Pie Weekend 2019
Sliced a Little Differently

Start gathering the ingredients for your pie today! (Or place your order with the bakery. We understand!) Either way, it’s the pie that matters. And all that it symbolizes.

In previous years, Pie Weekend signaled the successful culmination of Plymouth Church’s annual stewardship campaign. Many of you turned in your pledge card that day, sharing part of your abundance with the mission of our church and ensuring that it could grow in the coming year as we grow in love of God and neighbor.

This year, however, Pie Weekend—Nov. 16 & 17—signals the kickoff of our 2020 Stewardship Campaign. In addition to bringing a pie, and selecting your favorite slice of pie from the tables and tables full in Waveland Hall, you will pick up your personalized envelope of information-filled stewardship materials. Inside also is that pledge card you’re accustomed to. And you’re welcome to complete it that same day with the amount of your abundance that you or your family plans to share in 2020, and turn it in as part of your Pie Weekend tradition.

Otherwise, our campaign will kick off that weekend and continue through Dec. 31. We hope you’ll carefully read and listen to the message presented in the materials and throughout the campaign. If you’re already reading this, you’re familiar with at least a mission or two of Plymouth Church and know the valuable role it plays in our lives and in our community. In fact, each member of Plymouth’s boards has already completed a “Pledge, to Pledge” card. If nothing else, we invite you to make a pledge equal to the amount that you typically place in the collection plate throughout the year and help us set a realistic budget soundly based on your intentions.

No matter how you slice it, we hope you will choose Pie Weekend as the time you pledge to pledge, too. Thank you for sharing your abundance!
CONDOLENCES
• to the family and friends of Glenn Smith, who passed away Sept. 30.
• to the family and friends of Jordan Leon, who passed away Oct. 5.
• to Janice Adams, whose mother passed away Oct. 8.
• to the family and friends of Aurellia Jones.
• to the family and friends of Lenny Lange.
• to Timothy Pridle, whose mother passed away recently.
• to Char Wilson, whose son Eli was born Oct. 5.

Bread for the Journey

It is time to sneak a peek at the view from the balcony. Not literally—although you are, of course, more than welcome to go up in the balcony anytime you like. The view is fantastic! (It can, however, be a little loud.)

No, in this case, “the view from the balcony” is a metaphor—one of those actually-kinda-useful clichés from the literature on leadership. Going up to the balcony is about getting enough distance from the details to see the big picture. It is something I sometimes struggle to do. So, in this column, I was hoping you and I might do it together.

How does Plymouth Church look from the balcony right now? I want to offer four observations. And because I am, by training and temperament, a preacher, all four observations begin with the same two letters: Staffing, Stewardship, Strategic Planning and Stoddard.

Staffing

It feels like I can finally exhale. I am hoping that, by the time you read this column, we will have already announced the name of our new Director of Operations and Finance. We are also (probably) closing in on our new Director of Child and Family Ministries. And it is such a relief! Current staff and some of our lay leaders have had to stretch further and work harder to keep Plymouth going over the last several short-staffed months. I will be grateful to put that behind us. And with the addition of some truly excellent people, I believe our team will be positioned to do extraordinary things.

But I hope you notice something: even our full staff is leaner than it used to be. In response to 2019’s budget deficit, church leaders developed and have now implemented a plan to streamline our staffing. Make no mistake: this team will do great work. But we will be doing it with fewer hands than we used to have.

Stewardship

How is this year’s stewardship campaign not like other years’ stewardship campaigns? I am glad you asked!

Up here in the balcony, it is hard to miss the remarkable things Plymouth has done over the last 20 years: a new addition to our building, debt retirement, sustaining our Transition into Ministry program and completing urgent repairs to our historic Rollett Tower. The people of Plymouth are incredibly generous! And Plymouth is so much stronger as a result. At the same time, the annual operating budget has posed a bit of a challenge. Last year’s pledges fell short of our goal. So we will be approaching the annual stewardship campaign a little differently this year.

For one thing, the stewardship campaign will be compact. We will begin on Pac Weekend (Nov. 16 and 17) and end a month later. In the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, all of us will be asked to ponder what Plymouth means to us and what we can do to sustain its work.

And there is a bit of a change in what we are asking from you this year. In the past, we have asked our boards and committees to dream big (and sometimes expensive) dreams. We ask them: what would you do with more resources? Then we would come to the congregation asking for a dramatic increase in giving to make these dreams real.

