



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

January 2019

WORSHIP FOR January

Christmas is almost behind us...join us for Multicultural Lessons & Carols, at 10 and 6 on December 30, for the last Sunday within the twelve days of Christmas.

The Feast of the Epiphany actually falls on a Sunday this year, as we recount the journey and gifts of the Magi – foreigners who weren't supposed to understand the importance of Jesus.

And at the end of the month, our Annual Congregational Meeting will happen right after the 11:00 service.



Le Breton, Jacques ; Gaudin, Jean. Adoration of the Kings, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

January 6

Feast of the Epiphany
Matthew 2.1-12

January 13

Luke 3.15-17 & 21-22

January 20

John 2.1-11

January 27

I Corinthians 12.12-31a
Annual Congregational Meeting (and potluck luncheon) follows the 11:00 service
Childcare available during the meeting

Calendar Highlights

Go to PLYMOUTHUCC.ORG and click NEWS & EVENTS to see all events.

January 6 Feast of the Epiphany

January 10

6:00 p.m.
Hops for Hope at Red Truck Brewing

January 14

4:00 p.m. (ongoing)
Bible Basics with Hal (open to new folks!)

January 17

7:00 p.m. (ongoing)
"Finding God's Wisdom" with Jane Anne

January 21

Office closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

January 25

6:00 p.m. - Fellowship of the Grape at the Roozes' (2059 Stoney Hill Ct.)
6:30 p.m. - Plymouth Has Talent

January 27

Noon
Annual Congregational Meeting and potluck luncheon



Plymouth Congregational UCC

916 West Prospect Rd Fort Collins, CO 80526

www.plymouthucc.org

gathered in 1903

970-482-9212

Hal Chorpenning, senior minister, hal@plymouthucc.org

Jake Joseph, associate minister, jake@plymouthucc.org

Jane Anne Ferguson, associate minister (Sun., Tues., Thurs.), janneanne@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

FROM HAL'S DESK: LIVING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO LIVE

We've been having some very preliminary discussions in Leadership Council about a theme for Plymouth for the next year. (We've skipped a few themed years...) One of the things we will be doing in the coming year is a strategic planning process, which will undoubtedly yield fruit for all of us about where Plymouth is headed in the next five years. But what about the nearer term? For those of us who comprise Plymouth, what would be beneficial to embrace in the coming year?

I was reading a comment from a UCC clergy colleague (an out lesbian and outspoken justice advocate) about what is next for progressive churches like ours. Her answer surprised me, and the more I've thought about it, the more sense it makes. We live in a changed spiritual and religious environment, when fewer folks know the stories of The Bible, Christianity is (thankfully) no longer compulsory, and where "Christian" is not a moniker some of us at Plymouth are unwilling to claim because of fundamentalists who bandy the name about like a billy club.

"I sometimes worry that we progressive Christians put the cart before the horse when it comes to social justice," writes Emily Heath. "It's not that I believe we are advocating for the wrong things; it's that I believe we sometimes advocate for the wrong reasons, acting first and then wedging theological meaning in later as an afterthought." I think there is more than a measure of truth in her assertion.

"It's time to get radical, not about our politics or our policies, but about our faith," she writes. "It's time to stop throwing the baby Jesus out with the bathwater, and start putting the horse before the cart. It's time to remember what, and whom, we worship, and to develop the language of faith." One of the most confounding questions for some people wishing to start a Ministry Team is "What is the Christian purpose of this Ministry Team?" A lot of us have trouble thinking about that. Not that we all have to become trained theologians, but we do need to be about to talk about our faith in basic, cogent terms.

What Heath refers to is also integral to Plymouth's Mission Statement ("It is our mission to worship God and help make God's realm visible in the lives of people, individually and collectively, especially as it is set forth in the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ. We do this by...inviting...transforming...sending.") I think that we, the members of Plymouth, are ready to engage in some serious transformation by learning more about what it means to be Christian and to really work intentionally at becoming followers of Jesus in the deepest ways possible.



