Moving from the sanctuary to Waveland Hall, you may have seen a table with bags of materials for making quilt tops. Sew one of these together, and the Plymouth Quilters will add batting and tie everything together.

At least, they used to.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 crisis in March, these skilled craftspeople have shifted focus. As Plymouth people so often do, they are responding to a pressing need. On March 27, Dr. Linda Railsback learned that a retirement facility would not be receiving any PPE after four days. Two days later, the quilters and others who sew delivered 50 masks. Hearing of Unity Point’s need for a cloth mask that would prolong the life of their N95 masks, these skilled people made and delivered yet more. By then, the word was out: Agencies in need of masks can count on Plymouth. Through April, May, and June, they have delivered more than 1,100 masks to places as diverse as Bishop Drumm, United Way, Orchard Place Child Guidance, Primary Health Care, DMARC’s Food Bank, Plymouth Place, and Planned Parenthood.

As you might imagine, this put a strain on the sewing infrastructure. Elastic for ear pieces could not be found for days. Fabric was often sold out. Sewers in the high-risk group for Covid-19 could not shop anyway, so they use what they have on hand. All masks are CDC compliant. Many show clever creativity, especially in the nosepieces. Masks can be found that include wire, electrical tape, pipe cleaners, twist ties, or nothing at all. Des Moines’ own Raygun donated about a dozen tees to help with making ties. What matters is that the masks work. When the Food Bank needed tote bags for clients to take their groceries home, Holly Craiger coordinated their creation out of discarded tee shirts. The quilters pitched in.

Linda Railsback does much of the coordination for the mask effort, aided by such persons as Mary Carter, Zac Kuehl, Mary Stuart, Rhonda Taffee, Carma Herring, Molly Veenstra, Priscilla Ruhe, Mary Riche, Vicki Bohall, Erin Leiran, and Linda Bryant. When Linda’s husband, Gene Bryant, heard that the group needed help with deliveries, he volunteered. When he was not available, Erin Leiran and her sons stepped up. Dr. Railsback says that the group is now in “maintenance mode,” keeping agencies supplied as they pass out masks. These servants expect no accolades—only the energy to keep on for as long as it takes.

BY: CLEVE & LINDA BRYANT
CONDOLENCES

- to the family of Michael Thompson, whose mother passed away recently
- to the family of Don Marek, who passed away
- to all those who have lost someone to COVID-19

Plymouth’s website has a new look & a new focus. Be sure to check it out!

BY: CINDY EATON-EKLUND

After more than a year of receiving feedback from various individuals and boards all around Plymouth, and discerning what was optimal for Plymouth in a new website, we’re proud to introduce a new site effective July 1! Fireworks might be appropriate!

Our previous site, designed in 2014, was a dinosaur in the virtual world. A lot of thought and work has gone into the new site that you can now see at plymouthchurch.com. But maybe most importantly, what you can’t see has changed as well. The Google analytics and other site assessment tools that are available to us now are much more sophisticated than six years ago. And those new behind-the-scenes tools will help us stay on top of how the site is being used, as well as how Google is reacting to it. As a result, we will be constantly refreshing the site and responding to what the analytics tell us.

J2CreativeWorks in Minnesota worked with us to develop a site that fits Plymouth today and in the future. We've employed much more video on the site (and you’ll continue to see that increase as our church eventually resumes normal operations). The search tool now searches ONLY our site, so when you look for worship videos, you’ll be directed to the correct page on Plymouth's website. Our navigation bar is designed to be more intuitive, even with the tremendous amount of ways Plymouth is active in the world! Life at Plymouth may be your best friend in searching for information as a member.

Much of the information in this website is designed for visitors and those of you looking for top-level information about Plymouth. Later this year, when Plymouth’s new church management software is operational, it will contain an easily accessible app that will house more in-depth information and tools that will be very valuable to boards and committees! The website and the app will work hand-in-hand to provide you with the level of information you’re seeking.

