



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

September 2019

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

Dinner Church is joining forces with **Taste of Plymouth** on **Sunday, September 1 at 6:00!** (Arrive at **5:45** with food.) Join us for the amazing potluck (dessert provided by Congregational Life... just bring a dish to share) and worship. And join us for a Service of **Ordination for Laura Nelson** on Sunday, **September 22** at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday worship times (unless otherwise noted) are

- 9:00** communion service
- 11:00** choral service (communion on first Sunday)
- 6:00** evening service with communion

Every Tuesday Noon Communion Service

September 1

Luke 14.1 & 7-14 – *Entertaining Angels*

5:45 - Bring potluck items for:

6:00 - **Dinner Church & Taste of Plymouth** Potluck!

September 8

Friends & Family Sunday!

Bring someone who needs the gift of Plymouth!

Psalm 139.1-6 & 13-18 – *You Have Searched Me and Known Me*

September 15

Luke 15.1-10 – *Lost Coins and Lost Sheep*

September 22

Luke 16.1-13 – *Serving One Master*

6:00 - Ordination of Laura Nelson!

Refreshments will be served following the service. Childcare available for 4 years old and under. RSVP for childcare to mandy@plymouthucc.org. Clergy invited to vest (colorful or celebratory).

September 29

Luke 16.19-31 – *Catching the Crumbs*



FROM HAL'S DESK: HOW ARE YOU GOING DEEPER?

Every time you enter our sanctuary and look forward, you see a visual reminder of our **Go Deeper** theme when you look at the roots of our cross (created during our art retreat weekend). Where else do you see evidence of Plymouth folks **Going Deeper** in their faith? Perhaps it's hosting our guests through Faith Family Hospitality Network, or working to enact our Immigrant-Welcoming stance, or building a Habitat Home, or fixing the dishwasher at Plymouth, or attending Dinner Church for the first time. And there are numerous ways that people have chosen to **Go Deeper** that are entirely unseen by anyone but themselves and God. Perhaps you've started a new spiritual practice, like centering prayer, or walking our labyrinth, or increasing your involvement at Plymouth.

Our Stewardship Board will be kicking off our annual campaign on October 6 using the theme, **Go Deeper... Give thanks for the gifts of faith, hope, life, community, treasure, love, Plymouth.** You may not think of giving as a spiritual practice, but I assure you that it is, whether it is a gift of time, money, concern, prayer, or action.

When you intentionally commit to a practice to try and become closer to God, it's a form of prayer. When you intentionally go out of your way to be friendly to a stranger, that can be prayer. When you pray for a friend or loved one, you are engaging an important spiritual discipline, and you are **Going Deeper**. Have you ever noticed that in our services, we either bring our financial gifts forward

during communion or we pass a tray and then sing them forward with a Doxology? And in every service when we give, we offer a Prayer of Dedication asking God to bless our giving.

Something similar happens in virtually every religious tradition: an offering or sacrifice is made as a central aspect of worship. Giving echoes the original generosity of our Creator. So, if you've never thought of giving as a spiritual discipline and a way to **Go Deeper**, think again.

And you, Plymouth folks, are **Going Deeper** in other ways you may not realize: Together, we are the largest givers in the Rocky Mountain Conference to **Our Church's Wider Mission... thanks!** We are more active in **housing justice work** than any church in Fort Collins... thanks! We are the first in the Conference to declare ourselves an **Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**, and we're enacting it... thanks! Our students who sleep out each year to raise funds and awareness for homelessness prevention have **raised more than \$100,000** over the years... **thanks!**

I am grateful to you and the other members and friends of our congregation who are making it possible for us to be an outpost of the kingdom of God. We couldn't do it without you, and we'll need everyone to participate as we **Go Deeper** in the coming year.

Gratitude and grace,

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
- 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

Calendar Highlights

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

September 1 - Dinner Church/Taste of Plymouth

September 2 - Office Closed for Labor Day

September 7 - CSU Game - Parking Lot closed

September 8 - Friends & Family Sunday; Christian Formation Classes start, 10:00 a.m. (HS Youth at 7:15 p.m.)

