

FALL 2019 PROGRAMMING AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH



Discovering the Good Gift of
F•R•I•E•N•D•S•H•I•P



Plymouth
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship • connect • Grow • serve

I Have called you F•R•I•E•N•D•S

"I have called you friends." That is what Jesus says to his disciples on his last night with them. And I think, if we really start to unpack this one short statement, we would find an entire theology. Who is God? Who are we? What is the purpose of human life? And what is the church all about?

In a word: Friends.

God formed us for friendship. God calls us into friendship with God and with one another. The church is a circle of friends, a place set aside to cultivate friendship with Jesus and friendship with one another.

So, all through the fall, we will explore the good gift of friendship. Starting in September and running right through the end of November, our worship services will invite us to ponder the practice of friendship. Sermons will consider topics like Friendship as a Spiritual Gift, Conflict in Friendship, Intergenerational Friendships and Friendship in the Facebook era.

But I am not content to preach at people on the subject of friendship; I want to invite you into the conversation. That is why, every Wednesday, I will be making time and space to talk about friendship. In my Wednesday morning Bible study (9:30 in the Greenwood Room), we will look at the Scripture text for the upcoming weekend's worship and discuss its insights on friendship. Then, over the lunch hour (12:15-12:45 p.m.), bring your lunch and join me in

Waveland Hall for a lively conversation. I am calling it "Friendship as a Spiritual Practice" and I have developed an entire syllabus for it. (Watch the website for more information).

In addition to this conversation, we will focus a little more intensely on one particularly difficult aspect of friendship these days: making and keeping friends across our political and theological differences. You know the challenges because you are most likely living with them. The polarization in our culture makes it harder to maintain friendships with people who do not share our political perspective. And church can be especially hard.

But my friend Allen Hilton has a different vision. In his book "A House United: How the Church Can Save the World," he invites us to see the church as a place where people can come together and form deep relationships, even (maybe especially) when they disagree. This fall, Allen will preach twice at Plymouth and facilitate some workshops that will offer some very concrete opportunities for us to practice friendship across disagreement.

Jesus calls us friends. And I am eager to learn more about that together. Don't miss the conversation – this fall at Plymouth Church!

Grace and Peace,

Matt Mardis-LeCroy

Table of Contents

Fall Lectionary	2	Plymouth Women’s Adventure Groups	10
Special Guest, Allen Hilton	3-4	Service and Outreach	11
Adult Education	5-6	Special Worship and Events	12
Wednesdays are for Church	7-8	Music and Fine Arts	13
Plymouth Young Adults	8	Being a Welcoming Church	14
Living WOW! For “Oldering” Adults	9	Fellowship and Personal Growth	15
Nine to Dine	10	Care for Each Other	15
		Self-Reflection and Study Resources . . .	17-18

Fall Lectionary

Sept. 7/8:

John 15:12-17
I Have Called You Friends

Sept. 14/15:

Ruth 1:1-22
Friendship as a Spiritual Gift

Sept. 21/22:

John 17:20-23 and Jeremiah 29:4-7
Allen Hilton: How the Church Can Save the World

Sept. 28/29:

Acts 15:36-41
With Friends Like These: Frenemies and Conflict

Oct. 5/6:

Genesis 16:1-14
Cross Cultural Friendships
 World Communion

Oct. 12/13:

1 Corinthians 12:4-27 and Luke 6:12-16
Allen Hilton: House United

Oct. 19/20:

Genesis 29:1-30
“It’s Complicated”: Friendship in the Facebook Era

Oct. 26/27:

Galatians 2:15-21
Saved by Friends Alone? Confronting the Myth of Friendship

Nov. 2/3:

1 Samuel 3
Intergenerational Friendships

Nov. 9/10:

Mark 3:13-19
Love and Loss in Friendship

Nov. 16/17:

Luke 12:13-21
The Loneliness of Affluence

Nov. 23/24:

Luke 17:11-19
Friendship as an Act of Gratitude

Plymouth Welcomes Special Guest, Allen Hilton

Hello, Plymouth Church Friends.