So check out the site. And check back frequently. Things will be constantly changing! Thank you to the Plymouth Foundation for a generous grant to support the redesign.

Be sure to check it out!
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

Our Evening Prayer services will continue through the summer! During this unknown and anxious time for our community, we are continuing to practice 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.

SERVICE OF LAMENT

“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!” (Psalm 130:1)

Plymouth Church joins together in a communal cry of lament, Wednesday, July 15, through shout, quiet, weeping, and music. We corporately lament to recognize that when one laments, the whole world cries out in lament. When some grieve, we all join in the song of grief. We join together as the Body of Christ in a worship service to name and lament the interconnectedness of the thousands of lives lost to coronavirus and to systematic racism. Find this service on Plymouth Church’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

LOOKING FOR CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a Church School teacher at Plymouth? Wondering how much time it takes? Is there flexibility? Is there a lot of preparation needed? Can you teach with someone else?

We are happy to answer your questions. Please contact Georgia Sheriff gsheriff@plymouthchurch.com.

P.S. We are looking for about 3 Church School teachers to join our team!

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 Mardis-LeCroy 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.
Welcome New Members!
Received June 7, 2020

**John Bunz**
John is a bond attorney with Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. John has 3 children: Sam (27), Ellie (25), and Emma (19).

**Molly Ford & Drew Becker**
Molly and Drew are a recently engaged couple looking to grow some roots in wonderful Des Moines, IA. Molly, a Wisconsin Native, is a Soccer Coach with Sporting Iowa who enjoys being involved with the youth in her community. Her focus is to help kids grow, learn, and become well rounded members of society through the sport of Soccer. Drew works for Rain & Hail in the Johnston area. He also helps coach with Sporting Iowa in his free time. He comes from Lawrence, KS. They both enjoy soccer, the outdoors, and staying active with friends. They also enjoy these activities with their wonderful pup named Luna.

**Andra Peeler**
Andra is a music therapist and financial representative. Her husband, Greg, is a special education associate in Waukee and in the process of earning his teaching license in theatre and speech. They love the outdoors, social justice, and are proud cat parents.

**James & Ynes Oggel**
James is a retired M.D. who specialized in Allergy-Immunology. Now retired and living in Florida, he and Ynes have a second home in Urbandale allowing time to enjoy their 2 grandsons (8 & 4) and youngest son who live in Johnston. They have a son in Denver and a daughter in Durham, N.C., who has 2 little girls (5 & 4). Interests include reading, walking or biking on the area trails, traveling, very occasional golf, fine dining and good wines! When in Iowa they enjoy Reverend Matt’s Bible study classes. He is impressed with the Spiritual energy of Plymouth Church. Ynes is a retired professor. She was born in Cuba. She arrived in Michigan in February during a snowstorm, the first one she had ever experienced. She has lived in the Midwest every since, dreaming of sunny beaches and palm trees. She graduated from Michigan State University with a PhD in Spanish Language, Culture and Literature, and Education. Her number one passtime is spoiling their grandchildren. James and Ynes have made traveling their hobby until Coronavirus spoiled their next three trips: to China, to Christmas markets in Europe, and to Iceland and Norway. Ynes enjoys movies, reading, an occasional golf games, and biking when The Spirit moves her. She is looking forward to meeting other people in Church who share her "joie de vivre."

**Jay & Katie Byers**
Jay is the CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and Katie is the Founder and CEO of Home Ditty. Sophie (18) is a student at DMACC and Charlotte (16) is a junior at Des Moines Roosevelt. She is the drummer for Plymouth’s Saturday night band and a member of the Matins Choir.
Help Restore the Vote for Released Felons

BY: JOHN MATHE | Transition from Prison Committee Chair

Iowa is now the only state to permanently keep all convicted felons from voting. You may be aware that there is a movement to restore voting rights for felons. Governor Kim Reynolds has stated she would like the State Legislature to address this through an amendment to our state constitution. They have refused to do so. In addition, an amendment would take years to implement. By signing an Executive Order Governor Reynolds could immediately restore the right to vote to 60,000 disenfranchised Iowans. Felons who have been released to society should not be held to a more stringent standard than other Iowans. They are working, paying taxes and contributing to our society. They should be able to vote. The requirement to have all fines and restitution paid before being allowed to vote amounts to a poll tax.

