The annual Plymouth Youth Garage Sale is just around the corner. Please keep us in mind as you clean and organize in the coming weeks! This is a great way to reduce your “stuff” and support the growing youth programs here at Plymouth.

DONATE YOUR STUFF
The Plymouth Youth Garage Sale will accept gently used household items, clothing and furniture beginning Sunday, Apr. 7 through Wednesday, Apr. 10 during the following hours:

Sunday: 12-5 p.m.
Monday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Pick up will be available for large items Apr. 6 & 7 by appointment. Please contact Jim Green at 312-480-9270 or jrgsoccerwest@mail.com by noon on Apr. 7 to schedule a pickup time. Charitable contribution receipts will be available for donations. All proceeds from the sale go towards the Matins Choir Tour and the youth outreach opportunities.

VOLUNTEER
Yes, high school youth and their parents work the sale to earn credits, but all church members are encouraged to sign up. Not only are you helping these terrific youth spread their ministry, you get to shop the Garage Sale Pre-Sale! Sign up to work at least five hours and you will be eligible to shop on Thursday evening from 5-6 p.m. Look for sign up information soon!

RECRUIT SHOPPERS
Help us spread the word! Invite all your bargain-hunting friends and family. The Plymouth gym, garage and Waveland Hall will be wall-to-wall with something for everyone. The sale is Friday, Apr. 12 from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, Apr. 13 from 7 a.m.- Noon, or, for a $20 tax deductible donation, shop during the Garage Sale Pre-Sale on Thursday night from 5-6 p.m.! Bring your cash and shop to help support the Plymouth youth and their outreach ministry!

Please refer to the list on page 3 for items that we cannot accept as donations.

GARAGE SALE DONATIONS:
Apr. 7-10

GARAGE SALE SHOPPING:
Apr. 12-13
“We belong to one another because we belong to God.”

I have heard David Ruhe speak those words more times than I can count—often at the end of a prayer. We belong to one another because we belong to God. That, to me, is the beating heart of Plymouth Church.

Lent is a very good time to remember and recommit to the things that matter most.

I never get tired of pointing this out: Membership at Plymouth Church is not based on creed. It is based on covenant. We do not belong to this church because we all believe the same things; we belong to this church because we have promised to share life together. Put another way: joining Plymouth Church is less like joining an association of the like-minded and more like getting married. In our covenant of membership, we make promises to one another. Then we rely on those promises to carry us through all the ups and downs of sharing life and trying to follow Jesus together.

The language of the covenant is a little old-fashioned sounding (you can find it on our website, or inside the front of the hymnal), but we have a condensed version in our church motto: We agree to differ. We resolve to love. We unite to serve.

Former Senior Minister Stoddard Lane gave us our motto; it is hard-won wisdom from a deeply difficult time in the history of Plymouth. Lane was himself no stranger to suffering. He was widowed at a young age and then left his infant child with relatives to serve as an ambulance driver in the First World War. After that he returned to pastoral ministry, coming to Plymouth in 1929 and dying in office in the year 1943.

Between the Great Depression and the onset of the Second World War, these were trying times for Plymouth Church. We have, in our archives, some of the correspondence between the church and its creditors from those years. “Please give us one more month” seems to be a common refrain.

But Stoddard Lane must have known that that one great asset of this church is its understanding of the way we belong to one another because we belong to God. So he took our covenant and boiled it down to its essence: We agree to differ. We resolve to love. We unite to serve.

A dozen little words. But the more I ponder them, the more profound they seem.

On the first weekend of Lent (March 9 and 10), I will start a new sermon series that I am calling Renewing Our Covenant: Following Jesus in a Fractious World. Because I believe that, in the current climate of divisive politics and deepening anxiety, our motto may be more relevant than ever. Come join us in Lent as we ponder what it means to live these words in these days: We agree to differ. We resolve to love. We unite to serve.

