

February 2018

First United Methodist Church

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Plymouth, In

FIRST NEWS



A Note from Pastor Toni

Friends,

While we were selling Nelson's Golden Glow for our trip to Guatemala last Fall, someone in a pickup truck asked me, "Why Guatemala? Why go that far away when there are people right here, close to home who need help?" Maybe you've wondered the same thing, or weren't quite sure how to reply when someone asked you that question. Here are some of the reasons why we went to Guatemala. Some of these same reasons apply for those who heed the call to become long term missionaries in various other places around the world, as well.

Remember how Jesus commissioned his disciples (us) at his ascension to "go out and make disciples of all nations..." After the day of Pentecost, that's what his followers did. The Book of Acts describes how the disciples of Jesus began extending beyond their own towns and comfort zones to share the message of Jesus Christ so that those who hadn't heard it would come to know. The letters that follow share more details of those ventures, and the challenges that occurred as they traveled outward.

United Methodists have believed, from the beginning, that each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley called the early Methodists to live out their faith by "doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all [people]" (This is from The General Rules of the Methodist Church).

Our faith began as a "go out and share" kind of faith, which often is evidenced in "going out and doing." That doesn't mean there aren't things that need to be done closer to home: our church remains highly committed and involved in reaching out into this local community (our Social Concerns Committee keeps us committed to such places as Grace and Peace Alliance, Heminger House, and the Neighborhood Center, among others), as well as to other ministries in the U.S. (including annual treks to the Midwest Distribution Center [scheduled this month!] and Henderson Settlement).

But there are people who God loves and who need encouragement and support in other places, as well. Guatemala is the poorest nation in our hemisphere, and Mission Guatemala is only one ministry among others working hard to make a difference in people's lives there. There are other places where God's people travel outside of the U.S., doing work like digging wells, building schools, churches and providing medical and dental clinics. This good work wouldn't happen without Christians from churches like ours, in communities like ours, being willing to take the risk of stepping out.

I was introduced to Guatemala about 30 years ago. I had never left the U.S. before, and was amazed to encounter a culture so different from my own, but whose people were so similar to me. They loved their children like I loved mine, they worked hard just like we did, they loved and trusted God as much as we do...but their lives were so different from my own. Scott and I decided when I came back home that we were going to make it a priority that each of our children would travel to a different place (our plan was that it would be a work camp, but our oldest somehow "lucked out" with a Wesley trip to England while the younger two went to Haiti) to broaden their perspective of their place in the world and God's love for all people. Now, I'm thankful to have been given the opportunity to introduce others to Mission Guatemala because they do such work. There are certainly other good places to go, and there are places to go that are much closer to home, but we've been given this possibility of reaching out a little further, stretching a little further. As we reach out, we receive blessings in return. My prayer is that this adventure has and will touch hearts and lives—in Guatemala, and here in Plymouth, IN, as well.

Please pray that this will be so.

Toni

February 4

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
 Communion Sunday
 David Hogsett preaching

February 11

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
 Scout Sunday
 Scripture: Mark 9:2-9
 Title: Mountaintops and Valleys

February 13

Ash Wednesday
 Text: Matthew 14:22-33
 Title: Gifts of the Dark Wood: Where We Find Ourselves

February 18

First Sunday of Lent
 Text: 1 Corinthians 13:11-12
 Title: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Uncertainty

February 25

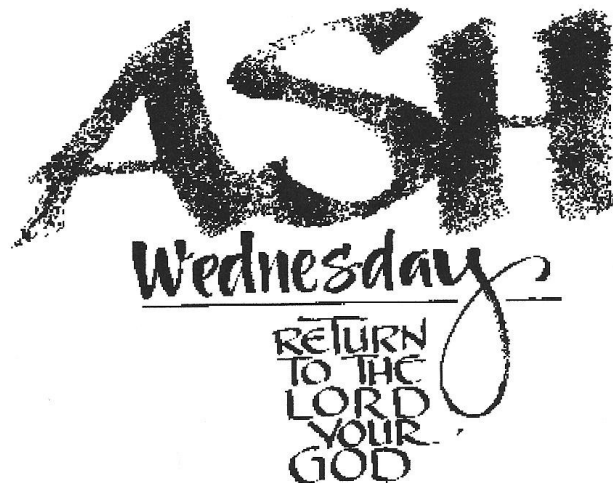
Second Sunday of Lent
 Text: Mark 15:22-38; Luke 17:33
 Title: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Emptiness

Ash Wednesday
 February 14
 6:30 p.m.

