The COVID-19 crisis has forced all of us to look at the “heart of the matter” — to examine what is most important in our lives, what is essential. During this season at Plymouth we want to examine the heart of the matter as a church family.

We are busy planning worship components and a sermon series that will help us do this, but we want you to join the conversation. We are hoping every member of Plymouth Church will find or dust off a copy of The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg and read it together as a church throughout the summer months.

This book explores the tenants of progressive Christianity. It was an important book to Plymouth when we read it together 15 years ago and this summer, as we explore our essentials — as individuals and as a church — it feels like an invitation to revisit Borg's ideas and discuss their relevance to who we are today.

This All Church Reads program begins on Monday, June 1. We will read one chapter each week, so get a copy of the book and join the discussion. If you don’t have a book or haven’t started reading it yet, join the conversation anyway. Your voices and ideas matter!

You can purchase the books from your favorite online retailer or by calling Beaverdale Books. It is also available as an e-book.

Book Discussions and Plymouth Schedule Changes

Plymouth has been able to maintain a steady schedule of worship and other ways to learn and connect during the COVID-19 crisis. As we conclude our “program” year and shift into our All Church Reads, we will be making adjustments to some of our program offerings.

The most significant change is to our current offerings at 11:00 a.m. on Facebook Live. These programs will conclude at the end of May and will be replaced with various opportunities to join discussions as we all read The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg together this summer. If you are on Facebook, click on “Groups” and ask to join the Book Discussion Group to keep up on all of the ways to engage in this book study.

Continued on page 4
I am grateful to my colleagues for conversation and feedback on an earlier draft of this statement. In a time of disruption, it is important to express the core values that guide our work in this time.

Matt Mardis-LeCroy

Hearing Covenant Call:
A Statement of Principles for Plymouth Church in the Era of COVID-19

In the presence of God and these witnesses, I give myself unreservedly to God's service, and take this to be my Church. Ever mindful of the welfare of my brother and sister members, I promise to walk with them in faithfulness and Christian love. And I promise that, so far as able, I will attend the services of this Church, observe its sacraments, share in its work, support its benevolence and endeavor to make it a fruitful body of Christians.

The Membership Covenant of Plymouth Church

Introduction

Plymouth Church is based in covenant. Believing that God is the One who in love makes and keeps promises to us, we in turn make promises to one another. Those promises shape us and guide us as we share life’s journey and seek to grow together in love.

But the life we share seems especially difficult to navigate in the era of COVID-19. While the work of the church continues in myriad ways, the buildings closed and in-person gatherings are suspended. And we are finding our way through this moment while also coping with other disruptions, economic anxiety and our own deep grief.

We are the people of a still-speaking God. And in a season of crisis, God invites us to recall our covenant and remember what matters most.

What does our covenant call us to do?

Our covenant calls us to foster connection.

While we cannot gather in traditional ways, we will make the most of opportunities to gather online –for classes, for prayer, for conversation, for worship. We will continue to experiment with new means and methods for sharing life in virtual spaces. We will pay attention to metrics, course-correcting as needed to meet the needs of our people. Because we value the intergenerational character of our community, we will create opportunities for Plymouth people of all ages to connect and participate in the life of Plymouth Church.

At the same time, we will remember those who are not able to access our on-line offerings. We will make phone calls, organize volunteers and drop mailings on a regular basis, seeking to make every member and friend of Plymouth Church feel connected.

Our covenant calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those weep.

Sharing life means making space for the many and diverse emotions that our church community is feeling. Some of us have cause for gratitude and even joy. We want to celebrate and lift up those whose hearts are of good cheer.

We also recognize that for many of us this is a season of profound anxiety and searing grief. We are unsettled about the future, deprived of milestone celebrations, haunted by lives lost, fearful for our loved ones and for ourselves.

But Scripture reminds us that we can bring the full range of our humanity into the presence of God. Our common life, including our worship life, must make room for the expression of all that we are feeling –for praise and thanksgiving, for sorrow and lament. That is the way that all of us can find our place together in the presence of God.