What if I told you that the solution to what ails American culture is a single, brief prayer of Jesus?

Intrigued? The prayer I'm thinking about is little-known, but it's one of the most beautiful prayers in the Gospels. With some of his last words with the disciples, Jesus prayed,

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one."

(John 17:20)

The UCC actually uses the last five words as a denominational slogan. Unfortunately, though, Christians across history and to the present have largely ignored this prayer. "ONE" hardly describes a movement that has hatched the Inquisitions, the bloody Protestant-Catholic wars of Europe, and, in our time, the American Culture Wars. As we head into an election year, conservative and progressive Christians are at each other's throats again. Such a history can make us hopeless.

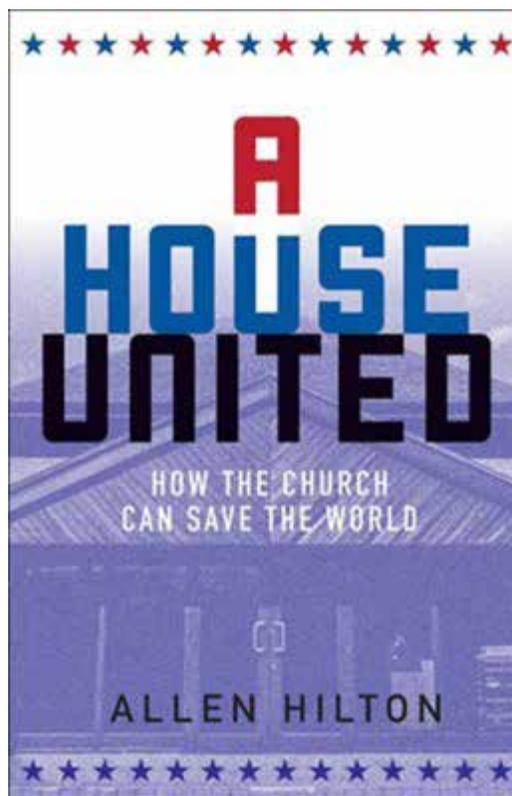
But here's the beautiful truth: the God of creation and resurrection has done much larger things than uniting a polarized land.

- Imagine American Christians taking this prayer to heart in our polarized land.
- Imagine the Christian left and right talking courageously about the most difficult issues.
- Imagine your church capitalizing on the best parts of a conservative instinct and the best parts of a progressive one to become a whole church.

Then imagine folks around Des Moines saying, "I don't know what else those people do at Plymouth Church, but they sure know how to talk with one another. Maybe they can help us."

I'm very excited to be among you as we imagine such glories this fall. Between now and then, you have one small bit of homework: each day, pray Jesus' prayer "that WE all may be ONE." See you soon! Meantime...

Peace.
allen



Allen Hilton Events: Watch Church Publications for details

GUEST SERMONS

Sept. 21 & 22

Jeremiah 29:4-7; John 17:20-23

Oct. 12 & 13

1 Corinthians 12:4-27; Luke 6:12-16

BEING CHRISTIAN DURING A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Sept. 22, 10:10 a.m. Fellowship Forum & 12:30 p.m.

During in an election season, tensions rise in a family, neighborhood, church, city, and nation. We all need strategies that bring us together across our differences, but our emotions run hot when the subject turns to politics. Join Dr. Allen Hilton after worship on Sunday, Sept. 22, as we look straight at our American problem and learn how to love one another despite our disagreements – even to make our differences an asset rather than a threat.



HOW THE CHURCH CAN SAVE THE WORLD

Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-Noon.

We live in a land divided by increasingly vicious political tribalism with record levels of polarization. Yet, Jesus commanded his disciples to “love one another as I’ve loved you” and prayed “that they all may be one.” How can Christians come together across our differences and help our republic learn to be “a more perfect union?” How can we live into these ideas at Plymouth Church?

BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Allen R. Hilton, Ph.D., is the author of “A House United: How the Church Can Save the World” and the Exec. Dir. of a non-profit he founded called House United. He travels the nation 40 weeks a year to help people and organizations collaborate and build community across religious and political divisions and treat political difference as an asset rather than a threat. Allen is a former Yale New Testament professor and has continued his teaching ministry from the pastoral staffs of four large Christian churches across the country. He lives in Austin, TX with his wife, Liz, and his teenage sons, Sam and Isaac.

Opportunities to Learn and Grow

FRIENDSHIP AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE WITH MATT MARDIS-LECROY

Wednesdays 12:15-12:45, Sept. 11-Nov. 20

Can friendship be considered a spiritual practice? Can conversation about friendship be theologically informed? In a world of Facebook “friends,” how do we make and keep actual friends? In Friendship as a Spiritual Practice, we will explore these questions together. Bring your lunch and join Plymouth’s Senior Minister in Waveland Hall for life-changing conversations.

In September, we will talk about biblical and theological perspectives on friendship. In October, we will read and discuss Allen Hilton’s “A House United,” asking how the church can bring people together across the partisan divide. And, in November, we will turn to more practical questions: how can making and keeping friends be seen as a spiritual practice? All are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY WITH THE SENIOR MINISTER

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Greenwood Room

Join Matt Mardis-LeCroy for study and conversation about the upcoming weekend’s scripture. Bring your Bible, if you have one, along with your curiosity and questions.

BYOB WITH MARY KATE (BIBLES THAT IS...)

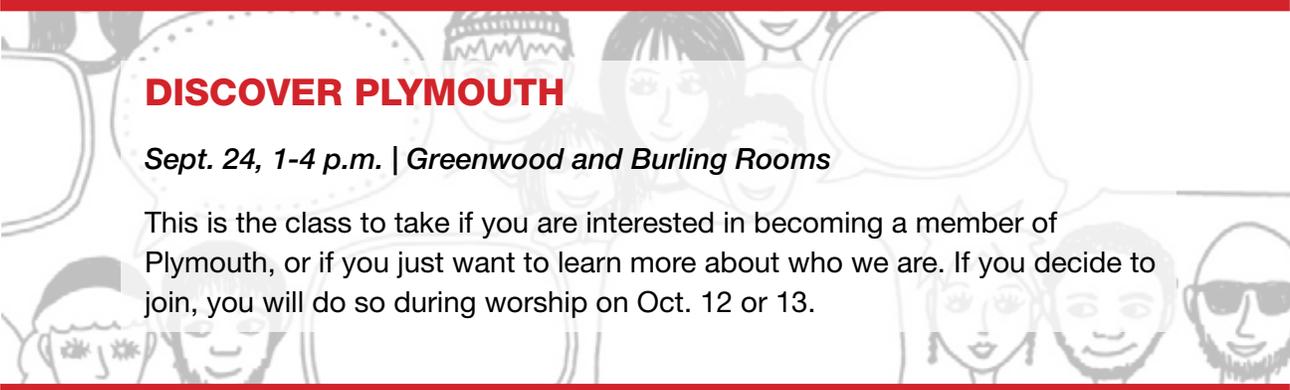
Wednesdays 7-8 p.m., Sept. 11-Nov. 13 | Greenwood Room

This evening class will include an in-depth discussion of the upcoming weekend’s scripture. What words pop out at you? What is the Spirit placing on your heart through this text? What implications does this text have for 21st century readers? For Plymouth UCC? Are you challenged by this scripture? Enlivened? Enraged? Join Mary Kate Buchanan for a weekly open discussion of this ancient library of poems, letters, and stories we call: The Bible.

FELLOWSHIP FORUM

Sundays, 10:10 a.m. | Greenwood Room

Each Sunday morning Plymouth members gather to ask questions, relate our faith to events in the world, and engage in special topics. This forum is led by senior minister, Matt Mardis-LeCroy.



DISCOVER PLYMOUTH

Sept. 24, 1-4 p.m. | Greenwood and Burling Rooms

This is the class to take if you are interested in becoming a member of Plymouth, or if you just want to learn more about who we are. If you decide to join, you will do so during worship on Oct. 12 or 13.

