



## First United Methodist Church

### A Note from Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

As I prepare to write a sermon each week, I read a number of commentaries, articles and stories. There are good stories that don't make the "cut" for the sermon, but are well worth telling—even if you've heard them before.

This story comes from Philip Yancey who tells of a couple who planned a lavish wedding reception. They booked a banquet room at the elegant Hyatt hotel, and made the required down payment of half the reception's cost.

But some weeks before the wedding,

the prospective groom had a change of heart. He found it too hard to commit, he said to his fiancée. He asked her if they could put the wedding on hold.

She knew what he meant. He didn't really want to think about it. He just wanted out. So after a very unpleasant scene, they parted company for good.

One of the bride's next stops was the office of the Events Manager of the Hyatt. The manager said she was sorry, but most of the deposit was non-refundable. The former bride-to-be had only two

options, she explained: she could either forfeit the rest of her down payment or go ahead with the party.

As Yancey tells it, "It seemed crazy, but the more the jilted bride thought about it, the more she liked the idea of going ahead with the party—not a wedding banquet, mind you, but a big blowout. Some years before, this same woman had been living in a homeless shelter. She had got back on her feet,



found a good job, and set aside a sizable nest egg. Now she had the wild notion of using her savings to treat the down-and-outs of

Boston to a night on the town.

And so, on that night, the Hyatt in downtown Boston hosted a party such as it had never seen before. The hostess changed the menu to boneless chicken—"in honor of the groom," she said—and sent invitations to rescue missions and homeless shelters. That warm summer night, people who were used to peeling half-gnawed pizza off the cardboard dined instead on chicken cordon bleu. Hyatt waiters in tuxedos

*(Continued on page 4)*

#### Inside this issue:

Trustee's Report	2
Concerts Scheduled	
Outreach Events	3
Good Samaritan Class News	4
Youth & Education	5
United Methodist Men Entertainment Opportunity	6
Social Concerns	
October Birthdays	7
Worship Participants	
David's Courage Tour Opportunity	8
Through Prayer...	9
Knit 2, Pray 3 News	
Mission Minded	10
October Calendar	11
Adolescent Substance Abuse Info-	12-
	13
Mothers' Club	14
WOW	
Community Meal	
Opioid Crisis Info	15
October Preaching Plan	16



# Progress Report from The Board of Trustees by Brian Liechty

Since last month several notable events have occurred with the sanctuary building: Most relieving is that the shoring project is completed. The supports are in place and we are no longer in danger of a collapse. Insulation removal has also been completed so the engineers can examine the structural members and plan the best repair. The insurance company's engineer has made an inspection and we continue to work with all the parties to develop a plan. Stay tuned for more each month as "Rebuilding First Church" continues to unfold.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!! MUSICAL CONCERTS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

**These concerts are both held at 5:00 at the Well. Please plan to come & bring music loving friends!**



50s, 60s, 70s, Gospel, Contemporary Praise & Worship

**Steve Douglas & 48th Guitar**

**Re-scheduled for October 27, 2019, Steve Douglas brings California music to Plymouth, Indiana!!!**



**Sharon Tarwater will perform Tennessee tunes Sunday,**

**November 10, 2019**



The Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate in the Following Events

**Share the family of FUMC with friends & neighbors!**

**Small groups and concerts provide opportunities for entertainment, worship, and fellowship!**

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

October 18: Dam Landing (Rochester)

November 15: The Log House (Argos)

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.

Blessed Bookies: The 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at Miller's Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. October will feature "Walk in the Woods." Please join us as we examine this popular book. Even if you have never come, please join us for a stimulating discussion!



Bad Girls: This gathering of women meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 11:00 in the Education Building (main floor)

In June we started studying another of Liz Curtis Higgs' book: "It's Good to be Queen." It's not too late to be part of this group!

We always go to lunch afterwards!!

Knit Two...Pray Three: Will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month in the Education Building from 10:00 to noon.



*Sunday Brunch*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, WE WILL BE GATHERING AT SYMPHONY AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE.**

**PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE BACK OF FELLOWSHIP HALL!!**

## A Note from Pastor Toni continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

served hors d'oeuvres to senior citizens propped up by crutches and aluminum walkers. Bag ladies, vagrants and addicts took one night off from the hard life on the sidewalks outside and instead sipped champagne, ate chocolate wedding cake and danced to big band melodies late into the night” (Yancey, *What’s So Amazing About Grace?* Zondervan, 1997, pp. 48-49).

