



Plymouth Officially Under Construction

The construction project on the new HVAC system that is to be installed has begun! The boiler has been shut down, and the removal process is taking place over the next few weeks.

- **If you have respiratory issues**, please be alerted that you may want to stay out of the office building for the time being.
- Depending upon the weather, the church may feel cool at times until warm weather is here to stay.
- This summer, the temperature inside may be warmer than usual at times in certain locations due to renovations to the air conditioning systems.
- No hot water is available in the building until further notice.
- Some restrooms may be closed temporarily.
- Some areas may have limited or no access for a period of time.
- There will be some noise, dust, and extra workers in the building throughout the project, which is expected to be completed in early-to-mid October.
- When scheduling events, staff cannot guarantee what the future condition of any rooms will be.

A construction schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside the main office to give everyone an idea of what is happening and when.

Schedules may have to be modified and changed at times during a project such as this, so it may not be always be 100% accurate. Please check with the church office if you have a meeting or activity scheduled to see if your reserved location will be affected by the construction. You may possibly need to make alternative arrangements.

Your patience and understanding for the minor inconveniences we will all experience during the duration of the project is something we are all counting on. The end result will be a much more efficient and comfortable building for everyone.



Plymouth Summer Events

Another program year is drawing to a close, and we look forward to the longer, warmer days of summer. The schedule at Plymouth will change for the summer, too:

- The last Wednesday Night Live of the season is **May 25**
- The last Bible Study is **June 8**
- Wellspring Day Camp runs **Tuesday, June 7 through Friday, July 22**
- The 3RF parade is **Saturday, July 9**
- Plymouth's Music Series presents "Working" the musical, **7:00 pm, July 8 & 9, and 2:00 pm, July 10**
- Plymouth's Arts Fest concerts are at **7:00 pm, July 11-15 & 2 pm, July 17**
- Rock the Block is 7:00 pm, **Saturday, July 16**
- 3RF Fireworks Finale is **Saturday, July 16, 9:30 pm**
- The next deadline for the printed Bell is **August 10**
- Pepper Jelly will be made **August 16, 17 and 18**
- Plymouth's Summer-End Cook-out & Carnival is **Wednesday, August 30**
- Wednesday Night Live begins again on **September 7**
- Plymouth program year kickoff is **Sunday, September 11**

Sunday School Final Day Is May 22

We will be celebrating the year with a special breakfast and craft, in the Folsom Room **Sunday, May 22**, at **9:00 am**. Sunday school students and teachers, as well as their families, are invited to attend. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help us plan the amount of food needed.

Adult Chapel Classes

Adult Chapel Classes continue all summer long, meeting in the Chapel, **Sundays, 9:00 am**.

During June, an Adult Education unit led by the Peace & Justice Committee will focus on the needs of the homeless. These discussions are **June 5, 12, and 19**, with special guest speaker Sandy Segerson on **June 5**.

We will be starting a unit on prayer and spirituality **June 26**. Take a moment to relax, as we work on practical ways to grow in Faith and deepen our relationship with God.

Wellspring Summer Day Camp Wish List

(All items in new condition, please)

- Colored markers
- Colored pencils
- White construction paper
- Large black trash bags
- Paper towels
- Nerf footballs
- 4-Square balls
- Soccer balls
- Basketballs
- Small prizes (candy & toys) for Bingo and incentives

Please place bagged items in the bin in the Folsom Room marked "Wellspring Day Camp." Day Camp begins at Plymouth **June 7**.

In Our Prayers

Plymouth people in our prayers: (please contact the office to add or remove a name from this list): Jack Ade, Sally Ade, A.J. Calkins, Marge Cornwell, Roger and Tony Crouch, Barbara and Bob Davidson, Chuck Doenecke, Pat Eltzroth, Ralph Eltzroth, Gail Escosa, Mark Friskney, Yolanda Hayes, Karen Holdeman, George James, Sandra Lockwood, Sheldon Lockwood, Carol Patterson, Timothy Price, Steve Riethmiller, Dulanna Rothert, Jack Sanders, Vera Scott, Charmaine Siekmann, Joan and Alan Simon, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Stan Volz, Wendy Beifus Webster.

Overseas Mission Trip: Lucy Hess, with HearCare, Zambia.

Members and friends serving our country: Major Marc Lovelace; LCpl Jesse Chapman; Nick Brattain, US Navy, Pensacola, FL.

