PLYMOUTH VBS 2019

Join us June 23-27 as we blast off To Mars and Beyond!

Through this exciting journey we will explore the wonders of God’s universe and God’s power at work within us. Robot EP3-20 will help us learn more about Ephesians 3:20 “Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by God’s power at work within us!” Each day we will be sent on a mission to collect a different element from the galaxy. By studying different stories in the Bible we will gather faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness and hope.

Ages 3-7th grade are invited to join us as voyagers through various exciting activities including worship, storytelling, science, art, music, cooperative games, and mission activities. We’ll be using puppets, motors, glow sticks and more! Everyone will start out and end up together in worship but in between they will participate in activities geared to their age group.

8th grade through adults are encouraged to join in by volunteering. You can volunteer to help with music, skits, dinner, set up, tear down, decorating, lead a small group or activity station, and more. There really will be something for everyone and we need you to help us make this an incredible experience for our children. Childcare will be provided for those under age three.

Registration is available online at plymouthchurch.com/events. The cost will be $5 per child or $10 per family. Again this year, we will be asking that a parent or family adult sign up to volunteer for registration to be complete.

VBS is a great way for people of all ages to come together to learn more about God, their church community and themselves. Dinner will be served from 4:45-5:30 p.m. VBS is from 5:30-7 p.m. Contact Mindy Borgstadt at mborgstadt@plymouthchurch.com with questions.

Join us and Go Beyond- with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope!
Summer is such a gift—a time to stretch and do things a little differently.

Just consider what this summer will bring for Plymouth Church:

Creation Care. As God's people, we are Rooted in Creation. This summer we are going to dig a little deeper into that idea. From June 16 through July 14, our worship will explore the theological importance of our connection to the creation and our call to care for it.

Friendship. You don’t need me to point out the irony: in our hyper-connected world, too many of us are too isolated. During the second half of the summer (July 28-September 1), we explore the theme of friendship in the Bible. What does it look like? Why does it matter? And what can the friendships in Scripture teach us about our own relationships?

Vacation Bible School. To Mars and Beyond! From June 23-27, our summer VBS will invite students (ages three through 7th grade) will explore the wonder of God's universe through storytelling, science, art, music, games and so much more. And we will need a lot of volunteers, so I hope you will help out!

Summer Vespers. Looking for a chance to take a break and feed your soul? Thursdays in July (11, 18 and 25) you can us in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. for Summer Vespers.

Summer Musical. This is exciting! On Sunday, July 21, our worship will feature The Lord Will Provide, an original musical written by David Ruhe and performed by Plymouth’s youth and the Saturday Night Band. We have done one of David’s musicals in worship before, and it was fantastic. You won't want to miss this one!

Adult Education. Be on the lookout for opportunities to discuss and learn together. I will continue my Wednesday morning Bible study (9:30 a.m. at the church) through the summer. We will prepare for each weekend of worship by discussing the Scripture reading. If you have always wondered about Bible study, summer may be a great to come check it out! Plus, Nikira Hernandez-Evans will be leading a group study of Robin Wall Kimmerer’s Braiding Sweetgrass. As a botanist and as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kimmerer blends scientific insight and indigenous wisdom to remind us about the interwoven nature of all life. All are welcome to join in the reading and conversation!

And in the midst of all this unusual activity, we will do the things that Plymouth usually does. We will have year-end potlucks and regular board meetings. We will marry people, and bury people, and baptize people. We will sing and pray and play together. We will catch up over a cup of coffee in Waveland Hall.

In short, we will share life. But it just won't be the same without you. Come share life with us this summer at Plymouth Church!
Plymouth Food Pantry

Sunday School is out, but the work of the Food Pantry continues. Since October, our Committee is proud to have donated over $8,200 in cash and over $1,100 in-kind. Of the cash donations, almost $700 was donated via our virtual food drive page: https://www.dmarcunited.org/donate/virtual-drive/plymouth/.

However, we still have a long way to go to accomplish our goal by Sept. 30. During the remaining four months of the drive, we need to raise an additional $9,200 (in cash and/or in-kind). That will get us back to 2016 Plymouth donation levels, which is what DMARC is hoping we reach. Our hope is that during the summer months, families will go to the virtual drive and let their children pick the number of apples, cereal boxes, peanut butter jars or canned fruit to give to the community. By doing so, we achieve a “win-win” for all involved: the kids grow in love of God and Neighbor and our neighbors receive the healthy food they need during a time of year when donations typically decrease.