As you and I think about feeding the hungry, there are several kinds of hunger that may come to mind, including physical hunger, spiritual hunger, and hunger for community. As we host our monthly community meals,

we are reaching out to folks who may be physically hungry. We realize it’s one meal, one day a month, but it’s an act of serving that is important and something that God calls us to do. This meal also invites folks into community, including people from our congregation, and people who might otherwise be alone, all are welcome—to sit and chat with

others or in the presence of others. Those coming for community may or may not be physically hungry, but the buzz of conversation “feeds” them.



A new possibility is being “brought to the table” (so to speak!) called Dinner Church. This is when we spend some focused time, most likely during the last 20 minutes or so of the scheduled gathering time, where we sing familiar hymns, pray, and share a story from the Bible. It’s not preaching, but a straight-out story from scripture that will help the listener know who Jesus is, and how loved they are. At Dinner Church, we let people know what we’re going to do, invite them to remain (and let them know they can leave if that’s what they’re most comfortable doing!), and to continue eating if they aren’t finished yet with their meal!

If you’re interested in participating in this venture—particularly by song leading or playing the piano—please let me know! If you’d like to be a part

of the continuing conversation about Dinner Church, please let me know! If you’d like to see how you might be involved in the community meal in some other way, please let me know!

God continues to surprise us, to offer us new and different opportunities that we maybe haven’t considered before. Let’s keep listening and following and keeping our eyes open to the possibilities that await.

In Christ,

*Toni*

---

## GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Good Samaritan Sunday School class will begin a study of Philip Gulley’s book **Unlearning God**. Gulley is Quaker pastor living in Indiana. His father was Baptist, he was raised Roman Catholic, and one of his best friends in school was Jehovah Witness. Philip says in his *Preface* that the book is “*about unlearning things I was taught about God, about myself, about others, about the world.*” It is his

own personal journey that hopefully intersects with other person’s journeys.

Everyone is invited to join the Good Samaritan Sunday school class for their discussion of **Unlearning God**. You can get a book on line for between \$16 and \$17. The class meets in the conference room. Contact Dave Hogsett or Ruth Van-Vector if you have any questions.



## Youth & Education News by Barbie Pickut

Our Sunday School year is off to a great start! We had an energetic kick-off, and 3rd graders were excited to receive their new Bibles. If you would like to join us in helping a great group of kids learn about Jesus, here are some ways you can help:

Teach or assist with elementary Sunday School (1-3 weeks / month)

Teach or assist with Junior Church during 10:30 service (1-2 weeks / month)

Help with nursery during 10:30 service so we have 2 volunteers in place

These roles are open to teens or adults. For more information, call or text Barbie Pickut at 574-870-4981, or talk with another member of the Youth & Education committee.

New this year--we are offering Bible-based activities to kids who attend the community meal each month. Kids have been eager to take the activities, and guests can also take them to share with kids they know who did not come to the meal. Another new venture is collecting small toys



or personal items to give to guests at the community meal--we hope this is a service project our young people can participate in. If you would like to donate items to give, items can be brought to the meal, given to a Youth & Ed member on

Sunday mornings, or brought to the church during office hours. Here are some ideas of items that have been appreciated:

Hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, lotion, feminine hygiene products, deodorant,

etc.

Baby care items such as diapers or wipes

Packs of gum, mints, cough drops, etc.

Make-up

Combs, barrettes, or other hair care items

Band-Aids

Dish soap

Lysol or other cleaners

Watch for more information on Bringing in Christmas--it will be a little different this year!

---

## UNITED METHODIST MEN by David Hogsett

The United Methodist Men will be meeting October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. for breakfast. Christ Garner was unable to attend the September meeting so she will be sharing about the work of the Neighborhood Center and the needs of Plymouth and its surrounding community on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Dave Hogsett will be giving the devotion.

A reminder there is a men's bible study on Wednesdays at 6:45 A.M. at Christo's. This is open to all men in the community.

