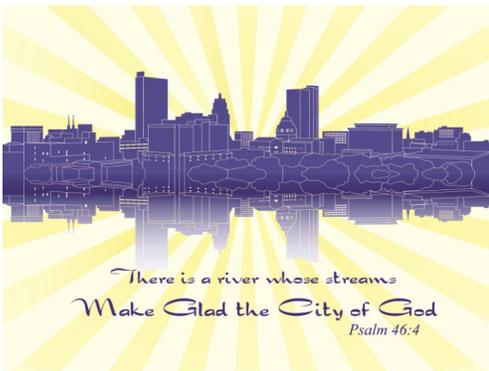




www.plymouthfw.org



# BELL



Dear Plymouth,

I can't pinpoint the time or circumstance, but early in life I was introduced to the wonders of Psalm 46. As a teenager, when first asked to preach, I turned to Psalm 46, using verse 10 as sermon text: **"Be still, and know that I am God."** I've often returned to the psalm, finding hope and comfort in what has been

called **"the song of songs of faith."**

Whenever the world seems unsettled, I gravitate to the opening verses that provide encouragement: **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change"** (Psalm 46:1-2). The psalm is also a **"prophetic lyric,"** casting a powerful vision when singing of peace: **"God makes wars to cease to the end of earth; God breaks the bow, and shatters the spear."** And if my faith is fragile, or if God seems remote or indifferent, the psalm twice repeats a refrain: **"The Lord of hosts is with us ..."** (Psalm 46:7, 11).

A verse from Psalm 46 is serving as theme for our fall stewardship campaign: **"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High"** (v. 4). It is a rich, intriguing verse, with **"river"** serving as metaphor for the sustenance that enables life to flourish in human community. As expressed in one commentary, the river **"alludes to the graces and consolations of the Holy Spirit, which flow through every part of the church ... gladdening the heart of every believer."**

I hope all Plymouth members and friends will make use of Psalm 46 and ponder the graces of God that are uniquely suited to gladden the heart and enliven the community we share. Few churches in Fort Wayne are as poised as Plymouth to proclaim the broader expression of Christian gospel so desperately needed in the world. Your contributions, be they pledged as time, talent, or treasure, work to **"make glad the city."**

**November 12 is Commitment Sunday for Plymouth Church.** I encourage you to be exceedingly generous with your support. We all have a part to play in this gospel enterprise. Whatever the depth or degree of our offerings, may they all reflect a sacrifice of praise

Sincerely,  
John P. Gardner

## Annual Election Meeting Sunday, October 22

Plymouth Members are asked to remain in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, **October 22**. The business of the church at this time is to vote on the slate of officers for 2018 as presented by the Nominating Committee.

The Report of the Nominees can be found on page 8.

## Amazing Grays, November 12, 11:30 am Canine Companions for Independence

*Speaker: Vicki Heckman*

You and your family members of all ages will want to meet and hear Fort Wayne resident Vicki Heckman, volunteer puppy raiser for Canine Companions for Independence. Come and meet adult canine Owen and puppy Monroe, who is in training.



You will hear Vicki's personal story of becoming a puppy raiser, what it takes to prepare a puppy for more intensive training to be a companion service dog, and about the people who receive these intelligent and talented canine companions.

## Fall Festival October 28



Sign up on the bulletin board in the main hall of the church for **Saturday October 28, 5:00-9:00 pm** at the Southwest Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Road, Waynedale.

The event will include hayrides, a bonfire (with ghostly stories and sing-alongs), and pumpkin carving. Hotdogs and S'mores will be roasted over an open fire. Don't miss this great outdoor opportunity for fun and fellowship!

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## Clocks Fall Back Sunday, November 5

Put a reminder on your calendar to set all your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 4, so they'll be accurate when you awake on Sunday, November 5.



## All Saints Day To Be Celebrated November 5

Plymouth will celebrate All Saints Day on **Sunday, November 5, during worship at 10:00 am.**

The service will include a Dedication of Memorial Gifts and Remembering the Saints, during which the name of each member who has died since November 1, 2016, will be read aloud, and the bell tolled .

## In Our Prayers

During the month of **October**, we pray for the **Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC**, a partner in mission and recipient of Plymouth benevolence.

