



BELL

From the Senior Pastor

There are different ways to measure time. There are New Year's celebrations on December 31 and January 1. There are birthdays that mark the start of a new personal year. There is the church's program year, which begins at the end of summer in September. But one additional marker is the church liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. This is the cycle of church seasons. And it just so happens that we will begin a new year with the start of Advent on Sunday, December 1.

The months of "ordinary time" that takes place after Pentecost concludes and with the new liturgical year we start the cycle over again. Advent's four weeks help us prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus and the incarnation of God-with-us in our world at Christmas. The colors change, with royal blue the color of Advent (expect to see different stoles). We also place Christmas decorations around the sanctuary and building. And we light candles in worship weekly around the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Each Advent, we have a particular theme. This year's will be "Welcoming the Holy Family." Expect to see bulletin covers that depict images of the Holy Family from across cultures and around the planet. This is to remind us that the best way to welcome the coming of Jesus our Christ is by showing that welcome to our brothers, sisters, and siblings of different backgrounds, cultures, races, and identities. It reminds us that God-with-us means that the divine presence is revealed through one another.

At your reception of this Bell, the cultural holiday season will be in full swing (I have heard anecdotally that people have heard Christmas music at stores and seen Christmas decorations for sale even prior to Halloween, yikes!). In the midst of the busyness, I hope that you will find moments during the month of December to slow down and consider how you can personally welcome the Holy Family in your life.

Blessing during this Advent season, and may you be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love!

Peace,

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



The Holy Family, by Sliman Mansour

During November, we pray for Matthew 25 and Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection.

2020 Chancel Flowers

If you are interested in dedicating Chancel Flowers in 2020, the sign up calendar is available in the Folsom Room; the cost is \$40. For more information, contact Maressa at mfe@plymouthfw.org.



Thanksgiving Service

Bring your family and friends or just yourself! Everyone is welcome! There will be a brief service of worship to lift hearts and minds in praise and gratitude at 11:00 am in the chapel. Turkey, stuffing, and all the side dishes brought to share will be enjoyed by all in the Folsom Room at 12:00 pm.

We are pleased and grateful that A.J. Calkins has volunteered again to be the "turkey chef" assisted by Mark Friskney.

Please sign up on the sheet posted in the Folsom Room. Put your name, number of people attending with you, and the type of dish you will bring: vegetable, salad, or dessert. Volunteers are also needed for set up and especially for clean up.



Thanksgiving Special Offering

On November 24, the Benevolence Committee invites you to participate in a special offering to celebrate Thanksgiving. This year's beneficiary will be Homebound Meals, Inc. of Fort Wayne. When Homebound Meals started in 1971, they delivered only four meals each day. Now, volunteers for Homebound Meals travel along 20 different routes every weekday, delivering freshly prepared and medically tailored meals throughout Fort Wayne to individuals who are not able to prepare their own food.

While some folks are able to pay the \$5.20 Homebound Meals must charge to cover expenses, many others cannot. For those who require it, financial assistance is offered as available. This is where our special offering comes in! Through your generosity, we can help extend the service of Homebound Meals to those who need it most.

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate the abundant blessings we enjoy. What better way to celebrate abundance than by giving abundantly, or to celebrate blessings than to be a blessing? We hope you will give as generously as you are able.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

You are invited to an interfaith celebration of Thanksgiving highlighting our shared stories of immigration and resettlement throughout the ages! The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place on November 26 at 7:00 pm in Congregation Achduth Vesholom, located at 5200 Old Mill Rd, Fort Wayne.



Each year, congregations and individuals of varying faiths come together as a community to learn from one another. If you've never been to an interfaith gathering or celebration, we invite you to this great starting point. With so much of our world riddled with fear and misunderstandings, we believe that coming together across our differences can make for a more just and peaceful world, which is truly a reason to give thanks.

This event is co-sponsored by the following congregations: Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne Stake: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Imani Baptist Temple, Peace United Church of Christ, Plymouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Trinity English Lutheran Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne.

Desperate Need for Men's Winter Wear

On behalf of Wayne Township Trustee, Sharon Conrad tells us "There is desperate need for Men's warm winter wear: Knit caps, gloves, socks, and jackets. Thank you for your help in the past and for this ongoing need." Dollar stores have caps, gloves, and socks for \$1.00. Donations can be placed in the appropriate bin in the Folsom Room.

Luminous Night Service

Every December at Plymouth, we host Luminous Night: A Service of Lament and Promise. During the darkening days of December, and because of the unrealistic expectations in the cultural Christmas rush, many individuals suffer from anxiety, depression, sadness, and loneliness. As Charlie Brown once said, "Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel."