See you in church!
Plymouth Welcomes
Mary Kate Buchanan to TiM Program

BY KAREN QUANCE JESKE | TiM Coordinator

The Transition into Ministry Committee is pleased to announce Mary Kate Buchanan as the newest Associate Minister in the Transition into Ministry program. Mary Kate will join us in June after she graduates from Princeton Theological Seminary. She will be the 14th “TiM” to come to Plymouth.

Mary Kate is a native Ohioan and grew up attending First Congregational Church in Hudson, Ohio, which is the church where Jeanette Brodersen (former Plymouth TiM) currently serves. Another interesting connection is that First Congregational will also host our Matins on their tour this year.

Before seminary, Mary Kate graduated Cum Laude from Furman University, receiving her degree in religion and sociology. As an undergraduate, Mary Kate also traveled and sang with Furman’s Gospel Ensemble.

Reference letters sent to us on Mary Kate’s behalf describe her as bright, curious, confident, considerate, constant seeker, sensitive, enthusiastic, and joyful. The TiM Committee and Plymouth members who met her observed all of these qualities during her weekend visit with us in early February. We also discerned her teachable spirit and ability to connect easily with others.

Mary Kate has expressed a particular interest in ministering to older adults and fostering intergenerational opportunities. She is eager to come to Plymouth to pursue these interests and to take part in the whole breadth of ministry we offer at Plymouth. She is eager to share her gifts with us and to continue to stretch and grow in her call to ministry.

I hope you will look forward to welcoming Mary Kate Buchanan this summer!

Youth Garage Sale

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AS DONATIONS:
- Air conditioners/car batteries
- Oil & air filters/tires & rims
- Bricks, lumber, windows, siding, doors
- Paint, lacquers, thinners
- Children’s car seats/Diaper Genies/potty chairs
- Car/motorcycle seats
- Carpet/padding (we do take area rugs)
- Cleaning supplies (industrial/household), soaps, bleaches, repellants
- Coil springs/waterbeds
- Console radios/tube TVs
- Major appliances/microwave ovens
- Damaged, soiled or broken furniture
- Free-standing pools
- Travis rods/curtain rods/used Venetian blinds
- ANY non-working item
CURRENT HAPPENINGS

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION FOR PEACE

Plymouth Church is honored to host the Palm Sunday Peace Procession service on Apr. 14. All are invited and the Peace Committee hopes children and youth will participate. The March, led by a donkey, initiates at 3 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church and ends at Plymouth Church with the prayer service “To Love and Defend our Sacred Earth.”

ST. AMBROSE CHOIR

Join us Friday, Mar. 8 at 7 p.m., when the Arts@Plymouth presents the St. Ambrose University Chamber Singers from Davenport, IA, in concert in the Plymouth sanctuary. Under the direction of Dr. Nathan Windt, the SAU Chamber Singers is an elite group of singers, selected by audition, that specializes in music of the Renaissance and early Baroque, although they perform music from all time periods, including contemporary arrangements of American folk hymns and spirituals. The concert is free and all are invited! The SAU Chamber Singers will also join us in worship on Sunday, Mar. 10.

EASTER OFFERING APPLICATIONS

The Board of Benevolences is accepting applications from Metro Des Moines area nonprofit agencies for its Easter Special Offering gifts. These are modest gifts, where the amount gifted depends on the total Easter collection and typically ranges from $3,000 to $4,500. These are a one-time gift and requires a report back to Plymouth’s Board of Benevolences upon utilization of the funds, but no later than six months following receipt. This report should include the impact of the awarded gift and quantify persons served.

As a Just Peace Church, the Board of Benevolences seeks grant applications from non-profit organizations with projects that identify a need that will facilitate social justice for clients or an obstacle that restricts clients from obtaining economic stability. Gift applications for Plymouth’s Easter Special Offering are due Mar. 15, 2019 and can be downloaded from Plymouth’s website.