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

Colette Legg and Al Kuelling are pleased to share that they were united in marriage on March 28.

Congratulations to Andrea Moll and Brandi Wallace, who were married in Plymouth's sanctuary on April 2.

Sympathy is extended to Rose Pyle and family on the death of Eugene Pyle, March 30, in Fort Wayne.

Sympathy is extended Rob Getrost on the death of longtime girlfriend Deb Sigman, April 11. Deb was mother to Bailee Sigman and grandma to Jerrica, Adrian and Olivia Steele.

Sympathy is extended to Betsy (Hart) and Kavin Ley on the unexpected death of their infant son, Asher Joseph Ley, on April 11.

Sympathy is extended to Betsy Bonham and family on the death of Wally Bonham, April 15.

Sympathy is extended to Ted and Susan Chemey and children, Sasha, Misha, and Natasha, on the death of Ted's father, Theodore E. Chemey, Jr., April 18, Langhorne, PA.

Sympathy is extended to Roger and Valerie (Feedback) Pelz on the death of his brother, Doug Pelz, on April 21.

Sympathy is extended to Peg and Rick Schilb on the death of her father, Jack Phipps, April 23, in Van Wert, Ohio.

Sympathy is extended to James Hall and family on the death of his cousin, Elaine Smiley, on April 22.

Sympathy is extended to Charlie and Donna Belch and family on the death of his brother Robert John Belch, May 16, in Indianapolis.



From the Senior Pastor

Friends,

We officially concluded the most visible part of our **2016 Capital Fund Campaign** on Sunday, April 17. While I don't want to overstate what we have experienced, I can't help but think this has been an epic endeavor in the life of Plymouth Church. Few generations in the history of Plymouth Church have been so challenged. Our campaign goal was exceedingly ambitious (\$2.5 million), and our ability to meet this funding target was all but certain. Yet Plymouth members and friends have responded in a most positive manner.

In the most recent update I've received, it was reported that we have received over 130 pledges totaling just over \$1.62 million. With an additional allocation of \$165,000 from cash reserves designated for the capital campaign, our total now stands at \$1,785,000. Yes, we still have a way to go to meet our goal. Even so, I consider this a tremendous response and show of support.

I commend the leadership that has guided us to this point. The Capital Campaign Leadership Committee has worked exceptionally well together under the astute guidance of **Steve Hollingsworth**. Committee Chairpersons included **Kathryn Diekhoff**, Correspondence; **Laura and Rhys Rudolph**, Lead Gifts; **Beth Walker**, Printed Materials; **Eric Miller**, Publicity Committee; **Kathy Kolb**, Pre-Decision Parties; and **Eric Black**, Continuity. People and their committees spearheaded the campaign, discharging their assignments in a timely and responsible manner. **Randy Roberts**, Chairperson of the Stewardship & Finance Board, took the lead in helping Plymouth secure a bridge loan from PNC. Randy additionally was responsible for writing a special grant request to the English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation. So, this campaign has been a large-scale group effort. And the result is a large-scale Plymouth Church accomplishment.

Construction is moving along at a rather swift pace. The boilers we intend to replace have already been removed from the premises. Asbestos abatement is underway. Church staff are being asked to change normal working routines. **Lettie Eagar** has adjusted her hours to ensure the church is open for work to proceed Monday through Friday of each week. **Rev. Ruth** needs to temporarily relocate her office space. Everyone is being impacted in one way or another. And everyone is asked to be patient and understanding of construction inconvenience, i.e. the sights and smells that accompany demolition. Then there is the dust – lots of dust is wafting through the building from sawing and drilling that are required for work to proceed.

What is clear now is that we are “**HERE, for Good.**” It is equally clear is that we are “**Living, Giving, Building Community.**” So I'm applauding all Plymouth members and friends who have extended themselves that we might meet the challenges we face. But first and foremost, I'm thanking God—for all that we have accomplished, and for the positive outlook that prevails.

Sincerely,
Rev. John P. Gardner



Living, Giving & Building Community

Reminder About Your Contribution Checks

Just a reminder: Our bank, PNC, will no longer split the amount of a check into two deposits into our two separate checking accounts.

If you write checks to Plymouth, it is important that you write a separate check for each purpose. For example, if you wish to contribute to your operating pledge and also to your capital campaign pledge, you will need two checks, each with a note in the memo line indicating where your contribution should go. This will ensure that you are contributing to the fund that you intend to support.

