HOLY WEEK 2021 SCHEDULE
MARCH 28 - APRIL 4

PALM SUNDAY
On March 28 at 11:30 a.m., Plymouth members and friends are invited to gather at the church (upper level parking lot) for a Procession of Palms. We will read Scripture, sing, and then process around the block. Palms will be available, but Plymouth kids are also invited to bring their homemade palms. Registration is required to attend. Sign up here: tiny.cc/palm-sunday21.

EVENING PRAYER
On March 29, 30, and 31, join one of our ministers live on our Facebook page for Evening Prayer service at 5:30 p.m. Can’t join us live? No problem! You can watch this service at any time on our Facebook page under Videos. Just look for the Evening Prayer Spring 2021 playlist.

WALK THE LABYRINTH
One of the many blessings during the season of Lent is to walk the Labyrinth, spending time in prayerful thought and inner dialogue. Come walk the Labyrinth alone or with your small group in the comfort of Waveland Hall, Thursday, April 1 through Saturday, April 3 from 12-6 p.m. each day. There is time for you to walk while meditating or praying, to sit quietly listening to soft music or to draw and write your thoughts and prayers. Registration will be required. Stay tuned to your Plymouth Weekly emails and the Plymouth website for more information about how to sign up.

(continued on page 2)
Caring

CONDOLENCES

• to all those who have lost someone to COVID-19,
• to Reese Strickland whose brother passed away,
• to Deb Roberts whose father passed away,
• to Irene Hardisty and family for their recent loss,
• to the family and friends of Linda Baldwin,
• to Connie Broich whose mother passed away,
• to Shana Johnson whose father passed away.

CONGRATULATIONS

• to Donna Paulsen and Tom Press on the birth of their grandchild!
• to Kristen and Lauren Friedrichs on the birth of their daughter!

Dear Plymouth Members,

As you prepare to celebrate Easter, please consider a Special Offering gift that supports our Just Peace covenant—working toward economic and social justice for our Des Moines Metro Area neighbors.

Recipients of this year’s Easter Offering will be announced in late March and will be included in the April Contact. This year’s Easter Offering will continue through Eastertide, culminating on Pentecost weekend, May 23.

If you know of a group that could benefit from these funds, please submit an application by March 5 to Plymouth's Board of Benevolences here: tiny.cc/easter21.

If you would like to donate to this offering, you can do so online here: plymouthchurch.com/give. Please select the Easter Offering under “Donation Type,” then click the yellow “Donate” button below, and fill out the PayPal form. You can also mail a check or cash with “Easter Special Offering” on the memo line to:

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

Thank you for your generosity,

Plymouth Board of Benevolences

Holy Week Cont.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Thursday, April 1, there will be a pre-recorded Maundy Thursday service available on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Friday, April 2, there will be a pre-recorded Good Friday service available on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

EASTER VIGIL

On Holy Saturday, April 3, there will be a celebration of Easter Vigil. From 7-9 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, Plymouth members and friends are invited to gather at church (upper level parking lot) to hear the stories of our faith as we await the coming of Easter. Baptisms will be celebrated and communion will be shared. Registration is required to attend. Sign up here: tiny.cc/easter-vigil21.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will have several opportunities to worship and celebrate Easter with our church. Our pre-recorded service will be available on our YouTube channel at 9 a.m. for you to watch at whatever time is most convenient for you!

We are also offering three in-person services. These services will be 30 minutes long and at 9, 9:45, and 10:30 a.m. Easter morning. All will be outdoors, distanced, and masks will be required. Please note that space is limited, and registration will be required. Use the links below to register for one of those services.

9:00 a.m.: tiny.cc/easter-1
9:45 a.m.: tiny.cc/easter-2
10:30 a.m.: tiny.cc/easter-3

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

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CONTACT March 2021
During the season of Epiphany, the HS Youth at Plymouth have been exploring the theme of STAR & LIGHT, taken from the more general congregation activity of STAR WORDS. In order to make it more hands on and experiential, YLT (Youth Leadership Team) members decided that a take-home bag with weekly materials for use in our online Zoom sessions would be a great idea to try. More than 40 youth said YES and drove through the lower-level parking garage to pick up their Star & Light Epiphany bags. Over the course of four weeks, HS youth met on Wednesday evenings exploring Star Words in small group breakout sessions, played STARZ Bingo (all of the 150 star words used with our congregation were used instead of numbers), baked star-shaped cookies together, each in our own kitchen in our evening of “Baking with the Stars” and crafted Star Bowls out of paper and in the fashion of origami. Each take-home bag had all of the materials and instructions for the specific week along with a few other fun things…I mean, everyone needs a keychain flashlight, right?

