

Plymouth First United Methodist Church



BEACON

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR JOHN



As one who lived along the shores of Lake Superior, I've come to appreciate the raw power of "Mother Nature" and the incredible ways in which water can influence life on planet Earth. When winter arrives along the shores of Lake Superior, one gets quickly acquainted with snowfall, and one inch of rain equals 10 inches of snow. The worst snowstorm I ever witnessed during my days in the "U.P." was 63 inches of snow over a weekend, which would have been just over six inches of rain had the season been different.

By now, we've found ourselves trying to imagine what it would be like to experience over 50 inches of rain in less than a week. Images of people contending with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey give us a clue. As I write this, Hurricane Irma pushes her way towards the east coast of our nation, and we wonder what's in store. I have no problem believing the pundits informing us this is the worst natural disaster our nation has experienced over the course of recorded history. But I rejoice that the worst "Mother Nature" can hurl at us has brought out the best that the Creator has instilled within us.

When the Jewish leader, Saul of Tarsus, was transformed by our Creator, he went from foisting persecution and punishment upon followers of Jesus Christ to becoming the most vocal proponent of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and is now known to us as the apostle, Paul. Making his way into Athens, the center of classical learning and culture in that day, he stood in front of the Areopagus, and said, "Athenians, ... as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, He who is Lord of Heaven and Earth does not live in shrines made by human hands ... since He Himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor He made all nations to inhabit the whole Earth, and He allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for Him and find Him – though indeed He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are

His offspring.' ... While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will have the world judged in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed, and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17: 22-31)

This many centuries later, we find ourselves living in a time fraught with hurricanes of all sorts. Personally, corporately, nationally, and internationally, our lives have become bombarded with bewilderment, deluged with division, and experiencing deep need for help. Paul spoke to the Athenians, those in the center of classical learning and culture. He also spoke to Rome, the center of empire and political power, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5: 1-5)

As God's offspring, we are all related. God graciously gives us His Holy Spirit, enabling us to endure suffering, assured of our character being refined and strengthened with hope. There has never been a time in the history of our world where more people existed and found themselves in great need of the very things our God alone provides.

May we steel our resolve to be and become evermore God's people, striving to be faithful in loving Jesus with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us in worship and service to the world around us.

John



Prepare to be pampered by your Chancel Choir.



Plated Swiss Steak Luncheon

Live Music

\$10 suggested donation

Proceeds will help to fund the Chancel Choir's mission trip in April 2018 to sing at the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

Dinner plate shown on the front is the Rose Window at the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

Tell Marcia Van Oyen if you are interested in attending.

Sunday, October 1 after worship

You're invited to sing with the Chancel Choir AND join us on a trip to sing at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC!

Come and join a great group of people making music together in the Chancel Choir. We rehearse each Wednesday, 7:30 – 9:00 pm and sing each Sunday for Sanctuary worship, September through June. Come and enjoy singing, sharing in devotions and prayer, making new friends and praising God! We'll be joining a festival chorus in Washington, DC to sing the Solemn Mass by Louis Vierne at the National Cathedral, April 13 – 17, 2018. It will be an amazing experience! Rehearsals begin September 6th in the choir room.



NOTEworthy Concert – the Detroit Lutheran Singers
Sunday, October 22 3:00 pm



Come enjoy an afternoon of wonderful choral music!

Admission is free; donations will benefit Hurricane relief and the Chancel Choir trip to Washington, DC

Ushers are needed for this concert. If you can help, contact Marcia Van Oyen marcia@pfumc.org



The program theme is "Divide and Conquer: Music of Unity" featuring many different composers, double choir, brass and organ.

Do You Know...

The Missions and Outreach Committee is responsible for determining how to assist and support local, national, and world wide missions through the generous financial support of the PFUMC community. We support ongoing mission projects such as ASP, emerging missions such as Pearls of Great Price, as well as emergency relief projects like the Flint Water Crisis and Hurricane Harvey.