AMOS 2-DAY TRAINING

Come learn with us, Mar. 8-9 at Grace United Methodist Church. This training is for new and veteran leaders in AMOS member institutions, and institutions exploring membership in AMOS. Taught by experienced organizers in AMOS’s sister organizations in the IAF network, the training will focus on the conceptual foundations and practical skills of broad-based organizing. Topics will include power, sustainable leadership, relational meetings, and organizing to strengthen institutions, among others. Please plan to attend the entire training, as sessions build on one another. Register at amosiowa.org. Cost is $20, paid by check or online at amosipl.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. The Board of Benevolences asks you to prayerfully consider making a generous contribution this year to One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during worship on Mar. 9 & 10. Or mail your check, with OGHS marked in the memo line, to:

Plymouth Church
Attn: Nancy Bassett
4126 Ingersoll Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.
2019 Variety Show
Sunday, March 10
6 p.m. | Sanctuary
Tickets sold at the door
$5/person; $20 family max
Cupcake reception to follow in Waveland Hall
Proceeds benefit the RENEW Adult Literacy program at Plymouth and EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center)

Food Buddies Thanks You

Plymouth Food Buddies provide weekend meals to students at Hubbell Elementary School who are food insecure. Food Buddies recently received thank you’s from some of the recipients of the weekend meals. Responses like these warm our hearts and make us feel fortunate to be able to provide these backpack meals to Hubbell students who need them.

One student writes “Thank you for giving us food. It is helping my family”. Another writes “Thank you Food Buddies for giving us food we don’t have otherwise”. A third writes “Thank you for giving us the food. We really need it.” One more writes, “Thank you Food Buddies for the extra food. It helps so I’m not still hungry on the weekends. I like Fridays”.

A quiet group of volunteers at Plymouth makes Food Buddies happen. Each week, Plymouth volunteers deliver 36 backpack meals to Hubbell Elementary. The goal is to provide healthy, easy to prepare, shelf stable meals for students to have on the weekend when they do not have access to school meals. The meals are packed on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 4:30 p.m. before the Saturday night service. Food provided in the meal is either donated or purchased.

Food Buddies started with a grant from the Plymouth Foundation, and recently was a recipient of Christmas special offering funds. Donations of food and money help keep the program going. Food items needed are listed below. Supporting a child for a year costs $222. Meals for one week’s delivery cost $216. Money donations marked Food Buddies can be put in the collection plate or sent to the office. Donated food items can be left in the woven basket in the kitchen window in Waveland Hall.

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Contact Robin Maharry at rlmaharry@gmail.com or 515.225.7873 for more information.

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:
Granola bars
Fruit cups, 4 oz. juice pack
Peanut butter, 16 oz jars
Easy macaroni cups (just add water)
Horizon shelf-stable 8 oz. low fat milk boxes (plain, not chocolate)
Individual serving size cereal boxes (lower sugar preferred)
Chef Boyardee pasta cups
### CALENDAR

#### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
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| Matins Warm Up, 8:15 a.m.  
Cherub Choir Warm Up, 8:30 a.m.  
Childcare, 8:45 a.m.  
**Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr. Church School, 9:15 a.m.**  
Chancel Choir Warm Up, 9:45 a.m.  
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. & Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.  
Steven Torriano Berry Book Signing, 10:15 a.m.& 12:30 p.m.  
KinderChoir Warm Up, 10:30 a.m.  
Flower Delivery Team, Noon  
Financial Peace University, 6 p.m. | Tai Chi, 7 a.m.  
Faith Builders, 9 a.m.  
Quilting, 10 a.m.  
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.  
Board of Benevolences, 5:30 p.m.  
Board of Music & Fine Arts, 5:30 p.m.  
Anti-Racism Committee, 5:30 p.m.  
COCI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m.  
RENEW Leadership Team, 6:15 p.m.  
Troop 50 Scout Meeting, 7 p.m. | AMENS, 6:45 a.m.  
AMOS Circle Meeting, 10:30 a.m.  
Shrove Pancake Supper, 4:30 p.m.  
Career Closet Meeting, 5 p.m.  
Board of Christian Education, 5:30 p.m.  
Board of Christian Stewardship, 5:30 p.m.  
Youth Executive Committee, 5:30 p.m.  
Line Dancing, 6:30 p.m.  
Stephen Ministers Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| **10** |        |         |
| Matins, 8:15 a.m.  
Hand Chime Choir, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
Childcare, 8:45 a.m.  
**Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Matt Mardis-LeCroy Church School, 9:15 a.m.**  
Chancel Choir Warm Up, 9:45 a.m.  
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. & Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.  
Flower Delivery Team, Noon  
Financial Peace University, 6 p.m. | Tai Chi, 7 a.m.  
Quilting, 10 a.m.  
Lenten Bible Study, 3 & 7 p.m.  
Plymouth Women Board Meeting, 4 p.m.  
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.  
COCI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m.  
Board of Christian Social Action, 6 p.m.  
Troop 50 Scout Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Transition from Prison Meeting, 7 p.m. | AMENS, 6:45 a.m.  
Mental Health & Disability Task Force, 5:30 p.m.  
Peace Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
Youth Executive Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
AMOS Core Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Board of Membership, 5:30 p.m.  
Line Dancing, 6:30 p.m.  
Board of Deacons, 7 p.m. |
| **17** |        |         |
| Childcare, 8:45 a.m.  
**Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Matt Mardis-LeCroy Church School, 9:15 a.m.**  
Chancel Choir Warm Up, 9:45 a.m.  
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. & Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.  
Flower Delivery Team, Noon  
Willits LGBTQ Committee, 12:30 p.m. | Tai Chi, 7 a.m.  
Faith Builders, 9 a.m.  
Quilting, 10 a.m.  
Lenten Bible Study, 3 & 7 p.m.  
Plymouth Women Board Meeting, 4 p.m.  
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.  
Board of Christian Social Action, 6 p.m.  
Troop 50 Scout Meeting, 7 p.m. | 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. |
| **24** |        |         |
| Childcare, 8:45 a.m.  
**Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Lindsey Braun Church School, 9:15 a.m.**  
Chancel Choir Warm Up, 9:45 a.m.  
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m. & Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.  
Flower Delivery Team, Noon  
Financial Peace University, 6 p.m. | Tai Chi, 7 a.m.  
Faith Builders, 9 a.m.  
Quilting, 10 a.m.  
Lenten Bible Study, 3 & 7 p.m.  
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.  
Troop 50 Scout Meeting, 7 p.m. | AMENS, 6:45 a.m.  
Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m.  
Line Dancing, 6:30 p.m.  
Church Council, 7 p.m. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>WISE Meeting, 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Memory Cafe, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>RENEW, 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>RENEW, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>House and Space Committee, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Ambrose University Chamber Singers, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Food Buddies, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>T&amp;M Meeting, 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Cuba Partnership Team, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship: 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Matt Mardis-Lecroy</td>
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<td>Tai Chi, Noon</td>
<td>Bible in 90 Days, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Chamber Singers, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bridge, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Chancel Chorale, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Career Closet Sorting, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Plymouth 20/30, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Stephen Minister Leadership Team, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Youth Conversations, 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Basketball Open Gym, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Children’s Choirs, 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Anti-Racism Committee, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bible in 90 Days Conversation, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Hand Chime Choir, 5:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>H.S. Youth Dinner, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Family Ash Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Soul Singers, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Plymouth Bells, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Matins Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Youth Ash Wednesday Worship, 8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.</td>
<td>RENEW, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>RENEW, 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>RENEW, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Men’s Lunch Group, 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Worship: 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship: 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Plymouth Callers, 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Vespers, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Valerie Miller-Coleman</td>
<td>Valerie Miller-Coleman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tai Chi, Noon</td>
<td>Pack 50 Cub Scouts, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Trustees Finance Meeting, 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Chancel Chorale Rehearsal, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bridge, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bible in 90 Days, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Career Closet Sorting, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Green Team, 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coyote Run Farm Pick Up, 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Bible in 90 Days, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Youth Conversations, 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Human Trafficking Task Force, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Children’s Choirs, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Plymouth 20/30, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Hand Chime Choir, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Soul Singers, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Plymouth Bells Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>H.S. Youth Dinner, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation Class Theme Night, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Matins Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Plymouth Bells Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>WISE Meeting, 7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>RENEW, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>RENEW, 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Plymouth Callers, 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Plymouth Lunch &amp; Learn, 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Food Buddies, 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Food Buddies, 4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tai Chi, Noon</td>
<td>Personnel Committee, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship: 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worship: 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Vespers, 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Laura Robinson</td>
<td>Laura Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Closet Sorting, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Chancel Chorale, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Childcare, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Bible in 90 Days, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Plymouth 20/30, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Coyote Run Farm Pick Up, 4:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Basketball Open Gym, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Children’s Choirs, 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Hand Chime Choir, 5:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>HS Youth Dinner, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Soul Singers, 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Confirmation Class Fellowship, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Matins Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plymouth Bells Rehearsal, 7 p.m.</td>
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Lent 2019

