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BELL

A Fond Farewell

Friends,

The time of transition we have shared, since August of 2017 when I first announced my resignation, has been quite a journey, and it concludes this month. Transition will continue to be in the forefront of our lives, but in significantly different ways, as my ministry concludes, and that of the Rev. Timothy C. Murphy commences.

Rev. Timothy Murphy brings bright light and a wonderful spirit to Plymouth Church. The church's ministry is in capable hands, and I sense much good will come from the new endeavors you will share.

In the August meeting of the Executive Council, I included in my report the following:

I'm hard pressed to express the full depth of indebtedness I feel for the favor the church has shown me in the 20 years of ministry we have shared. The church has afforded me a place, a pulpit, and an office in which to practice ministry; the church has provided me with the support and encouragement necessary to weather the challenges that are always lurking near, testing the church's faith and character. I count myself richly blessed. We have shared a rare and unique time together. My heart is swollen with gratitude exceeding what any words might convey.

Indeed, my time with Plymouth Church has far exceeded what hope I harbored when first accepting the call to serve in 1998. As I take my leave, please be assured, Plymouth Church will remain at the forefront of my prayers. May you continue to explore faith, restore hope, and discover ever fresh delight in the extravagant love of God.

Sincerely,
Rev. John P. Gardner

Congregational Life Family Picnic

Congregational Life (CL) presents good food, good fun, and good company with the Plymouth Family Picnic on **August 26, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm**. CL will provide pulled pork, hot dogs, and drinks: iced tea and lemonade. Please bring a dish to share and your own dinnerware. Signup sheet is in the Folsom Room!

Picture Memories for John!

We are collecting 2-3 pictures from anyone who would be willing to make a copy of a special memory involving John for his Memory Book. It would be nice to have John in the picture, or for the picture to be of a Plymouth activity in which he was involved. These standard-sized copies must be turned in to the main office by Tuesday, September 10, so that we may organize them in his Memory Book. These photos should have the names of the people pictured (a caption) written on the back. Please see what you might have available. Thanks!

The Wellspring Shoppe Announces ... A Clothing Giveaway Day

**Wednesday, August 22
11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

At the Wellspring Main Building
Activity Room, 1316 Broadway

Fill up a large trash bag—
ALL FREE!!

Questions? Contact Wellspring at
422-6618.

In Our Prayers

Plymouth people in our prayers:

Nicole Baldonadi, A.J.Calkins, Audrea Carter, David Cornwell, Marge Cornwell, Brad Crowder, Elaine Drummond, Gail Escosa, Marcia Federspiel, Paul Furtner, Wayne Gerard, Joan Hartwig, Susan Jarvis, Jeannette Kent, Bernice Koutcher, Cheryl Leugring, Joan Lipscomb, Gerald Lockwood, Sheldon Lockwood, Kerry Mills, Jan Modesitt, Michelle Pratt, Noel Resor, Jody (Meredith) Roemer, Anne Rowland, Jacqueline Sanders, John Shannon, Sheryl Stallman, Jim Stedman, Dick Stumpf, Clare Walter, and Joel Walter.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Natalie Susan Kiep on **July 29** to Lissa and Brad Kiep and brother, Otto and sister, Kate. Proud grandfather is Karl Bandemer.

New Life is welcomed in the birth of Amelia Kathryn "Millie" Diekhoff on **August 7**, daughter of delighted parents Kathryn and Michael Diekhoff, little sister of big brother K.J. Diekhoff. Proud grandparents are Laura and Rhys Rudolph.

Congratulations to Collin Ramsey and Katelyn Lopez on their marriage on **June 23**.

Sympathy is extended to Steven and Jean Ross on the death of his mother, Rev. Ruth Ross, 96 years, **May 8**, in Timonium, MD

Sympathy is extended to family and friends on the death of Mary Jo Stoffer, **May 28**.

Sympathy is extended to David Craker and Brian Army and family on the still-birth of their infant grand-nephew, David Morgan Thomas Craker, **July 20**, in South Bend. Grieving parents are Catherine and Andrew Craker. Grieving brothers are James and Matthew. Grandparents are Dale and Gail Craker.

