

Fresh start: Try something new this fall

BY BETH HOFFMAN FAETH, MINISTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WORSHIP

This summer has witnessed a flurry of activity in our sanctuary and Guild Hall, culminating in beautifully renewed floors and brand-new chairs replacing the first few rows of pews in our sanctuary. Our transition to and from using the Conn Theater as our 10:30 a.m. summer worship space went smoothly. People enjoyed a close-up view of Philip and the choir, got cozy with prayer shawls due to our extremely efficient A/C system, and tried something new by participating in worship through watching the “big screen” in the gallery. We returned to the sanctuary on Aug. 4, and the response to the chairs and the floors has been overwhelmingly positive. There is always something special about a return home, and we “christened” the renewed space with baptisms both on Aug. 4 and 11.

First Service worship has experienced higher summer attendance than ever before. Every Sunday, no matter the personnel in the trio, the jazz music was stellar. Laura Caviani, First Service Music Director, has an outstanding cadre of musicians, and I do believe that our First Service music may be one of the best kept secrets at Plymouth. If you have not yet experienced First Service, I strongly encourage you to



try it. Laura and her trio will continue to bless us with their gifts as we move into the fall.

This fall our sanctuary will host both worship services. Beginning Sept. 8 (Rally Sunday), First Service at 9 a.m. moves into the sanctuary. As attendance at First Service increased, we challenged the acceptable number of people in the chapel as dictated by the fire code. Now, because of the flexibility of the new pew chairs, we can set up the sanctuary in a way that feels inviting and familiar for First Service participants and then return to our traditional setup for Second Service by 11 a.m. The Board of Worship will continue to evaluate the setting, quality and needs of our worship services.

Our summer worship series, “Wisdom, Wit and Wonder,” comes to a close

Sept. 1 (please note: there is only *one* worship service on Sept. 1 at 10:30 a.m.). Sept. 8 kicks off a new church program year. Along with services at 9 & 11 a.m., there will be time for fellowship at 10 a.m. in Jones Commons and at noon in Guild Hall. Starting Sept. 15, Sunday Forum, Text Talk (see p. 5), Meditation, Church School and other offerings begin at 10 a.m.

Our theme this fall is “Parables: The Art of Listening.” Each week, we will examine contemporary life and its complexities through the lens of the parables of Jesus. We may think we already know the meaning of a certain parable or perhaps dismiss some because they seem irrelevant. What if we heard them in a different way?

Also, on Sept. 22, we welcome **Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung**, CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches, as our guest preacher.

For over 25 years, the church has crafted the rhythm of my life, and September has always felt like the beginning of a brand-new year. I invite you to come and experience something new at Plymouth this fall. May your faith be strengthened through your Plymouth Church community.

Here we go!

BY PAULA NORTHWOOD, ACTING SENIOR MINISTER



Photo: Mark Lünenburg

We've had a busy summer with major projects taking place. The floors in the sanctuary, Guild Hall and the parlor have been completed.

We have some lovely new pew chairs in the front section of the sanctuary and have installed a hearing loop system. We have a new digital sign on Nicollet Avenue (at least I expect that we do by the time you read this).

Pending congregational vote, we are in the process of negotiating the sale of our small Nicollet Avenue parking lot. We have two ministerial search committees working diligently. The Board of Finance and Administration and the Deacons are looking at investing in a local solar garden. We have repaired the large Nicollet parking lot. We have worked on

a thorough deep cleaning of the kitchen and hired a new caterer. The Embroideries Implementation Committee has been working hard on their assignment (see story on the facing page).

All these things have been accomplished in addition to our regular ministry of providing worship, pastoral care, memorials and weddings, rental assistance, Families Moving Forward, Peace Camp, Camp Plymouth and ministering to folks who come in off the street in need. And as I write this, we are in the thick of preparing to start the fall program year. Your church staff and ministerial team have been busy!

As we start this year together, I am reminded about how important and remarkable our church covenant is. When we join Plymouth Church, we make a promise to bind ourselves to this community of people, and together we discern how God is leading us. It's not always easy work.

We do not always agree. Sometimes I think we lose perspective about the ultimate reason we come to church. It's not just to see our friends or hear a sermon or volunteer or sing in the choir: It is to seek the sacred in community.

I have heard second- or third-hand about "someone" who is leaving the church depending on how the embroidery plan takes shape. Or "those" who are threatening to withhold their pledge or legacy giving because they are unhappy. Unfortunately, the people it hurts most are the ones who do the leaving or withholding. Recently I saw a quote which I thought was poignant. "Don't let anyone be the cause you leave the church. They are not the reason why you go to church in the first place."