FILM SCREENING – AMERICA FIRST: LEGACY OF AN IMMIGRATION RAID

Friday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. | Waveland Hall

Fundraising event for Justice for Our Neighbors, sponsored by Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and Plymouth’s Welcoming Migrants Committee. Suggested donation is \$10, free childcare available.

OWL – OUR WHOLE LIVES FACILITATOR TRAINING

Oct. 4-6

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, and improves decision making. We are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for children and youth here at Plymouth Church. Volunteer facilitators are needed to deliver the OWL curriculum. Plymouth will host a training for OWL facilitators Oct. 4-6. If you would like to attend, please submit an application by Sept. 10. Applications can be found in the church office or online at <https://tinyurl.com/PlymouthOWL>. Contact Nikira Hernandez-Evans, nhernandez-evans@plymouthchurch.com if you have questions.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS AND TRADITION

Nov. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. | Greenwood Room

Over the weekend of Nov. 22-24, Plymouth will offer three performances of “The Thanksgiving Play,” a one-act satirical comedy about four white people trying to devise a politically correct First Thanksgiving play for Native American Heritage Month to be done in the schools. On Nov. 20, we will preview a part of this play and engage in discussion about our own struggles to honor traditions in light of new truth, as well as the use of story and satire to illumine difficult conversation topics.

Wednesdays are for Church

If you're a parent, you probably already know that Wednesdays are busy and hectic at Plymouth Church. This year, we are adding some features that we hope will make life easier while at the same time, expanding opportunities for adults to join in the fun.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Plymouth is very pleased to bring back Wednesday night dinners to make sure all of the busy kids and adults can enjoy their activities fed and nourished. These meals will be available on Wednesday nights beginning Sept. 11 through Nov. 20 and resume again after the Thanksgiving break.

The meals will be very simple, but nutritious and inexpensive with both vegetarian and gluten-free options available. (As we learn how many people to serve and more about their preferences, we will work to expand the options further.) They will be served in Waveland I from 5:45-6:45 p.m. The cost will be \$5/person or no more than \$20 per family. Cash or check would be appreciated. We cannot accept credit cards.

CHILDCARE

We are also pleased to offer childcare most Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. for children up to the age of 5. If you want to make sure childcare is offered on a particular Wednesday, please contact Lindsey Vanfleet at vanfleetlindsey@gmail.com.

COFFEE SHOP

Once again, Plymouth Grounds will be open on Wednesday evenings from 4-7 p.m. beginning Sept. 11.

WEDNESDAY RUN-DOWN

9:30-10:30 a.m.	Bible Study with Matt Mardis-LeCroy
12:15-12:45 p.m.	Friendship as a Spiritual Practice with Matt Mardis-LeCroy
4:45-5:45 p.m.	Youth Conversations and Connections
5:15-6 p.m.	Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 6 Choirs
6-7 p.m.	Youth Dinner in Youth Room
6-7 p.m.	4th-6th Grade Hand Chime Choir
6:10-6:50 p.m.	Soul Singers
6:15-6:45 p.m.	Special Music Ensembles (three-week terms)
6:15-8 p.m.	Plymouth Young Adult Dinner and Program
7-8:30 p.m.	Confirmation
7-8 p.m.	Matins
7-8 p.m.	Adult Bible Study: BYOB with Mary Kate Buchanan (Bibles, that is!)
8-9 p.m.	Special Music Ensembles (three-week terms)

Dinner 5:45-6:45 p.m. | Waveland I
Cash or Check Only

MY Fall **Wednesday** Schedule at PLYMOUTH!

SEPT. 11

18

25

OCT. 2

9

23

30

NOV. 6

13

20

OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE SERVICE AND GRACE

As you can see from the schedule above, people might be hurried and dashing from thing to thing at church on Wednesdays. Also, we don't have lots of extra space, so some space sharing/adjacency is going to be required to make this all work.

Therefore, we ask for your patience and understanding when space and time gets tight. And if it looks like someone could use a hand, by all means, offer to help. It will be appreciated. Let's make Wednesdays into CHURCH night by bringing all of our grace with us, as well as our appetites to learn and connect.

