.

MARCH 20

BYO Book Club – *Lisa Worrell, Amistad Room* – Time spent with a good book is an important part of many Plymouth members' spiritual journey. Hear reviews of some new titles out in the religion section, and bring the title of a book that has been important to you to share. Leave with a reading list that will challenge you throughout 2016!

Ukrainian Eggs – *Julie Davidson, Room 203*– Finish up the egg you started March 6. Limit 4 students.

Lenten Karaoke – *Kara Jaurigue, Youth Center*– Ready to make a joyful noise? Grab a microphone and share your favorite songs.

Contemplative Prayer – *Clare Walter, Chapel* – Spend time in learning about and practicing this non-verbal way to deepen your spiritual life.

Our Whole Lives Classes

Our Whole Lives Classes for First Graders continue on **Sundays through April 17**. The UCC's comprehensive sexuality education program teaches about birth, babies, bodies, and families. Parents are involved through projects and discussions the students bring home each week. Classes continue **11:30 am -12:30 pm, March 20; April 3, 10, and 17**.

Fort Wayne Children's Choir Presents Young Artist Concert, March 22

Four Plymouth youth will be adding their voices to the Fort Wayne Children's Choir in the upcoming Young Artist Concert: Jordan Dollarhite, Riley Grim, Kyra Mendenhall, and Kathleen Simunek. Among the pieces the choir will be singing is the beautiful Psalm Trilogy (92, 47, 23). This promises to be a wonderful Spring concert you won't want to miss! For tickets (\$8-\$10) please contact the *IPFW ticket office, (260) 481-6555*.

Please Look Before You Toss

Even though we have tried to mark all the recycling containers carefully, we still find items in the trash that could be recycled. Please look carefully when you have items for disposal so that you put them in the correct container. Thanks for your efforts to keep Plymouth Earthwise!

Free Take-Home Easter Activity Sheets

Check out the Easter display in the Folsom Room for free take-home Easter activity sheets, and to look through samples of some newly released Easter books and videos. These resources would make great Easter basket treats-- you can order them online at sparkhouse.org. Use the coupon code SPARKEASTER2016 for discounts on Easter products.

Two New Study Groups Focus On Book: *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life, a book by Karen Armstrong, world renowned scholar and bestselling author, will be the focus of study and discussion with Rev. Ruth E. Phillips beginning on Wednesday and Thursday, **March 30 and 31**.

Choose the nine-week day and time that is convenient for you:

- **Wednesdays, 6:45 to 7:30 pm, March 30 through May 25**
- **Thursdays, 1:00 to 1:45 pm, March 31 through May 26**

After being awarded a TED Prize in February 2008, Armstrong began working on the Charter of Compassion, created online by the general public and developed by leaders in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Confucianism, and Buddhism.

From the beginning steps of: First) *Learn About Compassion*; Second) *Look at Your Own World*; Third) *Compassion for Yourself*; through the texts of *Empathy, Mindfulness, Action; How Little We Know; How Should We Speak to One Another?*; *Concern for Everybody; Knowledge and Recognition*; to the twelfth step of: *Love Your Enemies*, we will explore together the author's assertion that, "*Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.*" (p.6)

Books are being ordered with an effort to obtain good, used, lower cost copies. Please contact Rev. Ruth, rep@plymouthfw.org, by **March 20** if you want to order a book through Plymouth Church.




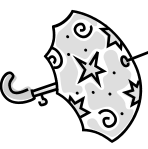







Welcoming Group For YOU!

Welcoming Group, Sunday, April 3, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, in the Amistad Room, for individuals considering whether to become members of Plymouth Church.

Whether you are curious, confident, confused, or convinced, you are welcome to be part of this orientation and discussion. This is an opportunity to hear about various aspects in Plymouth's life as a congregation and the UCC, learn what membership means, meet some church leaders, and share with others in the group your faith journey.

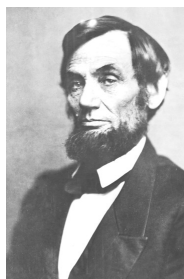
A light lunch will be served, courtesy of Congregational Life Board. Please let Rev. Ruth E. Phillips know of your plan to attend, rep@plymouthfw.org or 423-9424, ext. 322.



2	Joyce Black		A
3	Alice Beard Sam Lipscomb Jessamyn Schmidt		
4	Jacqueline Brabbs Lindsay Hackett		
6	Kathleen Brian Hannah Corral John P. Gardner Sally Gerard Paul Ricketts Ruth Smith		P
7	Heather Brackeen Jeffrey Kolkman		
8	Jeffrey Cunningham Jeff Markley		
9	Gail Escosa Clare Walter Kenosha Phillips		B
10	Deb Fogt Colton Shaffer		
11	Courtney Dienelt Deb Miller		
12	Daren Shaffer Linda South		I
13	Melanie Hollingsworth Tess Anglin Scott Ridgon		
15	Sharon Christian		
16	Eric Gilliom Collin Ramsey Monty Millage Beth Price		L
17	Steve Ross		
18	Debby Compagnone Allen Nance		
19	Maggie Jordan Lenora Lewark		B
20	Joni Sutton Kay Wheeler		
21	Gina Arata George Irmscher Steve Riethmiller		
22	Rhys Rudolph Mary Ann Sidell		i
23	Marian Nicholas		
24	Robin Ames Sandy Moliere		
25	Jack Greer Diane Lasley Claire Roney		r
27	Chris Lasley		
28	Gwen Vanderbosch		
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Lincoln Is Topic of April Amazing Grays Meeting

The Amazing Grays meeting **Sunday, April 10, 11:30 am**, features Sara Gabbard, renowned Lincoln scholar, reporting **BREAKING NEWS!**



Come hear newly-discovered historical evidence about what happened to President Lincoln's body after his death!