### Plymouth people in our prayers:

A.J.Calkins, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Gail Escosa, Joanne Feasel, Marcia Federspiel, Bernice Koutcher, Ginny Laudadio, Sheldon Lockwood, Lee MacSorley, Janet Markley, Kerry Mills, Deb Cochran Mulherin, Tom Neuenschwander, Karen O'Neal, Mimi Rolland, Jacqueline Sanders, Marylynn Sloop, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Sheryl Stallman, Peggy Summers, and Chris Week.

*New Life* is welcomed in the birth of Riley Ann Fultz, August 22, to delighted parents, Kara and Nikki Fultz, and older brother, Tegan.

*New Life* is welcomed in the birth of Ian Peter Duch, August 10, to Jon and Donna Duch. Proud grandmother is Barbara Duch.

*New Life* is welcomed in the birth of Vivian Margaret Schilb to Mikael and Meredith Schilb on September 14. Proud grandparents are Peg and Rick Schilb.

*New Life* is welcomed in the birth of Clementine Mae Hubartt, September 20, in Indianapolis, to parents Jon and Natalie Hubartt and big sister Leighton. Proud grandparents are Chris and Theresa Cunningham; delighted great-grandmother is Gale Cunningham.

*Sympathy* is extended to the friends of June Enoch, who died on August 25.

*Sympathy* is extended to Joan Hartwig on the death of her son, Michael King, on September 11.

*Sympathy* is extended to Carol Tyndall and Kathy Rawlings on the death of brother and uncle, Tom Ice Sr., on September 12.

*Sympathy* is extended to Cynthia Bodnar and Dave Shields on the death of their brother, James Shield, on September 12.

*Sympathy* is extended to Larry and Beth Walker and to Judy Dahl on the death of Larry and Judy's father, Richard Walker, September 30. Sympathy also to granddaughters Katherine Walker, Christine (Walker) Archer, and Emma Walker.

*Sympathy* is extended to Joan Hartwig on the death of her daughter, Cynthia King, who died on October 10.

*Sympathy* is extended to family and friends of Myron Henderson who died on October 11.

*Sympathy* is extended to family and friends of George Blossom who died on October 11.

## Book Fair

Fill your stockings with books! Stop at our Book Fair table to preview new Sparkhouse titles—including *The Memory Box*, a book for young children about grief; *Adriana's Angels*, a picture book about a refugee child relocating; and *Grit and Grace*, a book for middle-grade readers about heroic women in the Bible. All of Sparkhouse's older books and DVDs will be available to order as well.

Visit the Book Fair table in the Folsom Room **October 22-29** to browse, and to enter a drawing for free books. Money is due on the 29th. We can accept cash, checks, or QR code payments.

Why order through the Book Fair? Our Book Fair prices are 40-60% off of the regular prices, AND we get free shipping! Sparkhouse is putting out some of the best Christian books for children—beautiful, fun, and theologically thoughtful. Bring some of these titles into your home this Christmas season!

## Three Great Locks

A puzzle-filled Escape Room is coming to Plymouth this Christmas! We are in need of both working locks (combination locks or locks with keys) and decorative locks and keys to use as props. We are also looking for lockable boxes. Please give donations to Katie Watson, or leave them in the church office. If you would like your lock or box back after the event, please make sure to mark it clearly with your name. Thank you!

## Calling all Plymouth Readers!

The library committee would like to hear from Plymouth readers who have enjoyed a book from the Plymouth Library collection. If you've read one of these books and would be willing to write a brief review, please contact Kathy Kolb at [queenmum1948@icloud.com](mailto:queenmum1948@icloud.com). She will provide you with a short outline regarding review content and length.

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP IN SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL AND VARIED COLLECTION!**

P.S. Kids' reviews of our children's collection are also welcome!

## Sunday School Visiting Artist Andrea Reichard

Over the next several weeks, painter Andrea Reichard will be visiting our Sunday school classes. She'll be bringing us easels, canvases, brushes and paint, and leading us step-by-step through the process. We'll share our finished paintings in worship during Advent.

If you have kids in Sunday school, please remember to wear clothes that might get a little messy on the following days: Youth Class—**October 22 and 29**; 2nd-5th grade—**November 5 and 12**; and Preschool-1st grade—**November 19 and 26**.

