

Plymouth First United Methodist Church



BEACON

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR JOHN



It was a very good year! Some of you were born that year. The Nazis surrendered to the Allied Forces bringing an end to European horror. The Detroit Tigers won the World Series. And it was the last year we had a calendar confluence (as we do this year) involving significant dates during the season of Lent and secular observances like Valentines Day and April Fool's Day. The year was 1945, and it was the last time Ash Wednesday fell on Valentines Day and Easter coincided with April Fools Day.

Given the fire sale of Detroit Tigers this past year, I wouldn't go betting the farm that this confluence of dates again this year signals a banner year for the Tigers, but I am choosing to believe this will be a good year for Plymouth First. I have good reason to believe this because of my bedrock belief in the One giving us reason to be celebrating Resurrection on April Fools Day this year. For sure there are significant numbers of self-perceived sophisticates who dismiss the likes of me as "durn fools" for being so naïve as to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. And they are just as quick to scoff at the idea of God entering our world via a virgin's womb, choosing to do so to make His way to a wooden cross where He would willingly lay down His life for the sake of the world. A former religious sophisticate had this to say to folks in the "Sin City" of his day: "For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18)

So when we gather as a faith community on Valentines Day to begin our Lenten season, engaging in that foolish rite of smearing ashes on our foreheads and hands, let us do so unashamed of our foolishness. Folks have dismissed the faith of a Christian as foolishness for a long time. All the while, God has been at work unleashing His power in most loving, redemptive ways, striving to – if you will -make us His valentine, and awaiting our response.

Christian faith is not some foolish, neurotic dependency. Rather, it is a beautiful, childlike trust. The Creator of the universe is not One to indulge our every whim, but most certainly is One Whom we can trust with our destinies. Ours is a faith community that is not naïve, infantile, and lacking an identity apart from feeling comforted and catered to, but rather we are a community of men, women, and children who have discovered our identity in this One Who wants us to be His valentine – forever. As is the case with all loving relationships, it is most true in this relationship offered to us by Almighty God, that it is given to us but best enjoyed when we enter into it with voluntary trust. He does not want us to cling to Him in fearful desperation or panicked insecurity. Rather, He longs for us to come to Him freely in sincere faith and love.

May this be your best Lent ever!

John



February 14, 2018



Music @ 1st Fine Arts Academy is pleased to announce the addition of a “**Music & Drama**” Camp to our curriculum. Camp is open to any child in the community who will enter 2nd - 5th grade in the fall. The “**I Have a Dream**” theme features many familiar and well loved songs from America’s rich history.

Kids will love it!

Music Teacher—Darlene Kuperus

Drama Teacher—Dennis Brunzell

Camp dates July 25-29 9:00-12:00

Tuition is \$125

Please contact Barbara Levengood, Academy Coordinator, for more information or to register.

734-453-5280 ext 112

Interested in learning more about Music @ 1st Fine Arts Academy? Join us for a “Preview” on Saturday, February 10th from 10:30—11:30 in Fellowship Hall.

SUPER SUB SALE



\$7 each

Pick up on February 4th

**Presale orders by January 28
Cash & Carry also available on Feb. 4th**

Proceeds benefit the Chancel Choir music mission trip in April.

Give your order to a choir member, prepayment is helpful. Additional donations are welcome!



NOTEworthy Concerts

Friday, February 9, 7:30 pm

Plymouth Community Band

Friday, March 9, 8:00 pm

Detroit Symphony Orchestra



Tickets available at dso.org Purchase tickets early, it's sure to be a sell-out!

Thank you, Garrett Sutphin, for serving as Impact Music Coordinator!

Garrett will be serving as music coordinator for Impact worship while we search for a new worship leader. He will be leading worship some Sundays, with other band members taking leadership on other weeks. We are so grateful to Garrett and the Impact Band for stepping up to lead during this transition.

Impact Worship Leader Search You can help spread the word – if you know anyone who may be interested in the Impact Worship Leader position, please send them our way.