Lent—a 40-day period of penance and preparation prior to Easter—is an ancient tradition of the church. The season runs from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, when we usher in the great celebration of Easter. In Lent, the church invites us to consider the ways we fall short of God’s best for us and devote ourselves to preparing through practices like self-examination and confession.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Every year, the Deacons host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper as a way to celebrate the start of the Lenten season. The proceeds from the supper go directly to Plymouth’s Pastors’ Discretionary Fund, which helps people who find themselves temporarily stuck in a place of immediate need. Problems that, for many of us may be nothing more than an inconvenience, can be enough to tip a family on the edge over the edge. That’s why this fund is so important. It allows our ministers to help people directly, when they’re most in need. The process is simple; just a need, a willingness to ask, and the ability of a blessed church to give.

That’s why we call it “Berry Good Pancakes for a Berry Good Cause!” Your $8 ticket — which gets you a plate and all the pancakes you can eat! — can be purchased from your favorite Deacon. You can share the bounty off your plate with children under age 5 (they won’t get their own plate, but there will be no shortage of pancakes!).

The supper once again features pancake making by renowned pancake artists Chris Cakes. You’ll need to be on your toes as you make your way through the fast-and-furious pancake line, as Chris Cakes cooks, grabs pancakes off the griddle and flips them onto your plate! The Deacons will be there to make sure you, your family and friends, will have plentiful pancake accompaniments and beverages.

Clearly this is a Pancake Supper you won’t want to miss! For the food. For the entertainment. And, most of all, for the berry good cause of funding the Pastors’ Discretionary Fund. Join us Tuesday, Mar. 5, 4:30–7 p.m. in Waveland Hall. Tickets can be purchased from any Deacon, at tables in Waveland Hall following Sunday services, or at the door. Yum! 😋

Plymouth’s Annual Maundy Thursday Dinner

Apr. 18 at 6:15 p.m. | $12 per person
Watch for more details soon!
Ash Wednesday...

is the first day of Lent. The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is three-fold: to meditate on the frailty of life, to renew our commitment to daily repentance, and to remember with confidence that Christ has conquered death and that love and life win. Ash Wednesday worship is filled with gospel truth, rich symbolism and ritual. You are encouraged to join us at one of our three Ash Wednesday worship opportunities.

Meaning Matters in the Second Stage of Life

If you have reached the age of 50, you know that something happens. And that something is more than just receiving an invitation to join AARP. Something happens inside and you begin asking big and deep questions, like “What does it all mean, anyway?”