Let us renew our covenant. Let us commit to be the church that seeks the ineffable mystery of God as we discern together the good work we can do in the world.

GRACE NOTES

Welcome back to another exciting year!

BY PHILIP BRUNELLE, ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER

Another wonderful church year of music awaits each of you! All of our choirs are ready to begin and I am so pleased with the marvelous musical leadership for each of these choirs here at Plymouth Church! I hope all of you parents of young children will take advantage of these special "singing and ringing" opportunities. And for adults who wish to make music please think about the Adult Choir, the Chapel Singers and the Adult Handbell Choir.

I am delighted to begin my 51st year with you, which will (of course) begin with the Rally Day prelude: Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*. The Adult Choir will provide the rousing "Deo dicamus" as an introit, followed by Parry's majestic anthem, "I Was Glad." A number of Minnesota composers will be heard during September and October including Carol Barnett, Timothy Takach, Libby Larsen and Jake Runestad.

As many of you know I try to provide a wide range of sacred music during the church year and, since I cannot provide every style on every Sunday, I need you to be present every week to hear the rich variety of music! This fall's selections will also include music of Melanie DeMore, Jonathan Miller, Chris DeBlasio and Aaron Copland from the USA, Maurice Duruflé and Francis Poulenc from France, Bernat Vivancos from Spain, a traditional Xhosa hymn from South Africa and the American premiere of music by the Irish composer Ina Boyle—a woman whose music (composed early in the 20th century) is just now becoming known.



Welcome back!

Spiritual work in progress

BY THE EMBROIDERIES IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

For the first time in nearly 50 years the west wall in Guild Hall is bare. During this summer, workers refinished the Guild Hall floor. (And didn't they do a beautiful job?) To protect the embroideries from absorbing the sanding dust, we put them into safe storage.

The Plymouth Leadership Council—with much congregational input, but without unanimous agreement—decided not to hang the *Churchmen in the New World* embroidery that would normally go up in September. This decision came after many months of congregational soul-searching: who are we, what do we value, what stories do we tell, what have we missed and with what consequences? These have been and are soul-full questions, and we have more spiritual work still to do.

In addition to interrupting the traditional seasonal rotation of the embroideries, the Leadership Council has planned that we will rest the *Churchmen*, and that we will examine the Winter and Summer embroideries. We will explore ways



that Plymouth is implicated in the oppression of Native, Black and Brown people. We will also recognize the world-class women artists and the positive legacy of women's art that the embroideries express. (For the text of the Leadership Council's statement, go to the link on the front page of the website or https://www.plymouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Cov.Ltr-plus-Plymouth-Leadership-Council-Embroidery-Action-Plan-2019_0527.pdf)

The Council charged a committee of Plymouth people to implement the decision. We have started. This empty wall is step one. We invite you to see on this wall an invitation to do some collective and individual soul work. Where are you resistant, and where are you open?

Starting on Rally Sunday, Sept. 8, you'll find art materials in Guild Hall. We hope you make use of them to capture some of your reflections on paper. Write or draw, imagine what could fill the space. Offer your thoughts about what could energize the spiritual work of Plymouth Church. What could help us carry out the Purposes of the Church? What could deepen our collective as well as our individual spirit journeys?

We'll keep you up to date on the Implementation Plan—watch this space.

With admiration and gratitude,

Annette Atkins, Nancy Geertz-Larson, Diane Hallberg, Eric Hugunin, John Kulstad, Joan Parsons, Rebecca Smith.

Academia Elze is celebrating a year at Plymouth

BY KARINA ELZE, ACADEMIA ELZE PRINCIPAL

As we celebrate our first year at the Plymouth Congregational Church, we want to especially thank Emily Venell, Malcolm Williams, Bryan Wheeler, Cody Bourdot and, in particular, all the custodians—Kathie Bahl, Misha Davis, DeShouna McCray and Tracy White—who help us every day. A huge hug for all of you from Academia Elze.

This month, our Academia Elze students learned about making healthy choices for ourselves and

the environment. We also developed our inquiry skills, observing and investigating how things grow and change. Visits to the Stevens Square Farmers Market (held on Wednesday afternoons in the Plymouth parking lot), our own garden and the Jones Commons garden helps us appreciate the wonder around us. We know that healthy choices for our community include growing our own food, using less plastic and buying locally.

