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# BELL

## Honoring the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

A community Martin Luther King commemoration will take place on **Sunday, January 18, 6:00 pm**, in the sanctuary of Plymouth Church.

The hour-long, dramatic-musical program features narrator Janice Furtner. An array of community speakers tell the story of the civil rights movement and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Various musical interludes include the congregation, Heartland, University Singers of Saint Francis, and Los Angeles based singer and Indiana native, Carver Cossey. It is a wonderful tribute to a great man and an opportunity for the community to respond to the issues of justice, peace, and harmony in our community.



Representatives from the community participating in the planning of this event include Rev. John P. Gardner, Robert Nance, Janice Furtner, Rev. Terry Anderson, Rev. Bill McGill, Rabbi Javier Cattapan, Rev. Misty Dawn Shelly, and Palermo Galindo. Through the media of music and drama, this commemoration is designed to call the community into service for the greater good of the community.

A reception in the Folsom Room will follow this event.

### SAVE THE DATES

**Annual Business Meeting  
Sunday, January 26**

**Shrove Tuesday, February 17  
Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm**

**Ash Wednesday Worship  
February 18, 7:00 pm**  
*Imposition of Ashes and Sacrament of Communion*

## Amazing Grays Host Bill Argus Sunday, February 8

The next meeting of the Amazing Grays, **Sunday, February 8**, will bring new focus to our ideas of the economy. By popular request, we are pleased to host Dr. Bill Argus, member of Plymouth Church, presenting his recent Quest Club paper, "Economics: A Moral Dilemma?"

Even if you have never had an interest in economics, this might possibly change your mind about this topic!



It promises to be timely, provocative, and interesting for all, as cited by those who have heard the presentation.

Caution: do not, for any reason, invent a poor excuse to miss this meeting!

The presentation will begin immediately after a luncheon prepared by Rhonda Eitsert, for which we will need your reservations by **Thursday, February 5, 5:00 pm!**

### *Did You Know?*

You can make contributions to Plymouth Church via direct deposit or credit card. For more information, please contact Plymouth's Financial Administrator, Kenneth Athon.

# In Our Prayers

*(Please contact Suzanne to add or remove a name from the prayer list).*

## ***Plymouth people in our prayers:***

Jack Ade, Sally Ade, Laura Benya, A.J. Calkins, Audria Carter, Matt Carter, Ondalee Cobler, Evan Conner, Curt Conrad, Roger and Tony Crouch, Kim Crowell, Laurie Davies, Liz Dube, Gail Escosa, Stan Fahl, Lillian Gephart, Loretta Henderson, George James, Gerald Lockwood, Mason Rolland, Dulanna Rothert, Joann Schmidt, Russ Siples, Ruth Smith, Marilyn Sprengel, Mary Jo Stoffer, Ardella Wing, and Melody Worsham.

## ***Members and friends serving overseas:***

Major Marc Lovelace; Chantel White; SSGT Christopher Black; LCpl Jesse Chapman; MSgt. Nathan Keller.

## ***UCC Chaplains serving overseas:***

Chaplain Albert Ghergich, Chaplain James Janecek, Chaplain Mark Roeder.

***Congratulations*** to Mark Friskney and A.J. Calkins on their marriage, December 16, 2014, at Plymouth.

***Sympathy*** is extended to the family and friends of Patricia Elliott who died November 20, 2014.

***Sympathy*** is extended to Paul Simunek and family, on the death of his mother, Mary C. Simunek, on December 18, 2014.

***Sympathy*** is extended to the family and friends of Helen Evans, who died January 9.

***Sympathy*** is extended to Jon Allmandinger on the death of his father, William F. Allmandinger, January 12, in Berne.

