

Plymouth First United Methodist Church



BEACON

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR JOHN



As one year comes to a close, another fast approaches. We look over our shoulders, reminded that the one thing that never changes is change. 2017 was no different. This was the year that rekindled for me an appreciation for one of Frederick Faber's hymns, *Faith of Our Fathers*. I shall be forever grateful for that moment I was privileged to witness when my Dad pointed upwards with that index finger of his and whispered, "Home!"

The next day, I witnessed his "going Home," as gathered family listened to Andrea Bocelli, accompanied by a 360 member choir, give lyrical expression to the Lord's Prayer, and when this magnificent piece concluded, we noticed Dad had taken his last breath – and gone Home. Sacred moments in the midst of change. And I thank our Father in Heaven for the faith of my earthly father and mother which was instrumental in these sacred moments!

Such faith plays a huge role in making a difference in human lives. Faber wrote, "Faith of our fathers, we will strive to win all nations unto Thee; and through the truth that comes from God, we all shall then be truly free." Having already penned those words, he then wrote these lyrics 100 years before I was born, "For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's Word; and our lives would be illumined by the Presence of our Lord."

My hope-filled prayer is that each one of us grows increasingly reliant upon the truth of God's Word, receptive to God's love, and responsive to God's Presence. For in a world rife with change and decay all around us, it is easy to resonate with Faber's lament;

O Lord! My heart is sick,
Sick of this everlasting change;
And life runs tediously quick
Through its unresting race and unvaried range.

But as familiar as Faber was with sickness of heart and weariness of change, he was firm in his resolve to maintain a faith-filled focus:

But weakest hearts can lift their thoughts to Thee;
It makes us strong to think of Thine Eternity...
Dear God! be Thou my only mirth,
Thy majesty my single timid bliss!
Oh in the bosom of eternity
Thou dost not weary of Thyself, nor we of Thee!

Yes, change is inevitable. Things are not what they used to be, and we can count on things not remaining as they are. One good thing about all such change is that as everything changes it strengthens our appreciation of the changelessness of the Eternal One! There is not a "shadow of turning" with God, giving us great reason to build our homes upon a firm and changeless foundation. Because of our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we don't need to reason or think in order to believe. We reason because we believe. We think, not to have faith, but for the very reason that we do have faith in this One Who is perfect. He will never be more or less than He has always been. And we can trust Him in the midst of any and all changes!

John





Chancel Choir Ministry Trip APRIL 13—15—2018

Join us on the choir ministry trip April 13—15, 2018. We will have some seats available on the bus. More details to come in January!!



I Have a Dream
summer **Music & Drama** camp
June 25-29, 2018
9 am - noon
2nd - 5th grades

Dr. Darlene Kuperus & Mr. Dennis Brunzell
offered by **Music @ First Fine Arts Academy**
734.453.5280 ext 112 fineartsacademy@pfumc.org



Trustee Tidbits, December 2017

Well, this is my last Tidbit! It has been 3 years as chairperson, what a blessing in so many ways. The Christian companionships and friendships, the privilege of working for God in His house and parsonages, and the stretching of my personal challenges and goals. Each experience makes us ready for what is to come!

I am planning on a role with the Safety committee, along with Don Williams, Ron Picard, and Bill Strobridge. We will have at least one training early in 2018, moving to the next step. More news to come shortly.

Ron, Holly Good, and I go off of this committee, adding Richard Anderson, Dan Dalton, Ruth Ann Cook, and Sandy Hackett to it. Much to plan in the near future.

We are updating the library, hoping to make it more usable for all. The children's library is moving upstairs to 304, the first room on the right with the big windows. Perhaps this location will be more inviting, as most of the children come to this area. There will also be a couple of bookshelves in the Garden Café for people who are in there to enjoy. Books, a few magazines and future ideas for the library will still be in the main room. We are looking at some new furniture for that area, to be able to host meetings and relaxing -reading and wifi space. After hearing about how little some of the current books are used and not much budget to replace, a purge of some of the older ones will take place. Amy Viergutz is our librarian, making a lot of this happen, so please talk to her if you would like to help in any way. Thank you, Amy!

Large and small repairs have been happening at the Maidstone parsonage. We are also trying to solve an inspection problem by Canton Township. We are still looking for licensed experts in the areas of building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical. Please call me if you can discuss this.

