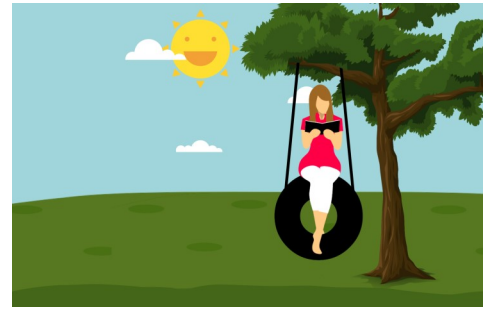


September 2021

First News



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A Note from Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

I just read that humans process 500,000 bits of information per day. That works out to 110 bits of information per second. I'm not really sure what a "bit" is, but I think this explains the reason it feels as though my head is spinning much of the time, trying to process all that (I think) needs to be processed.

Don't you wonder sometimes how we survived without our cell phones stuck in our pocket constantly, so that everyone can get hold of us whenever they (think) they need to get ahold of us? Last week, while on vacation, Scott and I headed off somewhere—I don't know, lunch? The grocery store? I realized a few blocks away that I had forgotten my phone. We drove a little further, and I. Just. Couldn't. Do. It. We had to turn around, go back and get my phone. Because, you know...someone might need me.

Two Saturday nights ago, I think I was driving everyone a little

batty, making sure they had gotten all my messages about what needed to happen on Sunday morning. Because. You. Know. You. Can't. Get. Along. Without. Me.

Of course, I know better than that. I really do. I did better my second Saturday off. I fussed a bit in my head and then I just let it go. You. Can. Get. Along. Without. Me.

The important thing that I'm reminded in all this—in my inability to Just. Chill. Out. On. Vacation.—is knowing that we have to carve out SPACE—let go of some of the ACTIVITY—And. Just. BREATHE.—in order to make a place for God to work. When you're always DOING, always BUZZING, always CONSIDERING, God has to work harder to shimmy into our lives sideways. And, I really don't want God to have to do that. I know that God WILL, because I'm important enough that God

(Continued on page 2)

A Note from Pastor Toni *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

isn't going to give up on me (or you either, because you are important, too!), but my whole understanding of who I am REQUIRES God settling into me COMPLETELY, and not just fitting in sideways.

Does that make sense?

Over 6 weeks beginning September 12, we're going to be talking about Spiritual Disciplines during worship. These are things that I believe are REALLY important. They were important before I thought I needed to have my cell phone attached to me 24/7. They were important before I was sure that first, my kids, and then my church, couldn't get along without me. (They all seem to survive just fine when I'm not there). They'll still be important when I have no choice but to slow down because these same kids have decided I shouldn't be driving anymore. (I know, that happens

to all of us at some point). It is my connection to God that's important, more than anything else. I can live without my phone (I think). I can live without the internet (for a short time when absolutely necessary). I can even live without my calendar nearby (though I haven't tried to do that in over 30 years!). But I can't live without God. And these disciplines will help me to accomplish this deepest desire of my heart. And yours, too.

Psalm 86:11-12 says, "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glory your name forever."

An undivided heart. Making space for God in every day...every moment.

May. It. Be. So. For. Each. Of. Us.

Toni

Blueberry Festival Parade and Stomp Volunteers Needed



Have you ever wanted to walk in a parade???

Here is your big opportunity.....

Our First United Methodist Church will be participating in the Blueberry Parade Monday, September 6!!

A bright and colorful banner will be carried by Barb Miller and Donna Hemmig. Pastor Toni will ride in a Corvette driven by John Finlay.

The Outreach Committee is seeking participants to walk behind the car and show the community that FUMC is alive and well .

Interested? Please contact Kathy in the office (936-2943) or Susan Wautelet at swautelet@aol.com.

BLUEBERRY STOMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH for the Race. Sign up sheet at the back of church on Sunday or call the office or Barbie Pickut. Thank you!

From Baskets to Backpacks *submitted by Karen Capper*

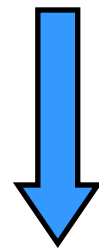
For many local children going back to school means hanging out with friends, joining a new club, or trying a new sport...but for others it means a return to a guaranteed breakfast and lunch, something they may have missed during the summer months. The Plymouth Blessings in a Backpack program provides food to approximately 200 students by filling a backpack with a variety of nutritious snacks and easy to prepare meals to insure children have access to food while away from school.