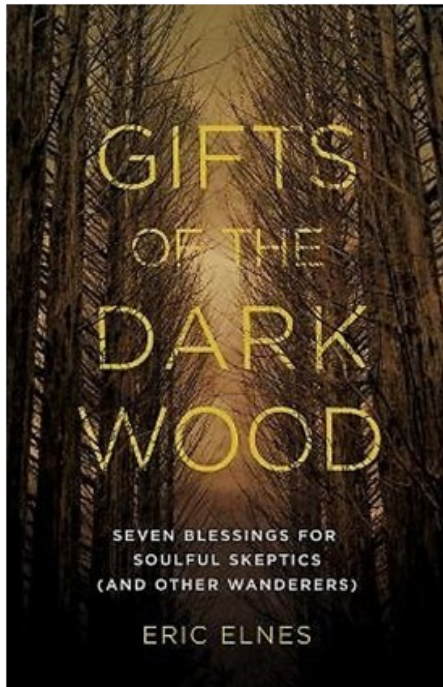
The season of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. During these 40 days (which do not include Sundays, because every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection!), we have the invitation to reconsider our lives, our faith, and our priorities to determine if we're where we want to be, if we're where we hear God calling us.

The season begins on Ash Wednesday as we remember our mortality, having ashes placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. We may hear the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or, "Repent and believe the gospel." It is a solemn time, and yet it is a time of hope and anticipation, knowing that Christ died for us, and that brings new life for all of us.

Our service will include hymns, choir, scripture and a brief message introducing us to the Lenten series, Gifts of the Dark Wood.

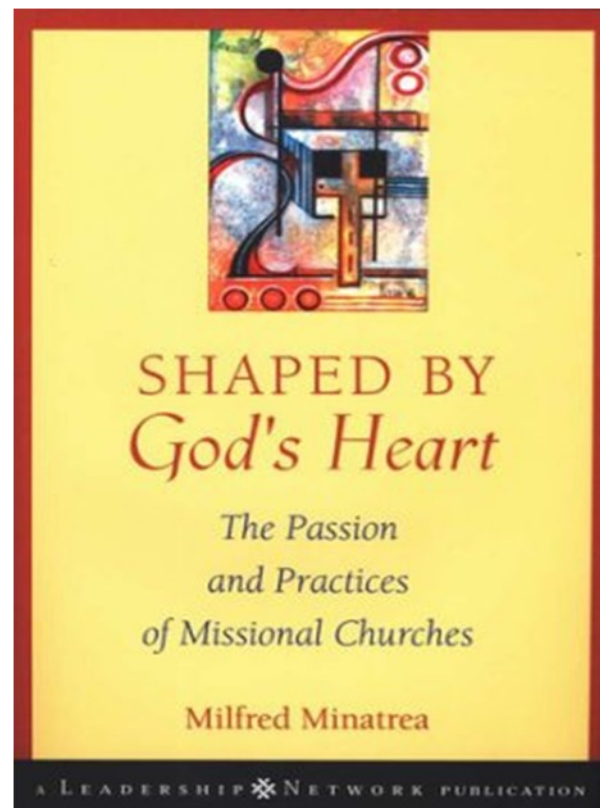


Books for your Consideration



Our Lenten Sermon series is "Gifts of the Dark Wood," based on this book written by Eric Elnes. Over the weeks of Lent we'll explore how the "Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God. It is a place where (we) may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted and alone."

A second book is recommended for all members of Church Council, and others who are interested in learning about what it means to be "missional." As we read we'll consider ways in which our church is engaged in the world. We'll learn the difference between being a "missional church" and a church who supports missions. This won't be a sermon series but will be discussed at Church Council meetings over the year. Small groups and individuals are invited to read and explore.



Both books are readily available on Amazon.com or through your favorite bookstore.



Sunday at 5:00 P.M.

In January I had great plans of writing my February newsletter EARLY so as not to be doing it at the "last minute" as is so often the case. It's not that I don't enjoy writing it. I do!!! It's just that there are so many things demanding my attention that I keep putting this one task off until each month I find myself down to the deadline. Thank goodness for a kind and understanding Church Secretary who puts up with me!

