

January 2018

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Plymouth, In

**First United Methodist Church**

# FIRST NEWS



## *A Note from Pastor Toni*

Friends,

Since moving to Plymouth, Scott and I have discovered the fun of taking the South Shore up to Chicago to explore the city, and have had the joy of introducing our 3 oldest grandchildren to that activity. On the day after Christmas, I accompanied our daughter Dominique and her daughter Olivia into the city via the South Shore, and we had a great adventure. Only problem was it was very cold!!

We bundled up, but still discovered that the best plan of action was to hop into a store every 10 minutes or so to warm up, then continue onward. We decided to make our way to Water Tower Place so that we could just walk around in the mall for a while, and as we were crossing Michigan Avenue, we encountered a street preacher.

He was wearing nice clothing, was using an amplification system, and had a sermon on a music stand. An assistant was standing next to him. I didn't ask (too cold to stop!), but I had the impression that he was a pastor from a church somewhere who had made it his mission that day to preach to whomever would listen on the streets of Chicago, and then he would go home feeling like he had done good work for the kingdom.

After we crossed the street, we met a man sitting on the (ice cold) sidewalk, shouting "CAN you help me?" over and over. His words had a cadence and I had to ask my daughter what he was saying, because I had a hard time understanding.

So there we stood, waiting for the light to change (which seemed to take forever), with this symphony of voices: the street preacher shouting his message, and the man sitting on the sidewalk across the street shouting his need.

Three days from now, 18 of us are heading to Guatemala to do work at Mission Guatemala. We won't be shouting the message of God's love over the streets of the city, but we'll be offering ourselves to do whatever work they need us to do. We might be working to construct the walls of a new dining room for a community center, we might be helping to install sinks in a school so kids can wash their hands, we might be painting or helping in the medical clinic. We'll tell you what work they put us to do upon our return!

What I do know is that there are people who have asked, "CAN you help me," and we have responded, "Here I am, Lord, send me." We won't be shouting the love of God from a street corner, but we'll be offering ourselves, and with God's help we'll do good work and when we come home we can know that we've done something good for the kingdom.

There may be 18 of us boarding the plane, but you are with us, as well. You have worked hard to support us in this adventure, and we appreciate all that you have done. You have bought chicken and baked goods and other things we have made. You've eaten meals and written checks and listened to our plans. You've prayed for us and know that you will continue to pray for us as we journey.

We thank God for you, and for the opportunity to reach out in Jesus' name.

*Toni*

January 7

Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord  
Communion  
David Hogsett preaching

January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany  
Human Relations Day  
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-14  
Title/Theme: Spiritual Gifts

January 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
Ecumenical Sunday  
Leadership Dedication (?)  
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13  
Title/Theme: Love

January 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
David Hogsett preaching

***Prayer time****submitted by Dorothy Steinke*

**Prayer is the voice of faith, trusting that God knows and cares.**

*The Lord is near to all who call on Him. Psalm 145:18*

All is calm, all is bright. The busyness of Christmas has eased. Spent a quiet Christmas with my daughter and her family and we texted with my two daughters up north. Yes, I finally learned how to text. I woke up today to 12 degrees outside, but the sun was shining. The last several days have been dark - no snow though. It warmed up to about 15 degrees by the time I was ready to take my walk. I could go to the Senior Center but prefer to walk outside, even in the cold. I have all my warm clothes from up north so bundled up and headed out. I wasn't sure I would make the whole route, I just kept walking and did the whole thing which takes about 1/2 hour. walking gets my joints loosened up and those endorphins flowing and I'm good for the rest of the day. I am out of milk so will have to make a trip to the grocery store.