Each week we take up a “basket

offering” that is designated to help a variety of church organizations and activities such as Social Concerns, Youth and Education, Special Projects, and Missions. During the month of September each of these committees has agreed to pool the basket proceeds and donate them to the Plymouth Blessings in a Backpack program.

Thank you for all the ways you choose to give to others in our community. This is another great opportunity to **Love God, Love Others, and Serve Others**.



United Methodist Men *submitted by David Hogsett*

The United Methodist Men had a fun time at their picnic at Centennial Park on Saturday, August 14. The attendance, food and fellowship were great. Bill Hemmig did an outstanding job with his devotional – got everyone to sing. Everyone had a good time answering trivia questions about the Bible in America.

This fall the focus of the men’s breakfast on the second Saturday of each month will be on who are the church’s neighbors. Chris Garner, executive director of the Neighborhood Center, will be speaking on September 11 about the work of the center and the demographics of

downtown Plymouth. On October 9th , Jim Causey will be sharing about Garden Courts, their new facility, their operations, and their residents.

The men meet at 8:00 A.M. the second Saturday of each month for breakfast, fellowship, and a program. For those planning on attending the September meeting there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the UCC church on Sunday mornings.

Here are some “Bible In America” trivia ques-

(Continued on page 5)



For September, all money collected for Social Concerns will go toward Blessings in a Backpack as well as basket offerings to Youth and Education, Missions and others.



Social Concerns

submitted by Mary Kaufman

As fall approaches, we continue to try to meet the needs of those in our community who are not as fortunate as we are. Our contributions to local agencies



Who will feed the kids this weekend?

for August were as follows: **Link to Hope** \$500, **Ancilla Food Program** (which delivers food each week to the hotels and the trailer court across from the park) \$100, **Neighborhood Center** \$200, **Bread of Life Food Pantry** \$200, our church's **Community Meal** \$100, **David's Courage** Drug Rehabilitation \$100, for a total of \$1,200.

For September, all money collected for Social Concerns will go toward **Blessings in a Backpack** along with other basket offerings to Youth and Education, Missions and others. This is an

important program that provides non-perishable food to certain students in a backpack each Friday. It's hard to imagine that we have

young people who need this right here in Plymouth, but the food they receive can make the difference between their being able to eat on the weekend or going hungry. Thank you for supporting this program.

We must continue to focus on sharing God's love outside of our church walls. This comes in the form of providing funds for food and shelter and help with addiction. People are more ready to hear about God when their basic needs are met. Thanks for being a caring and generous congregation! God bless you!

Trustees Update

submitted by Melissa Christiansen

We received word that our insurance company will be sending their own insurance adjuster to inspect the sanctuary. This was something foreseen by our team of professionals and not unexpected for these types of situations.

We will continue to keep you posted as we navigate this process!

Please remember to contact Kathy for any building use requests.

Thank you,

Melissa Christiansen

Community Meal Info *submitted by Ruth Van Vactor*

The community meal continues with carry out only. On August 25, we carried out 100 meals! People continue to thank us for this ministry and one lady even said how much she looks forward to the last Wednesday of the month!! The committee is



grateful for your continued support. Our next meal will be Wednesday, September 29 from 5:00-7:00 p.m., or until we run out of food. The menu is Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, applesauce and cookies.

“...one lady even said how much she looks forward to the last Wednesday of the month!!”

United Methodist Men *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

tions. Come Saturday, September 11th to find the answers.

If you wanted to see a 1456 Gutenberg Bible in Washington, D.C. where would you go?

The year 2011 was the four hundredth anniversary of what significant event?

What world-renowned evangelist (and former shoe salesman) founded a famous Bible college in Chicago?

What breakfast cereal originally had the biblical name Elijah's Manna?

What Revolutionary War hero wrote a book denying that the Bible is the Word of God?



Mother's Club *submitted by Karen Capper*

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. Sharen Robinson will teach us how to make a braided t-shirt (it's a decorative detail added to a simple T-shirt). Participants are asked to bring the following:

- ◆ T-shirt (your choice of color)
- ◆ Needle and thread the same color as the shirt

- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Ruler or tape measure

We will be following all safety protocols in place at the time of the meeting.