The Luminous Night Service offers anyone who needs a safe place to lament, to mourn, or to feel any anger or disappointment you have, without being told to simply "get over it." If that's something you could use: Come. Gather with others who feel the need to replace pressure with peace through a service of song and scripture, prayer and poetry.

The Luminous Night Service will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary – where you, your questions, and your feelings, are welcome.

Bring a Smile to a Turnstone Child!

Names of Turnstone children, with requested book title and hat/mitten, are ready for your choosing. For several years Plymouth people have brought holiday cheer to the youngest children at Turnstone by providing gifts which are given to them at their December party. Cher Jackson is our teacher contact who works with many of these youngsters. Nametags are on an easel in the Folsom Room and gifts are due December 15.

Bring Christmas Spirit to a Wellspring Older Adult

Thank you to those who selected a name and a \$25 gift card for an individual in the Wellspring Older Adult Program. Gift cards with name tag attached are due back to Plymouth by Sunday, December 1. Please turn gift cards in to Rev. Ruth. Thank you for your generosity!

Easy Christmas Shopping

In upcoming weeks, we welcome you to do some early Christmas shopping in the Folsom Room before and after service.

November 17 and December 1: Knit & Kibitz Sale

November 24: Youth Bread Sale and Third World Shoppe

Hanging of the Greens

Come one, come all! "Deck the Halls!" with Christmas Spirit. Volunteers will be treated to a pizza lunch immediately following worship, on December 1 at 11:30 am. We will then pair off in teams to decorate sanctuary, narthex, Folsom Room Christmas Tree, main hall and stairway, Berry St. hallway. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the easel in the Folsom Room.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Erin Archer, Elizabeth Bayle, Roberta Braunlin, Trevor Burns, Casey Cade, Kris Conner, David Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Janice Furtner, Paul Furtner, Bill Hambrick, Joan Hartwig, Ray Hoverman, Dwight James, Susan Jarvis, Nancy Jordan, Brian Laurenz, Joan Lipscomb, Sheldon Lockwood, Bonnie Pennock, Noel Resor, Donna Riethmiller, Anne Rowland, Sharon Sale, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, James Sidell, Charmaine Siekmann, Dee Smith, Johanna Smith, Camille Wallace and Ervin Walter.

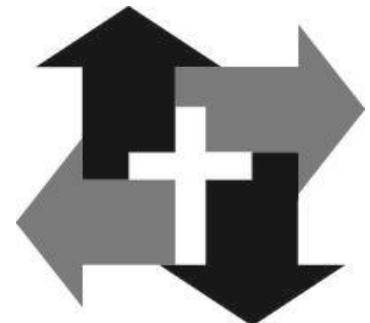
NEW LIFE is welcomed in the birth of Emerson Rose Copple, October 16, to delighted parents Lindsey Lehman and Brooks Copple. Proud grandmother is Denise Lehman and even prouder great-grandmother is Carol Lehman.

Traveling with Michael Spath educational group to "Mystical Turkey" are Pam Etheridge, Gary Kerr, Linda Kerr, Patty Pendleton.

Sympathy is extended to Dee Hoffman and Brian Beifus, Allyn and Veronica Beifus, on the death of mother and grandmother, Carol Hoffman, October 31, Florida.

Christmas Offerings For Crossroad

Our annual Christmas offering will be collected for Crossroad again this year on Sunday, December 22 and on Christmas Eve. Please give generously to support this vital ministry.



\$\$\$ Grants/Scholarship Opportunities \$\$\$ FOR TUITION AND FEES 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.

Applications due in the church office 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 16-24-year-old members of Plymouth Church.

The **Van Gorder Scholarship Fund** 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.

Applications due in the church office by April 15:

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

Completed applications for grants/scholarships for tuition and fees for academic credit with all supporting materials must be received in the church office by the respective due dates. Incomplete applications are ineligible for consideration.

To request application packets for these funds or to receive additional information, call the church office (260-423-9424) and leave your name, phone number, and email address so one of the members of the Grants and Scholarships Committee can respond to your request.

Faith in Indiana Action

The interfaith community organizing group Faith in Indiana, of which Plymouth is a member, will be speaking to Allen County's County Council to push for funding a pilot program for jail diversion on Thursday, November 21. You are invited to attend the event, which will primarily consist of sitting and listening to County Council. The more people there, the harder we are to ignore. Government meetings can be boring, but the decisions made therein affect countless lives. The meeting starts at 8:30 am at Citizens Square, 200 E. Berry Street, on the lower level. Please email Rev. Timothy at tcm@plymouthfw.org to let him know if you are interested in attending.