Tips: With your child, read the book *Las aventuras en el oceano de Pinni, Tursi, y Midas: Plastic Danger* by Donna Kassewitz, and learn how to take care of the environment. You can find that book in English and Spanish.

If you are interested in volunteering with Academia Elze, please contact us at info@academiaelze.com or 612/345-5370. We would love to have you share your talents with our children.

Someone new is in the kitchen

BY ANNETTE ABEL, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

New flavors and new faces—K's Revolutionary Catering is taking on the responsibility of feeding children, youth and families, choir members, board members and church staff on Wednesday evenings this autumn here at Plymouth. K's Revolutionary Catering is a woman-owned business, located in our neighborhood, which promises to cook up healthy, somewhat spicy and African-inspired foods for us. If you'd like to learn more, please check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/revolutionarycatering/>.

facebook.com/revolutionarycatering/. K's Revolutionary Catering will offer different meals and larger portions, so we have increased the price to \$8 for adults and to \$5 for children ages 2 to 12. Please know that we will be seeking volunteers to serve meals and collect money.

I ask you to join me and the church staff in welcoming owner Mariam Omari and her team to our Plymouth Church kitchen!

Please also join us in saying thank you and farewell to Chef Jeff and his team for their 7+ years of service at Plymouth. They served countless dinners, Third Sunday Meals, receptions and breakfasts, for which we are grateful. Over time, however, his business and our relationship evolved until, by mutual agreement, we ended the contract earlier in 2019. If you wish to contact Jeff Riley or his team, please send an email to Jeff@chef-jeff.com.

Our Cristo Rey student workers this fall

BY EMILY VENELL, MINISTRY ASSISTANT FOR HOSPITALITY

Students from Cristo Rey high school work and learn at our Jones Commons front desk during the school year. Please say hello to them when you drop by church!

Our Thursday receptionist will be Cristo Rey student Ingrid Vazquez.

Ingrid is in 9th grade. She shared with us some things about herself.

Her top three strengths are dependability, relating, achieving.



Her favorite book? She says: "I don't have a favorite book but I really enjoyed reading a book called *En Pie de Guerra* by Carlos Cuauhtémoc."

In her free time, she likes to spend

time with her little sister or her parakeets, or drawing or painting.

Science is Ingrid's favorite subject, because it involves formulas, liquids, and so many "awesome" tools.

A career as a veterinarian is her 5-year goal, because she loves animals, yet she also would like to become an immigration lawyer.

If she could have lunch with anyone, it would be, she says, "my whole family. My family means a lot to me and I'm glad they are my family and helped me when I need them and love me how I am."

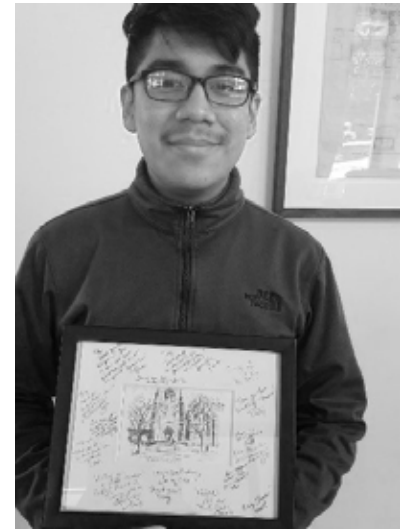
Our Monday receptionist will be returning Cristo Rey student Tony Hidalgo-Peralta.

Tony is a junior this year.

His favorite book and movie is *Ben Hur*.

His interests are soccer, biking, chess and robotics (he likes to build stuff).

He enjoys math, because it's easy and fun to work on.



Attending college or university will allow him to pursue his 5-year goal of studying mechanical engineering.

If he could have lunch with anyone, it would be Dr. Martin Luther King, because he wants to talk about his history and how he did it.

Workshop on protecting the human rights of immigrants and asylum seekers

BY ELLEN VAN IWAARDEN

The Plymouth Immigrant Welcoming Working Group invites members and friends to participate in a workshop on September 23 at 5:00 in Jackman/Lenmark as a part of the **Ten Days Free From Violence** series.

In America today, asylum seekers and other immigrants are extremely vulnerable to violence inflicted by the U.S. immigration system. Some examples are:

- military troops deployed to the border have tear-gassed civilians, including women and children;
- government employees and subcontractors abuse and neglect immigrants at detention centers;
- government policies, practices and personnel have separated children from their families at the border;
- traumatized families and children in Minnesota who are seeking asylum face a difficult process with few resources; and
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has increased its arrests of foreign-born Minnesota residents, making immigrants afraid to seek medical care, police protection and other basic necessities.