If you have a program or project idea for the church's men's group, please contact Dave Hogsett with your suggestion. You can send it to [davidh15503@embarqmail.com](mailto:davidh15503@embarqmail.com). The men are looking for persons that they might help with home repairs.



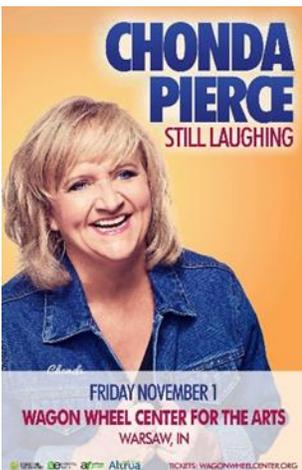
## Entertainment Opportunity

### Chonda Pierce will be at the Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts on Friday, November 1 at 7 p.m.

We will have a group carpooling from the church at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$38 each, for a group of 10 or more. (For less than 10 people, tickets will be \$41.) Please sign-up by October 10 or contact Pam Michel, michelfarms@centurylink.net.

### Chonda Pierce

Emmy® -nominated and best-selling comedian Chonda Pierce, or “The Queen of Clean”, has been making audiences laugh for more than two decades with her winning combination of fierce wit and southern charm.



A stand-up comedian, television hostess, author and now actress, Pierce has channeled her life experiences into positivity, bringing laughter to audiences around the country. As the RIAA’s (Recording Industry Association of America) best-selling female comedian, her hilarious take on life

is easily relatable as she publicly opens up to her listeners about times of darkness and depression in her own life, drawing humor and good from every situation.

She is ranked amongst Pollstar.com’s top-selling live performers and five of her DVD’s have been certified Gold by the RIAA, and three have been certified Platinum. Pierce received five Daytime Emmy® nominations for her work co-hosting talk show “Aspiring Women” on the Total Living Network and her first television special, “This Ain’t Prettyville!” on CMT (Country Music Television).

In addition to her comedic work, Pierce has used her success to help others, and in 2006 founded Branches Recovery Center, which offers counseling and treatment to those with depression, anxiety, addiction, regardless of their ability to pay. She has also raised several million dollars for international relief organizations Compassion International, WorldVision, Food for the Hungry, and Feed The Children.

Today, as the RIAA’s most-awarded female comic in history, Pierce continues to bring the laughs with her unique blend of music and comedy.

## Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman



Thanks to your generosity, Social Concerns is supporting Heminger House, Link to Hope, Neighborhood Center, Bread of Life Food Pantry, our Community Meal, and Blessings in a Backpack, in which food sent

home in needy students' backpacks on the weekends. The Neighborhood Center needs **cold cereal, pasta sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, and garden produce.**



You may contribute in the basket on the first Sunday of the month, or make out your checks to FUMC with Social Concerns in the memo line. Thanks for helping our neighbors in need right here in Plymouth. They appreciate it so much, and we are following God's calling.



First United Methodist Church



# October 2019 BIRTHDAYS

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Andy Jackson	2 Heather East- erday Susie Kreigh- baum	3	4 Phillip Kreigh- baum	5 Abi Pickut
6	7	8 Melanie Pedavoli Katie Spencer	9	10 Ron Downey	11	12
13 Kathy Mills	14 Mary Kaufman	15 Lynette Miller Tom Pedavoli Phyllis Schoon- over	16 Claudia Button Terri Weldy	17 Barbara Miller Shirley Morrow	18	19 Barbara Bin- kley
20	21	22 Becky Liechty Janet Macey	23 Brittany Pedavoli	24	25 Mary Jane Manuwal Woody Schinbeckler	26 Kim Butler
27	28	29 Susan Wautelet	30 Allen Shockney	31		

### Child Protection Guidelines Adult Protection Guidelines

Presentation and Update, October 10 at 6 p.m.

Every year, those individuals who work with our children and who visit in the homes of our adults are to participate in a training to learn or to be updated on our church's Child Protection and Adult Protection Guidelines. We do this because we want to provide a safe environment for our children, our adults who are shut-in and our volunteers.

This training and update may be completed in one of 3 ways:

- In a group training setting, presented this year on October 10 at 6 p.m. by Brent Kaufman on the office level of Fellowship Hall,

- By viewing an online self-study (of a previous training session, posted as a "private link" only visible with the following hyperlink: <https://youtu.be/pkvbPps5mlo>),
- Or by self-study of reading program materials that are available from the church office (contact the church office at 574-936-2943 or email of-[office@plymouthfirstumc.org](mailto:office@plymouthfirstumc.org)).