Plymouth Young Adults

(PYA, also Plymouth 20/30)



Want to connect, grow, and serve with other young adults? Plymouth has organized a variety of opportunities. Of particular interest this fall will be the topic of friendship, especially how to make and keep friends across political and theological divides as well as through changes at various stages of life.

The fall session will begin on Sept. 18 with plans for all Wednesday nights through Nov. 20. New programming will begin after Thanksgiving.

Gather with other young adults for dinner in Waveland Hall from 6:15-6:45 p.m. (see page 7) followed by learning and conversation from 7-8 p.m.

SERVICE

On Thursday, Nov. 14, join other PYAs to participate in the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church at 5:15-6 p.m. and/or 6-8:30 p.m.

Urban Bicycle Food Ministry is a nonprofit with chapters in many cities which distribute food and supplies to those experiencing homelessness or food insecurity. At 5:15, volunteers will be cooking burritos, sorting clothing, and packaging supplies. From 6:00 to 8:30, volunteer bikers and drivers will distribute these items. Please join us for either the preparation shift, the distribution shift, or both to serve those in need in our community.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEARNING AND CONVERSATION SCHEDULE (Meetings are in the Burling Room unless noted otherwise)

Sept. 18	Kick Off and Orientation <i>Welcome, Fall Schedule and Logistics, Updates, Childcare</i>
Sept. 25-Oct. 9	<i>House United Series</i> (see pages 3-4) PYA will spend three weeks exploring and discussing the work Allen Hilton is doing at Plymouth
Oct. 16	Bible Study <i>It's Complicated: Friendship in the Facebook Era</i> Greenwood Room with Mary Kate Buchanan
Oct. 23-Nov. 6	<i>Intergenerational Perspectives on Friendship</i> PYA will spend three weeks meeting with older members of the church to share stories and discuss different perspectives on friendship
Nov. 13	Bible Study <i>The Loneliness of Affluence</i> Greenwood Room with Mary Kate Buchanan
Nov. 20	Political Correctness and Tradition (see page 6) Greenwood Room

The logo for "Living WOW!" features the word "WOW!" in a large, bold, black font with a white outline, set against a purple, starburst-like background. The word "Living" is in a smaller, black font to the left of "WOW!".

Living **WOW!** - for "Oldering" Adults

A favorite verse in Scripture is John 10:10. It is in this verse that we hear Jesus say that he is among us so that "we might have life and live it abundantly." WOW! What a promise we have from God! Not just life, but abundant life!

God's promise is not just for some people...it is for all people. And God's promise is not just for a certain period in life...it is for every day of life, no matter if you are 9 or 90 years old. WOW!

Living WOW stands for: Living Well, Oldering Well.

Now, we know that you are thinking, "Oldering" isn't a word. We know...we made it up! And we made up the word because every day, every one of us is getting older, and none of us really know how to do it. Every day is an experience and an adventure and we are all making it up as we go along. So, a made up word seems to fit!

Programming under the "Living WOW" moniker is open to everyone, but especially those who are 55 and up. But don't let that stop you from attending an event if you are interested in the topic...every age is always welcome.

**Living, WOW! Events will be held on
Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. beginning
Thursday, Sept. 19.**

**Watch Current Happenings and
other church publications for details.**

INTERGENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON FRIENDSHIP

Wednesdays, Oct. 23-Nov. from 7-8 p.m.

Join Plymouth Young Adults for three weeks this fall to share stories and discuss different perspectives on friendship. This intergenerational series is sure to enhance the "friendship" sermon series.

LIVING WOW! + NINE TO DINE

Interested in a lunch or daytime Nine to Dine group? You can indicate that on your Nine to Dine registration form and we will do our best to put together a group.

WEDNESDAY BRIDGE GROUP

12:30-3:30 p.m.

Join other Plymouth members to play Bridge on Wednesday afternoons. Reservations are needed. Call, text, or email Patsy Goetz at 515. 865.8504 or plgoetz@gmail.com.