Continued on page 3
Continued -

Bread for the Journey

Our covenant calls us to pursue compassion, generosity and justice.
We recognize that COVID-19 is having a profound economic impact on our community and on our church. Many who may have known financial security before the pandemic began now face the prospect of layoffs, reduced wages and economic insecurity.

To the people of Plymouth who are suffering from the fallout, we will offer a listening ear and such assistance as we can provide. To the people of Plymouth who are in a position to do a little more, we will encourage greater giving to meet the greater needs of this time. Leaning into our covenant, we will renew our commitment to support God’s work through Plymouth Church.

We will also look beyond our own walls. The economic impact of COVID-19 is not evenly distributed in our communities; its impact falls hardest on the most vulnerable among us. Plymouth Church will serve as a source of advocacy and a conduit of vital resources for those who are hurting in our community. Together, we will reach out to our neighbors in love, looking to do as much good as we can for our entire community.

Our covenant calls us to practice hospitality and excellence in our worship.
In the season of social distancing, we still believe in the power of worship to transform lives. To that end, we commit to creating worship experiences that are welcoming to all people. No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey, our worship will invite you into a deeper experience of God’s love. And our worship will do this with excellence – including music that moves us, preaching that inspires and prayers that weaves our lives together in the healing presence of God.

Our covenant calls us to curiosity about our future.
This pandemic hit our world while Plymouth was in the midst of a strategic planning process, seeking to discern the Spirit’s direction for the next season of our life. While some elements of strategic planning process may need to be slowed, we also recognize the ways in which we are already becoming the church we will be. These difficult days are also, for us, a time to innovate and imagine what might be possible. Believing that “new occasions teach new duties,” we will attend to the possibilities of this moment, seeking to become more fully ourselves.

Our covenant calls us to care for one another and for our community.
Our decision to close our building and suspend in-person worship was motivated by our deep desire to guard the safety of our members, our staff and our community. In making any decision about when and how to resume in-person gatherings, we will be guided by that same commitment to safety. The Church Health and Safety Task Force, appointed by Plymouth’s Church Council, will carefully consider the guidance of government officials and church leaders in making data driven recommendations to the Church Council about the time and the manner of our re-opening. In this way, we will continue to prioritize care for our neighbor.

Conclusion
The era of COVID-19 will continue to challenge all of us in far-reaching ways. But God’s Spirit calls us back to our covenant, back to the promises we have made to each other and to the life we share as Plymouth Church. We can once again “give ourselves unreservedly to God’s service,” and to each other.

By God’s grace we make this journey together.

Matthew S. Marks

CONTACT   June 2020   3
Weekly Book Discussion Events will begin on Monday, June 1 and conclude on Saturday, August 22. The weekly schedule will be:

**Mondays at Noon via Facebook Live:** There will be a weekly book study kick-off each week. This 10-15 minute live-stream will feature an overview of the chapter for that week as well as key themes and discussion questions. You can catch it live or watch it anytime during the summer.

**Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. via Facebook Live:** Matt will offer his regular weekly Bible Study in which he leads a discussion of the lectionary text for the week. Throughout this book series there will also be tie-in discussions that align with the Borg book.

**Wednesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom:** Mary Kate will resume her Wednesday evening Bible Study leading a discussion of the week's lectionary text as well as a tie-in discussion of the Borg book.

**Thursdays at 4 p.m. via Zoom:** Open discussion about the week's chapter of the Borg book, hosted and facilitated by Judy Diedrichs.

**Saturday at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom:** Open discussion about the week's chapter of the Borg book, hosted and facilitated by Kristen Hall.

Zoom links for these discussion groups will be shared on the Facebook Group page for the book study. If you would like to receive an email with the links, please send your request or any questions you have to Karen Jeske at kjeske@plymouthchurch.com.

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**Staffing Changes**

**BY: MATT MARDIS-LECROY | Senior Minister**

Here at Plymouth, we try to stay open to the nudging of the Spirit. And we want to match the gifts of the staff team to the opportunities before us.

To serve the mission of the church more effectively, two Plymouth ministers are about to step into new roles.