September 13-15 - All-Church Retreat at La Foret Conference Center; Black Forest, CO

September 20 - Ethiopian Dinner, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

September 21 - CSU Game - Parking Lot closed

September 22 - World Wisdoms Project: "Talking 'Spiritual' in Secular Settings"; Laura Nelson ordination, 6 pm



Getting *The Placard* but not *The Overview*?

Our weekly eNews showcases news and events in the near future. If you aren't receiving it (or the Tuesday *Staff Reflection*) and would like to, visit plymouthucc.org and scroll to the **bottom of any page** to subscribe.

Parking Lot Gates

Both gates are now closed to reduce through traffic in our parking lot. Use **key pad code 0916#** to open gates. The gate will stay open for 30 seconds, then close automatically while beeping. For exiting, automatic sensors open gate. Gates will be left open for Sunday services. Contact Keith Schulz (970-556-3282) if you have special parking needs during the week.

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
Jane Anne Ferguson, 303-257-4933 for emergencies

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

Leadership Council held a specially called meeting on 6/24 to address Jake Joseph's resignation and to form an Interim Associate Minister Search Committee. At the outset, members reflected on the Feast of Corpus Christi. At its stated meeting on 8/12, members considered the Feast of the Transfiguration. Among other actions, they approved 1) a proposal from the Outreach and Mission Board to have Plymouth serve as an operations center to help immigrants in northern Colorado in the event of "enhanced enforcement," 2) a motion from the "Interim Search Committee" that it be recast

as "Designated-Term Pastor Search Committee;" 3) a revised form of the "Financial Policies and Procedures," and 4) a new policy regarding contracts.

David Petersen, Moderator

Income

July Income for 2019: \$60,155
Budgeted Income for July 2019: \$70,848
Income 2019 YTD: \$571,888
Budgeted Income 2019 YTD: \$495,936

Expenses

July Expenses for 2019: \$80,276
Budgeted Expenses for July 2019 \$72,842
Expenses 2019 YTD: \$511,323
Budgeted Expenses 2019 YTD: \$509,897

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Classes return on 9/8! Check out the website for the most up to date information on the Children's and Youth Christian Formation ministries!

Parents, be sure to **register your child/youth by 9/8** to be entered in a **raffle** for a \$10 Starbucks gift card. You may register on the website any time at plymouthucc.org/kids or plymouthucc.org/youth.

The Youth Car Wash fundraiser is 9/22! Make a donation and drop your keys off on your way into church and drive away in a clean car! This event is put on by and benefits our youth ministry, to support scholarships to La Foret as well as the summer youth trip. Keys will be accepted until 11:15 a.m. - *Grace & Peace, Mandy*

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*.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Forums:

9/8 *Our Faith Tradition and Immigration*. Through UCC history and the Bible we'll explore how we live into being an "Immigrant Welcoming Congregation."

9/15 *Local Faces of Immigration*. Local immigrants and support services will share their stories and challenges.

9/22 *ISAAC*. Learn about the interfaith work in solidarity and accompaniment for human dignity and immigrant justice.

9/29 *The life and legacy of Marcus Borg*. Among the founders of The Jesus Seminar, New Testament professor Borg sought to make Christianity understandable and relevant to modern people. (Note the week-night study of one of his books starts **10/1**.) He was also a deeply spirited person whose friendship had a profound influence on today's speaker, the Rev. Hal Chorpenning.

Study Group **9/8-29: The Time Is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage**

Growing out of a lifetime of activism, Joan Chittister lays out a call to action to save the country and the spiritual foundations to sustain justice work. Facilitated by Irene Wherritt, Fireside Room.

Meditation and Prayer Space: This month, the North Adult Ed Room will be set up as a quiet space to pray, meditate, or simply be quiet together.