Your patience and your attention to this accounting detail is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to Allen Haynes, Licensed Minister

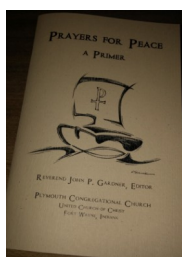
In March of this year, Allen Haynes went before the Committee on Ministry of the NE Indiana Association seeking recognition as a Licensed Minister of the UCC through Plymouth Church. Allen had earlier presented his faith journey to the Executive Council of Plymouth Church. Voicing strong affirmation of Allen's call to Licensed Ministry, the meeting with the Association's Committee on Ministry was scheduled. After interviewing Allen and due deliberation, Allen was voted Licensed Minister status.

On **Sunday, May 22**, we will celebrate Allen's accomplishment during our **10:00 am worship service**. Allen will be presented his certificate of Licensed Ministry, as well as a copy of the UCC Book of Worship. We thank God that Allen has responded to the summons to serve in our midst, and we celebrate his achievement!

Prayers for Peace — A Primer

Rev. John P. Gardner, Editor

The idea for *Prayers for Peace—A Primer* emerged during Rev. Gardner's sabbatical in the fall of 2014 when he served as resident Chaplain at Gladstone's Library, Hawarden, Wales, in the United Kingdom.



Copies of this booklet are available in the church office for a suggested donation of only \$8 each (proceeds to offset printing cost).

IN-KY Conference UCC 2016 Annual Gathering CWS Hygiene Kits Service Project *Plymouth Goal: 500 Toothbrushes*



In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

This year at the IKC Annual Gathering, a few people will be helped when 1,000 Hygiene Kits are created to share with Church World Service.

We all know we are stronger when we work together. Therefore, each association is being asked to collect specific items for this project. The Northeast Association (*of which Plymouth is part*) needs to collect 1,000 new toothbrushes (adult size, single, original packaging). Deadline is **Sunday, May 29**.

Kits will be assembled at the Annual Gathering, so don't worry about the details, just collect your items! Some people have found that often the best prices for items are found online, but however you want to acquire your items is fine. Just please help reach our goal and help others turn dreams into reality!

Richard C. Hess Peace Studies Scholarship

The Peace and Justice Committee is pleased to announce two recipients of the 2015-16 Peace Studies Scholarship.

David Grim, one of our own members, is the eleventh recipient of a scholarship. This scholarship for David is given in memory of Roberta Stoerker Clair, who was a member of Plymouth. She graduated from Union Theological Seminary and was a peace and justice advocate all of her life. This fall, David begins work toward a Master's of Divinity from the Chicago Theological Seminary. The committee is pleased to support David as he seeks to enhance justice and peace through his studies from the Seminary. As David stated, "It was known to the ancients and it is known today, that peace is a transforming work. It calls us from common anxieties and animosities to uncommon cunning and compassion. ... My goals of theological study are bound up with the studies of peace and justice." We are confident that David's studies will guide him to lifelong work in promoting justice and peace.

The twelfth scholarship is awarded to **Hashem Abushama**, who is a senior at Earlham College, majoring in Peace and Global Studies. A Palestinian from the Arroub refugee camp, Hashem has served as a youth ambassador and speaker to the United Nations, as a participant in the Seeds of Peace summer camp in Maine, as President of the Earlham Student Government, and currently as an intern in Ireland with Syrian refugees there. He is the youngest of nine children and working his way through college. Hashem's goal is to return to Palestine to begin a youth program in his home area and continue to be a spokesperson for justice. He wants to ensure that Palestinian children in the future will not "breathe the air of tear gas, but have safety and peace. ... I want them to have their freedom and enhance it by respecting the freedom of others." Both of Hashem's references predict that he will make a major impact on social justice issues. With the scholarship, we are delighted to be able to encourage Hashem as he completes his educational goals.

New Initiative Begins With “Plymouth Families”

Where: The Grims’ - 3151 Oswego Ave., Fort Wayne (old brick house)
When: Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm



When our family first visited Plymouth, we were greeted with good food and warm hearts. At *Wednesday Night Live*, Katie, Christer and young Toby Watson came right over and said “Hi!” and sat down with our clan of seven Grims. And the rest has been wonderful history.

Now it’s time to take this kind of family success at Plymouth and grow! ‘Plymouth Families’ is a way to seal the deal. We will be meeting in homes once a month for pizza, games, and movies. Low key, good fun. It is way to further the family bonds we already enjoy, and to invite new families to share in the fun.

