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BELL

Work Demonstrates Plymouth is “Here For Good”

Construction projects are seldom without glitches and Plymouth’s HVAC project has been no exception.

Dismantling of the sub-ceiling tiles in the kitchen exposed the original ceiling above in poor condition, which meant plaster and lathe had to be removed and sheetrock put in its place. The south basement wall of the old coal chute had to be rebuilt when it was discovered the room protruded into a space under the alley behind the church, now city property. The space also had to be back filled.



To date, demolition has been finished, the old boilers downstairs and ancient heat registers throughout the office building and sanctuary have been removed and recycled. New concrete floors in the basement have been poured and cured. Electrical work has been done throughout much of the office building. The new water heater has arrived. Sheet metal workers have started to install new duct work. Currently, rooms with top priority include the kitchen, Folsom Room, nursery, and classrooms upstairs, in order to accommodate the carnival/cookout on **August 24**, the first Wednesday Night Live, **August 31**, and kickoff of the program year **Sunday, September 11**.

While the HVAC project is on its way to completion, you also may have noticed that all the grounds surrounding the buildings have been cleaned up and revived with some new landscaping and fresh mulch.

It’s becoming more apparent that Plymouth is indeed, “Here For Good.”

Program Year Begins Sunday, September 11

- 8:00 am:** Chapel Communion
- 9:00 am:** Christian Education
- 9:00 am:** Sanctuary Singers
- 9:00 am:** Hospitality
- 10:00 am:** Worship
- 11:30 am:** Amazing Grays
- 12:00 pm:** Youth at Grim’s

Please complete and submit your building-use forms to the office for the 2016-2017 program year, in order to get your one-time or repeating events on the church calendar as soon as possible.

Heritage Sunday September 18

On **Sunday, September 18**, Plymouth will celebrate its annual observance of Heritage Sunday. As part of our Heritage service, the following members will be honored for their faithful church membership: We salute these Plymouth members and thank God for the constancy of their support and commitment.

- 80-84 years Mary DeWald
June Enoch
- 75 years Alice Beard
- 70 years Ann Sponhauer
- 60 years Ronald Hayes
Bethany Binkley
Ross Binkley
Barbara Bugg
Robert Kabisch
Louise Misegades
William Spindler
Paul Lewark
John McCormick
Rose Pyle
- 50 years Dan Kaufman
Judy Kaufman
Dulanna Rothert
Jim Schmidt

SAVE THE DATE!
Carnival & Cookout
NEXT Wednesday,
August 24

In Our Prayers

During the month of August, we pray for **Vincent Village**, and for **Associated Churches** (Baby's Closet, Food Bank), whose work is supported in part through Plymouth benevolence.

Plymouth people in our prayers:

Jack Ade, Sally Ade, A.J. Calkins, Tim Chronister, Sharon Conrad, Marge Cornwell, Roger and Tony Crouch, Barbara and Bob Davidson, Chuck Doenecke, Morgan Ellingwood, Pat Eltzroth, Ralph Eltzroth, Gail Escosa, Lois Teders Horn, Tom Ice, Sr., Bill Imler, Susan Towle Jarvis, Ed Koenig, Luanne Root Koenig, Ray Lehman, Sandra Lockwood, Sheldon Lockwood, Judy Madden, Kerry Mills, Carol Patterson, Timothy Price, Steve Riethmiller, Dulanna Rotherth, Anne Rowland, Jack Sanders, Vera Scott, Charmaine Siekmann, Joan and Alan Simon, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Jim Stedman, Wendy Beifus Webster.

Members and friends serving our country: Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman; Nick Brattain, US Navy; Capt. Brandi Wallace, USAF.

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

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Dylan Jude Sa Kabisch on June 23, in Los Angeles, CA, son of delighted parents Eric and Claudia Kabisch. Proud grandmother is Marty Kabisch; proud grandfather is Bob Kabisch.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of a son, Nicodemus Leon, on July 11, to delighted parents Anita and Carlos Leon, Austin, TX. Proud grandparents are Carol and Dave Jackson

Congratulations to Domini Martin and Andrew Urban, who were united in marriage July 16, in Fort Wayne. Domini is the granddaughter of Carol Patterson.

Congratulations to Jessie Coon Voors and Ryan Michael Throop on their marriage July 23, at the Botanical Gardens. Rev. Ruth E. Phillips officiated.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Eloise Gephart, who died on May 14 in Naples, Florida.