Starting on June 1, Lindsey Braun will become Plymouth's **Minister of Vitality and Outreach**, tending areas of ministry that contribute to a vital and growing faith. These include Plymouth’s two-year, high commitment confirmation program, as well as Plymouth’s community efforts in Benevolence (direct service) and Christian Social Action (advocacy and solidarity with our neighbors). Outreach also encompasses Plymouth’s connection with our wider United Church of Christ (Lindsey serves on the Iowa UCC’s Central Association Committee on Ministry and Iowa Conference Annual Meeting Planning Committee) and opportunities for ecumenical and interfaith connection as well. In this new role, Lindsey will also engage her interest and expertise in storytelling to help people tell the story of how these and other ministries have impacted their faith and their lives. When we recognize our own story as part of God’s story, we are empowered to grow a more vital faith and reach farther in love of God and neighbor.

At the same time, LeAnn Stubbs will become Plymouth’s **Minister of Care and Connection**. By adding the Board of Spiritual Growth to the other committees, teams, and Ministry groups that she connects with, LeAnn will be able to enhance Plymouth’s capacity for connection and belonging. Since we belong to each other because we belong to God, having the ability to teach and offer programing that is seamlessly focused on connecting to self, others, and God, is an exciting prospect for LeAnn. She envisions renewed Center for Spiritual Growth, where workshops and classes will be held, where individuals and small groups will gather for support and spiritual direction, where planned and accidental connecting will take place.

As we continue to search for our next Director or Minister for Families with Children, Plymouth member Georgia Sheriff is providing vital interim staffing to the Board of Christian Education and to our programs for families with children.

Meanwhile, Matt Mardis-LeCroy looks forward to pursuing his passion for spreading the good news about what God is doing at Plymouth by becoming the staff person for Plymouth’s Board of Membership. He will be working closely with that group to tell Plymouth’s stories, welcome new members and integrate them into the life of the church.

It is an exciting time for Plymouth Church! Thank you for your prayers and support as staff move into these new roles.
Youth Letter-Writing

BY: SUSAN WALLER  |  Director of Youth Ministry

Six weeks ago, eight high school youth and I gathered on Zoom for a note writing session. LeAnn Stubbs, Minister of Care and Welcome supplied us with a list of older adult congregation members who she thought would be great “pen pals.” So each youth was paired with an older member. We got out our notecards and church directories. We talked through letter writing prompts, shared what we were writing and even got great tips from each other to encourage the recipients to write us back.

Guess what? Our youth got letters back! It is a great way to connect intergenerationally, as well as ask our older members to share their experiences with us. The youth shared parts of the letters they have received back with the rest of the group; anything from what it was like when females were added to the deacons, the canteen the HAT members drove down to the river to supply the homeless with hot coffee and sandwiches, to poems shared and book recommendations.

BUT THERE IS MORE…Because we had so much fun doing this, we now meet every two weeks on a Thursday afternoon on ZOOM. And our group has expanded to about a dozen youth. What we love so much is time together, being present in a space where we don’t have to talk all the time, writing, sharing stories that have come back and developing relationships we may never have had the opportunity to do.

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Could this be YOUR Happy Place?

BY: GEORGIA SHERIFF  |  Child and Family Ministries Consultant

Happy Place: A memory, situation, or activity that makes you feel happy.

Have the last few months left you thinking about where you can make a positive impact, but you’re not sure where to start looking? Would you like to start a week with an experience that leaves you smiling? We may have the perfect “Happy Place” for you or someone you know.

Consider exploring opportunities with the awesome team that makes Church School happen for children from preschool to 6th grade! Our team will tell you, this is one of their “Happy Places” at Plymouth! We are currently looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of ways: teaching with a partner or with parent helpers; sharing a teaching position; helping as a teaching assistant or a Hallway Helper.

If you:
• have wondered about becoming involved with Church School, and aren’t sure what it entails;
• have been interested and couldn’t commit to helping every Sunday;
• are a high school or college student looking for an experience working with children or want volunteer hours for Silver Cord or course requirements; or
• want to add to the positive experiences you have at Plymouth.