Worship Leader for contemporary worship team. Proficiency as vocalist and on guitar and/or keyboard preferred. Experience as worship leader required. Lead one worship service on Sundays and lead rehearsals, interfacing with Pastors for worship planning and other music staff as needed. Submit resumes to Marcia Van Oyen, Minister of Music, Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170 or marcia@pfumc.org.

Chancel Choir Ministry Trip

You can join us!

The Chancel Choir will be traveling to Williamstown, Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter museum, as well as sharing their music in worship. The trip is Friday – Sunday, April 13 – 15. We will have some seats available on the bus, so if you would like to join us on the trip, talk to Marcia Van Oyen for more details and to reserve a seat on the bus.



Thoughts from PASTOR NICK



All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

*A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47***

Lent is coming soon. Starting on February 14th, Ash Wednesday, and lasting until Easter Sunday, April 1, Lent is a time for reflection, sacrifice and repentance. It's also a time of looking forward. This Lenten period our church has a good reason for looking forward. Two new pastors will be coming on board soon, as John and I get ready to depart. This will mean new ideas, new ways of looking at things, and new energy.

Lent also involves looking backwards. That is the reflection aspect of Lent. When I came to PFUMC as the associate pastor in 2014, we did a study called *The Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation*. As a church we assessed what we did well in the areas of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission, and Extravagant Generosity. At the same time, we also looked for ways we could improve. Following our time working through those practices there was a heightened sense of Spirit and community.



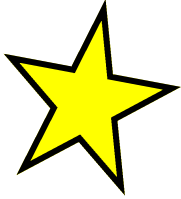
For this Lenten season, we're going to reflect on how we're doing, and revisit the five practices. This will be a time for us to reassess what we're doing well as a church, and where we might need to up our game a little. My hope is that as we talk about these topics again, it'll give us a renewed sense of Spirit. I hope that it'll also drive a feeling of anticipation for the new pastors. I look at it like getting ready for company. You always want your house to look its best when company is coming. Especially when they're visiting for the first time. Going through the Five Practices will be like getting the church in its best light for the new company coming when the changes occur.

So be prepared to see some signs reminding us of the practices. We'll be talking about them in the services. They'll also be part of the discussion during the Lenten potluck dinners. Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission, and Extravagant Generosity, I think we can all agree, these are values every church should have. Especially churches getting ready to have guests.

Blessings!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE HANDS THAT WORKED ON THE STAGE
ESPECIALLY TO HEAD CONTRACTOR BILL PICKERING !!





**Financial Update for
December 2017**

Income \$ 109,999
Expenses \$ 87,288

Income YTD \$ 867,944
Expenses YTD \$ 859,226



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. Happy New Year.

Nancy Navarre--- Our Corner

February 2018

Sunday	Monday
9:00 am Sunday School 10:10 am Worship FUSION	BSF Leaders YMCA Fitness 7:00 pm AA/Alanon
4 Sub Sandwich Sale FUSION Marriage Encounter	5 60+ lunch Money Matters
11 ASP Brunch Marriage Encounter	12
18 Marriage Encounter	19
25 FUSION AREA 456	26

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WILL BE WITH
FIRST PRESBYT CHURCH—PLYMOUTH
SERVICE TIME 8 PM





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	
		1 SPRC	2	3
6	7 6 pm Men's Bible Study Boy Scouts	8 2 pm Knit & Crochet Trustees	9 Note Worthy Concert	10 Music & Drama Camp Open House
13 7 pm Evangelism	14 Ash Wednesday 8 PM @ First Preby Ch Boy Scouts	15 6pm Monthly Prayer	16	17
20 Lent Dinner	21 PFUMC Quilting	22 Knit & Crochet	23 Wedding reh Friday Night Fun	24 Wedding
27 Lent Dinner	28 Finance Poppy Circle			



Looking for smiling faces to greet our church family on Sunday mornings. It only takes a half hour of your time, from 9:40 am till 10:10 am when the services begin. We would like volunteers from both the Impact and Sanctuary services to be represented (another way to intermingle, besides coffee hour). You can select the day you would like to greet, Maybe on your birthday or your child's birthday, a wedding anniversary or an anniversary of when you joined the church. It is a great way to meet others in our church and perform a service to your church.