Study Group: Tues. evenings, 7-9 p.m., 10 weeks **starting 10/1**, Fireside Room. **The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering A Life of Faith**, by Marcus Borg. Borg provides a progressive vision for Christian faithing, while acknowledging the strengths of traditional views. Facilitated by Ken Freese.

The **Wholeness Prayer Group** returns **9/9** and continues the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Adult Ed room. Join us as we share our concerns, pray for each other, the church, our country and the world.

MINISTRIES

On Sunday, **9/1**, Dinner Church will be merged with the **Annual Taste of Plymouth**. Worship will follow Dinner Church format, and the meal will be a potluck. Congregational Life will bring dessert. Please gather in the Fellowship Hall at **5:45 p.m.** with a non-dessert dish to share and experience this fellowship-centered worship service. Bring along any hungry college students you come across!

Rehearsals for **Plymouth Ringers** start again on **9/4** at 5:45 p.m. Questions? Director of Music Mark Heiskanen, music@plymouthucc.org.

The **First Name Club** "Equal Exchange" **9/12** -- launch of 2019-20 Program! After a seasonal lunch, join for a special presentation by Terri Schulz about Equal Exchange. Products will be available for sale, so bring a method of payment. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or get in touch with Barb Gregory in the office **by 9/10**. Suggested donation of \$5 for lunch.

The annual **Ethiopian Dinner** to support the Lango Kindergarten will be held Friday, **9/20** at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$6 for children under 12. Please make your reservations during fellowship hour on Sunday 8/25, 9/1, 9/8 and 9/15, or by calling Bob Sturtevant at 970-430-8651 (**by 9/15**).



World Wisdoms Project is holding its first fall event at Plymouth on Sunday, **9/22** at 2 p.m. "Talking 'spiritual' in secular settings: chaplains in our time and place," features Maria Cox, Joseph Moore, and Atlas Tanudjaja, who offer insights, from their distinctive chaplaincy background and perspectives on what 2019 Joachim Viens lecturer Winnifred Sullivan calls "a ministry of presence."

El Otro Lado II. A 3-day experience **11/18-22** to learn and enlarge our understanding of border/immigration issues, in dialogue with a wide variety of people and communities. You may also elect to attend "the Ajo Opportunity" 11/22-24 to participate in a desert excursion and, hopefully, visit migrants in Sonoyta, MX. Participant information on flyer available in Fellowship Hall. Email: bordertripnov@gmail.com

Thank you so much to all the Plymouth members and friends who donated disposable diapers and wipes to benefit The Nappie Project during July. *We contributed 2302 diapers and 1840 wipes!* The area under the **Palm Giving Trees** was overflowing. Your generosity is much appreciated! Joyce and Sara

At the August meeting, the **Fort Collins Interfaith Council** learned about the Department of Language, Culture and Equity within Poudre School District. They work to provide an equal learning experience for all students and focus on immigrants, refugees, and the 1,000 PSD students experiencing homelessness.

Plymouth has prided itself as meeting the City's Climate Wise standards for energy conservation and recycling. We need to continue our efforts in recycling plastics, paper, and cardboard products in the **blue recycling containers**. Please don't contaminate those blue containers with non-recyclable trash.

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.

Faith Family Hospitality remaining hosting week for 2019: 11/10-17. Contact scotthous@gmail.com or 970-631-4037 to volunteer.

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*.

STEWARDSHIP

We warmly welcome you to the annual **Stewardship and Budget Forum** to discuss the 2020 Budget in the Forum Room at 10 a.m. on Sunday, **10/6**.

Please keep your pledges up to date. If you can't attend, you can make your contribution electronically! Contact yendra@plymouthucc.org

Planned Giving is a way to support Plymouth in the future through wills and other financial arrangements you make today. You designate a charitable contribution now, which is fully received by Plymouth later. Learn more at plymouthucc.org/give by clicking "How Do I Learn About Planned Giving?" Thanks!

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



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THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

Non-profit organization
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