Sympathy is extended to Rev. Susan O'Shaughnessy and family on the death of her mother, Jean O'Shaughnessy, on June 2.

Sympathy is extended to Rhonda Eitsert and family on the death of her father, William Winchester, on June 8.

Sympathy is extended to Dwight James on the death of his cousin, Ondelee Cobbler, June 13, in Angola.

Sympathy is extended to Diana Swayze on the death of her "second mother" of over 30 years, Nancy Honn, on June 16, in Remington.

Sympathy is extended to Curt and Dee Smith and family on the death of his sister, Ida May Grossman, June 19, in Wabash.

Sympathy is extended to Michelle Byerley Grim and family on the death of her grandfather, Paul Byerley, July 11, in Avilla.

Sympathy is extended to Dwight James on the death of his uncle, Leroy Berryman, July 13, in Bryan, OH.



From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

In July, I ventured to the Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod for a learning event, “The Bible, Faith & Economic Justice.” The theologian for the week was the Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly, currently serving as the Senior Minister of South Congregational Church, UCC, Centerville, Massachusetts. In his first presentation, the Rev. Epperly suggested the summons of God for the whole creation is for “**beauty, goodness, and justice**” to flourish.

I’m accustomed to hearing the language of “goodness and justice.” But the inclusion of beauty as a moral and spiritual value sounded for me in a new way. What really got my attention was beauty’s opposite – ugly – and Epperly’s contention that poverty is ugly. Poverty demeans and defaces the image of God. Poverty chokes the human imagination. Poverty siphons the spirit that enables people to dream; it erodes our ability to think or conceive that “**another world is possible.**” Poverty stifles hope and denies the beauty, the goodness, the justice God desires for all.

A favorite psalm of mine speaks:

“One thing I asked of the Lord,
that I will seek after;
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in God’s temple.”

Psalm 27:4

I delight in the way “**one thing**” actually unfolds as three: to live; to behold; to inquire. I cherish the emphasis upon seeking, the striving that is a mark of our quest for God; for good; for beauty.

The catechism of my youth offered the following instruction: “**be regular in your prayers. Pray every day ... Make the prayer-life the fountain of a beautiful symmetrical Christian character.**” These are words I’ve never forgotten. Prayer inspires and sustains the journey of life; prayer fosters a well-centered and balanced Christian life.

We are living in an extreme and reckless age. Partisan divides fuel fear and mistrust. In an election year, the messaging is pointed and magnified in ways that can undermine and subvert the best practices of faith. So I advise: be not dismayed or undone by the uncertainties of tomorrow. Pray for clarity of purpose, the one thing worth asking. Pray for beauty, goodness, and justice to flourish: in our church, our city, our world. Remember: God is ever near, and will never leave us to face our perils alone.

Sincerely,
John P. Gardner

Sunday Morning Chapel Communion Service Resumes September 11



The 8:00 am Sunday morning communion service will resume on **September 11**. This is an opportunity, each Sunday, for early risers to gather for prayer and sacrament.

Compassion Focus and Action — Two Groups

With Rev. Ruth E. Phillips

Living a compassionate life is more than attitude and gratitude. Moving out of the realm of feeling and thinking compassion, we are challenged to delve into compassionate acts that are tangible, centered in real life and relationships.

Drawing on the work of Karen Armstrong's "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life," and John Philip Newell's, "The Rebirthing of God," we will together find ways to express our compassion as individuals and as a group.

Bring your sense of adventure, your courage and creativity, your moral compass, and together we will explore new paths on the journey to more compassionate living. Choose the day and time that works better for you:

- **Wednesdays, 6:45 to 7:30 pm, September 7 to November 16**
- **Thursdays, 1:00 to 1:45 pm, September 8 to November 17**

Study Connection Needs Volunteer Tutors & Subs

Tutors and substitutes are needed for Plymouth's continuing service to Study Connection. If you are interested in either being a fulltime tutor, sharing a child, or being a sub for children ages 5-12, please contact Lucy Hess at lrh22@frontier.com or 484-4430. **We meet the children on Wednesday afternoons from approximately 2:45 to 4:05 pm.** In early August, once we are assigned a school for this coming year, we will know where to meet the children.

An application form is accessible at the Study Connection site at: studyconnection@fwcs.k12.in.us.

