



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

April 2019

WORSHIP FOR APRIL

We had a great kick-off for Dinner Church last month, with more than 80 guests joining us for worship and dinner! You can give it a try at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. It's a great opportunity to invite a friend who might need the gift of Plymouth! Lent wraps up at the beginning of April, and Holy Week is on the horizon!

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

April 7

John 12.1-8
The Rev. Bobbi Hargleroad preaching at 9:00 & 11:00
Join us for Dinner Church at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Requested donation is \$5/person with a \$15 maximum per family
Visit plymouthucc.org/dinnerchurch for full information and to RSVP

April 14 – Palm Sunday

Luke 19.28-40

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

6:15 Simple soup supper
7:00 Service of Tenebrae

April 19 – Good Friday Drop-in service

Noon – 1:00 in the Sanctuary
If you'd like a place to meditate, drop by Plymouth at lunchtime.
There will be scripture and other reading for you during this silent hour of contemplation.

April 21 – Easter Sunday

Luke 19.28-40
Choir and brass in the morning
Easter egg hunt and cinnamon rolls at 10:00

April 28

Worship from the Taizé Community
John 20.19-31

Calendar Highlights

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

Sunday, March 31, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Professor Miguel de la Torre, Iliff School of Theology
Sponsored by the Immigration Ministry Team

Saturday, April 6, 4:00 p.m.

Plymouth Ram Fellowship Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, April 7, 10:00 and noon

Youth Bake Sale

Sunday, April 7, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner Church
(plymouthucc.org/dinnerchurch)

Maundy Thursday, April 18

6:15 Simple Soup Supper
7:00 Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday, April 21

Services at 9:00, 11:00, and 6:00

Easter Monday, April 22

Office Closed

Saturday, April 27, 9:00-4:00

Better Angels Workshop

Saturday, April 29

Habitat Work Trip in Florida begins



FROM HAL'S DESK: BIBLICAL LITERACY AND THE PROGRESSIVE CHURCH

I had a rather unsettling conversation with a member of our staff last week, who reported that in response to a question about Bible-reading, she heard, "Why? Does the Bible really matter?"

That made me think a bit about how we at Plymouth regard our sacred texts, which we hold in common with other members of the Christian household. While we do not take parts of the Bible **literally**, we must take them **seriously**, because they have shaped our faith for thousands of years...they are the stories of **our** faith, and if we do not know them, we are depriving ourselves of one of the deepest roots of **our** tradition, one which can nourish and inform **our** faith.

The Bible contains narratives of family conflict, moral dilemma, history, as well as poetry, fantasy, parable, and farce. It's a source of prophetic challenge and alternative wisdom that can drive activism and provide solace.

And still, I wonder how many of us spend any time during the week using the Bible as devotional literature, as a source of wisdom, as a way to reflect on who Jesus was and who the risen Christ is. How is the Bible used in your home?

One of the foundations of our faith in the UCC is biblical literacy. It's the reason that public education was an early priority in Boston: the Puritans knew that literacy was essential for biblical understanding. And the desire for educated clergy led them to found Harvard to train clergy in 1636 and Yale in 1701. But it doesn't stop in New England...it's in Plymouth's own constitution:

This church recognizes the Holy Bible as the sufficient rule of faith and practice

and holds that living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ is the true test of Christian character. Members shall have the undisturbed right to follow the Word of God according to the dictates of their own conscience, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (Article IV, section A)

Does the Bible really matter? Only if you want to take your faith seriously. Perhaps you've tried to read the Bible and didn't know where to start, or you feel as though you need to get a handle on the

basics, or you grew up in a tradition that interpreted the Bible differently than we do at Plymouth. (That's why I've been teaching Bible Basics this year on a Monday afternoons, and if you want to see the lectionary readings for each week, go to lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu) If you want a good primer, see Harvey Cox's *How to Read the Bible* (HarperCollins, 2015).

If you are finding roadblocks in approaching the collection of books we know as the Bible, will you let me know? I'd love to help break the log-jam and help out! Maybe it's time for another Bible class...please let me or Mark Lee know if that would be helpful.