## Thanks to Plymouth's Christmas Decorating And Un-Decorating Crews

Michael Thomas did an outstanding job of coordinating the volunteers who worked together to decorate—and then un-decorate—the interior and exterior of Plymouth for a beautiful Christmas season! Thank you to:

**Interior:** Elizabeth Dube, John Escosa, Vida McCray-Gardner, Ed Gomez, Dwight James, Randy Metzger, Carol Miller, Nada O'Neal, Randy Roberts, Lois Roebel, Charles Van Camp, Daniel Williams, Virginia Zimmerman.

**Exterior:** Mark Glassley and Carl Hasty

## Welcoming Group, Sunday, February 1, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

If your faith journey is leading you to explore becoming a member of Plymouth Church, this one-time required session is what you need. Our time together will focus on orientation, conversation, interpretation, and exploration. It is an opportunity for you to ask questions and to meet others who are considering affirming their formal relationship with the congregation.

Church membership carries the privilege and responsibility of voting in congregational meetings. It also opens the door to serving as an elected leader through board membership or office of the church.

Rev. Ruth E. Phillips leads this group session. Please contact her at 423-9424, ext. 322, or email [rep@plymouthfw.org](mailto:rep@plymouthfw.org) to register your intention to participate. A light lunch is provided.

## Plymouth Offers Help With Hearing Loop

Plymouth's hearing loop system is now installed in both the sanctuary and in the Folsom Room. A hearing loop helps persons who use hearing aids that are equipped with T-coils hear sounds from a PA system directly and clearly in their hearing aids, as it reduces or cuts-out background noise.

The loop provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting. The system consists of a microphone to pick up the spoken word, an amplifier which processes the signal which is then sent through the final piece, and the loop cable—a wire placed around the perimeter of a space to act as an antenna that radiates the magnetic signal to the hearing aid.

By selecting the 'T' setting, a hearing aid user can pick up the sounds spoken into the PA system's microphone, instead of the hearing aid's internal microphone. This results in improved speech understanding because the listener receives a clear signal with little or no background noise.

For more information, please contact John Escosa or Lucy Hess.



## From the Senior Pastor

Dear Plymouth,

Martin Luther King, Jr. was denied the longevity which we often hope and pray for ourselves. We often forget that when felled by an assassin, he was just 39 years old. Yet he left behind a prodigious amount of material that remains hauntingly relevant. My copy of his book, *Strength to Love*, a collection of sermons, is well-worn with felt-marker highlights, dog-eared pages, and variously scribbled notes in the margins, sometimes penciled, other times inked.

The one writing of King to which I regularly return is neither a sermon nor a speech. It is *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, written in response to an “open letter” issued by eight clergy (seven Christians, one Jew) who were critical of actions they considered “**unwise and untimely.**” They saw King as an outside agitator, a troubler to their community peace. They judged King as inciting hatred and violence, rather than seeking to transform and remedy a system riddled with preexisting conditions of hatred and violence.

*Letter from Birmingham Jail* is filled with the eloquence and insight we often expect of King’s sermonizing. What I find particularly meaningful is King’s candid assessment of the Christian church, and his deep disappointment in the church’s witness. He thought the church would support the freedom movement; but what he found was a church “**move cautious than courageous ... silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained glass windows.**” In reflecting upon the letter, King later said:

*I remember saying in that letter that so often I have been disappointed because we have not received the cooperation of the Church. I remember saying that so often the Church in our struggle had been a taillight, rather than a headlight. The Church had so often been an echo, rather than a voice.*

Such words bring pause. What is your experience with “the Church?” I assume we’ve all had disappointments along the way, if not with Plymouth, then with some other faith community. But is this all we can expect? Dare we not hope and pray and work for more? Can we not prod the church to pioneer community that inspires hope? Can we not serve to heal where race and class divide? Is the body of Christ not charged to speak an urgent word for peace and reconciliation? And the Holy Spirit with whom we pray, isn’t the Holy Spirit properly conceived as “outside agitator,” a needed antidote to combat our complacent drift into degeneracy?

The life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. continues to challenge all gospel-loving people in the world; and challenged also are all who look to the church for signs of the new creation, the health and wholeness, the justice and mercy, that comes explicitly by way of Jesus Christ. In our time, during our watch, may we not disappoint.