**Mission Witness**

At the end of a year and as we begin a new year we pray loving God, for all those who are held down by misunderstanding, by prejudice, by indifference, by hatred, by ignorance, by the past, by dread of change, by fear of the future, by fear of fear, by the conflict among peoples and nations, and by wanton, wasteful and careless lifestyles. Teach us, O God, the ways of Jesus. Grant that we may see again or see for the first time ever so that we may follow Jesus on the road. Let our faith give birth to transformation within the depths of our lives and in the very midst of our churches and communities. Set free the captive in us. Let us fly. In Jesus' name. Amen

Romeo Del Rosario, Global Ministries missionary/country director,  
United Methodist Mission, Cambodia

REALLY?? 2018? How did this happen? My father always told me “The older you get the faster the time goes.” I never fully understood what he meant until I reached the age of 50. And, boy!!! Do I totally understand now!



I turned 62 years old on December 16th!!! How did THAT happen? In my mind I'm still 18; but, my body is telling me I'm much closer to that 62 mark!! I'm retirement age!!!! That certainly got here much quicker than I ever thought it would. I've been perusing what to do with the fact that I'm retirement age but so far, haven't decided on a thing.

With a new year upon us it is usually a good time to consider the changes we want to make in our lives. I'm not really one to make NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. It seems that when I do make resolutions, I mostly just set myself up to fail. So, I've decided to simply try to be a better person in 2018 than I was in 2017. That should keep me busy for the rest of the year!!

I received a facebook post from a friend the other day that I thought would make a good motto for 2018. It said “**Judge less and love more.**” It sounds so simple, yet if I truly concentrate on doing as it says I think I would be on the track to becoming that “better person” I want to be.

I know I cannot do this on my own merit or in my own strength. Why? Because, the Bible clearly states there is “No one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10). And in Isaiah 64:6 I read that my righteousness is “As filthy rags” in the sight of GOD. No matter how “good” I think I am....no matter how “good” I want to be; I can never be “good” enough on my own without the saving power of GOD in my life.

But, on a positive note, the Bible also tells me in Matthew 19:26 “With GOD all things are possible” and in Philippians 4:13 it says that I can “Do all things through GOD who gives me strength”. These promises give me the hope I need to believe that I can become a better person in 2018 and that I can work toward my goal of “Judging less and loving more.”

I'm looking forward to beginning a new year at The Well and I hope that you will consider joining us there on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. On January 7th we will be back in full swing at The Well. Some areas I plan to touch on are: NOT blaming GOD for our problems, listening more and talking less, calmness, holiness and that's just a few of my topics! If you cannot join us please commit to pray for The Well and the ministry that is taking place there.

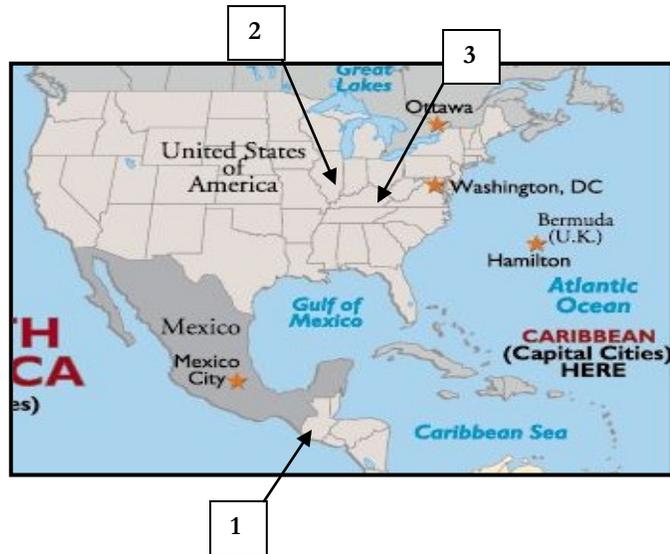
I'm looking forward to an exciting 2018 in my personal life and in my church life! I pray that you are also!