Youth/Parent Meeting Sunday August 28

There will be a brief Parent Meeting following worship **Sunday, August 28**. If you have a young person/youth in grades six to 12, this very short & informative meeting is for you! Please plan to stroll to the Folsom Room immediately following the service, where you will find the Youth Advisory Committee and Kara Jaurigue smiling and waving! We will share with you, quickly, the work YAC has been doing over the summer (Who the heck is YAC anyways?). We'll enlighten you on the ways our programming will go this year, and present you with a schedule of what has been mapped out for the months of September 2016 to January 2017. Please plan to join us ... short ... informative ... and it's all about the Youth!

Calling All Youth Grades 6 to 12!

It's that time—to kick off our Youth Season! We will gather at the Grim Homestead (Riley's house) from **12:00 to 3:00 pm, Sunday September 11**. We'll have food, yard games, fun, fellowship and more! All youth and their friends are welcome! The Youth Advisory Committee and Kara have been working on some fun planning, and we're excited to see YOU and start the fall programming off right! We hope you will plan to come! Please RSVP to Kara Jaurigue at kkjaurigue@gmail.com, or on our Youth & Parent Pages on Facebook (to help us plan for the amount of food as well as special dietary needs). See you there!

Chapel Classes Promise Interesting Discussions

Join the adult Chapel Class on **Sundays at 9:00 am** as we explore, discuss, and grow our Faith. This year, topics include becoming more familiar with the Bible, how we can best respond to challenges found in today's world, ideas to incorporate prayer and study into daily life, Theology, as well as learning more about our church's history. As always, please feel free to contact the Christian Education Board with questions, or if you'd like to find out how you can help.

September 11 & 18 -- David & Riley Grim

The words "the Middle East" can cause anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed. Given the long history and complex nature of such a topic, where do we even begin? Come listen as Riley and David share about their experience, observations, and insights from a recent trip to the Middle East. Then, join in a conversation about we can respond to "hot" issues in a way that is both meaningful and reflective of God's Love.

September 25, October 2 & 9 -- Dr. Bill Argus

Where are we on the Spiral? Is biological evolution the only type of evolution? Do other things evolve, including culture and faith? "Spiral Dynamics" theory suggests that culture and faith do evolve over time in response to changing life conditions. What we value, and how we make meaning in our lives, have changed over the millennia. Come and see how this developmental theory plays out in your personal faith, in churches, and even in politics.

Welcome Back To Wednesday Night Live With Chef Alicia Leal

We are pleased that, beginning **August 31**, Alicia Leal will return to cater for our Wednesday Night Live dinners. **Signup in advance is required by the deadline of Sunday Noon for the WNL dinner that week!** Dinner will be served from **5:45 to 6:30 pm** in the Folsom Room. Kids' Meals will be offered for the children who prefer something other than the regular entrée, and a vegetarian option will be offered each week (ONLY for those who request it on the signup sheet; at dinner check-in, you will be given a ticket with your name printed so you may receive your vegetarian meal).

Our payment practice continues: Pay as you can, when you can, the amount you can, if you can. For your consideration, the cost of a WNL dinner is \$7 per adult, \$3 per child younger than eight years. We want everyone to be included, **BUT YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE**, using the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office! Welcome ALL to the Best Meal Deal on Berry Street!

Alicia's Upcoming Menus

August 31	Classic Caesar Salad Gnudi (vegetarian) with Choice of Italian Sausage Sauce <u>or</u> Marinara Sauce Roasted Mixed Root Vegetables Crispy Italian Bread Fresh Fruit Platter Italian Cream Cake Kids Korner: Bow Tie Pasta with Little Meatballs
Sept. 7	Lite Coleslaw (Dairy free) Crunchy Baked Chicken <u>or</u> Cajun Chickpea Cakes with Smokey Mayo (Vegan) Smashed Red Potatoes Green Beans with Garlic & Herbs Fresh Fruit Platter Caramel Cake
Sept. 14	Apple, Grape, and Celery Salad Chicken Sausages with Kale and White Beans <u>or</u> Vegetarian Sausage with Kale and White Beans Rice Pilaf Fresh Fruit Platter Apple-Cinnamon Upside-Down Cake Kids Korner: Pot Pie Cupcakes
Sept. 21	Fennel, Orange, and Olive Salad Seared Pork Chops <u>or</u> Seared Marinated Tofu Steaks Herbed Couscous Sautéed Garlic Broccoli Fresh Fruit Platter Pink Lemonade Cupcakes Kids Korner: Crispy Pork Cutlets
Sept. 28	Mixed Greens Salad with Sesame Vinaigrette Grilled Chicken Thighs with Ginger Sauce <u>or</u> Stir-Fried Forbidden Rice (veg.) Basmati Rice Sautéed Green and Red Peppers Fresh Fruit Platter Mango Pudding Kids Korner: Chicken Egg Rolls

New Art Installation And Artist Reception

Following the **10:00 am, Sunday service on August 28**, plan to stop by the Mayflower Room to see *Ode to Joy*, a new piece of art commissioned for the church in memory of David D. Platt (June 5, 1934 — September 3, 2012).