Lent is a 40-day season in the church year that also asks big and deep questions. And so we have put together something called, 40 Days of Lent for Folks over 50. This is a guide to help us make Lent a season that is deeply meaningful. It is a guide to the season that includes simple suggestions to help us take on the traditional disciplines of Lent such as: scripture reading and study, prayer, and works of love. You can gather with us at church for things like Monday discussion groups and Wednesday note writing. You can follow the guide at home on your own. Or any combination that fits your lifestyle and abilities. The guide book will be available at the Welcome Desk. Or you can email LeAnn and she will send you an electronic copy.

We invite you to make meaning with us during this Lenten season. Email Nancy Strickler at njpstrickler@gmail.com, and LeAnn Stubbs at lstubs@plymouthchurch.com.

Lenten Vespers

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary
starts Mar. 14
BY MATT MARDIS-LECROY
Senior Minister

I love a lot of things about Plymouth Church. Here is one of them: we have a culture of cultivating new leadership. And that practice has served us well.

In most churches I know, leadership is a lot like musical chairs: The same cast of characters keeps changing places. So the chairs may be different, but the faces are the same. New folk are welcome to join the church and maybe even to serve in some limited capacity, but real power is reserved for those who already have it.

But closed cultures of leadership do not serve an organization well. They lead to group-think and entrenched assumptions.

So believe me when I tell you: I am so glad that Plymouth Church does not do that. We want new leaders! And we are pretty good at welcoming them. Over my almost 14 years on the staff, I have had the joy of watching people make the journey of joining the church, agreeing to serve on a board and then moving quickly into positions of real responsibility.

We are a better church because of it.

Plymouth has nine elected boards. And March is the month when those boards are looking for new members. Maybe this is the time for you to step into leadership. Ask yourself if your gifts and interests might align with any of these boards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BENEVOLENCES</strong></td>
<td>Oversees the charitable and outward-facing work of the church—our giving to community organizations and to the wider church.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Oversees our programs for families and children: church school, classes for families, Our Whole Lives, Vacation Bible School and family life events.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION</strong></td>
<td>Helps the people of Plymouth learn about and engage in work for justice.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP</strong></td>
<td>Plans programs to lead the people of Plymouth to grow in generosity.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEACONS</strong></td>
<td>Oversee the worship life of the church and help the ministers administer the sacraments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBERSHIP</strong></td>
<td>Works to bring new members into the church and retain the members we already have.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MUSIC AND FINE ARTS</strong></td>
<td>Plans a comprehensive program for music and the arts in the life of Plymouth Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOARD OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH</strong></td>
<td>Develops opportunities for the members and friends of Plymouth to grow spiritually.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRUSTEES</strong></td>
<td>Manage the property and finances of the church.</td>
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Here is one the things I believe in my bones: God has given you gifts. And Plymouth could use them. Come join us on this journey!
Welcome New Members!
Received February 9 & 10, 2018

Judy and Andrew Downs
Lynn Koch
Steve Malone
Daniel Perkins

Ardith Ortgies
Courtney Rife
Joe and Mary Simmons
Maggie Tillman

Join the Board of Deacons

You see us every weekend—in casual attire at Saturday night services, in black suits on Sundays, and in Pilgrim attire on Thanksgiving and red sweaters and plaid bowties on Christmas Eve. Being a Deacon is such a rewarding experience! Join us!
As you consider it, here’s why our current members say they got involved...

**CONNECTION**
- Meet great new people
- Contribute to the team
- Expand my community
- Experience church in a special way
- Feel the camaraderie
- Participate more fully in service to our church
- Build lifelong friendships

**SERVICE**
- Give back
- Make a difference
- Enhance the worship experience
- Extend hospitality...little transcendent moments
- Gift of service
- Get to know & be an extension of the ministers
- Baptisms
- Pancake suppers
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

Plymouth Church Program Staff

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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
Jennifer Hines ..................Director of Operations and Finance
Karen Jeske ...........................................Transition into Ministry Coordinator
Valerie Miller-Coleman .........Minister of Community Engagement
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

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