



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

February 2020

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY

This month we finish the season after Epiphany. On February 26, we begin Lent with a simple soup supper followed by a service to inaugurate the season. Lent has different meanings for various members at Plymouth. For some, it is a penitential season when we ask for God's forgiveness for the ways we have missed the mark. Others at Plymouth see it as a season of spiritual deepening and preparation. If you are looking for a devotional reader for this 40-day journey, I'd recommend *Holy Solitude* by Heidi Haverkamp or *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann, both available on Amazon.

Sundays at 9 & 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Read about the services at plymouthucc.org/worship

February 2

Matthew 5.1-12
The Beatitudes

No Dinner Church...join us for regular worship at 6:00 p.m.!

February 9 – New Members Sunday

Matthew 5.13-16
Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

February 16

Deuteronomy 30.15-20
Life or Death

February 23 – Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17.1-9
Listen...

Lent Begins: February 26 – Ash Wednesday

6:15 p.m. – Simple Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. – Service (for the whole family)

FROM HAL'S DESK: WHERE THERE IS A VISION...

"Where there is no vision, the people perish," says the 29th Proverb. That is as true now as it was when it was written, and some churches seem not quite to understand that an overarching vision is important for their efforts, too. I prefer a positive version of the Proverb: "Where there **is** a vision, the people **flourish**."

One of the ways that churches develop a vision is by having what Alice Mann calls "Holy Conversations." She was our consultant on Plymouth's first strategic plan in 2004, and she and Gil Rendle literally wrote the book on strategic planning in churches, which is markedly different in tone and character from those in other settings (corporations, universities, etc.).

In Holy Conversations, Mann and Rendle invite congregations to consider and discern (not decide, but to prayerfully wonder and imagine and dream) with three key questions: 1) **Who are we?** Who are we as a congregation of God's people, demographically, theologically, spiritually, culturally? 2) **Who is our neighbor?** Going back to the question posed for Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, we explore who our neighbors are, how we can interact and serve them. 3) **Where is God calling us?** If we believe in a still-speaking God, what murmurings of the Spirit are we hearing as God leads us into the future? The lynch pin of all discernment is prayer: opening ourselves up to God and asking sometimes uncomfortable questions.

In 2020 your Leadership Council plans to launch a strategic planning process that will provide a vision for our congregation for the next five years. It isn't going to be a sacrosanct, unchanging document with all the answers. Instead, it will afford us a general road map for the rapid-

ly changing environment in which Plymouth thrives.

Looking at where we've come from, our first and second plans (the last in 2015) have yielded some significant changes for our church.

The 2004 plan recommended renovation of significant portions of our building for accessibility and sustainability and construction of the administrative wing, west wing, and paving

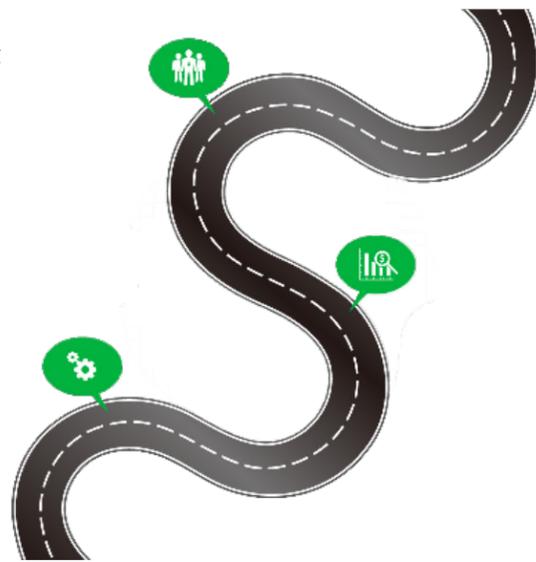
the parking lot. (No one realized how important that would become!) It suggested a full-time associate minister position (filled by Sharon Benton). It recommended new governance, which was another major undertaking. It created the Congregation-

al Life Board to develop new member welcome, connection among members, and lay leadership development. That first plan had an enormous impact on who we've become!

Our second planning process recommended increasing staff to include a part-time business manager and adding a half-time associate minister. It recommended the creation of more small-group ministries like the Celtic groups, and developing a spiritual-practices plan for all ages. It invited us to expand our ministry with CSU, to renovate our kitchen, and to look at ways we could leverage the changing neighborhood (think parking) that is our home.

What will this year's plan include? That is, in large part, up to you, the members of this congregation. What are your dreams for Plymouth? How could we become an even more effective outpost of the kingdom of God? Let's dream big and dream together with God, who invites us on this fresh pilgrimage.

Shalom!



Calendar Highlights

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

Please see Worship for Sunday details.

Feb. 4 - Christian Formation Teacher Training; 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Feb. 4 & 11 - Sophia Circle continues; 7 p.m.

Feb. 9-16 - Faith Family Hospitality Hosting

Feb. 6 & 21 - Pathways of Wellness continues; 7 p.m.

Feb. 17 - Office closed for Presidents' Day

Feb. 26 - Ash Wednesday Soup Supper; 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall; followed by service (see worship box)

Feb. 28-Mar. 1 - Women's Retreat, Highlands Retreat Center (details on back)



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., Wed.), janeanne@plymouthucc.org

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Mandy Hall, CF director (children & youth), mandy@plymouthucc.org

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Anna Broskie, IT/comm. coordinator (mornings), anna@plymouthucc.org

Barb Gregory, office manager, barbara@plymouthucc.org

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

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

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

The Leadership Council began its January meeting by hearing and reflecting about the Markan account of Jesus' baptism, with particular attention to familial discourse.

