



## Thanksgiving Offering

Your Benevolence Committee has selected Wellspring Interfaith Social Services to be the recipient of this year's special Thanksgiving offering. There is great need for towels and bed linens for the Wellspring Shoppe, which provides free clothing and household items to individuals and families all over the city. New or gently used towels and linens would be gratefully received.

If you prefer to donate food items; boxed stuffing mix or instant potatoes, canned gravy or gravy mixes, or canned vegetables would be appropriate. You may place items in the specially marked containers in the Folsom Room, beginning **November 18**.

## Thanksgiving Day Service & Dinner

We invite you, your family and friends to join us on Thanksgiving Day for a Worship Service on **November 22 at 11 am** in the Chapel. This service will be lead by Rev. Ruth E. Phillips.

Thanksgiving dinner will be held at 12 pm in the Folsom Room. Volunteer Chefs are A. J. Calkins and Mark Friskney, who will prepare turkey and stuffing, and Nada O'Neal to prepare mashed potatoes. Your plates will be filled with warm greetings, caring smiles, and a gracious welcome.

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service At Temple

### Achduth Vesholom

Members and friends of Plymouth are invited to attend a **7 pm** interfaith Thanksgiving worship service on **Tuesday, November 20**, at Temple Achduth Vesholom, located at 5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne.

The 2018 service features guest speaker Rev. Angelo Mante of Simpson United Methodist Church, leader of Families First. This group, which is part of Faith in Indiana, aims to support families who have been impacted by gun violence and homicide in Fort Wayne and promotes social justice issues.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving service is open to the public and there will be refreshments available afterwards.

## "Thank You" From Fairfield Elementary

Thank you Plymouth family for your generous contribution of socks, underwear, sweatpants, shoes, boots, jackets, gloves and scarves plus dry erasers and other school items. The bin was overflowing with approximately 620 items sent to the school. Thanks go to Sharon Conrad who counted and brought the items to Fairfield. The staff and children are so thankful.

When Sharon arrived at the school, she was told that a little girl came in that morning to request long pants because "her legs were cold." Case Manager Jennifer Hayes shared the children know there is a church "that loves on them" so they will have an appreciation of where things come from. They ask her "is this from OUR Church?"

Thank you for sharing your love with the children and staff at Fairfield Elementary School. There will be another opportunity to help with requests for needs at the school in January.



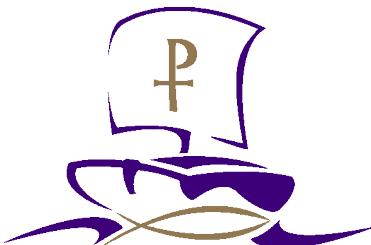
## Plymouth Welcomes New Staff Members

Plymouth Church is very excited to introduce three members to the office staff! Please join us in welcoming Maressa Emile, Tina Puitz, and Mackenzie Giganti.

Maressa Emile lives in Fort Wayne with her two-year-old daughter, MaKenzie. Maressa is a graduate of New Haven High School and received her Associates Degree in Christian Ministries from Indiana Wesleyan University. She also has over five years of clerical experience, which she intends to use in her new role as the Receptionist of Plymouth Church.

Tina Puitz is originally from Lafayette, IN, but moved to Fort Wayne while attending St. Francis College. She loves spending time with her three children, working in her flower gardens, reading, and spending time in nature. Tina's background of an English/Art degree, office and volunteer management and organization skills will be especially helpful in her new position as Office Manager.

Mackenzie Giganti is not only new to Plymouth, but she is also new to Indiana. Mackenzie moved to Fort Wayne in January of 2018 with her cat, Thorin. She graduated with a degree in Communications from the University of Illinois Springfield and interned as the Events Manager for the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance. Mackenzie will use her education and experience to aid her in the new position of Communications Specialist.



## From the Senior Pastor

In this season of thanksgiving, I am reminded of a song we would sing on a regular basis at my church in South LA: "Everyday is a day of thanksgiving! God's been so good to me, every day [she's] blessing me. Everyday is a day of thanksgiving; take the time to glorify the Lord today!" Regardless of the time of the year or what's happening in our lives, it can always be a day to give thanks.

This is a helpful reminder to me. I tend to be so focused on solving problems and fighting injustice that taking a break to stop and acknowledge all the blessings that we have is something that takes intentionality. Otherwise it can be ignored. Even the holiday of Thanksgiving itself triggers my justice antenna. As a form of historical revisionism, it obscures the dynamics between the indigenous peoples and early colonial settlers. As a corrective, I'm reminded how some Native Americans make the fourth Thursday of November a day of mourning, literally an Unthanksgiving Day, expressed through an Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony annually on Alcatraz Island starting in 1975. And while some may assume it's meant to offend us, it's actually meant as a day to honor Native Americans and promote their rights.