Not this year. This year we are crafting a budget that meets our needs—nothing more, nothing less. We want to raise what we need to support our leaner staffing structure and continue the programs we all love.

Our leaders have worked faithfully and diligently to determine our needs. Now it falls to all of us to do our part. If you pledge to Plymouth—thank you. I hope you can increase your pledge for 2020. If you have never made a pledge to Plymouth before, this is the year when you can join the rest of us in supporting this life-changing work. And that work is about to get a lot more interesting.

Strategic Planning

Who are we? Where are we going? In a congregational church, we answer these questions together. And that is why the next couple of months will be so critical.

Our strategic planning process will invite all the people of Plymouth to come together and dream about what we are called to do. (You can read more about the process elsewhere in this issue of the Contact).

Do you know why I find this so exciting? I believe that God speaks most clearly when everyone has a voice and all of us listen carefully. I hope you plan to join us in the work.

Stoddard

OK, this last one is a stretch. By “Stoddard” I mean “Stoddard Lane” and by “Stoddard Lane” I really mean the motto he gave us: We agree to differ. We resolve to love. We unite to serve.

Stoddard Lane led Plymouth Church through the most difficult days of the last century. He did it by tapping into the peculiar genius of Plymouth. He reminded us of what we have always known: difference does not have to threaten our relationships. Difference offers us the opportunity to go deeper with one another.

I imagine the months ahead will be bitterly divisive: an impeachment, followed by the Iowa caucuses, followed by a Presidential election. I don’t think any of us really knows how hard it will be.

But I know this: Plymouth Church was made for a time such as this. Plymouth people have a deep commitment to sharing life across difference. Plymouth people know the experience of being enriched by loving disagreements.

Agreeing to differ. Resolving to love. Uniting to serve. In the months ahead, these commodities will be in short supply. But Plymouth will have the very thing that we so desperately need.

Don’t you see how exciting this could be?

I am so often down in the details, distracted by the day to day. But up here, in the balcony, we have quite a view. Good things are coming.

I hope you enjoy the view! #

Opportunities with HAT

Over the next several months, the Homeless Assistance Team (HAT) has several volunteer opportunities. HAT’s primary, ongoing efforts are shelter meals at Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS), furniture pickup and delivery for housing homeless and refugee families; and hosting homeless families at Plymouth (Family Promise). To help with shelter meals you may donate food or cash or help with the evening meal by food preparation and/or serving the meal. If you have a group interested in food preparation and/or serving, guidance and assistance is available. The upcoming open dates are Nov. 26 or Dec. 26. If cash donation, please indicate donation to HAT or Homeless Assistance Team. For more information contact Susan Pohl: susanapohl@gmail.com.

If you’d like to volunteer from your home, the furniture pickup team could use help with a

IRENE HARDISTY
Board of Benevolences Chair

HAT also collects hygiene products that are split as needed between CISS and Family Promise. Hygiene product needs range from shampoo and soap to disposable diapers and underwear. Leave these donations at the bins near the Welcome Center at the Church.
ANNUAL NUT SALE: IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

The 2019 Plymouth Women’s Nut Sale will be held after Saturday and Sunday services, beginning Nov. 23 to Dec. 8. We will have all of your favorite varieties of fresh, delicious nuts available (some covered in chocolate!) for $12 a pound. Early-bird bonus: a special pre-sale will take place at the Nov. 21 Lunch and Learn. All proceeds go to the Plymouth Women’s Scholarship Fund. We thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

MEMORY CAFE

Memory cafe happens 10-11 a.m. on the second Friday of the 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 Friday, Nov. 8. Contact Dian Meek at 515.255.2220 for more information.

TRINITY POTLUCK

The next Bible Study/Potluck exchange with Trinity Las Americas United Methodist Church will be Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 6:15. Everyone attending will bring a dish to share and meet at Trinity, 1548 8th St. The Bible Study is in Spanish and English. We are building community together, and all are welcome.

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

NOV. LUNCH & LEARN

We are very pleased to announce that our Lunch and Learn speaker on November 21 will be the director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa, Mark Stringer. Formerly senior minister at the First Unitarian Church in Des Moines, Mark has been the ACLU of Iowa executive director since May of 2017. A community leader for many years, Mark served as former chair of the United Church of Christ in Iowa. As always, we expect a lively discussion — so be ready to ask questions!