From a Committee standpoint, we always are looking for ways to improve! For example, a member of the Welcome Migrants Committee approached us to request that we expand our list of items to includes foods that are needed by refugees, including things like coconut milk, beans, lentils, dates, figs, and spices. We hope to include these items in our virtual food drive soon to help meet the demand. In the meantime, feel free to drop items like these by our food collection bins this summer and we happily will take them to DMARC.

We are grateful for the congregation’s continued support and generosity, and know DMARC is, too. We continue to build a positive working relationship with DMARC and hope to have their staff visit Plymouth this fall to talk about the impact we make in our community—including an opportunity for them to talk with the children!

Welcoming Migrants Committee
New Pilot Project

The Welcoming Migrants Committee in partnership with the DMARC Food Pantry and Lutheran Service of Iowa Global Greens has started a one year pilot project whereby the Welcoming Migrants Committee has purchased two ‘Abundant Boxes’ from the Global Greens Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that will be donated to the DMARC Food Pantry, who has a goal of providing more fresh produce to their clients. Once a week for 18 weeks, between May 28 and Sept. 24, a member from the Welcoming Migrants Committee will pick up the produce from LSI in the afternoon and deliver it to the DMARC’s main location downtown. The produce, which was grown by refugees on small farms in central Iowa, will consist of a variety of between six to ten common vegetables that grow well in Iowa, and most weeks it will include a vegetable or two that are popular in the farmer’s native country. Once delivered to DMARC, they will refrigerate it overnight and then disburse it the next morning to their sites which have the highest demand for it.

This seems like a drop in the bucket of the food that DMARC takes in and distributes on a regular basis, however DMARC, Global Greens, and the Welcoming Migrants Committee are all very excited about the potential for growing this project community wide next year, which would be a way to help multiple groups at the same time, including refugee farmers working hard to make their living and people in our community who are food insecure and need healthy foods to be part of their diet. Stay tuned for updates throughout the year!
With these words, Muslim artist Denira Valjevcic concludes her Artist’s Statement for the current exhibition in Plymouth Art Gallery. The title of the exhibition is an echo of her faith; \textit{No god but God}. 

In a recent book, 	extit{Arabs} by Tim Mackintosh-Smith, the Arabic language is described as “rich, strange, subtle, suavely hypnotic, magically persuasive” and “the catalyst of a larger Arab identity.” And he identifies more than 2,000 English words of Arabic origin.

Building on such a rich artistic history and personal faith, Denira Valjevcic creates art of messages and beauty, graphically and decoratively. Each work communicates a single message from The Qur’an, Islam’s Sacred Writings, or from other tenets of Islamic faith and tradition.

Her calligraphy reinforces the description of the Arabic language, in flowing, interconnected, visually moving ways.

Denira Valjevcic was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia, eight years after the beauty of the Olympics and one year before the violence escalated, resulting in the collapse of Yugoslavia. In 2000 her family migrated to the United States.

As part of her exhibition, a brochure featuring more material and images has been prepared by the Gallery Committee, which includes a description of Islam by Plymouth member Tim Knapper, originally for the Interfaith Chapel. Copies are also available of the many words for God/Allah, used during recitation of the Islamic Rosary, to be found in the Hymnal used by the Plymouth Congregation, page 361. Both are available in the literature racks.
CURRENT HAPPENINGS

ALL CHURCH SUMMER BOOK READ
Robin Wall Kimmerer is a fantastically gifted storyteller who blends indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge in her reflection on family, history, and the natural world. Braiding Sweetgrass offers a theology of interconnection that invites us to commune with and as part of the sacred in the natural world. Kimmerer’s gentle wisdom opens the doors for us to imagine a more loving, life-giving relationship with all of creation. Join us for a book study at Plymouth Church on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., June 5-July 10. Please read Part I: Planting Sweetgrass (pages 1-59) prior to our first meeting. Books can be purchased online from milkweed.org or from Beaverdale Books.

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP:
JULY 25-30
Sermons about Creation are good, but sometimes the wilderness speaks about God more eloquently than any preacher. This summer Plymouth will venture into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for an encounter with the gospel according to nature. We will take everything we need with us in our canoes for a six day journey. For more information, please email nhernandez-evans@plymouthchurch.com.