Wednesday Night Live Kickoff Dinner Hosts UCC German Delegation

WNL: On **August 29**, we will welcome a delegation of eleven church leaders from the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Germany. They are here through a partnership with the UCC Indiana-Kentucky (IKC) and Ohio Conferences that germinated in 1991, when four representatives each from IKC and Ohio visited Westphalia. An outgrowth of a Westphalia-IKC Working Group, in 2000 the partnership was cemented with common goals when several IKC persons attended the Westphalia Church's annual UCC Forum. Through these eighteen years, there have been numerous visits back and forth (Gratitude to IKC's Nancy Dickinson for providing the history of this partnership).

The focus of this year's Westphalia delegation is learning what ways the UCC churches are responding to immigrant/refugee populations in our communities. The delegates will have visited UCC churches in Kentucky and Indianapolis prior to arriving in Fort Wayne at noon on Wednesday. They will be hosted for lunch at Salem UCC, Lake Ave, and be given a tour of the UCC-related Crossroad Child and Family Services. At 5:00 pm here at Plymouth, they will meet with Irene Paxia, executive director, Amani Family Services. Following dinner, representatives of the Fort Wayne Baptist Burmese congregation will meet with them for conversation. The Westphalia delegation departs Fort Wayne early Thursday morning on their way to the UCC Headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio.

Planning for this brief but important visit began in June when Rev. John Krueger reached out to Rev. John P. Gardner and Rev. Ruth E. Phillips. They formed a task force including Ms. Nikki Shaw, Peace UCC and Rev. Christina Perkins, Salem UCC, Lake Ave.

Please join us on Wednesday, August 29 to extend an extravagant Plymouth welcome to our Evangelical Church partners!

New Name Tags Coming!

New name tags are in production in the church office. We are updating the look of them, and we hope to have them available soon. As soon as we have them prepared, we will be looking for a few volunteers to help switch them out and organize them. If you would be willing to help, please email Lettie in the church office, lme@plymouthfw.org.

Moved? Changed your phone number or email address?

If so, have you contacted the church office to let us know?

Remember, our records are only as good as information YOU provide to us!

Wednesday Night Live Resumes August 29

On Wednesdays through May, fellowship, food, Bible Study, music activities, and more are regular features of life at the church house each week. Make plans now to take advantage of the opportunity to enrich your mind, body and spirit right here at Plymouth Congregational Church each week during Wednesday Night Live!

On August 29 at 5:45 pm, we are going to kick-off our WNL season with a special dinner. Stephen Monnier will be providing the entrée, and everyone is invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. There will be activities for children and the young at heart, including chalk sidewalk art, face painting and balloon art! This will be a great evening for everyone - please join us for a wonderful evening of food, fun, and fellowship!

Stephen Monnier will be catering WNL meals each week. To insure that there are ample quantities of food and minimal waste, you are strongly encouraged to sign up for WNL dinner on the sheets posted on the easel in the Folsom Room, where menus will also be posted. While cost of the meal is estimated at \$7.00 per adult, payment is on a donation basis – what you can, when you can. Congregational Life Board offsets the cost through its budget. Children 3-years of age and younger are FREE.

Volunteers are needed each week to assist in cleaning up and washing dishes. If you want to help with the kitchen clean up, you must be trained on how to use the equipment.

Regular WNL schedule:

- 5:15 - 6:00 pm Bible Study with Rev Timothy Murphy (Chapel)
- 5:15 - 6:15 pm Children's Music; Sanctuary Singers (second floor)
- 5:45 - 6:30 pm Dinner (Folsom Room)
- 6:45 - 7:30 pm Small Group with Rev. Ruth E. Phillips (Amistad Room)
- 6:45 - 7:30 pm Youth Music Ensemble (second floor)
- 6:45 - 7:30 pm Plymouth Bell Ensemble (sanctuary balcony)

Volunteers Needed

Our Sunday School is thankful for the variety of Plymouth members who give their time to keep our program running. **Teachers** work with a partner to lead lessons from our curriculum. They work for a three-month session, giving continuity to the children. **Visiting Artists** bring a skill or talent to our classrooms and help us complete an artistic project. Past Visiting Artists have included sculptors, wood-workers, bakers, musicians, and painters. If you have a talent to share, we have lots of ideas of how to work them into our curriculum. And new this year, our **Earthwise Volunteers** set up our classrooms with seasonal natural objects. These volunteers do not lead during class time, but their work helps set the stage for keeping our classrooms in awe of God's creation.

