

A Note from Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, Lynn Gee offered me a copy of a book she'd found, entitled The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

by Charlie Mackesy. She told me it wouldn't take long to read, but she thought I'd really enjoy it. I did. I still have her copy, but in the meantime, I ordered myself a copy, too. Olivia read it when she was here, and Scott read it, too. They both said they enjoyed it. Lynn and I both recommend it to you.

There aren't any brand new revelations in the book, and honestly, it reminds me of some books that I read as a young woman, written in the 60's, loose and free with an abundance of illustrations. The author is a cartoonist, so he

illustrates with lots of cute pictures of—well, a boy, a mole, a fox and a horse. And some cake, too.

At the beginning of the story, the mole asks the boy what he wants to be when he grows up. "Kind," he answers. The boy then asks the mole what he thinks success is. "To love," the mole answers.

Simple, yes...but so true. I think of 1st

Corinthians 13: *...Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all*

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Social Concerns' "Help Thy Neighbor" Project Report

by Mary Kaufman

WOW! What an amazingly generous congregation you are! The response to our Help Thy Neighbor project was fabulous! As you can see in these pictures taken at Neighborhood Center and Bread of Life, there was quite a variety of food and hygiene items! Both organizations were very thankful as these items will benefit many needy people of our community. In addition, more than \$700 in donations was given and was divided equally between the two organizations.

I want to give a special thanks to Sarah Smith for coming up with the idea and a big thank you to the Social Concerns Committee for helping to collect the items in the church parking lot as you drove through. They are

Jane Woolfington, Barb



Tom Douglass & Sarah Smith at MC Neighborhood Center



PHOTOS BY MIKE BOYS
This photo was taken just soon after the drive thru began at 4 p.m. and a lot more was collected. Pictured left to right front row: kneeling, are members of the Social Concerns Committee and volunteers: Amanda Witt, Emma Konefsky, Lynette Espich, Rev. Toni Carmer. Second row left to right: Mary Kaufman, Sarah Smith, Jane Woolfington, Tom Douglass, Linda Hagan, Dr. Laura Blackford, and Barb Dreibelbis.

Dreibelbis, Laura Blackford, Tom Douglass, Linda Hagan, Amanda Witt, Lynette Espich (with help from her granddaughter, Emma Konefsky), Sherry Schinbeckler, Deb Wise and Susie Kreighbaum. It was wonderful to have Pastor Toni there to greet everyone with her sweet smile!



With your cash donations to the Social Concerns Committee's regular monthly offering, we were able to give \$600 to Link to Hope (which helps with rent and utilities), \$200 to Bread of Life and \$200 to Neighborhood Center.

You have shown that God's love is contagious and is spreading throughout our community. There are still many who need our generosity, so please continue to give monetary donations. You are doing God's work!



Lynette Espich and Dr. Laura Blackford unload food and hygiene products from the trunk of a vehicle during the FUMC Drive-Thru "Help Thy Neighbor" Project.

Praying Solves More Problems Than Worrying Does

submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. *Luke 5:16*

2020- the year is half over. It certainly has been a different experience. The 4th of July is upon us. We live in an ever changing world - one that, at times, just makes no sense. Terrorist attacks to natural disasters, hate crimes and unmentionable acts of violence, we get the in-depth report from every news outlet in the United States. And we watch these special reports, trying to find some kind of reason for the craziness, some perfect explanation for why these things happen and who is responsible and how can we make a difference. And while we will probably never get all the answers on this side of eternity we know that as Christians, we are called to trust God, and share His love and Pray.

A Prayer for Our Nation

Thank you, Lord, for your goodness to our nation. We are comforted by the knowledge that You alone are our savior and Lord, and the ultimate Master of our life. As we face these uncertain times in our nation, we ask you, Lord, to dwell among us. Send us your spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to do it. We trust our nation to your loving care, Lord. Give us your light and your truth to guide us in Your ways so that we may seek Your will in our

lives and impact the world around us for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen *by Gini @ dayspring*

Mission Statement

Through my missionary journey, I want to break my shell and explore how God's hope works in the world. I am serving as a teacher in a poor village called Kauma. I am learning many things from the people, and one of them is how to be content with what I have. People in this village are very busy because they must earn to live. Nevertheless, finding happiness amid their want is one of their ways to overcome their hardships. The small happiness they find creates a light leading them to care for one another and hope for a brighter future.

Michael Buscano

Global Mission Fellows International from Philippines serving in Malawi

God loves you in every season,
yet His love is not seasonal;
He loves you in every circumstance,
yet His love is not circumstantial;
He loves you in every condition,
yet His love is not conditional.

