



From the Senior Pastor

When you read this, we will be in the season of Lent, the 40 days (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter. In many Christian traditions, Lent is a time of penitence and self-denial on the way to the Passion of Jesus in Jerusalem. Jesus' passion involves enduring suffering and eventually leads to his execution. But this passion only occurs because of his passionate commitment to God's vision for our world. Without the latter, the former doesn't make sense.

While we at Plymouth do not emphasize Jesus' suffering as *necessary* for our reconciliation with God, our theme for Lent is "Passionate Personalities." Jesus reflects a passionate commitment to God's will, and so we are focusing on persons in our world, who, both contemporarily and historically, reflect God's dream of justice. They are willing to follow through on that vision even if it means the consequences may include rejection or violence against them, which has been experienced by some of them. They mirror Jesus' commitment to live and love fiercely from the conviction that our lives are to be dedicated to something beyond simply ourselves.

During these weeks leading up to Jesus' execution and resurrection, I invite you to engage in one or more spiritual practices (prayer, meditation, journaling, fasting, worship, or service) that can help you discern how you can more fully be a follower of Jesus in our world today. Such spiritual preparation allows us to better hear how the Divine is inviting us to respond to her invitation, and to better separate out our own biases from the Spirit's lure.

Each of us has been invited to more fully walk in Jesus' way of compassion and justice, and to be filled with the same passion that he was, grounded in God's unfailing love for us all. May this Lenten journey renew our passion for this holy work!

Rev. Timothy C. Murphy

During the Month of March

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.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 14, Palm Sunday

8:30 am Hospitality
9:00 am Christian Education
10:00 am Worship

April 18, Maundy Thursday **Agape Meal & Communion**

6:00 pm in Folsom Room

April 19, Good Friday **Prayer Vigil**

7:00 am – 7:00 pm
(Use signup in Folsom Room)
Service of Tenebrae
7:00 pm in Sanctuary

April 20, Holy Saturday **Easter Vigil Concert & Supper**

4:00 pm

April 21, Easter Sunday **Sunrise Service**

7:00 am in Folsom Room
Breakfast
8:00 - 9:15 am In Folsom Room
Festival Worship
10:00 am

Plymouth People In Our Prayers

Emmy Bailey, Tom Baker, Tom Braun, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Elaine Drummond, Ann Filler, Paul Furtner, Ed Gomez, Joan Hartwig, Emery Hicks, Joanne Huber, Susan Jarvis, Nancy Jordan, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Mel Lehrman, Joan Lipscomb, Karen O'Neal, Bonnie Pennock, Michael Popp, Noel Resor, Mimi Rolland, Jordyn Roemer, Claire Roney, Anne Rowland, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, Johanna Smith, Ervin Walter and Joel Walter.

Serving Over Seas:

Lt. Col. Kate Conkey, Kuwait

Sympathy is extended to Joni and Dennis Sutton on the death of Joni's sister, Suzanne Herendeen, January 8, Glen Arbor MI.

Sympathy is extended to Terry Springer, her mother Jane Grant Klein, and Tessa, Kirstin, Sarah Springer, on the death of stepfather, husband, step-grandfather, Frank Klein, January 12, Akron, OH.

Sympathy is extended to Stan Pflueger and family on the death of his father, Arthur Pflueger, January 16, Woodburn.

Sympathy is extended to Rev. Carole Green, Claire Roney, Theo Garcia, Owen and Claire A. Roney, on the death of spouse, mother, grand-mother Rev. Dr. Clare M. Walter, January 26.

Sympathy is extended to Ted and Betty Barry on the death of Ted's sister, Sheila Polries, January 26, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Sympathy is extended to family and friends on the death of Jeannette Kent, January 27.

Sympathy is extended to Jan Gibson, Linda Escosa, and Martha Cooper and families, on the death of their brother, Jim Stedman, February 16.

Sympathy is extended to the whole Bohnstedt family and especially to Stephanie (Bohnstedt) Wiesehan, on the tragic deaths of her son, Kevin Wiesehan, 13, and her daughter, Summer Barton, 23, both of whom were killed in a car crash, February 17.

Sympathy is extended to family and friends on the death of Mildred Harris, March 9.

Lenten Study: *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*

Join Jan Evrard as she leads discussion during Lent on Richard Rohr's book *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*. The classes will be held in the Chapel at 9:00 am and will run from March 10 through April 14. You can attend whether or not you buy this book, but it is available on Amazon for under \$12. Rohr believes that on the transformational level, the Gospel message and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are largely the same message. Expect to be transformed through this study!

Good Friday Prayer Vigil Signup

The signup sheet for Good Friday Prayer Vigil, **April 19**, 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.



Here, For Good! Capital Campaign Status Report

Following is the status report as of December 31, 2018 for the “Here, for Good Capital Campaign.” The official fulfillment period for the campaign is scheduled to end April 30, 2019.



