



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

March 2019

WORSHIP FOR MARCH

As you know, Plymouth is launching an experiment with **Dinner Church** on Sunday, March 3, at 6:00 p.m. Our deacons and Dinner Church Ministry Team are launching this experiment on the first Sunday of each month with assistance from a grant from the Lilly Endowment. It's a great opportunity to **invite a friend** who might need the gift of Plymouth! RSVP at tinyurl.com/plymouthdinnerchurch, by returning the postcard mailed last week, or by calling the office.

Are you ready for Lent? While some churches see it as a penitential season, which is the traditional view, at Plymouth, we observe Lent as a time of reflection and commitment. Perhaps you will want to start with the art and spirituality retreat for all ages, *Going Deeper: Putting Down Soul Roots* on March 8-9. Maybe you'll begin a practice of daily prayer. Maybe you will pick up a copy of the UCC Lenten Devotional our deacons have ordered.

Worship times (unless otherwise noted) are
9:00 communion service
11:00 choral service (communion on first Sunday)
6:00 eclectic service with communion

March 3

Luke 9.28-36
Transfiguration and Mountaintop Experiences
Join us for our first Dinner Church at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Requested donation is \$5/person with a \$15 maximum per family.

Ash Wednesday, March 6

6:15 Simple Soup Supper provided by our deacons
7:00 Worship in the sanctuary
Join us for this meaningful service, appropriate for all ages!

March 10

First Sunday in Lent (and Daylight Savings Time begins)
Luke 4.1-13
Guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Linda Privatera preaching at all services

March 17

The Feast of St. Patrick
Psalm 27
Celtic Christianity 101
(After our 6:00 p.m. service, join us for a celebratory pint of your favorite beverage at McClellan's Brewery, 1035 S. Taft Hill Road in the King Soopers Shopping Center)

March 24

Psalm 63.1-8
"My Soul Thirsts for You"

PLYMOUTH'S THEME FOR 2019:

GO DEEPER

Our mission statement at Plymouth is deceptively simple and includes worshipping God and making God's realm or kingdom visible in our lives, both individually and collectively, and we do this by inviting people into our community, engaging in spiritual transformation, and sending those who have been invited and transformed into God's wider world.

Many of us at Plymouth are committed to doing the work of the kingdom through serving, mission, education, community action, and engagement. Sometimes we need to take a step back and work on our own sense of spiritual transformation so that we have the emotional and spiritual wherewithal to keep going and not become dried out, burnt out, or used up. We need to find ways to use our roots to bring life-giving water and nutrients to the rest of the tree.

We, all of us, are here at Plymouth to have an engaged connection with God and one another, and it takes time to keep rebuilding our sense of being in relationship with God and to continue to develop our faith. Traditionally, this has been the task of discipleship and learning. But it's not simply intellectual apprehension; rather it involves opening one's heart as well as one's mind. For many folks at Plymouth, open minds are not a challenge, but open hearts are more of a work in progress...I know, because it's true for me, too!

When our Leadership Council approved our theme this year, it challenged us to be intentional about **going deeper** and finding the life-giving wellsprings of our faith. It will take a commitment on the part of each member to engage individually, and it will require all of our boards, ministry teams, and committees working together to realize a change or transformation in our life of faith.

What does **going deeper** look like? It could look like a new spiritual practice for you and your family, or spending the first 15 minutes of your board meeting doing Bible study, or spending time journaling about how you want to become a closer follower of Christ. Perhaps it means starting a prayer practice with your family before dinner each night, or signing up one of our spirituality small-groups. It might mean that any number of things that our lay leaders, pastors, and staff invite you into during the year.

Here is a **great opportunity** coming right up: On **March 8-9**, the Rev. Linda Privatera, an Episcopal priest and artist, will be leading us in a fun, all-ages art and spirituality retreat at Plymouth on Friday evening and Saturday called **"Going Deeper: Putting Down Soul Roots."** Go

to plymouthucc.org/artweekend.html for more info and to enroll. It's a great way to go deeper as we begin the reflective season of Lent on March 6.

One way our Outreach and Mission Board is **going deeper** is by reading *The Greatest Prayer*, an exploration by Dom Crossan, and spending time at the outset of each meeting discussing it. What a great way to **go deeper** into the grounding of our faith, and use it to empower our mission!

