



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

November 2018

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER

Our worship in November takes on a new tone as we remember the lives of our dear ones who have died in the past year. All Saints and Totenfest provides a ritual marker for us to speak aloud (if we wish) the names of those who have died. Though our culture often denies death, we at Plymouth know how important it is that we remember them. In some ways, it is a natural movement into the season of Thanksgiving and into Advent, when we await the coming of Christ.

We offer three services each Sunday, so please join us!

- 9:00 Communion Service (large)
- 11:00 Choral Service (medium)
- 6:00 Evening Service with Communion (intimate)

November 4 - All Saints and Totenfest

At each of our three services, we will name and remember those whom we have loved and lost in the past year. The choir will sing at 11 and will present a special sung Evensong service at 6:00 p.m. Isaiah 43.1-7

November 11

The Great Commandment
Mission Trip Commissioning at 11:00
Mark 12.28-34

November 18

Abundance = Fear Not!
Joel 2.21-27
Alternative Giving Fair follows each morning service

November 25

Sowing in tears, reaping in joy
Psalm 126

December 2

Advent begins!

FROM HAL'S DESK:

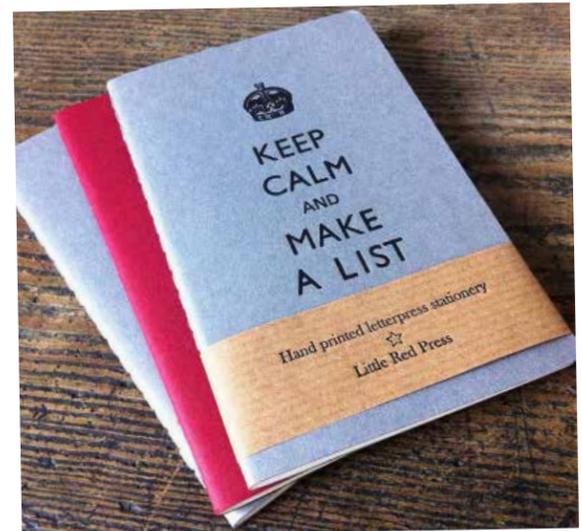
"I'VE GOT A LITTLE LIST"

There are a lot of reasons that people attend Plymouth...probably as many reasons as there are members! Why do you choose to spend a part of each Sunday with the rest of your fellow members at Plymouth?

the same liberating, table-turning reign proclaimed by Jesus.

4. We encourage people to bring their hearts and their minds to worship...nobody needs to leave either at the door.

I read a lot of doom-and-gloom in journals about the church, and that Christianity is in free-fall. I heard about a local church that warned visitors to expect a somewhat empty sanctuary, "because the church is in decline everywhere." Not quite. To paraphrase Mark Twain, I think the reports of the death of the church are greatly exaggerated. In contrast, I saw a different church website from a vibrant United Church of Canada congregation with a listing of "Twenty reasons I'm not giving up on church."



There are a lot of other things you could be doing on a Sunday...reading the *New York Times*...going out for brunch...watching the news programs on TV...going for a hike. But if we all did that, we won't have much of a church—because **the church is you**. What is it that keeps you coming back Sunday after Sunday? It's a rather countercultural way to invest your time in our culture.

5. We have a long history of being at the forefront of social justice grounded in deep faith.

6. We believe and invest in the spiritual lives of children and youth.

7. We believe in the life of the mind as one path to spiritual knowing, and we have the most well-developed adult education program in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

8. We believe in the full inclusion of women in every aspect of being the church, including the use of inclusive language and images for God.

9. We have worship that inspires and challenges us through incredible music, thought-provoking sermons, an eclectic evening service, and inclusion of kids in worship.

10. We have an essential voice in our community and across Northern Colorado as an engaged and progressive people who act on their faith.

11. _____ (fill in your own).

The list goes on! I hope you'll stop in the Fellowship Hall and add your reasons...and then I'll share them all during Advent.

This November, I'm going to start a list in the Fellowship Hall, and I hope you'll add your reasons to the list...and I know it will go well beyond a mere 20 reasons. (I listed 25 without even trying very hard!) Just to prime the pump, here are a few of mine...please do add more of your own!

Reasons I'm Not Giving Up on the Church

1. We ground ourselves in a God who is still speaking...who has more to say about the world and all who are in it.

2. We are Open and Affirming: including LGBTQ people in the full life of the church.

3. We try hard to be faithful to the good news of the Kingdom of God,

Deep peace,

Calendar Highlights

Go to PLYMOUTHUCC.ORG and click CALENDAR to see all events.

Saturday, November 3

9:00 a.m. Fall Clean-Up Day

Saturday, November 3

Daylight Savings Time ends...
Fall back!