If you can volunteer in our Sunday School, please contact Katie Watson, kjwatson4@gmail.com.

Small Group Study

Opportunities

Wednesdays, 6:45 pm

OR Thursdays, 1:00 pm.

You are welcome to join the lively discussions that will focus on John Shelby Spong's newly published book: *UNBELIEVABLE: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today*. Please purchase a copy of the book through your preferred book seller. Come, be part of one of these small group discussions where "whoever you are or whatever your questions, thoughts, or opinions, you are welcome here." John Shelby Spong was Plymouth's Parry Lecturer in the spring of 1998. He is widely published and an esteemed leader in progressive Christian theology and faith.

At Chautauqua Institution in late June, I was privileged to attend Spong's last public lectures of his illustrious career. Our study will be supplemented occasionally with video of Rev. Spong.

Choose the time that fits your schedule:

Wednesdays - 6:45 to 7:30 pm,
Amistad Room.

Thursdays - 1:00 to 1:45 pm,
Oasis Room.

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips
Associate Pastor

Presentation of Bibles

On Kickoff Sunday, **September 9**, Plymouth will present story Bibles to our incoming Kindergarteners and NRSV Bibles to our incoming 2nd graders. These resources encourage our kids to take home the lessons they are learning in Sunday School. If you have a child who would like to receive a Bible, please contact Katie Watson, kjwatson4@gmail.com.

It's Pepper Jelly Time Again!

This year the dates to make Sweet Pepper Jelly are **Tuesday, September 11, and Thursday, September 13**. Each day begins about **9:30 am** and finishes about **6:00 pm**. Anyone, experienced or not, is welcome to join the fun and camaraderie in Plymouth's kitchen-cleaning, chopping, cooking veggies, and processing them into delicious, famous jars of jelly. There is taste testing all day! Your volunteer hours are needed and appreciated; whatever block of time fits your schedule. Thank you!

Here are the sizes and prices (no increase): 4 ounces- \$2.50, 8 ounces- \$5, 12 ounces- \$7, 16 ounces- \$9. Most of what is made is the standard jelly jar 8 ounce size. The other sizes are somewhat limited-never sure how many of these will be available until the second day. If you are new to the "pepper jelly experience", ask your Plymouth friends. Hundreds of jars are sold every year; it is delicious and unique!

If you would like to join the fun in September, place an order, or have questions, please contact Joyce Augspurger at 260-466-5376 (text or call) or jema7749@comcast.net.

As a reminder, the profit from this annual project is combined with the Christmas wreath Knit and Kibitz profits. These monies are then distributed in the Spring to local non-profit agencies in Fort Wayne. Thank you for your support!

This Year's Sunday School Curriculum

How do we describe our beliefs to our children? As Christians who live in the questions, we often feel lacking when we try to condense our faith into kid-friendly answers.

This year's Sunday School curriculum, "A Joyful Path," will lead us through Eight Affirmations that we hope to pass along to our children:

1. The teachings of Jesus lead me to understand that I am one with all.
2. My heart is open to the wisdom teachings of the world.
3. I am a part of the community of life that includes all people.
4. What I believe in my heart is what I show in my actions.
5. As I ask questions and try to understand, my heart and mind stay open.
6. I act with inner peace and fairness in all I do.
7. I love and take care of my earth home.
8. I will always look for ways to learn and be loving to others.