Because whether or not there ever was an actual thanksgiving between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Nation, it can serve less as historical memory and more as eschatological hope. Someday, somehow, oppression will end in this land, once held by the Delaware, Potawatomi, Miami, Wea, and others. There will come a day when indigenous people and immigrants like ourselves are able to come together to care for the land, recognize each other's rights and dignity, and support each other in mutual recognition.

And the only way I see this happening is if we also, amidst the struggle for a better world, take time to give thanks. We have to celebrate all that God has been doing for healing, for wellbeing, and for peace in this place. Because if we are only angry at how wrong the world can feel, we'll never have the internal resources to guide it to a healthier place. It's for that world that does not yet exist, but is in God's dream, that I give thanks. Every day.

*Rev. Timothy C. Murphy*

## 2019 Bell

If you would like to submit to the printed *Bell*, send your information to Mackenzie Giganti at [mmg@plymouthfw.org](mailto:mmg@plymouthfw.org) by the following dates:

January 9	August 7
March 6	October 9
May 8	November 6

Please send your information in the form of a Word Document attachment by **5 pm** on the above dates to be included in the printed *Bell*.

## Sunday School Classes Encourage Discussion

In December, our Sunday school affirmation reads, “As I ask questions and try to understand, my heart and mind stay open.” In each of our Sunday school classes we will explore the tools we have to look for understanding — like our community, our Bible stories, and our own questions. We will also consider the wisdom we gain by listening to those around us and those with different beliefs. Each month, our affirmations are a starting point for discussion, in and out of Sunday school. You are encouraged to talk with the kids in your life about how you continue to learn new things, and listen as they share what they are learning.

There is no Sunday school on **December 30**. When we return on January 6 we will explore the affirmation, “I will always look for ways to learn and be loving to others.”

## \$cholarship Opportunitie\$ for Tuition and Fee\$ for Academic Credit

The Grants and Scholarships Committee has the pleasant responsibility of awarding scholarship grants for tuition and fees for academic credit from the earnings generated by several endowed funds.

**Completed applications with all supporting materials must be received in the church office by the respective due dates.** Incomplete applications are ineligible for consideration.

### By February 15:

The **Richard Nelson Kent Memorial Fund** provides educational grants for tuition and fees for academic credit for members of the United Church of Christ in the Northeast [Indiana] Association and other qualified applicants who are at least 16 years of age and entering into or continuing ecological studies, conservation biology, or other environmentally related studies.

The **R. Donald and Genevieve M. Sinish Fund** provides awards for tuition and fees for academic credit for 16-to-24-year-old members of Plymouth Church.

The **Van Gorder Scholarship** is awarded annually for tuition and fees for post-secondary education leading to a degree, certificate, or license for a graduating senior who is a member of Plymouth Church.

### By April 15:

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.

To request application packets for these funds or to receive additional information, call the church office (423-9424) and leave your name, phone number, and e-mail address so one of the members of the Grants and Scholarships Committee may respond to your request.

## Our Whole Lives Registration Open

Our Whole Lives registration is now open for students in grades 7-9. We will hold a mandatory parent meeting on **January 13** after worship, and the class will run on Sunday afternoons at 4pm from **January 20 - April 14**. If your student is interested in attending or learning more about the OWL program, please contact Katie Watson.

Our Whole Lives is the sexuality education program developed by the UCC and the UU. It offers families, children and teens age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education. Through OWL our young people gain information and form attitudes, beliefs, and values about sexual identity, relationships, and intimacy.

An OWL class for grades K-1 will be forming later this winter. Please keep an eye out for registration information.

## Sunday School Winter Session

December begins our Winter Session of Sunday school. Thank you to the following teachers who will be leading our classes through the next 3 months:

Preschool - 1st grade: Amy Coursen and Katie Watson. 2nd-5th grade: Suzie Nell and Mary Spath. 6th-12th grade: Matt Brown and Rob Getrost

## Escape Room

On Sunday, **December 23**, ALL AGES (yes, even adults) are invited to join the Sunday schoolers in our 2nd Annual Escape Room. Work together to figure out puzzles, and unlock the prize!

Unlike other Escape Rooms around town, we will not lock you in or out of this program! So even if you're late or have to leave early, feel free to just stop in for a few minutes to help us crack the code.

