



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

April 2020

WORSHIP FOR APRIL

Yes! This is a fresh approach to Holy Week and Easter! We are using livestreaming technology to connect with one another: **physical distancing doesn't mean spiritual distancing.** Even though our building is closed through May 9, the work of the church in worship and practice continues! Please join us online for livestreamed worship at plymouthucc.org/streaming, where you will also find videos of past services.

Special **Midweek Vespers** services are livestreamed each **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**, offering a time of prayer, poetry, and music designed to give you a spiritual boost to get through the week. **Sunday worship happens at 11:00 a.m.** via livestream.

Got to plymouthucc.org/streaming and join your church family!

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Midweek Vespers... no fooling!

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday

11:00 a.m. livestream service

Wednesday, April 8

7:00 p.m. Midweek Vespers

Maundy Thursday, April 9

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service livestream

Good Friday, April 10

Noon Musical Meditation and Prayer over livestream

Easter Sunday, April 12

11:00 a.m. Service of resurrection over livestream

Wednesday, April 15

7:00 p.m. Midweek Vespers

Sunday, April 19

11:00 a.m. livestream service

Wednesday, April 22

7:00 p.m. Midweek Vespers

Sunday, April 26

11:00 a.m. livestream service

Wednesday, April 30

7:00 p.m. Midweek Vespers

Let's Stay Connected!

The prayer tree is wonderful way for us to pray as a congregation and stay connected. **You don't have to wait until Sunday to share your prayers.** Send in your requests to Carla@plymouthucc.org and we will pray for your joys and concerns. Your ministers and staff are here and we continue to hold each of you close.

And we would love to see how you are experiencing Sunday mornings with us during our livestream worship. **Send us your pictures** so we can see you or post them on our Facebook page! We truly miss seeing everyone.

Plymouth Congregational UCC

916 West Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, CO 80526

www.plymouthucc.org

gathered in 1903

970-482-9212

Hal Chorpensing, senior minister* hal@plymouthucc.org

970-481-2928 for emergencies

Carla Cain, associate minister* carla@plymouthucc.org

515-418-7444 for emergencies

Jane Anne Ferguson, associate minister (Sun., Tues., Wed.), janneanne@plymouthucc.org

303-257-4933 for emergencies

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 (Tues., Wed., Thurs.), yendra@plymouthucc.org

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

*Our full-time ministers and program staff work Sunday-Thursday

FROM HAL'S DESK: PRAYING INTO RESURRECTION

I have never before had to deal with a situation of this magnitude; none of us has. Covid-19 seems to affect every aspect of our lives: what we eat, whom we see, where we go, whom we miss, how we purchase, how much screen time we get, where we study, how we go to class, how far apart we stand from others, how much mind share we spend thinking about our health, whom to believe. (Thank God for Anthony Fauci!)

Of course, Covid-19 has a profound impact on our spiritual lives as well. Obviously, we aren't able to be together physically at Plymouth, though I hope you are able to connect with us on Sunday mornings at 11:00 and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 through our live-streamed services. (It's easy to connect from our website, plymouthucc.org.) We're making connections with one another through Zoom teleconferencing for our boards, committees, spirituality groups, and some fellowship groups, too. It's not the same...yet I'm thankful we have this technology in place so that we don't feel quite as far apart.

How are things going for you and your own sense of spirituality? How are you taking time to connect with God? Since God doesn't get viruses, you can come even closer to your loving Parent! You may not be able to have face-to-face contact with your fellow Plymouth members, but during this strange time, you can work on your relationship with God.

I have been asked many times by our members how to pray. First off, it takes patience. We are a society grounded in rapidity: if it isn't fast, it isn't good. Let's let go of fastness. Maybe you have a little more time on your hands now...use it well! Next, set aside a designated time and place. For me, first thing in the morning

is working well. I come downstairs when it is quiet and dark and sit in my special chair in the family room. Third, start with an easy prayer you can memorize. You can use the Lord's Prayer, and I'll include a "breath prayer" below. Fourth, instead of only "I wish..." prayers, open yourself up to God. Listen. Be still for a few minutes.

(Your phone may have a timer, and there are apps like "Centering Prayer.") Close by thanking God for her presence and for your life.

Here is a "breath prayer"

that I learned from Marcus Borg in class at Iliff many years ago. You might try memorizing it and using it by three or four repetitions, followed by silence.

*inhale: "Lord Jesus Christ,"
exhale: "You are the light of the world."
inhale: "Fill my mind with your peace,"
exhale: "And my heart with your love."*

There are limitless ways to pray, but if you're looking for a simple practice, I encourage you to try this one.

