



Peace and Justice Committee's 2017 Amistad Award Recipient Is Rev. Dr. Bill McGill

Plymouth's Peace and Justice Committee is delighted to announce the recipient of the Amistad Award for 2017 is Rev. Dr. Bill McGill, Senior Pastor of Imani Baptist Temple in Fort Wayne, and a community activist.

The award is presented annually to a recipient chosen from the Fort Wayne community for commendable service toward the broader goals of peace and justice in Fort Wayne and beyond.

In addition to his leadership at Imani, Dr. McGill serves as the Executive Pastor of One Church-One Offender, a nationally recognized faith-based alternative sentencing program, is past president of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Branch of the NAACP, and is a member of the Indiana Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Dr. McGill has long been recognized as a leader in the faith community's response to the various social dilemmas confronting our nation. In November 1993, he was one of 14 clergy invited to a White House meeting with President Clinton for the specific purpose of developing a faith response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. Since 1999, his focus has been on restorative justice. Under his leadership, One Church-One Offender has enjoyed a cumulative success rate of 93%. In 2003, Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu praised the program as one that "brings tears to the eyes of God."

On Pentecost Sunday 2013, Dr. McGill completed a 40-day water-only fast to stem the tide of violence in his local community. Thankfully, after six separate shootings over that Easter weekend, two of which were fatal, the city experienced 42 days without a civilian homicide.

In 2015 Dr. McGill founded "CORD" – Conquering Our Racial Divisions – an effort to bring together black and white communities to foster racial healing and conquer racial divisions. Commemorating Selma's "Bloody Sunday" tragedy, he initiated Unity Walks in the summer of 2015. In April of 2016, he was instrumental in bringing CT Vivian, a close friend and associate of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, to Fort Wayne, and in October of 2016, he brought the survivors of the Mother Emmanuel AME Church massacre in Charleston, SC to Fort Wayne for a "Fort Wayne Love Train Unity Walk."



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 9, Palm Sunday
Regular Schedule

April 13, Maundy Thursday
Agape Meal & Communion
6:00 pm
Folsom Room
(Use signup on bulletin board)

April 14, Good Friday
Prayer Vigil
7:00 am – 7:00 pm
(Use signup in Folsom Room)

Service of Tenebrae
7:00 pm

April 16, Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service
7:00 am
Allie Meriwether Brown
Ministerial Intern

Breakfast
8:00 - 9:15 am
(Use signup on bulletin board)

Festival Worship
10:00 am

One Great Hour of Sharing, March 26

Words cannot capture the anguish of people when they lose everything in a disaster or have to leave it behind while fleeing war or conflict. But through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education, and so much more.

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the UCC that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crises. The UCC works with international partners to provide health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy, and resettlement for refugees. Seven Christian denominations are active in providing these ministries. The UCC responds to needs in 138 countries and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the US.

In 2015, the OGHS offering received just over \$2.2 million. Nearly 65% of UCC congregations participate annually. On average, 95-cents of every dollar is used directly for mission programming, and the remainder is used to create materials that explain the mission work. That is an excellent return on your dollar.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil Signup

The signup sheet for Good Friday Prayer Vigil, **April 14**, 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 in order to receive and make a phone call at your prayer time. Complete instructions with prayer guide will be emailed or mailed to each volunteer.

In Our Prayers

During the month of March, we are invited to pray for the *Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in Lebanon*, a global mission partner through the Middle East Council of Churches. We also pray for *One Great Hour of Sharing*, supported in part by Plymouth Benevolence.

Plymouth people in our prayers:

A.J. Calkins, Jeanette Boerger, Tim Chronister, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Roger and Tony Crouch, Brad Crowder, Bill Deans, Gail Escosa, Darin Heavner, Maureen Heavner, Barbara Hill, Dick Hill, Tom Ice, Sr., Sheldon Lockwood, Carol Miller, Deb Cochran Mulherin, Virginia Nance, Carol Patterson, Ian Rolland, Mimi Rolland, Jacqueline Sanders, Joan and Alan Simon, Marylynn Sloop, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Sara Sprunger, Jim Watson, Chris Week.