Sincerely,  
John P. Gardner

## Plymouth Music Series - Spring/Summer 2015

### Choral Masterworks by Martin and Lauridsen

*Sunday, March 15, 4:00 pm*

This special concert by Heartland, the region's professional choral ensemble, includes LUX AETERNA by Morten Lauridsen, and the MASS for double chorus by Frank Martin. Great voices in a great room equal a stellar experience!

### An Organ Mystery

*Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm*

This program places the audience in the role of detective. Who is the organist? What's being performed? A cryptic program and performances by organists *incognito* are your clues. Come prepared to enjoy great music—while you solve the mystery. Fun for the entire family!

### Plymouth Summer Arts Festival

*July 12 – 19*

During the Three Rivers Festival, Plymouth Church hosts a series of concerts and musical theatre performances. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the Spring of 2015!

## One Great Hour of Sharing, Sunday, March 15

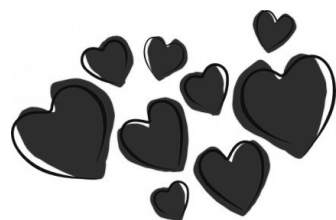


One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in 138 countries around the world. By working with local, national, and international partners, the offering provides support for health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives.

Joining with many other denominations around our country, all gifts are distributed through the ministry of Church World Service (CWS). Based in Elkhart, Indiana, CWS provides disaster relief for victims overseas and here in the US. The funds we gather together and share become very real gifts of love, joy, and restoration: Families displaced by natural disaster or political unrest rejoice to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin rebuilding their lives; the worried faces of mothers, whose children are threatened by food insecurity due to drought and famine, are transformed to deep peace when sustenance arrives; a woman who has had to walk miles for potable water for her family smiles as she draws water from a clean well near her home; children arrive excited for the first day of class at the village's new school.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you participate in a worldwide ministry of helping people change their lives ... a ministry of caring by and for God's treasured people. This year, our gifts to OGHS will be received **Sunday, March 15**. Envelopes will be provided in upcoming worship bulletins, or you may place your check, made payable to Plymouth Church with "OGHS" in the memo line, in the offering plate.

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## Foods Resource Bank 2014 Final Report

EXPENSES: NORM'S PREBLE GARDEN (NOON MEAL)	\$910.00	
Salem U.C.C. (Farm expenses)	\$6,590.00	
Misc.	\$33.22	
MR Screenprinting - T-shirts Plymouth/Salem	\$441.10	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$7,974.32</b>
INCOME: JOHN DEERE FOUNDATION	\$500.00	
TROXEL EQUIPMENT (local John Deere dealer)	\$500.00	
ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU	\$500.00	
PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC	\$13,181.50	
PLYMOUTH (corn bags)	\$357.32	
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$2,652.74	
SALEM (corn bags)	\$189.98	
NOON MEAL DONATIONS	\$940.00	
t-shirts (Salem)	\$328.00	
t-shirts (Plymouth)	\$120.00	
BAKE SALE	\$532.00	
KETTLE CORN	\$23.00	
SALE OF 20 ACRES OF CORN	\$12,959.13	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$32,783.67</b>
<b><u>Total Contributions to FRB</u></b>		<b><u>\$24,809.35</u></b>

The FRB Task Force extends a grateful "thank you" for your support of this "Global Mission" effort over the past ten years, and for a most successful campaign in 2014. We look forward to furthering our commitment in 2015!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Emma Feigley Mission Fund for the continued support of this global mission. This grant, administered by the Benevolence Committee, continues to be a constant in the endeavor to help those in need, and so represents Emma's request. We are making a difference!

We would also like to thank Robert Nance and the Music Committee for the gift to FRB from their Music Series Concert on October 19. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated!