The workshop will address how people can provide protection and safeguard human rights for people

seeking asylum from Central America and for other vulnerable immigrant communities.

Participants will explore:

- how the U.S. immigration and asylum system impacts human rights;
- the capacities workshop participants have within themselves to provide protection for civilians facing violence;
- how to use nonviolent human rights strategies and tactics to keep vulnerable groups safer and more secure;
- what resources and legal statutes are in place to protect people seeking refuge; and
- how to report human rights violations and seek justice.

With this information, the group will tackle different scenarios related to violence within the U.S. immigration system and decide what actions can be taken to provide safety, security, dignity and human rights for asylum seekers.

Two local leaders in the human rights field will be the presenters: Madeline Lohman is a Senior Researcher with The Advocates for Human Rights, where she focuses on research on immigrant rights in Minnesota,

provides trainings and technical assistance on human rights advocacy for social justice organizations and conducts international monitoring and reporting, primarily on the death penalty.

Representing Nonviolent Peaceforce will be Thor Wagstrom, a teacher in world and environmental history at Metropolitan State University. Professor Wagstrom assisted in the creation of the manual *Unarmed Civilian Protection: Strengthening Civilian Capacities to Protect Civilians Against Violence*, and helped develop the accompanying online course, which he has led for participants from around the world.

The Ten Days Free From Violence series in September includes many local organizations that envision a community “free from violence in all forms, structures and systems.” More than three dozen events are planned for that week to proclaim, teach, inspire and form new connections around the vision of nonviolence. For a schedule of all the events go to <https://twincitiesnonviolent.org/>.

Sundays @ 10 returns Sept. 15

A wealth of opportunities for learning, spiritual development, community understanding and fellowship awaits us when **Sundays @ 10** returns Sept. 15. Please join in the activity of your choice, knowing that you may drop in on other discussions and gatherings as you wish on another Sunday, 10:00–10:45 a.m. **Meditation** takes place in the Chapel.

New this year are **Text Talks**, deep-dive discussions on the scripture, led by the day’s preacher.

Sunday Forum launches with a presentation by Hennepin County Sheriff David Hutchinson

Register children for **Church School** via our website (<https://www.plymouth.org/explore/childrens-programs/>).



BOOKS FOR BORDER KIDS

A book can change a child's life. That's why we're teaming up with Red Balloon and Wild Rumpus to send as many bilingual, Spanish and Portuguese language books as we can to refugee children living at the U.S./Mexico border. They are books that can comfort, entertain, inspire and help families build English language skills. Please join us in this effort to demonstrate that, in some small way, we care.

WHAT TO DO:

Visit Red Balloon or Wild Rumpus in person or online between September 1 and October 31.

LOOK FOR:

Books for Border Kids list or link for recommended books.

MAKE YOUR PURCHASE:

The bookstores will cover shipping. (Thank you bookstores!)

HURRY! TELL YOUR FRIENDS: To learn more about this grassroots initiative, visit booksforborderkids.org

Saving Mother Earth: Six Perspectives

BY LYNNETTE BLACK, GALLERY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

We are privileged to host *Saving Mother Earth*, showcasing artists from varied backgrounds, using diverse materials to express their concerns, champion activism and cherish the beauty of our earth. The exhibit opens Sunday, Sept. 8, and runs through Oct. 23. The reception is on Sunday, Sept. 15, from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Visit the gallery or www.plymouth.org for more images by these fine artists.

Coreena Affleck

Coreena Affleck was born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii. She earned her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Delaware. She currently lives in Minneapolis and teaches ceramics at Breck School. www.coreenaaffleck.com/cv.html

Janet Essley

Janet Essley, MA, is a painter, muralist and teaching artist with 20 years' experience creating collaborative murals with youth and adults. She believes that collaborative murals are a fundamental integration of art and communication with the practice of democracy. Janet lives in White Salmon, a small town on the Columbia River in Washington State, close to wilderness where she and her husband love to backpack. w3.gorge.net/essmoy/ (and) theredknotsproject.org

Karl Lorenz

Karl Lorenz is a mixed media artist who creates three-dimensional sculptural installations and imagery to explore sensing and perceiving of the living world and the human relationship to the environment, with particular attention to indigenous worldviews and issues. He has exhibited at the Weisman Art Museum,