Each volunteer and employee is to complete a form verifying that the training has been completed. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

### October Worship Participants

	8:30 Liturgists	10:30 Liturgists	Greeters	Sound Board	Older Nursery	Ushers
6	Dick Tobias	Jim Causey	Betty Kay Eley	Tom Pedavoli	Judy Goe- bel	Woody Schinbeckler,
13	Don Wilson	Jim Causey	Paul & Betty Cleeter	VOLUN- TEER	Stacey Jackson	Melissa Chris- tiansen, Jim Easterday,
20	Elaine Dick	Diane Hogsett	Jim & Cris Causey	Ralph Booker	Robin Cupka	Jon Van- Vactor
27	Susie Kreighbaum	Diane Hogsett	Jon & Ruth VanVactor	Robin Cupka	VOLUN- TEER	

## Tour Opportunity



Monday, October 7 there will be **TWO** opportunities to tour David's Courage. These have been arranged by our ladies' groups;

however, everyone is invited to take part – including men – and whether or not you are part of either of these groups. You are welcome to bring a friend with you who is interested in learning more about David's Courage.

**David's Courage is located at 10924 Lincoln Highway. Please meet at that location for a Tour at:**

**1:00 p.m. – Hosted by WOW.**

**7:00 p.m. – Hosted by Mothers' Club.**

### **ABOUT DAVID'S COURAGE**

David's Courage is a faith-based drug and alcohol transitional living home for men and women located in Plymouth, Indiana.

Our mission is to have a lasting change of spiritual, emotional, physical and financial health of those who are struggling with addiction. We will provide a therapeutic community where a safe, consistent, and caring environment creates an atmosphere that is conducive to recovery and change.

David's Courage is projected to be a self-sustaining organization; however, we have some work ahead of us to open the doors. In order to meet construction, safety and security standards, we have to raise \$100,000. The need is urgent. Inspire courage now!

## Looking Ahead to Christmas...

**"Bringing In Christmas"** is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 following Second Service.

**The Christmas Cantata** is scheduled for Sunday, December 15 at the Second Service.



**"The Longest Night"** is scheduled for Saturday, December 21st, time to be announced.

**Christmas Eve** services will be 4:30 pm, **Family Service** and 7:30 pm, **Choir and Communion Service.**



## Through prayer, I can reach God at any time and from any place. by Dorothy Steinke

Through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord we may approach God with freedom and confidence. *Ephesians 3:12*

It is officially fall. I enjoy the colors of both Spring and Fall. Windmill Park has had flowers blooming all summer and now the mums are in bloom. There are other fall flowers that I am not familiar with and the rose bushes still have new buds on them. I will be making my fall migration trip the last week of October. My granddaughter in Murray will be getting married November 2. Darcie is my only granddaughter and she has always been a princess. Her favorite princess is Cinderella. I was still in Kentucky when she began the search for her wedding dress. I enjoyed watching as she tried on different dresses; I will enjoy seeing her in the one she finally chose. Time marches on; I can remember when she was a squirmy toddler - I called her a little tornado because she was never still. She has a good faith foundation and seems to be heading in the right direction.

### Mission Witness

I have seen and talked with children who are forced to work in factories, in restaurants and bars, in construction, agriculture, and victims of trafficking. Millions of children are made less human by the forces of greed and injustice. Children all around the world need our deepest love and attention.

*Emma Cantor*, United Methodist Women Regional Missionary, Asia

We mean a lot to Some One;  
and 'tis everything to me  
that to God His wayward children  
were worth a Calvary.  
It's the meaning of my Sunday,  
and to Saturday from Monday  
It is my hope that one day  
my Savior I shall see.  
Though the day be dark and dreary,  
Here's comfort for the weary-  
We mean a lot to Some One  
who died for you and me.

*Value and other poems*

---

## Calling all Knitters and Crocheters



The current project for the **Knit 2, Pray 3** Group is to provide winter hats or scarves for all the children of our Christmas Clothesline. That means about 65 – 70 items will need to be made, by the middle of November.