## Adult Education Opportunities

**White Privilege: Let's Talk November 5-26 and resuming in January after Advent.**

In this era of deep racial divide, this UCC curriculum couldn't be more timely. These guided conversations will explore:

**Spiritual Autobiography  
through the Lens of Race  
Whiteness as the Norm  
Whiteness as Cash Value  
On Being an Ally**

Led by members of the Peace Justice Committee. Learn more at <http://privilege.uccpages.org/>



## Boar's Head All Cast Meeting November 5

Just a reminder: the Boar's Head Festival Cast and Crew will gather **Sunday, November 5, 1:00 pm**, for the annual all cast meeting. This is an important meeting, as you have heard by now, our entire rehearsal schedule and worship service schedule has changed.

Please let Kara or Jim know if you can't be there, and they will make sure you are all set with your casting choice, ticket request envelope, and a copy of the rehearsal schedule.

We realize folks today lead very busy lives, and we appreciate your commitment to making Boar's Head 2017 another wonderful worship experience for our community!

Thanks,  
Jim Schmidt and Kara Jaurigue



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- 1 Isabelle Shockney
- 2 Katherine Caldwell
- Louise Misegades
- Jan Younger
- 3 Scott Avery
- 4 Whitney Chambers
- David Wissel
- 5 Linda Schroeder
- 6 Tim Cunningham
- 7 Al Bohnstedt
- Avery Kruckeberg
- William Spindler
- 8 Miles Nicholson
- 9 Rose Pyle
- 10 Mary Ann Cree
- Terry Green
- Michael McCoy
- 11 Julie Creek
- 12 Cooper Hackett
- Laura Kinner
- Danielle South
- 13 Kate Hollingsworth
- 15 Andrea Ratajczak
- 16 Pam Etheridge
- 17 Kathryn Carboneau
- Alexendra Cooper
- 18 Stephen Schroeder
- 20 Lowell Beineke
- Joanne Brooks-Weber
- Valerie Pelz
- 21 Joyce Briner
- Darleen Schmidt
- 22 Ross Soday
- Deb Tuttle
- 23 Mary Bir
- Matt Brown
- Kirstin Springer
- Ruth Anne Sprunger
- 24 Loren Dove
- Kathleen Simunek
- 25 Jessie Coon Voors
- Christine Week
- 26 Chris Randolph
- 27 Nancy Kilduski
- 28 Eric Congdon
- 29 Ed Gomez
- Jean Ross
- 30 Brent Blalock
- Stan Holdeman
- Rachel Tuttle

## Just Neighbors IHN week for Plymouth!

**October 29 through November 3**

Plymouth is the host church at Just Neighbors Interfaith Hospitality Network the week of October 29 - November 3. We provide the evening meal and evening activities to the families that are sheltered at Just Neighbors IHN this week, Sunday night through Friday night. Just Neighbors is the ONLY shelter in Fort Wayne that keeps families together when they are in need of emergency housing. The facility is home to up to 40 guests while children continue to attend their schools, and parents continue to work or are assisted in job searches, financial counseling, and housing options.

You can help support these families by providing part of a dinner or reading with children before bedtime. It takes only a little time out of your week to make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors.

The sign up list is sent out online through Sign Up Genius. This is an easy way to see what is needed and when, plus you get a reminder about your sign up two days before it is to take place. You will not get spam or a ton of extra emails from this site.

If you would like to be a part of this effort and added to the email list, please contact Laura Rudolph, [rudyfw@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyfw@yahoo.com) or 485-2285.

### VERY IMPORTANT PLEA!

A new volunteer is needed to coordinate this community outreach that Plymouth has been involved in since 2000. It requires only a small periodic commitment of time, and it is a way that you can spread that broad welcome that Plymouth is known for. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Laura Rudolph so that this very important mission can continue.

Laura Rudolph  
[rudyfw@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyfw@yahoo.com)

## Rev. Gardner Returns to Wales this Fall

Rev. John P. Gardner will be returning to the Gladstone Library this fall to serve as resident Chaplain. He will serve at the library during November through mid-December. Rev. Gardner has previously served as a chaplain at the library in 2011, 2012, and 2014.