It took a lot of work to get the bags prepped, filled and distributed. Many thanks to Sage Johnson, Julia Ramsey, Finn Amber, Julia Strickland, Mary Staplin, Charlie Brink, Celia James, Pearl Medick, and Natalie Bennett for coming up with the great ideas, assembling bags and working the drive-thru pickup in the cold!

Thanks to our adult volunteers who helped lead small group sessions and weekly activities: Claire Strickland, Mary Kate Buchanan, Shana Johnson, Anna Osborn, and Yvonne Minton. It was such a success that we are delivering Lent take home bags prior to Ash Wednesday for our weekly Wednesdays during this next season.
Welcome New Members!
Received February 13 & 14, 2021

**Britt Teply Carlson**

I am an attorney practicing in-house and focused on employment law. I live in Clive with my husband, Charlie, and nine-month-old son, Miller. Charlie and I were married at Plymouth in 2015. We enjoy all outdoor activities, especially anything involving a lake. Pre-COVID we loved to travel, with some of our favorite trips being gorilla trekking in Rwanda, hiking the Inca Trail, and touring Easter Island. We hope to share our love of travel with Miller once it is safe to do so.

**Ben & Jen Kleene**

Ben and Jen enjoy hiking, traveling, and exploring new places, mostly with their combined family of four children and cadre of grandparents! Since marrying in 2018, coordinating kids across two districts, four buildings, and more activities than you can shake a stick at consumes most of their time. In addition to managing the constant chaos, Ben is an accountant with Athene and Jen manages construction projects for the State of Iowa.

**Taylor & Dillan Crawley**

Taylor (Rookaird) and Dillan Crawley reside in Des Moines. Dillan is a Des Moines area native and is an Ag underwriter for Nationwide. He's a big movie/music buff, baseball fan and enjoys coaching with Kiwanis Miracle League. Taylor is an account manager at Lessing-Flynn, an advertising agency in the East Village. She enjoys trying out new recipes (especially sweet ones) and volunteering with local organizations. In their free time, they enjoy exploring Des Moines, walks with their dog, Georgie, and spending time with their families.

**Megan Sowa & Calvin Utt**

Megan and Calvin currently live in Clive in their new home with their puppy, Gus. Megan is an eighth and ninth grade English teacher in Johnston and Calvin is an Ag claims representative at Farm Bureau. They love to hang out with their friends and go on walks with Gus. Megan's unique collection is her ever growing collection of owls, because her last name means owl in Polish! Calvin grew up on a farm in Southern Iowa and loves to go home to help whenever he can. Together, they rarely miss a Taco Tuesday!

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**Plymouth Women's Scholarships**

The Board of Plymouth Women Scholarship Committee will award scholarships in the spring of 2021 to college students who are preparing for a career in service. The estates of Susan B. Turner, Opal Jordan, and Mary and Frederick Royal fund these scholarships.

Visit: plymouthchurch.com/news/2021-scholarship for a link to a fillable-form PDF of the application. Please fill out the application and submit it to jonandlisa@mail.com by March 31, 2021.
Welcome New Members!
Received February 13 & 14, 2021

Deb Roberts
I have been retired from teaching elementary art for a few years now; trading that in for time spent watching my granddaughters, which turns out to be a pretty good trade. I am fortunate to have my daughter and son (and their families) in the Des Moines area, as family is my number one “hobby”! I also enjoy spending time in my art studio, working in clay and painting. Before the pandemic I enjoyed taking classes at the art center, so I am thankful I have my own in-home creative space. Other pastimes include yoga, biking, and long hikes. Since my husband’s retirement a year ago we have returned to our love for camping, giving up the days of setting up a tent to now traveling in our camper sprinter van, much better suited. So, I am enjoying lots of travel in the U.S., hoping to resume some international travel again, when possible.

Randy Breese
I was born and raised in Des Moines and have lived here most all of my life. My favorite city to visit is Paris (I completed my MBA program there just so I could live there). My hobbies include wine tastings (over Zoom these days), genealogy and photography. (I started genealogy just a couple of months before the pandemic hit and that really helped to pass the time. So far during my research I have discovered that I am a descendant from at least three of the original Mayflower pilgrims. Also, my fourth great grandfather was a soldier in the American Revolution.)

Doug Roberts
I recently retired from a 21-year career with Deere & Co., which followed a 21-year career as a surface warfare officer in the United States Navy. My chosen careers had one thing in common – a lot of international travel – so it’s been great to hang around home to focus on my hobbies: wood working, bike riding and fly fishing. The pandemic has limited our travel opportunities; however, we’ve found that we can safely see the U.S. in our small RV, which has been a lot of fun. Like most of us, I’m looking forward to a return to normal socializing and large family gatherings, especially the opportunity to see my parents and grandchildren on a regular basis.