Sunday, November 4

All Saints/Totenfest services at all three services...
Choral Evensong at 6:00 p.m. with music by C.V. Stanford and Maurice Durufle

Sunday, November 11

12:30 p.m. Plymouth Singles Group Lunch

Sunday, November 18

Alternative Giving Fair
Following the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving (office closed November 22 and 23)

Friday, November 30

5:30 p.m. Advent Family Fun Night

Saturday, December 1

Annual Sleep-Out to
Raise Funds and Awareness for
Homelessness Prevention



Looking for a photo directory of the church? Tired of directories being out of date by the time they are printed? *Our new directory is online — or right on your phone!* Visit plymouthucc.org and click on **F1Go** in the top menu for the QuickStart Guide. If your photo isn't in it yet, please add one. Don't want to be in the directory? Email Barb.

Plymouth Congregational UCC
916 West Prospect Rd Fort Collins, CO 80526
www.plymouthucc.org gathered in 1903 970-482-9212

Hal Chorpensing, senior minister, hal@plymouthucc.org
Jake Joseph, associate minister, jake@plymouthucc.org
Jane Anne Ferguson, associate minister (Sun., Tues., Thurs.), janeanne@plymouthucc.org
Mark Heiskanen, director of music, music@plymouthucc.org
Mandy Hall, CF director (children & youth), mandy@plymouthucc.org
Mark Lee, CF director (adults...Sun., Tues., Thurs.), mark@plymouthucc.org
Anna Broskie, IT/comm. coordinator (mornings), anna@plymouthucc.org
Barb Gregory, office manager, barbara@plymouthucc.org
Jenn and Johnny Wieda, sextons, sexton@plymouthucc.org

Our full-time ministers and program staff work Sunday-Thursday

BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

Deacons' Bench. The Plymouth Board of Deacons is charged with enhancing the worship and spiritual life of our congregation. Deacons serve our church family through our service at worship, which includes preparing and helping distribute communion, greeting attendees as they enter the sanctuary, counting money, logging prayers of the people, and in general helping the worship service go smoothly. The deacons work with the ministers, staff, and congregation to enrich worship, support our Plymouth members and friends at weddings and funerals and in the yearly Calling and Caring ministry, and keep in close touch with any seminary students we may happen to be sponsoring. The Nominating Committee will be looking for several members to join the Deacons Board as the new year begins. If you are contacted, please consider joining us in this enriching and rewarding way to serve the Plymouth Congregation. We would love to have you "on board"! - Al Sanders

The **Stewardship Board** would like to thank all pledgers for your commitment to making *Generosity a Way of Life*. And thanks to all who helped make the burrito breakfast on Consecration Sunday a success. If you haven't yet pledged, you may return a card, or enter your pledge online at plymouthucc.org/give, or via the F1Go app or portal. You may give by electronic bank withdrawal, paper check, cash, credit card, or text. We appreciate your faithful & generous support!

Coffee Hour needs help. It's easy and we will be happy to train you. Sign up right beside the dirty dish window. Questions? Kathee Houser (928) 600-4610.

Singles of all ages ready to expand their circle of friends are invited to gather for lunch at church after the 11 a.m. service on **11/11**. Please bring a can of soup for a less time-intensive version of stone soup (you will be amazed), and thoughts on possible activities to share.

Pie Potluck: Congregational Life invites you to herald the beginning of the holiday season with that most endearing of desserts, pie. Please bring pie: savory (quiche, pizza) or sweet, homemade or disguised as such, to share after each of our three services on Sunday, **11/11**.



11/28 New opportunities to sing! The **Chamber Choir** (primarily at the 9 a.m. service) and the **Plymouth Chorale** (an auditioned ensemble). Please contact [Mark Heiskanen](mailto:Mark.Heiskanen@plymouthucc.org) for more information.

Annual **Advent Craft and Pizza Night 11/30**. We will have pizza beginning at 6 p.m. This is a great night for the whole family .

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

Leadership Council continues its governance work to support all that our terrific staff, boards, and ministry teams accomplish. This month we approved updated Financial Policies and a Confidentiality Policy which can be used across our church, discussed our staffing challenges, and co-hosted a Budget & Finance Forum with Stewardship. LC signed a parking lease agreement with Katerra Construction for 17 parking spaces vacated by Brinkman. We are working on forming an Adaptive Challenge Task Force to tackle part of our Strategic Plan. In the interests of more transparency and accessibility, Plymouth members can electronically subscribe to approved LC minutes by emailing office@plymouthucc.org. Minutes will still be posted in the Fellowship Hall. Finally, FYI LC has

moved up monthly meeting times to 6-8 p.m. - Dianne Stober, Moderator

Have you been able to log into the directory (F1Go) successfully? If not, email [Anna](mailto:Anna@plymouthucc.org) to set up a time to get help over the phone. **Want to give online?** Visit the Plymouth website and click **GIVE** on the top menu.