In the UCC we are not a creedal church, we do not ask our members to all sign on to any one description of faith. But trying to put our beliefs into words does give us a starting place for conversation. We hope the conversations around these statements continue out from our classrooms and into our hallways and homes.

It's not a coincidence that four of these statements correlate with Plymouth's four defining covenants. Those four statements deal with how we act in the world. The remaining four give us methods of practice and study that connect our actions with our faith. They deal with our relationship with God and Jesus, and our search for understanding.

This year our Sunday School classes will explore these 8 affirmations through stories, active play, and art. Plymouth offers three classes for our school-aged learners. Preschoolers, Kindergartners, and 1st graders meet in Room 205. Second-fifth graders meet in Room 204. Youth in grades six through 12 meet in Room 203. Sunday School meets before worship from 9:00-9:50 am each week.

To read the grown-up versions of these statements, visit Progressive-Christianity.com. To follow along on our Sunday School journey through these statements this year join the Plymouth Congregation's group on Facebook.

From Our New Senior Pastor

Greetings! I am so excited about beginning as your new senior pastor. This first week has been a bit like drinking from a fire hose: taking in what I can moment-by-moment. I should be scared, but don't know enough to be apprehensive about what I don't yet know. Congregation members and staff have been consistently gracious as I learn names, policies, and the habits of Plymouth. Thank you.

I imagine many of you feel a combination of joy and mourning: joy at the possibilities that are to come, and mourning at the close of Rev. Gardner's ministry in this place. From the few weeks that I have been able to interact with him, I've noticed several things that I know will be missed and wish to celebrate: the deep thought he clearly puts into his sermons, including contemporary connections; his commitment to prayer and prayer life; and his sense of humor.

For those of you who have known him far better than I, I have seen but a glimpse of what you will be missing. I pray that I can live up to the high expectations and shoes in which you have placed me. Please include me in your prayers as we embark on this exciting and mournful, bittersweet yet hopeful, transition as we seek to grow more fully as followers of Jesus.

Peace,
Timothy Murphy
Senior Pastor

Music Series Summer Arts Festival 2018: Thank You!

Once again, Plymouth hosted a series of summer concerts during Three Rivers Festival. We began with a wonderful performance of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and moved to a series of concerts featuring Indiana's elder composer Howard Terrell and his modern day oratorio, a clarinet and oboe duo, cello solo, a great group of young vocal artists (part of the Heartland Arts Institute sessions), and finished with the Claude Bolling Suite for Flute and Jazz Combo!

We heard many great comments from our audiences, and we filled the sanctuary with great music. None of this would have been possible without YOU, the members of Plymouth Church and our many donors and participants. Thank you one and all!!

The 2018-19 Music Series Concert Season

Keep your eyes open for the next informational mailing touting the Music Series season for this upcoming year. We open the season on October 7 at 3:00 pm with a collaborative presentation of the musical drama "October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard." Other features include a recital by pianist Andrew Nesler, the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir conducted by Nancy Menk, a concert featuring our own Robert Nance, and much more. A wonderful season is coming!

Sunflowers to Celebrate Foods Resource Bank

If you grow sunflowers and want to bring them in at full bloom, please put them in the Folsom Room.

Do you draw, paint, photograph, or craft sunflowers? We want to see them to celebrate FRB!

Throughout September, we will exhibit sunflower imagery in all forms on the art wall in the Folsom Room. We welcome sunflowers of all types! Janice Furtner will share her paper-cutting art sunflowers. Bill Deans will share a photograph. Rev. Ruth E. Phillips has a print of a Mary Southard sunflower painting.

We give thanks for and support the expansive nature of FRB's sustainable food growing projects in our world. Our donations are like the "rows of seeds—each one a new life!" from the following excerpt of Mary Oliver's poem entitled "The Sunflowers" ([Devotionals](#), 2017)

"Come with me
To visit the sunflowers,
They are shy ...

But want to be friends:

Don't be afraid
To ask them questions.
Their bright faces,

Which follow the sun,
Will listen, and all
Those rows of seeds—
Each one a new life!"