ORDINATION!
Join in celebrating Plymouth member Carla Cain’s Ordination to Christian Ministry. The simple service will take place on Pentecost in Plymouth’s sanctuary on Sunday, June 9 at 5 p.m. and in the spirit of Vespers. All are welcome! Upon ordination, Carla will continue her work with the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. Congratulations and well wishes may be sent to the church, attn: Carla Cain. Please join us in celebrating and congratulating Carla!

HARPARTS CONCERTS
On June 2-9 Plymouth will welcome the HarpArts Music Retreat with a week of rehearsals, classes, lessons and performances, all about the harp! You are invited to join us for two concerts. On Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, the HarpArts faculty will perform a free concert featuring organ, harps and strings. On Saturday June 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, the retreat participants and faculty will present a harp ensemble program with music from multiple cultures. The concerts are free and open to the public.

A MINISTRY THAT MATTERS
If you have ever been on the grieving side of the equation of life (and who hasn’t) you know how much it means when someone offers you a smile or a cookie or a hug. And you also know that is one of the greatest gifts of being connected to a church. And this is why Plymouth has a Funeral Ministry Team. If you have ever attended a funeral or a memorial service here at Plymouth, you may have seen them doing their important work quietly in the background. These are the folks who help others find their way to the restroom, pass out Kleenex, and make sure pitchers of water are available.

The Funeral Ministry Team helps to set up the reception area, and makes sure that Plymouth is looking its best for the honored guests who will be in the building to mourn a family member or friend. They provide quiet assurance and comfort just by being present. They provide cookies. They make coffee. Small acts of kindness that add up to a whole lot. If you are interested in being part of a ministry team that makes a real difference in people’s lives, please be in touch with LeAnn Stubbs, lstubbs@plymouthchurch.com.

MEMORY CAFE
Memory Cafe happens 10-11 a.m. on the second Friday of the month (June 14 this month) in the Coffee Shop. If you or someone you love is living with memory loss, come join us for coffee and a social hour. Contact Dian Meek at 515.255.7220 for more information.

AMOS COMMUNITY MEETING
There will be a community meeting on Children’s Mental Healthcare in the suburbs at Walnut Hills United Methodist Church from 6:30-8 p.m. on June 6. Plymouth members, especially those living in the suburbs, are encouraged to attend. AMOS already has a committee consisting of AMOS’ members, Des Moines City Council members and Polk County Board members working on a Children’s Mental Health Crisis Team.
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<td>2</td>
<td>Matins Warm Up, 8:15 a.m. Childcare, 8:45 a.m. Worship 9 &amp; 11 a.m.: Matins (9) Laura Robinson (11) Chancel Choir Warm Up, 9:45 a.m. After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. &amp; Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m. Tour Chaperone Meet &amp; Greet, 10:15 a.m. Welcoming Migrants Committee, 12:15 p.m. Discover Plymouth Class, 1 p.m. Matins Concert Warm Up, 6 p.m. Matins Home Concert, 7 p.m. Matins Home Concert Reception, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Quilting, 10 a.m. Yoga, 5:15 p.m. Board of Music &amp; Fine Arts, 5:30 p.m. COCI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m. Troop 50 Scout Meeting, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>AMENS, 6:45 a.m. AMOS Circle Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Career Closet Meeting, 5 p.m. Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m. Board of Christian Education, 5:30 p.m. Quilting, 5:30 p.m. Line Dancing, 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Childcare, 8:45 a.m. Worship, 9 &amp; 11 a.m.: Lindsey Braun After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. &amp; Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m. Flower Delivery Team, Noon Community Orchestra Concert, 2 p.m. Carla Cain Ordination, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Quilting, 10 a.m. Plymouth Women Board Meeting, 4 p.m. Arts &amp; Memorials Meeting, 5 p.m. Yoga, 5:15 p.m. COCI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m. Board of Christian Social Action, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMENS, 6:45 a.m. Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m. Mental Health &amp; Disability Task Force, 5:30 p.m. Quilting, 5:30 p.m. AMOS Core Meeting, 6 p.m. Board of Christian Stewardship, 6 p.m. Board of Membership, 6:30 p.m. Line Dancing, 6:30 p.m. Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Childcare, 8:45 a.m. Worship, 9 &amp; 11 a.m.: Matt Mardis-LeCroy After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. &amp; Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m. New Members Meet to Join, 10:15 a.m. Flower Delivery Team, Noon Willits LGBTQ Committee, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Quilting, 10 a.m. Yoga 5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>AMENS, 6:45 a.m. Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m. Board of Spiritual Growth, 5:30 p.m. Line Dancing, 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Childcare, 8:45 a.m. Worship, 9 &amp; 11 a.m.: Leann Stubbs After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. &amp; Noon VBS Dinner, 4:45 p.m. VBS, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Quilting 10 a.m. VBS Dinner, 4:45 p.m. Yoga, 5:15 a.m. VBS, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>AMENS, 6:45 a.m. VBS Dinner, 4:45 p.m. Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m. VBS, 5:30 p.m. Church Council, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.</td>
<td>Worship: 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Memory Cafe, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>TIM Meeting, Noon Bridge, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.</td>
<td>Lindsey Braun Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship/New Members Join: 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Stephen Minister Leadership Team, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Cuba Partnership Team, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Matt Mardis-LeCroy Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Coyote Run Farm Pick Up, 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Cuba Partnership &amp; Just Peace Speaker, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Matins Chaperone Tour Packing, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Harp Concert, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Trustees Finance Meeting, 12:15 p.m. Bridge, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.</td>
<td>Matins Return from Tour, 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Lindsey Braun Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bridge, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Green Team Meeting, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Cuba Partnership Team, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Braiding Sweetgrass Book Discussion, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Human Trafficking Task Force, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Just Peace Speaker, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.</td>
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Pride Fest 2019