A good number of us at Plymouth are dedicated learners... one might even say that we "live to learn."

I wonder if perhaps we need to press one step further and really make learning more deeply *about our Christian faith* a priority for our members. The riches of our tradition, which take more than a passing glance to apprehend thoroughly, offer us a way to "learn to live" life more fully.

There is not one of us at Plymouth who has their faith totally figured out. It is a lifelong journey to sit at the feet of a wise master and to learn continually about what our faith and the Spirit are saying about how we live our lives most fully and abundantly. And I know that there are eager learners... I see them in my Monday Bible Basics course! Stay tuned for more... and may the new year bring you even deeper insights from your own apprehension of our faith.

Blessings,

PASTORAL CONTACTS

Our ministers' normal work days are Sunday-Thursday, but if you have a pastoral emergency (in the hospital, urgent need for a pastoral support conversation, etc.), please do call us on our mobile phones...that's what we're here for! Unlike all other professions, we still make house calls by appointment!

Hal Chorpenning, 970-481-2928 for emergencies

Jake Joseph, 970-412-6114 for emergencies

Jane Anne Ferguson, 303-257-4933 for emergencies



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

Leadership Council primarily worked on governance issues this month. We are due for a new Strategic Plan by the end of 2019, and LC is forming this team. If you're interested in serving on this team, as a Congregational Rep to the Annual Meeting, or on Nominating Committee, please contact us!

Other working areas include a restructuring of the Nominating Committee to expand into lay leadership, an Annual Theme for 2019, and working with Christian Formation to align board service terms with the programming year.

Finally, our Budget & Finance Committee will be hard at work to propose a reasonable budget in early January. - Dianne Stober, Moderator

Did you know that **church policy documents** are now available on the website? Visit plymouthucc.org/policies.html. This includes the

Leadership Council Operating Policy, Planned Giving Policy, Facilities Use Policy, and more.



Want to give online? Visit the Plymouth website and click **GIVE** on the top menu.

Have you been able to log into the directory (F1Go) successfully? If not, email Anna to set up a time to get help over the phone.

Income

November Income for 2018: \$56,214

Budgeted Income for November 2018: \$69,184

Income YTD: \$749,035

Budgeted Income YTD: \$761,024

Expenses

Expenses for November 2018: \$54,077

Budgeted Expenses for Nov. 2018: \$55,507

Expenses YTD: \$752,820

Budgeted Expenses YTD: \$778,779

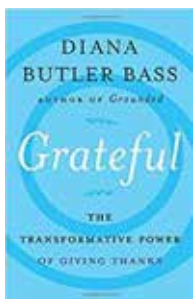
ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Study groups: 1/13 – 2/3 (4 weeks).

Books available on the Adult Ed table and at the classes.

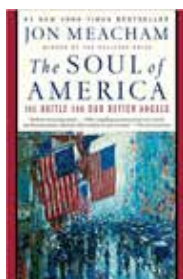
Grateful: The Transforming Power of Giving Thanks, by

Dianna Butler Bass. Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of gratitude--the virtue that heals us and helps us to thrive, even in the midst of personal and political challenges. Irene Wherritt, in the Fireside Room.



The Soul of America: The Battle for our

Better Angels, by Jon Meacham. Our current climate of partisan fury is not new. Meacham shows us how Lincoln's "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. He looks at many conflicts since the Civil War, and finds that each of these dramatic hours in our national life end in hope over fear. Viki Johnson, in the N Adult Ed Room.



Experimental Spiritual Experiences

in the West [Forum/Choir] Room

1/13 **Welcome to the Spiritual Construction Zone!** The Visioning Team will share their ideas AND give you a chance to provide your insight, hopes and feedback. See the Staff Reflection for New Year's Day for more info.

1/20 **Scratching Your Spiritual Itch.** Where does your spirit itch? What can we do for one another to scratch that itch? Or at least get some calamine lotion for it?