THE ART OF DYING WELL

There’s a new book in the Stephen Ministry library! The Art of Dying Well by Katy Butler, is a “down-to-earth manual for living, aging, and dying with meaning and even joy.” While the title may be a bit off-putting, the book details step-by-step preparations for practical, communal, physical, and sometimes spiritual help to us make the most of our remaining time, whether that’s decades, years, or months. Take a look, and borrow a copy. There are three! And don’t be surprised if you decide to purchase your own copy, along with a highlighter, for the parts that really speak to you, to make the rest of your life journey as healthy and happy as possible.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Need a non-judgmental person to walk with you as you wrestle with a problem, an illness or a loss? Contact LeAnn Stubbs at 515.255.3149 or Bev Burns at 515.224.9571 to discuss having a Stephen Minister assigned to walk with you.

HANDEL’S MESSIAH

On Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., ArtsPlymouth will present G.F. Handel’s beloved work Messiah, part I (the Christmas portion), with orchestra. Save the date and make plans to join us!

GREENING PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Do you love Christmas and all the decorations that go with it? Maybe you can’t get enough decorating for Christmas?! Well, we have a fantastic opportunity for you on Saturday, Nov. 30, 9-10:30 a.m. The Board of Music and Fine Arts will decorate Plymouth Church for Advent/Christmas. We will hang some wreaths, setup the manger scene in the Tower Room, and decorate several trees. Many hands make light work: If you would like to lend a helping hand, please contact Christopher Goodson, cgoodson@plymouthchurch.com.

JOIN THE 1619 PROJECT STUDY GROUP

The 1619 Project, a publication of The New York Times Magazine, marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to Jamestown, Virginia. The Anti-Racism Committee invites you to join a 6-week session to discuss the essays and creative works of the 1619 Project. The facilitated, small study group sessions will meet Thursdays, Jan. 23 to Feb. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost for materials is $10. Please RSVP by Monday, Nov. 25. Email Sheena Thomas, sheenathomas98@gmail.com, and send your check for $10 made out to Plymouth Church with “1619 Project” in the memo line.

THANKSGIVING PLAY

ArtsPlymouth presents Larissa FastHorse’s The Thanksgiving Play, with performances Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 & 23 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m., in the Recital Hall. Good intentions collide with absurd assumptions in Larissa FastHorse’s wickedly funny satire, as a troop of terminally ‘woke’ teaching artists scramble to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage Month. The play is intended for high-school age through adults. Come and have your assumptions challenged! Admission is free with an opportunity to give a love offering that supports the costs of the production.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AT EBENEZER BAPTIST IN CUBA

A hug from Cuba. The stole the pastor is wearing, I gave to him. It is very special to me because it was the stole that was given to me in Seminarity when they ordained me into pastoral ministry. I believe that he doesn’t know this… I never told him, but each time that I see him with the stole, I am excited (emotional).

PLYMOUTH PILGRIM CHOIR

All are invited to tell the Thanksgiving story by participating in Plymouth’s Thanksgiving Day worship service. We provide the Pilgrim costumes! Adults and children, fourth grade or older, are invited to sing; children in kindergarten through third grade are also encouraged to join us as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Costume pickup takes place Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in the gym. A rehearsal follows from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We gather on Thanksgiving Day at 9 a.m. for the 10 a.m. service. If you would like to participate, or have questions, please contact Diane Hayes, Administrative Assistant for Music & Fine Arts, at dhayes@plymouthchurch.com.

IMMIGRATION & RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH

Plymouth’s Welcoming Migrants Committee and Anti-Racism Committee have developed questions to ask presidential candidates. The United Church of Christ encourages engagement and advocacy by local congregations on justice and peace issues and their website was a main source for preparing these questions. The questions pertain to maternal mortality of black women, school to prison pipeline, voting rights, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Temporary Protected Status protections, the detention of migrant children and families and immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship.

WHEN YOU VOTE, VOTE TO THE VOTE

Don’t listen to your politicians. Vote to the vote!

WANNA PLAY BRIDGE?

Come and see award-winning paintings in a variety of styles, ranging from whimsical snowpeople to abstract impressions of New York City on 9/11. Coming Nov. 23, abstract acrylic paintings by Des Moines artist Ron Darnavich. The exhibit will also include some of his 3-D assemblages from old pianos.