Feel free to contact Karen Capper (574-952-5806) or Pam Michel (574-952-2043) with questions.





"We will be joined by the bonds of friendship, regardless of color, and rich or poor will sing in kinship, the name of the song...."



Small prayers can create strong connections to God.

Submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Luke 18:1

Prayer - no appointment necessary! No paperwork, and no co-pay. I just open my heart to the great Physician. Prayer is more like a very powerful cellphone, built into my head, that can reach Heaven on a moment's notice. *Quote from a Guideposts devotional [Daniel Schantz]*

Mission Witness

The chorus of a popular Latin American Christian hymn "Lazos de Amistad" says. "We will be joined by the bonds of friendship, regardless of color, and rich or poor will sing in kinship, the name of the song. We will be joined by the bonds of friendship and love will reign and inside the soul, with a feeling of being better."

Belinda Forbes

Global Missionary from the United States, serving in Nicaragua.

Symphony of Life



Father, we call Thee Father because we love thee. We are glad to be called Thy children, and to dedicate our lives to the service that extends through willing hearts and hands to the betterment of all mankind. We send a cry of thanksgiving for people of all races, creeds, classes, and colors the world over, and pray that through the instrumentality of our lives the spirit of peace, joy, fellowship, and brotherhood shall circle the world. We know that this world is filled with discordant notes but help us, Father to so unite our efforts that we may all join in harmonious symphony for peace and brotherhood, justice, and equality of opportunity for all men. The tasks performed today with forgiveness for all our errors, we dedicate, dear Lord, to thee. Grant us strength and courage and faith and humility sufficient for the tasks assigned to us.

Mary McLeod Bethune

Voice for global equality and understanding after the second World War. Her parents had been slaves.

It's time to "Fall" back into the Church routine!

Sunday Services at First UCC at 8:30 am and 11:15 am. The Well at 5:00 pm in the Education Building at FUMC.

September 11, 2001 *submitted by Jim Weldy*

Since 1996, I have been a part of DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) with FEMA to assist medical examiners with body identification of human remains in disaster situations.

On September 11, 2001, I watched TV just as everyone else did that day and watched in awe the events of the day. I was notified that evening that I was to leave from O'Hare in Chicago on a C-130 cargo plane and go to the World Trade Center.

The first week I was there I was assigned to Family Assistance and we did phone interviews with families of airline victims. The second week and a half I was assigned to WTC morgue operations in which we were involved with the recovery of remains from the "pit" and the transportation to the Office of the

Chief Medical Examiner.

It truly was an experience that I will never forget. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about the victims and their families. Please keep them all in your prayers. It was an honor and to return those victims to their families.

Jim Weldy,
Johnson-Danielson Funeral Home



Mike Boys Inducted into Plymouth Hall of Fame



Photos and write up by Tom Boys

Mike Boys was named Plymouth High School's Distinguished Alumni and inducted into the PHS Hall of Fame Friday, August 6th at the "Alumni In The Park" event in River Park Square. We are all very proud of him and for all he has accomplished through his service to the community the last 60 years.



Mike & Joanne Boys



Happy September from the Outreach Committee

“Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.” –

Lauren DeStefano

One of our Three Simple Rules as United Methodists is to "do no harm." As Covid cases are on the increase in Marshall County and across our state and nation, please consider--whether you are vaccinated or not--wearing a mask in worship and whenever you are out in public. Many of us have gotten out of the habit in recent weeks, but let's each do what we can to protect one another. Thank you!

As the lazy, hazy days of summer float by, our small groups are continuing to gather and provide comfort, support, and outreach among its participants. Whether you like to read, eat, knit or just commune...there is the perfect group for you!!

Blessed Bookies will continue to gather on the 4th Monday at 5:30 PM. in the Education Building:

September 27: “Persian Pickle Club”

October 25: “The Sweetness of Water”

Bad Girls will now be meeting **ONLY** on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Beginning in March “flunking sainthood” by Jana Riess has been the focus of this group’s discussion. This book describes “A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor.” However, it is never too late to join this diverse, interesting, and occasionally humorous study!

If you are interested in participating in either or all of these discussions, please contact Kathy at the office, or swautelet@aol.com for more information.