Then, this is a good time to find out more about the ways to be involved for the coming 2020-2021 year. Please contact Georgia Sheriff with your questions and to learn more. Text or call: 515-201-5072; email: gsheriff@plymouthchurch.com

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CURRENT HAPPENINGS

GET CONNECTED!
Use the links below to check out our website, Facebook page, Instagram, and YouTube Channel, so that you get connected with us online! We want to continue to stay connected and minister to everyone that we can, so keep in touch!

- www.plymouthchurch.com
- www.facebook.com/PlymouthChurch
- www.instagram.com/PlymouthChurch
- YouTube Channel: PlymouthChurch DSM

EVENING PRAYER
Although our daily 11 a.m. offerings on Facebook Live are changing, our Evening Prayer services will continue. During this unknown and anxious time for our community, we are practicing the discipline of praying together at certain hours of the day. Tune into our Facebook page Monday through Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. for Evening Prayer with our ministers.

If you miss the message live, don’t worry! You can still find the message under Videos on our Facebook Page. Leave your prayers in the comments of those videos for us to read and pray over later!

FRIDAY MUSIC WITH SETH HEDQUIST
On Fridays at 5:30 p.m. be sure to tune into our Facebook page for Friday Music with Seth Hedquist for a service of prayer through musical meditations, as you transition into the weekend. If you miss the message live, don’t worry! You can still find the message under Videos on our Facebook Page.

DMARC UPDATE & FOOD INSECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM PLYMOUTH
Last month, The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network launched a food pantry delivery service to meet the needs of people experiencing food insecurity in Greater Des Moines at this time.

Once an order is placed by phone at 1-833-DMARC-20, food is delivered to the person’s doorstep with a no-contact drop-off the following business day between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

You can help in two ways: by volunteering to deliver food (sign up at https://www.dmarcunited.org/volunteer) and/or by making your contribution via the Plymouth Church Virtual Drive at https://www.dmarcunited.org/donate/virtual-drive/plymouth, or on the Plymouth site at https://www.plymouthchurch.com/donations/make-a-donation (mention: DMARC in the Notes field).

Thank you for all you do to alleviate food insecurity in our community!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Our traditional week of Vacation Bible School will not take place this summer. We look forward to identifying other ways we can connect with children and families this summer. What are your family’s ideas for ways to connect? We’d love to hear from you! Please email, text or call Georgia Sherrif at: gsheriff@plymouthchurch.com or 515.201.5072.

STEPHEN MINISTRY
Stephen Ministers are trained members of Plymouth Church, who are available to help bring a spiritual presence in your life through caring, listening, and prayer. Contact LeAnn Stubbs at 515.255.3149 to discuss having a Stephen Minister assigned to walk with you.

NEW ONLINE WEEKLY SCHEDULE
Beginning on Monday, June 1 through the summer, our weekly online schedule will change as we begin to study The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg together!

FACEBOOK LIVE

- Mondays at Noon: On Facebook Live there will be a weekly book study kick-off. This 10-15 minute live-stream will feature an overview of the chapter for that week as well as key themes and discussion questions. You can catch it live or watch it anytime during the summer.
- Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.: Join Matt Mardis-LeCroy for Bible Study on Facebook Live. He will lead discussions of the lectionary text for the week. Throughout the book series, there will also be tie-in discussions that align with the Borg book.
- If you miss these messages live, don’t worry! You can always watch them later under Videos on our Facebook page!

ZOOM GROUPS

- Wednesdays at 7 p.m.: Join Mary Kate Buchanan on Zoom. She will resume her Wednesday evening Bible Study leading a discussion of the week’s lectionary text as well as a tie-in discussion of the Borg book.
- Thursdays at 4 p.m.: Join us on Zoom for open discussions about the week’s chapter of the Borg book, hosted and facilitated by Judy Diedrichs.
- Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.: Join us on Zoom for open discussions about the week’s chapter of the Borg book, hosted and facilitated by Kristen Hall.

CONTACT  June 2020  6
**PRAYER VIGIL**

The room is still, the air is soft, there is peace here. I sit in a circle of 18 faithful servants, I feel their body heat next to me, softening the rush of the day from my face, creating stillness. It is time for our Prayer Vigil, we are each holding space for prayer in a sacred and precious way.