IN THE GALLERY THROUGH NOV. 22

Come and see the beautiful paintings by your favorite artists. We will have a coat rack available.

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

GREENING PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Volunteer with USCRI Green Card Clinic

The Welcoming Migrants Committee would like to introduce you to a new volunteer opportunity. United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants is a non-profit organization which administers refugee resettlement and placement programs in 33 locations across the US. Refugee resettlement involves addressing the immediate needs of newly-arrived refugees, like housing, food, medical care, and assisting refugees and asylees to enroll in school, obtain jobs, and acclimate to their new communities in the United States. After a refugee has been in the US with refugee status for one year, they need to apply for a green card. USCRI holds monthly green card clinics with the help of volunteers who make photocopies and help fill out the applications. Training is required. The next clinic will be Saturday, Nov. 16 with shifts from 9 a.m. to noon and from noon to 2 p.m. Training for new volunteers will be Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please email Nancy Andersen at nanders@mschri.com.

WANNA PLAY BRIDGE?

Plymouth Bridge is an active group with 24 members and 10 subs. We usually have 3 tables. Play starts at 12:30 p.m. every Wed. in the Burling Room. We are a happy group and will always advise a new bridge player. Interested? Call Paity Gquez, 515.864.6504.

AMES PIANO QUARTET

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m., ArtsPlymouth hosts the Ames Piano Quartet from Iowa State University for a spectacular concert featuring the world premieres of George Tsontakis’ Piano Quartet #4, commissioned by the Ames Piano Quartet, the resident chamber ensemble at Iowa State University. Other works to be performed include George Tsontakis’ earlier Piano Quartet #2 and the beloved Piano Quartet in C minor, Op. 15 of Gabriel Faure. Members of the Ames Quartet include pianist Mei-Hui Huang, violinist Berjx Martiric-Jeric, violinist Stephanie Price-Wong, and cellist George Work. Join us for this free concert on election day!

CAREER CLOSET GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT—SAVE THE DATE!

Cindy’s Boutique, 114th St, Valley Junction, is hosting a shopping event to benefit the Plymouth Career Closet for Women. Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

3
Reminder: Clocks fall back for Daylight Savings
Plymouth Bells Warm-up, 7:45 a.m.
Music Warm-up, 8:15 a.m.
Soul Singers Warm-up, 8:30 a.m.
Children, 9 a.m.
Chancel Choir Warm-up, 9:45 a.m.
Senior Small Group, 10:15 a.m.
Hallelujah! Choir Warm-up, 10:30 a.m.
Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Childcare, 8:45 a.m.
Matins, 8:15 a.m.
Hand Chime Choir Warm-up, 8:30 a.m.
Matins Warm-up, 8:15 a.m.

4
Quilting, 10 a.m.
Yoga, 5:30 p.m.
Board of Music & Fine Arts, 5:45 p.m.
CODI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m.
Scout Meeting, 7 p.m.

5
AMENS, 8:45 a.m.
Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m.
Peace Committee, 5:30 p.m.
AMOS, 6 p.m.
Board of Membership, 6:30 p.m.
Lance Linear, 6:30 p.m.
Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.

6
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 10 a.m.
Friendship as a Spiritual Practice, Noon
Ta'ki Ross
Bridge, 12:05 p.m.
Canter Church Singing, 4 p.m.
Children, 4:45 p.m.
Youth Confirmation & Connections, 4:45 p.m.
Chancel, Choralists, Handbell, Treble and Kinder Choir Rehearsals, 5:15 p.m.
Music Majors Choir, 5:15 p.m.
Matins Parents Choir, 6 p.m.
High School Youth Dinner, 6 p.m.
Matins Parents Choir, Young Adults Programming, 6 p.m.
Sole Singers Rehearsal, 6:10 p.m.
Confirmation Theme Night, 7 p.m.
Adul Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Matins Rehearsal, Plymouth Bells, 7 p.m.
Young Adults, 7 p.m.

7
WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.
House & Space Committee, 8 a.m.
Living WOW!, 2 p.m.
Board of Benevolence, 5:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:10 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Poet Study Group, 7 p.m.