The Lunch Bunch gathers the 3rd Friday of the month. We meet in the church parking lot at 11:30, but reservations should be made with Carol Beiter. Please contact Carol Beiter if you are interested in attending. (beiter800@gmail.com)

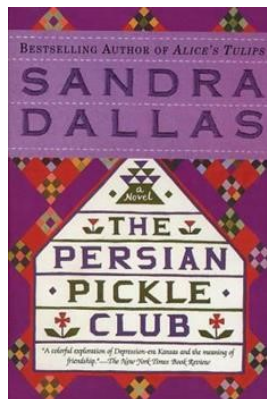
September 17: Log House in Argos

October 15: Jarrety’s in Rochester

November 19: The Trap in Plymouth

KNIT TWO, PRAY THREE

(Continued on page 9)



Happy September from the Outreach Committee *cont'd.*

(Continued from page 8)

This group of talented knitters gathers on the first Tuesday of the month in the Education building. Grab your needles and join them!!

UPDATE FOR THE SUNDAY BREAKFAST GATHERING.....

Knights of Columbus Breakfast on the 3rd Sunday of the month! All interested can gather at 9:30 AM which allows ample time to eat between our two services.... Come one, come all and join in fellowship on Sunday mornings. See you September 19!

As summer winds down and the season of fall is upon us, let us remember the following passage which urges and reminds us to share God's love by sharing our

bounty with other.

Deuteronomy 24:19

"When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Julie, Cindy, Kay, Sarah, Ralph, our choir, and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings.... thank you for spreading love, and remember....

God is good...all the time!

The Outreach and Support Committee

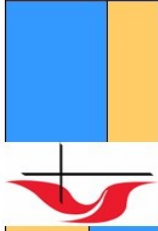


3rd Sunday of the Month
Breakfast,
September 19
at 9:30 am
K of C Hall

September Birthdays

9/1	Joanne Boys	9/12	Anthony Witt	9/21	Pastor Toni
9/2	Jan Heeren	9/15	Lynn Gee	9/24	Emily Cochern
9/3	Grace Blanding	9/17	Crystal Pier	9/24	Bryan Miller
9/3	Dick Stinson	9/18	Brenda Pedavoli	9/25	Sharon Balka
9/6	William Smith	9/19	Mike Dixon	9/26	Donna Hemmig
9/8	Chelsea Corwin	9/20	Dave Goebel	9/29	Jim Easterday
9/9	Mike Stump	9/21	Carol Beiter	9/30	Betty Cleeter





Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

First United Methodist Church

September 2021

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

400 N. Michigan St.
 Plymouth, IN 46563

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
☺ Noon Joy Breaks † 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study ⚡ 6 am Early Birds ⚙ 6-7:30 pm Bible Study (in Fellowship Hall)			1 ⚙	2 😊 † ⚡	3	4
5 15th Sunday after Pentecost	6 OFFICE CLOSED ⚡ LABOR DAY	7 10 am Knit 2, Pray 3 7 pm Missions	8 ⚙ 7:00 pm New Member Class	9 😊 † ⚡	10	11 UMM Breakfast 🇺🇸 Missions Fish Fry 11am-2pm 🇺🇸 PATRIOT DAY
12 16th Sunday after Pentecost	13 6:00 pm SPRC 6:30 pm Social Concerns	14 11 am Bad Girls	15 ⚙ 7:00 pm New Member Class	16 😊 † ⚡	17 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Log House, Argos	18
19 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Break-fast at K of C Hall	20	21 6:00 pm Finance	22 ⚙	23 😊 † ⚡ 6:30 pm Mother's Club	24	25
26 18th Sunday after Pentecost	27 5:30 pm Bless- es Bookies 6:00 pm Church Council	28 6:30 pm Trustees	29 ⚙ 5-7 pm CARRY OUT ONLY 🍴 community meal	30 😊 † ⚡	SEPTEMBER 11—11am-2pm Missions Fish Fry Fundraiser	🐟 Fish Fry

MISSION MINDED

Thanks to everyone who supported our Bake Sale on August 28 at the Farmers Market. Whether you baked or purchased, we appreciate your support!

Upcoming Mission Events:

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021: FISH FRY FUNDRAISER (See separate flier)

Drive-thru Service in the Parking Lot from 11:00 to 2:00

Walleye Fish Sandwich and Fries for \$10 (Ralph Smith cooking)

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021: BASKET OFFERINGS

On this Sunday (and the rest of the Sundays in September), the basket offerings will go towards the Plymouth “Blessings in a Backpack” to provide food for school children on the weekends.