The Gladstone Library is located in Hawarden, Wales. It is a national memorial to the life and work of William Gladstone (1809-1898), a four-time British Prime Minister. It is said to be Britain's finest residential library, and its only Prime Ministerial Library. As a residential library, the Gladstone serves as a meeting place **"dedicated to dialogue, debate, and learning for open-minded individuals and groups, who are looking to explore pressing questions and to pursue study and research in an age of distraction and easy solutions."** For more information about the library visit [www.gladstoneslibrary.org](http://www.gladstoneslibrary.org).

## Preaching at Plymouth: I-K Conference Minister

The Rev. Chad R. Abbott, the Designated Conference Minister of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC, will be preaching at Plymouth Church on **Sunday, November 19**. Rev. Abbott began his work with the I-K Conference earlier this year.

The Rev. Abbott has served churches in the United Methodist and UCC traditions. Most recently, he served St. Paul's UCC in Alexandria, Kentucky. He is an author, with special interest in the field of spirituality and spiritual practices, especially as it relates to interfaith dialogue. His most publication is *Sacred Habits: The Rise of the Creative Clergy*.

## 2017 Thanksgiving Offering

Once again, this year's Thanksgiving Offering will be given to Wellspring Food Bank, serving our community since 1968. Wellspring Interfaith Social Services had been providing a wide range of programs, which help to meet the needs of so many residents of Ft. Wayne's downtown. Plymouth was one of the founding churches who made it possible to establish this vital ministry. Over the years, our church has continued to support their Food Bank outreach with our Share-Your-Shopping ministry.

This November, we will be invited and encouraged to give generously to the food bank with our monetary gifts as well as food items. Special requests for Thanksgiving are for instant mashed potatoes, gravy mix or gravy in a can/jar, and boxed stuffing mix.

## Supplies for Bloomingdale Elementary

Share your shopping with children from our partner elementary school: Bloomingdale

The Peace and Justice Committee invites members of Plymouth and friends to provide (Clorox) Disinfectant Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, and Tissues (any size) for the students who attend our partner Rising Stars school, Bloomingdale Elementary. We are also collecting socks and underwear for the children. Elementary age sizes 4-7. Please put packaged items in the large bin marked for Bloomingdale in the Folsom Room. We will be collecting these items until the end of October.

## Some Experiments Fail ...

This fall we experimented with a new childcare group of pre-school children ... aged 3,4,5,6. We have not been able to recruit enough adults to supervise those children when they leave worship. So that program will end on October 22. After that date, pre-school children will begin worship with their parents, then after the Peace Candle is lit, they will go to the nursery until after worship. I want to thank those adults and teens who have helped these last eight weeks.

Clare Walter

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship at Temple Achduth Vesholom

An interfaith Thanksgiving worship service will be hosted by Congregation Achduth Vesholom on **Tuesday, November 21**. The service will begin at 7:00 pm. Plymouth Church, one of the co-sponsors of the community service, will be represented by the Rev. Ruth E. Phillips.

The speaker for the occasion is Iric Healey, who is the primary staff for Fort Wayne United, a program administered through the Fort Wayne Police Department's Community Development Division. Fort Wayne United is committed to working with at risk minority youth. It is modeled on two national programs: Cities United and My Brother's Keeper.



## Thanksgiving Day Worship at Plymouth

**Thursday, November 23, 2017  
11:00 am**

Plymouth will again offer a worship service on Thanksgiving day in the Plymouth Church Chapel.

Ministers David Grim and Eric Black will share in leading the service. A special offering will be received to benefit the food bank at Wellspring, the social service agency that serves the West Central neighborhood.

Watch for further information in upcoming Sunday worship bulletins.

## **Plymouth Music Series 2017-18 Season**

### **Sunday, October 29, 2017, 2:00 pm Reformation in Song**

Featuring Plymouth's own Song Leader, Janice Furtner, Plymouth's Sanctuary Singers, and Director of Music Robert Nance, this program commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

### **Sunday, November 19, 2017, 2:00 pm**

#### **Heartland Sings: A Voice Recital**

This recital features art song, oratorio, opera, and musical theater performed by some of Fort Wayne's finest vocal artists.

### **Sunday, January 14, 2018, 4:00 pm We Are the Dream: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

This is an annual tradition at Plymouth Church, when the community gathers to commemorate and pay homage to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This dramatic musical program features the Rev. Bill McGill portraying Dr. King, guest speakers, area choirs, and more.