Advent Education Hour

During December, all ages are coming together to celebrate the season of Advent. Whether you're bringing your own kids or grandkids, or coming on your own, these sessions are a great chance to get to know the youngest members of our community. No one captures the excitement of waiting for Christmas quite like the children — let their enthusiasm lead us through the stories and spirit of the season.

December 1:

Advent at Home - Room 204

How do you observe the season of Advent at home? Share your traditions, and bring home a few new ideas. Each household can create a shadow box nativity and pick up a copy of "In Light & Darkness" weekly Advent devotionals for all ages.

December 8:

Impromptu Pageant - Chapel

No lines to memorize, no costumes to sew, no rehearsals to attend - just a fun telling of the story of the first Christmas. Kids can volunteer that morning to help act out the story, adults are needed to be our audience.

December 15:

Escape Room - Room 204

Search nativity images from around the world to find clues to puzzles and help us break the code! Don't worry, we won't lock you in, instead we'll work together to unlock our prize box by the end of the hour.

December 22:

Caroling Party - Folsom Room

Join Maestro Nance and the Sunday school kids in the Folsom Room as we sing our favorite carols and enjoy hot chocolate with all the fixings.

There is no Sunday School on December 29. Sunday school classes return on January 5th.



December Birthdays



12/1	Jim Schmidt	12/11	Melissa Shaw	12/20	Riet Zwiep
12/1	Zoey Spath Pinedo	12/12	David Craker	12/21	Ahnee Conner
12/3	Jennifer Ferguson	12/13	Doris Grandos	12/22	Lanna Howe
12/3	Isaac Spath	12/13	Margaret Ann Sponhauer	12/22	Connie McAfee
12/3	Tobias Watson	12/14	Linda Hambrick	12/22	Cheryl Rinehart
12/4	Tyler Fisher	12/14	Kaitlyn Roby	12/24	Elena Dupen
12/4	Alaina Gilliom	12/15	Alan Chambers	12/25	Michelle Bradley
12/4	Ray Lehman	12/16	Rhonda Eitsert	12/25	Carol Lehman
12/7	Veronica Beifus	12/16	Paul Lewark	12/25	Michelle Starnes
12/7	Bill Hambrick	12/16	Ryleigh Minchski	12/25	Carol Tyndall
12/7	Keyes McGregor	12/17	Judy Dahl	12/26	Adriene Foster
12/8	Mary Gilliom	12/17	Kenton Neuhouser	12/26	Leeandia Justice
12/8	Shirley Slater	12/17	Johanna Smith	12/26	Steve Lauterberg
12/9	Jennifer Atienzo-Fisher	12/17	Virginia Zimmerman	12/27	Joe Bir
12/9	Bonnie Bortnichak	12/18	Jared Chasey	12/28	Kathy Hartsch
12/9	Dylan Lewark	12/18	Lois Steere	12/28	Steven Vorderman
12/10	Laura McCoy	12/19	Marena Lewark	12/29	Colton Ames
12/10	Jake Price	12/20	Jan Gibson	12/29	Sharon Conrad
12/11	Bill Beard	12/20	Jude Price	12/30	Suzanne Jontz
12/11	Jan Evrard	12/20	Simon Price	12/31	Juliette Coffeen
12/11	Riley Grim	12/20	Samantha Tyndall		

Film & Faith Over Forty

On November 24 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm, Plymouth will be hosting its second Film & Faith Over Forty event in the Amistad Room! We will be showing the 2017 film *Marjorie Prime*, which is based on Jordan Harrison's Pulitzer-nominated play of the same name. This film is rated PG and features Lois Smith, Jon Hamm, Geena Davis, and Tim Robbins.



“In the near future and a time of artificial intelligence, 86-year-old Marjorie — a jumble of disparate, fading memories — has a handsome new companion who looks like her deceased husband and is programmed to feed the story of her life back to her. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance?”

Please sign up in the Folsom Room or email rep@plymouthfw.org so we can plan for space and snacks.

Prayer & Meditation

Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” We believe it is important that we corporately pray for the Visioning work as plans are set into action, and in general that we pray for Plymouth Church and the well-being of its people. Beginning Wednesday, November 13 at 12:00 pm and continuing on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, we will begin 30 minutes of quiet prayer and discernment. For those who are able, we invite you to pray with us in the Chapel. For those who find prayer at home to be a simpler choice, we invite you to be in an attitude of prayer during this time as well. Together our prayers will rise up. For more information, please contact Eric Black or Linda Kerr.