I simply want to touch base and let you know what is happening at The Well. We just started a four-part series about being a servant. This is how the series will be presented:

January 28 - The Mark Of A Servant/Deuteronomy 15:12-17

February 4 - The Task of a Servant/Matthew 25:14-30

February 11 - The Profitable Servant/Luke 17:3-10

February 18 - Beyond Servanthood/Galatians 4:1-9

We also continue to have worship music led each Sunday evening by Tom Boys. We have Communion on the first Sunday of the month and we have a carry-in supper which is USUALLY (but not always) on the last Sunday of the month. If you want to keep up to date with when certain events happen please read Mike Boys' article in the Saturday Pilot News on the religion page. He does an excellent job of keeping our church activities before the public.

Some events to look forward to in the near future of The Well is an Old Fashioned Sing-spiration, a Bible Trivia night and a movie night. You are all invited to attend.

I'd also like to encourage those of you who have special talents in vocal or instrumental music, language arts, poetry, acting, puppetry, dance, ventriloquism, etc. to feel free to volunteer to share those talents with us at The Well. We would enjoy this very much if you decided to share with us.

Most importantly please join with us in prayer as we continue to reach out to the unchurched community to join us on Sunday evenings at The Well. If you know someone who would benefit from attending The Well do not hesitate to invite them. We are a welcoming group of people who enjoy sharing what we have with others.

And remember...judge less, love more!

Meet you at The Well!

Cindy Flagg

Prayer time

submitted by Dorothy Steinke

God hears us when we pray.

Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
Luke 18:1

Winter arrived in Kentucky. We got an inch of ice then 5-6 inches of snow and 2 days later another 3-5 inches of snow. I was blocked in for 9 days. The snow plows formed an ice ridge closing my drive way. I can shovel snow but not ice. The weather stayed below freezing and that ice was not going anywhere. When the thermometer finally got over the freezing mark the ice and snow were all gone in 2 days. I decided I was in training for when I will not be able to drive anymore and will have to wait for someone to take me where I need to go. I was not bored, I always have some project I am working on. I baked cookies and would have baked bread if I'd had some yeast. I live in a duplex apartment and my neighbor and I weathered the storm nicely.

Lent begins on February 14th this year (Valentines day). This is the 4th winter that I have spent in Kentucky. I have not been to an Ash Wednesday service yet. They have all been canceled due to predicted ice storms. We will see what will happen this year. I will still be in Kentucky for Easter.

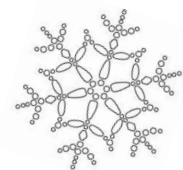
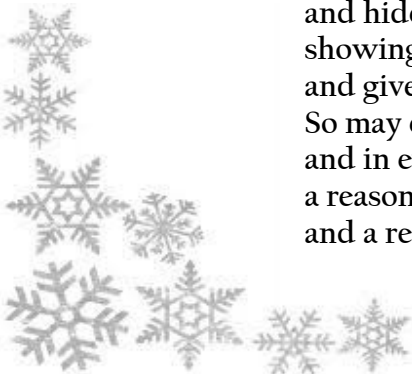
Mission Witness

We live in a place of great beauty and great brokenness; those who come to work with us each week are drawn here for both reasons. In coming together, however imperfectly, to work in God's mission, we find both sacred space and common ground in these holy mountains.
Michael Feely, Mission Advancement Director, Henderson Settlement, Frakes, KY.

Snowflake



Every new snowflake comes to the earth
as a picture of our Saviour's birth,
because they are sent from up above
and remind us of God's care and love.
Each one is so intricate and small
because Christ sees the details of us all,
and just as two are never the same
He knows and calls us each by name.
Snowflakes gently cover the world in white
and hide what's unlovely from our sight,
showing us how He covers our sin
and gives us His grace when we come to Him.
So may every snowflake bring Christ to mind
and in every bit of white may you find
a reason to celebrate anew
and a reminder of His love for you.



Holley Gerth

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

February meetings are at St. Thomas Episcopal 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.



Up and Coming: Youth Sunday!

March 18, 2018

Let us know what your child would like to help lead.

Call Corryne Wick (630-730-5655) or Barbie Pickut for more information.

Enjoy a great meal ♦ Fellowship ♦ Support our Scouts



Boy Scout Meal

- Salisbury Steak
- Mashed Potatoes
- Corn
- Salad
- Roll
- Dessert

SUNDAY February 11th



Who Are Our Youth?

submitted by Corryne Wick

Who are our youth? Are they sized up by others as they were when I was a youth? People think: "Yeah, that new way of doing your eyeliner...that's youth today..." That way of doing your eyeliner kind of looks like an elf in my mind. That's not our youth though. Or for boys: maybe people think of a new sport, like Quidditch. Most boys love competition. Yet that isn't our youth either. To look at youth as a new game or sport, or a fashion is missing the point. We need to go deeper. We actually need to get to know each other.