Through December 31, 2018, we have received \$1,779,397 of the \$1,936,194 that was officially pledged to the campaign through 137 pledges. This represents 92% of the total pledged dollars. As well, 92% of those who pledged have made payments toward their commitments. These are excellent results with four months left in the fulfillment period.

In addition to this positive news, there has been \$113,158 contributed towards the campaign from individuals or groups that did not officially pledge, as well as some members who pledged who have paid more than their pledge. Consequently, a total of \$1,892,555 has been paid to the campaign. At this point, all monies received toward fulfillment are being credited to the Capital Campaign-Donor Fund, which is serving as the fund that will be used to eventually pay for a new sanctuary roof. While, all bills have been paid for the new HVAC system along with all expenses incurred to operate the campaign, it is important that we encourage anyone who has not paid their complete pledge to complete these payments.

That said, it has been stated from the beginning of this campaign that it is certainly understandable that some of these commitments may have to be reduced or simply be completed after April of this year, as personal circumstances can and have changed for some. Since the sanctuary roof is in good shape, we do not expect to have to use the Capital Campaign-Donor Fund dollars for a number of years, so there is not a sense of urgency to have these remaining dollars in hand.

If you are able to complete your pledge by April 30 please do. If you need more time to complete your pledge, please let Steve Hollingsworth know. You may send Steve an email, stop him here at church and give him a note, or call Steve to let him know when you think you will be able to complete your pledge. Future reporting will be based on any feedback Steve receives. If you do have to reduce your pledge, please contact Kenneth Athon, the Church’s Financial Administrator with the revised pledge amount.

The Continuity Committee will review results again after April 30, and in the context of any reductions in pledges or extended fulfillment times, we may begin contacting those who have not completed their fulfillment. We would like to close the fulfillment period as soon as is reasonable and possible, so we can declare the Here, for Good campaign completed.

Whatever the end results of this campaign, it has been an astounding effort by this congregation so thank you!

Continuity Committee of the “Here, for Good Campaign”: Eric Black (Chair), Laura Coon, Roger Eversole, Steve Hollingsworth, Rev. Timothy Murphy and Rev. Ruth Phillips

Wellspring Fashion Show

Save the date for a taste of Fort Wayne couture from the Wellspring Shoppe! We’re excited that we can provide quality clothing and household items at no cost to clients at Wellspring. **In 2018, nearly 35,000 items found a new home to over 3,300 clients!** While clothing donations are generous, it takes more than apparel to keep the Wellspring Shoppe running. The **Wellspring West Central Fashion Show** is our unique way of garnering support for the Wellspring Shoppe. Over 10 models will walk the runway to illustrate the quality of clothing offered at the Wellspring Shoppe as you enjoy a full breakfast.

The fashion show begins at 7:30 am and will finish at 9:00 am at the Lincoln Financial Event Center at Parkview Field. Tickets are \$35 or two for \$60 and are available for purchase at e.givesmart.com/events/cGE/. If you have any questions or would like to sponsor this event, please contact Melissa at 260-422-6618 x112 or Melissa@wellspringinterfaith.com

Volunteer Request

Our friends at Crossroad are seeking volunteers for their “Great American Clean-up” by doing some simple landscaping around their Development and Finance offices. They are looking for several volunteers who are willing to donate three to four hours, beginning at 8:30 am. The dates are **Tuesday, April 30** and **Wednesday, May 1**, with an alternate rain date being **Friday, May 3**. Please contact Pastor Timothy if you would like to volunteer.

Chapel Class

Be watching the Bulletin this spring for a short video series during Chapel Class from the UCC titled, “How Are the Children?” It offers a vivid look at Palestinian children in the custody of the Israeli Military.

One Great Hour of Sharing

“More Than You Can Imagine...”

“Now to Him who by his power working in us is able to accomplish abundantly more than all we can ever ask or imagine...” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Imagine a world...

where no child goes unfed, un-housed, un-loved
where no one ever fears abuse or violence
where clean water is not a dream but a reality for all
where survivors of natural disasters have the resources they need now
and for years to come
where vulnerable immigrants are welcomed in Christ’s name

“You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us and the world will live as one.” (*Imagine*, by John Lennon)

Thank You From Fairfield Elementary

The Fairfield Elementary teachers and staff are so thrilled to have the abundance of markers (155), crayons (85 pkgs), white board erasers (199), glue sticks (126) and Kleenex (65 boxes) along with many other items. As soon as they arrived at the school, many of the items were immediately claimed and taken to classrooms. Thank you for your generosity. As Jennifer Hayes, the school case manager, said, “Plymouth is Awesome!”