8
Memory Cafe, 10 a.m.

9
Mass Leaf Rake, 6 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 7 a.m.
Board of Benevolence, 5:30 p.m.
Plymouth Bells, 9:15 a.m.
Board of Membership, 7 a.m.
Chancel Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

10
Matins Warm-up, 8:15 a.m.
Carol Chime Choir, 8:30 a.m.
Children, 8:45 a.m.
Chancel Choir Warm-up, 9:45 a.m.
YOU/VIT Organizational Meeting, 10:15 a.m.
Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Lindsay Braun
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m.
Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.
KinderChoir, 10:30 a.m.
Flower Delivery Team, Noon
Anti Racism Committee, Noon

11
Quilting, 10 a.m.
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.
CODI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m.
Scout Meeting, 7 p.m.

12
AMENS, 8:45 a.m.
Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m.
Peace Committee, 5:30 p.m.
AMOS, 6 p.m.
Board of Membership, 6:30 p.m.
Lance Linear, 6:30 p.m.
Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.

13
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 10 a.m.
Friendship as a Spiritual Practice, Noon
Ta'ki Ross
Bridge, 12:05 p.m.
Canter Church Singing, 4 p.m.
Children, 4:45 p.m.
Youth Confirmation & Connections, 4:45 p.m.
Chancel, Choralists, Handbell, Treble and Kinder Choir Rehearsals, 5:15 p.m.
Music Majors Choir, 5:15 p.m.
Matins Parents Choir, 6 p.m.
High School Youth Dinner, 6 p.m.
Matins Parents Choir, Young Adults Programming, 6 p.m.
Sole Singers Rehearsal, 6:10 p.m.
Confirmation Theme Night, 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Matins Rehearsal, Plymouth Bells, 7 p.m.
Young Adults, 7 p.m.

14
WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.
Men’s Lunch Group, 11:30 a.m.
Living WOW!, 2 p.m.
Welcoming Migrants Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Scout Meeting, 6 p.m.
Human Trafficking Task Force, 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:10 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Poet Study Group, 7 p.m.

15

16
Matins Leaf Rake, 6 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 7 a.m.
Worship, 9:30 p.m.
Matt Martin-LeCroy
Plymouth Bells, 9:30 p.m.
Childcare, 5:30 p.m.

17
Matins Warm-up, 8:15 a.m.
Carol Chime Choir, 8:30 a.m.
Children, 8:45 a.m.
Youth Group Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Matt Martin-LeCroy
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m.
P.E. Weekend, 10 a.m.
Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.
Flower Delivery Team, Noon

18
Quilting, 10 a.m.
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.
CODI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m.
Scout Meeting, 7 p.m.

19
AMENS, 8:45 a.m.
Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m.
Peace Committee, 5:30 p.m.
AMOS, 6 p.m.
Board of Membership, 6:30 p.m.
Lance Linear, 6:30 p.m.
Board of Deacons, 7 p.m.

20
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 10 a.m.
Friendship as a Spiritual Practice, Noon
Ta’ki Ross
Bridge, 12:05 p.m.
Canter Church Singing, 4 p.m.
Children, 4:45 p.m.
Youth Confirmation & Connections, 4:45 p.m.
Chancel, Choralists, Handbell, Treble and Kinder Choir Rehearsals, 5:15 p.m.
Music Majors Choir, 5:15 p.m.
Matins Parents Choir, 6 p.m.
High School Youth Dinner, 6 p.m.
Matins Parents Choir, Young Adults Programming, 6 p.m.
Sole Singers Rehearsal, 6:10 p.m.
Confirmation Theme Night, 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Matins Rehearsal, Plymouth Bells, 7 p.m.
Young Adults, 7 p.m.

21
WISE Meeting, 7 a.m.
Plymouth Women Lunch & Learn, 11 a.m.
Living WOW!, 2 p.m.
Welcoming Migrants Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Scout Meeting, 6 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:10 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
Poet Study Group, 7 p.m.

22
The Thanksgiving Play, 7 p.m.

23
Matins Leaf Rake, 6 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 7 a.m.
Worship, 9:30 p.m.
Matt Martin-LeCroy
Plymouth Bells, 9:30 p.m.
The Thanksgiving Play, 7 p.m.

24
Matins, 8:15 a.m.
Trude Choir Warm-up, 8:30 a.m.
Childcare, 8:45 a.m.
Choirer Warm-up, 10:30 a.m.
Worship, 9 & 11 a.m.: Matt Martin-LeCroy
After Worship Fellowship, 10 a.m.
Noon Fellowship Forum, 10:10 a.m.
Flower Delivery Team, Noon
The Thanksgiving Play, 2 p.m.