OCTOBER 17 - 22, 2021: HENDERSON SETTLEMENT WORK TRIP

A group of volunteers will be traveling to Frakes, Kentucky for the week of October 17th, returning on October 22nd. We will stay in the mission dormitory. Our meals will be in the cafeteria. 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 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.

MISSION GUATEMALA WORK TRIP – JANUARY 7 – 14, 2023

We have just recently re-scheduled a date for our work trip to Mission Guatemala. If you are interested in being part of this work trip, mark these dates on your calendar and start saving up! Each group builds on the work that the previous work team has done, led by very capable leaders and interpreters. No experience is necessary! Troy Spencer is the contact person for this work trip.

Each month we are highlighting a different organization that our church supports through offerings.



Thanks to your offerings, we are able to give \$500 each year to **David’s Courage** in Plymouth.

“**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 provide a therapeutic community where a safe, consistent and caring environment creates an atmosphere that is conducive to recovery and change.”



This month,
**Mission
 Minded**
 highlights
 David’s
 Courage.

Mission Fundraiser

**Walleye Fish Sandwich
with Fries - \$10.00**

(Cooked by Ralph Smith)



Saturday, 9/11
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Drive Thru Service

Sandwich also sold separately

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
400 North Michigan Street, Plymouth

West Parking Lot (by Red-D-Mart)

Proceeds to benefit Mission Trips

September Preaching Plan

September 5, 2021

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Labor Day Weekend

Holy Communion

Text: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Title: ***Clean Hands, Clean Hearts?***

Theme: The Pharisees were quite concerned about what the disciples were doing—if they were following tradition and doing all that they were “supposed” to be doing. Jesus challenged them to consider—not simply outward appearance—but what’s happening on the inside. Why do we do what we do? What are the practices that form the core of our faith?

September 12, 2021

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Committed to Christ

Text: Matthew 6:5-14; Philippians 4:6-7

Title: ***Prayer***

Theme: We begin our series this week talking about prayer. Prayer is often the first step a person makes in growing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It can transform our lives. Prayer is not a step toward earning one’s salvation but happens in response to salvation already received through Christ. If we are not already praying, we will be challenged to make a commitment to regular prayer. If prayer is already a part of our life, we’ll be invited to take a step further in our

lifelong journey of prayer.

September 19, 2021

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Baptism

Series: Committed to Christ

Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Title: ***Bible Reading***

Theme: In this second week of our series, we will be invited to climb another step in our journey toward greater commitment to Christ through the habit of hearing, reading, and reflecting on the words of Scripture found in the Bible. Bible reading can transform our lives by fostering a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

September 26, 2021

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Committed to Christ

Text: Revelation 4:1-11

Title: ***Worship***

Theme: Worship is at the heart of Christian life. Through worship we express our understanding of God, define our identity, and commune with our maker. When we encounter God in worship, we are formed and transformed as his people. Though worshipping in person has been a challenge for us in this season, it still is essential to who we are as God’s people. This week we will be invited to consider and affirm the significance worship holds in our lives.

First United
Methodist Church



400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943

Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

11:15 am Sunday
Service livestreamed
on Facebook: [https://
www.facebook.com/
plymouthfumc](https://www.facebook.com/plymouthfumc)

Online and Mobile Giving with Vanco

VANCO
FAITH

While online (using our website) and mobile (using the Vanco mobile app) are not new, changes are coming.

The current Vanco Mobile app is being retired as of September 30th. If you are currently using Vanco Mobile, you need to go to the Apple App Store or Google Play to download the new "Vanco Faith" app for free. Once you have installed the app, you search for "Plymouth First UMC" and you may begin giving. If you already have an account, you may use the same login and password. If you have recurring giving already set up, it will continue. If you

have not been using this app, this may be a good time to begin. It is the easy way to give!

If you have been using our website by hitting the "Donate Now" button, you will see changes here as well. You are now able to choose the account you wish to give to: General Tithes, Rebuilding, Missions, Social Concerns, Altar Flowers, etc.

This allows you to support our ministries from anywhere. Please look things over and consider using Vanco Online and Mobile Giving!