Everyone who either knits or crochets is encouraged to contribute towards this project. You are

welcome to complete your items on your own schedule, and don't need to participate in our monthly sessions unless you would like. **Knit 2, Pray 3** gathers on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room. We each bring our own project to work on.

Many free patterns are available to be downloaded from the Internet. Or you can see Pam Michel for a knitted hat pattern.

---

## **MISSION MINDED**

---

### **OCTOBER WORK TRIP:**

#### **OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2019 HENDERSON SETTLEMENT**

*We're looking for more volunteers to join our work trip to Henderson Settlement this month!* Mike Woolfington, Carol Beiter, and Brent and Mary Kaufman will be leaving from Plymouth on Sunday, October 20, returning on Friday, October 25. Steve and Sharon Westfall will be joining us for the week from their new home in Kentucky. And a couple from Trinity will be joining us there as well.

*This year we will be staying at the Frakes Hilton where we will be served gourmet meals.*

We will most likely be siding a trailer, home, or addition. All sorts of skills can be put to use during the week. Other volunteer opportunities are available at the Settlement if your talents lay in other directions.

**Now's the time to get signed up or find out more.** Contact persons are Mike Woolfington and Carol Beiter.



2018 Work Team

***Thanks to everyone who has supported our tenderloin fundraiser in September!***



### **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.

### **KIDS HOPE**

Do you have an hour to give once a week? Mentors are needed to be a special friend and provide consistency for at-risk elementary students at Webster Elementary. Volunteers will be matched with a student and then trained. Each volunteer will join their student once a week during the student's lunch time. You are to be the child's friend; you are not expected to tutor or counsel the child. This is a commitment for the entire school year, but if you need to occasionally miss a week, you may simply inform the teacher. This program started in September. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Beth Pinkerton.



### **SHOPPING CART FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER:**

The Shopping Cart has made the move with us to the Fellowship Hall! Items placed in the shopping cart are taken to the Neighborhood Center on a regular basis. Suggested items include non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and cash.





# October 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Normal Sunday Schedule: 8:30 & 10:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 5:00 pm The Well		1 10am Knit 2, Pray 3 7 pm Missions	2	3 ☸ ☺ ☕	4	5
6 World Communion Sunday FIRST SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SYMPHONY RESTAURANT	7 12:45 pm WOW car-pool to David's Courage 7 pm Mothers' Club at David's Courage 6 pm SPRC meeting	8 11 am Bad Girls	9	10 ☸ ☺ ☕ 6 pm Child/Adult Protection Training	11	12
13	14 6:30 pm Social Concerns  Columbus Day	15 6 pm Finance	16	17 ☸ ☺ ☕ 2-4 pm GAME DAY 7 pm Boy Scouts Round Table	18 Noon Lunch Bunch at Dam Landing, Rochester	19 8 am UMM Breakfast
20	21	22 5:30 pm Trustees 7 pm Worship	23	24 ☸ ☺ ☕	25	26
MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT						
27 Cookie Sunday 5 pm Steve Douglas Concert	28	29 11 am Bad Girls	30 5-7 pm Community Meal (Choir at 7:15 pm)	31 ☸ ☺ ☕ Halloween 	Tuesday: 7pm Boy Scouts Wednesday: 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Thursday: 6 am Early Birds @ Pickups noon Joy Breaks ☕ 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	



.....

# ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE:

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

**FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND TEENS**

**DATE: TUESDAY 10/29/2019 | TIME: 6:00-9:00 PM EST**

**Marshall County Building, Room 304**

**112 W. Jefferson St.**

**Plymouth, IN 46563**

**Interested? Call (574) 935-8545 or email  
krichey@purdue.edu**

Please Contact Dr. Kristine Marceau at [BDL@purdue.edu](mailto:BDL@purdue.edu) with any questions or concerns!

.....

# ABOUT US

The goal of this program is to provide parents with information from research on strategies that work for the prevention of adolescent substance use. This interactive, 2-hour long program will include:



Easy-to-digest data on key factors related to adolescent substance use.



Intervention/prevention strategies that have been proven to work targeting those key factors.



Real-life tips for how parents can translate those strategies into their everyday lives.



