



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

May 2019

WORSHIP FOR May

Though it's hard to believe, we are finishing up another program year at Plymouth, and our summer schedule begins at the end of the month. We begin a cycle of readings in worship from the Acts of the Apostles, an account of what life was like for the first disciples of Christ in the years after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. There are some wild stories!

Dinner Church is thriving with great attendance, including some new undergraduates! Please join us on May 5, Cinco de Mayo, for burritos and vegetarian lentil casserole. RSVPs are appreciated at our website plymouthucc.org/dinnerchurch.html. Bring a friend! It's a great way to introduce someone who needs the gift of Plymouth!

Worship times through May 19:

9:00 communion service

11:00 choral service (communion on first Sunday)

6:00 eclectic service with communion

Summer worship times begin on May 26 at 10:00 and 6:00.

May 5

Acts 9.1-20

Transforming Paul, transforming us

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. RSVPs help us plan: plymouthucc.org/dinnerchurch.html

May 12

Acts 9.36-43

An abundance of grace

May 19

Acts 11.1-18

It's not just about the food!

Choir's last Sunday until August

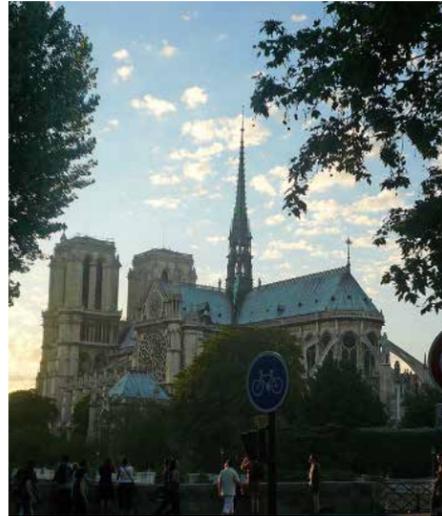
May 26 – Summer Schedule Begins! 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Acts 16.9-15

Women in the early church

FROM HAL'S DESK: RISING FROM THE ASHES

Many cultures, including our own, have a mythos about death and rebirth. For Buddhists, it is reincarnation into the next life; for the ancient Greeks, it is the story of the phoenix rising from the ashes; and for us, it is the notion of eternal life. The trouble is that many of us want to get to new life without enduring the throes of death. More often than not, death is a prerequisite for new life.



I'm writing during Holy Week, and the dominant visual image in my mind is the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, much of which burned earlier this week. President Emmanuel Macron has promised that the great edifice will be rebuilt within five years, and money is flowing in from the wealthy in France.

The fire at Notre Dame, apparently accidental, feels manifestly different from the arson of black churches in Louisiana (which are being treated as

a hate crime). In the instance of Notre Dame, it seems to me like an image of what the church universal always encounters: a period of retrenchment, one of downfall, and then one of rebirth. The Catholicism of France has been moribund for decades, and who knows what will be stimulated by the reconstruction of Notre Dame?

The church in our nation, too, is coming to a crossroads. The main-line church has been in decline for the entire span of my lifetime, and though you wouldn't know it from Plymouth's experience, that regression has accelerated dramatically in recent years. Fundamentalist Christianity and conservative Evangelicalism are also in decline, and the Roman Catholic tradition in this country is being shaken to its foundations by the continuing revelation of clergy sex scandals.

I wonder if American Christianity needs to experience a sense of death in order to come into new life. That may be what is already happening nationally, even if we ourselves are not experiencing this in Fort Collins.

In whatever way the future unfolds, a central theme in our faith underscores that Good Friday must precede Easter morning: that death precedes new life. And I trust that even the church is in God's hands.

Grace and peace,

Calendar Highlights

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

Saturday, April 28 – Sunday, May 7

Faith Family Hospitality Guests at Plymouth

Sunday, May 5 at 6:00

Dinner Church, Plymouth Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Chairs Meeting (conf. room)

Thursday, May 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Hops for Hope
Old Colorado Brewery, Wellington

Saturday, May 18, 8:00 a.m.