Hardy Whiteman
Hardy moved to Des Moines a little over 20 years ago when his wife, Cheryl Thomas accepted a call to serve as Pastor for Calvary Baptist Church. Cheryl died 2 1/2 years ago. He has 2 children, John who graduated from Mizzou Law is working in the Attorney General’s Office and Glenna who is a teacher with Des Moines Public Schools. Hardy works in Quality Improvement. He is looking forward to participating in Plymouth’s social justice efforts and feels he can add some perspective to TIM ministers about the experiences a pastor’s spouse and family have.

Outdoor Worship: Coming Soon!
Do you miss us much as we miss you? Get ready, Plymouth Church, because outdoor worship is on the way! Be on the lookout for more information regarding the seasonal outdoor worship services beginning after Easter! We look forward to seeing you real soon!

CONTACT March 2021 5
ONLINE WEEKLY OFFERINGS

STAY IN TOUCH!

During this closure, we have many virtual offerings available to you throughout the week on a variety of platforms! Email, Facebook Live, Zoom, and YouTube. On this page, you will find a list of all of our regular weekly offerings during the month of February!

If you would like to receive our email offerings, visit: eepurl.com/dhGrYv, and fill out the form with your first and last name and your best email address.

Below, you will find links for easy access to our website, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube Channel.

• plymouthchurch.com
• facebook.com/PlymouthChurch
• instagram.com/PlymouthChurch
• YouTube Channel: PlymouthChurch DSM

PRACTICE MAKES PLYMOUTH

This Lenten season, we encourage all members to check out the Practice Makes Plymouth guide. This guide is designed to allow you to explore various faith practices during this Lenten season and show how they align with the four pillars of our new Strategic Plan – Practice Radical Love Everywhere and Always. You will find the full digital guide here: plymouthchurch.com/practice-makes-plymouth

MONDAYS...

Monday Moderator Minute
On Mondays, you will receive an email update from our Moderator, David Johnson, and Moderator-elect, Jodi Gruening.

Weekly Kick-Off
At noon on Facebook Live, a member of the staff will introduce the scripture for the week, important events, and a discussion question.

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

TUESDAYS...

Your Faith @ Home
On Tuesdays, you will receive an email with the week’s scripture, a journal prompt, staff recommendations, and ideas for you.

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 Rushing Kimball for bible study on Zoom. To join, visit the Plymouth website, click Events at the top of the page, and select Wednesday Bible Study for the link.

THURSDAYS...

Plymouth Weekly
On Thursdays, you will receive an email with a list of highlighted activities going on at Plymouth Church.

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

Thursdays Together
At 7 p.m., join other church members on Zoom for a time of informal fellowship. To join the conversation, visit the Plymouth website, select “Events” at the top of the pages and look for “Thursdays Together” on our calendar.

SATURDAYS...

Weekend Worship Service
Our Weekend Worship Service will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. on our Facebook Page each weekend.

SUNDAYS...

Weekend Worship Service
Our Weekend Worship Service will be available beginning at 9 a.m. on our YouTube Channel each weekend.

Fellowship Forum
Sunday morning at 10 a.m. join us for our weekly conversation about God, life and whatever happens to come up. To join the conversation, visit the Plymouth website, scroll down to “Join Us for Online Worship” and click “Fellowship Forum.”
CURRENT HAPPENINGS

DIGITAL LIBRARY

Have you been missing the cozy comfort of the Plymouth Library and Reading Room in our Center for Spiritual Growth? Now you can access digital books from your home! Go to plymouthchurch.overdrive.com and set up your login. You may sign up for an Instant Digital Card on your smart phone using the Campaign Code: puccwinter20. Remember to select United States for your phone country code. If you need help signing up, email the Library Committee (overdrive@plymouthchurch.com).

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is Stephen Ministry? Our Stephen Ministers are trained members of Plymouth Church who are available to help bring a spiritual presence into your life through caring, listening, and prayer. If you are struggling with something in your life and looking for someone to walk it with you, please reach out. Contact LeAnn Stubbs at 515.255.3149 or lstubbs@plymouthchurch.com to discuss having a Stephen Minister assigned to work with you.