The Impact stage is impressive! The flooring will be completed in February. The backdrop curtain will be installed at that time also. Thanks to Bill Pickering and crew! All of the labor was from our church congregation! God provides in miraculous ways! !!!!

We are ready for the first big snowstorm. The kitchen will be cleaned shortly with a new volunteer heading up the group, Christy Haradean. Our utility bills have been down this fall. Our church is hosting a Blood Drive in April. We wish to thank Mel Bobcean and Tom Bode for their outdoor work around the church. Thank yous could fill a book with all that is done here as God's hands and feet.

With that, time to end. It has been a pleasure. God has truly blessed me with this opportunity. If I have trouble backing off after being so involved in this for 3 years, just nudge me!

May God bless this church and His followers during the special Advent Season!

Joy

Odds
'n'
Ends

Thoughts from PASTOR NICK



For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? Isaiah 43:19



One of the great things about being back in school is the chance to talk to some of the people who are experts in their fields. I have a professor who was on the committee that wrote passages of our Book of Discipline. Another professor represents the United Methodist Church on the World Council of Churches. It's really humbling to have a chance to be in their classes.

One question they help us seminarians grapple with, is the future of the Church. Not just the future of the local church, or the future of United Methodism, but the future of The Church over all. There's a lot of different theories, and a lot of different opinions, but there's one consensus, it will look different than it does today. It will be more relational, more flexible and more mission focused. In fact, any church that does not make mission its core value will probably be gone within a generation.

What do I mean by mission? It's not doing charity, although charity is a part of it. Too many churches consider themselves missional because they support some missionaries, or donate money to some causes, but mission is much wider than that. Mission is being in relationship with

the community, actively seeking out people, and making connections with them. To be missional means to be a living, proclaiming, and serving church that is always looking for new ways to be in ministry with its community.

The theme for the Michigan Conference for 2018 is "Ministry With." This is part of the change to the United Methodist Church. This change involves it returning to its missional roots.

"Ministry With" will introduce a new model for mission for the Michigan Conference. One that will demonstrate how to engage youth, schools, the poor, neighbors and even other churches. It should be interesting to glimpse the future.

I'm looking forward to 2018. I hope you are too.

Blessings,

FROM KEN FADER— -

You cannot imagine what a blessing serving at Plymouth First has been! Being able to work with such a strong and gifted staff as well as the gifted musicians I have been surrounded with has been wonderful! So it is with a heavy heart that I share with you that my time at Plymouth has come to a close. With all the changes coming for Plymouth First in 2018, it was not my intention to be yet one more change to adjust to ,but there are some commitments in ones life that supersede all others.

My wife Cindy is the Administrator at Friendship Church in Canton and Sunday morning is considered a work day for her, so we knew when I accepted this job at Plymouth First it would be tough to serve at two different churches on Sunday mornings. We have struggled off and on over the last two years and recently it has become abundantly clear to me what would be best for my wife's happiness and the health of our marriage would be for us to worship together on Sunday mornings. And since I cannot in good conscience ask Cindy to give up her ministry at Canton, I decided to relinquish mine at Plymouth First.

For you husbands and boyfriends out there, here's what I've really learned; there is power in holding your significant other's hand as you listen to the same message, there is power in studying the same scriptures and themes together, there is power in the prayer that comes from a common understanding and purpose given to you in those times of learning and reflection. Cindy and I have been missing those times, and while it didn't really have any noticeable short-term effects, in the long-run it has cost us in closeness and unity, and the Spirit has shown me I need to repair those rifts before the harm becomes permanent.

So let me leave you with this encouragement, Plymouth First has everything it needs to weather any storm or or any change. You have a strength of heart and character that many churches envy. Your unity is not in worship style, time, or place, but in the deep and abiding love you have for each other and for your community! It's time to shine, Plymouth! It's time to hold on to the good things that have brought you this far and then reach out for the lost and lonely in the community and show them they have a home waiting for them here with you, in this place.

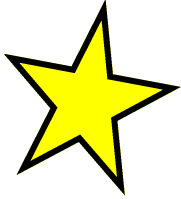


God Bless you for welcoming me and loving me the way you have, God Bless you in all the ministries you have now and the new ministries you don't know you have yet, and God Bless this congregation; the ones that are here now and especially the ones that are coming soon!

Ken

You all are cordially invited to a reception immediately following worship on December 31st in honor of Ken Fader.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Light snacks provided.