25
Quilting, 10 a.m.
Yoga, 5:15 p.m.
CODI Centering Prayer, 5:45 p.m.
Scout Meeting, 7 p.m.

26
AMENS, 8:45 a.m.
Shawl Knitting Ministry, 5 p.m.
Pilgrim Costume Pick-up, 5:45 p.m.
Board of Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
Lance Linear, 6:30 p.m.
Church Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Pilgrim Family Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

27
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
RENEW Adult ELL, 10 a.m.
Ta’ki Ross
Bridge, 12:30 p.m.
Canter Church Singing, 4 p.m.
Children, 4:45 p.m.
Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6 p.m.
Confirmation Family Night, 7 p.m.

28
Pilgrim Family Rehearsal, 9 a.m.
Civil Rights, 10 a.m.
Ta’ki Ross
Bridge, 12:30 p.m.
Canter Church Singing, 4 p.m.
Children, 4:45 p.m.
Confirmation Family Night, 7 p.m.

29

30
RENEW Adult ELL, 3 p.m.
Worship, 9:30 p.m.
Mary Kate Buchanan
Childcare, 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
Thanksgiving @ Plymouth

This year, Plymouth Church will offer more opportunities than ever before to reflect and give thanks.

The Thanksgiving Play (by Larissa FastHorse) offers a satirical look at Thanksgiving traditions by portraying performances will be on November 22 and 23 at 7 p.m., and then again on November 24 at 2 p.m. Come ready to laugh…and to think!

On Wednesday, November 27, join us in the sanctuary at 6 pm for brief service of worship. Led by Matt and Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, this service of music, reflection and prayer will create space for us to express our gratitude.

Then, on Thursday the 28th at 10 a.m., it's Plymouth's traditional Thanksgiving Day service. Join the ministers and Pilgrim Choir for a service that reflects on our roots, gives thanks for God’s blessings and raises funds that Plymouth will use to help the homeless here in Des Moines. Governor Reynolds has been invited to read the state’s official Thanksgiving Day proclamation as part of the service.

Plymouth Grounds

Our Mission: The Plymouth Grounds Coffee Shop will grow in love of God and neighbor by teaching work skills to students with intellectual disabilities in a supportive learning community where all are welcome.

Each semester, Plymouth Grounds staff work with new student baristas learning work skills. These skills will generalize and transfer to future paid employment. This fall, we have three students from the Des Moines Public Schools that fill this role. The following is information that each barista would like you to know about him/herself.

Tanzie Steele

Tanzie is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and an active member of the STEP program at Central Campus. Tanzie is a friendly young lady that loves to collect cards and play card games. She likes working with and caring for children and animals. Tanzie thinks that her strength is working with money and using the cash register. Tanzie said she is discovering that she is capable of doing things that she didn't know she could do.

Joy Rector

Joy is a very social, friendly young lady. She has many friends. She is a senior at Roosevelt High School and is an active member of Best Buddies. Joy is an Ambassador for Special Olympics and participates in track, swimming, bowling, and equestrian competitions. Joy is a spokesperson for spreading the idea of inclusion. At the coffee shop, Joy likes making coffee and seeing her favorite customers.

Jack Mettler

Jack is a polite young man that has the “cheesiest smile” in his words. He is a graduate of Urbandale High School and is currently a student at the STEP program at Central Campus. Jack has many interests including; bowling, listening to music, watching movies and TV, and spending time with family. He loves deer hunting (Jack is the spotter) and snowmobiling with his step dad. Jack likes learning to make different drinks, bake, and meeting new people and co-workers.

Joy likes making coffee and seeing her favorite customers.

Strategic Planning Update

Plymouth is in the early stages of crafting a new strategic plan. The time has come to ask “Who are we?” and “What do we feel called to accomplish in the next five years?” It is such an exciting season! I want to tell you a little about the people doing this work and the process we intend to follow.

To guide us in our strategic planning work, the Plymouth Church Foundation has funded a grant that allows us to hire the Rev. Sara Rice. Known to many of us as the recently retired Executive Director of the Des Moines Area Religious Council, Rev. Rice is also an experienced congregational consultant. At the Alban Institute, she worked closely with Susan Beaumont and has advised congregations across the country. Now she will be working with us.

