REGISTER NOW FOR PLYMOUTH’S 2020 TAKE-HOME VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Plymouth is partnering with St. Stephen Lutheran Church for our first ever virtual Vacation Bible School! We All Live in a Yellow Submarine will begin on Monday, August 10 thru Wednesday, August 12. You can also participate as your schedule permits after those dates!

Registration is free and must be completed by Wednesday, August 5. With registration, activity totes will be provided with printed guides for the week’s activities and materials!

Your VBS tote bag can be picked up at Plymouth on Saturday, August 8 (details to be announced). You may alternately request a drop-off of a bag to your home.

Kids from pre-K to 5th grade (incoming 6th graders) will have fun with Bible stories, crafts, skits, songs, snacks & MORE! Enjoy the three days August 10-12 or as your schedule permits! All materials will be provided and can be picked up at Plymouth or delivered!

If you are interested, please register your child/children here: tiny.cc/PlymouthVBSRegistration

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Plymouth United Church of Christ
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We All Live in a Yellow Submarine

We agree to differ. We resolve to love. We unite to serve.

INSIDE:

Senior Minister Transition Update 2
Online Offerings & Current Happenings 3
Masks for the Children 4
Plymouth Merchandise is Here! 5
Children’s Handchime Director Opening 6
Des Moines Hiroshima & Nagasaki Observance 6
New Members: Correction 7
Virtual Gallery 7
Dear Church,

It has been scarcely more than a week since we all received the news of Sr. Minister Matt Mardis-LeCroy’s resignation. In a seeming whirlwind, we convened Church Council last week, then held an all-church meeting just this Tuesday. And now Sunday will be Matt’s service of leaving.

If you haven’t done so, we urge you to go to our website, www.plymouthchurch.com/sr-min-transition (this is the Senior Minister Transition link at the very top of the home page). There you will be able to see Matt’s letter of resignation, a video clip from Matt, as well as the recorded all-church Zoom meeting from Tuesday. Those messages—in print and video—speak to those who understandably wonder, why so very sudden? As Matt explains, his decision has been months in the making, but shared publicly only recently, leaving many of us unsettled.

Note: To those who attempted to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday but couldn’t due to a capacity limit: We share your frustration, and apologize deeply—especially after experiencing exactly that same problem last May. We thought we had “fixed” the issue with our Zoom account. Obviously that was not the case. If you wish to send comments that you might otherwise have shared at the meeting, please send them to Jodi Gruening at jodigruening@gmail.com with the subject line “Minutes.” Your comment will be recorded in an addendum to the meeting minutes.

We are living through so many changes at once: Matt’s leaving, and soon, the adoption of a new strategic plan, new by-laws to consider and ratify...an interim senior minister appointment this fall. On top of the massive dislocations of the pandemic, an ailing economy, intense social discord, and a fraught political season. It all feels too much. But it is not. We have the rich gifts of our staff, each other, and God. Let us resolve to love, let us be abundant in our grace toward each other, let us embrace anew Plymouth’s mission to grow in love of God and of neighbor.

Wishing you peace,
David Johnson, Moderator
Jodi Gruening, Moderator-Elect

PS – If you wish to contribute to the love offering (cash gift) to be received in Matt’s honor, you may send a check to Plymouth mailed to the church (4126 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines, IA 50312) to ATTN: Accounting with a note that it is for this purpose. Gifts will be received through August 31.
ONLINE WEEKLY OFFERINGS

STAY CONNECTED!
We want to stay connected! Use the links below to check out our website, Facebook page, Instagram, and YouTube Channel!
- www.plymouthchurch.com
- www.facebook.com/PlymouthChurch
- www.instagram.com/PlymouthChurch
- YouTube Channel: PlymouthChurch DSM

MONDAYS
Monday Kick-Off
At noon on Facebook Live there will be a 15 minute live-stream with Karen Jeske for an overview of the chapter for that week as well as key themes and discussion questions.

Evening Prayer
At 5:30 p.m., join our ministers on Facebook Live for a service of prayer.

