



The eBell

PLYMOUTH CHURCH
FORT WAYNE + UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PLYMOUTHFW.ORG

From the Senior Pastor

Educating Ourselves on the Gospel of Anti-Racism



In a time when society so often declares in words and actions that the lives of people of color are worth less than white lives, the church is called to respond. But when facing such a multifaceted demon, what's the next step? There is the diakonia-service work of racial justice action and solidarity. There is the koinonia-fellowship work of supporting those most directly affected and making our own institution reflect such subversive gospel values. And there is the kerygma-proclamation work of declaring the good news that Black Lives Matter.

In the midst of this, and as a complement, there is also the task of educating ourselves. This education reflects a dialectic of two contrasting poles that must be held together. 1) Follow the lead of people of color. 2) Don't expect people of color to educate white people on race. Both are true at the same time. The way I think this can be held together is by having people of color determine the priorities and issues where our solidarity should concentrate. Simultaneously, white people should take the initiative on doing our own education and not asking people of color to do remedial anti-racism educational work for us.

Over the years, Plymouth has organized different book studies on racism as part of our witness to the good news. But there is always more than we can learn. I'm including the following list of books that can serve as an educational primer if you are feeling ready to learn more about racism. How does it work in us and our culture? Why do many white people feel so defensive when the topic comes up? What can be done and what are the obstacles to dismantling it? These books can help begin to answer these and other questions.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus preached and devoted himself to the *basileia tou theou*, or the kingdom of God/divine commonwealth/Beloved Community. That here-but-not-yet reality is what the church proclaims in its words, actions, and ministries. For that proclamation to be good news for all peoples, it must be an anti-racist reality.

Peace,

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

Resources for Exploring Racism on Page 2

Worship and Plymouth

Livestream services begin at 10:00 am every Sunday on our [YouTube Channel](#). These services are live online events but the recordings will be available to be watched at any time after the service ends. A link to our YouTube Channel will be posted to our Facebook page and via eBlast every Sunday morning.

Plymouth also has a private Facebook group available to members called [Plymouth Generations](#). Join this Facebook group to communicate easily with other Plymouth people! You must already have a Facebook account to join this group.

Plymouth Church continues to send out eBlasts to keep you up-to-date on things like online gatherings, ways to help others while social distancing, and other news. eBlasts are sent on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm and Sundays at 9:00 am. If you are not receiving these eBlasts, please check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact Mackenzie at mng@plymouthfw.org.



Plymouth People In Our Prayers

Archer Family, Mariellen Beitman, Trevor Burns, Carleen Carteaux, Natasha Chemey, Alice Cline, Wayne Clouse, Dick Conklin, Kris Conner, David Cornwell, Wendy Crispell, Brad Crowder, Quinn Hacker, Joan Hartwig, Susan Jarvis, Kris Jensen, Nancy Jordan, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Joan Lipscomb, Sheldon Lockwood, Karen O'Neal, Carol Patterson, Bonnie Pennock, Mike Popp, Noel Resor, Donna Riethmiller, Anne Rowland, Rick Schilb, Patrizia Saladini-Stark, Jacqueline Sanders, Barbara Senn, John Shannon, Isabelle Shockney, Johanna Smith, Gordon Walter, Chris Week

Sympathy is extended to Kris Conner and family on the death of her brother, Lawrence "Larry" H. Skow on June 21, Portland, OR.

Sympathy is extended to Alice Cline and family on the death of her daughter, Shirley Wells, on July 1.

Sympathy is extended to Kris Jensen, to Geoff, Jenny, Tracy, on the death of husband and father, Robert "Bob" Jensen, July 3, Ann Arbor, MI.

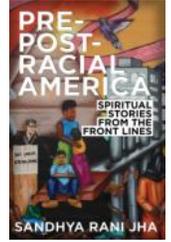
Sympathy is extended to Ahnee Conner and family on the death of her son, Nicholas John Conner, 48, on July 8, Gatesville, TX.

Sympathy is extended to Joyce Augspurger on the death of her husband, Fred Augspurger, 84, on July 11, Fort Wayne, IN.