GRETA THUNBERG BY JANET ESSLEY

the South Dakota Art Museum, the North Dakota State University Museum, the University of Minnesota, the White Earth Reservation and numerous tribal communities. Karl is bicultural from Native American and German parents. He is an enrolled member of the Lummi Nation and has studied fine arts, philosophy and environmental ethics. <http://www.klorenz.com/>

Mike Marks

Prints and drawings by Mike Marks have shown nationally and internationally. He currently lives in Minneapolis, creating his prints at the Highpoint Center for Printmaking. He was a 2017/2018 Jerome Foundation

Emerging Printmaker in Residence at the Highpoint Center for Printmaking and is currently a 2019 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant awardee. When he's not in the studio, he's backpacking and canoeing with his fly-rod at hand. <https://www.mikemarksarts.com>

Bonnie Ploger

Bonnie Ploger is an Artist in Residence at the Center for Global Environmental Education and Professor of Biology at Hamline University. Her teaching includes college courses and public workshops that combine photography and art-making with exploration of the natural world. Her performances, which combine her visual art, improvisational singing, movement and storytelling, have appeared regionally, nationally and internationally. She regularly shows her artwork with Project Art for Nature, a group of artists from Wisconsin and Minnesota who are dedicated to enhancing public awareness of local natural areas. <https://plogerart.weebly.com>

Kurt Seaburg

Originally from Chicago, Kurt Seaburg studied art at the University of Washington and continued his studies at the University of Minnesota in intaglio and lithography. He is a long-term working member of Highpoint Center for Printmaking. Kurt has won numerous awards for his nature-inspired art with environmental themes. Recently, he was filmed as part of the *MN Original* series. Kurt also creates intricate line drawings of the Sami people which connect him to his father's artwork as well as his own culture. <https://www.kurtseaberg.com/>

Three new things to notice in the library

BY MEG GISSLEN, ELAINE MARSH LIBRARY TEAM MEMBER

There are three new things to notice in the library: new books, new shelving and a fatter Reading Bear.

There is something magical and sometimes comforting about holding a real book in one's hands and taking in the thoughts of another person. The Elaine Marsh Library at Plymouth has added many new books for you with current thinking on topics dear to the hearts and actions of our congregation: Climate & Environmental Justice, Gun Violence Prevention, Immigration, American Indian Relations, the Mortality Project, Racial Justice Initiative and Spiritual Growth.

To highlight these resources, special shelves have been created inside the west door of the library, organizing books by topic. Our YA and children's books are featured in the Hub Library upstairs by the elevator in the Education Wing. Here are just a few of our new titles:

Adult

Green Faith: Mobilizing God's People to Save the Earth

Beating Guns: Hope for People Who Are Weary of Violence

There There (Tommy Orange, Native American author, writes about today's urban Native Americans; considered a "must read")

Born a Crime: Stories from South Africa

Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland

Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century



MEG GISSLEN, LEFT, WITH ANN LUDLOW & SETH PATTERSON

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks

Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds nor the Reformation Can Produce Faith Today

YA (Young Adult)

Betty Before X, powerful, middle-grade fictionalized account of the childhood activism of Betty Shabazz, Malcolm X's wife, written by their daughter Ilyasah Shabazz.

#Never Again: A New Generation Draws the Line

Children's books

The Vast Wonder of the World, Bibliography of Ernest Everett Just. Extraordinary illustrations and lyrical text about pioneering African American scientist Ernest Everett Just.

Bowwow Powwow

Brother Hugo and the Bear

Our huge Reading Bear has added to his tummy to bring back his fluffy self. He is especially comforting as you lean into him and open a new book. *Not for children only!*

The library is for everyone. Enjoy.

ARTS

New Theater 45° begins Sept. 9 at Plymouth

In introducing Theater 45° in the August *Flame*, Seth Patterson wrote: "Through the theatrical arts, we will continue to expand the ways that we use our God-given creativity as a means of self-reflection and meaning-making."

We are excited to launch this first season of Theater 45°, **Step Back, Listen Up—Stories We All Need to Hear** on Sept. 9. Guest artists from the community will perform their works on a Monday evening at Plymouth, at 7

p.m., in the Chapel. Please come—and invite your friends. Tickets are free and available via <https://theater45.com/>

Sept. 9 Blackout Improv is changing the face of comedy stages in Minnesota through social justice and arts access

Sept. 23 Irreducible Grace Foundation creates safe spaces and healing opportunities for youth of color

Oct. 7 Interact Center for the Arts creates art that challenges perceptions of disability

Oct. 21 Alliance of Latinx MN Artists (ALMA) makes visible the diverse voices of Minnesotan Latinx experiences

Nov. 4 Washburn High School Black Box Theater, which promotes youth voices and change in our community through social justice theater

Nov. 18 zAmya Theater brings together homeless and housed individuals to create and perform in a unique creative process.