Contact LeAnn Stubbs or Mary Kate Buchanan for more information.

connection

NINE TO DINE

Nine to Dine is a great way to grow in love of God and neighbor over some delicious food! Registration began Sept. 1 and will continue until Sept. 30. Watch for sign-up sheets during worship in September.

Nine to Dine was established more than 25 years ago at Plymouth as an opportunity to help members get to know one another on a more personal level. Interested members are formed into groups of nine and arrange their own meeting schedule. Most groups will meet 6-8 times a year beginning in October through June, though there is nothing stopping groups that would like to continue into the summer months.

When you sign-up, you can indicate your preference for a group that rotates its meetings in each other's homes, or select a group that meets out at restaurants. Again, each group mutually agrees on the meeting days and times.

For more information contact Sarah Masengarb, 515.255.3149, ext. 33, smasengarb@plymouth-church.com

PLYMOUTH WOMEN'S ADVENTURE GROUPS (PWAG)

Adventure groups are for women of all ages, life stages and interests seeking safe, liberating adventures to enhance their mind, body or spirit. Women in their 80's as well as in their 20's have enjoyed PWAG.

Participants are placed into groups of about eight women according to their self-selected activity and monetary comfort levels as entered on their enrollment forms. Groups commit to attend eight self-planned adventures over the following year and include acts of kindness and spiritual moments as tangible expressions of God's grace.

Online registration began Sept. 1 and will run through Sept. 23. You may also pick up a registration form in the Church Office.

The Kick-Off event for enrolled participants of PWAG is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Waveland Hall from 7-9 p.m. Childcare is provided for anyone who needs it.

If you have questions, please contact Erin Osier, 515.868.6067, erin.osier@gmail.com.

Service and Outreach

CLIMATE ACTION WORKSHOP WITH DR. TRAVIS FRANCK

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1-4 p.m. | Waveland Hall

This interactive discussion workshop, sponsored by the Plymouth Creation, Care, & Justice Coalition, will provide attendees with a better understanding of the effects of policies and tactics used to address climate change as evaluated using the en-ROADS Climate Solution Simulator. En-ROADS was developed by Climate Interactive and has been used by the United Nations and other climate leaders around the world to shape climate policies.

Dr. Travis Franck is a Program Director for Climate Interactive (and the son of Plymouth members, Jan and Greg Franck). Dr. Franck is currently leading Climate Interactive's efforts to apply interactive decision support tools to understand how climate change impacts agriculture and people's livelihoods. Climate Interactive is a non-profit organization that helps people see what works to address climate change and related issues like energy, health, food security, and disaster reduction.

WELCOMING MIGRANTS COMMITTEE

This committee meets on the second Thursday of each month from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Peace Conference Room. They also engage in monthly outreach efforts. On the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, Plymouth members can volunteer at the Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Clinic. Contact Janet Rosenbury for more information, rosenbury@mchsi.com. And on the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until noon and again from noon until 2 p.m. volunteers are also needed to help at the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Green Card Clinics. For more information, contact Nancy Anderson, nanders@mchsi.com.

ONGOING SERVICE AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

Family Promise

Plymouth hosts a family experiencing homelessness four times each year and volunteers are always welcome. Watch church publications for contact information

RENEW Family Literacy

Teach English and build relationships with refugees. Contact plymouthrenew@gmail.com.

AMOS

Plymouth participates with other area churches in A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS). AMOS uses relational organizing to engage church members in various issues of concern in our public life in Iowa. Contact amosplymouth@gmail.com

SPECIAL WORSHIP and EVENTS

**PLYMOUTH BRASS
WILL BE WITH US FOR WORSHIP
ON SEPT. 8 AND NOV. 24**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Plymouth pet parents and families, plan to bring your furry family members to the 5th annual Pet Blessing service on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. The event will be held on the front lawn (Ingersoll Avenue side) of the church. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the church gymnasium. All animals are welcome as long as they are either on a leash or caged. You do not need to be a Plymouth member to attend, so invite your neighbors and friends the next time you are out walking your dog!