TUESDAYS
Evening Prayer
At 5:30 p.m., join our ministers on Facebook Live for a service of prayer.

WEDNESDAYS
Evening Prayer
At 5:30 p.m., join our ministers on Facebook Live for a service of prayer.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
At 7 p.m., join Mary Kate Buchanan on Zoom as she leads a discussion of the week’s lectionary text as well as a tie-in discussion of the Borg book.

HS Youth Book Study
At 7 p.m., youth can join Susan Waller on Zoom as they discuss the book: “So You Want to Talk About Race?” by Ijeoma Oluo.

THURSDAYS
Thursday Discussion Group
At 4 p.m., join us on Zoom for discussions about the week’s chapter of the Borg book, hosted and facilitated by Judy Diedrichs.

HS Youth Note Writers
At 3 p.m., youth can join Susan Waller on Zoom to write letters to Plymouth members.

Evening Prayer
At 5:30 p.m., join our ministers on Facebook Live for a service of prayer.

FRIDAYS
Friday Music with Seth Hedquist
At 5:30 p.m., join Seth Hedquist in a service of prayer through musical meditations.

SATURDAYS
Saturday Discussion Group
At 9:30 a.m., join us on Zoom for discussions about the week’s chapter of the Borg book, hosted and facilitated by Kristen Hall.

Saturday Worship Service
On Saturday, join us on Facebook Live at 5:30 p.m. to watch the Saturday Worship Service.

SUNDAYS
Sunday Worship Service
Each Sunday, tune in to our YouTube channel at 9 a.m. to watch the Sunday Worship Service.

Fellowship Forum
Sunday morning at 10 a.m. join us for our weekly conversation about God, life and whatever happens to come up. Visit the link below to join the conversation!
https://zoom.us/j/95654225091?pwd=eUJ2NHBDeEJuMjZ4Z3pKbllyNXQwdz09

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

PLYMOUTH GROUNDS
COFFEE SHOP CARDS
During this time when the Plymouth Grounds Coffee Shop is closed, you can still buy the cards from the coffee shop by contacting Betty Fosburgh directly. The price of the cards remain at $4.00, And the proceeds will continue to go to the Coffee Shop.

You can email her at bettydickfosburgh@gmail.com, and put “Cards” in the subject line, or reach her by phone at 515.720.4256, leaving a message if not answered.

STEPHEN MINISTRY
Our Stephen Ministers are still at work! If you are in need of someone to talk to, contact LeAnn Stubbs at by email lstubs@plymouthchurch.com or by phone 515.255.3149.

PLYMOUTH GROUPS
Join our Facebook Groups to stay connected! Visit our Facebook page, and click Groups along the left side of the page. Click join on any group you may be interested in. One of our staff will approve your request ASAP!

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!
Masks for the Children

Des Moines Area Quilters Guild has been sewing masks for medical and community organization. Now we have been asked by the Des Moines Public Schools to make 8,000 masks which are needed by August 15th. We will need more people sewing to meet this goal. Please consider helping by picking up a kit or by sewing masks from your own stash. Below you find the information needed to be a part of this project. 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.

WHY ARE SO MANY MASKS NEEDED?
Here is a little information on the request from the Des Moines Public Schools. The DMAQG will be a community partner that is going to provide face masks for the K-8 children that will be returning to school soon. We have an order for 8,000 masks of various sizes. All students returning to learn will be required to wear a mask along with all adults present in each building. Many students will bring their own mask from home each day, but many students will not have masks. The school nurses in each building have responded to a survey that will drive the design and sizing of the masks that we sew and donate to them. They have carefully looked at their student population and have made a good estimate of how many they will need initially. This donation of masks is different from past requests we have filled. We are going to try to be more consistent in the masks we provide.

SPECIFICS ON MASK STYLE, TIE/LOOPS, AND SIZING:
You can either make masks using your own materials or pick up a kit. We have carefully designed the pattern and sewing instructions so that the masks can be made as easily as possible. Visit this page to view directions for making pleated masks: tiny.cc/DMPS-Masks.