Cindy Flagg

**MISSION MINDED**

***Mission and Work Trips for 2018 -***

- 1 - Mission Guatemala:  
Dec. 30, 2017 -- January 8, 2018
- 2 - Midwest Mission Distribution Center  
Chatham, Illinois:  
Feb. 19 – 24, 2018
- 3 - Henderson Settlement  
Frakes, Kentucky:  
October 21 -- 26, 2018



Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a part of one of the upcoming trips. Contact Sharon Westfall or Carol Beiter if you would like more information or to sign-up.

***ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER -***

With an Italian Flair!



**Saturday, February 17, 2018**  
**Serving from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**\$15.00 - Tickets available soon**

Mark your calendar -

**Proceeds to benefit Social Concerns  
and Missions Commission**

Make plans now to bring your sweetheart!

***JANUARY MEETING -***

The January meeting of Missions Commission has been moved to Wednesday, January 10, at 7 p.m.

***DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT? -***

Do you know of a project that needs our help? If you know of something locally that needs done, either for a church member, friend, or neighbor in need, please contact Mike Woolfington or Sharon Westfall.

***SHOPPING CART FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER -***

Did you know you can bring items for the Marshall County Neighborhood Center at any time? Items placed in the shopping cart in the back of the narthex are taken to the Center on a regular basis. Suggested items include non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and cash.



## TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

**Friday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m. – Volunteers are needed!** We will be taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations.

We need some men to help Jeff Mills take down the Christmas tree in the sanctuary as well as carry and tote several of the heavier items. We also need plenty of other people to help take down and put away decorations from all three floors of the Christian Education Building, sanctuary, narthex, and Social/Coffee Room.

We will start at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. “Many hands make light work” – please volunteer! If you have any questions, please contact Pam Michel. Thanks for your help!

### *Bringing in Christmas*



**Pictures from Bringing in Christmas program on December 17, 2017**



# ***A.S.K. NEWS***     (*Adams Street Kids Youth Group*)

January meetings are at Trinity United Methodist Church

Jr. High (5th-8th) 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sr. High (9th-12th) 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

## ***Youth News***

**JUNIOR CHURCH** is looking for helpers to share Jesus' love with his children. All materials provided and coincide with our study of "The Story". Contact Barbie Pickut at 574-870-4981 or call the church office if you would like to serve.

Please pray for God to match people with these openings and be open to what He might ask you to do.

## ***Youth Community Service Opportunity***

- Wednesday, January 24, at 6-7:00 p.m.
- All youth invited!
- Come prepare a treat for others.
- Dinner provided for participants.



**Join us as we prepare cookies to give out at the community meal the following Wednesday.**

Enjoy a great meal ♦ Fellowship ♦ Support our Scouts



### Boy Scout Meal

- Ham & Beans
- Cornbread
- Salad
- Dessert

**SUNDAY JANUARY 14**



## *Social Concerns*

Thanks once again for your generous support of the Christmas Clothesline Project which gave 65 children in our community three items of clothing each. That's a lot of gifts that we provided! What a generous congregation we are!

The Social Concerns committee helps groups in the community all year long, groups such as Heminger House for abused women and will resume helping Care and Share help the needy once it is renamed and has a new director. We appreciate your support by giving to the basket on the first Sunday of the month, or by writing checks to the First United Methodist Church with Social Concerns in the memo line. You may also give to Social Concerns by linking your Kroger Plus card to Social Concerns. Go to Kroger.com for information on how to do that. If you need help linking your Plus card, contact Mary Kaufman, 935-3024. Martin's gift certificates, which are sold at the back of the church, also benefit Social Concerns.

## *Grace & Peace Alliance*

These are the items we are collecting for January: **soaps--laundry, shampoo, bar soap**. These items which we take for granted, are precious to them. You may also write a check to First United Methodist with Grace and Peace in the memo line. It is tax deductible. You've given to the needy of our community through Grace and Peace for over two years! They appreciate your generosity so much!

## *Mother's Club*

Monday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m.