We understand some pets are not comfortable in a group setting with other animals, but you can still participate by bringing a picture of your pet with you to the Pet Blessing. We also encourage those families who have experienced the loss of a beloved furry family member to bring a photo of their pet to be honored at a special memorial table.

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

– a satirical look at Thanksgiving traditions.

This one-act play by Larissa FastHorse is a satirical story about four white people trying to devise a politically correct First Thanksgiving play for Native American Heritage Month to be done in the schools. Performances will be on Nov. 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

6 p.m., Sanctuary

Join Matt and Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy for a brief service featuring music and reflections on gratitude.

Music and Fine Arts

CONCERTS:

Oct. 18 7 p.m. Waveland Hall	Damani Phillips Anti-Racism Presentation and Concert
Nov. 3 4 p.m. Sanctuary	Des Moines Gamer Symphony Orchestra Concert
Dec. 7 7 p.m. Sanctuary	Handel's Messiah—Part I Chancel Choir and others plus orchestra (see below for your chance to participate)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSICIANS

Messiah Choir: You are invited to join the Chancel Choir to perform Handel's Messiah on Dec. 7. To join, contact Chris Goodson, cgoodson@plymouthchurch.com. You will need to commit to both workshops and seven of nine Thursday night rehearsals as follows:

- **Messiah Workshops:** 9 a.m.-Noon on Sept. 21 and Nov. 9
- **Thursday Rehearsals:** 7-7:45 p.m. on Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Nov. 7, 14, 21
- **Final Rehearsal:** 7:15-8:45 p.m. on Dec. 5
- **Performance and Warm-Up:** 5:45 p.m. on Dec. 7

Short-Term Music Ensembles: You are invited to join four different ensembles that will meet and rehearse for three weeks and then perform during worship. The opportunities are:

- **Matins Parents' Choir** will practice from 6:15-6:45 p.m. on Sept. 11, 18, & 25. Sing in worship on Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. (contact Chris Goodson, cgoodson@plymouthchurch.com)
- **Matins Ensemble** will practice from 6:15-6:45 p.m. on Oct. 2, 9, & 16. Sing in worship on Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. (contact Susan Waller, swaller@plymouthchurch.com)
- **Plymouth Singers** will practice from 8-9 p.m. on Sept. 11, 18, & 25. Sing in worship on Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. (contact Chris Goodson, cgoodson@plymouthchurch.com)
- **Plymouth Instrumental Ensemble** will practice from 8-9 p.m. on Oct. 2, 9, & 16. Play in worship on Oct. 20 at 9 and 11 a.m. (contact Chris Goodson, cgoodson@plymouthchurch.com)

Welcome: Something We Can All Do

How special it is to come to worship and know you are among friends.

Belonging and friendship starts with each of us – with saying hello, introducing ourselves, and learning each other’s names. This may seem like a small thing, but all of our small gestures contribute to the sense of welcome and connection we give to each other and especially to our visitors and our new members.

1. Please Wear Your Name Badge –

Plymouth is a big place and we inevitably meet or encounter each other in a variety of settings around the church without always knowing or remembering a name. Wearing our name badges during worship helps us all connect faces with names. If you need a new name badge, please contact Sarah Masengarb, smasengarb@plymouthchurch.com.

2. **Use the Sign-In Sheets** – On Sunday mornings these are provided in the red-covered friendship pads and on Saturday evenings these are set out on the tables. Like name badges, these sheets are a way for those sitting near you to learn your name and for you to learn theirs.

3. **Stay for Post-Worship Fellowship** – On Sunday mornings following both services there are refreshments and coffee available in Waveland Hall to accompany a time for informal conversation. On Saturday evenings, refreshments are provided during worship, and you are welcome to linger for conversation. Please be mindful of how intimidating it can be to enter a room for the first time as a new person and take a few minutes to introduce yourself to new people and make them feel welcome.



COFFEE SHOP

Plymouth Grounds is a great place to meet up with church friends. It’s open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m.-noon.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

Meets the fourth Tuesday of every month except December and July at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Greenwood Room.

Ongoing Opportunities to Connect and Learn

FELLOWSHIP AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Women in Spiritual Exploration (WISE)

Weekly spiritual growth every Thursday
from 7-8 a.m.