Even if we don't know each other well, God has things to say to every generation. Some of those things are in the Bible and many of those things are learned through experience. To every generation, God calls us to repentance. Why? Frankly, it's because all of us make mistakes whether we like it or not. And, so that we can be brought to himself (because God love each and every one of us), God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins. We all make mistakes and none of us is without sin. Except Jesus.

It's a sad thing that the one who had to die for us had to be the one who was perfect. Or, maybe not...maybe it's a beautiful, wonderful thing. Even though it is also a sad thing. I think it can be both. God gave us himself as Jesus to be the path back home.

So while the world is out there, clamoring to you...Don't worry about that. Worry about what matters. God himself. Proverbs 9 talks about wisdom and foolishness being two different women. That's an interesting one. I'll include part of it so you can take a look:

Folly is an unruly woman;
 she is simple and knows nothing.
 "Let all who are simple come to my house!"
 To those who have no sense she says,
 "Stolen water is sweet;
 food eaten in secret is delicious!"
 But little do they know that the dead are there,
 that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

I like to think about that image of Proverbs 9:18..."But little do they know the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead." I get this image in my head from The Lord of the Rings, when Aragorn and his companions enter the valley of Harrowdale and are seeking the King of the Army of the Dead. And there are all these skulls, bones, and they can't walk without stepping on the skulls. Crunch, crunch, crunch...Where are you right now?

CommunityMeal

February 28th will be our monthly community meal. Come, join us! We will be serving ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn and apple crisp. This is a great time for us to welcome all peoples to our church and offer them the fellowship and friendship that we are well known for. Come be a part of our February 28th meal.



LifeTouch®

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING.....

Plans are being made to offer a FUMC directory in cooperation with LifeTouch Church Directories.

More details will follow, but we hope to have the directory and photographs available for Mother's and Father's Day!!

We wish to thank all who supported us during the loss of our Mother.

We appreciated all the cards, phone calls, food and words of encouragement. We cannot thank you enough.

Family of Donna Lamb

In Loving Memory



Donna F. Lamb

January 19, 1928 – January 18, 2018

Worship Participants for February

	FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 25
8:00 Liturgists	Pam Michel	Dick Tobias	Don Wilson	Susie Kreighbaum
10:30 Liturgists	Robin Cupka	Robin Cupka	Jim Causey	Jim Causey
Greeters	Mike & Jane Woolfington	Bill & Donna Hemmig	Jon & Ruth Van Vactor	Bill & Barb Binkley
Ushers	Woody Schinbeckler, Marc Laudeman, Scott Heeren, Katie Spencer, & Troy Spencer	Woody Schinbeckler, Marc Laudeman, Scott Heeren, Katie Spencer, & Troy Spencer	Woody Schinbeckler, Marc Laudeman, Scott Heeren, Katie Spencer, & Troy Spencer	Woody Schinbeckler, Marc Laudeman, Scott Heeren, Katie Spencer, & Troy Spencer
Sound System (10:30)	Tom Pedavoli	James Faulstich	Ralph Booker	Robin Cupka
Older Nursery	Robin Cupka	Barbie Pickut	Melissa Christiansen	Jane Woolfington



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

7 o'clock PM in the sanctuary



Plymouth High School will once again share their musical talent at our church!! The Plymouth High School Orchestra students who qualify for the ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble contest will perform under the direction of Jodi Kallenberg. Refreshments will follow!

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to appreciate the musical talent of Plymouth students, as well as enjoy the marvelous acoustics of our sanctuary....come one, come all.

February Birthdays

<p>2 Mae Christiansen Sharon Gott Kurt Kralovansky</p>	<p>9 Amanda Gray</p> <p>10 Debbie Berger</p> <p>14 Holly DeSalle Mark Rose</p> <p>Eric Rubesha Jeff Yeazel</p> <p>16 Cole Mann</p> <p>17 Marilee Douglass Katelyn Phillips</p> <p>18 Dean Byers Rose Woodke Julie Youngs</p> <p>19 Terry Feece</p>	<p>20 Lilly Goebel Rebecca Ratliff Sue Stinson</p> <p>21 Jeffrey Holtzclaw</p> <p>23 Timothy Smith</p> <p>24 Cris Causey</p> <p>26 Paul Cleeter Emma Konefsky</p> <p>28 Ida Chipman Pam Michel Marsha Wilson</p> <p>29 David Weedling Greg Youngs</p>
<p>3 James Cochern Megan Senter</p> <p>4 Janet Smith</p> <p>5 Theresa Harman Steve Hissong Debbie Wise</p> <p>6 Dylan Aker</p> <p>7 Michael Roach Mary Stachulak Charlotte Tyree</p> <p>8 James Rimel Jennifer Tobias</p>		