Roy Lessin



First United Methodist Church



July 2020

400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

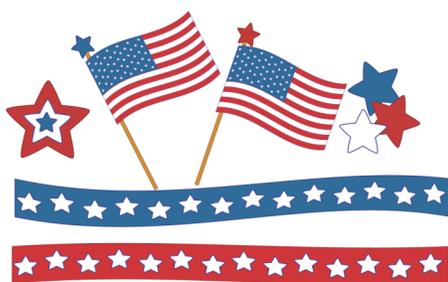
Phone: 574 936-2943
Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR COMMITTEE TO SEE IF YOU ARE MEETING VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON.</p>						
5	6	7 7:00 pm Missions	8	9	10	11
12	13 6:30 pm Social Concerns	14 11 am Bad Girls	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 6:00 pm Finance	22	23	24	25
26	27 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7:00 pm Youth & Education	28 11 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Trustees	29 5-7 pm Community Meal ONLY	30	31	



HAPPY JULY TO THE FUMC FAMILY!!!! Outreach News



Good News from Pastor Toni regarding outreach & support activities:

“Beginning June 22, ministry teams, Bible studies and other groups that usually meet at the church are welcome to resume in person meetings, on the 2nd floor, maintaining social distance guidelines and wearing masks. **EVERYONE** who enters the church must wear a mask. Realizing that most masks we wear are homemade or disposable and not the N95 filtering masks, we realize that doing this is not for our own protection, but for the care of others who are present with you. However, if we all wear masks, we have a better chance of not sharing the virus. If your group—or if you—do not feel comfortable meeting in-person, that’s okay. The location of these meetings—whether in person or via Zoom—are completely at your discretion. You know your health and comfort better than anyone else does.

As Pastor Toni reminded us: “We all truly miss worshipping together face-to-face and the blessings of being together in community; however, in seeking to do no harm, we will continue to worship on-line. We will continue to seek to do good by remaining in contact with one another, sharing joys and concerns, and lifting up our prayers for one another. We will continue to challenge one another to grow in our faith and discipleship as

we attend to the ordinances of God as we worship, share the Sacraments, study God’s word, give and serve.”

Therefore, the following small groups are still “on vacation” and future plans will be determined as the summer progresses:

Dominos and Euchre

The Lunch Bunch

First Sunday Brunch

Knit Two, Pray Three (will resume in September)

Blessed Bookies & Bad Girls will begin gathering in July....

Masks are required, physical distancing a must, and these discussions will take place on the second floor.

Many heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Cindy, Brian, Kay, Ralph, Katy, and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings. It is my understanding that our Face Book page has over 200 visitors, so we are reaching many of those who are new to our family. We are reminded that the technology that we used to complain about now enables us to maintain contact with those we hold dear.

The words from a Great Spirit prayer may provide comfort:

Help me to remain calm and strong in

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Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
	happy birthday!				Beth Pinkerton	Virginia Benefiel
5 Tom Boys	6	7 Ken Daren Jr.	8 Sawyer Miller	9	10 Irma Slack	11 Ed Kelso
12	13	14	15 Judy Goebel	16	17	18 Chuck Johnson
19	20 Mike Kyser	21	22	23	24	25
26 Quentin Cupka	27 Jayla Mitchell	28	29	30 Bob Wise	31 Sam Goebel	

Outreach Committee Report continued

(Continued from page 5)

the face of all that comes towards me.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.

Help me seek pure thoughts and act
with the intention of helping others.
Help me find compassion without
empathy overwhelming me.

Finally, it takes a village to raise a child, and,
additionally, it takes a village of Methodists to
bake, pack, and deliver cookies to our
church family!!

Thank you so much to all of those who made
our outreach a success and for spreading

love and goodies to those who benefited
from a little extra TLC!

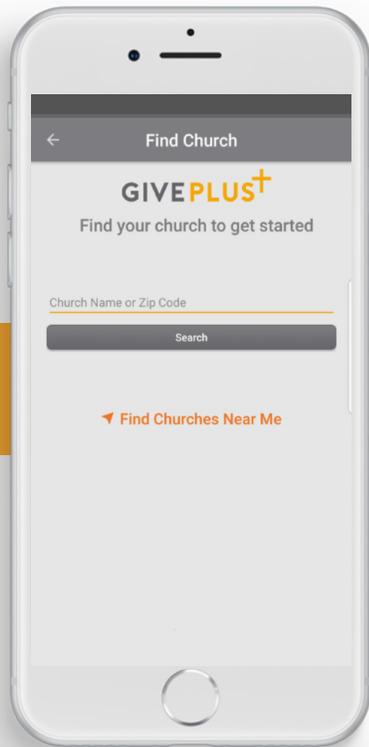
"You can only feel love by expressing
it." (Mata Amritanandamayi)

Once again, thank you for spreading the
love, and remember that

God is good...all the time!