Plymouth Hosts 2018 Jesus Seminar on the Road Event

“Ancient Texts and the Spiritual Life”

October 26-27, 2018

with Westar scholars

Hal Taussig and Celene Lillie

How do fresh insights from recently recovered first-century documents such as the Gospel of Mary, the Odes of Solomon, and the Thunder: Perfect Mind from the early Christ movements encourage new ways to explore religious life? Can they lead to a new awareness about spirituality and daily practice?

Weekend sessions include:

How ancient texts foster the spiritual life: Engage with new texts and learn how to draw spiritual meaning from them.

An exercise from the Gospel of Mary: The only gospel written by a woman, this text is rich with opportunities for engagement.

Journey through Buddhism and Christianity: Explore connections between Buddhist, Christian, and Yogic practices.

Embracing complexity with The Thunder: Perfect Mind: Participate in exercises that help reveal ways to live through complexity.

Registration information is available through the webstarinstitute.org site or

Westar Institute

PO Box 346

Farmington, Minnesota 55024

events@westarinstitute.org

Plymouth Church member Pam Etheridge is our local coordinator for the event and can help with information as well ...

pametheridge@gmail.com.

Music Ministry Opportunities

Starting Wednesday, September 5, 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 are Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 pm, and regularly on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Additional 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 6:45-7:30 pm.

Plymouth Children's Choirs - this program provides a creative outlet for children K-5 and includes singing, bell 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 5:15-6:15 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, and small ensembles. Youth music ensemble rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:30 pm 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 schedule 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.



September Birthdays

1	Dan Lewark	9	Kim Schiffli	23	John Congdon
1	Eli Jarred Spath	10	Charmaine Siekmann	23	Shawn Conner
1	Shelley Woehner	10	Mariah Widmer	23	Bonnie Doherty
4	Phillip Colglazier	11	Joshua Greener	23	Linda Hite
4	Thomas Felger	11	John Whitebread	23	Sara Kabisch
4	Traci Hamilton	12	Jeanette Lohse	23	Vicki Kruse
4	Reagan Mikesell	12	Eric Roberts	23	Samuel Melo
4	Mandy Rush	12	Everette Welty	24	Donna Belch
4	Jarrold Weber	14	Natasha Chemey	24	Mary Louise Schultz
6	Clyde Dively, Jr.	14	Linda Escosa	25	Anne Kolb
6	Marie Elena Lyon	14	Marge Feedback	26	Chris Brabbs
7	Stella Hammond	15	Susan Chemey	26	Zachery Feasel
7	Kennon Nicholson	15	Roger Eversole	26	Emily Grim
7	Lauren Spath	15	Gabe Gardner	26	Mary Lipscomb
8	Jayne Chasey	17	Owen Roney	27	Simon Coffeen
8	Karen Goss	19	Anne Hughes	27	Emma Walker
8	Ava Greer	19	Elka Jackson	28	Dustin Ramsey
8	Jillian Greer	19	Ryan Lehman	29	Bonnie Pennock
8	Robert Nance	19	Hannah Moore	29	Beth Smith
9	Veronica Applegate	20	Melissa Stayte	30	Gertrude Marie Gardner
9	Taylor Dienelt	20	Ryan Tuttle	30	Lyra Miller
9	Anna Parry	21	Marge Cornwell	30	Jonathan Weber
		22	Judith Beineke		

Special October 7 Concert at Plymouth features Author Leslea Newman

“October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard” is award-winning author Leslea Newman’s deeply personal literary and theatrical response to the events of October 6th, 1998, when 21-year-old Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and hung on a fence to die in one of the most brutal gay hate crimes of recent memory. This work of poetic imagination, married to the hauntingly beautiful music of Curtis Heard, serves as an illumination to those unfamiliar with the tragedy, and as a powerful, enduring tribute to Matthew Shepard’s life and legacy.

VIP Ticket holders will receive one ticket to the performance as well as access to a special presentation with the author of “October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard”, Leslea Newman. Leslea Newman was the keynote speaker for Gay Awareness Week at the University of Wyoming in 1998 and arrived on campus the day that Matthew Shepard died. She spoke to a devastated campus and community and vowed to work to erase hate from that day forward.