Kits for pleated and the DIY/Olson masks will be available. Kits will contain: 25 masks of the same style and size, ties/elastic, and instructions

If you are tracing a template at home to make the DIY/Olson please contact Kim Peterson kpete_57@hotmail.com first to see if the sizing will work.

Return finished masks in previously labeled Ziploc bag. Bags will be available at the Lion’s Park if you are using your own supplies. Do not bundle the masks.

Please take all masks to Lions Park, do not take directly to schools as there is a distribution system in place. If you need help getting or returning kits, please contact Plymouth Member Gene Bryant (612-275-2394) email iomilc@windstream.net.

MASK PICK-UP & DROP-OFF DETAILS
LOCATION: Lions Park in Urbandale at 72nd and Aurora Avenue. We will be on the west side of the park near the Gazebo and in the shade.
Each Monday & Thursday starting July 20th from 9-11 a.m.

HOW DO WE STAY SAFE WHILE PICKING-UP AND DROPPING-OFF MASKS?
Please wear a mask and also pay close attention to the suggested 6ft of social distancing. This will ensure that we all stay healthy while we are helping others. There will be two tables set up six feet apart to allow more than one person to come up at a time. Please sign a clip board when picking-up a kit or dropping off finished masks.

Donations of fabrics appropriate for a variety of ages of students would be appreciated.

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

We can collectively make a huge difference by sewing these masks for the schools. Our masks will help keep everyone safer in each building when the kids return to learn. If you have any questions about masks, email Kim Peterson at kpete_57@hotmail.com.

If you have any other questions, please contact Kären Wignall, DMAQG President and Plymouth Member. (515-778-8104) email karen.wignall2@gmail.com.
Plymouth Merchandise is Here!

By: Jennifer Jensen

Take a bit of Plymouth with you wherever you go! The Board of Membership is excited to offer Plymouth swag for purchase.

WE HAVE 5 OPTIONS AVAILABLE:

- Short Sleeve T-Shirt: $10
- Long Sleeve T-Shirt: $15
- Quarter Zip Sweater: $35
- Reusable Bag: $10
- Travel Mug: $30

If you’d like to place an order, fill out and submit here: tiny.cc/PlymouthSwagOrder.

A receipt will be sent to the email provided after the order is ready for pickup. This may take a few days, so please be patient. Pickups will be coordinated after the building is set for reopening. The swag committee will send out notifications to those who have placed orders as the building reopens. Payment of check or cash can be made when orders are picked up. Questions? Feel free to email Jen Jensen at: jen.jensen1010@gmail.com
Des Moines Hiroshima & Nagasaki Observance

August 6 and 9 mark the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To observe this solemn occasion, the Japanese Bell at the State Capitol Complex will be tolled 75 times starting at 10:58 a.m. on August 6, the time when the bomb was dropped. People and churches are invited to ring bells at that time. All are welcome to lay flowers at the base of the Japanese bell anytime through August 9. When laying flowers at the Bell, please wear a mask and socially distance.

On August 9 there will be a 30 minute YouTube program premiered here: www.youtube.com/user/soundslikesouth1/videos. The program will contain remarks by Mayor Frank Cownie, a proclamation from the Mayor of Hiroshima and a history of the Japanese Bell. We ask our leaders to take action to ensure nuclear weapons are never used again. Plymouth’s Peace Committee is a co-sponsor of this Observance.

Plymouth Church invites applicants for the **Children's Handchime Director** position. This is a beginner ensemble for grades 4-6, and is part of our Pre-K-12 music program serving over 200 children & youth. Applicants should be trained music educators (music degree expected) with applicable experience teaching, directing ensembles, and working with upper elementary grade levels.

- Pay: $61.20 per call
- Average of five calls per month: September to April
- Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m.
- Rings approximately monthly in 9 or 11 a.m. services
- The current Handchime Director is taking the new Youth Handbell Choir position, launching fall 2020

For details, contact Christopher Goodson, Director of Music and Fine Arts, at cgoodson@plymouthchurch.
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 pastime 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."