Contact Scarlet Lunning, slhuey@gmail.com

All Men Exploring New Spirituality (AMENS)

Weekly gathering on Tuesday mornings at
6:45 a.m.

Contact Cecil Goettsch, cecilg@mchsi.com

Faithful Readers

Meets the fourth Thursday of each month
at 7 p.m. to discuss novels, poems, and
other literature.

Contact Jean Nelson,
jnelson@nelsonequity.com

Lunch and Learn

Third Thursday of each month, Sept. – May
12:15 p.m. in Waveland Hall

Gather for fellowship and a presentation
from people doing interesting things in our
church or in the community. Details can
be found in the Current Happenings.

Reservations are required by the Tuesday
before each lunch.

Willits Committee

Promotes a safe environment for LGBTQ
people to explore faith.

Contact Jared Walter, jwalter3@gmail.com

CARE FOR EACH OTHER

Stephen Ministry

A new class is forming soon! You will be
trained to walk with a member experiencing
a difficult time.

Contact LeAnn Stubbs for more information,
lstubbs@plymouthchurch.com

Flower Delivery Team

Deliver flowers to members who are
homebound or need a boost. You can do
this one time or as many times as you
would like.

Contact Dian Meek, bdmeek@hotmail.com

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Plymouth also has groups that meet at church
for yoga, Tai Chi, line dancing, knitting and
quilting. You are welcome to join these groups
at any time. Please contact Karen Jeske for
details, kjeske@plymouthchurch.com.

Fall Reflection & Study

We are all being invited to grow this fall into a deeper understanding of what it means to be a friend and how to relate to one another across differences. If you would like to explore these topics on your own, we offer these resources and ideas for your own reflection and study.

Brave Space

by Micky ScottBey Jones

Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space”
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But
It will be our brave space together,
and
We will work on it side by side

Things to look up in your favorite web browser:

“How Covenants Make Us”
New York Times Column
by David Brooks

“The Power of Vulnerability”
TED Talk
by Brene Brown

Reflection Questions:

- Who was the most important friend from your childhood? Who is your most important friend today? What are the gifts these friends brought to your life? What gifts did you give in return?
- Who is the last new friend you made and how did that friendship come about?
- When was the last time you welcomed an enemy into your prayers?
- What if that adversary of yours isn't full of deceit? Could something else be at play? Is it a good time to do the hardwork of assuming good intentions?
- What is your question for this season in life?

There are hundreds, probably thousands, of books and movies that highlight friendships. Here are some staff favorites:

BOOKS

- Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age by Sherry Turkle
- Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore (also a movie)

NOVELS:

- Tuesdays with Morrie (also a movie)
- Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner
- Neapolitan Novels by Elena Ferrante
- Inspector Gamache series by Louise Penny
- The Gown by Jennifer Robson
- The Gifted School by Bruce Holsinger
- The Lido by Libby Page

OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS:

- Anne of Green Gables
- The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
- Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (also a movie)
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower
- Harry Potter series (also movies)
- Looking for Alaska by John Green
- Giant Days, series of graphic novels by John Allison

FILMS:

- Stand by Me
- It's a Wonderful Life
- The Shawshank Redemption
- Babette's Feast
- The Breakfast Club
- Fried Green Tomatoes
- Remember the Titans
- 50/50



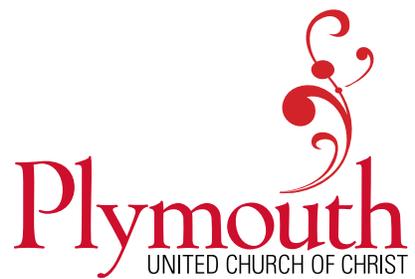
What are some of your favorites?

FOR CHILDREN:

- The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat

BOOKS AND MOVIES FOR ALL AGES:

- The Peanuts Cartoon series by Charles M. Schultz
- Toy Story movies
- Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne
- Christopher Robin movie



4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312 | 515.255.3149 | plymouthchurch.com

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