Income

September Income for 2018: \$60,453
Budgeted Income for Sept. 2018: \$69,184
Income YTD: \$643,058
Budgeted Income YTD: \$622,656

Expenses

Expenses for September 2018: \$91,164
Budgeted Expenses for Sept. 2018: \$70,798
Expenses YTD: \$636,331
Budgeted Expenses YTD: \$637,183

MINISTRY TEAMS

Dinners for 7 reminder: Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The list will come down on **11/7**, and the groups will be organized. Questions call Kathee Houser (928) 600-4610.

Hops for Hope (Multigenerational Theological Discussion and Beer Tasting Group) is meeting at 6 p.m. on **11/8** at Gilded Goat Brewing Company in Fort Collins. All are welcome. Jake Joseph is hosting.

Ram Fellowship @ Plymouth (college students) invites CSU, FRCC, and all college students to a Craft Night, featuring craft pizza, origami, coloring and more! Friday **11/9** at 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Congregational Life. Supplies provided, or bring your own projects. RSVP nredavid@gmail.com.

YUCCA (20s and 30s): Stephanie Cotton and Luiz Maceta will host a wine and cheese night at their home, 5139 Star Dust Ln, FC, on Sat., **11/10**, at 6:00 p.m. Bring a bottle of wine/other beverage to share. RSVP by 11/3 to stephanie.cotton@gmail.com. Watch for details about our Christmas/Epiphany party.

El Otro Lado. Twelve people will travel to Arizona this month to meet with leaders in the Latinx community, immigrants and asylum seekers, and observe the militarization of the border firsthand. Sun. **11/11** at the 11 a.m. service, the team will be commissioned. Watch for a "Talk Back" session in early Dec.

Get A Grip is **11/17** at 6:00 p.m. at Bob and Meg Jeffrey's. Please bring your own table setting and a favorite Thanksgiving dish. New location: the Clubhouse at Trails on Timberline, 2451 S Timberline Rd, NW corner of Drake & Timberline. RSVP 970-443-9328 or megjeffrey2co@gmail.com.

Beginning **11/18**, a **Giving Tree** for families at The Family Center and Bennett School will be in the narthex, with cards with names and wish lists. (Instructions on table beside tree.) For larger families, you may want to share with another church family. Gifts returned TO THE CHURCH BY 12/16. Thanks for helping make Christmas a time of joy for these children. Sara Myers (myerss@ctsnet.edu) or Joyce DeVaney (JDeVaney6@comcast.net)

Centering Prayer Morning of Silence, Saturday, **12/1**, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon. Introduction, review, and practice of Centering Prayer. For newbies AND long-time Centering Prayer enthusiasts. Sign up and details on bulletin board.

14th Annual **Vigil & Sleep Out in the Cold** is back. At 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, **12/1** there is a community interfaith vigil to support folks who are experiencing homelessness in Fort Collins. We are inviting all members of Plymouth to the vigil. Questions? Bob Jeffrey (co-chair), Zak Burkley (co-chair) and team.

Interfaith Council Oct. mtg.: We learned about the City's Restorative Justice program to keep youth out of the justice system by focusing on the harm done and how it can be repaired, including the offender, victim, family, and community members. The program has served 3,000+ so far. - Renae Matkins

Faith Family Hospitality weeks for **2019** have been set. Please mark your calendars: Feb. 10-17, Apr. 28-May 5, Aug. 11-18, Nov. 10-17.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Thrive: Still I Rise, the **November Christian Formation Interterm**

One of the best things about church communities is the opportunity for intergenerational learning. During the month of November, instead of the usual adult and children's Sunday School classes, we will offer **a variety of spiritual experiences for all ages centered on the theme Thrive**. These opportunities are designed so that you can drop in for spiritual enrichment or engagement after Totenfest, enjoying the Pie Potluck, or shopping the Alternative Giving Fair. Get a "Passport" booklet and secure four stamps through the month for a special prize! You'll find activities in the Forum Room, Fireside Room, and the classrooms of the North Wing. Look for posters with directions to what is happening where. The experiences include labyrinth walks, a meditation room, cool short films with discussion, and preparing an Advent box for your family.

The whole month is **inspired by Maya Angelou's poem, "Still I Rise."** (Watch her recite the poem at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqO-qo50LSZ0>.) Rise and Thrive with us!

And coming in January... "Finding God's Wisdom Within and Without," a spiritual small group experience led by the Rev. Jane Anne Ferguson. Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m., 1/15 - 3/5. More information in the December *Placard* and online.

Non-profit organization
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