—Gale Cunningham, Laura Rudolph, Carol Patterson, Peg & Rick Schilb

## Indiana Center For Middle East Peace



The ICMEP hosts the following two films in February:

**Thursday, February 5, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, Allen County Public Library Theater, Downtown.**

We hear from Dr. Clayborne Carson, head of Stanford University's Martin Luther King Jr. Research Institute, and screen his film, *Al Helm: Martin Luther King in Palestine*. Coretta Scott King gave Dr. Carson custody of her husband's papers upon his death. The film traces Dr. Carson as he leads an African-American youth singing and theater group to Palestine to perform with the Palestine National Theater a play he wrote about Dr. King. The youth find parallel stories between what they observe about the Palestinian experience and their own in the US civil rights struggle.

**Friday, February 13, 6:30 pm, Manchester University College of Pharmacy Theater, DuPont Campus, 10627 Diebold Road, Fort Wayne.**

The award-winning **Slingshot Hip Hop**, braids together the stories of young Palestinians living in Gaza, the West Bank and inside Israel as they discover Hip Hop and employ it as a tool to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty. From internal checkpoints and Separation Walls to gender norms and generational differences, this is the story of young people crossing the borders that separate them.

## Important Tax Notice

To ensure the tax deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2014 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

Some of your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

If you are interested in donating stocks or other investments to the church, please contact Financial Administrator Kenneth Athon.



## SAVE THE DATE!

The 2015 Plymouth Women's Retreat has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 18**, at the Victory Noll Center in Huntington.

Watch for more details!

## Wellspring Needs

### Food Bank

Family-sized soups  
Jello--sugar free  
Canned pasta  
Kleenex

### Clothing Bank

Adult sized hats & gloves  
(no children sizes needed)



Create A

Lasting Legacy ...



... with Planned Giving

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

*Have you remembered Plymouth in your estate planning?*

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

Bequest-giving is vital to Plymouth's ongoing financial health. Unless otherwise specified, gifts become a part of our endowment—earnings from which we depend for a large part of our budget each year: 10% goes to benevolent giving, 30% for building expenses, and 60% for operating expenses.

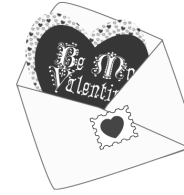
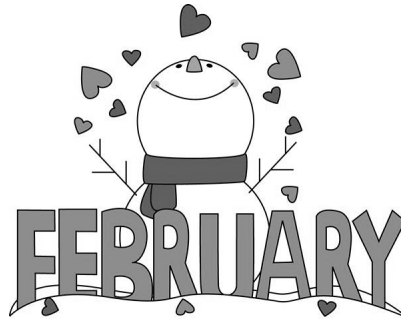
Thank you to all who have included Plymouth in your estate planning. For questions on your bequest-planning, please contact, Randy Roberts, Chair of Stewardship & Finance: [runrandyrun@gmail.com](mailto:runrandyrun@gmail.com)





## Newsletter Guidelines

Please continue sending your information for the printed **Bell** to Suzanne at: [sls@plymouthfw.org](mailto:sls@plymouthfw.org) by the second Wednesday of the months it is printed (see below). (Please **DO NOT USE** the [office@plymouthfw.org](mailto:office@plymouthfw.org) email address). Event and activity information will be published based on registration timeframes and actual event dates.

In the months with no printed edition of *the Bell*, our electronically formatted **e-Bell** is distributed on the **second and fourth Fridays**; deadlines for the electronic newsletter are the **second and fourth Tuesdays** of those months.