In September, Plymouth’s Church Council appointed a Strategic Planning Steering Committee to guide this work. (Amy Anderson, Aaron Barker, Caroline Bettis, Nathan Blake, Pam Kenyon, Sid Ramsey and Barbie Sullivan). This Steering Committee has been working closely with Rev. Rice, me, our Church Council Moderator (Sally Pederson) and Moderator-Elect (David Johnson). In weekly meetings, the Steering Committee is focusing on two tasks: 1.) Working to get a clear picture of where Plymouth has been and 2.) Devising a process that will engage as many members of Plymouth as possible in dreaming about our future.

Sometime after the first of the year, the steering committee will launch a broad program to engage the congregation. Plans now to attend one of the opportunities to have your voice heard as we imagine the next chapter for Plymouth Church.

Once the process of gathering feedback is complete, the steering committee will receive it, analyze it and listen for what the Spirit is saying. Their ultimate goal is to present a proposal or series of proposals to the church for what comes next.

As this process unfolds, I would ask you to do a couple of things: PRAY that God's Spirit will speak clearly through this process. REACH OUT to me, to our leaders or to members of the Steering Committee if you have any questions. And SHOW UP in early 2020 to play your part. The people who show up over the next couple of months will set the course of this congregation for the next several years.

It just won't be complete with you.
Cross Outreach Ministry

What do you do as a Pastor?
I am asked this question quite frequently from people outside the church. There isn’t a quick answer to this question. Each week looks different with meetings, classes, Bible studies, worship prep, sermon writing... the list goes on! But you know what always makes the list? Assistance calls. Everyday I receive at least one call or walk-in from people in our community that are struggling to avoid eviction or pay their utility bills. Each case requires a good amount of time to listen to their story, help them get connected with local services and agencies, calling landlords, and emailing Roberta at CROSS Outreach to let her know I am referring someone from Plymouth. It occurred to me recently that while Plymouth members generously support the Pastor’s Discretionary fund, you may not be aware of all this entails and you might be interested in knowing more about one of our key partners.

Why Roberta? Why CROSS Outreach?
Roberta is the Executive Director of CROSS Outreach. When I asked Roberta what makes CROSS Outreach different from other local assistance agencies, she said, “We provide assistance by applying compassion and common sense.” CROSS assists people who don’t fit in the “boxes” that other agencies need them to fit into receive help. Other agencies don’t help with deposits. CROSS Outreach Ministry

Special Christmas Offering

Plymouth Church is humbled in gratitude for all that we have freely received from God. We continue to grow in generosity by giving away of our possessions that include food, clothing, furniture and money. We want this monetary abundance to flow out from Plymouth Church and into the hands of deserving clients from obtaining economic stability.

It is in this spirit that the Plymouth Church Board of Benevolences is now accepting applications from Metro Des Moines area nonprofit agencies for its Christmas Special Offering gifts. These are modest gifts, where the amount gifted depends on the total Christmas collection and typically range from $3,000 to $5,000. These are a one-time occurrence and require 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 2019 Christmas Special Offering are due Nov. 22, 2019 and can be downloaded from the Board of Benevolences on the Plymouth Church website, or by visiting: form.jotform.com/924866250202152.

Welcome New Members!
Received October 12 and 13, 2019

Paula Blake
Rachel & Jordan Bruns
Mary Kate Buchanan
Jan Burch & Bob Mitchell
Brena Corona
Nick & Maggie Dau
Spencer Graves & Danielle Dircks
Bob Hopson
Ryan, Kelley & Charles Howell
Kailey Kerr & James Winterbottom
Lauren Linnenbirck & Elizabeth Medina
Kathy Murphy
Chuck Offenburger
Mark & Jessica Patterson
Jan & Erica Sloan
Tony & Julie Stoik
Noel Walker
Jinying Zhan

We’re glad to have you as part of Plymouth’s faith family. Welcome!
Plymouth Church Program Staff

Matt Mardis-LeCroy .............................................Senior Minister
Lindsey Braun .............................................Minister of Discipleship
Mary Kate Buchanan ..............................Associate Minister
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
Jan Van Wyk ..........................Director of Plymouth Nursery School
Susan Waller .............................................Director of Youth Ministry

For more information about Plymouth Church, please scan this code to visit our website at www.plymouthchurch.com, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/plymouthchurch and Instagram @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

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