Items on the agenda included a review of Plymouth's goals for 2019, housing allowance approvals, and the treasurer's report. Members discussed at considerable length the 2020 budget that had been recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved a budget to present to the congregation at its January 26 meeting. Members also approved a slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee and elected

members for the Pastoral Relations, Personnel, and Planned Giving Committees.

- David Petersen, Moderator

Income

December Income for 2019: \$114,341
Budgeted Income for December 2019: \$70,848
Income 2019 YTD: \$935,532
Budgeted Income 2019 YTD: \$850,176

Expenses

December Expenses for 2019: \$82,805
Budgeted Expenses for December 2019: \$72,842
Expenses 2019 YTD: \$865,994
Budgeted Expenses 2019 YTD: \$874,105

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Teachers, Mentors and Leaders, be sure to join us on **2/4** for our annual mid-year Teacher Training! CFB will host a dinner and we will learn together some practical tips for leading a Formation class at Plymouth.

All **youth 6th-12th grade**, be sure to register for the Spring Youth Retreat at La Foret! The retreat is **3/13-15**, and scholarships are available.

Looking ahead to summer, be sure to mark your calendar for summer camps at La Foret. July 5-11 is Pioneer for 2nd-4th grade, Explorer for 4th-6th Grade, and Voyager for 6th-8th Grade, and July 12-18 MADD Camp for 9th-12th Grade. (Please note all grades are next year, not current.) Scholarships available and registration is open on rmucc.org.

Calling all current 8th-12th graders! You are invited to National Youth Event! This summer we, along with UCC Youth from across the country, will be traveling to Purdue University for a week of service, worship, and fellowship. Registration is now open and scholarships are available!

For more special events and up-to-date info go to the **website** (see box at bottom of page) - *Grace & Peace, Mandy*

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday 10 a.m. Forums

N. Adult Ed. Rm. (room change!)

2/2 **Gender and Faith** series ends.

2/9-23 **What is the UCC? How did we get here? How does the church work?**

Sunday 10 a.m. Classes

through 2/23

The Enneagram and Relationships. 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.

Understanding Israel and Palestine: Peace from the Pieces.

Join Mark Lee and various guest speakers to understand the issues and ways we might help.

Evenings

Pathways of Wellness continues 2/6, 2/20. This class will explore different themes of holistic well-

ness, particularly focusing on different avenues to reduce symptoms of stress and explore the causes.

Sophia Circle, 7-9 p.m., continues 2/4 & 11. A 4-week exploration to develop an ongoing spiritual formation group for women. Full information at plymouthucc.org/sophia Forum Rm.

Join World Wisdoms Project for its first spring program, "**Encountering Awe: Science, Mysticism, Poetry,**" Northside Aztlan Center, 112 E. Willow St., on **2/6**, 6:30 p.m. Full information at worldwisdomsproject.org

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

Get A Grip (GAG) fellowship group Saturday, **2/15**, 6 p.m., Hoefers Haus, 603 Atwood Ct., Ridgewood Hills Subdivision. Theme is "Love Stories." Bring a dish to share. A "true" pot luck. RSVP to pjhoefer@aol.com or 970-377-1950. GAG is a fellowship group that fits recent retirees to the upper age group.

Plymouth Social Club (Millennial + Gen X fellowship group): Join us for a brunch potluck at Jackie and Curtis Wray's (2832 Sage Creek Rd., FoCo) at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday **2/16**. Please RSVP to Jackie at jacklynmwrap@gmail.com, and let her know what you're planning to bring. See you there!



Join us for the 2020 **Plymouth Women's Retreat** at the Highlands Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO from **2/28-3/1**. This year's theme is *Journeying Deeper in Connection with ourselves, with God and with each other.*



Register at tinyurl.com/2020plymouthwomen. Also, for a small fee, you can pay online! More info: email Sarah Parmenter (via plymouth@plymouthucc.org) or see her in the Fellowship Hall after an 11 a.m. service.

The Chancel Choir will be in New York City 3/13-17 to join a nationally assembled chorus in a concert celebrating the music of Ola Gjeilo at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center. In the weeks prior we will share with Plymouth several of the works to be performed in the 3/16 concert. This is an exciting and fabulous opportunity for our music ministry.

The **Habitat Ministry Team** is organizing a trip to Antigua, Guatemala, **3/21-29**, 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!

Heart of the Rockies hosted the **Interfaith Council** January gathering. The program featured representatives from ISAAC, whose primary focus is immigration justice. Plymouth is one of the several faith community members of ISAAC. Thank you! Their mandate is to "welcome the stranger." Needless to say, their needs are overwhelming, especially at this time and with no paid staff members! - Renae Matkins

Happy New Year, Plymouth! New Year means new opportunities to serve as **liturgist** at the 9 & 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. services! This is a great way to see what happens "behind the scenes" to make a service happen and to experience it from a different perspective! Questions or to sign up, email elainekkim@gmail.com with Liturgist in the subject line. Thank you!

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.*

DEACON'S BENCH

Last month Nancy Sturtevant, my fellow deacon, wrote in this space about the joy of being a deacon; so I will echo her statement and share a funny story. At the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve service nearly as many adults as children chose to costume for the nativity scene! The adults were so excited! One little boy commented to me that it must be a grown up Halloween thing, but there isn't candy! - Lynne Soraci

STEWARDSHIP

Plymouth members and friends, you have performed a Minor Miracle! The Stewardship Board encouraged you to **Go Deeper**, to pledge and to pledge even more than ever before to meet the significant increase in the 2020 budget. And you have! **Thank you.**

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



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