Other areas where Marge volunteers are the Funeral Meal Ministry, the Memorial Committee, Church office receptionist, just joined the choir, and Pastor John's Wednesday night Bible Study.

Fun Fact: Exercising several times a week with Silver Sneakers, traveling with family and friends, and went sky diving for the first time.



Marge Rousseau
Chair of
Missions and
Outreach Committee



DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?

Would you like to assist with the Prayer Shawl Ministry here at PFUMC, but cannot attend the gatherings during the day?

If you're interested in an evening gathering a few times a month, please contact Lisa Berlanga by phone or email. 734-612-5583 or Lisakberlanga@gmail.com

In addition to Prayer Shawls, we also knit/crochet hats and scarves for the homeless!



Music at First Fine Arts Academy is going strong!

We now have 31 students enrolled in piano, guitar, voice, flute and percussion lessons. Last fall we had 23 students, so our enrollment has increased tremendously! Most of our students are from the greater community. The Fine Arts Academy operates under the umbrella of the PFUMC Music Ministry and is a self-sustaining ministry. For more info, contact our coordinator Barb Levensgood 734.453.5280, ext 112 or fineartsacademy@pfumc.org



Thoughts from PASTOR NICK



As I write this we have just completed an amazing string of events. We wrapped up our summer series, *The Game of Life*, and kicked off the fall series *What Makes You Happy*. We had a spectacular Hog Roast, where over 300 people came and shared a meal together. Alleluia!

That was followed by an outdoor service for the Impact crowd. Despite some chilly weather, we had a wonderful spirit-filled worship service. Sunday school has started, Fusion kicked off with 18 youth, and Confirmation and the Young Adults classes are getting rolling again. There is an incredible amount of energy in the building these days. The Spirit is soaring.

There's one more item that I want to mention. It's our commitment to collect 500 empty 5 gallon buckets and lids to be used in the hurricane recovery efforts. We're partnering with other churches to put together cleaning kits. One church collects sponges, another bleach, yet another wipes, etc.... When all the items are combined in a bucket, a full cleaning kit is created.

When we were approached to take part in this project the question we were asked was, "What is your church willing to commit to?" We could have said 50 sponges, or 100 packages of wipes but we understand that is not the way it works in God's kingdom. When the question was asked of us, we replied, "What is the item no church will take, and how many do you need?" 500 buckets was the answer. So 500 buckets PFUMC will provide.

There is an acronym that is fitting here. BHAG, Big Hairy Audacious Goal. The idea is sometimes what we need to take a leap of faith, set the bar high, and trust in God. 500 buckets is a high goal. 500 buckets is a BHAG.

The beauty of a BHAG is it gives us a chance to see God at work. We, as humans, tend to think small, we want to play it safe. The safe answer would have been to say we'll collect 50 bottles of Windex. As followers of Jesus, playing it safe isn't what we're called to do. No, as Christians we are called to live in the world of Big Hairy Audacious Goals. After all, striving for perfection and transforming the world are two of the biggest goals there are. Our 500 buckets is part of both of those goals.

You see, when we give, be it money or time or buckets, we show our better sides, we show our Christianity. We show that we are capable of putting the needs of others before our own. As John Wesley would put it, we're showing our commitment to moving toward perfection. I'll put it this way, giving shows our love for our neighbor, and in turn God.

While we will never see who receives our buckets, they will know someone cared. Cared enough to collect and sort and package and deliver a small gesture of help and kindness. A bucket is our way of saying God loves you, and so do we. 500 people will be getting that message, thanks, in part to our efforts.

I'm so excited to see what the future brings for Plymouth First. We just had an amazing string of events, but I have the feeling we're just getting going.

Blessings!

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief
Cleaning Kit Buckets
www.umcor.org



Hands ⁴ Hurricanes



HOG ROAST



Sept. 9, 2017

Trustee Tidbits August, 2017

Much has been going on in our church and parsonages regarding upkeep and improvements. We appreciate your continued support. Many hands make light work.