The flame of the candle bounces soft light around the room as it slowly passes from one to another as the vigil begins, expands, builds and lengthens. Holy Saturday, 2020, our vigil is to last 9 hours. It is an experience created and shared by the Stephen Ministers in support of our church community.

Prayer is unique and powerfully personal, it looks and sounds different to each holder of the flame. Some are walking, some kneeling. Some stretch arms skyward almost as if reaching to the heavens and feeling God’s grace through the body. Some are reading meditations, devotions and poems. There are hymns sung and played. There is soft jazz, trickling streams of water and the chirping of birds.

We are praying for joys and sorrows. We pray for love and loss. We pray for the fullness of grief to be completely felt, honoring those lives where we will forever feel a mix of emotions. We pray big lofty prayers for the world and for our community. We pray specific and personal prayers for loved ones and those who have asked for prayer from the church.

Our circle this year is physically fractured, yet beautifully whole. Each piece of the circle takes place in the individual homes of the socially-distanced Stephen Minister. The candle flame has the same lift, the same bounce and dance, but the candle itself is unique in each home. We pass this flame virtually as we send a group e-mail to announce the beginning and end of our individual time, our setting and our intention for prayer.

This virtual prayer vigil is not “less than” because it is held in 18 different homes, it is special. It gives us something more, something expansive that we didn’t know we needed. It is a time of bonding together in a creative way to fulfill Plymouth’s need for our annual Holy Week Prayer Vigil.

**THE CARING RELATIONSHIP**

Prayer Vigil during Holy Week is special, intimate and meaningful. The quiet walks of the Labyrinth, the Longest Night service, Ash Wednesday, conversations with Confirmands and welcoming of New Members are all fairly visible expressions of care by your Stephen Ministers. The Hymnal bookmarks are tangible reminders of the areas where we can support you in life, and our Grief Packets are prayerfully placed in the mail following the loss of a loved one. These are offerings you see and experience in some part in the life of our church.

Our primary and sacred role is expressed through one-on-one Caring Relationships. We are commissioned to be an extension of the Pastoral Team, providing care to our Congregation.

Your Stephen Minister is your person, the one who shows up just for you, for whatever the reason. We meet you where you are in life. We are here to listen as you are immersed in grief that started mere days or a lifetime ago, because there is no timeline for grief. We listen to your joys that could be life changing. We listen to your circling confusion as you work to make sense of your emotions, your situation, your challenge in whatever life brings to you this day. We offer support and connection. We meet you in coffee shops, in quiet rooms of the church, on a park bench, in a garden. We help you to be seen and heard.

The Caring Relationship can last a few months or a few years. The focus is created by you. Your Stephen Minister is selected just for you based on your need so that you are partnered with a faithful servant who has life experiences and knowledge that you will find most helpful and supportive. This relationship is carefully matched to ensure you have a person who has an understanding of your experience, your need. All conversations are confidential, our Caring Relationship is confidential.

Continued on page 8
Prayer Vigils, Caring Relationships & Stillness

STILLNESS
Where do you need stillness in your life? How can a Stephen Minister support you during this time of change, of growth or evolution? Your Stephen Ministers are here for you, in the quiet contemplation of a Prayer Vigil, and, in your life. The room is still, the air is soft, there is peace here.

Stephen Ministers are trained members of Plymouth Church, who are available to help bring a spiritual presence in your life through caring, listening presence and prayer. Contact Pastor LeAnn Stubbs at 515.255.3149 or lstubbs@plymouthchurch.com to discuss having a Stephen Minister assigned to walk with you.

Cuba Partnership Team News

BY: EMILY CHAFA | Cuba Partnership Team

As you may know, Plymouth Church is in partnership with the Cuban people, specifically with our sister church in Havana, Ebenezer Baptist Church. Our most recent delegation visited Cuba in November 2019. So much change in the world and in our homes since then. But, our will to grow in love of God and neighbor hasn’t changed. We can continue to learn and grow more about our Cuban neighbors while staying safe in our homes.

