Welcome to God’s Farmer’s Market! Grab your Plymouth tote bag (tiny.cc/PlymouthSwagOrder) and your list and get prepared to explore all the Fruits of the Spirit! Head on over to the Plymouth website (www.plymouthchurch.com) each Monday to find ample ways to engage with each week’s fruit. Discussion questions for the dinner table, books for the whole family to read, a movie to watch, a short video to spark some thought.
This fall Plymouth Church will be featuring a variety of community musicians in our Lawn Concert Series. Concerts will be held every Friday at 7 p.m., weather permitting. No registration necessary! Please arrive a few minutes early. Outdoors, physically distanced, and masked, on the Ingersoll Lawn.

Each Thursday, weather permitting, you are invited to an in-person, outdoor, physically distanced and masked, music event at Plymouth. We will gather to sing our favorite hymns, fellowship safely, and release our artistic spirits from their COVID cages.

All must be registered in order to attend. Use the links below to register:

- September 3: tiny.cc/HymnSing9-3
- September 10: tiny.cc/HymnSing9-10
- September 17: tiny.cc/HymnSing9-17
- September 24: tiny.cc/HymnSing9-24
REGISTER NOW FOR FALL PROGRAMMING

Plymouth is excited to resume programming for children and youth in September! Due to COVID-19, programming for our children and youth will be different this year from past years. While some details are still in progress, we have opened registration for this fall!

To register and read the latest information about how each group will be operating this fall, click the link below!


6th Annual Pet Blessing Postponed

The Pet Blessing has been postponed from this fall to the spring of 2021. Due to health concerns regarding large gatherings and the COVID-19 virus it has been decided to move this event to the spring season. Our main goal is to provide a safe event for both our church members and your furry family members. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to seeing you next spring for our Pet Blessing.
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
Weekly Kick-Off
At noon on Facebook Live, a member of the staff will introduce the scripture for the week as well as important events, a discussion question or short reflection.

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 Bible Study
At 7 p.m., join bible study on Zoom to discuss the upcoming scripture and theme for the weekend. You can join here: http://tiny.cc/FallBibleStudyZoom

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

SATURDAYS
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!
http://tiny.cc/FallFFZoom

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
The Sept. 21 observance of the International Day of Peace will be live streamed on the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace Facebook page at 6:30 p.m. The video will be available on the page after the program. The theme of the program is “Shaping Peace Together.” It will feature artist Ted Lyddon Hatten who will create an ephemeral art installation while accompanied by harpist Kristin Maahs. The program will include responses from faith leaders to the question, “How can we shape peace together in this time of pandemic, uprising and immense change?” The Plymouth Peace Committee is a co-sponsor of the program.

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.

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.
This past month, members of Plymouth’s Youth Program participated in an antiracism book group. They met Wednesday nights and discussed a wide variety of topics including the school-to-prison pipeline, the model minority myth, and racial microaggressions. The group used Ijeoma Olou’s So You Want to Talk About Race to steer their conversations, reading the book over a span of five weeks.

The group started by defining key terms, including racism, intersectionality, and white privilege as well as examining how race impacts a breadth of societal and political issues. Week two centered around systemic racism, focusing on police brutality, affirmative action, and the school-to-prison pipeline. The youth examined how racist structures exist within their own schools. The following week, the group honed in on racism at the individual level. They identified microaggressions they saw in their own communities and how they harmed people of color. Week four introduced less familiar topics relating to racism, such as the model minority myth and tone policing. The group used their new knowledge to identify how stereotypes contribute to white supremacy. In the final week, they reflected on what they learned and brainstormed ways to continue work in antiracism.

While the group values the knowledge they gained and the discussions they had during the book club, they know talking is nowhere near enough. They agree that it was only the first step in their involvement with social justice at Plymouth. The youth plan to partner with the Anti-Racism Committee in the future so they can work alongside other members of the congregation to broaden the impact of their actions.

In addition to youth participation, the group was joined by Karen Downing and Joy Wilhelm from the Plymouth Anti-Racism Committee. Their knowledge and experience in anti-racist work enriched the conversations and the inclusion of adults led to meaningful intergenerational discussions about polarized subjects, benefitting all involved. “The Plymouth Youth Book Club helped underscore a necessary fact—anti-racism work needs to be intergenerational. Hearing the insight, wisdom, and passion of Plymouth youth gave me hope for the church and the community that meaningful change will happen around social justice initiatives. We still have plenty of work to do, but the Book Club initiative showed a willingness of Plymouth members to partner for common good,” said Karen. Joy shared similar sentiments, adding, “Plymouth youth have a passion for and a commitment to making a difference. Spending time with this group reinforced my ideas about what our future social justice leaders will look like. Their enthusiasm is contagious, their questions thought-provoking, and their frustration with the status quo palatable.”