<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>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Share Your Shopping</i> <b>8:00a</b> Chapel Communion <b>8:30a</b> Hospitality <b>9:00a</b> Sanct. Singers <b>9:00a</b> Christian Educ. <b>10:00a</b> Worship & Communion <b>11:30a</b> Youth Group 11:30a Welcoming Group <b>11:30a</b> HCC rehearsal	<b>2</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>5:45p</b> Yoga <b>6:00p</b> Sophie's Cafe 	<b>3</b> <b>11:45a</b> Women's Book Study <b>1:00p</b> Staff meeting <b>5:00p</b> ESC <b>6:30p</b> Executive Council	<b>4</b> <i>WNL</i> <b>8:30a</b> Women's breakfast <b>8:30a</b> Retired Men's breakfast <b>3:45p</b> Study Connection <b>5:15p</b> Bible Study <b>5:45p</b> Dinner <b>6:30p</b> Handbell Ensemble <b>6:45p</b> Small Group Study <b>7:15p</b> Sanctuary Singers	<b>5</b> <b>6:00p</b> Knit & Kibitz	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>8:00a</b> Chapel Communion <b>8:30a</b> Hospitality <b>9:00a</b> Sanct. Singers <b>9:00a</b> Christian Educ. <b>10:00a</b> Worship <b>11:30a</b> Youth Group <b>11:30a</b> Amazing Grays	<b>9</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>5:45p</b> Yoga <b>6:00p</b> Sophie's Cafe	<b>10</b> <b>1:00p</b> Staff meeting <b>7:00p</b> PFLAG	<b>11</b> <i>WNL</i> <b>3:45p</b> Study Connection <b>5:15p</b> Bible Study <b>5:45p</b> Dinner <b>6:30p</b> Handbell Ensemble <b>6:45p</b> Small Group Study <b>7:15p</b> Sanctuary Singers	<b>12</b> <b>11:30a</b> Knife & Fork at China Palace <b>7:30p</b> JSOR discussion	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i> 
<b>15</b> <b>8:00a</b> Chapel Communion <b>8:30a</b> Hospitality <b>9:00a</b> Sanct. Singers <b>9:00a</b> Christian Educ. <b>10:00a</b> Worship & Communion <b>11:30a</b> Youth Group	<b>16</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>5:45p</b> Yoga <b>6:00p</b> Sophie's Cafe <b>7:00p</b> HCC rehearsal	<b>17</b> <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> <b>11:45a</b> Women's Book Study <b>1:00p</b> Staff meeting 4:00p Benevolence 4:00p Moderator's meeting 5:30p Pancake Supper 5:30p Board meetings 	<b>18</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <b>3:45p</b> Study Connection <b>5:15p</b> Bible Study <b>7:00p</b> Worship 	<b>19</b> <b>5:30p</b> PJs	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> <b>8:00a</b> Chapel Communion <b>8:30a</b> Hospitality <b>9:00a</b> Sanct. Singers <b>9:00a</b> Christian Educ. <b>10:00a</b> Worship <b>11:30a</b> Youth Group <b>11:30a</b> Plymouth Brunch Bunch @Hall's	<b>23</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>5:45p</b> Yoga <b>6:00p</b> Sophie's Cafe <b>7:00p</b> HCC rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>1:00p</b> Staff meeting	<b>25</b> <i>WNL</i> <b>3:45p</b> Study Connection <b>5:15p</b> Bible Study <b>5:45p</b> Dinner <b>6:30p</b> Handbell Ensemble <b>6:45p</b> Small Group Study <b>7:15p</b> Sanctuary Singers	<b>26</b> <b>6:00p</b> Cedars Board	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>



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

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Green Greetings, Plymouth!

As a congregation committed to better environmental stewardship, the Environmental Stewardship Committee will be introducing TOM for the new year. Please be prepared to meet and joyfully welcome TOM into your lives for 2015!

### Looking for our email addresses?

**Senior Pastor and Teacher**  
jpg@plymouthfw.org

**Associate Pastor**  
rep@plymouthfw.org

**Associate in Pastoral Care**  
c2cftwayne@gmail.com

**Music Director**  
robert@maestronance.com

**Youth Director**  
kkjaurigue@frontier.com

**Office Manager**  
lme@plymouthfw.org

**Secretary/Communications Associate**  
sls@plymouthfw.org

**Financial Administrator**  
financial@plymouthfw.org

**Custodian**  
maintenance@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.**