Blessings,

The Outreach and Support Committee
submitted by Susan Wautelet, Chair



Use your smart phone and scan the QR
code to the right or go to **Google Play** or
the **Apple App Store** to download the
GivePlus+ app to start online donations.
Follow the steps to begin giving.



Making Donations Using GivePlus Church

OR

Go to our website: www.plymouthfirstumc.org

and click on the gold "**DONATE NOW**" button to begin
online giving.

Please continue to share your blessings generously with
your church!

GIVEPLUS+

A Note from Pastor Toni continued

(Continued from page 1)

things.

There is never a time when we have too much love or too much kindness, but these two acts seem particularly important right here and now.

Scott and I were in a store at the cash register a couple of days ago when a man walked up directly behind Scott—so close, that it would have been considered rude and an invasion of personal space long before Mr. Corona ever came visiting. I was actually about to say something when he started coughing—on us—at us. I couldn't believe it! We were wearing masks, he wasn't. I didn't know if he was just clueless, or if he actually "targeted" us. But, I'm still angry 3 days later. Why would someone be so unkind?

I'm thankful for so many good people in our world who do care about others, who are watchful and thoughtful of their own actions, and whose desire is to make the world a better, safer place. But, I need to not be so naïve as to think that all people have other's in-

terests in mind. That thought goes against my nature, but, it's more real than I want to admit.

We're talking about returning to worship the first of August. I hope that can happen, but the date is "soft" as we watch and see what

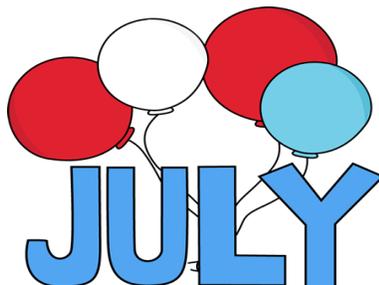
makes sense. We want to show our love and care for one another by keeping our germs to ourselves. I know of 2 people recently who were asymptomatic and so didn't know they were carrying the virus back and forth between

home and work. I don't want to be "that person" or "that church" responsible for "getting" anyone sick.

So in the meantime, let's keep wearing our masks. Let's keep 6 feet apart. Let's keep loving on one another through whatever means we have available to us, and let's remember to be kind. I think that's something I always want to be when I grow up.

Love and Blessings,

Toni



Preaching Plan for July

July 5, 2020

Communion

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Title: On a Wife-Quest

Theme: A servant of Abraham travels to their homeland to find a wife for Isaac. This account of God's "match-making" reminds us that it is through relationship that our world is transformed. In the same way, it seems that a part of our job is to bring people together.

July 12, 2020

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Mike Dixon preaching

Text: Romans 8:1-17

Title: Be a Good Virus

Theme: The weakness of the flesh, the inability of the flesh to kick sin to the curb, is the indictment of the forever failing of our physical life. The redemptive mission of Christ, the one born into flesh but who overcame the sinful weaknesses of physical life, seems to be opposite. At first glance Paul's seems old school. Flesh is bad. Spirit is good. But Paul's message isn't an either/or. Instead, Paul recognized that we as human beings are completely BOTH "fish and fowl."

July 19, 2020

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Genesis 28:10-19a

Title: A Sacred Place

Theme: Jacob slept one night as he traveled and dreamed of God blessing him. When he awakened, he realized that he was on holy ground, and hadn't even realized it. How might it change things in our lives if we understood ourselves to be standing—here and now—on holy ground?

July 26, 2020

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Genesis 29:15-28

Title: Sleight of Hand

Theme: Laban deceived Jacob, tricking him into working 14 years to receive both of his daughter's hands in marriage. This did not pave a path for smooth family relations at any level, and yet God worked through their brokenness to accomplish his will, using Jacob's family to fulfill his covenant with humankind. Might that be an encouragement to us in the midst of our own less-than-perfect family relationships?



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Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

Services Available Online!

Remember that Sunday's service livestreams on Facebook at 10:30 am and The Well at 5 pm each week. If you don't "Facebook", they are also available on YouTube starting Monday mornings. Please join us and tell your friends!



YouTube