



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

January 2020

WORSHIP FOR January

On January 5, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany when we hear of wise men from the East trekking across the desert to find a newborn king. It's an interesting story, because these astrologers or magi were gentiles, and were not supposed to understand that the messiah had been born. It's another example of a turn-about as the ones we expect to be ignorant are instead deemed wise.

Our services in the new year return to our typical time frame:

- 9:00** worship with communion
- 11:00** choral service with communion on the first Sunday
- 6:00** evening worship with communion (and Dinner Church on the first Sunday)

January 5
Feast of the Epiphany observed
Matthew 2.13-23

Join us for Epiphany Dinner Church at 6:00 p.m.!
Reservations appreciated at plymouthucc.org/dinnerchurch

January 12
Baptism of Christ
Matthew 3.13-17

January 19
Unity
1 Corinthians 1.10-18

January 26
Fishers of Folk
Matthew 4.12-23

Potluck Luncheon and Annual Congregational Meeting
Immediately following 11:00 service

Calendar Highlights

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

Please see Worship for Sunday details.

Jan. 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY; office closed.

Jan. 5 – Regular Worship Schedule returns: 9, 11 & 6

Jan. 12 – Christian Formation returns for all ages at 10 a.m. and High School Youth Group at 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 16 – Pathways of Wellness class begins, 7 p.m., Conf. Rm.

Jan. 21 – Sophia Circle begins, 7 pm, Forum Room

Jan. 24 – Plymouth's Got Talent, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Fellowship of the Grape (FOG) 6:00 p.m. at the Rooze's

Jan. 26 – Annual Congregational Mtg., 12:15 p.m. potluck and meeting in Fellowship Hall



FROM HAL'S DESK: THE ROAD AHEAD



relationship with God. Timothy Egan's new book, *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*, details his search for an authentic faith, and he makes the road by walking from Canterbury to Rome on the Via Francigena, a medieval

A few years back I led a year-long study of a book by Brian McLaren called, *We Make the Road by Walking*, a 52-week exploration of some of the main themes of Christian life. (I recommend it!) And the notion that we are on a journey or pilgrimage through life is one worth considering. We, each of us, make our way down the road of life not by intellectualizing or hoping or dreaming about it...we make progress by engaging the journey and moving.

The idea of such a pilgrimage is nothing new. In Genesis, we read of the journey of Abraham and his household: "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation.'" (12.1-2) Abram would never have become Abraham if he had played it safe and stayed close to home in Haran. Abram and Sarai made a life for a nation by walking.

On January 5, you will hear the story of another pilgrimage, that of the magi trekking across the desert to find the newborn king of the Jews. The story might have ended there if they had simply kept the home fires burning. And immediately after that story in Matthew's gospel, we read of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus and their flight as refugees into Egypt, which would not have worked if the Egyptians had built a wall.

Jews make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Muslims to Mecca, and Zen Buddhists to 88 temples on Shikoku in Japan. Christian pilgrimage in the medieval era was thought of as a penitential rite to purge one's soul of sin. And in recent years, pilgrimage has become a way of deepening one's

pilgrim road being rediscovered by many today. (Also highly recommended!) And though we've had to cancel the pilgrimage to Italy we had planned for next spring, that too is a journey meant to expand the horizons of faith.

And here at Plymouth, we are not just the inheritors of a faith tradition that is grounded in a transatlantic pilgrimage in 1620 – our church is named in its honor. Theirs was not a round-trip pilgrimage like many are today. Rather, like Abram's journey, theirs was a one-way trip. And though we decry the genocide of indigenous peoples of New England in subsequent generations, European-Americans are stuck with the triumphs and the tragedies of the history of the Pilgrims.

What would it have been like to be living in England as part of an outlawed sect, to see several of your leaders executed for heresy, to move to the Netherlands, and then cross the Atlantic? And what would it have been like for the Wampanoag people, to see English settlers and to trade with them and to sell them land? It isn't an uncomplicated history.

This year – the 400th anniversary of that pilgrimage – may be an opportune time for us to explore our Congregational legacy, warts and all. And it is, no doubt, a time for us to consider the ways that we as individuals and as a congregation will make a new road by walking into the future.

May our pilgrimage continue!
Shalom!

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
Carla Cain, 515-418-7444 for emergencies
Jane Anne Ferguson, 303-257-4933 for emergencies

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.

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
- Carla Cain, associate minister, carla@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

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

At their December meeting, members reflected on the meaning of Advent, focusing on the figure of Mary and the religious significance associated with her. Musical settings of the Magnificat (Luke 2:46-55), which are regularly heard in Advent, give voice to her now famous words, "My soul magnifies the Lord..."

Items on the agenda included a review and discussion of the treasurer's report, discussion of liaison reports, approval of the associate pastor's housing allowance, and continued work on nominations for Plymouth's committees. Several of the liaison reports highlight difficulty in recruiting members, whether

for work on boards or in the programs offered various boards. This is an issue that the upcoming strategic plan will need to address.