Members and friends serving overseas: Nick Brattain, US Navy.

UCC Chaplains serving overseas:

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

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Eliza Ann Duch, born January 25 to happy parents Matt and Lindsay Duch. Overjoyed grandmother is Barb Duch.

Sympathy is extended to Cathy, Miles, and Kennon Nicholson on the death of husband and father, Bill Nicholson, on January 27.

Sympathy is extended to Alice Beard, on the death of her sister, Ruline Steininger, 103, who died January 31, in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

Sympathy is extended to AJ Calkins, whose mother, Lorraine Calkins, died February 7, in Michigan.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Edythe Gordon, who died March 5, in Erlanger, Kentucky .

New Book Study Continues Through April 19

Wednesdays, March 22, 29, & April 5, 19, 6:45 to 7:30 pm

Join Ministerial Intern Allie Meriwether Brown, as she leads a book study on *The Comforting Whirlwind* by Bill McKibben.

Through the book of Job and his own background as an environmentalist and writer, McKibben combines biblical wisdom and modern science to show that, in this time of environmental crisis, humans must figure out the "proper relationships among people, the earth, and God."

This study will focus on Plymouth's Earthwise commitment, and will ask participants to reflect on our personal and corporate call to care for Creation. All are welcome. Please access the book in the format you prefer.

From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

Indiana is one of five states whose criminal code makes no provision for hate crimes. The current General Assembly had a chance to address this, but a proposed hate crime bill failed to clear a Senate committee. Various groups advocating for Jewish, Muslim, African-American, LBGT, and intellectually disabled communities voiced support for the legislation. Law enforcement and prosecuting attorney organizations also lent support. But ultimately, the effort failed.

Who would be against such legislation? The American Family Association (AFA) of Indiana for one. The AFA feared, among other things, the bill might allow the government to punish people for their beliefs. This left supporters of the bill with a rather odd twist to ponder: A powerful Christian lobby resisting hate crime legislation. And they were successful. The AFA, you will recall, is the same group that worked to bring us the *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* fiasco.

Ironically, as the hate crime legislation was being blocked, hate was working overtime. A slew of bomb threats have been directed at Jewish community centers, day schools, and synagogues across the country, along with acts of vandalism directed at Jewish Cemeteries.

In response to these acts, our UCC, in conjunction with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), issued an “open letter” to our Jewish colleagues and friends. It read, in part:

“We deplore these terrible acts that have incited fear in children and adults ... (that) are abhorrent expressions of anti-Semitism and religious intolerance ... We recognize that we are living in a time of increased division and fear in our country. Even so, bigotry, discrimination, and hateful rhetoric have no place ... in the world we imagine possible, and that the prophets call God’s people to seek.”

The American Jewish community is not the only group targeted by hate’s rage. Earlier this month, Deep Raj, a Sikh man, was shot in Washington state by an attacker who shouted, “Go back to your country.” And there was the tragic incident in Kansas where two engineers of Indian descent were shot by a man yelling, “Get out of my country.” The shooter was said to have later bragged about shooting “two Iranians.” These disturbing acts are all reminders: the greatest threat to our security in this country is not the immigrant or refugee that comes seeking sanctuary. It is the hate that exists in our midst, in the malice of our minds, in the fear and resentments we harbor within, in the company we keep, in the faith we espouse.

Regrettably, spurious religion is often the compost of hate, generating ill-grounded fears and suspicions upon which hate feeds. As Christians, we need to be courageous enough, and savvy enough, to challenge malevolent powers, especially those powers masked with faith, shielded with cross, that stir hate and sanction violence.