Join Plymouth and our Willits Committee for Des Moines Pride Fest on June 9. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation and Pride calls on everyone, everyone, EVERYONE to show up and show out for equal rights for our LGBTQ+ neighbors and loved ones.

Please note the parade itself starts at NOON, so you may want to worship at Plymouth on Saturday (5:30 p.m.) or Sunday (9 a.m.). We'll gather on the south side of the Capitol lawn at 11:30 a.m.; be sure to wear your Plymouth shirt! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact LeAnn Stubbs at lstubbs@plymouthchurch.com. See you there!

10 Ways to Support Your LGBTQ+ Community that are more impactful than attending a Pride parade

Here are 10 ways for straight and cis people to be supportive to the LGBTQ+ community that are more impactful than attending a Pride parade as an onlooker or marcher.

1. Volunteer with organizations that are putting on Pride events doing the work that is least fun – set up booths ahead of time, do trash pick up, help out in the parking lots, do clean up after the event. These roles are often filled by LGBTQ+ people who are missing out on the fun while allies are enjoying the festivities.

2. Offer to watch the children of LGBTQ+ people so they can attend parades and other events without children, if they want a kid-free day. Also, offer to do this for the evening events.

3. Give money to LGBTQ+ organizations, especially those that center trans folks and people of color.

4. Spend your money at LGBTQ+ owned businesses on days Pride isn't happening.

5. Buy tickets to Pride events and offer them up to LGBTQ+ people. Some events are pricey and not all LGBTQ+ people can afford to go.

6. Drop LGBTQ+ people off and/or pick them up from the parades. The traffic is wild and rides would be appreciated.

7. Read LGBTQ+ supportive books to the children in your lives. Better yet, donate some of these books to your child's school and encourage teachers to read them to the whole class.

8. Visit with LGBTQ+ neighbors and friends who want to be celebrated but are unable to join the celebrations. Some people experience a high level of anxiety at busy Pride events or cannot safely be Out enough to attend such events, but they might still want company and a little fanfare for themselves. Use good sense about how to go about this.

9. If you attend a faith institution that is not intentionally open and affirming of LGBTQ+ people, get on that. Change from within is possible and all the heavy lifting should not be left up to LGBTQ+ people to fix things.

10. If you really want to attend a Pride event, please step back. Literally. Let LGBTQ+ people have the front row at the parade. If you are physically/financially able, walk/bus/Lyft to the parade so you leave the limited parking spots to LGBTQ+ people. Peacefully, stand in front of the protestors with big umbrellas blocking them from view. Remember you are there to honor and celebrate the struggles and triumphs of LGBTQ+ people.