Sunday School

In March we are welcoming our Spring teachers into our Sunday school classrooms, and beginning a new affirmation. Our affirmation for this unit is “I love and take care of my earth home.” Clearly, this belief is in line with Plymouth’s Earthwise commitments. We will learn about how we as Christians value the earth through Bible stories and verses, traditional stories, observations of nature--and if the weather cooperates even by spending a little time outside.

Welcoming New Teachers

Thank you to the teachers joining our classes this spring:
Preschool-1st grade: Pam Ethridge and Andrea Reichard
2nd-5th grade: Joyce Black and Katie Watson
6th-12th grade: Karen Nesius-Roeger and Julie Davidson

Passionate Personalities

During Lent, our pastors will be introducing us to Passionate Personalities — folks who worked or are working for justice and inspire us along the way. Coloring sheets of featured Passionate Personalities along with take-home practices will be available each week in the Worship Art Bags. We’ll be learning about these personalities during the Peace Candle time and in the library during Children’s Fellowship Time. Please note that there is no age limit on the coloring sheets, and adults are welcome to play along!

Indiana-Kentucky Conference, UCC Annual Gathering 2019: Days for Girls Project

From the Annual Gathering Planning Team

Each IKC congregation is invited to support the global mission, *Days for Girls*, which "is changing the status quo, through quality menstrual care solutions, health education, and income-generation opportunities." Each church has been asked to collect : the following items and bring them to Annual Gathering 2019:

- **20 pairs** of 100% cotton brief-style women's underpants in dark and dark-patterned colors. We need youth sizes 10 through 14, and women's sizes 6 and 7. (If you send packs with lighter colors, no problem! The lighter colored underwear will be donated to local IKC agencies.)
- **10 bags** of Ziploc brand freezer bags, with the standard "zipper" closure, no slider bags. They must be this type and brand.
- **20 washcloths**, 100% cotton, in dark, appealing colors.

We will use these items to create feminine hygiene kits for young women in places where access to and education about feminine hygiene is scarce or non-existent. With washable and reusable kits, which last about 3 years, young women can continue to learn, work, and socialize without interruption.

If you'd like to know more about *Days for Girls*, visit their web site <https://www.daysforgirls.org/>

Bring new purchased items and place in the marked bin in the Folsom Room.



March Birthdays



2	Andrea Michelle Grim	10	Brandi Wallace	24	Anne Rowland
3	Maia Maddela	11	Fred Augspurger	25	Lucia Leal
4	Terry Dougherty	12	Michael Cates	25	Adrian Steele
4	Lucy Hess	14	Karen Fraser	26	Zachary Tyndall
5	Janis Bohnstedt	15	Ally Dove	27	Carol Kirsch
5	Diane Campion	15	Anna Konger	28	Grayson Pettit
5	Jeffrey Dellinger	15	Jonathan McCoy	29	Ruth Bracht
5	Jacob Eitsert	16	Kay Porter	29	Ed Crain-Shick
5	Matthew Mikesell	16	Melissa Wearley	29	Madison McMillan
5	Maximus Miller	18	Peg Burrell	29	Janeen Wilch
5	Bob Pugh	19	Todd Jordan	30	Carol Roberts
6	Barb Duch	19	Kathy Kolb	30	Matt Sutter
7	Ethen Fisher	21	David Childs	31	Christine Archer
7	Mattie Ann Torres	21	Steve Etheridge	31	Christine Leggett
8	Ethan Leal	21	Tegan Fultz	31	Anthony Morgan
8	Carol Lewark	21	Olivia Steele	31	Katherine Walker
8	Ken Modesitt	22	Zoe Snow		
9	Beth Walker	24	Gage Berger		

2018 Growing Hope Globally Financial Report

Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren	
Soybean Crop Settlement	\$5,739.39
Soybean Crop Settlement	\$718.98
Hay Auction Donation	\$298.92
Farmland Rental Donation	\$640.00
Total Receipts	\$7,397.29
Expenses	
Harvest Celebration	\$155.39
Soybean Crop	\$660.00
Profit from Crop	\$6581.90
Peace UCC Contribution	\$1455.25
Plymouth UCC Contribution	\$13,102.64
Total	\$21,139.79

The funds were divided in three ways. The Burkina Faso Gnagha program received \$10,000. The Honduras Macuelizo program also was granted \$10,000. The remaining \$1,139.79 was directed to the General Operations fund of Growing Hope. Thank you to everyone for your continued support for this program, which allows our Brothers and Sisters in need, to become self-supporting.

The Growing Hope Globally (FRB) Committees of Pleasant Chapel, Peace and Plymouth

Welcome New Members!

Mary Ellen Argus has lived in Fort Wayne for many years and attended a Catholic Church. She was so happy to find a more inclusive and uplifting attitude here at Plymouth Church. She has enjoyed the thoughtful and motivating sermons for close to 8 years while attending Plymouth Church with her husband, Bill. She feels it is time to give back to Plymouth for all she has received. She works full-time as a dentist and has volunteered at Matthew 25 Dental and Health Clinic for many years. Mary Ellen and Bill have three married sons and hope to have grandchildren someday. Mary Ellen also enjoys bike riding on the trails and playing bridge around Fort Wayne.