Here are some numbers to compare the impact of COVID-19 here and in Cuba:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CUBA (the entire nation) as of May 18, 2020:</th>
<th>POLK COUNTY, IOWA as of May 21, 2020:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed cases: 1887</td>
<td>Confirmed cases: 3342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovered cases: 1534</td>
<td>Recovered cases: 1276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths: 79</td>
<td>Deaths: 90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Want to learn more about Cuba’s response to the pandemic? Want to learn about Cuban life under the U.S. blockade during this COVID-19 time? Please mark your calendar and join us on Monday, June 8 at 7 p.m. for a presentation on these topics, via Zoom, of course.

IFCO (Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization) and Pastors for Peace agreed to provide expert speakers for this program. Gail Walker will enlighten us on the current situation in Cuba under the U.S. blockade during the current pandemic times, Cuba’s medical internationalism, and the Saving Lives campaign. Emily Thomas will tell us about IFCO’s Faith in Action initiative and the potential for another Plymouth Church delegation to Cuba. Please plan to join us via Zoom on Monday, June 8 at 7 p.m.

Please use this link to register in advance for the program: http://tiny.cc/hctpx

After you register, you will receive an email message with the information you need to connect to the Zoom meeting. The program will be interactive, and is expected to last 90 minutes. I hope you join us! Keep reading to learn more about the speakers, Gail Walker and Emily Thomas:

Emily Thomas first went to Cuba with a group of teachers in 1978. On her second trip she met Rev. Raul Suarez; who was then building the Martin Luther King Center – and the rest is history. In 1993, Rev. Walker asked her to work for IFCO for a month – while they took a little yellow school bus to Cuba. In 2004 she tried to retire, but has failed in that endeavor – and happily continues as a mostly-full-time volunteer. In her spare time, she is part of her church’s White Rose Ministry, connecting with a sister church in Cuba; CESARSE, an ecumenical center in Varadero; and an ecumenical center in Santiago.

Gail Walker worked with IFCO from 1987-2002 was the Director of Communication and co-lead the 1988 IFCO delegation to Nicaragua that resulted in the formation of the Pastors for Peace project. During her 15 years at IFCO, she led a number of delegations to Central America and Cuba and staffed countless Cuba Friendshipment caravans. After years of working as a journalist and communication professional in print, video, and radio, Gail returned to IFCO as Direction in 2011. Under her direction, IFCO staff have organized several US-Cuba Friendshipment caravans and educational delegations to Cuba. IFCO has also continued to facilitate the process of dozens of US students to study medicine in Cuba under full scholarship, and to expand its support for grassroots organizations working for social justice.
In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. launched a Poor People’s Campaign believing that people joining together could create, “a new and unsettling force in our complacent nation.” Over the last two years, UCC members and congregations have been participating in the continuation of this work through the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival by national and state direct actions, education and organizing. The campaign has united tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation while centering the voices and experiences of poor, low-wealth, and vulnerable communities.

In June 2019, the campaign convened over 1,000 community leaders in Washington, D.C... for the Poor People’s Moral Action Congress, which included the largest presidential candidates’ forum of the pre-debate season, the release of the Poor People’s Moral Budget (http://tiny.cc/b97fpz), and a hearing before the House Budget Committee on the issues facing the 140 million poor and low-income people in the nation.

Through it all, UCC members and congregations have been faithfully engaged in the Poor People’s Campaign. Now in this unprecedented time, we are called to step up again. Join with UCC leaders in the largest digital and social media gathering of poor and low-wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates and people of conscience in the nation’s history on June 20.

“This pandemic has hit the poor and the vulnerable hard. Underlying health conditions, poor working conditions, low pay, lay-offs causing months with no income and no savings built up, inadequate health care all conspire to ravage the poor disproportionately. We cannot be silent in this time. Those who walk the halls of power must be held accountable; and we are the ones called to do just that.” -Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President

REGISTER FOR THE JUNE 20 POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN DIGITAL MOBILIZATION HERE: HTTP://TINY.CC/557FPZ

This is the time of the year for big transitions in the TiM Program. First of all, I hope you will join me in congratulating Nikira Hernandez-Evans as Nikira prepares to accept a call to be the solo pastor at the Brighton Allston Congregational Church in Boston, Massachusetts. This small but active and diverse church is eager for Nikira’s leadership and we hope they will enjoy a long and fruitful relationship.