### **Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 7:30 pm**

#### **Bach's Birthday Bash**

Join us to celebrate the 333rd birthday of the world's most famous composer, Johann Sebastian Bach.

### **Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7:30 pm Men's Glee Club of Pittsburg**

The University of Pittsburg Men's Glee Club comes to Fort Wayne as part of their Midwest tour. The program features classical and contemporary pop music in a cappella arrangements.

### **July 13-22, 2018 Plymouth Music Series Summer Arts Festival**

*Concerts are presented at Plymouth Church. All Music Series concerts are free and open to the public. Freewill offerings and donors help to underwrite the costs for concerts.*

## **Friends Of The Third World Sale November 26**

Friends of the Third World Shoppe will hold its annual sale at Plymouth on **Sunday, November 26**. This is a unique opportunity to find a gift such as a birch-bark basket from the upper Midwest and fill it with a jute angel-tree ornament from Bangladesh, fair-trade coffee from El Salvador, a bracelet from the Philippines, and many other items from the world over.

All items are provided by low-income people working to support their families. These items are provided by volunteers from Friends of the Third World, a non-profit ministry aiding the poor through employment and education programs.

Take a few minutes and find a gift that gives TWICE!

## **Knit and Kibitz Sale**

We are trying something new this year and will have a table at the Crafts Sale at Northrop High School on **Saturday November 18, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. The school is located at 7001 Coldwater Road. We will have most of our handmade items there for sale. If you are a Saturday shopper, come see us there.

Then as usual, we will have the sale continuing on **Sundays, November 19 and December 3**, at Plymouth Church, in the Folsom Room, before the service from **9:00 - 9:45 am** and again after the service "until people are leaving"

All material we use to make things has been donated and the group's time and effort is free as well. All income from the sale will be used to help support local nonprofit agencies that serve families.

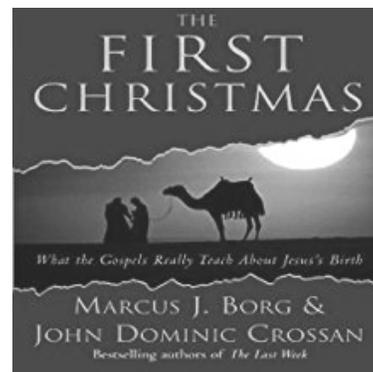
Come check us out, please.

## **Advent book study: *The First Christmas***

**by Marcus Borg &  
John Dominic Crossan  
Beginning December 3**

These top Jesus scholars help us see the real Christmas story buried in the familiar Bible accounts. Borg and Crossan focus on the literal story—the inner truth rather than the historical facts—to offer a clear and uplifting message of hope and peace. Get a fresh, deep, and new understanding of the nativity story.

Discussions will be led by Kyle Miller. Details to follow about how to obtain your copy of the book!



## Thoughts on Climate Change

We recently hosted a Climate Boot Camp event led by the knowledgeable folks from Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (HIPL). Not only did we learn about creation as viewed through Scripture—the ways it is affecting us in Indiana and around the globe.

But maybe more important than all of this, was to discover that there is hope for change, and that we all can be a part of it. We were asked the following questions to motivate us to think a bit deeper.

What do you care about in your life?

What is most important . . . most worth protecting?

How do you articulate your moral and ethical framework for acting on climate?

You can start this process by naming a personal experience you believe you have had with climate change. This might be noticing the flowers coming up earlier each year, delayed Fall freeze, the loss of bees in your yard, etc.

Then identify 2-3 positive benefits you reap from pro-environment activities that have become part of our community. This might be the recycling pick up in Fort Wayne, the riverfront project, etc.

Next, identify 2-3 things that you can do to make a difference. This might include conservation of energy, planting a garden and composting, contact with legislators, taking part in education, etc.

Lastly, we want to put our thoughts and actions into an “elevator speech” that we can share with others, realizing that information alone doesn’t change, but moral or societal justice can. Also realize that we tend to focus more attention on those who are farthest from us, those who often focus more on the economy than creation, when we should be focusing on our “passive allies.” These folks may start paying attention and become “active allies.”