The Bible is a rich resource for our faith, a dialogue partner of our experience of living, and the stories of encounters with God in societies across time and geography. And if you want **Holy Week** to be even more meaningful, read along in Mark's gospel, chapters 14, 15, and 16. It's a great story, and it can be our story if we take it seriously.

Shalom!

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.), 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

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 Miles Joseph, 970-412-6114 for emergencies • Jane Anne Ferguson, 303-257-4933 for emergencies

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

Prior to its March meeting, the Leadership Council reviewed and approved the position description for a Business Manager. As a result, a search is currently underway.

At its March meeting, members continued to reflect about Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to count our days rightly, so that we may obtain a wise heart" (JPS) and to think about the significance of meeting during the liturgical season of Lent, with particular focus on the concept of discernment. Hal presented his senior minister's staff report. The Council approved May 5 as the date for Plymouth's next congregational meeting. The Council received and approved in principle a recommendation from the Trustees that Plymouth consider leasing additional parking spaces to Katerra Construction. The Council reviewed and approved a "Safe Church Policy, which has been created by the Personnel Committee. (During its work, the Committee had consulted

with Tracey Dawson, a UCC Pastor and former judge and attorney about best practices for a Safe Church Policy.) The Council also discussed various categories of church size, e.g., "multi-celled church," "professional church," as those had been used in Plymouth's most recent strategic planning process and affirmed that the category of "multi-celled church" provided a useful concept to think about Plymouth's strategic challenges, e.g., the development of lay leadership.

- David Petersen, Moderator

Income

Income for Feb. 2019: \$62,958
Budgeted Income for Feb. 2019: \$70,848
Income 2019 YTD: \$209,170
Budgeted Income 2019 YTD: \$162,311

Expenses

February Expenses for 2019: \$68,297
Budgeted Expenses for February 2019: \$72,842
Expenses 2019 YTD: \$136,131
Budgeted Expenses 2019 YTD: \$145,684

What is Planned Giving? A way to support Plymouth in the future through wills and other financial arrangements you make today. These are charitable contributions which you designate now, but are not fully received by Plymouth until a later date. Learn more by visiting our "micro-site," at plymouthucc.org. Click Give, FAQs and, finally, How do I learn about Planned Giving?

Plan on a brief **congregational meeting** on **5/5**, after the 11 a.m. service.

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Youth are hosting a **Bake Sale** on the morning of **4/7**. All proceeds will go towards sending children and youth to attend UCC camps and retreats at La Foret and towards the summer youth mission trip. This year current 8th-12th graders will be returning to Rosebud Episcopal Mission to serve the Lakota people on the Rosebud Reservation. So enjoy some tasty treats, and support the youth! - *Grace & Peace, Mandy*

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday 10 a.m. Groups:

Yeshua: People Who Knew Jesus during his own lifetime. Led by Art Rooze, N. Adult Ed Rm. to 4/14.

Church and Society: Partners or Adversaries? What will "church" look like in the future? Boards and MT members encouraged to participate. Led by Alan McLarty, Fireside Rm. to 4/14.

Sunday 10 a.m. Faith and Environmentalism Series: 3/31 Eco-Theology Foundations. 4/7 Env. Policy (Michelle Betsill). 4/14 Eco Friendly Projects (Nina Burkhart and Bob Sturtevant). See website for more.

Bible Basics Fireside Rm, **Mon. 4-5:15 p.m.** See website.

Experimental Theology. Tues. 7-9 p.m., . See plymouthucc.org/theology for full info.

Better Angels. *Skills for Conversations Across the Political Divide*, Thur., **4/25**, 6- 9 p.m. *Red/Blue Workshop*, Sat., **4/27**, all day. Visit the website for details and to register; space is limited!

Celtic Spirituality (two groups). See website.

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CHRISTIAN FORMATION INFORMATION IS ON THE WEB

Go to plymouthucc.org and select the *Living Our Faith* menu item.

You'll find an overview, as well as pages for Children, Youth, and Adults.