# Luminous Night Service of Lament and Promise

Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7 pm

**Lament:** to express sorrow, mourning; to regret strongly.

**Promise:** an indication of future improvement

The Advent/Christmas season invites us to be gentle with ourselves and one another. During the darkening days of December, and because of high unrealistic expectations in the cultural Christmas rush, many individuals suffer anxiety, depression, sadness, and loneliness during this season.

**Luminous Night Service** offers you a safe place to lament, to mourn, to complain, to feel your anger and disappointment, without being told to “get over it.”

Our **Luminous Night Service of Lament and Promise** allows us to express our grief, anger, discouragement, sadness, and longings, as we also affirm God’s love, compassion, forgiveness, and presence with us. We listen and remember God’s promise “never to leave or forsake” us.

The service is interwoven with song, prayer, scripture, and poetry. Included is a time to light a candle in memory of a loved one, or as a prayer for yourself, others, or the worries and weight of the world, and to express the Hope and Promise in the Birth of the One who brings God’s love and light to earth.

Come, gather with others who feel the need to replace pressure with peace.  
**“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.”** *Isaiah 9:2*

After the service, all are invited to the Folsom Room for hot chocolate and compassionate conversations.



## It's Time to Order Poinsettias!



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias! Ordering poinsettias is an easy way to remember, honor, and celebrate loved ones and friends, while helping to decorate our church home for Christmas. To order, please fill out this form and return it with your check to the church office by **Sunday, December 7**.

Poinsettias are **\$10.00** each. Plants will be placed in the sanctuary the Sunday before Christmas. (Please take your plant home with you, following 10 pm worship service on Christmas Eve.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor    celebration    memory    (please circle which applies) of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed (Please make checks payable to Plymouth Church)

## In Our Prayers

### Plymouth people in our prayers:

Nicole Baldonadi, A.J. Calkins, Audrea Carter, Julie Creek, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Elaine Drummond, Gail Escosa, Marcia Federspiel, Paul Furtner, Joan Hartwig, Joanne Huber, Susan Jarvis, Jeannette Kent, Bernice Koutcher, Ginny Laudadio, Brian Laurenz, Mel Lehrman, Cheryl Leugring, Joan Lipscomb, Gerald Lockwood, Sheldon Lockwood, Kerry Mills, Karen O’Neal, Michelle Pratt, Bob Pugh, Noel Resor, Jody (Meredith) Roemer, Claire Roney, Anne Rowland, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, Johanna Smith, Sheryl Stallman, Jim Stedman, Stan Volz, Claire Walter, Ervin Walter and Joel Walter.

### Serving Overseas:

Lt. Col. Kate Conkey, Kuwait  
Maj. Marc Lovelace, Special Operations

**New Life** is celebrated in the birth of a son, Samuel Lawrence Archer, November 2, to proud parents Christine and Avery Archer, Avon, IN. Delighted grandparents are Beth and Larry Walker; aunts are Katherine Walker and Emma Walker.

## Sunday Morning Adult Class

In Sunday Morning Adult Class on **November 18** and **December 2** (no class on **November 25**), Pam Etheridge, Linda Kerr, Vicki Kruse, Cher Phelps-Griswold and Michael Spath will share what they learned during their recent “solidarity tour” to Palestine and Israel.



## Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24

4 pm: Communion & Candlelight

10 pm: Carols and Candlelight



## Hear ye, hear ye! Boar's Head Info for You!

By now, every member and friend of Plymouth should have received their Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival patron letter. Please act immediately and contribute to this wonderful Plymouth tradition if you haven't already done so. The Festival relies totally on contributions of its patrons and the free will offering for all of its finances. **We cannot offer this special Plymouth gift without you!**

Our costs continue to rise, but our patronage has remained relatively constant. In order to maintain the Festival, PLEASE won't you contribute? Be a part of this Plymouth tradition by becoming a patron this season. We would especially invite our new members to become involved as patrons and as audience members. Better still, become a part of the cast or crews! There is still room in the cast for you—all ages!

Established members please come and enjoy the Festival again...and bring new friends. Although one needs tickets to attend any of the four services, **December 29 or 30** at 5:30 and 8 pm, these tickets are free. Patrons receive first opportunity to obtain tickets. Each church member family may also have six tickets which will be distributed before and after church services on **December 2, 9, and 16**. An additional six tickets may be obtained on Thursday, **December 20**, at the public distribution at the church office beginning at 4:30. Our only request is that one takes the number of tickets they will use. We love to see the pews filled.