Dave Meriwether grew up mostly in Thousand Oaks, California. His mother was the daughter of Armenian immigrants and his father was a Presbyterian pastor. He received a BA in English from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California and an M. Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Dave was the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Paulding, Ohio for 25 years, and is currently a chaplain at Parkview Regional Medical Center. He and Patty were married in 1981, moved to Fort Wayne in December 2016 and followed their daughter Allie and her family to Plymouth. After pastoring a conservative church that left its denomination over the issue of LGBTQ ordination, he is very happy to be part of an open and affirming congregation.

Patty Meriwether attended the Boar's Head Festival with her husband, Dave, and daughter Allie (then 4 years old) in 1991 when a member of the congregation where Dave was pastor in Paulding, Ohio gave them tickets. They loved it. In 2015, when daughter Allie and husband Matt Brown started attending Plymouth with their daughters, Lucy and Miriam, little did Patty realize she & Dave would join less than four years later. Plymouth has been an important part of Patty's journey of understanding and affirming their two, much-loved, queer adult kids, Jack and Matthew, and has helped her feel confident as an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, enough so that she has recently started the Indiana chapter of Free Mom Hugs (ask her about it!) Patty is a mental health rehabilitation skills coach, working with mostly kids under age eighteen. She loves living on the same street as her grandchildren, misses the beaches of Southern California where she grew up, and can't believe she turns sixty this year.

Candace Davis Murphy was most recently a member of All Peoples Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Los Angeles, CA and a member of (a)Spire Ministry (UCC) in Pasadena, CA. She was born and raised in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, attending Catholic and private Christian schools, while also being a member of the Disciples of Christ. She teaches violin lessons at Mynett Music and performs regularly in Fort Wayne. Candace first came to know of Plymouth through her husband Timothy's search and call process and is very excited to officially be a member here.



“Light Up the Boar’s Head” Campaign



By now every member of Plymouth Church and many friends of Plymouth and past patrons of the Boar's Head Festival should have received an invitation to donate to the “Light Up the Boar's Head” capital campaign. The Festival Committee is hoping to raise around \$70,000 to replace the 30-year-old Boar's Head dimmer board and lighting instruments to an LED system that is compatible with the new electrical LED system installed in the Sanctuary and supports our Earth-wise Covenant. If you did not receive a letter and wish to donate, extra donation cards may be obtained in the main church office. One may donate by check or by using Plymouth's QR Code/Scanner tag LUTBH (Light up the Boar's Head). We are hoping to wrap-up the campaign by the end of April so that equipment may be ordered and installed in time for the 45th Boar's Head Festival this December. Thank you so much for this support!

Jim Schmidt, Boar's Head Festival Committee Chair

Women's Retreat

Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lindenwood Retreat Center, Donaldson, IN

IMAGINE ~ Sisters all are we! Relax ~ Reflect ~ Renew

An informal day to get acquainted with one another and with two biblical women of unique status: Miriam and Mary Magdalene. Our own Marlene Crowder will portray the sacred stories of these women.

*Our day begins with fun and easy getting to know you, singing, and communion. **Please bring a scarf of your favorite color or images to adorn the table and to use for gentle movement in Miriam's Dance.*

Before & after lunch you will have the following options:

**Pound rhythm, music, and movement, led by Dawn O'Bran, instructor; *Walk the Labyrinth; *Walk the path around the lake; Sit and think; *Meditate in the prayer garden; *Talk with a friend or new person.*

All Plymouth women members/friends/ages 18 years and more are welcome.

Registration due in church office by April 11, 2019

Name_____

Address_____ Zip Code_____

Email_____ Phone_____

I can drive _____passengers \$20.00 Enclosed** Cash _____

I need a ride_____ * I will meet you there _____ Check #_____

**Carpooling will be arranged by Sandy Moliere for those who need a ride.*

***Scholarship assistance available. Contact Rev. Ruth E. Phillips, 423-9424*



**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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rep@plymouthfw.org | Office Manager
tmp@plymouthfw.org |
| Associate in Pastoral Care
c2cftwayne@gmail.com | Communications Specialist
mmg@plymouthfw.org |
| Music Director
robert@maestronance.com | Financial Administrator
financial@plymouthfw.org |
| Youth Director
kkjaurigue@gmail.com | Building Maintenance Manager
david@plymouthfw.org |
| Sunday School Director
kjwatson4@gmail.com | Receptionist
mfe@plymouthfw.org |



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

Vision Statement
Adopted October 2011

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



Mission Statement
Adopted October 2011

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

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