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“Plymouth has committed to making real change in the work of anti-racism. I am excited to know I will be working alongside this group to continue to fight for racial equity,” Joy notes. As Ijeoma Olou puts it, “Talk. Please talk and talk and talk some more. But also act. Act now, because people are dying now in this unjust system.”
Our Faith, Our Vote 2020

Our Faith Our Vote is a United Church of Christ (UCC) campaign focused on faithful, nonpartisan engagement in the electoral process. As Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the UCC, said recently, “We are the church. We’re not going to tell you who to vote for. But I am going to tell you to vote for yourself...for your principles...for what you say you live by.”

Plymouth Our Faith Our Vote Campaign


Voter Registration and GOTV

**Voter registration:** We encourage Plymouth members to be sure you are registered to vote or to register if you are not already registered. The following link will take you to the UCC Civic Action Center, where you can check and/or update voter registration information online here: https://p2a.co/zv3KyiE.

**Absentee voting:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we once again urge Plymouth members to vote absentee. The Iowa Secretary of State and several County Auditors are sending request for absentee ballot forms to all registered voters in August and September. There are two important things to remember about absentee voting.

- Be extra careful filling out your absentee ballot request form, including signing the form. Recent legislation prohibits county auditors from using their own data to correct errors or fill in missing information. Auditors instead have to contact voters by phone or email.
- Once you receive your absentee ballot, read the instructions carefully, and complete and mail your ballot ASAP. If you haven’t delivered or mailed your absentee ballot by Oct. 20, we recommend that you hand deliver it to the county auditor’s office to ensure that the county auditor receives it by election day.

Community members: We are supporting community organizations that serve people of color, immigrants and poor people by identifying opportunities for Plymouth members to plug into community voter registration and GOTV efforts. So far, we have identified the following volunteer opportunities:

- **NAACP** will be hosting voter registration tables at various community parks from 1–3 p.m. on Sept. 13 and 27. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Mary Nelson at maryandsteve@Q.com.
- The League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) needs 40 volunteers for a postcard project to encourage voter participation in precincts with low voter turnout. Volunteers will be provided a list of voters, pre-printed postcards and stamps; and will be asked to add a personal note and mail the postcards. Postcards will be available beginning Sept. 2, can be completed at home, and need to be mailed by Sept. 25. To volunteer, contact Alicia Claypool at apclaypool@aol.com.

**Issue Education**

We are holding a series of 5 Zoom webinars on “Creating God’s Kingdom on Earth.” The title is drawn from a passage in Marcus Borg’s “The Heart of Christianity” where the author points to the line from the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven” as evidence of God’s passion for justice here on Earth. Speakers will re-imagine a better world – for economic security, the environment, public safety, and for welcoming migrants and refugees.

Webinars are scheduled on Zoom from 6 – 7 p.m. on Wednesdays from Sept. 9 through Oct. 7. To join each of the webinars, use this link: https://zoom.us/j/96425536868. All are welcome! Speakers include national and local leaders. No preregistration is needed.

- **September 9:** Re-imagining a Better World After COVID-19 – Lessons Learned from the Great Depression. Speakers: Sheena Thomas and George Dorsey, A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS) leaders.
- **September 16:** Re-imagining an America with Economic Security. Speakers: Natalie Robinson and Ayisha Al-Hassan, Co-Chairs of the Iowa Poor People’s Campaign.
- **September 23:** Re-imagining a World that Cares for Creation. Speaker: Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice.

Continued on page 7
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There are two important things to remember about absentee voting:

- Be extra careful filling out your absentee ballot request form, including signing the form. Recent legislation prohibits county auditors from using their own data to correct errors or fill in missing information. Auditors instead have to contact voters by phone or email.
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**More Information:** Watch the Plymouth Weekly for regular updates on the OFOV project. You can also use this link for updated information on the Plymouth website: https://www.plymouthchurch.com/plymouth-justice-and-peace-network-p-jpan/our-faith-our-vote/
Plymouth Church Program Staff

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