Minimalism movement comes to Plymouth: *Let's Simplify*

BY BONNIE JANDA

Have you learned from clearing out an elder's home that you don't want to do that to your own children? Do you wish you had more time for the people and passions you care about most, but your time is constrained by looking after, cleaning up or just avoiding your piles and files? Would you like to do an about-face on consumerism by owning less quantity and more quality? The *Let's Simplify* group may give you a boost toward any of these goals.

Let's Simplify is a Spiritual Exploration class organized around *Uncluttered*, an online course led by Joshua Becker, a published author and leader in the minimalism movement. He asserts that with decluttering, we are better able to pursue our passions. The goal is to have more freedom to engage with what matters most to us. Becker encourages each of us to follow the wisdom of the organization

specialist who best speaks to us. Peter Walsh says clutter is anything that “interferes with the life you could be living.” William Morris says, if it's not beautiful or useful, it's clutter. And well-known Marie Kondo suggests removing anything that does not “spark joy.” You decide.

Our reasons for having less stuff will vary: *Let's Simplify* aims to support your particular priorities. We will meet at Plymouth for an hour every Monday for eight weeks, 10:30–11:30 a.m. or 6:30–7:30 p.m., Oct. 14–Dec. 2. Between meetings, we will watch the online inspiration of *Uncluttered* and follow assignments for reducing excess in our own (or another's) homes. At the meetings, we will share experiences, exchange ideas, celebrate accomplishments and help support one another's goals.

The cost of *Let's Simplify* is \$44.50 (group discount) to register for the online course, plus the time you spend on your decluttering. A book list shared at the first meeting offers resources that may support your particular situation. **Register online by Oct. 7 to get the group discount on *Uncluttered* and choose the meeting time you want to attend.**

Each group has a facilitator who shares the program goals, but has no decluttering expertise. At the morning group find Bonnie Janda, currently preparing to downsize. At the evening group find Jeanne Schuller, still engaged with children at home and concerned about the burden of too much stuff in too little space.

Contact either with questions: bonitajanda@gmail.com or jwschuller@msn.com

Spiritual Exploration offerings this fall

Along with the ***Let's Simplify*** class described above, Plymouth offers other Spiritual Exploration opportunities this fall. Please see the booklet or our website for details.

Exploring Meditation—Christian, Buddhist and Hindu Dialogue and Practice, led by Diane Boruff & Richard Jewell. Oct. 1–29, Tues. 7:00–8:30 p.m., limited to 40; free; please register.

Celtic Weavings: A Journey of Beauty, Spirit and Love, led by Beth Hoffman Faeth & David Astin. Oct. 2–Nov. 6, Wed. 10–11 a.m., limited to 60; free; please register.

Book Study—*White Birch, Red*

Hawthorne: A Memoir, led by Paula Northwood. Oct 3–Oct 24, Thur. 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon; limited to 25; free; please register.

Intergenerational Pilgrimage to Lake of the Isles, led by Paula Northwood. Oct. 5, Sat., 1:00–3:30 p.m. (rain or shine); free; please register.

Better Angels Workshop I: “Depolarizing Within,” led by William Doherty, PhD. Oct. 26, Sat., 9 a.m.–12 noon; free and open to the community; please register by Oct. 18.

Language and Archetypes: Who is speaking, and why? led by Yvette Erasmus, PsyD. Nov. 9, Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; limited to 32; \$125; please register.

Ongoing opportunities include: Meditation, 10–11 a.m., Sundays, Chapel. Led by Diane Boruff; no charge; no registration.

Contemplative Prayer, 9:00–9:30 a.m., Tuesdays, Chapel. Led by ministers and others; no charge; no registration.

Conversations from the Heart Compassionate Communication Practice Group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays. Led by Yvette Erasmus. \$10–\$25 donation suggested; no registration

Spiritual Yoga, 6:45–8:00 p.m., Wednesdays. Led by Ben Lee; Wed., \$15, no registration needed.

September 2019

01 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare
10:30 One Worship Service

02 MONDAY

Plymouth Church is closed to honor Labor Day.