YUCCA Horsetooth Rock Hike

Sunday, May 19

Teacher Appreciation and
Choir's Last Sunday until August

Friday, May 24, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship of the Grape (FOG), Bylanders' home

Sunday, May 26 10:00 & 6:00

Summer worship hours begin

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day, office closed



LOOKING AHEAD:

Pentecost Sunday

June 9 at 10:00

Single service

(no evening worship)

Outdoor worship in

Rolland Moore Park (accessible)

Welcome Our New Business Manager

For the first time, Plymouth has a staff member who will take care of the bulk of accounting duties, alleviating a big burden on our volunteer treasurers. **Yendra Ruiz Tencza** started April 15 (an auspicious day for accountants!) and comes to Plymouth with a great background. She has worked in HR and accounting for nonprofits, CPA firms, UNC, and Clergy Advantage, so she is familiar with church finance. She has a BA in biology, an MS in health and population statistics, as well as a degree in accounting.

She is married to K.J., who is a pastor at Christ Community Church in Greeley, and they have a son and daughter.



You can reach Yendra at 970-482-9212 or on email at yendra@plymouthucc.org.

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

Yendra Tencza, business manager (Mon., Tues., Thurs.), yendra@plymouthucc.org

Jenn and Johnny Wieda, sextons, sexton@plymouthucc.org

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

At its April meeting, Leadership Council continued to “dig deeper” by exploring the Gospel lectionary text for Palm Sunday. We also reviewed progress on the goals for the year and discussed the make-up and terms for committees of council. Jim Medlock led a training session designed to help members know how to analyze the various financial reports that Leadership Council receives. We received quarterly reports from members of the ministerial staff. Members expressed gratitude to the Personnel Committee and Anna Broskie regarding the new mode for receiving feedback about the three ministers. The Committee received more than two and a half times more responses than it had in the previous year, and is now in the process of conducting annual ministerial reviews. We approved a

bid to sealcoat the asphalt parking lot. LC is involved in negotiations to rent 29 spaces in the permeable parking lot to Kattera Construction.

A reminder: There will be a **congregational meeting after the 11:00 a.m. service on May 5** to vote on nominees presented by the Nominating Committee.

- David Petersen, Moderator

Income

March Income for 2019: \$115,427
Budgeted Income for March 2019: \$70,848
Income 2019 YTD: \$324,598
Budgeted Income 2019 YTD: \$212,545

Expenses

March Expenses for 2019: \$65,765
Budgeted Expenses for March 2019: \$72,842
Expenses 2019 YTD: \$201,897
Budgeted Expenses 2019 YTD: \$218,526

DEACON'S BENCH

Dinner Church: A New Tradition. When you arrive for Dinner Church, you will find your place setting complete with silverware, salad bowl, dinner plate, water... and, on top of it all, your bulletin. The service involves going deeper with a valuable table discussion based upon the scripture. Communion is served elegantly with each table sharing the elements among the group of eight. God is still speaking; please join us the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. - Respectfully Submitted, Anna Olsen

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Our last day of Sunday School is **5/12**. Be sure to participate in our last couple of classes, and come out to **celebrate the ministry of our teachers with ice cream on 5/19** at 10 a.m. All invited!

Thank you to all of the 35+ Leaders and Mentors who shared the Gospel with our children and youth this program year. You are a blessing to this church community and I am grateful to be partners in ministry with you. - *Grace & Peace, Mandy*

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday 10 a.m. Groups:

Quick View of Palestine & Israel:

Based on their recent pilgrimage, Anna and Gary Olsen and Mark Lee will share impressions of an immensely complicated, conflicted, beautiful, and spiritually compelling land. Through 5/12, Fireside Rm.

Fast Bible Study: The Book of

Jude. Using one of the shortest, and usually overlooked, letters in the New Testament, Adam Redavid will help us explore a strange spiritual world. Through 5/5, N. Adult Ed Rm.

Sunday 10 a.m. Practice Makes

Perfect: Opportunities to dig deeper into spiritual practices as a way of connecting with self and God. Forum Rm.

5/5: **Walking With God:** The Labyrinth Ministry Team.

5/12 **Playful Poetry for Anyone:** Using the day's lectionary texts and the words of the day's hymns as starting points.