The large ceramic relief, by local artist/architect George Morrison, was funded with memorial contributions. Please stop in to meet the artist and see the new work.

David Platt was committed to education. He was an FWCS teacher/administrator, a founding member of the Fort Wayne Youth Symphony, and a professional musician who



Platt

played in his younger years with the Artie Shaw band. Plymouth was his church.

Morrison's ceramic piece embodies symbolic elements of David's life including musical notation from Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, in relief, and conch shells representing overarching presence of nature.

Mr. Morrison, public artist and founding partner of Morrison, Kattman and Menze architectural firm, is the creator of a number of public installations in the city. The most recent is *City*, the large installation in the rotary at Superior Circle. Another, *Flights of Friendship*, in the terminal at Fort Wayne International Airport, commemorates the city's involvement in the Sister Cities program.

For additional information:
www.GeorgeMorrisonart.com)

With Appreciation

It takes a village to power our Sunday School, and we are truly thankful for all those who volunteer their time to guide our classrooms!

If you are interested in joining our teaching team, spaces are still available in the Winter and Spring sessions. Please contact Katie Watson for more information (kjwatson4@gmail.com).

Facebook Generations

Are you following the Plymouth Generations page on Facebook? This is an informal place to share what's happening in faith formation for ALL ages in our community.

"Join" our page on Facebook, or to be added to the group, email Katie Watson at: kjwatson4@gmail.com.

Bible Study On Facebook!

Now Plymouth adults also may use Facebook to follow the themes of the Bible from Genesis through to Revelation!

We'll be following the same curriculum as the youth classes, hearing the stories, responding with our own stories, and mapping the big themes that weave their way through the whole Bible.

If you are new to the Bible, this is a great beginning overview. If you are already familiar with the Bible, this class is a chance to review how all the stories fit together. **The first session begins September 25.**

You will need a Facebook account to participate in this study. Please look for more details on the Plymouth Generations page, or to be added to the study, contact Katie Watson, at: kjwatson4@gmail.com

Music Ministry Opportunities

Starting **Wednesday, August 31**, the regular schedule of music rehearsals and worship services begins. The Music Ministry has many opportunities for all ages and all are welcome to participate. Questions? Contact Director of Music Robert Nance, or Music Associates Phil Slane and Tim Cunningham. Then add your voice and/or instrument to the musical life of Plymouth Congregational Church! Plymouth Music Ensembles include:

- **Sanctuary Singers** – this choral ensemble sings for worship most Sundays, and for all major events including Boar's Head, Music Series concerts, and special holiday services. Rehearsals **Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm**, and regularly on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** Additional special rehearsals scheduled as needed.
- **Plymouth Bell Ensemble** – rings for worship once each month, and for all major events including Boar's Head, choir clinic, and holiday services. Rehearses **Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.**
- **Plymouth Children's Choirs** – this program provides a creative outlet for children K-5 and includes singing, choir chimes, Orff instruments, and occasional drama and art. This group will perform for worship once each month, and for special services throughout the year. **Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.**
- **Youth Music Ensemble** (instrumental and vocal) – Music opportunities are varied for this middle and high school level ensemble including praise orchestra, Orff orchestra, soloists, small ensembles. Youth music ensemble rehearses on **Wednesdays at 6:30 – 7:15** and participate in worship regularly. All youth are invited to bring their instruments and voices!

Additional opportunities for music leadership are always possible and will be considered; contact Robert Nance (robert@maestronance.com) for more information. For now, please take this time to review your schedules and make a commitment to participate in the first-rate programs provided by the music ministry, where everyone is welcome to experience new ways to explore faith, restore hope and discover God.

Plymouth Music Series 2016-17: Thank You!