Sympathy is extended to Vicki Kruse and family, on the tragic death of her great nephew Taylor Chavez, age 18, on July 18, Wichita, KS. Taylor died from injuries sustained when he was hit by a drunk driver. His parents generously consented for his organs to be donated to give life to others. The hospital staff and visitors lined the hallway in an "Honor Walk" as Taylor's body was wheeled to the OR. He would have entered Kansas State University as a freshman this fall.

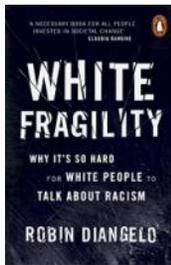
Resources for Exploring Racism

Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines, by Sandhya Rani Jha, 2015. Weaving together a complex personal narrative, insightful stories of others, and pointed observations about faith and race in the United States, Jha bridges theory, practice, story, and faith, reminding us that God calls us to build Beloved Community.



Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, by Ibram X. Kendi, 2017. Chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas over the course of American history, showing how racist ideas did not arise from ignorance or hatred but were created to justify and rationalize deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and the nation's racial inequities.

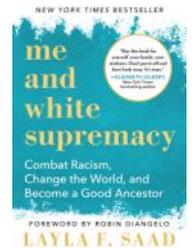
How to be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi, 2019. Another Kendi book, this one explains how racism is primarily a structural reality, with the primary thesis that not being racist isn't enough; we must actively choose to be "antiracist." Combines history, science, and ethics with memoir sections.



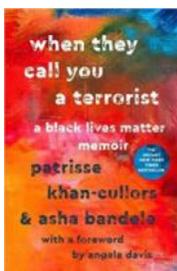
White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism, by Robin DiAngelo, 2018. Explores the disbelieving defensiveness that white people exhibit when their ideas about race and racism are challenged—and particularly when they feel implicated in white supremacy, based in part on DiAngelo's decades of running diversity-training and cultural competency workshops.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander, 2010. Examines the criminal justice system, showing how it is the extension of Jim Crow segregation, including both pre-arrest and post-incarceration discrimination.

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor, by Layla Saad, 2020. Teaches listeners how to dismantle the privilege within themselves so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.



Why Are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race, by Beverly Daniel Tatum, 2017. Argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.



When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir, by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele, 2017. Memoir of Black Lives Matter co-founder and her experience growing up poor, Black, and Queer in Los Angeles, reminding us that protest in the interest of the most vulnerable comes from love and seeks to change a culture that declares innocent Black life expendable.

**For the month of July we pray for:
Mustard Seed, Turnstone, and Easter Seal Arc of
Northeast Indiana whose work is supported in part
through Plymouth Benevolence.**

From the Associate Pastor

Dear Friends,

The Sacrament of Baptism was conducted on July 1, Wednesday, at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary. This joy-filled occasion in the life of Plymouth Church was shared with you in digital worship on Sunday, July 12. First-time parents, Brittany Ramsey and Clayton Bennett, presented their identical twin daughters.

Adelaide Carolyn Ruth Bennett and Catherine Loretta Rose Bennett were dressed in identical white-eyelet dresses made by their grandmother, Laura Ramsey, who, with grandfather, Tod Ramsey, and grandparents Bennett, were the only people present with us. All of us wore masks. For you unable to hear the words of the ritual, I'm providing the heart of the content: The five questions asked of parents are the same as for new members and confirmands so are not reprinted here. Likewise, the blessing of the water is in the New Century Hymnal.



Rev. Ruth: Words of baptism: Adelaide Carolyn Ruth ~ Catherine Loretta Rose, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God - mother, creator of us all, child of God.

Rev. Timothy: Words of anointing: Just as Jesus was anointed by God for a holy purpose and to live a life of love and service, so you are anointed in the name of Jesus, that you may be strengthened and encouraged to someday live a life of love and service and to fulfill who God is calling you to become. Amen.

Rev. Ruth: Closing prayer:

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful. Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus our Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Stay Safe and Be Well,

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips
Associate Pastor



Plymouth Office

Staff has returned to the office; however, due to social distancing requirements, the building remains locked and staff are not regularly attending the front desk. If you need to gain access to the building, please make arrangements with our Office Manager Tina Puitz by emailing her at office@plymouthfw.org. There are safety protocols in place to help maintain safety for all. The building is looking bright and shiny and regular cleaning continues throughout the day.