According the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 26 hate groups in Indiana. I sense it takes some effort to make this list. Most of the groups champion ethnic pride and racial (white) power. But hate is not confined simply to these. Contempt can be lodged in any unsuspecting heart.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: **“When fighting and death exercise their wild dominion around us, then we are called to bear witness to God’s love and peace, not only by word and thought, but also by our deeds ... The great peace for which we long can only grow again from peace between twos and threes. Let us put an end to all hate, mistrust, envy, disquiet, wherever we can.”**

How might Bonhoeffer’s counsel translate for us today? Our theme for Lent this year provides an option: Believe Out Loud! Believe in the love revealed in the life and death of Jesus. Don’t work solo in this great enterprise. Heed Bonhoeffer’s admonition to grow peace “between twos and threes.” Believe in the love that never fails to rise. Believe enough to show and tell.

For God’s sake. For goodness sake. Believe Out Loud!

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner



THE AMAZING GRAYS

WILL FEATURE
PLYMOUTH'S OWN

**MICHAEL
SPATH**

DIRECTOR
Indiana Center for
Middle East Peace

exploring the
exciting topic of

**"ECO-THEOLOGY:
REFLECTIONS
ON THE COSMIC
CHRIST AND
THE BODY OF
GOD"**

Sunday, April 9, 11:30 am

Lunch will be served.

Reservations by April 7!

(use signup on bulletin board)

Lay Leadership Contact Information

At Plymouth Church, opportunities abound for church members to serve as lay leaders. You may want/need to ask a question of one of them. The following contact information is provided to allow you to do just that!

Moderator	Beth Walker	492-7243	bethwalker.fw@gmail.com
Assistant Moderator	John Escosa	422.-8625	gtrplr2@aol.com
Treasurer	Laura Coon	615-5400	lcoon@fwn.fortwayne.com
Assistant Treasurer	Roger Eversole	480-7031	red9pencil@aol.com
Clerk	Sara Sprunger	437-1077	sylviograce@gmail.com
Recorder	Joan Lipscomb	744-3946	jlipsinfw@frontier.com

Scanner Tag For Plymouth "E-Donations"

Using your smart phone's barcode scanner, this QR Code/Scanner tag leads you to Plymouth's page at eservicepayments.com. Use this secure and confidential link to support Plymouth's ministry and mission! Your gift helps advance the local and global outreach of Plymouth Church's benevolence. Please be generous!



Newsletter Guidelines: Printed BELL and eBell

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

PLEASE DO NOT USE office@plymouthfw.org

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

<u>Printed Bell</u>	<u>E-Bell</u>
January	<i>February</i>
March	<i>April</i>
May	<i>June</i>
August	<i>July</i>
October	<i>September</i>
November	<i>December</i>

Annual Women's Retreat

“Come Away for a Day to Listen to Your Soul & Replenish Your Spirit”

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Epworth Forest Conference Center, Lake Webster

Join the Journey! Women of Plymouth: you and your friends are invited for this day of listening to our souls and replenishing our spirits. This retreat will provide ample personal time for reflecting, walking, sitting, moving, breathing. The day will be fluid in design and nature ~ brief interludes of listening, longer periods of self directed activity.

Ingredients of the day are the following:

*Touchpoints of singing & worshipping ~ Rev. Ruth E. Phillips
~ Allie Meriwether Brown
*Meeting new people ~ Lucy Hess
*Spiritual Treasure Hunt ~ Joyce Black
*Yoga ~ Jan Evrard
*Reiki ~ Christine Leggett
*Dance Movement ~ Carol Jackson
*Prayerful Coloring ~ whenever you choose

-Snacks and lunch provided by Epworth Center.

-Registration with full payment of \$20 is **due by Wednesday, April 12.**

-Scholarship assistance is available,; please contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips (423-9424, ext. 322) or rep@plymouthfw.org.

-Carpooling is encouraged and will be facilitated by Sandy Moliere.

Looking forward to your being with us!