Cast members are reminded of the rehearsal schedule beginning at 4 pm on **December 26, December 27**, and the dress rehearsal on **December 28**.

Won't you please join us for this special 44<sup>th</sup> Festival celebration? Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season of joy, peace, and love. "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful..."

Jim Schmidt & Kara Jaurigue, Directors; Bob Nance, Maestro

## Advent Sunday Worship Theme

"Christ Be Our Light"

Each Sunday, we will merge the words of the hymn "Christ Be Our Light," with the art of John August Swanson. Join us each week as we light Advent Candles:

- December 2:** Advent 1 – HOPE
- December 9:** Advent 2 – PEACE
- December 16:** Advent 3 – JOY
- December 23:** Advent 4 – LOVE

## Christmas Offerings For Crossroad

Our annual Christmas offering will be received for *Crossroad* again this year on **Sunday, December 23** and on **Christmas Eve**. Please give generously to support this vital ministry.



## Fort Wayne Pride Seeking Help

Fort Wayne Pride is continuing our holiday program of sponsoring local LGBTQ teens and families in need.

Last year, with the help of Plymouth members and others, we were able to provide gifts to 43 people and we hope to bring joy to those in need again this year! If interested, you will receive the name and age of a teen or child in need and a list of needs and wants they may have. You can choose two needs and a want to purchase (about \$75 total).

We will gather gifts and deliver them to families about 2 weeks prior to Christmas. Families are provided with resource information including information about Plymouth being an open and affirming congregation in our area. Families also receive a laundry basket full of household items, cleaning supplies and toiletries.

Please contact Nikki Fultz for more information or if you are interested. [nikki@fwpride.org](mailto:nikki@fwpride.org) or 602-6860. Thank you!

## Share Your Christmas Greetings

Congregational Life Board invites you to save postage and be green this Christmas. Share your greetings with the entire Plymouth family!

Bring your Christmas cards or letters to the designated mailbox in the Folsom Room beginning **Sunday, December 2**. Cards will be displayed in the Folsom Room during the month of December.

## December Birthdays

1	Jim Schmidt	11	Riley Grim	20	Riet Zwiep
1	Zoey Spath Pinedo	11	Melissa Shaw	21	Ahnee Conner
3	Jennifer Ferguson	12	David Craker	22	Lanna Howe
3	Andrew Spath	13	Doris Grandos	22	Connie McAfee
3	Tobias Watson	13	Margaret Ann Sponhauer	22	Cheryl Rinehart
4	Tyler Fisher	14	Linda Hambrick	24	Elena Dupen
4	Alaina Gilliom	14	Kaitlyn Roby	25	Michelle Bradley
4	Ray Lehman	15	Alan Chambers	25	Carol Lehman
7	Veronica Beifus	16	Rhonda Eitsert	25	Michelle Starnes
7	Bill Hambrick	16	Paul Lewark	25	Carol Tyndall
7	Keyes McGregor	16	Ryleigh Minchski	26	Adriene Foster
8	Mary Gilliom	17	Judy Dahl	26	Betsy Hart
8	Donna Rowe	17	Kenton Neuhouser	26	Leeandia Justice
8	Shirley Slater	17	Johanna Smith	26	Steve Lauterberg
9	Bonnie Bortnichak	17	Virginia Lee Zimmerman	27	Joe Bir
9	Jennifer Fisher	18	Jared Chasey	28	Kathy Hartsch
9	Dylan Lewark	18	Lois Steere	28	Steven Vorderman
10	Laura McCoy	19	Marenna Lewark	29	Colton Ames
10	Jake Price	20	Jan Gibson	29	Sharon Conrad
11	Bill Beard	20	Jude Price	30	Suzanne Jontz
11	Jan Evrard	20	Simon Price	31	Juliette Coffeen

## Make Someone's Christmas Brighter!

You will have three different ways to provide gifts for persons in need this Christmas! All gift items must be **NEW**!

**Wellspring Older Adult Program:** please see in the Folsom Room the display of name tags with requested gift for each of the 51 older adults who meet at Wellspring. Older adults are often forgotten at the Christmas season, so here is your chance to brighten their celebration. Each person has requested a simple, usually practical item. Some need gas or transportation cards. When you take a nametag, please sign your name on the corresponding line and include your phone number. These gifts are due back to Plymouth by Wednesday, **December 12**. If you would place the gift in a gift bag that would be very helpful. Be sure to attach the nametag!