Author Credit: Christine Creagh
From July 14-21, youth entering 8th-12th grades are invited to participate in an intensive week of musical fun ending with performances of *The Lord Will Provide* during both worship services on July 21.

*The Lord Will Provide* is an original musical composed by David Ruhe. Participants will kick things off on Sunday evening, July 14. Following day-long practices from July 15-19 and a dress rehearsal on July 20, the participants will then lead worship on July 21. Snacks will be provided during rehearsals, but students should plan to bring a lunch each day.

You can find more information and registration form on Plymouth’s website under Events.

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**focUS Insights:**

Let’s Live into Our Motto!

Results from the focUS Survey conducted in February are now available on Plymouth’s website and they highlight the many strengths of our church community, some frustrations, and an eagerness to move forward together to live out our fullest potential.

The survey was delivered as part of Plymouth’s focUS initiative which was designed to help members, staff, and leaders engage in a “conversation about who we are and why we are here.” The hope is that the survey can aid in the ongoing work of the church, especially in the creation of Ministry Action Plans (MAPs) by boards and committees.

The survey gave Plymouth members opportunities to reflect on the value of Plymouth Church in their lives and assess various components of the church. There were 36 questions, including eleven that were open-ended. Survey Monkey was used to design, distribute, and analyze the survey.

In total, 258 members completed the survey giving Plymouth an overall satisfaction rating of 7.64 on a 10-point scale. They also shared their assessments and insights about worship, engagement, communication, strengths, frustrations, and hopes for the future.

Key findings suggest that members really appreciate the quality of worship and music at Plymouth as well as opportunities to learn and serve the larger community. At the same time, we can improve the ways we help members meet and serve each other. Also, the effects of the Black Lives Matter banner decision from last year along with the politically divisive climate of our society, more generally, are being felt by members of Plymouth, but mostly with the hope that we can move past some of the disappointments and more fully live into our motto to agree to differ, resolve to love, and unite to serve.

You can download your own copy of the report from the website. You will find it under News. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Jeske at kjeske@plymouthchurch.com.
This spring marks the completion of four years of study for members of Plymouth’s Faith Builder’s class. During weekly sessions, thirteen Plymouth members completed study of Hebrew scripture, the New Testament, church history, and theology. Along the way, they learned about each other and explored their own faith journeys. The combined effort to learn more about the Christian tradition and explore life experiences has rewarded the members of the class with a strengthened faith and commitment to each other as friends in that faith. Congratulations Faith Builders!

Members include: Jan Campbell, Jay Eaton, Kathy Eaton, Judy Goodwin, John Harri, Karen Jeske, Linda Knodle, Martha LeBron-Dykeman, Rocky Morton, Artis Reis, Shari Simmons, Beth Stelle Jones, and Keith Uhl.

If you have any interest in joining a class similar in scope to Faith Builders, contact Lindsey Braun lbraun@plymouthchurch.com or Karen Jeske kjeske@plymouthchurch.com.

One of the many joys of PWAG is getting better acquainted with other Plymouth Women. One group took a circuitous route, literally, to accomplish that. They planned to meet at the Des Moines Golf and Country Club, but one member went to the Wakonda Club. Another member became a bit lost when she drove the wrong direction after exiting I-80. All was well in the end; they ate, they talked, and they got to know each other better after the misadventures! They shared Happy Face Scrubbers and decorated coffee cups planted with sedum for everyone.

Members of a group that toured the World Food Prize building want a return visit to learn more about it. Their guide told fascinating stories about Food Prize laureates, the building’s first life as the Central Library, and its beautiful transformation into a permanent home for the “Nobel Prize for Food.” In keeping with the theme of feeding the world’s hungry, their act of kindness was a donation to the Food Bank of Iowa.

Members of one group danced their way into helping the nonprofit Gateway Dance Studio. They learned basic African and Indian dances and worked up an appetite for HoQ. Their spiritual connection was learning the rituals that connect dancers to each other, the earth, and the universe. Food is important in all our PWAG adventures. We break bread together, we share our lives, and we help others as we explore a wide variety of adventures with friends.
Plymouth Women Scholarships Awarded

Funded by the estates of Susan B. Turner, Opal Jordan and Mary and Frederick Royal, and with additional donations, these scholarships are awarded to students who have attained at least junior status in college and are working toward a career in service, such as medicine, education, social work or the ministry. Congratulations to these scholarship recipients!