Advance Care Planning FREE Webinar

Plymouth Church Zoom Gathering
Sunday, August 9, 11:00 a.m.

This is an online event focused on Advance Care Planning. RSVP by emailing Erica Downing at erica.downing@parkview.com by August 5, 2020. RSVP is required to disperse materials needed for the group session.

To participate, click the following link: <http://zoom.us/join>. Next, type the following ID into the Meeting ID box: 7537470907. Zoom must be downloaded onto your device before joining this webinar. [Click here](#) to be taken to the Zoom Download Center.



Camp Red Cedar Supply Drive

The Evangelism & Marketing Board wants to give a hearty “Thank you!” to everyone who participated in our supply drive on July 11, benefitting Camp Red Cedar. In these strange and sometimes overwhelmingly hard days, it is a real gift to see people happily contribute to the well-being of others. This outpouring of generosity manifested good news for Camp Red Cedar and the kids they serve.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to deliver over 400 items, including over 200 craft supplies, 100 swimming floats and beach toys, outdoor toys, and even some first aid supplies! As we got things unloaded and stacked on the cart, campers and camp counselors took note. It seems as if the news of a donation coming in preceded us, as I heard one counselor exclaim, “That’s a LOT of stuff! Is that from the church? - Awesome!” And honestly? It was pretty awesome.

I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again: This is good churching, friends. A few of you said the same as you dropped off your donations, commenting that you felt like it was a good way to go to church. We on the E&M Board agree whole-heartedly. That’s why it is our goal to keep up with monthly drives to benefit various organizations in our community and show that we are here for good. So keep your eye out for information about our drive for August. We don’t have to be in the building to keep being the church!

If you are not familiar with Camp Red Cedar, we encourage you to visit their website (www.campredcedar.com) and learn more about them. Nearly 60 completely accessible acres - including the lake! - for kids of all abilities to enjoy camaraderie and the great outdoors. What a joy and privilege to help them in their good work!

January Simpson
Evangelism & Marketing Board



Cedars HOPE Task Force Soliciting Ideas

The Cedars HOPE task force is soliciting ideas about what to do with the Cedars HOPE building just west of the church purchased this past February. The task force has been asked to review options for the purchase in light of mission priorities and building feasibility/costs. If you have suggestions about possible uses for the property, please contact Abby Powers at abby.powers@powerspsych.com or 260-249-0889. This is an exciting undertaking for the congregation, and we appreciate your input as we move forward!

Plymouth Donations

If you feel the call to donate to Plymouth during this time of uncertainty, please consider using our online method by using your smart phone’s barcode scanner. This QR Code/Scanner tag will take you to the Plymouth donation page, or you can click [here](#). To scan this QR code, open the camera on your device and hover over the QR code. Once your camera focuses on the code, an option to follow the link will appear. You can also download a QR scanner app! 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.



Christmas in July

The Benevolence Committee invites you to celebrate Christmas in July by donating to the UCC's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund. This is a resource for retired UCC clergy and their surviving spouses. For many clergy, savings and pensions that keep pace with increasing costs of living just aren't possible. Upon retirement, they struggle to make ends meet after a lifetime of service. Donations to the Christmas Fund allow the UCC's Pension Boards to offer assistance when it is needed most.

In 2018, donations from congregations across the UCC provided \$2,000,000 in assistance, including: monthly pension supplements for 379 retirees, health benefits supplementation for 174 retirees, Christmas "thank you" gift checks for 401 retirees, and emergency grants to 49 active and retired UCC clergy and lay employees in urgent need.

To donate to the Christmas Fund, you can send a check to the church with "Christmas in July" on the memo line or donate online [here](#). Let us give generously and with gratitude to God for the good work of these faithful servants.

Call to Action: No Excuse Mail-In Voting

Because the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to be around when we vote in November we need to have "no excuse" mail in ballots for Indiana voters. With the primary election we have seen mail-in voting work. Planning and the allocating of resources to continue to keep Indiana voters safe while voting should be done now. Please contact Governor Eric Holcomb www.in.gov/gov/2752.htm, 317-232-4567, 206 State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204 and Connie Lawson, www.in.gov/sos/2341.htm, 317-232-6531, 201 State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204 telling them you want No Excuse Absentee voting available for the November Election. It is imperative to urge our leaders to implement this necessary change.