Women's Retreat Planning Team: Joyce Black, Allie Meriwether Brown, Lucy Hess, Sandy Moliere, Nada O'Neal, Rev. Ruth E. Phillips

2017 Women's Retreat Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Phone

☐ I will provide my own transportation

___ I can drive and take _____ passengers.

___ I need a ride (Sandy Moliere will contact you)

_____ \$20 full registration paid with _____ cash or _____ check # _____

____ Scholarship assistance requested

Please send payment with this registration form to the church office, with "Women's Retreat" marked on the envelope and on the memo line of the check.

2	Joyce Black	
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	
7	Heather Brackeen	
	Jeffrey Kolkman	
8	Jeffrey Cunningham	
	Jeff Markley	
9	Gail Escosa	
	Clare Walter	
	Kenosha Phillips	
10	Colton Shaffer	
11	Courtney Dienelt	
	Deb Miller	
12	Daren Shaffer	
	Linda South	
13	Thomas Baker	
	Melanie Hollingsworth	
	Tess Anglin	
	Scott Ridgon	
15	Sharon Christian	
16	Eric Gilliom	
	Collin Ramsey	
	Monty Millage	
	Beth Price	
17	Steve Ross	
18	Debby Compagnone	
	Allen Nance	
19	Maggie Jordan	
	Lenora Lewark	
20	Joni Sutton	
	Kay Wheeler	
21	Gina Arata	
	Allie Brown	
	George Irmscher	
	Steve Riethmiller	
22	Rhys Rudolph	
	Mary Ann Sidell	
23	Marian Nicholas	
24	Robin Ames	
	Sandy Moliere	
25	Jack Greer	
	Diane Lasley	
	Claire Roney	
27	Chris Lasley	
29	Elly Doenecke	

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Birthdays

April Scholarship Deadline

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

Music Denotes “A Matter of Life and Death”



The IPFW Department of Music and Heartland Chorus will present, “A

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

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

Admission is free and open to the public.

Welcome New Members!

Victoria "Vicki" Kruse is a lifelong Fort Wayne resident who was baptized into Crescent Avenue Church when it was Evangelical United Brethren. She grew up away from the church until she married David Kruse, a lifelong member of Crescent Avenue UMC, where she also became a member. Their children, Patrick, Jeffrey, and McKenna, were baptized (and confirmed) at Crescent Avenue UMC. Sadly, their middle child Jeffrey died in 1997 at age six. Vicki and Dave celebrated 23 years of marriage until his death in 2011. Vicki has worked at United Parcel Service for 31 years as a route delivery driver. *"I have been without a church home since 2012. I had friends attending here at Plymouth and visited a few Sundays last summer. Each time I felt welcomed and at ease, so I just kept coming."* Vicki enjoys camping, kayaking, hiking, sports, traveling abroad, and varieties of music.

Pam Pfrang moved to Fort Wayne from Chicago in 2010, after retiring as a Cook County Public Defender. Raised in what she recalls as "an easy-going Lutheran Church" in Wisconsin (LCA, merging to form ELCA), Pam wanted to live near her son, Jason Satek (of Satek Winery) and his family, and perceived that Fort Wayne seemed more like Chicago than Angola did. Liking much about Fort Wayne, she appreciates Plymouth as being a welcoming community with a true spirit of doing-good. No longer practicing law, she instead draws and paints people and scenes in oil. Pam lives with her furry and funny little terrier, Heidi.

Cher Phelps-Griswold grew up in the Disciples of Christ Church in La Porte, IN where she was very active in the youth and music programs. She is a widow whose husband, Floyd, died after fourteen years of Alzheimer's. Cher has two married sons and three grandsons who bring joy to life. She is in her 32nd year as an optician for Cunningham. Cher is a 40-year member of the Philharmonic Chorus, as well as a docent at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. When Cher came to Plymouth from Crescent Ave. UMC, she saw people she has known through the years. She has enjoyed the added blessing of creating many new friendships. *"I'm very much at home here. Thank you all for making it so."*



ONA 16th Anniversary Workshops

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Registration: \$5.00 Per Person



Leader: Diana Bauer has practiced law in Fort Wayne since 1987 and formed her own law firm in 2015, Bauer Legal LLC. She represents a wide variety of clients in litigation and appellate matters.