- Nursery cleaning (we do this annually)
- Bring cleaning supplies: buckets, rags, and towels.
- Clean and disinfect everything in both nurseries.
- Decide on the painting for March "Create UR Canvas"

## *W.O.W.*

Monday, January 8, at 1:00 p.m.

- The WOW ladies will meet at Heartland Artists Gallery.
- Come and see the beautiful art.
- Learn about classes that are offered.

You won't want to miss learning what is going on at the gallery! See you Then!!

## *Women Of Worth*





Please join us on Wed. January 31, 2018 between 5:00 - 7:00 pm for our community meal. We have served over 400 meals and have had a great mix of people who have joined us. Members of our congregation come to fellowship; community members who are alone come to eat and fellowship with others; those who are needing a place to get a hot meal have come also. It has been a great ministry to reach out to everyone! Mark January 31 on your calendar and come!



## Outreach & Support



As chairman of the Outreach and Member Support Committee I want to extend my thanks to everyone who has helped with our programs this past year. I was blessed to have a strong, energetic, committed, and enthusiastic committee who made possible our goal to reach out to the church family.

Cookie bakers....you are the best and always say "YES" when Irma Slack calls to ask for goodies! Greeters are the welcoming face of our congregation, and kudos to those who smile, shake hands, and welcome members and guests.

Our small groups have been a hoped for success, and we are pleased that they will continue to grow in 2018! Our committee is dedicated to providing outreach and support in the coming year as we seek to "Love God, Serve God, Serve Others."

Susan Wautelet



**Lunch Bunch:** The third Friday of the month: RSVP Carol Beiter

### HERE ARE THE RESTAURANT CHOICES FOR THE COMING FEW MONTHS:

JANUARY 19: MILLER'S MANOR

JUNE 15: HIGHLANDER GRILL

FEBRUARY 16: BRASS RAIL

JULY 20: RISE AND SHINE

MARCH 16: DICKIE'S AT SWAN LAKE

AUGUST 17: EVERGREEN

APRIL 20: CRAZY EGGS

SEPTEMBER 21: LAKE HOUSE

MAY 18: JERRETTY'S



**GAME DAY!** Dominos and Euchre will be featured on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 2-4:00 PM.

Contact Dean Luther for further details at 540-2196.

**Christian Craftin' Mamas** continue to meet and explore the world of creativity.

Contact Michelle Faulstich 941-2737 for further details.

# Worship Participants for January

	JANUARY 7	JANUARY 14	JANUARY 21	JANUARY 28
8:00 Liturgists	Tim Hardy	Jim Easterday	David Smith	Jan Hardy
10:30 Liturgists	Brent Kaufman	Brent Kaufman	Juli Macey	Juli Macey
Greeters	Ralph & Norma Booker	Barb Friesner	Robin Cupka	Dean & Judie Luther
Ushers	Woody Schinbeckler, Barry Capper, Ron Luebcke, Jim Causey, & Nick Pinkerton	Woody Schinbeckler, Barry Capper, Ron Luebcke, Jim Causey, & Nick Pinkerton	Woody Schinbeckler, Barry Capper, Ron Luebcke, Jim Causey, & Nick Pinkerton	Woody Schinbeckler, Barry Capper, Ron Luebcke, Jim Causey, & Nick Pinkerton
Sound System (10:30)	Tom Pedavoli	James Faulstich	Ralph Booker	Robin Cupka
Older Nursery	Kelsey Heisler	Sarah Smith	Stacey Jackson	Amanda Dreibelbis

Outreach Continued from Page 8

**Blessed Bookies:** The 4<sup>TH</sup> Mondays of the month at Miller’s Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. January 22 we will discuss “The Alice Network” by Kate Quinn. Bring a sandwich and join us for a lively conversation!

**“Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible”** begins again January 9 at 11:00. We will read and learn from Liz Curtis Higgs’ about some of the lesser known women who don’t qualify for the Good Girls Bible study! Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 11:00 am.