This is hard work, and it is easy to get overwhelmed. Folks may not have the time, think it will cost too much to make changes, and many just feel the cost of climate change is still distant. However, by cultivating a sense of passion, building community, deepening understanding, and changing our behavior, we can make small and measurable changes that benefit all of us.

The Peace and Justice Committee will be communicating Tasks of the Month from HIPL via the weekly bulletin, *Bell*, and *E-Bell*, that we hope will be guides to help with these changes. Feel free to access more information at [www.hoosieripl.org](http://www.hoosieripl.org).

Jan Evrard

## Opportunities for Young People

Thanks to earnings from generous memorial contributions, the three Funds described below help support a variety of ways to enhance the lives of worthy young people. For each of these Funds, completed applications must be received at least 60 days prior to the start of the activity for which the awards are to be used.

### **Marcia K. Hunt Memorial Fund**

For young people who wish to broaden their understanding of themselves and others in the world by engaging in church-related work camps and/or programs designed to promote national or international understanding and also for those who wish to experience another culture.

### **R. Donald and Genevieve M. Sinish Memorial Fund**

Participation in domestic and/or international travel for cultural enhancement or workshops/cultural training sessions for personal/ professional development. Applicants must be members of Plymouth Church who are at least 16 but not more than 24 years old.

### **Steigerwald Arts Fund**

For young people who wish to become involved in a concentrated arts experience such as camps, workshops, clinics, etc. in a domestic or international location for a specified period of time to further their personal growth as well as their artistic growth. Because of the emphasis on enrichment through arts experiences, grants from this Fund may not be used for tuition for academic credit, private instruction, books, or consumables.

For **additional information**, contact the Church Office (423-9424) and provide your name, a phone number and/or email address; and one of the Grants and Scholarships Committee members will reply.

## Report of the Nominees for October Election

Terms end December of the year indicated unless otherwise stated. ( ) indicates 2nd or 3rd consecutive term;  
\* indicates ineligible for additional consecutive term

### Officers (2018)

**Moderator** .....Beth Walker \*      **Clerk** .....Sara Sprunger\*  
**Assistant Moderator** .....Rick Schilb      **Recorder**.....Joan Lipscomb  
**Treasurer** .....Laura Coon \*  
**Assistant Treasurer** .....Roger Eversole \*

### Other Elected Officials (2018)

**At-Large Executive Council Member** .....Randy Roberts, Vicki Braun  
**Youth Member of Executive Council** .....open  
**Conference Delegates** .....Allen Haynes, Rick Schilb

### Boards (2018)

#### Nominating Committee

Allen Haynes\*  
Randy Roberts\*

#### Christian Education

Julie Creek  
Laura Filler (3)\*  
Charlie Belch (3)\*

#### Congregational Life

Charlene Holly  
Judy Madden (3)\*  
Vicki Kruse

#### Deacons' Worship

Eric Black (3)\*  
Lucy Hess  
Ann Rowland  
Jim Schmidt

#### Evangelism & Marketing

Jan Evrard  
Jennifer Fisher (2)  
Molly Jordan  
Kyle Miller  
January Simpson

#### Personnel

Jim Nelson (3)\*  
Dana Wichern (3)\*  
Linda Hite (3)\*

#### Property

Steve Hollingsworth  
Jim Eitsert

#### Stewardship & Finance

Samuel Milo (2)  
Laura Coon  
Roger Eversole

2018 Nominating Committee Members: Rick Schilb, Kathy Kolb, Barb Duch, Jeff Markley, Sandy Moliere, and Rick Stoerker

Staff advisors: Rev. John P. Gardner and Rev. Ruth E. Phillips.

**NOTE:** Nominations from the floor must be pre-arranged with the committee or one of the Officers (Moderator, Asst. Moderator, or Clerk) at least 48 hours prior to the election meeting.

## Property Board News

Your Property Board is responsible for maintenance and operation of our historic and beautiful building, facilities, and grounds. The results of some of our efforts are easily visible to the congregation, like the new Folsom Room Art Wall, new round tables in the Folsom Room (no more bumping your knees), and the refreshed landscaping and attractive slate walkway adjacent to the parking lot. Other projects are not as visible. All of the light fixtures have been replaced with long-lasting and energy efficient LED fixtures, in furtherance of our Earthwise initiative. Various doors and windows have been replaced, including the 60-year old window in the nursery room. Our solar panel project received an award from Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light. We have updated the church kitchen usage policy and are currently working on building usage policy, both of which help preserve our facility so it can be used by church members and groups, as well as community organizations. Moving forward, we will provide a quarterly summary here in the *Bell* to keep you updated on our efforts and projects.