Please contact Governor Reynolds and urge her to issue an Executive Order restoring voting rights to released felons without a requirement to have all restitution and fines paid.

HS Youth Summer Book Group

5-Week Book Group & Discussion

Wednesdays: July 8, 15, 22, 29 & August 5
7-8 p.m. via ZOOM

Open to incoming 9th graders through graduated seniors!

See link for FAQs and Syllabus:
https://www.plymouthchurch.com/
summer-2020-youth-book-club-syllabus/

Need more info? Contact Sooz by email:
swaller@plymouthchurch.com
Plymouth's Class of 2020 Seniors!

Rowen Abbas
Parents: Emily & Cory Abbas
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: St. Thomas University: Actuarial Science/Cross Country

Isaac Amber
Parents: Pete & Patricia Dale
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Iowa State University

Hailey Boldt
Parents: Todd & Tammy Boldt
High School: Waukee
Next Steps: Iowa State University: Elementary Education Major, German Minor

Noah Billingsley
Parents: Steve & Susie Billingsley
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Iowa State University: Geoscience Major

Abe Brink
Parents: Dan & Whitney Brink
High School: Ankeny Centennial
Next Steps: Iowa State University: Mechanical Engineering

Carsen Codel
Parents: Tracy & Franklin Codel
High School: Valley
Next Steps: Washington University in St. Louis: Political & Environmental Science

Clara Deforest Colvig
Parents: David & Jill Deforest Colvig
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Colorado State University: Undecided Major, Spanish Minor

Chloe Edwards
Parents: Tracy & Rob Edwards
High School: Valley
Next Steps: University of Iowa: Political Science & International Relations

Charlie Gaer
Parents: Dave & Anne Koch Gaer
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Central College: Golf

Sam Gumm
Parents: Matt & Kerry Gumm
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Iowa State University: Criminal Justice
Congratulations to Our Seniors!

Hannah Harvey
Parents: Matt & Hayley Harvey
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Know College for Business & Creative Writing

Kaylee Hostetter
Parents: Tim & Tiffany Hostetter
High School: Waukee
Next Steps: Iowa State University

Caroline Johnson
Parents: Martha & David Johnson
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: University of Iowa: Biology Major, Spanish Minor

Logan Kempf
Parents: Stephanie & Ted Kempf
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: University of Iowa: Tippee School of Business

Austin Ledesma
Parents: Joe & Deb Ledesma
High School: Johnston
Next Steps: Iowa State University: Computer Science

Charlie Pattinson
Parents: Janet Petersen & Brian Pattinson
High School: Johnston
Next Steps: University of Iowa: Data Science & Business Analytics

Kaylee Reininga
Parents: Kristi Kiefer & Jeff Reininga
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Boston Conservatory at Berklee BFA in Musical Theater

Evie Sly
Parents: Tony & Angie Sly
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: University of Tampa: Nursing Major, Public Relations Minor

Rezin Tempero
Parents: Howard & Megan Tempero
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Work & Travel

Henry Vermeer
Parents: Aaron & Jennifer Vermeer
High School: Roosevelt
Next Steps: Columbia College in Chicago: BFA Musical Theatre Education Minor
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
Karen Jeske .............................................................Transition into Ministry Coordinator
Rushing Kimball ......................................................Associate Minister
LeAnn Stubbs ..........................................................Minister of Care and Welcome
Jan Van Wyk .........................................................Director of Plymouth Nursery School
Emily Tripp .............................................................Director of Operations and Finance
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 @PlymouthChurch. 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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