There is a sign-up chart on the kiosk (by the flowers chart). Or you can call Liz Ramsay at 734-455-0745 to pick your day.



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



YOUTH

January Dates

- 21st - Fusion
- 26th - Fusion Outing, meet at church at 6:30 pm

February Dates

- 4th, 25th - Fusion
- 11th - ASP Brunch; see Bob Mason for details
- 11th - Winter Jam @ Little Caesar's Arena; details TBD
- 23rd - Friday Night Fun (all church event)



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!!

- February 23, 2018** - details TBD
- March 16, 2018** - details TBD
- April 27, 2018** - details TBD
- May 25, 2018** - details TBD

Christian Education

As I write this article, it is early January and though you won't read till the end of the month, I will start by saying Happy New Year!!! I hope you enjoyed Christmas as much as my family and I did. As much as I enjoyed a bit of downtime, I am excited for what the Lord will do in 2018 here at PFUMC.

From a Christian Education standpoint, our focus is simple; **Strong Faith, Strong Families, Strong Church**. Our goal is to help people develop and strengthen their faith, which will in-turn strengthen their families (whether your family is big or small, young or old, near or far), strong families will make Plymouth First a stronger church. Our focus, in the Christian Education Department will be providing things that make that statement, **Strong Faith, Strong Families, Strong Church** a reality and not just something that sounds good.

We will continue to provide Sunday school for all ages and adult small groups. If you are not a part of a Sunday school class or a small group, I can help you find a group that meets your needs. These classes/groups will help you fortify faith and provide opportunities to grow with others. Most months we have a Friday Night Fun event for the entire church to come together and build up our relationships with one another. These events are a great way to introduce family and friends

to church. They are fun, laid back, non-threatening, and often times they are not even at the church (we've gone to Three Cedars Farm and the Plymouth Ice Festival). We have our Lenten Dinners coming up, starting Tuesday February 20 (which will be our annual Chili and Pie Cook-off), that will allow us to revisit an all church study from a few years back, *The Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation*. Plan to join us on Tuesday nights during Lent. We will have opportunities to share our faith with friends and neighbors through our annual Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday, March 24) and Vacation Bible School (July 8-12).

This is just the start, I haven't even touched on the openings for you to serve and use your gifts. As we move through 2018, look for the opportunities to strengthen your faith and watch how that impacts every other area of your life. It will flow through your family, it will change your church. I cannot wait to see where we are a year from now.

Sarah



HELP WANTED! Sunday mornings— twice a month— and Special Events. This is a paid position— Please see Sarah if you are interested in more information



News From 60+

Beginning the New Year with Laughter—60+ started off the year 2018 with a delicious lunch and lots of laughs. We were a small group so after lunch we adjourned to the comfortable seating in the Garden Café (formerly the Parlor) and watched two very funny episodes from the “Mary Tyler Moore” show, to wit: “Ted Gets Married” and “Chuckles Bites the dust.” One of the good things about modern technology is the preservation of by-gone quality entertainment that we can still enjoy together today. And a good time was had by all.

And so now, on to February—a lovely time of year with some very important dates during this shortest month of the year. Washington and Lincoln were born—Valentine’s Day—Marti Gras and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. And last, but not least, our 60+ Luncheon, about which we are most pleased to report the happy news that Judge Ron Lowe will again be our guest speaker.

We are not able to tell you what his topic will be, but we can tell you that Judge Ron, as always, will be most interesting. So plan to join us and invite a friend.

Mark your calendars for Monday—Feb. 5—Fellowship hall—11:30 am—\$7. The reservation sheet is in the Great hall or you can call Mary (734- 927-7551) or Sandy (734-459-5471). Payment in advance is not required, however, if you do make a reservation and find that you are unable to attend, we would appreciate a courtesy call by the Sunday before the luncheon so that we can give the caterer an accurate count.

Hope to see you next month.



Join us for dinner on Tuesdays during Lent. Save the dates below and look for sign-ups in the Great Hall.

Following Dinner, we will offer a program that centers on a theme from an all church study we did a few years ago, *The Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation*. Each dinner and program will be planned around one of the five practices outlined in the book. Look for more information on the bulletin board in the Entry Way and check your bulletin for details. Our first dinner will be our annual **Chili and Pie cook-off** and we will be revisiting the topic of passionate worship.