BOBBY BACKER is attending the University of Iowa School of Social Work. Her plan after completing her bachelor’s degree is to become a social worker in hospice care while completing her master's degree. Bobbie credits the Plymouth Stephen Ministry program for giving her the confidence of becoming a social worker to help others. While a member of Plymouth, Bobbie has volunteered as a Stephen Minister, a past Deacon, a Host Coordinator for Family Promise, a Children’s Choir Guild Rep, and has spent countless hours assisting in her children’s Church School classes as well as Vacation Bible School. When Bobbie isn’t in class, you can find her spending time with her three children, Ary, Carson and Laynee.

MARIETTA NELSON-BITTLE just completed her second year as a distance learner at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. She is a Small Groups Director and Pastoral Intern at Silverdale Lutheran Church near Seattle. She is connected to Plymouth through her husband of nearly 30 years, Brad Bittle, who grew up at Plymouth, and her in-laws, Barb Madden-Bittle and Ed Bittle who are current members. Marietta is discerning what God has in store for her in terms of ministry, with an eye toward prison chaplaincy and/or leading a non-traditional Christian community. She is very thankful for this generous scholarship from Plymouth Women.

MORGAN STEFFEN always had a passion for people but discovered her vocation, medicine, while studying psychology, biology and Spanish in college. She graduated cum laude from St. Olaf College in 2017 and is finishing her second year at Des Moines University-College of Osteopathic Medicine. From the first time Morgan visited DMU, she was touched by the warm welcome of the college and greater Des Moines community. It did not take long for Morgan to feel at home at Plymouth UCC, where she has thoroughly enjoyed the worship services, new friendships, and service opportunities like the RENEW family language program. Next year she will continue her medical education at Mercy Medical Center with the hopes of using her holistic training to one day provide primary care for a rural Midwestern community like the one she grew up in.

The MARIE GREEN AWARD is given each year to two outstanding high school seniors who have been very actively involved in the life of Plymouth Church. As both participants and leaders, they have learned from their experiences and have also given back to Plymouth through their involvement. Marie Green grants are intended for use with college expenses.

EMMA HALL is the daughter of Kristen Hall, and a senior at Roosevelt High School. She was confirmed at Plymouth and has been involved in Plymouth Church choirs for 13 years. Emma has volunteered with Creative Arts Week, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other countless events. She has been a member on the Youth Leadership Team for the past two years and most recently has served as the youth representative on the search committee for the new TiM Coordinator. Emma said “growing up at Plymouth helped shape the person I am today. The friends I made and the opportunity to take on leadership roles helped me realize my strengths and abilities. I will carry Plymouth Church in my heart, always.” Next year Emma will be attending Kent State University to study Fashion Design and Merchandising.

MADISON REININGA is a senior at Roosevelt High School and has been involved in many extra curricular activities throughout her high school experience, including band, show band, National Honors Society, tennis, silver chord, theatre, and student council. She started at Plymouth when she was in sixth grade and has loved it ever since. At Plymouth she’s been involved in the Youth Leadership Team and the many volunteer opportunities Plymouth provides. She plans to attend DMACC in the fall and transfer to Drake University to study elementary education.
For more information about Plymouth Church, please scan this code to visit our website at www.plymouthchurch.com, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/plymouthchurch and Instagram at PlymouthUCC. If you are not able to visit on Sunday, a podcast of a portion of the previous week’s service featuring the sermon is available on iTunes, or on the Plymouth website under Resources/Sermon Podcasts. Print copies of most sermons may be downloaded from the website at Resources/Sermon Library.

To submit information for the Contact, email Cindy Eaton-Eklund, ceaton@plymouthchurch.com

Matt Mardis-LeCroy ...........................................Senior Minister
Lindsey Braun ..............................................Minister of Discipleship
Cindy Eaton-Eklund ..............................Director of Communications
Christopher Goodson .........................Director of Music and Fine Arts
Carl Gravander ...........................................Organist
Nikira Hernandez-Evans .............................Associate Minister
Karen Jeske ...........................................Transition into Ministry Coordinator
LeAnn Stubbs ...........................................Minister of Care and Welcome
Laura Robinson ...........................................Associate Minister
Jan Van Wyk ..............................Director of Plymouth Nursery School
Susan Waller ...........................................Director of Youth Ministry