Being a follower of Jesus isn't easy. And it isn't meant to be "comfortable" all the time; being a disciple who **goes deeper** can be a challenge. And it also can result in how we experience the world, what gives us a sense of joy, and a sense of inner knowing that we are part of God's realm.

Yours on the journey,

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

Calendar Highlights

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

March 3

6:00 p.m. Dinner Church Launches!
Everyone welcome! Invite a friend who needs the gift of Plymouth!

March 6

Ash Wednesday
6:15 p.m. Simple Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary

March 8-9

All-Ages Art & Spirituality Retreat
Going Deeper: Putting Down Soul Roots
Friday 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:30-3:00
Sign up online at plymouthucc.org/artweekend.html

March 10 Daylight Savings Time begins -- Spring Forward!

March 12

6:30 p.m. All-Board & Council Training

March 15

Potluck Supper and Bingo 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

The newly-configured Leadership Council held its first meeting on Feb 11. Members for 2019 are: Hal Chorpenning, Stephanie Cotton, Greg Ebel, Ken Freese, Elaine Kim, Jim Medlock, David Petersen, Diane Stober, Marilu Theodore, and Harmony Tucker.

We reflected on what it means to meet during the course of the church's liturgical year and, in specific, the significance of meeting after the 5th Sunday of Epiphany and during Ordinary Time. During the meeting, we received the senior minister's staff report and treasurer's report, approved housing allowances for ordained clergy, made liaison assignments for boards and committees, affirmed goals for Plymouth during 2019 as well as the senior minister's goals for 2019, and learned about newly appointed Adaptive Challenge Task Force. In addition, the Council is aware that, at the moment, two of the Church's boards need more members in

order to do their work. (See the request from the Deacons, in the right column.) The assistant treasurer position also remains open. Finally, Leadership Council discussed the significance of the Church's theme for 2019, "Go Deeper," and its implications.

All board and council members are encouraged to participate in the training event led by Michelle Betsill and Bruce Ronda, on the evening of March 12.

- David Petersen, Moderator

Income

Income for Jan. 2019: \$146,211 (includes 2018 income which came in late)

Budgeted Income for Jan. 2019: \$77,027

Income 2019 YTD: \$146,211

Budgeted Income 2019 YTD: \$77,027

Expenses

Expenses for Jan. 2019: \$67,833

Budgeted Expenses for Jan. 2019: \$72,842

Expenses 2019 YTD: \$67,833

Budgeted Expenses 2019 YTD: \$72,842

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday 10 a.m. Study Groups
(Books on the Adult Ed table and at the classes.) **3/10 – 4/14 (Lent, 6 weeks)**

Yeshua: People Who Knew Jesus. Explore imaginative stories about real people who knew Jesus during his own lifetime. Led by Art Rooze, N. Adult Ed Rm.

Church and Society: Partners or Adversaries? What will "church" look like in the future? UCC National Staff member, David Schoen, will share emerging models. Boards and MT members are encouraged to participate, to think in new ways about Plymouth's ministries. Led by Alan McLarty, Fireside Rm.

Sunday 10 a.m. Forums
3/3: Civil Rights Work in The 1960s and its effects on children. The Rev. Curt Minter will reflect on his work in the 1960's civil rights movement, raising his children in the midst of the struggle, and the lifelong effects that it has had on his own children.

3/10: Installation of Congregational Art Project. Join in for the installation of the congregational art project with this week's guest minister.

3/17 & 24: Candidate Forums: Fort Collins City Council. Our traditional moderated format; come prepared to write questions to be posed to

the candidates. We hope to have about half of the hopefuls each week.

3/31: Eco-Theology Foundations. Kick off our three-week series on Faith and Environmentalism with a discussion of the Theological foundation of Eco-Theology.

Other Opportunities

Bible Basics Slots Open! Join Hal Chorpenning and other Plymouth members and friends in an introductory exploration of the Bible (for beginners, not for folks who can already find their way around the Old and New Testaments). Fireside Rm, **Mon 4-5:15 p.m.** We're still exploring the narratives in Genesis, so join us! Info: email Hal.

"Going Deeper; Putting Down Soul Roots" **Fri. 3/8**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, **Sat. 3/9**, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. An intergenerational weekend of art, fellowship and faith exploration with Linda Privatera, artist and Episcopal priest. Help create an all church art installation for Lent! Full information/register at plymouthucc.org/artweekend.html.