DES MOINES FAITH COMMITTEE PALM SUNDAY PEACE SERVICE

The Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace invites you to attend a virtual service titled “Protest and Palms” on Sunday, March 28 at 3 p.m. Due to the pandemic there will be no procession this year. The keynote speaker will be The Reverend Lizzie Gillman with scripture reading by The Reverend Zebulun Treloar. This service will be live-streamed from Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, with the link available from the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace Facebook page or Capitol Hill Lutheran Church’s website a few days before the service. The prayer service will express a vision of peace and justice, and a pledge to recommit ourselves against racism and war. Plymouth’s Peace Committee is a co-sponsor of this service.

NEW PHONE SYSTEM

Plymouth has a brand new way of engaging with our Weekend Worship service. Instead of watching our service on Facebook or YouTube, you can now listen from your cell phone or land line! To do this, call 1.833.612.1926!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: PLYMOUTH GALLERY

The Plymouth Gallery has a brand new exhibit on display now until May 1. This exhibit is a collection of 15 images of Christ’s last three days as told in the Gospels. We invite you to enjoy art spanning eight centuries, accompanied by scripture and prayers. Much like our February exhibit, you will be able to schedule a half-hour slot to visit this exhibit in-person during the week! Visits are limited to six people in your “bubble.” Masks are required at all times in the building. When visiting, you will enter through the Circle Drive entrance off of 42nd St. at your scheduled time. For more information about signing up, visit: tiny.cc/stations21.

CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have free time during the week and are looking for something safe you can do? Plymouth is looking for volunteers to assist our church staff in covering phone shifts during the week. If you would like to learn more or are interested in volunteering, please contact Emily Tripp: etripp@plymouthchurch.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You may notice flowers on the altar during our Weekend Worship service. If you would like to donate flowers, visit: tiny.cc/altar-flowers. When you talk to your florist, please arrange to have the flowers delivered by noon on Thursday. This will allow us to get them in place before the service is recorded on Thursday afternoon. If you have questions, please contact Diane Hayes at her email: dhayes@plymouthchurch.com.

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL INJUSTICE THROUGH THE POWER OF PLACE

You are invited to sign up for the Lent Series for four Saturdays in March, when we as Plymouth members, learn about our history as a church in the Des Moines community and how that relates to the Urban Renewal that happened to our own local African American community on “Center Street.”

This series is sponsored by the Anti Racism committee, along with a grant from the Plymouth Foundation. Our guide will be Dr. Madison DeShay-Duncan who teaches at Iowa State and has been working on the documentary “The Center Street Story – An Urban Renewal Retrospective.” We will use Dr. DeShay-Duncan’s astute insight in how urban renewal affected the Center Street in our own city.

Sign up as soon as possible as space will be limited. Sessions will be held Saturday mornings on March 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 10 a.m. to noon. This will be a memorable and wonderful education series. Participation is free but limited to Plymouth church members. We hope to see you there! To sign up, visit: tiny.cc/Social-Injustice-Class.

CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have free time during the week and are looking for something safe you can do? Plymouth is looking for volunteers to assist our church staff in covering phone shifts during the week. If you would like to learn more or are interested in volunteering, please contact Emily Tripp: etripp@plymouthchurch.com.

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PLYMOUTH IS HIRING!

Plymouth Church is looking for someone to join its team! To learn more about the opening and how to apply, visit: plymouthchurch.com/news/plymouth-is-hiring.

CONTACT March 2021
For more information about Plymouth Church, please visit our website at www.plymouthchurch.com, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/plymouthchurch and Instagram @PlymouthChurch.

You will find all of our Weekend Worship recordings available on our YouTube channel: PlymouthChurch DSM. We also have several Live video offerings throughout the week on our Facebook page.

To submit information for the Contact, email Elsie (Wunn) Brault, ewunn@plymouthchurch.com. All contact submissions must be made by the 15th of the month prior.

Plymouth Church Program Staff

Sarai Rice .................................................................Interim Senior Minister
Lindsey Braun ..................................................Minister of Vitality and Outreach
Mary Kate Buchanan ................................................Associate Minister
Cindy Eaton-Eklund ........................................Director of Communications
Christopher Goodson ..........................................Director of Music and Fine Arts
Carl Gravander ..........................................................Organist
Karen Quance Jeske .............................Director of TiM Programs
Rushing Kimball ............................................................Associate Minister
LeAnn Stubbs ..........................................................Minister of Care and Welcome
Emily Tripp ............................................................Director of Operations and Finance
Susan Waller .............................................................Director of Youth Ministry
Nancy Basset ............................................................Accountant
Elsie Brault .............................................................Communications Assistant
Diane Hayes ..........................................................Music and Fine Arts Administrative Assistant
Dan Olson .................................................................Facility Manager
Dan Mowry .............................................................Assistant Facility Manager
Alex Cooney .............................................................Media Director
Seth Hedquist ..........................................................Interim Director, Saturday Night Band