OUR STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Toni Carmer

Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Corryne Wick

Organist: Kay Finlay **Pianist/Choir Director:** Tom Boys **Handbell Director:** Marsha Wilson

A.S.K. Director: Aaron Woodcox **Child Care Provider:** Magdalena Tochimani

Maintenance/Custodial: Jeff Mills **Office Administrator:** Jan Hardy

Worship Services

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM Worship Service

9:15 A.M. Sunday School
Classes for everyone

10:30 AM Worship Service

5:00 P.M. The Well

Phone: 574-936-2943

Email: plymouthfirstumc.org

Website: plymouthfumc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/plymouthfumc

Social Concerns

The donations you make in the basket on the first Sunday of the month, checks written to First United Methodist Church with Social Concerns in the memo line, or the use of your Kroger Plus Card linked to Social Concerns, and Martin's gift cards you buy help those in need through community organizations such as Link to Hope (formerly Care and Share), and Heminger House, our abused women's shelter. Thanks for your generosity.

Grace & Peace Alliance



For February, we are collecting adult and children's gloves and hats, black or dark colors. You may also write a check to the First United Methodist Church with Grace and Peace in the memo line. Thanks for your giving spirit!

W.O.W.

Women Of Worth

Monday, February 5, at 1:00 p.m.

- The WOW ladies will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- Program: "Let's Have FUN!"

Join us for an afternoon of FUN as we play some games, share devotions, refreshments, and fellowship. See you Then!!

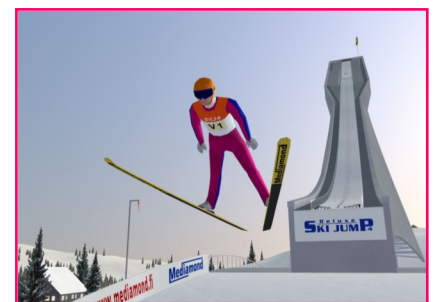
Mother's Club

Monday, February 12 is our annual murder mystery – our favorite activity of the year. It will be held at Pam Michel's house starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. If any ladies would like to join us, or have any questions - please talk to Pam.

This year it's off to Finland for -

Murder in the Snow

The "Winter Games" will have downhill skiers, ski jumpers, luge and bobsled athletes, figure skaters and speed skaters. Some are even former medalists. And of course, there will be someone testing for drugs and a sports commentator! Everything is going great – until the ski jump competition is interrupted by a gunshot..



We'll go indoors to the "Top of the World Pub" to hear the coroner's report. No one is allowed to leave until we have solved the mystery!

MISSION MINDED

WORK TRIP TO MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER –

Our work team will leave on Monday, February 19, and travel to the center which is located at Chatham, Illinois – south of Springfield.

Traveling will be Steve and Sharon Westfall, Carol Beiter, Bill and Donna Hemmig, and Jane Woolfington. On Saturday, February 24, we will return home to Plymouth.

They will be given jobs passed on their abilities, talents, and experience.



ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER -



Saturday, February 17, 2018

Serving from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

\$15.00 - Tickets available soon

Make plans now to bring a friend for a yummy Italian Dinner!

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.





SMALL GROUPS ARE THRIVING IN THE NEW YEAR!!

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

HERE ARE THE RESTAURANT CHOICES FOR THE COMING FEW MONTHS:

FEBRUARY 16: BRASS RAIL

JUNE 15: HIGHLANDER GRILL

MARCH 16: DICKIE'S AT SWAN LAKE

JULY 20: RISE AND SHINE

APRIL 20: CRAZY EGGS

AUGUST 17: EVERGREEN

MAY 18: JERRETTY'S

SEPTEMBER 21: LAKE HOUSE



GAME DAY! Dominos and Euchre will be featured on the 3rd 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.

Blessed Bookies: The 4th Mondays of the month at Miller's Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. On Monday, February 26 we will be discussing "The Glass Castle." Bring a sandwich and join us for a lively conversation!

"Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" is underway, but there is always room for More! We 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 2nd and 4th 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

for more information.