After the program, there will be a town-hall component to get your feedback, that will last approximately an hour. Thus, the total program will last approximately 3 hours. Refreshments will be provided.

This program is being put on by the Biobehavioral Development Lab at Purdue University

## Mothers' Club

Mothers' Club will meet on Monday, October 7th (instead of our usual 2nd Monday) at 7 pm to tour David's Courage. Please join us in checking out this new opportunity for Plymouth!



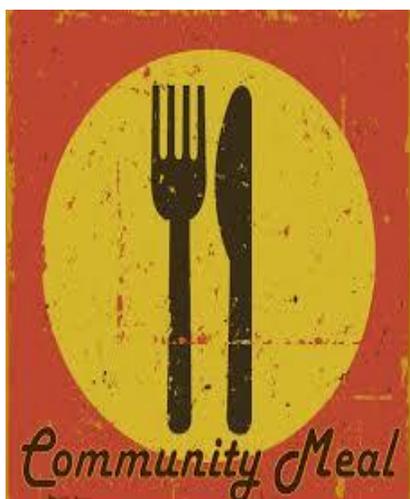
## WOW (Women of Worth)

The first meeting this fall for WOW (Women of Worth) will be on Monday, October 7. We will gather in the church parking lot at 12:45 pm to carpool out to David's Courage east of town. We will have a tour of the facility that is providing a safe harbor for those who are recovering from addictions. David's Courage seeks to bring lasting, positive

change to the lives of residents in their spiritual, emotional, physical and financial health. Join us to learn more about this new facility in our community that is working to better the lives of those who have overcome addictions. Following the tour, we will have our meeting and (of course!) refreshments.

David's Courage seeks to bring lasting, positive change to the lives of residents in their spiritual, emotional, physical and financial health.

## Community Meal, Wednesday, October 30 5-7 pm



The menu for October's Community Meal is as follows:

**Chili**

**Crackers**

**Hot dogs on buns**

**Vegetables and dip**

**Apple crisp with Cool Whip**

Please sign up at the back

table to donate or help.

**Please come and welcome the community diners! Many thanks to this committee and its helpers.**

**In July, over 95 people were served.**

**We are truly making a difference in Plymouth!**



# Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Marshall County

*2019 MARSHALL COUNTY EXTENSION BOARD ANNUAL MEETING*

**Panel Discussion including: Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Education**

**OCTOBER 22, 2019  
REGISTRATION 5:30 PM  
DINNER 6 PM - \$20  
PANEL DISCUSSION 7 PM - FREE**

**CHRISTOS' BANQUET CENTER  
830 LINCOLN HWY E.  
PLYMOUTH, IN 46563**

Tickets are available at the Marshall County Extension Office. \$20.00 each for dinner and discussion. Please R.S.V.P to our office (935-8545 or [lstaples@purdue.edu](mailto:lstaples@purdue.edu)) payments due by October 11, 2019.

# First United Methodist Church



400 N. Michigan St.  
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943

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

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others



## October Preaching Plan

### **October 6**

*17th Sunday after Pentecost*

World Communion Sunday

Text: Luke 17:5-10

Title: Duty

Theme: Sometimes we lament our lack of faith. We wish we could have more trust, greater assurance, and bolder belief. Jesus reassures us that a little faith goes a long way: we need to have enough faith that Christ can use what we have to do what Christ intends. In our everyday actions we are showing our faith.

### **October 13**

*18th Sunday after Pentecost*

Text: Luke 17:11-19

Title: Respond

Theme: God refuses to recognize the boundaries we draw between each other. In Christ, God crosses over our boundaries, breaks down our walls, and puts us into new relationship with each other.

### **October 20**

*19th Sunday after Pentecost*

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Title: The Drama of Scripture

Theme: We come to church with many questions. Jesus teaches us, tailoring his teaching to our specific needs and questions, so that we might each follow him faithfully.

### **October 27**

*20th Sunday after Pentecost*

Text: Luke 18:9-14

Title: Mercy

Theme: In any church, on any given Sunday, you are likely to meet two kinds of sinners: 1) those who think they're in tight with God—righteous, moral and spiritual; and 2) those who feel unworthy of being in church, distant from God, and a failure at living godly lives. Both groups may be in for a surprise when they discover firsthand that Jesus Christ loves sinners of all kinds.