**Financial Update for
November 2017**

Income \$ 63,805
Expenses \$ 69,749

Income YTD \$ 757,945
Expenses YTD \$ 771,938



Our Corner News and Updates

I have some exciting news about Our Corner. Caren (Stiver) Panizzo has agreed to join the team as a co-chair. Welcome Caren.

The tutoring program is continuing to grow. There are times when we outgrow our space at the Community Building at Plymouth Hills. This happens when we have 15 elementary students and their tutors. Additionally, there has been a request to offer our tutoring program to students who do not live at Plymouth Hills. These are good problems and we are in discussions about the best way to meet these needs. God is truly at work with the tutors, students and their families.

Please keep us in your prayers as we discern where God is leading us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Nancy Navarre--- Our Corner

January 2018

Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School
10:10 am Worship

FUSION

Monday

BSF Leaders
YMCA Fitness

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

1
NEW YEAR—
CHURCH CLOSED

7 8 60+ lunch

14
Area 456 5 pm

15
MARTIN LUTHER KING
HOLIDAY
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

21
Noon—FUSION
Marriage Encounter

28
Marriage Encounter

22

29

FROM THE FORNEYS—

As we close out our second full year on the mission field we want to thank you for the important role you play in our lives and ministry. We know and love that we get to be here because we stand on the shoulders of all our supporters, both in prayer and through financial giving.

Sincerely, thank you!

Community Rewards \$61.20





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 pm Chancel Choir	YMCA Fitness NEW Bible Study 6:00 pm Small grp 7:30 pm Festival Bells	YMCA Fitness	
2	3 Blood Drive	4	5	6 baby shower
9 6:30 pm SPRC	10 6 pm Men's Bible Study Boy Scouts	11 2 pm Knit & Crochet 7 pm Christian Ed 7 pm Trustee mtg	12 Friday Fun Night	13 Marriage Encounter
16 7 pm Evangelism	17 PFUMC Quilting Boy Scouts	18	19	20
23 30	24 Poppy Circle 31	25 6pm Monthly Prayer 7 pm Church Council	26	27 Baby Shower

DONATION DEADLINE

Please have all of your pledges and donations in for the year 2017 no later than December 31, 2017. The church office will be closed December 25-29, 2017 and January 1, 2018. If any donations are received for the year 2017 in January 2018, it will be applied to the new year of 2018. We need to do this in order to balance out our records and send out annual statements promptly. If you should have any questions, please contact Susan Henry, Financial Administrative Secretary in the church office (734) 453-5280. Thank you, Susan



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



FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT—
 JANUARY 12TH—
 PLYMOUTH ICE FESTIVAL
 MEET IN FRONT OF THE PENN
 @ 6:30 PM



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!

Fun for all ages!! **December** - no event planned

- January 12, 2018** - Plymouth Ice Festival
- February 23, 2018** - details TBD
- March 16, 2018** - details TBD
- April 27, 2018** - details TBD
- May 25, 2018** - details TBD



Calling all married couples! Want to strengthen your marriage and grow closer as a couple? Save these dates, January 13, 21, 28 and February 4, 11, 18 and plan to join us for Marriage Encounter 3RE; Rekindle, Restore, and Renew your marriage. For more details visit www.encounter.org, click on 3RE Details. To register click on Choose a Date and Location, select the Plymouth option. Contact Dean and Kathy Thompson @ thomkd@comcast.net for more information.



Small Group Opportunities

News From 60+

Here We Come A'Caroling

and that's just what 60+ers did at their 9th annual Carolfest under Dr. Marcia's wonderful direction following another of Chef Cheryl's delicious luncheons. Everyone was in great tune and the sounds of music were glorious. Del Grebe again graced us with a solo of the lovely carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" with everyone joining her in the last verse which ended with the words "What shall I give Him? Give Him my heart." What a beautiful way to begin our journey toward celebrating the true and most Blessed Event of all. We invite you to join us next year. In the meantime we will ring in New Year on **January 8th**, same time and place: **Fellowship Hall ~ 11:30 AM ~ \$7.** We expect to welcome 2018 with lots of laughs provided by our guests Mary Tyler Moore and her gang of funny characters. Hope you can join us and bring a friend. Reservation sheet is in the Great Hall or you can call Mary (734-927-7551) or Sandy (734-459-5471). Meanwhile, we wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Jan. 3rd , 2018