See the schedule below:

February 20 - Passionate Worship
February 27 - Radical Hospitality
March 6 - Extravagant Generosity
March 13 - Risk Taking Mission & Service
March 20 - Intentional Faith Development

Members

Dave Barrett
 Tyler Best
 Andrew Brown
 Linda Calzone
 Betty Campbell
 Karen Cooney
 Sandy Hackett
 Muriel Gyde
 Don Iler
 Paul & Sheila Johnson

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

Members living in a Senior Facility

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

Family & Friends

Cathy Bennet, friend of John & Ruth Cook
Chris, Tammie Todd's Brother
Joanne Duffner, sister of Janet Robertson
Jason Hackett, son of Sandy Hackett
Ken Head, brother of Kathy Berliner
Mike Pankow, friend of Ron Loiselle
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



Thank you for the many visits, calls, cards and even Christmas Caroling at our apartment over the last few weeks. All were greatly appreciated and helped us stay connected to our church family. Although we aren't able to attend as often we would like, one of our highlights during Advent was being at the musical Sunday service on Dec. 10th. The orchestra, choir and bells were exceptional!!!

Paul & Sheila Johnson



We extend our sympathy to the family of Ethel Culver who passed away 12/27. Her memorial service will be held sometime in the spring.

We are in sympathy for the passing of Norma West 1/9/18. Funeral was 1/13 .

Our Sympathy is also extended to the family of Wayne Wheelock who passed away 1/14/18. His memorial service will be in the spring.

Our sympathy is extended to the Phyllis Canfield family. She passed away January 18th and her service was held January 20th at the funeral home.

We extend sympathy to the family of Marilyn Carl who passed away 1/22/18. Her funeral was 1/27/18.

This Lent make strengthening your faith a priority! Our recommended book for Lent is 40 Days of Decrease by Alicia Britt Chole, available for sale starting February 4 for \$10. This book will take you on a different kind of fast this Lenten season. Every day offers a meaningful consideration of Jesus' journey and then invites readers into a daily fast of heart-clutter, the stuff that sticks to our souls and weighs us down. Make this book a part of Lent this year.

One of the great traditions of Plymouth First is our Lenten Devotional, written by YOU! This devotional can't happen without people willing to tell others their stories. I know that God has been working in your life, consider putting what he has done into words and share your testimony with your church family. Sharing what God is doing in and through you is a great way to strengthen your faith. If you are interested, look for details on the table in the Entry Way (across from the Welcome Center).





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

FEBRUARY INFO AND CALENDAR

PERIODICALS

Placed out for pick up at church
Once Monthly

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Preston Lawhon
2/2 Antoinette Goud
Barbara Lehmann
Lois Merriman
John Paul
2/3 Sharon Minning
Matthew Schroeder
Emma Swales
Rylee Tarhanich
2/4 Jeff Berliner
Robert Butler
Christy Haradean
Kim Kuzak
Debby Magee
2/5 Carrick Secorski
Isaiah Williams

2/7 Hank Salla
Evan Smith
Samantha Wilder

2/8 Sharyn Hoard
Meghan Helinski
2/9 Rich Anderson

2/10 Michael Cox
Michael Kast
Zack Patterson
Ryan Schilling
2/11 Asher LaBelle
Kimberly Little
John Prueter
2/13 Faye Fry

2/14 Margie Kappler
Carey Maiorana
2/16 Carl Christenson
Wilford McWhirter
2/18 Nancy Braden
Tyler McKarge
Gene Overholt
David Pruitt
Garrett Sutphin
Tammie Lansingh
2/19
Christopher Holmes
Penny Joy
Don Williams
2/20 Betty Campbell
Corinne Robertson
Jonathan Taylor



2/22 Maria Evans
Jan Shettler

2/23 Dave Arendts
Dave Grazal
Jennifer Marble

2/24 Jim Conway

2/25 Greg Giles

2/26 Chuck Davis

2/27 Margot Cooley

2/28 Jeanette Nabozny