So you’re invited! If family is what you do, then Plymouth Families is where you’ll want to be. It’s easy, down to earth, family time and fellowship.

Just so you know, Plymouth Families is here to support, not add to your list. Plymouth Families will include things like “Date Escape!” where one couple gets to hit the town while the other families watch the kids. Also a raffle –every family can use a pizza delivery or a gas card!

Come on over! It’s Plymouth Families! Give me a call, or snag me at church to let me know you’re coming!

David Grim
 Licensed Minister
 (260) 403-5685





Solar Forum: Saturday, June 18, 9:30 - 11:30 am



A presentation by Ray Wilson, Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light board member and chair of Using Energy Prudently program, on how monies and energy can be saved using solar panels.

Come and learn how you can use solar panels on your home or business to save you energy costs. Sponsored by Plymouth Congregational Church UCC, and Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (H-IPL), this *free event* will be held in the Folsom Room. All are welcome to attend. Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board, or call 423-9424 to let us know you’re coming.

Gathering/Continental Breakfast: 9:30 - 10:00 am
Presentation: 10:00 - 11:00 am
Questions/Meet w/Solar Vendors 11:00 - 11:30 am

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|----|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | John Silcox |  |
| 3 | Nathan Siples | |
| 4 | Sally Felger | |
| | Joanne Huber | |
| | Susan Jarvis | |
| | Curt Smith | |
| 5 | Cassidy Bradley | |
| 6 | Caleb Hollingsworth | |
| 7 | Julie Davidson | |
| 8 | Betty Henning | |
| | Rick Schilb | |
| | Jonah Silcox | |
| 9 | Tim Chronister | |
| 10 | Elizabeth Escosa | |
| | Carter | |
| | Marcia Howard |  |
| | Marty Kabisch | |
| | Dick Stumpf | |
| 11 | Jack Ade | |
| | Kris Conner | |
| | Lois Horn | |
| 12 | Dwight James | |
| 13 | Mariellen Beitman |  |
| 14 | Spencer Jordan | |
| | Evan Alan Miller | |
| | Donna Riethmiller | |
| 15 | Chris Colclessner | |
| | Laura Filler | |
| | Karen Holdeman | |
| | Melody Sutter | |
| 18 | A’Qwaun Graff | |
| 19 | Megan Degitz | |
| | Jim Gilliom | |
| | David Weber | |
| 20 | Kirby Volz | |
| 21 | Chance Hackett | |
| | Gordon Miller | |
| 22 | Courtney Davies | |
| | Michelle Dollarhite | |
| 23 | Steven Price | |
| | Cammy Sutter | |
| 24 | Laura Ramsey | |
| 25 | Diane Bauer | |
| | Edward Eberhardt | |
| | Ranelle Melton | |
| | Gordon Walter | |
| 26 | Philip Slane | |
| 27 | Virginia Nance | |
| | Harriet Siples | |
| 28 | Millie Dove | |
| | Jeanette Kent | |
| | Kyra Mendenhall | |
| 29 | Robert Logan | |
| 30 | Jon Allmandinger | |
| | James Arata | |
| | Roberta Braunlin |  |

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“Earthwise” Minute

A few weeks ago, Plymouth Church was forwarded a copy of the 2015 Annual Report of the Allen County Solid Waste Management District. The report included the following: Last year, Allen County businesses and residents diverted 152,608.1 tons of material from the landfill; 730,840 pounds of electronic equipment was recycled; 10 tons of batteries were recycled; and 204 lbs. of mercury was collected from tube fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, thermostats, and button cell batteries.

Recycling makes a difference! It is an alternative to the “take, use, discard, and repeat” lifestyle that threatens the health of earth, air, water. And humans.

So remember: REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

Your thoughtful participation will help maintain Plymouth Church’s commitment to being a “green” church.

Communications Guidelines

Deadlines (see chart below) are the second Wednesday of the months for *the Bell*, and the second and fourth Wednesdays of the months for the *e-Bell*.

Please email information for all communications (including Facebook and the website) to: sls@plymouthfw.org

<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>

Cafe ONA...A Colorful Evening For All!



**OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

On Saturday April 30, the Folsom Room—overflowing with people, and boasting colors of the rainbow—was the place for an evening of celebration!

Plymouth Church honored our 15th year as an Open and Affirming Congregation with a delicious dinner, touching personal testimonies from church members, and wonderful reflection given by Andy Lang!