TIME: 1 pm— 7 pm

Place this on your calendar



Address change for

Whitney & Marilyn Stevens

Senior Apartment at Indep. Village

14707 Northville Rd Apt. 211

Plymouth, MI 48170

Telephone the same

happy new year

Members

Dave Barrett
Tyler Best
Andrew Brown
Linda Calzone
Betty Campbell
Sandy Hackett
Muriel Gyde
Sandy Hackett
Don Iler
Ron Loisel

Alex Magee
Vince Maiorana
Virginia O'Neill
Dennis Piggott
Nancy Remick
Sandy Rummel
Kathleen Salla
Jean Scheppele
Bill Schlabach
Karen Truan
Ally Wiemken

Members living in a Senior Facility

Pat Carne
Marilyn Carl
Ethel Culver
Tom Franklin
Cal Gress
Louise James
Doris Kuhns
Carol Meszaros
Joan McNally
Jean Miller
Tina Powell
Ted Roby
Ruth Ruhl
Geo Schmidt
Ned Stirton
Jim Walk
Norma West
Paul Worley

Family & Friends

*Cathy Bennet, friend of John & Ruth Cook
Chris, Tammie Todd's Brother
Joanne Duffner, sister of Janet Robertson
Cindy Fader, Wife of ken Fader
Jason Hackett, son of Sandy Hackett
Mike Pankow, friend of Ron Loisel
Mike Petri, friend of Dale Good
Sarah, Natalie McLaughlin
Marlene Somers, friend Sharon Minning
Michael Stevenson, (Karen Krot)
Teddy, grandson of Mary McCully
Marti Tousignant, friend of Ruth Cook
Sue Trueman, sister of Sandy Fine
Shari Ward, sister of Kathy Berliner*

Military

Justin Atkinson
Kevin Clifton
John Dickson
Linda Erickson
Bradley Jodoin
Suzanne Gyde-Hall
Brandon Hill
Michael Pagan
Andrew D. Piggott
Evan Ray (Ramsay)
Tyler Schroeder
Tyler Smith
Tom Uhl

Missionaries

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



Our sympathy to the family of Carol Thomas who passed away 12/2. Her funeral was 12/6 .

CONGRATULATIONS TO Chelsea & Steve Jeannette on the birth of their son

Duke Anthony born Dec. 1st—
21 3/4 inches— 7 lbs 15 oz—
proud grandparents Brian and Holly Good.



Dear Plymouth First UMC; Thank you so much for your prayers and support as I serve the Lord in South Africa. It has been a joy to be reunited with my family and to be a part of their ministry. Having this opportunity to help Johnny finish his high school education is such a blessing. I am eager to see the ways that the Lord will continue His work here. Your contribution makes this possible, and I am truly grateful.

Blessings, Hannah Kappler



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 pat@pfumc.org

JANUARY INFO AND CALENDAR

PERIODICALS

Placed out for pick up at church
Once Monthly

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1/1
Chase Best
Devon Eidson
1/2
Martha Giles
1/3
Linda Clements
Vanessa Lawhon
1/4
Janet Mason
Justin Muse
Christine Schilling
1/5
Jack Blunden
Kathleen Tarhanich
1/6
Mike Bush
Krista Shuler
1/7
Francis Matthews
Hayley Rodriguez
Jacob Zdrodowski
1/8
Marsha Franklin
1/9
Julianna Christenson
Brian Good
Muriel Gyde
Tom Kuzak
Catherine Siegler

1/11 Karen Blunden
Jacob Little
Courtney Rivera
Virginia Stefan
Roger Zerby
1/12
Rex Tubbs
1/14
Terry Tubbs
1/15 Phyllis Canfield
Stephen Rowley
Adam Styron
Joe Underwood
1/16 Derek Blunden
Lauren Erickson
Leo Magee
Marissa McKarge
1/17
Andrew Lehmann
1/18 Elizabeth Johns
Autumn Siddall
1/19 Lois Maiorana
Valerie Murray
1/20 Linda Calzone
Mary Pauline
1/22 Augusta Kummer
Jon Stache
Julie White

1/23 Josua Patterson
1/24 Whitney Stevens
1/25 Michael Paulsen
1/26 Nina Nabozny
1/27 Morgan Benjamin

1/27
Nathan Benjamin
Dot Kornegay
1/28 James Groat
1/29 Noah Maltby
1/30
Lisa Berlanga
Bob Mason
Ella McClure
1/31
Darlene Kuperus
Carol Saunders
Gabe Van Oyen