Lunch will be served following the morning service. Please make **reservations by noon, April 8.**

Hess Scholarship Deadline 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 April 15. 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.

Annual Women's Retreat, Saturday, April 23

The 2016 Annual Women's Retreat for Plymouth women members and friends will be **April 23, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**, at Victory Noll Retreat Center in Huntington, IN.



We will spend the day enjoying the hospitality of Our Lady of Victory Missionary sisters, in a lovely, peaceful environment. A full lunch is provided, with morning and afternoon snacks. Program theme will be forthcoming.

For more information, please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, at rep@plymouthfw.org, or call (260) 423-9424, ext. 322.

Celebrate 15 Years of Open and Affirming At Café ONA—Saturday, April 30!

Join us for Café ONA! You are invited **Saturday, April 30**, to experience an evening of fine dining, as we celebrate Plymouth's 15th anniversary of being an Open and Affirming Congregation in the UCC. **Seating begins at 5:30 pm; dinner is served at 6:00 pm.**

The Youth are planning, hosting, and serving this event in the Folsom Room. All proceeds from this dinner will go to support the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns. As a part of this celebration, Andy Lang, Executive Director of the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns, will be our guest speaker at the dinner on **April 30** and in worship on **May 1**.

Reservations are required for the dinner, and you may make your reservation by emailing Kara Jaurigue at kkjaurigue@gmail.com. **Reservations must be made by April 23.** Gather a group of friends and enjoy a lovely evening with delicious food (vegetarian and gluten free options available) and fellowship, all while celebrating and supporting a great cause.

~ ~ ~

Café ONA Menu

Appetizers: Melon wrapped Prosciutto & Herb-cheese stuffed mini peppers

Salad: Cranberry Walnut Apple Salad tossed with Apple Cider Vinaigrette

Bread: Honey Oatmeal Bread with butter

Sorbet: Lemon-Ginger

Entrée: Chicken-pesto Kebabs or

Firm Tofu Kebabs (vegetarian option)

Rice Pilaf w/ mushrooms, green onions & sun-dried tomatoes

Roasted Vegetables

Dessert: Rainbow fruit tarts.

(Gluten free option: Crust-less cheesecake w/ rainbow fruit)

Coffee, Tea & Water

~ ~ ~

Cost of Dinner: \$20 per person or \$100 for a Table of 6.

Reservations can be made by emailing Kara Jaurigue at kkjaurigue@gmail.com. Reservation deadline is **April 23**.

Capital Campaign: *Here, for Good*

Our capital campaign “**Here, for Good - Living, Giving & Building Community**” is well underway. When we have our **final party on March 31**, we’ll be heading into the last 16 days of this historic effort, leading up to **Celebration Sunday on April 17!**

Everyone is invited to attend a party! If you did not receive an invitation in the mail, please call the Church Office this week and someone from the Campaign Committee will get back to you. Please RSVP to your invitation when you receive it. Your party host needs to know if you will be attending or not in order to plan refreshments, seating, and for several more important reasons:

- If you do not respond with your RSVP, the host is expected to call you, so your response will spare them the effort of making these calls.
- If only a few invitees plan to attend any of these parties, we may want to try to combine two parties. Knowing for sure who is planning to attend will help us do this.
- If you cannot attend the party you’ve been invited to, and still want to attend a party, it will be easier to reschedule you if you notify us right away.

The EXCITING PREMIER FEATURE of each party will be seeing an entertaining and informative video produced by our Campaign Publicity Committee. Be there to see this unique, creative video! Also at each 90-minute party, a representative from the Campaign Committee will give a brief presentation about *the HVAC and roof replacement projects and *various ways you can make and fulfill a pledge. You will receive informational material, have opportunity to ask questions, and engage in conversation and fellowship with other Plymouth members and friends.

We hope you can join us!

Steve Hollingsworth, Campaign Chair



Here, for Good

Living, Giving & Building Community

Newsletter Guidelines: Bell and *eBell*

Please continue sending your information for the **printed Bell** and for the **eBell** to Suzanne at: sls@plymouthfw.org . Deadlines are the second Wednesday of the months it is printed, and the second and fourth Wednesdays of the months it is emailed.

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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GREEN Moth Repellant

As you're packing up your winter clothes for the summer, stuff a lonely, unpaired sock with cinnamon sticks, bay leaves, and whole cloves, tie it at the end, and put it in with your clothing. Your clothes will smell great and the spices will help repel moths through the warmer months.

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
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.