03 TUESDAY

9:00 Archives Committee
4:00 Personnel Committee
6:30 OMC Bridge

04 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit-A-Bit
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group
1:00 Spiritual Exploration—Deep Dive
2:00 Archives
2:00 Farmers' market
6:30 Deacons
6:45 Spiritual Exploration—Yoga
7:00 Plymouth Choir

05 THURSDAY

9:00 Archives Committee
10:30 Meals on Wheels
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

06 FRIDAY

07 SATURDAY

08 RALLY SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare
9:00 First Service
9:00 Archives—open for visitors
9:30 Adult Handbells
10:00 All-Church Celebration, with treats, group karaoke and more!
11:00 Second Service

09 MONDAY

1:00 Home Retreat Meeting
6:30 Racial Justice Initiative
7:00 *Step Back, Listen Up*—Blackout Improv
7:00 Great Books Group

10 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer
9:00 Archives Committee
4:00 Building and Grounds
6:00 Strobel Drop-in Center, off-site

11 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit-A-Bit
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group
10:00 HABIT 18 Support Group
1:00 Strobel Drop-in Center
1:00 Spiritual Exploration—Deep Dive
2:00 Archives
2:00 Farmers' market
4:00 Legacy Giving Committee
5:00 Dinner, adults \$8, kids \$5
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement: Youth activities
5:30 Board of Fine Arts
5:30 Sunday Forum Committee
6:00 100 Hands
6:00 Wednesday Night Kick-Off
6:00 Alleluia Dancers
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Young Voices
6:00 Youth Choir
6:00 Youth Bells
6:30 Board of Community Life
6:30 Board of Outreach
6:30 Board of Spiritual Formation
6:30 Fun with Dylan
6:30 Chapel Singers
6:30 Genesis Dancers
6:35 Chorister Choir
6:45 Intermediate Bells
6:45 Spiritual Exploration—Yoga
7:00 Confirmation
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:20 Alleluia Dancers
7:30 Senior High

12 THURSDAY

9:00 Archives Committee
10:30 Meals on Wheels
11:45 HABIT caregivers meeting
12:00 Plymouth Pew Clergy Discussion Group
7:00 Plymouth Keyboard Music Club
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

13 FRIDAY

14 SATURDAY

9:00 Plymouth Choir retreat

15 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare
9:00 First Service
9:00 Archives—open for visitors
9:30 Adult Handbells
10:00 Meditation
10:00 Church School
10:00 Text Talk
10:00 Forum
11:00 Second Service
12:00 Artists' reception
12:15 Church tour
12:00 Caring for Creation
5:00 Third Sunday Meal

16 MONDAY

17 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer
9:00 Archives Committee
5:00 BeFrienders
6:00 Immigrant Welcoming Working Group

18 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit-A-Bit
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center
1:00 Spiritual Exploration—Deep Dive
1:30 OMC Book Club
2:00 Farmers' market
3:30 Stewardship Committee
5:00 Dinner, adults \$8, kids \$5
5:00 Board of Finance & Admin.
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement: Youth activities
6:00 100 Hands
6:00 Alleluia Dancers
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Young Voices
6:00 Youth Choir
6:00 Youth Bells
6:30 Board of Worship
6:30 Fun with Dylan
6:30 Chapel Singers
6:30 Genesis Dancers
6:35 Chorister Choir
6:45 Intermediate Bells
6:45 Spiritual Exploration—Yoga

7:00 Confirmation
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:20 Alleluia Dancers
7:30 Senior High

19 THURSDAY

9:00 Archives Committee
10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

20 FRIDAY

21 SATURDAY

22 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare
9:00 First Service
9:00 Archives—open for visitors
9:30 Adult Handbells
10:00 Meditation
10:00 Church School
10:00 Text Talk
10:00 Forum
11:00 Second Service
5:00 Theater 45 degrees reading: *Mara, Queen of the World*

23 MONDAY

5:00 Theater Committee
7:00 *Step Back, Listen Up*—Irreducible
Grace Foundation

24 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer
9:00 Archives Committee
7:00 The Mortality Project