This summer, we had a wonderful series of concerts during the Three Rivers Festival, thanks to the support of many donors and participants. Plans are underway for the series of concerts for the 2016-17 season and should be released in early September. Watch for more information!

Pepper Jelly Preparation August 29 & 31

Because the Plymouth kitchen is still under construction, Pepper Jelly time has been postponed and **will no longer be August 15 and 17**. Instead, Plymouth's own made-from-scratch Sweet Pepper Jelly will be made on **Monday, August 29 and Wednesday, August 31, beginning at 10:00 am**. The eight and twelve ounce jars are perfect sizes for late-summer picnics, fall tailgaters, college care packages, host gifts, as an ingredient in a favorite recipe--or just for a snack at home. To order, contact Joyce Augspurger, at (260) 625-3222, or email: jema7749@comcast.net

Children's Fellowship Needs Help

Do you appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of elementary-aged children? Do you have an hour every couple of months to visit, play board games, and hear about their lives?

Our elementary aged children leave worship after the Peace Candle is lit, and return to worship after the sermon. We need some new adults who are willing to share that time with them. Since we generally only need two people each week, a turn comes around only every 8-10 weeks. If you are willing to join the adults who are doing this, please let Clare Walter know by phone (471-3844), by email (c2cftwayne@gmail.com), or when you see her in person.

Sunday School Resumes

Sunday school resumes **September 11, at 9:00 am**. Most weeks in our classrooms, our learners will be learning the stories and themes of the Bible—in order from Genesis through to Revelation. Every few weeks, we'll be bringing in Visiting Artists to turn some of these stories into music, movement, art and storytelling. We're excited to see how our learners choose to turn around and teach the congregation about what they have learned!

Bible Stories for Kids

Familiar Bible stories are at the heart of our preschool and elementary classes. Each week, we read a story from the Bible, watch a short video about how the story's theme applies to kids' lives, and explore the story together through games, art and discussion. We'll add a new story to our timeline, illustrating how the stories fill the Bible, weekly, as well.

This fall our three-year-old through first grade class will be taught by Kristen Miller and Anne Boyko. Our second through fifth grade class will be taught by Cher Jackson and Molly Jordan. The youth will hear 12 major stories from the Bible, observe how the individual stories are a part of a larger narrative, and then explore how these stories interact with stories from our own lives.

This year, all youth will gather together for large group learning, and then split-off with their age-level teachers for small group activities and discussion. This fall the Middle Schoolers will be led by Jill Leal, and High Schoolers by Katie Watson. Rob Getrost will be assisting in this classroom.

Free Children's Bibles & Worship Art Bags

Plymouth gives a story-Bible to all our incoming kindergarteners, and an NRSV Bible to each of our second-graders. These Bibles will be presented in worship on **September 11**. If you know a child who would like a Bible, please pass the name along to Katie Watson.

Also beginning this September, look for new Worship Art Bags available for use during worship. These bags are filled with simple art supplies and ideas for enhancing worship time through doodles and drawings. We are thankful for the creative and energetic kids who fill our pews; these bags are one way to engage them in our community's worship.

ICMEP Presents ...

Dr. Juan Cole: US Foreign Policy & Contemporary Issues in the Middle East

The Indiana Center for Middle East Peace (ICMEP) presents Dr. Juan Cole, speaking about "US Foreign Policy & Contemporary Issues in the Middle East," on **Thursday, September 8, at 5:30 pm**, at Plymouth. The event is free and open to the public.



Juan Cole is one of the foremost American scholars/commentators on the modern Middle East. He is a Richard P. Mitchell Professor of History at the University of Michigan.

Since 2002, he has written a weblog, *Informed Comment* (juancole.com) which is also syndicated on Truthdig.com.

Amazing Grays' September Meeting

The Amazing Grays will feature Dana Wichern at their monthly meeting, **September 11, 11:30 am**.

Dana will be sharing her Quest paper entitled, "The Chable and How Do Children Learn."

Lunch, prepared by Rhonda Eitsert, will be served. Reservations must be made by **Friday, September 9, at noon**. Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

Faith Formation Workshop featuring Jim Merhaut

Saturday, October 15, 2016
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church

Rocking or Rolling — How's the Ride on Your Spiritual Journey?

Are you dizzy from spinning to keep all the irons in the fire?
Falling on your face from moving too quickly?
Falling on your rear-end from moving too slowly?
Tipping from one side to the other from giving too much attention to some things and not enough to other things?