Learn effective methods for addressing our country's deep political polarization by attending **Better Angels** workshops. *Skills Workshop*, **Thur., 4/25**, 6- 9pm. *Red/Blue Workshop*, **Sat., 4/27**, all day. Learn more about this group at www.better-angels.org.

MINISTRIES

Hops for Hope is our brewery-hopping monthly discussion and fellowship group of Congregational Life! All welcome (beer drinkers or not). We will be finishing the year by visiting three lesser-known breweries and theological topics. Join us at 6 p.m. in this exciting Brewery and Theology adventure. Contact: The Rev. Jake Joseph. **3/7** Snowbank, 4/11 High Hops (Windsor), and 5/9 Old Colorado Brewing.

YUCCA (20s and 30s fellowship group): We'll be gathering at Ashley and Aaron McGrew's home (202 E. Elizabeth St., Fort Collins 80524) for dinner on Friday **3/8** at 7:00 p.m. To RSVP, text or leave Ashley a message at 303-941-8440. Bring a side or drink to share if you wish. Hope to see everyone there!

Comfort Food & Bingo. Congregational Life invites you to a soul satisfying evening of fine companionship, delicious food and enthusiastic bingo on Fri., **3/15** at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The theme of the meal is comfort food and last year featured some amazing mashed potatoes. CL provides dessert. Bring a main or side dish, and consider re-purposing your "clutter" as bingo prizes.

Get-A-Grip Fellowship Sat., **3/16**, 6 p.m., Hoefler's Haus, 603 Atwood Ct., Ridgewood Hills. S. of Trilby bet. College & Shields. Theme is Irish, Scottish, or whatever. Meat dish (maybe corned beef?) provided. Bring a dish to share. RSVP pjhoefler@aol.com or 970-377-1950. We started as "Parents of Adolescents." Most in the group are now "empty nesters" full of stories to share. Everyone welcome.

Can you imagine how much we at Plymouth can do as we reach out to others to reflect God's love? The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is our chance to do that, becoming part of God's abundant blessings to folks in need, worldwide. Please prayerfully consider joining this UCC-wide effort and give generously on Sun., **3/24**, or any time online, via text (keyword OGH), or by check (OGH on memo line).

The **Celtic Spirituality** class meets **Tuesdays** in the Conference Room from 9-10:15 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@frii.com.

Faith Family Hospitality ("Family Housing Network of Fort Collins") hosting weeks for 2019: Apr. 28-May 5, Aug. 11-18, Nov. 10-17.

New Members! Ten people joined Plymouth this winter. Their bios can be read at plymouthucc.org under menu item **Members** → Member Resources.

Need to get on the church calendar? There's a form for that! Go to the church website (plymouthucc.org) and select **News & Events**. Right above the calendar is a button: *Request to Add an Event to the Church Calendar*. Voilà!

Deacon's Bench The Lenten season begins on **Ash Wed., 3/6** and the deacons invite you to enjoy a **simple bread and soup supper** with your family at **6 p.m.** A **worship service at 7 p.m.** will follow. This is a meaningful way to mark the start of your Lenten journey and we hope you will join us. Want to help by making a pot of soup? Please email Karen Guter at kdguter@gmail.com.

The Deacons are looking for one member to join us for a two-year term, starting now. Deacons serve our church family through our facilitating the three Sunday worship services. The minimal commitment involves 2-3 Sundays per month, plus a monthly meeting. Please contact Al Sanders at 970-214-8137 or alsanders49@gmail.com if you have interest in this rewarding activity.

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Looking for something fun and meaningful to do this summer? Check out the Rocky Mountain Conference Summer Camps at La Foret! There is everything from *Grandparent and Me Camp* for ages 5-11, camps for children in elementary, and for teenagers! Adults, if you're looking for a quiet retreat, check out the Contemplative Camp. Register at rmcucc.org/home/camps-events/

This year the youth will be hosting a **Bake Sale on 4/7** to raise support for their trip to Rosebud Episcopal Missions and Scholarships for Camps and Retreats at La Foret. Your support will help our youth put their faith into action and help provide transformative faith experiences. *We will NOT have a book sale this year, so save your books for 2020!*

Have questions about Christian Formation? Look for concierges in the **blue aprons** after first service on Sundays! - *Grace & Peace, Mandy*

Plymouth Congregational UCC
916 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



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Non-profit organization
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