MINISTRIES

Plymouth **Spring Clean-up** day is Sat., **4/6** (backup date 4/13). Work starts at 9 a.m. and will end around noon; bagels and coffee available at 8. Bring the whole family, gloves, rakes, and other yard tools to help beautify the Plymouth grounds. Questions? Tom Dille (970.207.1977), Bob Kingbury (970.405.4110).

Ram Fellowship Labyrinth Walk – **4/6** @ 4 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Plymouth's own Pat Slentz will share video on the history and ways to walk the labyrinth, and then we'll get to have our own experience with Plymouth's indoor labyrinth. RSVP to Nic at nredavid@gmail.com or on Facebook! For all university and college students! Stay tuned for details on our 5/4 Old Town dinner!

Hops for Hope is our brewery-hopping monthly discussion and fellowship group of Congregational Life! All welcome (beer drinkers or not). Contact: The Rev. Jake Joseph. **4/11** 6 p.m. at High Hops in Windsor.

Memorial Service for **Ruth Minter, 4/13** at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

XYZ Dinner and Trivia Night - 4/27 join us out to dinner – at Hunan's restaurant on Harmony – and presidential trivia. Questions: Kathee Houser 928 600 4610 or Zoel Martinson 970 568 9876

YUCCA (20s and 30s fellowship group): Come celebrate Greek Easter with us! Eleni and Kyle Thayer will be hosting this event again at their house, 1551 Edenbridge Dr., Windsor 80550, on Sun. **4/28** at 1:00 p.m. They'll have plenty of food, so just bring yourselves! Kids welcome. RSVP: Eleni 573-694-8633, or Kyle kyle.lj.thayer@gmail.com or 573-777-2696.

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

On **4/28, 5/5 and 5/12**, World Missions will sell cards to support students at the **Rawdat El Zuhur School** in East Jerusalem. See *The Overview* for details.

In July, four hearty souls flew to Paraguay to build a **Habitat** house. On **4/28** a team of nine will build in Sebring, FL, after the devastation of hurricane Irma: Rev. Jake, Bob & Nancy Sturtevant, Vanessa Reed, Anne Wuerslin, Bruce Lieurance, Belinda Strickland and Jeff & Lynn Wartgow have their hammers ready.

Need to get on the church calendar? Go to the church website (plymouthucc.org) and select **News & Events**. At the top of the page is a button: *Request to Add an Event to the Church Calendar. Voilà!*

If you have been supporting our Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI) through **King Soopers Gift Cards**, the logistics have changed. Please go to plymouthucc.org/grocery to continue supporting this worthy program.

The March mtg. of the **Interfaith Council** was held at the Murphy Center for Hope. We learned of the 20 independent agencies that operate under one roof, from bike repair, bus passes, clothing, eye glasses, housing assistance to lockers and laundry. The IFC is a supporter of the Murphy Center, helping to make homelessness rare, short-lived, non-reoccurring. - Hermi Lapoint

Since the March mtg. was canceled due to blizzard, please leave **Neighbor to Neighbor** donations at the grocery card table on Sundays.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is our chance to give to folks in need, worldwide, after disasters. If you missed the collection on 3/24, you may still give **throughout April** online, via text (keyword OGH), or by check (OGH on memo line). See onegreathourofsharing.org.

EASTER OPPORTUNITIES

Help beautify the sanctuary for Easter (4/21) by ordering spring **flowers**. Plants are \$10 each (no lilies because of allergies). Order forms in Sunday bulletins. **Deadline to order 4/15.**

Please plan to celebrate the joy of Easter immediately after the 9 a.m. service on 4/21 in the Fellowship Hall where, as is Plymouth tradition, **cinnamon rolls** will be the headliner. If you are able to assist Saturday and/or Sunday, under the stellar direction of Keith Schulz, please contact him, keithschulz79@gmail.com.

Join us for a Plymouth **photo booth** this Easter, so that everyone can add a photo to their online directory profile. We will also take family photos and provide an online location for you to download photos. Let Sarah Parmenter know (sparmenter77@yahoo.com) if you can help host the booth or take pictures!

Non-profit organization
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Permit No. 109

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916 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



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