A very big **THANK YOU** goes out to *Chef Susan Chemey* for her guidance with the youth in the kitchen! She worked with our senior high youth for several weeks to come up with the perfect menu, and if you were in attendance, you know what I mean!

A special **THANK YOU** to the youth who gave their time and energy on Friday evening for setup, and literally all day on Saturday to help cook, prepare, and cleanup for this big event! *Sydney Fisher, Theo Garcia, Riley Grim, and Brendan Sutter*, you are rock stars in my eyes—thank you for working so hard to make this event really great!

Another **THANK YOU** to our former Youth Group members: *Emma Walker* for helping us as a server, and *Misha and Natasha Chemey* for your work in the kitchen!

A huge **THANK YOU** to the “grownups” who helped: *Mike Diekoff, David Grim, Karen Goss, Traci Hamilton, Allen Haynes, Todd Jordan, and Jeni Habbeger*.

And **THANK YOU** to our youth piano player/entertainer *Allyn Beifus* for sharing her musical talent with us as our guests ate! If you see one of the folks mentioned here, thank them again—without them, an event of this size could not have happened!

Café ONA proved to be a wonderful event: 75 guests were in attendance, and they enjoyed being served a four-course, gourmet meal. All the proceeds from the evening will be going to the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC. We are still waiting on some final expenses to come in, but I’m proud to report that Plymouth will be able to present a check in the amount of (approximately) \$500 to the Coalition.

One more **THANK YOU** to all who attended; it was a true testament of how meaningful Plymouth Church really is!

-Kara Jaurigue, Youth Director

Lisa's Legacy: "Compassionate Conversations and Hope"

As many of you may know, Lisa Filler passed away last November. As her family, our world was turned upside down, but the value of friendship was never more clear to us. Many people, especially from Plymouth, helped in our time of need, from the funeral and ensuing meal, to making sure our needs were met, extending their heartfelt sympathy, engaging us in conversation, or when we simply needed someone to sit beside us.

A week after the funeral, a friend brought us a gift bag. In it was a beautifully illustrated picture book, a heart touchstone for each of us and a list of grief support groups and counselors in Fort Wayne. A month after the funeral, two friends came to our house, bringing soup and salad, and adult coloring pages. During both of those visits, we reminisced about Lisa and laughed and cried. It was so uplifting for us to share our memories.

Too often, our own good intentions of offering support for others fall away because we aren't sure how to help. Not only were we grateful for the outpouring of love and compassion shown to us during our dark time, we were inspired. We are in the process of putting together kits entitled "**Lisa's Legacy: Compassionate Conversations and Hope**" to help others, as they experience grief.

The kits, each in a royal blue cloth bag, are comprised of comforting and useful items for a grieving family or person. It is intended that the kit would be brought to the recipient after the busyness of the funeral has passed, but those who are grieving would still want compassionate conversation about their loved one. As a help to the person giving the kit, a page of conversation starters and suggested things to say and do will be included in the kit.

We are asking the congregation of Plymouth Church to help pilot these kits. If you know of a family member, friend, or neighbor who has recently lost a loved one, please let Rev. John Gardner, Rev. Ruth Philips, or Rev. Carole Green know, and they can help you get one of these kits. The kits will be funded through corporate and individual donations and gifts of in-kind services and goods, so that there will be no cost to the giver or the recipient.

The kits are intentionally being assembled in a secular manner in order to have a broad outreach. However, if you wish to add something of a spiritual nature, please let John, Ruth or Carole know beforehand so that, as we pilot the kits, we will know if something has been added. We would also like to have your feedback after you have given a Lisa Legacy Kit so we will know what direction to go after this trial program. The kits will be available after the beginning of June.

We are truly grateful to Plymouth Church for your help and support with this endeavor.

The Filler Family

Parents—Ann and Steve
Sister—Laura



**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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Back to nature—the green way

Pitching a tent is no reason to throw your eco-friendly habits out the window by using environmentally unfriendly disposable plates, cups, cutlery, and paper towels. Instead, pack unbreakable, washable versions of eating items, and bring along a small basin or bucket, sponge, biodegradable soap, and small cloth towels that can double as napkins. Don't forget a washable bag, in which to toss items too dirty for reuse, to launder when you get back home.

Looking for our email addresses?

Senior Pastor and Teacher
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Associate Pastor
rep@plymouthfw.org

Associate in Pastoral Care
c2cftwayne@gmail.com

Music Director
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Youth Director
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Office Manager
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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.