1/27 **Itchy Improv!** OK, maybe we know what some of our spiritual itches are. Now explore them from the inside out... with our first try at spiritual improv! Fire up your best "Ham," release your inner "Second City" wannabe, and let's have fun! Led by Bill Tucker, who not only likes to do improv, but has training in helping the rest of us do it.

During the Week: **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. Sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. This is a group for questions and sharing, using prayer and reflection practices along with ritual and story.

MINISTRY TEAMS

YUCCA (20s and 30s fellowship group): We'll be kicking off 2019 with our first ever Epiphany brunch on Sunday, **1/6** at 12:30 p.m. at Adam and Nic Redavid's home (6487 Cranesbill St., Wellington 80549). Please RSVP to Adam at ajredavid@gmail.com. We'll also be planning our events for 2019, so bring your calendars and ideas!

First Name Club 1/10 at noon. After a delicious lunch, join Plymouth member Bob Hoel for an informative session about the status of the Plymouth endowment! Sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or get in touch with Barb in the office no later than Tues., 1/8. Suggested donation: \$5/person.

Hops for Hope is meeting at 6 p.m. on **1/10** at the Red Truck Beer Company Truck Stop. We will discuss New Year's Resolutions. All are welcome! View the menu ahead of time at redtruckbeer.com/fort-collins-truck-stop

The **Get-A-Grip** (GAG) social group will meet at 6:00 p.m., Saturday **1/12** for a potluck at the Shepperd's house (1401 Patterson Place, Fort Collins). RSVP: kokysue@yahoo.com or call 970-223-8229.

Can you whistle a happy tune? Pull a quarter out of someone's ear? Turn a somersault? Limbo low? The 2nd annual **Plymouth Has Talent** invites entertainers of all ages and abilities to light up the night on Fri. **1/25** at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dessert to share. Performers, sign up on the bulletin board. You'll never have a better audience!

Fellowship of the Grape will meet at the home of Art and Carol Rooze, 2059 Stoney Hill Court, Ft. Collins, 80525 at 6 p.m. on **1/25**. Please bring a bottle of your favorite wine and an appetizer to share. (21 years old or more.)

Ram Fellowship @ Plymouth (college students) - Happy New Year and welcome back for the spring semester. Join us on Friday **2/1** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room for a pizza and movie night. All are welcome! Pizza and beverages are provided by Congregational Life. RSVP to Nic (nredavid@gmail.com).

The **Celtic Spirituality** class meets Tuesdays in the Conference Room from 9:00-10:15 a.m. We are studying the new book by Ian Bradley, *Following the Celtic Way*. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Les Fraley, 970.221.1624, lest@friei.com.

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.

The **Interfaith Council's** program in December included a panel of young adults (CSU students) speaking to their spiritual and religious journeys. They were very thoughtful and open while being generous in showing appreciation for what the others were saying. They are considered the most religiously diverse generation in US history--a gift, not an obstacle. Our community is better because of them. - Hermina Lapoint

Sebring, Florida, was hit by Hurricane Irma last year, causing widespread destruction. We have an opportunity to rebuild lives by partnering with Habitat for Humanity's disaster relief program. On **4/28**, volunteers from Plymouth will travel to FL for a week of building. Anyone who is interested or has questions should contact Lynn Wartgow, **Habitat Ministry Team**, mayziepics@gmail.com.

King Soopers gift cards sold Sundays by Linda Dute or Joyce Devaney. Reload using cash or credit -- 5% goes to Plymouth. **Neighbor 2 Neighbor** gives these cards to clients working through challenging housing issues. A win/win situation -- costs you nothing over what you would spend on groceries already.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

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.

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Formation for Children and Youth programs will start back up Sunday, **1/13**. Check out the Plymouth website for more information.

Teachers and Mentors, we are having a training dinner and ministry celebration on **1/31** at 6:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect and get equipped for the second semester. Interested in joining the team? Come to dinner to learn more! - *Grace & Peace, Mandy*

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Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



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Non-profit organization
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