The spiritual journey touches every aspect of our lives. Our spiritual lives fall out of balance when we neglect even one key area.

Come learn the nine aspects making up the totality of your spiritual life. You will be guided through a comprehensive self-exploration with the assistance of stories, Scripture, sharing with a partner, the practice of deep listening, silence, and humor to gain new awareness and practical steps to restore your spiritual balance!



Jim Merhaut, (M.S.Ed., Duquesne University), A.C.C., is an award-winning author, a national speaker, ministry/business/organizational trainer and consultant, and a certified Coach. Jim has authored five books, co-authored four, and has written extensively on relationship-building, family, faith formation, spirituality, leadership, and team-building.

Sponsored by Plymouth Church, UCC, Christian Education Board

Registration Fee of \$20 includes workshop, continental breakfast and lunch.
Early registration: \$15 through Sunday, October 2
Scholarships available--contact Reverend Ruth Phillips.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Paid \$ _____ Cash/Check

Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church

JSOR Event At Plymouth October 28 & 29

A Progressive Jesus for Progressive Religion: The historical Jesus was a progressive teacher who raised important questions and sought fresh answers. Using rhetorical strategies such as parables and aphorisms that employ humor to undercut and undermine the powerful political structures of his day, Jesus envisioned an alternative way to look at the world, a so-called Domain of God. How might these same strategies enliven religion today?

Speakers

Paul Jones (Ph.D., Vanderbilt) is Professor of Religion at Transylvania University. He has authored several books, including *The Church's Seven Deadly Secrets* (2012) and *The Structure of Religion: Judaism and Christianity* with William J. Leffler (2005).

Perry Kea (Ph.D., University of Virginia) is Associate Professor of biblical studies at the University of Indianapolis, Indiana. A Fellow of the Jesus Seminar since 1987, he currently serves as Chair of the Westar Institute Board of Directors.

Program Details

The Teaching of the Historical Jesus, Friday evening, 7:30–9 pm

In contrast to older quests of the historical Jesus that focused on his psychology and acts, the renewed quest asked after Jesus' voiceprint. What forms of rhetoric did he use? What was his unique way of teaching? Why and how does the use of counterintuitive metaphors and edgy social commentary keep the historical Jesus relevant for our time? (Perry Kea)

Silencing Jesus with Philosophy, Saturday, 9:30–10:30 am

There are several ways in which the voice of Jesus failed to become the voice of the Church. Rather than hear the parables of Jesus and think about his vision, the Church usually interpreted his parables as allegories and recast his vision onto a supernatural world. The main challenge today is to hear Jesus again for the first time. (Perry Kea)

Jesus in the Early Movement, Saturday, 11 am – noon

The only access we have to the historical Jesus is through texts, both inside and outside the Bible. They show how Jesus' message was shaped by the confluence of ancient religion and politics. They reveal how he was understood in emerging Christian communities. How does knowing that early frame of reference help us assess Jesus' significance for today? (Paul Jones)

Silencing Jesus with Politics, Saturday, 1:30–2:30 pm

Constantine reached a settlement with the Church in 325 AD. In this bartered deal, the Roman Empire got our bodies and the Church got our souls. This disembodied and spiritualized Christianity persists in U.S. politics today. Would a progressive Jesus change a nation that leads the world in rates of incarceration and arms sales? If so, how? (Paul Jones)

Questions and Answers, Saturday, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

The scholars will discuss the importance of a progressive Jesus and engage in questions and answers.

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

Local Contact and Information: David Grim, davidbradlee@yahoo.com

All Sessions: Individual Rate \$75; Pre-registration Rate (by Oct. 14) \$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-2016/>

The Power Of A Good Book

Some book recommendations from Pam Etheridge, one of the most avid users of the church library:

The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith, Marcus Borg

This book came my way at a time when I was a lot more certain about what my Christian faith wasn't than about what it was. Borg, a member of the Jesus Seminar, describes and compares the difference between two understandings of Christian faith: the traditional vision of faith and doctrine, with an emphasis on belief; and the emerging vision in which faith leads one toward a Christian Life that is intellectually compelling, as well as community and justice-based, with an emphasis on practice. This book directly led me to the difficult decision to leave my church home, and to the satisfying experience of discovering a new home at Plymouth.