Not sure if this qualifies for light work, but we are building a new stage for the Impact service and we need YOU! Bill Pickering has designed a new stage for us and it is time to implement. It will happen about the 3rd week of September and if you would consider helping out, whenever you can, please give him or Ken Fader a call. It will match with our current décor in that room, and we are replacing the backdrop with a black curtain to make service changes easier. Our committee is excited about this new project and I know you will be too! Thanks to Ken and Bill for all of their time and work.

We are very close to putting our Safety Procedures in place to let everyone know how we will work together in an emergency, either here or in the community. Ron Picard continues to be in contact with our fire and police departments and we will be presenting officially to the Church Council shortly.

We were sad to have to accept the resignation of Dave Clark from our committee. He has worked hard on projects having to do with the parsonages. His last one was organizing the deck cleaning and staining of our Palmer parsonage. Thank you so much for your 2 1/2 years of service to God in this way.

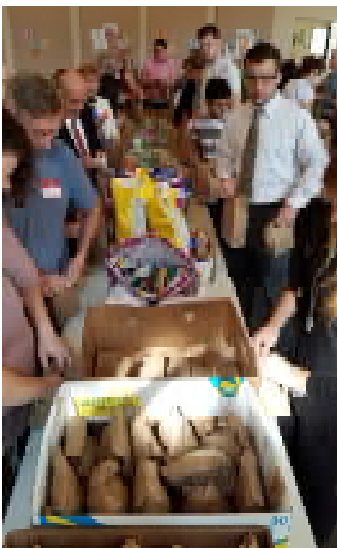
Discussion continues on whether we need additional hearing help in either service. We can't seem to make a decision, going back and forth. If you remember, we did a survey 2 years ago and had 19 responses, though not all in need. Please call me or email brcoyle@aol.com if you see a need and have a suggestion.

There have been many room requests from outside groups to use our beautiful facility. Some are a one-time event, some ongoing. Denise Zander has all of that updated information if you are interested in finding out more.

As you know, we were happy to present the Roe Scholarship for Christian Education to our own Pastor Nick Berlanga! He will be attending seminary as a full-time student, required by our program.

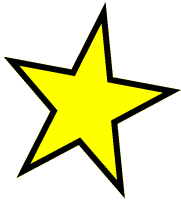
God certainly is good to us. We have an exciting fall to look forward to! Pig Roast, Bonfire, Worship with a study, What Makes you Happy?, other small groups, and much more. Come and join in!
Joy Coyle, chair of the Trustees

Odds
'n'
Ends



MISSION SUNDAY
Sept. 3, 2017





**Financial Update for
August 2017**

Income \$ 57,627
Expenses \$ 57,560

Income YTD \$ 558,116
Expenses YTD \$ 555,360



OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday
9:00 am Sunday School 10:10 am Worship FUSION	BSF Leaders YMCA Fitness 7:00 pm AA/Alanon
1 World Wide Communion All Church Worship Choir Dinner	2 60+ lunch
8	9
15	16
22 Rummage Sale Set up NoteWorthy Concert	23 Rummage Sale set up
29	30



Our Corner News and Updates

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you First Church Family!

Because of your generosity, an exciting event occurred on August 26, 2017 at the Plymouth Hills Community Clubhouse. In partnership with Comcast, Plymouth Hills management and Plymouth First United Methodist Church over 85 backpacks were filled by students living at Plymouth Hills for their use in the upcoming semester. The students were smiling broadly as they selected their own supplies from the list provided and the parents expressed thanks and gratitude. Elementary, Middle School, High School students, and students in extended programs participated. There was an ice cream social, provided by Plymouth Hills and door prizes and backpacks provided by Comcast.