Nikira’s last sermon at Plymouth Church will be preached on Sunday, June 14. I hope you will watch and send along your notes of appreciation. If you would like to email Nikira the address is nhernandez-evans@plymouthchurch.com. Nikira and her wife, Marissa, are planning to move at the end of June.

June is also the month when we welcome our new TiM. Rushing Kimball will begin his time with us on June 8. He will be eager to meet everyone for lots of coffee dates once we are free to do so, but in the meantime, we will do our best to get him in front of you and interacting with you on Facebook, Zoom, and YouTube. Please feel free to welcome him with an email beginning June 8 or later at rkimball@plymouthchurch.com.

Neither of these transitions would go smoothly without the work of the Plymouth TiM Committee. These committee members create a safe and open environment for the TiM Associates to ask questions and seek guidance. They also play a key role in the search for a new TiM Associate each year.

Please join me in thanking Shelly Soorholtz, Priscilla Ruhe, and Sam Howells for their four years of service on the TiM Committee. Their questions, integrity, and kindness have been a gift to the program and especially to our TiMs. I’d also like to offer a special thanks to Shelly for her leadership of the committee this past year. Next year, Caroline Bettis will serve as the Chair and we will be joined by Lynn Rankin, Jackie Seymour, and Kevin Wilhelm.

If you have any questions about the TiM Program you are welcome to email me at kjeske@plymouthchurch.com.
2020 Scholarship Recipients

**PLYMOUTH WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP | Hope Stone**

Hope Stone just completed her junior year at Drake University, and will be starting at the Allen College in May. Through those schools’ 3+1 program, she will earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Allen College and a BS in Health Sciences from Drake University. Her ultimate goal is to return to school and become a nurse practitioner. She currently works part-time at Child Serve in Johnston. Hope grew up at Plymouth Church, having participated in choir and Matins’ tours. She also went on a mission trip to Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. She has enjoyed working in the Plymouth nursery and getting to know the families. Hope is thankful for all of the support she has received from Plymouth over the years, and treasures the many friends and experiences she gained as a member.

**MARIE GREEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | Hailey Boldt**

Hailey Boldt is the daughter of Todd and Tammy Boldt. She was baptized and confirmed at Plymouth and has been singing in Plymouth choirs since Kindergarten. Throughout her time in the high school program, Hailey has served on both the Youth Leadership Team, most recently as the senior co-president, and Youth Executive Committee to help facilitate and organize youth programming. Hailey has also had the opportunity to work with the committee that plans the annual Matins Variety Show and help plan the most recent show, MatinsTube. Hailey recalls her many wonderful memories at Plymouth as "the highlight of her high school career. I'd like to thank Plymouth for all the wonderful leadership opportunities, friendships, and memories it's presented me with. I look forward to using the many gifts Plymouth has given me to achieve my goals." Hailey's future plans are to attend Iowa State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

**MARIE GREEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT | Kaylee Reininga**

Kaylee Reininga is the daughter of Kristi Kiefer and Jeff Reininga and a graduate of Roosevelt High School. Kaylee has been a part of Plymouth Church for 7 years. Kaylee participated in Glory Choir, Soul Singers and Matins Choir as well as being confirmed in 2016. She participated several summers as a Youth Volunteer and Music Helper for VBS and served during Family Promise weeks at Plymouth. At Roosevelt, she was involved in Sliver Cord, National Honors Society, Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir, and Show choir, as well as many theater productions. Kaylee will attend The Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the fall to pursue a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Musical Theater.
Plymouth Youth Class of 2020!

Abe Brink  Caroline Johnson  Carsen Codel  Charlie Pattinson  Chloe Edwards

Clara Colvig  Evie Sly  Hailey Boldt  Henry Vermeer  Isaac Amber

Kayleigh Hostetter  Kaylee Reininga  Logan Kempf  Noah Billingsley  Austin Ledesma

Hannah Harvey  Rezin Tempero  Charlie Gaer  Sam Gumm