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm: Communion & Candlelight

10:00 pm: Carols and Candlelight



2019 Bell & E-Bell Dates

If you would like to submit to the printed *Bell*, send your information in the form of a Word Document to Mackenzie Giganti at mmg@plymouthfw.org by the following dates at 5 pm:

January 8	August 5
March 11	October 7
May 6	November 4

If you would like to submit to the online *E-Bell*, send your information to Maressa Emile at mfe@plymouthfw.org by the following dates:

February 4 & 18	July 8 & 22
April 8 & 22	September 9 & 23
June 10 & 24	December 9 & 23

City of Churches Tour

Plymouth Church will be participating in the fourth annual City of Churches tour on Friday, December 6! This tour begins at 6:00 pm and features a dozen churches in the Fort Wayne area. Congregations will open their doors for the public to roam, enjoy, and take photos of their Christmas decorated sanctuaries. Music and refreshments will also be provided. This event is free and aims to explore our historical, cultural, and spiritual values!

To learn which churches will be participating alongside Plymouth and to ask other questions, visit the City of Churches' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/citychurches/.

Pronoun Stickers Coming Soon!

As an Open and Affirming congregation offering welcome to the LGBTQ+ community, it is important that we celebrate and affirm not only "LGB" persons as beloved, but intentionally include "TQ+" persons in that celebration as well.



Over the past several months, the Gender Identity Task Force held two workshops on better understanding gender identity. During these discussions, we learned how important it is to respect the pronouns people use to reflect their identity and that offering your own pronouns first can help create a safe and welcoming space for others to do the same. To help Plymouth members, and any visitors who are so inclined, offer their pronouns, the E&M Board has ordered small pronoun stickers that can be placed on your name tag (or shirt, if you don't have a name tag). Our hope is that these stickers will arrive in time for the holiday season.

Be on the lookout for them in the narthex, and help us make it clear that Plymouth is a safe place to be who you are.

Thank You

Growing Hope Globally and your Plymouth Task Force so appreciates the continued support of you, our congregation. We will continue to make a difference in the lives of our mission families in Honduras Macuelizo and Burkina Faso Gnagha. These programs improve food security, nutrition and training in conservation agriculture... dealing with everything from the lack of rain to heavy flooding.



A special thank you to the Benevolence committee for the generous grant, Standish Knit/Kibitz, and Bob Nance and the Plymouth series for your continued belief in this global mission project.

Our Harvest celebration's outside activities were cut a little short when the rain decided to join us but the inside fellowship and meal more than made up for it!!

Share Your Christmas Greetings

Congregational Life Board invites you to save postage and be green this Christmas. Share your greetings with the entire Plymouth family!

Bring your Christmas cards or letters to the designated mailbox in the Folsom Room beginning Sunday, December 1. Cards will be displayed in the Folsom Room during the month of December.



You Can Help an LGBTQ Family Have a Merry Christmas!

FW Pride's Holiday Family sponsorship has returned for its 3rd year. Eighty-nine individuals were helped over the past two years through this program! We have a record number of LGBTQ families needing help this Christmas who were referred by coworkers, guidance counselors, friends, and family. Many of these families have been turned away by other churches because they are LGBTQ. A couple recently lost jobs because they are LGBTQ. Some families are headed by same sex parents while others have LGBTQ children. Most of these families have teenage children.

Pride wants to be able to match every teen and child with a sponsor. If you signed up last year, then you already received details via email. If you want to provide gifts for a teen/child, the estimated total cost is \$75 to purchase two-three needs and one want as gifts. Plymouth Church's name will be given to each teen and family so they know Plymouth is an Open and Affirming congregation (and what that means) and that we would love for families to check it out. They will know that support was given by not only Pride, but members of Plymouth. They also receive information regarding community resources to help their family.

Please contact me at nikki@fwpride.org to receive a name and gift list.

If you're not much of a shopper but still want to help, we can also use some gift cards for groceries and other necessities to give families. These could be for Wal-Mart, Kroger, or Meijer.

All gifts must be brought in by December 6. There will be a designated bin in the Folsom Room for you to drop off the gifts.

Thank you in advance! We appreciate your support and hope to spread love and acceptance this Christmas season!

Nikki Fultz
Director FW Pride



It's Time to Order Poinsettias!



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias! Ordering poinsettias is an easy way to remember, honor, and celebrate loved ones and friends, while helping to decorate our church home for Christmas. To order, please fill out this form and return it with your check to the church office by **Sunday, December 8**.

Poinsettias are **\$10.00** each. Plants will be placed in the sanctuary the Sunday before Christmas. Please take your plant home with you, following 10:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve.

Name:

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

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

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed (Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church)



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

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Looking for our email addresses?

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Associate Pastor
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Office Manager
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Associate in Pastoral Care
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Financial Administrator
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Youth Director
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Building Maintenance Manager
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Sunday School Director
kjwatson4@gmail.com

Receptionist
mfe@plymouthfw.org



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!

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.