- David Petersen, Moderator

Income

November 2019 Income: \$47,538
Budgeted Income November 2019: \$70,848
Income 2019 YTD: \$820,537
Budgeted Income 2019 YTD: \$799,946

Expenses

November 2019 Expenses: \$67,115
Budgeted Expenses for November 2019: \$72,842
Expenses 2019 YTD: \$778,830
Budgeted Expenses 2019 YTD: \$801,263

DEACON'S BENCH

Volunteering as a Deacon is one of the best jobs at Plymouth! I am glad I said "Yes" when asked to serve two years ago and now I've said "Yes" to serving two more years! It is one of the easiest and most rewarding volunteer jobs I've had. It's a great way to get to know our congregation! You can wait to be asked - like I did - or you can volunteer. Please join us! - Nancy Sturtevant

STEWARDSHIP

Are you reading this in 2019 or 2020? Bulk mailings add another layer of uncertainty in our lives. Nevertheless, let's consider 2020 as the year of excellent vision. The optometrists are having a field day with their insider jokes. But the rest of us can use our excellent vision to look at today, the future, and the past. As you look at the past, have you fulfilled your pledge for 2019?

Plymouth's Legacy Society consists of friends who offer support through pledging, but who also donate a portion of their accumulated assets through a Planned Giving gift. There are presently more than 60 Legacy Society members, with more joining each year. Please contact Bob Hoel or another committee member for more information. Use plymouth@plymouthucc.org and put Planned Giving in the subject line.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday Forums 10 a.m.

Gender and Faith. Join us **1/12 - 2/2** for a time of prayer, study, and dialogue to deepen our understanding and welcome as an Open & Affirming congregation to discuss and learn about issues of gender identity. How do we move from ONA affirmation to ONA advocacy?

Sunday Classes 10 a.m. 1/12 - 2/23

The Enneagram and Relationships. It can help us realize who we are and what our greatest potentials might be, as well as make sense of the behavior of others. Led by Irene Wherritt. Conference Rm.

Understanding Israel and Palestine: Peace from the Pieces. Join Mark Lee and various guest speakers to understand the issues and ways we might help. Fireside Rm.

Evenings

Pathways of Wellness, 1/16 - 2/20 (skip 2/13). This class will explore different themes of holistic wellness, particularly focusing on different avenues to reduce symptoms of stress and explore the causes. Facilitated by Matt St. Germain, a student at Phillips Seminary. Conf. Rm.

Sophia Circle, 7-9 pm, 1/ 21 & 28 and 2/4 & 11. A 4-week exploration to develop an ongoing spiritual formation group for women. We will dive deep into women's spirituality issues and practices, and get to know one another. More information at plymouthucc.org/sophia You are made in God's image! Forum Rm.

Full details of all classes & forums on the 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 Social Club (Millennial + Gen X fellowship group): We'll be meeting after the 11:00 service on Sunday **1/12** for fellowship and to plan our events for 2020. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon! Contact Adam Redavid with questions or to RSVP!



Please mark your calendar and polish your performance. **Plymouth Has Talent** returns to great acclaim Fri., **1/24** at 6:30 p.m. We can promise you an appreciative audience, no matter the nature or level of your talent. Save your place on the program by contacting Carol Goettl or Susan Rayner or sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Please bring a dessert to share.

Get A Grip (GAG) fellowship group (60's-70's) will meet for a potluck at the Shepperd's house (1401 Patterson Place) on **1/25** at 6 p.m. RSVP 970-223-8229 if you can come.

Morning of Prayer, 2/8, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Three periods of Centering Prayer with meditative walks and psalms in between. Details and sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Attention **Women's Fellowship Group:** Save the Date for our 2020 Women's Retreat. This year, we will be at Highlands Ranch in Allenspark, CO from **2/28-3/1**. That's right - we will be spending Leap Day together! Questions? Email plymouth@plymouthucc.org with Sarah Parmenter in the subject line.



The **Habitat Ministry Team** is organizing a trip to Antigua, Guatemala, **March 21-29, 2020**, to help build a house and smokeless stoves. No construction experience needed, but must be physically fit for manual labor. There will be opportunities to explore Antigua and learn about its culture. If interested, contact Lynn Wartgow 563-249-9829 or mayziepics@gmail.com. Join us!

The FC **Interfaith Council** met at the Friends Meeting House in December and heard a wonderful presentation on the Quaker tradition. If you would like to learn more about this tradition and the Fort Collins Friends, please visit their website at fortcollinsfriends.org. - Renae Matkins

Dear Congregation, thank you for a very successful **Alternative Giving Fair**, which **earned \$20,150.09** for our friends and neighbors in need. - Eva Wallace

Let's Fill the Cookie Jar! Everyone seems to like a cookie with their coffee or tea on Sunday morning. Could you bake a batch of cookies or pick up an extra box at the grocery store? Just leave your offering in the kitchen on Sunday morning, and we'll see it gets in the right place. Thanks so much.

If you have "like new" **greeting cards** that you no longer want, place them in the wire basket on the counter near the kitchen, for women at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. This is an ongoing project since 2014. Questions? Email plymouth@plymouthucc.org with Greeting Cards in the subject line.

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*.

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Looking ahead to 2020! **Classes return on 1/12** at 10 a.m. Sprouts and Kids' Club will continue with Shine! Club 45 will hold their draft day to choose their projects for the semester. Middle School will begin a series on Habits of Faith. High School Youth Group will have their draft day on Jan 12.



Looking towards **summer, camp** dates are:

- Summer Camps at La Foret for Elementary (Pioneer and Explorer) and Middle School (Voyager): July 5-11
- High School MADD Camp: July 12-18
- High School Mission Trip: National Youth Event July 21-July 26

For more special events and up-to-date info go to the website (see box at left).

- Grace & Peace, Mandy

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