Ms. Newman will be joining our community for this event and offering a talkback session on her place in and work with Matthew Shepard’s story as well as her other pioneering literary works on LGBT identity.

Leslea Newman is the author of over 70 books for readers of all ages. www.lesleanewman.com

This presentation is collaborative - presented by Heartland Sings, Plymouth Congregational Church, Plymouth Music Series, Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, FW Pride, Starbucks, and others to be announced. Donors to the Music Series will receive tickets to the production. Plymouth church members are entitled to 1/2 price tickets which may be purchased by calling Heartland Sings at 260-436-8080.

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 14, 3:00 pm

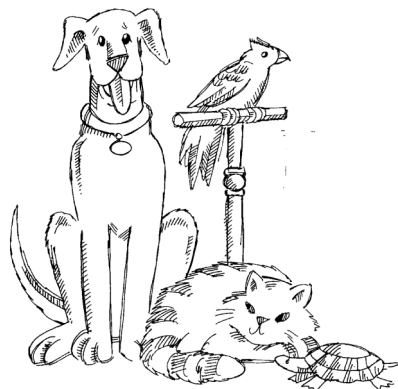
“All creatures great and small ... The Lord God loves them all.”

Whatever it is, whether it creeps, crawls, runs on all fours, leaps, flies, slithers, gallops, trots, or just sits there, all critters and creatures—accompanied by their humans—are welcome to the Blessing of the Animals in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Plymouth members and friends, relatives and neighbors, are invited to gather with us outside the church (weather permitting). Each pet will receive a personal blessing and a card with its name on it. Please secure your pet in a carrier or on a leash for their protection and the protection of others. If your pet is unable to travel, you may bring a photo for a blessing in absentia.

Humans without animals are also welcome to come and enjoy a brief time of “pet therapy” with all of the sights, sounds, and smells of these beloved animals. This joyful celebration includes free treats for all in attendance.

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips



Indiana Center for Middle East Peace Confers Award Upon John Gardner

On July 31, members of the Board of Directors of Indiana Center for Middle East Peace (Ahnee Conner, Patty Pendleton, and Executive Director, Michael Spath, all Plymouth members) presented Rev. John Gardner with its first *Tree of Life* “Champion of Justice” Award. The following statement of appreciation accompanied the presentation.

Indiana Center for Middle East Peace presents its inaugural *Tree of Life* “Champion of Justice” award to Rev. Dr. John Pugh Gardner. During his 20-year pastorate at Plymouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Fort Wayne, IN, John has provided compassionate and courageous pastoral leadership in northeast Indiana on behalf of LGBTQ rights and interfaith relationships.

Known for his dynamic, prophetic preaching, John has been bold in his truth-telling challenging the powers of prejudice, exclusion, and oppression, especially in fostering Earthwise policies, racial equality, the value of public education, the beauty of diversity, universal human dignity, and civil and political rights for all people – all based in the ethic of Jesus.

Finally, John has been a passionate advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people in their struggle for justice. He has led Plymouth Church in its financial support for various ministries in Palestine and Israel and preserved the independent voice of *Indiana Center for Middle East Peace* against outside intimidation, hosting over a hundred of its programs in its 15-year history. And under John’s leadership, Plymouth Church has been one of the pioneers within the national United Church of Christ denomination in promoting and passing its resolutions supporting the *Kairos Palestine* document, the Palestinian *Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement*, as well as protesting Israel’s mistreatment of Palestinian children.

For these reasons – and more – *Indiana Center for Middle East Peace* expresses its heartfelt gratitude for the ministry of John Pugh Gardner and confers upon him its *Tree of Life* “Champion of Justice” Award.



Beyond Coal/Repower Indiana: My Story

My name is Jan Evrard, and I am a lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana. I have always felt a need to support good causes, but I feel more of an urgency to take action as I get older. This is a time for me that is less about acquiring and consuming, than about letting go and passing on material things, knowledge, and a bit of myself that can make a difference to others. I especially feel this need in the area of taking care of the earth and leaving a better place for the future generations. I only have to look into the eyes of my grandchildren in order to feel this urgency, as they are the ones who will be most affected.