Do any of these small groups sound interesting? It is never too late to connect with each other....Please contact Susan Wautelet at 936-2747 or [swautelet@aol.com](mailto:swautelet@aol.com) for more information.



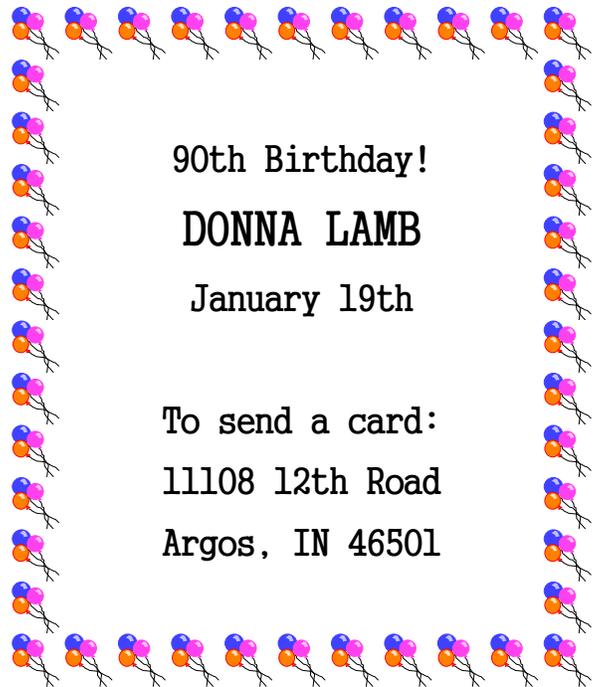
## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

**The Plymouth High School will share their talent at our church!!**

The ISSMA practice recital will once again perform in our sanctuary! More information will be provided, but it promises to be an evening of musical celebration.

## January Birthdays

<b>1</b> Robert DeVon Thomas	<b>12</b> Dan Bates Nancy Tyree	<b>21</b> Michael Mitchell	<b>27</b> Phillip Berger
<b>3</b> Gloria Daily Angela Ganshorn Bill Record Leanne Senter	<b>13</b> Ryan Kaufman	<b>22</b> Ralph Booker Jeanne Middleton	<b>28</b> Carson Hoover
<b>4</b> Shawna Ross	<b>14</b> Tom Atkins	<b>24</b> Ashley Corwin	<b>29</b> Julie Bachman Allen Hartman Grant Lawson Amanda Youngs
<b>5</b> Michele Faulstich Ivan Magnuson Scott Michel	<b>15</b> Lily Macey	<b>25</b> Jim Wagner	<b>30</b> Justin Reames
<b>7</b> Jonathan Tyree	<b>16</b> Jeff Mills	<b>26</b> Joe Morris	
<b>8</b> Lucas Corwin	<b>17</b> Brent Kaufman Ashley Gray Keegan Miller		
<b>9</b> Lyam Ganshorn Laurie Rubesha	<b>18</b> Jay Kendall Ed Langfeldt Mary Yates		
<b>10</b> Quintella Chaney Josh Hildebrand Karastan White	<b>19</b> Jonah Heeren Donna Lamb Princessa Mills Eskie Straka Katie Tyree		
<b>11</b> Elaine Dick Don Wilson	<b>20</b> Clarisse Byers		



## Worship Services    Our Staff

Sundays

1st Service 8:00 AM

2nd Service 10:30 AM

The Well 5:00 P.M.

phone: 574-936-2943

Email: [plymouthfirstumc.org](mailto:plymouthfirstumc.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/plymouthfumc](https://facebook.com/plymouthfumc)

Pastor: Rev. Toni Carmer

Office Administrator: Jan Hardy

Choir Director: Tom Boys

Organist: Kay Finlay

The Well Director: Cindy Flagg

Child Care Provider: Magdalena Tochimani

Ask Director: Aaron Woodcox

Maintenance: Jeff Mills

Website: [plymouthfumc.org](http://plymouthfumc.org)