**Turnstone Children's Class,** taught by our own Cher Jackson, will once again be needing one book and one hat/glove set for each child. Tags with each child's name, age, and the requested book title/theme and color for hat can also be found in the Folsom Room. Please do NOT wrap these gifts. We will provide gift bags and the children will receive their Christmas surprises at the Turnstone party with Santa. \*\*Please return your UNwrapped gift to church by **December 16**.

**LGBTQ Teens, Pride** has many names of LGBTQ teens who were referred as needing help this Christmas. Many of these families have been turned away by other churches because they are LGBTQ. Some families are headed by same sex parents while others have LGBTQ children. Most of these families have teenage children. Pride wants to be able to match every teen with a sponsor. If you want to provide gifts for a teen, the estimated total cost is \$75 to purchase 3 needs/1 want gifts. Plymouth Church's name will be given to each teen and family so they know Plymouth is an Open and Affirming congregation and that we would love for families to check it out. They will know that support was given by not only Pride but members of Plymouth Church.

Please contact Nikki Fultz, Director of FW Pride, at [nikki@fwpride.org](mailto:nikki@fwpride.org) to receive a teen's name and gift list. Thank you for reaching out! We appreciate any support you can give and we hope to spread love and acceptance this Christmas season! \*\*Wrapped gifts with nametags attached may be brought to Plymouth and placed in the specified bin in the Folsom Room, no later than **December 12**.

## Property Board Report

The Property Board has been busy in 2018. The informational signage project is up and running. The large monitors in the Folsom Room, on the first floor near the nursery, and on the second floor provide a variety of information and will also be used to broadcast the Boars' Head performances in the Folsom Room. Eric Black from Deacon's Worship was the driving force behind this worthwhile project.

We are also currently in the process of replacing all of the sanctuary lighting. This is a very comprehensive project that includes replacement of all the bulbs in the flood lights, chandeliers, and cam lights with energy efficient LED lights, as well as replacement of all dimmers and controllers.

Those of you who use the kitchen will notice two new dual fuel stoves which allow us to have gas burners and electric ovens for church use. These stoves are more efficient than the old one that had issues with the pilot lights. Curt Smith put in lots of hours evaluating various stoves and chaired this important project. Also, some of the cabinetry and faucets in the kitchen have been replaced and updated. Moving forward, and as a reminder, if you use the kitchen facilities please pick up after yourself and/or your group. If you need instructions on operating of the dish sanitizer, please ask.

There are new wall coverings and paint in various areas. Finally, the outside landscaping has been updated to improve the appearance of our facilities. Laura Rudolph was instrumental in the landscape project.

## Parking Lot Hang Tags Available Through the Church Office During Office Hours

Due to the increased activity downtown and the limited parking available, all Plymouth members and staff are expected to display a yellow Parking Lot Hang Tag when parking in Plymouth's parking lots for Plymouth activities. This will clearly let the staff know that you are a Plymouth member parking on the Plymouth property.

You will need to provide your name and a phone number at the time of receiving a parking tag. This information will be associated with the tag number you are given and will be kept on file in the church office.

**If you still have an old yellow parking hang tag, either write down the number or bring the tag number to the church office, or email it to Laura Rudolph, [rudyfw@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyfw@yahoo.com), along with your name and contact phone number, so that this information can be entered into the database.**

Please take the opportunity to become familiar with the Plymouth Parking Lot Policy that was created by the Property Board and presented to the Executive Council in July 2018.

### Plymouth Parking Lot Policy

1. All members and staff of Plymouth church who desire a Parking Hang Tag will be issued one.
2. The Parking Hang Tag is to be displayed at all times on the rear-view mirror on the inside of the front windshield of the vehicle with the numbers facing out so they can be easily read.
3. This Parking Hang Tag is for the express use of parking during Plymouth Church activities or events in Plymouth's parking lot located on the NW corner of Berry St. and Fairfield Ave. and the parking area on the west side of the church.
4. Cars without Hang Tags displayed will have a notice placed on them reminding them to have the Hang Tag displayed or risk towing at the owner's expense.
5. Cars without Parking Hang Tags will be towed at the direction of the church staff.
6. Parking Hang Tags are available through the church office during business hours.
7. A master list of Parking Hang Tag numbers and the associated names will be maintained by the church office.
8. Should a Parking Hang Tag require replacement for any reason, a donation to Plymouth Church is requested.
9. Temporary Parking Hang Tags will be issued to contractors by the church office as needed.

Property Board  
June 21, 2018



**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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Looking for our email addresses?**

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*Associate Pastor*  
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**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.**