Another much anticipated donation was made by Mark Viergutz. After doing research and reviving his carpentry skills he made "A Little Free Library" that was donated to the Park. Many parties have agreed to contribute books including residents of Plymouth Hills, Laura Pettipher, the park manager and Amy Viergutz, our church librarian who has been collecting books from the rummage sale. It should be open soon. Sharon Freeman has agreed to monitor the "Little Free Library" which will house children's and adult books.

Mark Viergutz putting the finishing clasp on the "Little Free Library"

Volunteers to tutor at Plymouth Hills are needed.

**For more info contact Nancy Navarre or
Mary McCully**



Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BSF group	6:00 am Prayer Breakfast YMCA Fitness 6:00 pm Bible study 6:00 pm Impact Band Practice 7:30 p Chancel Choir	YMCA Fitness NEW Bible Study 6:00 pm Small grp 7:30 p Festival Bells	YMCA Fitness	
3 SPRC	4	5 Christian Ed Griefshare	6	7
10 7pm Evangelism	11 6 pm Men's Bible Study Boy Scouts	12 Knit & Crochet Grp Griefshare Trustee mtg	13	14
17	18 1 pm—Quilting Boy Scouts	19 6pm Monthly Prayer Griefshare	20 Wedding reh	21 wedding
24 Rummage Sale 6:30 pm SPRC 31	25 Rummage Sale Finance Poppy Circle	26 Knit & Crochet grp Pearls of Great Price	27 Wedding reh	28 Wedding



Students and families lined up to pick up supplies and backpacks.



Weekly Fusion Events
 Sunday School @ 9 am
 Confirmation Class @ 9 am
 Worship @ 10:10 am
 See Sarah Sutphin
 for more information.



SEPTEMBER

29th—Fusion Outing; meet @ Church @ 6 pm, details coming soon.

OCTOBER

1st & 29th—Fusion; Noon—2 pm
 8th-Fusion Service Noon—2 pm
 20th -Friday Night Fun 6 pm
 22nd & 24th-ASP Rummage Sale

NOVEMBER

5th & 19th—Fusion; noon -2pm
 11-18th—Guest Week, feel free to come hang out with our guests
 12th-ASP Brunch

DECEMBER

10th & 17th—Fusion; noon-2pm
 8th—Fusion Outing; details TBD

**October 22
 5-7 pm**

Meet @ Zap Zone
 41953 Ford Rd in Canton
 \$20 per person
 RSVP to Sarah Sutphin by 10/18

Who doesn't like FUN?



EVERYONE is invited to join us once a month from 6:00-8:30 for a fun filled night. **Save these dates** and plan to be here for some good old fashion fun!

October 20 - 6:00 pm HARVEST HOOPLA—Potluck Dinner (bring a dish to pass) Movie & Popcorn, Crafts (for kids and adults) & Games.

Fun for all ages!!

November & December - off for the holidays
January 26, 2018 - details TBD
February 23, 2018 - details TBD
March 16, 2018 - details TBD
April 27, 2018 - details TBD
May 25, 2018 - details TBD



Leadership Training Day

Saturday, November 4th, 9am - Noon

Calling all Sunday School teachers (adult and children), Small Group Leaders, Committee Chairs and Members, get this date on your calendars and plan to join us for a time of training to help us become the best leaders we can be! Please spend this time praying for this event and the impact it will have on our leaders.

Christian Education



We are in the home stretch of our year long collection for Operation Christmas Child!!! You have been so generous! Our goal is to be able to fill 100 boxes. This month we are collecting shoe boxes as well as miscellaneous items we have already collected but didn't get enough for 100 boxes. We need:

- Small pads of paper/notebooks
- Pens, pencils, colored pencils, and pencil sharpeners
- Chapstick
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Small tools
- Hair accessories (headbands, barettes, pony tail holders, etc.)

- Socks and T-shirts (any size from toddler to adult sizes)
- Hats and scarves
- Solar-powered calculators
- Stickers

Drop your donations of at the Operation Christmas Child table in the Great Hall and plan to help pack boxes on 11/5 after service.