The Historical Jesus Goes to Church, Jesus Seminar

This is a book of essays by fellows of the Jesus Seminar, a group of 150 biblical scholars who in 1985 set out on a quest to discern, through critical scholarship, the "voiceprint" of the historical Jesus and to report the results of their research to the general public. These eight essays are transcripts of papers presented at a Jesus Seminar conference in 2004 with church leaders and pastors. They introduced me to the continuing, mind-opening, vividly exciting arena of progressive/radical Christian thought (and action) today.

Have a book from the church library that moved YOU? Share your thoughts in the next Bell. Email your short summaries to cammysutter@hotmail.com.

Progress In Church Library

Stop in to see these exciting changes:

Kids' cart: a freestanding bookcase just for kids and youth, with a great collection of books to develop their faith and values.

The online catalog is done! Check out the link on Plymouth's homepage (plymouthfw.org) and browse from home! Over 1,000 books are listed. For those preferring a paper catalog, see the *LibraryThing* notebook in the library, which contains an alphabetical listing of all the books.

Updated Audio Visual Resources: Out-of-date tapes were purged, the good ones were converted to DVD, and some new Great Courses on CD have been purchased. Consider listening in your car!

History of the Boar's Head and Yule Log

As Christianity flourished in the fourteenth century, many traditional pagan ceremonies were adapted for religious rituals.

For the English people of that era, the wild boar was a ferocious beast, sovereign of the forests, a danger and menace to all, and therefore the symbol of evil.

But when the boar's head was the first dish served at a Roman feast, the traditional pagan custom became endowed with more religiously symbolic meanings and elevated to the service of God.



The presentation of the boar's head at Christmastime came to signify the triumph of the Christ Child over sin. Enriching the lives of all it touched, the colorful ceremony of the Boar's Head eventually became a part of the Christmas celebration in many of the great English manor houses of the Middle Ages.

The Yule Log, also originally a pagan symbol, blazed as the darkest half of the year relinquished to the lightest half. After the longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere, the sun's rebirth was celebrated with much joy. Lighted by the previous year's ember, the Yule Log represented the warmth of family, and marked the rekindling of love as the old year passed and the new one was born.

The early Christians, who celebrated what was then called the "Feast of Lights," and later, the "Christ Mass," continued the tradition of the Yule log to symbolize the end of the world's darkness and the rebirth of Jesus Christ as the light of the world.



2016 Boar's Head Festival: December 29 & 30 Celebrating 42 years: Join Us By Being Involved!

It's time to prepare for the 42nd annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival! We hope that all Plymouth folks may start to plan now to support the 2016 festival. We would love to have all of you participate in some way in this year's celebration of this Plymouth tradition. Please consider offering your time to one of the many production needs:

- If you'd like to serve as a co-chairperson of one of the production committees, or as part of the production crews, call Jim Schmidt (260-632-5392).
- Help also is needed in the kitchen, with tickets, set crew, props, make-up and costumes.
- If you have organizational, design, and sewing skills, please call the Boar's Head line (260-423-9424, ext. 328), and leave a message for Costumes Director, Katherine Caldwell.
- Jim Schmidt and Kara Jaurigue will co-direct again this season. Kara will be casting starting **September 1 through October 8**. If you'd like to be a part of this season's cast, please let Kara know before she contacts you (**yes, even if you filled out an interest form last December**). Leave a message for her (260-341-1032) or email kkjaurigue@gmail.com. It makes her job easier!

This year, to be part of the cast, you will need to be available for rehearsals December 26, 27, and 28, primarily in the evenings, and for Festival services on December 29 and 30, 5:30 and 8:00 pm.

That's right—just five days, total—we have eliminated two services, and are altering the schedule so the weekend BEFORE Christmas will be free of Boar's Head rehearsals.

- The ALL CAST meeting is scheduled **Sunday, November 6, at 1:00 pm**, to distribute schedules, order tickets, and conclude any pre-rehearsal business.
- As in the past, **ticketing is limited to six tickets** per cast family, six for Plymouth members by family, and six per patron. Extra tickets may be arranged by leaving a message on the Boar's Head line (423-9424, ext. 328).
- We WILL NOT hold tryouts this year for any of the dancing parts, but if you are interested, let Kara know—court dancers are high school age; pat-a-pans are middle school/high school age. The directors will then contact those interested.
- We'd love to have you be a part of the festival; no lines to learn, no solos to sing. We always need lords-and-ladies couples, and beefeaters!