Non-Sunday Opportunities

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

Celtic Spirituality (two groups).

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

Faith Family Hospitality hosting weeks for 2019: **4/28-5/5**, 8/11-18, 11/10-17. Contact scotthous@gmail.com or 970-631-4037 to volunteer.

In late April, a Plymouth team flew to Sebring, FL, to work with **Habitat for Humanity**, rebuilding after hurricane Irma. **Look for updates on social media!**

Join people from around the world on Sat., **5/4**, 1-2pm for the “Walk as One at 1,” **World Labyrinth Day Interfaith Walk for Peace**. Learn about labyrinths, and experience the outdoor labyrinth or our indoor canvas labyrinth in community with others seeking peace. Music by the FC Threshold Singers. All ages.

Ram Fellowship (college/university students) will meet for our last event of spring 2019 on Sat., **5/4**, at 7:30 p.m. at Comet Chicken in Old Town Fort Collins. Join us for dinner, generously sponsored by Congregational Life. RSVP to Nic (nredavid@gmail.com) or just show up. ALL ARE WELCOME! Comet Chicken is a half-block from the MAX bus stop at Mountain Ave.

The **Fort Collins Interfaith Council** met at Plymouth in April and learned more about “A Little Help,” an organization which connects Seniors with volunteers who help with a variety of tasks. A Little Help is having a Service Saturday on **5/4**. Volunteers and seniors who would like help sign up at alittlehelp.org.

On **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 full details.

“Brewing Tradition (A Second Round).” Join the **First Name Club and Kitchen Angels** at noon on **5/9** for brats and burgers and a rescheduled program about the process of brewing from local home-brewer and Plymouth member, Tom Bylander (samples included)! Sign up on the bulletin board **by Tues. 5/7**.

Hops for Hope is our brewery-hopping monthly discussion and fellowship group of Congregational Life! All are welcome (beer drinkers or not). **5/9:** Old Colorado Brewing at 6 pm. Contact: The Rev. Jake Joseph

YUCCA (young adults fellowship): Our May event is at Envy Brewing (3027 E Harmony Rd., FC), Sat., **5/11**, at noon. RSVP to Jackie Wray at jacklynmwrap@gmail.com, but feel free to join even if you didn't RSVP. Hope to see you there!

Are you a recent visitor or a longtime attendee interested in learning more about or joining Plymouth? Join us for an all-in-one **New Members Class** on **5/18** from 9 to noon in the Fireside Room. Email Jake (questions) or Barb (RSVP).

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.

Have you ever been asked to help make coffee for worship or for an event? Have you then looked with awe and wonder at our Fellowship Hall Coffee makers... unsure what to do or where to look? The 2nd in our “Kathee Explains Everything Series” tackles this topic. Visit plymouthucc.org/kathee.

The Immigration Ministry Team gratefully acknowledges **your generous and compassionate outpouring of support** for the ISAAC Fund for Detainee Communication. You gave over \$1000 for calling cards, which will enable immigrants in detention in Aurora to contact legal counsel and loved ones in N. CO!

Need to get on the church calendar? Go to plymouthucc.org and select **News & Events**. Click the button: *Request to Add an Event to the Church Calendar*.

The **Greeting Card Project** for the Denver Women's Correctional Facility is ongoing. If you are doing spring cleaning & find any unused & unwanted cards bring them to church. The wire basket for cards is in Fellowship Hall near the kitchen/water fountain. ?s Mary Kay or Ron Graver: 970-631-9666. Thanks!

Why is Planned Giving important? We all know that annual pledging is important, as it helps Plymouth maintain a wide variety of activities crucial to the functioning of our progressive Christian community. Planned Giving is critical because it helps us extend these programs into the future. Learn more by visiting plymouthucc.org and clicking “How Do I Learn About Planned Giving?”

Your income taxes render unto Caesar. **If you received a tax refund**, please consider giving it as a special offering to Plymouth. And also consider that the higher standardized deductions actually encourage you to give more. You won't be receiving a thank you note from the IRS or the Colorado Dept of Revenue, but Plymouth thanks you for your time, talents, money, and dedication. -Bill Thompson, Stewardship Board co-chair

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Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