Monday Mornings

9:30 - 11:30

Contact Sarah Sutphin for more information

Volunteers Needed



Looking for teachers and assistants to serve in Children's Church for 1st- 3rd graders once a month. Materials are provided and blessings are abundant!!!

See Sarah Sutphin to sign up today!!!

News From 60+

To begin the 2017-18 season, we welcomed Bob Socco from the Consumer Education division of the State Attorney General's office to a return engagement, this time to talk about Identity Theft. This kind of criminal activity has become a major problem for many people in recent years and the aftermath can cause serious financial loss and heartbreaking stress to those who are victims and it may take months or even years to clear up the legal problems created by having one's identity stolen. Bob gave us a lot of information about this big subject which can't be covered here, but here are some warnings and suggestions: Government agencies, banks, credit card companies, etc. never ask personal information via e-mail, phone or coming to your home, so do not supply answers to such solicitations. The best rule to follow is: Never give out personal information unless you have initiated the contact. Be prudent with all personal information including your social security number. Copy machines store everything it prints on their hard drive. If you are going to dispose of your copier it would be wise to remove the hard drive. Also, there are fairly inexpensive devices available which will "clean" your copier. You can check your annual credit report for free three times a year by using each of the three different credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Doing so may alert you to any unusual activity.



Medical identity theft has become widespread; last year 1.85 million consumers were victims. It is important to review your Explanation of Benefits forms to verify that the benefits cover medical services that you actually received, and if they do not, then immediately notify Medicare. There are copies of a helpful handout on the information counter in the Great Hall, but if they have all been taken, copies are available for printing at: www.michigan.gov/AG, click on Consumer Protection, then click on Consumer Education and you will find Identity Theft handouts and other interesting info.

Back to **Monday**, the next 60+ luncheon will be **October 2, 2017 at 11:30 am, in Fellowship Hall, \$7**. The program is TBD, but we hope you'll sign-up to see what's up. We can tell you that Chef Cheryl will have prepared another of her super, delectable lunches for us, so invite a friend. Reservation sheet is in the Great Hall or call Mary (734-927-7557) or Sandy (734-459-5471).

Box Tops & Tyson Project A

Please save your Box Tops and Tyson Project A Labels. There is an envelope to collect these on the back wall of the church kitchen. These are sent to the Red Bird Mission. This is in an isolated, rural, distressed area of the Appalachian Mountains in southern Kentucky. Over the years the Mission has enjoyed wide support in The United Methodist Church.

For more information about the Red Bird Mission please see their website, <http://rbmission.org/>

Thank You! Cathie Siegler

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family & Friends

Members

Andrew Brown
Linda Calzone
Betty Campbell
Sandy Hackett
Alex Magee
Vince Maiorana
Sandy Noll
Nancy Remick
Sandy Rummel

Kathleen Salla
Jean Scheppele
Bill Schlabach
Tammie Todd
Karen Truan

Pat Carne
Marilyn Carl
Ethel Culver
Cal Gress
Don Iler
Louise James
Doris Kuhns
Carol Meszaros
Joan McNally
Jean Miller
Tina Powell

Ted Roby
Ruth Ruhl
Geo Schmidt
Ned Stirton
Carol Thomas
Jim Walk
Norma West
Paul Worley

*Victor Abraham Jr., Laurice Abraham
Cathy Bennet, friend of John & Ruth Cook
Ben & Nancy Blackston, family of Ruth Cook
John & Yvonne Burdziak, friends of Pat Richter
Chris, Tammie Todd's Brother
Dave Dillon, friend of John & Ruth Cook
Joanne Duffner, sister of Janet Robertson
Jason Hackett, son of Sandy Hackett
Gus Gelardi, friend of Geo Thompson
Bruce Krot Jr., nephew of Karen Krot
Norris & Elizabeth Martin, daughter Angela
Linda Maxwell, wife of Bill Maxwell
Cameron Monroe, mother Trista
John Paul, brother in law of Meri Lyn Hill
David Rosenkranz, Thomas Bode
Melissa Rush—Barbara Levengood
Marlene Somers—friend—Sharon Minning
Michael Stevenson, (Karen Krot)
Teddy, grandson of Mary McCully
Marti Tousignant— Ruth Cook*