25 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit-A-Bit
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf
10:00 Conversations from the Heart
Practice Group
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center
1:00 Spiritual Exploration—Deep Dive
2:00 Archives
2:00 Farmers' market
5:00 Dinner, adults \$8, kids \$5
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement:
Youth activities
6:00 Leadership Council
6:00 100 Hands
6:00 Alleluia Dancers
6:00 Cherub Choir
6:00 Young Voices
6:00 Youth Choir
6:00 Youth Bells
6:30 Fun with Dylan
6:30 Chapel Singers
6:30 Genesis Dancers
6:35 Chorister Choir
6:45 Intermediate Bells
6:45 Spiritual Exploration—Yoga
7:00 Confirmation
7:00 Plymouth Choir
7:20 Alleluia Dancers

7:30 Senior High

26 THURSDAY

9:00 Archives Committee
10:30 Meals on Wheels
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center
6:30 Discussions that Encounter
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

27 FRIDAY

6:00 Senior High retreat, through
Saturday, 10 a.m.

28 SATURDAY

8:30 Leadership Day

29 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare
9:00 First Service
9:00 Archives—open for visitors
9:30 Adult Handbells
10:00 Meditation
10:00 Church School
10:00 Text Talk
10:00 Forum
11:00 Second Service

30 MONDAY

The most important thing is relationships: Children & Youth Programming

As a child and teen growing up at Plymouth, I always waited with anticipation for Rally Sunday. My closest friends were from church, but since we lived in different cities and went to other schools, Sundays and Wednesdays were our chance to be together! These life-giving relationships are now well into their second and third decades! Our programming for young people places great emphasis on forging meaningful relationships. Our teachers, classroom friends and confirmation mentors give our youth kind, caring adults who are interested in them. Our buddy program, begun last year, pairs children in different grades and offers opportunities for role modeling, and our classroom curriculum mixes spiritual exploration and social justice action with laughter, conversation and fellowship. We want every child and young person to be excited to come to Plymouth, because of the relationships they have here. If your youth is still looking for their Plymouth people, drop me an email ninaj@plymouth.org and let me know! Our children and young people are our church's greatest asset—it is vitally important they feel seen, heard, wanted and loved here!

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTIZED

Henry Charles Doberstein, child of Megan and John Doberstein
August Christopher Radel-Moore, child of Jonathan Moore and Thad Radel
Mae Francis Strangfeld, child of Celia Hemmerich and Joe Strangfeld

BEREAVED

Stephen and Pat Harlan-Marks, death of Stephen's mother, Gale Marks
DEATHS
William "Bill" TenBroek, father of Erica TenBroek, Jim TenBroek, Peggy Challgren and William TenBroek and families; brother-in-

law of Joan and John Colwell

Gwen Welcke, mother(-in-law) of Mike Welckle and Kirsten Wedes, Steve Welckle and Karen Noll; grandmother of Bessie Noll, Ella Noll, Abe Welckle and fiancée Jenna McKenney, Isaiah Welckle, and Theo Welckle; great-grandmother of Harlow Welckle-McKenney

Donny Wichmann, husband of Mindy Wichmann, son-in-law of Jan Mattox, brother-in-law of Tom and Leigh Mattox, uncle of Jimmy and Maggie Pfeffer

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Submit items for publication no later than Sept. 13 for the October issue. We reserve the right to edit or delay the publication of any article.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sept. 1

10:30 a.m., one service only

Sept. 8–Sept. 29

9 a.m. First Service

11 a.m. Second Service

For more news on worship, please see Beth’s article on page 1. All Sunday services going forward will be in the Sanctuary.

To find out who is preaching, please go to the Worship page on our website (<https://www.plymouth.org/worship/>) the Monday before.

Plymouth Congregational Church

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A return to Cuba in February

Pastor Eduardo Gonzalez and award-winning journalist José “Tury” Jimenez will again be our guides for a Plymouth-sponsored Cuba Connect trip tentatively scheduled for Feb. 3–13, 2020. An informational meeting for this trip will be held at Plymouth after the second service on Sept. 29.

Plymouth Congregational Church, since 2005, has forged a friendship with the congregations of The Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba, and especially Immanuel Baptist Church in Ciego de Avila. Plymouth has also hosted visits of Pastor Gonzalez, his family and Tury.

The congregation shares a similar mission to Plymouth’s. Former Plymouth Executive Minister Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sartain wrote: “Their theology is one of openness; they have a deep appreciation of the arts; they work to alleviate the suffering of those in need; and they value deeply the richness of truth and beauty found in other traditions.” Please watch for notices and, if you have questions, contact Tom Anderson (612/867-0932) or Nancy Albrecht (612/377-8030).

Plymouth folks are pictured with our Cuban friends.



Photo provided by Nancy Albrecht