## JSOR Event at Plymouth, October 27 & 28

**The Q Gospel, Thomas, and the Lost Wisdom of Jesus:** Two non-canonical gospels--the Q Gospel and the Gospel of Thomas--are reshaping the way scholars understand Jesus and the early years of the movement he started in Galilee nearly 2000 years ago. Both are “wisdom” gospels, that is to say, gospels in which Jesus appears in the role of sage and prophet. Is this ancient wisdom relevant to anyone living in the modern world?

### Speakers

**Robert J. Miller** (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School) is Rosenberger Professor of Religious Studies and Christian Thought at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. He is the author of several books including *Helping Jesus Fulfill Prophecy* (2016), and editor of *The Complete Gospel Parallels* (with Arthur Dewey, 2012) and *The Complete Gospels* (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2010).

**Stephen J. Patterson** (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School) is Geo. H. Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies at Willamette University. He is the author of many books, most recently *The Lost Way: How Two Forgotten Gospels Are Rewriting the Story of Christian Origins* (2014).

### Program Details

#### ***Q and Thomas: The Lost Gospels, Friday evening, 7:30-9:00 pm***

What is Q, and why does it matter? What is the Gospel of Thomas, and what do we learn from this fifth gospel that we do not learn from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? And why are these gospels reshaping the way scholars understand Jesus? In this opening session, Robert Miller and Stephen Patterson will bring you up to speed on what we know (and don't know) about the lost gospels.

#### ***The Q Gospel: A Galilean Gospel? Saturday 9:30-10:30 am***

The Q Gospel is arguably the first gospel, composed in Jesus' own Galilean homeland. But this gospel is still lost. So how do we know it existed? How do we know what was in it? Robert Miller will explain what we *do* know about Q, and how that changes the way we understand the story of Christian origins.

#### ***Thomas: Plato's Gospel, Saturday 11 am-noon***

The Surprise discovery of the Gospel of Thomas in 1945 is an event unrivaled in the study of Christian origins. Who wrote it? Where was it written? And why does it sound so different from the canonical gospels? Stephen Patterson will unlock the secrets of this gospel (some of them!) and explain what this new gospel really tells us about early Christianity.

#### ***Questions and Answers on Q and Thomas, Saturday 1:30-2:30 pm***

In this session, Patterson and Miller will focus on your questions and ideas about these mysterious gospels.

#### ***The Wisdom of Jesus in the Modern World, Saturday 3-4 pm***

In the Q gospel and the Gospel of Thomas, Jesus appears in the role of sage and prophet. How could the wisdom of this ancient sage be relevant to someone living in the modern world? Why should Christians take note? What about those who have given up on organized religion? What gems are worth recovering from these lost gospels?

**Sponsors:** Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

**Local Contact and Information:** Steve and Pam Etheridge [etheridges@my.uwstout.edu](mailto:etheridges@my.uwstout.edu).

**All sessions:** Individual rate \$75; Pre-registration Rate (by Oct. 13) \$60;

Additional Family Members \$50

**Single Sessions:** Friday evening Lecture \$20; Saturday Morning Workshop \$30; Saturday Afternoon Workshop \$30

**Refunds** are available until two weeks before the event if requested in writing, minus a \$10 administrative fee. No refunds will be given after that date.

**To register, go to <https://www.westarinstitute.org/upcoming-events-calendar/fortwayne-2017/>**



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

501 W. Berry St. · Fort Wayne · Indiana · 46802  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Compost your leaves.**

Falling leaves are beautiful *and* valuable. Instead of bagging leaves and leaving them out with the trash, collect and compost them to create nutrient-rich, organic soil that will be ready for use by the spring.



**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@gmail.com

**Sunday School Director**

kjwatson4@gmail.com

**Child Care Director**

davidandmichellegrim@gmail.com

**Office Manager**

lme@plymouthfw.org

**Secretary/Communications Associate (Bell)**

EASenter@plymouthfw.org

**Financial Administrator**

financial@plymouthfw.org

**Building 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.**