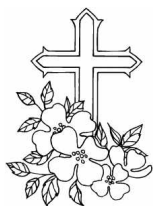
Members living in a Senior Facility

Military

Missionaries

Justin Atkinson
Kevin Clifton
(Strobridge)
John Dickson
Linda Erickson
Ian Gartner
Danielle Gomrick
Suzanne Gyde-Hall
Brandon Hill
Nathan King
Michael Pagan
Andrew D. Piggott
Evan Ray (Ramsay)
Dan & Ashley Schmitt
Tyler Schroeder
Tyler Smith

Kris & Sarah Kappler
Johannesburg, South Africa
Partner churches Russia & Poland



Our Sympathy to the family of Alice Smith who passed away 9/3/17. Her memorial service will be Saturday, 9/23 3 PM at Fox Run.

We also lift Brenda Rice in prayer and extend sympathy as 2 of her aunts have passed away.



SALE IS— October 24 & 25
DROP OFF IS— OCTOBER 22 & 23



You Are Invited To Celebrate
The
60th Wedding anniversary
Of
Karl and Darlene Little
Fellowship Hour
Sunday
November 5th, 2017

“There are three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13



Beacon

**Plymouth First
United Methodist Church**
45201 N. Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-6528
(734) 453-5280
Fax: (734) 453-0375

Beacon & Calendar deadlines:
E-mail articles by 5 pm on the 10th
of the month to cathym@pfumc.org
or pat@pfumc.org

OCTOBER INFO AND CALENDAR

Placed out for pick up at church
Once Monthly

PERIODICALS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



10/1 Ron Fair
John Robertson
10/2 Karen Peckrul
10/3 Marisa Berlanga
10/4 Diane Anderson
Nick Berlanga
Owen Carr
Jarret Swales
Ray Weston
10/5 Sandra DeWitt
Madison Rivera
Anthony Sayers
10/6 Michael Aznavorian
Lynda Moore
10/7 Jami Lukasik
Sarah Pushies
Judith Rumpel
10/8 Ryan Johnson
Karen Krot
Alexis Panizzoli
Patricia Richter
10/9 Michael Wilder
10/10 Susan Aldrich
10/10 Bradley Blunden
Jonathan Blunden
Derick Doe
Melissa Henderson
Sara Hubbard
Doris Kuhns
Stephen Nyquist

10/11 John Anderson
Abigail Lewis
Ava Marble
Mercy Okai
Bernice Russian
10/12 Margaret Hakala
Susan Henry
10/13 Betty McCully
Marsha Mursch
10/14 Amy Brown
Donna Edwards
Jonathan Nardone
10/15 Tina Powell
Ryan Siegler
Sarah Sutphin
Agnes Szeromski
Jushua Walters
10/16 Brandon Hoard
Jean Miller
Monte Shettler
Sarah Smith
10/17 Sandra Goga
Denise Gomrick
10/18 Danielle Goud
10/19 David Johnson
Charles McIlhargey
10/20 David Lehmer
Andrew Newsome
Tessa Quinlan

10/21 Megan Hakala
Kyle Zander
10/22 John Grenfell IV
Susan Novak
10/23
LeAnna Christenson
Martha Daigneau
Vicky Gill
10/24 Richard Wilson
10/25 Keith Cox
Lily Linares
10/26
Lorraine Dermyre
Elizabeth Ferrill
Don Keski-Hynnila
Lynn Pruitt
10/27 Patricia Green
Michelle Paulsen
10/28 Carol Thomas
10/29 Kathleen Herald
Linda Muse
Elizabeth Pruitt
Paige Quinlan
10/30 Cindy Blake
Dennis Bullock
10/31 Jonathon McDonald