I know that recycling, using less energy and plastic, are all worthy causes, but it always feels like it just isn't enough. What are the sources of real pollution that are doing the most destruction to the air, water, and health of our people? I found an answer a couple of years ago when I heard about the Rockport coal plant owned by Indiana & Michigan Power (I&M), and their plans to increase our rates to make improvements to this dying facility. I saw petitions being signed, people standing up to commissions, and speaking their minds, and I saw that it made a difference. However, we now have a chance to influence I&M to move our state to renewable energy as they prepare their 20-year plan. This is what Sierra Club's Beyond Coal/Repower Indiana group is working to do, and why I am involved with them

Indiana is home to more super polluter coal plants than any other state. There are four of America's 22 worst toxic and greenhouse gas polluters within 30 miles of Evansville, Indiana, leading people to call southwest Indiana a SACRIFICE ZONE. Knowing that we in Fort Wayne get electricity from the Rockport plant, to their detriment, leaves me a bit ashamed for not speaking out earlier. So I will be making a trip with others to this area on the weekend of August 18-19, to stand with the residents to fight against I&M, hear their stories, and make connection with them.

There are many ways to learn more about the Beyond Coal Campaign and find future events: FaceBook—Indiana Beyond Coal; Twitter—#repowerindiana. Educate yourself on this issue, then share it with everyone you know through social media. You can contact I&M, local and state politicians, or write a letter to the editor. You can also meet with me, and I would be glad to give you more information: Jevrard52@gmail.com.

FYI ... People's Climate March in Indianapolis: September 8, 2018. **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!!!!!!!**

Green Team Task of the Month

Weatherize Windows and Doors

Stop air leaks around windows and doors with caulking and weather-stripping

Tips for Caulking

Use a caulking compound to seal leaks throughout your home, including around windows and door frames. Caulking can also prevent water damage when applied around faucets, ceiling fixtures, water pipes, drains, bathtubs, and other plumbing fixtures.

Caulk forms a flexible seal for cracks, gaps, or joints less than 1/4 inch wide. Most compounds come in disposable cartridges that fit in half-barrel caulking guns. You'll probably need a half-cartridge per window or door and four cartridges for the foundation sill.

Caulking compounds are also found in aerosol cans, squeeze tubes, and ropes. They vary in strength, properties, and prices.

Application. Read and follow the instructions on the compound cartridge. A few important tips:

- Clean all areas to be caulked for good adhesion. Remove any old caulk and paint, using a putty knife or a large screwdriver. Make sure the area is dry so you won't seal in moisture.
- Hold the gun at a consistent angle. Forty-five degrees is best for getting deep into the crack. You know you've got the right angle when the caulk is immediately forced into the crack as it comes out of the tube.
- Caulk in one straight continuous stream, avoiding stops and starts. Send caulk to the bottom of an opening to avoid bubbles.
- Make sure the caulk sticks to both sides of a crack or seam.
- Release the trigger before pulling the gun away to avoid applying too much. If caulk oozes out of a crack, use a putty knife to push it back in.



**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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Senior Pastor and Teacher
tcm@plymouthfw.org

Associate Pastor
rep@plymouthfw.org

Associate in Pastoral Care
c2cftwayne@gmail.com

Music Director
robert@maestronance.com

Youth Director
kkjaurigue@gmail.com

Sunday School Director
kjwatson4@gmail.com

Child Care Director
davidandmichellegrim@gmail.com

Office Manager
lme@plymouthfw.org

Financial Administrator
financial@plymouthfw.org

Building Maintenance Manager
david@plymouthfw.org

Vision Statement

Adopted October 2011

Praying for guidance for the journey

... Honoring the mystery of God

... Responding with spirits renewed

... Moving courageously toward wholeness.

Mission Statement

Adopted October 2011



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

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