Workshop: Legal issues for the LGBTQ community. Diana will provide insight and guidance on legal issues of interest to the LGBTQ community. Her discussion will include estate planning issues, health care concerns, and retirement benefits.

Leader: Thad Gerardot, LGBTQ advocate, organized for Freedom Indiana, ran for State Representative and serves on the board for Q Consulting and Education a local organization that provides LGBTQ diversity and inclusion training.

Workshop: History of LGBTQ Movement in Politics, Nationally and in Indiana. Thad will share his involvement organizing and running for office. Discuss how you can get involved by persuading elected officials and joining organizations that support LGBTQ inclusive policies.

Leaders: Erica & Dawn Mays are Co-Editors-in-Chief of the website, www.OutShouttheCrazies.com. Erica is "webmistress" Transgender, and also the Technical Consultant at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola, Indiana, a musician, and a professional Digital Artist. Dawn is a singer and a former patient Case Manager with an Associate's Degree in Social Work.

Workshop: Transgenderism & Family Life. Erica and Dawn will share their experiences and advice in dealing with the unique challenges of coming together in a non-stereotypical family, with an emphasis on transgender family members, raising LGBTQ-positive children, and the societal implications of living outside of the mainstream.

Leader: Kris Posthuma has over a decade of experience with facilitation and LGBTQ-centered work. He is currently the manager of curricula development at Indiana Youth Group. Prior to his time with IYG, he worked for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Northern Kentucky (then just Planned Parenthood of Indiana) as a sexual health educator and resource coordinator and taught an intro to human sexuality course at Indiana University.

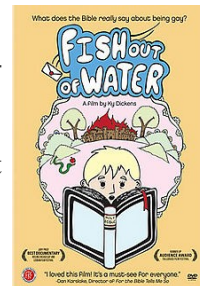
Workshop: Indiana Youth Group, and Thrive: Dare to be Powerful, suicide prevention.

ONA Film

Fish Out of Water

May 6, Following Workshops

Coming out of the closet can be challenging, and for Ky Dickens, the experience coming out to friends at Vanderbilt University led to the making of *Fish Out of Water*, a spirited documentary that explores the seven Bible passages notoriously used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination.



This genre-bending, intellectually condensed, power-packed analysis of the homophobic religious arguments is a mixture of animation, LGBTQ community interviews, and expert analysis from theologians across the country.

Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ, states, "We, the church and its leaders at all levels, need this film."

ONA Celebration Party

7:00—10:00 pm

At Calhoun Street
Soups, Salad & Spirits (CS3)
Bring your friends and family
to enjoy music, dancing, and
light snacks.

\$5.00/person

ONA Anniversary Events Registration, For May 6, 2017

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

_____ Workshops Only (\$5.00) _____ Celebration Party Only (\$5.00) _____ Both Events (\$8.00)

Payment Amount Total _____ Cash _____ Check _____



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

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Phone: 260-423-9424 · Fax: 260-423-9426

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Resourcefulness means repair,
replace, recharge, recycle,
replant, repurpose, restore,
resole, reclaim, revise, reinvent,
reserve, reorganize, reconstruct,
redistribute, redevelop.
Think about the resources you
can save with these reactions.



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

Office Manager
lme@plymouthfw.org

Secretary/Communications Associate (Bell)
sls@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator
financial@plymouthfw.org

Buildings Maintenance Manager
david@plymouthfw.org

Vision Statement

Adopted October 2011

Praying for guidance for the journey
... Honoring the mystery of God
... Responding with spirits renewed
... Moving courageously toward wholeness.

Mission Statement

Adopted October 2011



Plymouth Church is an inclusive Christian Community
welcoming you as you are, supporting you in your own
Journey with God, and challenging you to live out the
teachings of Jesus, individually, collectively, globally.

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here.