Growing Hope Globally

From IMPOSSIBLE to POSSIBLE!

We at Plymouth have watched it happen! In the last 15 years the mission projects we have supported in these developing nations, have truly gone from near impossible to POSSIBLE: changing lives, bringing food security and independence to over a million people!

Working with our partners Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren and Peace UCC, Growing Hope can and will continue to make a difference. Plymouth and Peace UCC raise the money for expenses and Pleasant Chapel raises the corn! Together we are able to support our two projects: everything from building water storage facilities, developing new seed, introducing new crops, while improving farming techniques. Growing Hope impacts the lives of our siblings by moving them from subsistence to surplus agriculture. As important is their commitment to "pass it on!"

Plymouth's Global Mission Covenant calls on us to support programs such as Growing Hope. We are off to a great start this year. Plymouth Benevolence has awarded us a grant, we received a matching corporate grant, and a wonderful gift from Randy Roberts – his beautiful artwork – nothing is impossible! We ask that you consider making a contribution to this year's campaign. With your continuing support all is POSSIBLE!

Thank you for your consideration.

Growing Hope Task Force



Plymouth Music Series

Plymouth Music Series is back and we are social distancing!

Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 pm: The Ghosts of Plymouth's Past Playlist featuring Robert Nance, organist

During the pandemic lock-down, Nance has been practicing and performing in the sanctuary on a regular basis. During these sessions, he has often been interrupted by the dramatic sounds of appreciative spirits. What music do these spirits like the most? You'll find out!

Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm: Two Friends, Two Keyboards, Too Fun featuring Robert Nance and Jonathan Young, Duo Piano

With four hands, twenty fingers, two keyboards and one hundred seventy-six keys, pianists Robert Nance and Jonathan Young perform music from Bach to Pop. Audiences will delight in these two entertainers as they perform virtuosic standards as well as arrangements of popular musicals and songs, all on Plymouth's Steinway grand pianos.

These events will be both open to the public and streamed online. Limited seating at the church is available, but strict safety protocols are being applied. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each event and seating will be organized to avoid contact with other patrons. All seats are spread out by CDC and Indiana Health Department guidelines. Click [here](#) to learn more about Plymouth Music Series!





July Birthdays



1	David Smith	12	Mary McCoy	18	Sandy Shumaker
2	Ashley Stewart	12	Cheryl Milligan	19	Kristi Lewark
4	Norma Eitsert	12	Timothy Murphy	21	Arianna Crumpacker
4	Bob Nicholson	12	Nelda Sunday	21	Joan Hartwig
4	Diana Swayze	13	Betty Barry	21	Karen Nesius Roeger
5	Carole Green	14	Michelle Grim	21	Luanne Root Koenig
5	Luis Loera	14	Michael Popp	22	Joe Hildenbrand
6	James Hendrix	15	Karl Bandemer	23	Leslie Frohberg
6	David Lewark	15	Betsy Bonham	24	Patricia Adsit
6	Rebecca Talarico	15	Kay Lewark	24	Dave Jolliff
7	Joyce Augspurger	16	Tyler Grim	25	Samuel Feasel
7	Jody Feasel	16	Dennis Roembke	27	Bev McFadden
8	Kim Feasel	16	Greg Week	27	Stan Pflueger
8	Susie O'Shaughnessy	17	Jennifer Coffeen	27	Lisa Worrell
10	Carl Hasty	17	Eric Miller	28	Tom Braun
11	Jim Lasley	18	Scott Lasley	31	Sonia Atienzo-Fisher
11	Dave McKinnon	18	Jeanie Rhoades	31	Brian Beifus

Financial Report

June 2020

	Month Actual	Month Budget	Month Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
Total Income	\$ 125,439	\$ 134,499	\$ (9,060)	\$ 454,257	\$ 463,648	\$ (9,391)
Total Expenses	\$ 57,046	\$ 69,713	\$ (12,667)	\$ 398,928	\$ 428,076	\$ (29,148)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 68,393	\$ 64,786	\$ 3,607	\$ 53,329	\$ 35,572	\$ 19,757

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Whoever You Are, Wherever You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!