Are you new to Plymouth? This annual festival is a great way to meet so many members and friends of Plymouth. The cast consists of 200+ roles, so please consider being a part of this grand Plymouth Christmas tradition!

Questions? PLEASE contact the Boar's Head Co-Directors:

Jim Schmidt (260-632-5392)
Kara Jaurigue, (260-341-1032)



Foods Resource Bank and Global Mission

Reaching the next 1 million: In 2014, FRB celebrated two exciting milestones: our 15-year anniversary and reaching more than 1,000,000 people through sustainable food security programs! In looking forward, FRB set a large goal to help us grow and expand our work. By 2023, we hope to reach the *next* one-million people through our programs. Much of the world's poor are farmers or people who have no access to land. Having enough to eat for the whole year is dependent on growing enough to last all year. Hunger is often a seasonal issue, as farmers run out of last year's food before the current year's harvest. If provided with training and basic inputs like seeds or small tools, farmers can increase their harvest and therefore their food security.

Foods Resource Bank—2016
(Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church)
I would like to contribute: (please check below)

_____ 1 bushel of CORN seeds - \$200.00 _____ ½ bushel CORN seeds - \$100.00

_____ ¼ bushel of CORN seeds - \$50.00 _____ other amount = \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

FRB Harvest Dinner at Salem-Magley: Sunday, October 16, 10:30 am



*Create A
 Lasting Legacy
 with Planned Giving*



For 144 years, loyal church members have remembered Plymouth Church in their estate plans. These visionary benefactors have helped our generation to have the resources to carry on the good work of Plymouth Congregational Church ...

Have you remembered Plymouth in your estate planning?

Contact Randy Roberts, Chair of Stewardship & Finance, if you have questions.

Newsletter Guidelines

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.**

Also, 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	February
March	April
May	June
August	July
October	September
November	December

S E P T E M B E R



B I R T H D A Y S



- 1 Dan Lewark
Eli Jarred Spath
Shelley Woehner
- 4 Phillip Colglazier
Dr. Thomas Felger
Traci Hamilton
Reagan Mikesell
Mandy Rush
Jarrod Weber
- 6 Clyde Dively Jr.
Marie Elena Lyon
Stella Hammond
- 7 Kennon Nicholson
Lauren Spath
- 8 Jayme Chasey
Karen Goss
Ava Greer
Jillian Greer
Shirley Laser
Bob Nance
- 9 Kim Schiffl
Veronica Applegate
Taylor Dienelt
Anna Parry
Kim Schiffl
- 10 Charmaine Siekmann
- 11 Joshua Greener
John Whitebread
- 12 Jeanette Lohse
Eric Roberts
- 14 Natasha Chemey
Linda Escosa
Marge Feedback
- 15 Susan Chemey
Roger Eversole
Gabe Gardner
- 17 Owen Roney
- 18 Corrine Wickens
- 19 Anne Hughes
Elka Jackson
Yvonne Kaiser
Ryan Lehman
Hannah Moore
- 20 Melissa Stayte
Ryan Tuttle
- 21 Marge Cornwell
- 22 Judith Beinke
Ian Wickens-Walther
- 23 Shawn Conner
Linda Hite
Sara Kabisch
Samuel Melo
- 24 Donna Belch
Mary Louise Shultz
- 25 Anne Kolb
- 26 Chris Brabbs
Zachery Feasel
Beatrice Goings
Emily Grim
Mary Lipscomb
- 27 Emma Walker
- 28 Dustin Ramsey
- 29 Bonnie Pennock
Beth Smith
Gertrude Marie Gardner
- 30 Lyra Miller
Jonathan Weber



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

501 W. Berry St. · Fort Wayne · Indiana · 46802
Phone: 260-423-9424 · Fax: 260-423-9426

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A Cool Way To Be Green

- When you vacuum your refrigerator coils to keep the compressor running efficiently, it's a good time to check that the refrigerator is level—the door should automatically swing shut instead of staying open.
- To check the seal on the door, try closing it on a dollar bill; if you can pull the bill out easily, it's time to replace the gaskets.
- One more tip for efficiency: don't over-fill it. Allowing room for cool air to circulate will keep everything at the right temperature.

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
sls@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator
financial@plymouthfw.org

Custodian
david@plymouthfw.org

Vision Statement

Adopted October 2011

Praying for guidance for the journey

... Honoring the mystery of God

... Responding with spirits renewed

... Moving courageously toward wholeness.

Mission Statement

Adopted October 2011



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

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