I wonder what other ways of spiritual connection you are finding in these first days of spring...making a gratitude list and offering a prayer of thanks to God for everything on it? Calling a dear friend on the phone and offering a sense of connection? Finding ways to be helpful to people around you who are having to work even harder during this time?

There is certainly a lot of newness in this time, which provides us an opportunity to search for spiritual freshness as well, as we finish Lent and move into a season of resurrection, the ultimate newness.

Be well in body and in spirit!



Calendar Highlights

Regular Streaming Events

Details at plymouthucc.org/today

Sundays

9:00 Adult Ed (forum and class) - not 4/12

11:00 Worship

Mondays

1:00 Spiritual Practices for Youth & Adults with Mandy

Tuesdays

3:00 Story Time with Mandy

7:00 Sophia Circle (2nd & 4th Tuesday)

Wednesdays

2:30 Prayer Shawls (2nd & 4th Wednesday)

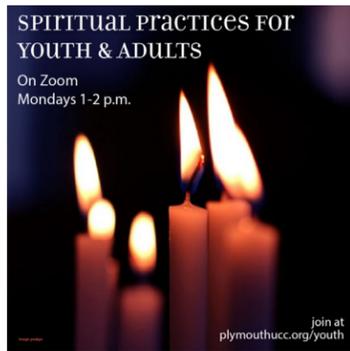
7:00 Vespers

Thursdays

11:00 Kids' Devotional with Mandy



YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Teens and Adults are invited to gather together on Zoom **Mondays at 1 p.m.** for a brief **spiritual practice led by Mandy**. We will practice *Lectio Divina*, Breath Prayer, and other contemplative practices. This will be a time of prayer and connection. Check the website and Thursday emails for login information.

Tuesdays at 3 p.m. join Mandy on Facebook Live for **Story Time**. We will read a story together each week. Keep an eye out for Oberon the Dog and some activities to go

with the stories.

Children and families are invited to join us on Facebook Live **Thursdays at 11 a.m.** We will use our **Lent In A Bag devotions** to guide our time together. After Easter we will have story time together. Recorded episodes at plymouthucc.org/kids. After Lent, a new kids' event will take this time slot.



The **Book Sale** has been postponed. Stay tuned for our new date.

Learn about **La Foret summer camps!** This is an incredible opportunity to grow in faith this summer. There are camps for all ages. Go to laforet.org/camps-and-events

- Grace & Peace, Mandy



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday 9 a.m.

Join Sunday classes on Zoom at plymouthucc.org/adults. To join by phone, email mark@plymouthucc.org by Thursday.

4/5 - Ending Gun Violence: Going Beyond "Thoughts and Prayers"
Final week of series.

Study Group: Immigration issues
4/19 DACA developments

4/26 For-profit detention prisons
Please see the Overview and Adult Ed web page for details.

4/5 - Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, by Marcus Borg. Final week of series.

4/12 - Easter, no groups

Forums

4/19 - A Song to Sing, A Life to Live.

A presentation on the connection between secular and sacred music by Mark Heiskanen drawing from the well-known book by Don and Emily Saliers and his own personal experience in rock bands and musical theater.



Evenings

Sophia Circle 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Watch for emails with Zoom link. If you are not on the list, please email janneanne@plymouthucc.org. We are still reading *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd.

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*.

4/26 - 5/10 Series of programs and discussions to help us manage our relationships with Self, Others and God through these challenging times.

STEWARDSHIP

"In a very real sense every sermon is a stewardship sermon, for it must always be undergirded with the recognition of God's sovereignty and a person's responsibility. The sovereignty of God extends over every aspect of a person's life, including one's pocket book, and stewardship concerns not only money but a person's whole existence in responsibility to God." T A Kantonen"

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

In March, we began our Leadership Council meeting by reflecting on how the habits that we use in gatherings and worship influence the wellness of our community, and to hope that we practice good habits.

We adopted the theme "Pilgrims on a Journey" for our congregation in 2020. We held a Board orientation event on March 1 to review organizational and financial procedures. We are working on forming a Strategic Planning team, selecting delegates for various upcoming conferences, and filling some vacancies. We've reviewed how to improve our Annual Report process, and discussed how the liaison process works. We have been actively discussing how to best

continue our worship processes while keeping the health and safety of our members at the top of our list. We feel blessed to be a part of an engaged and caring community!

- Harmony Tucker, Moderator

Income

February Income for 2020: \$97,119
Budgeted Income for February 2020: \$79,883
Income 2020 YTD: \$205,400
Budgeted Income 2020 YTD: \$159,767

Expenses

February Expenses for 2020: \$71,871
Budgeted Expenses for February 2020: \$80,123
Expenses 2020 YTD: \$156,212
Budgeted Expenses 2020 YTD: \$160,246

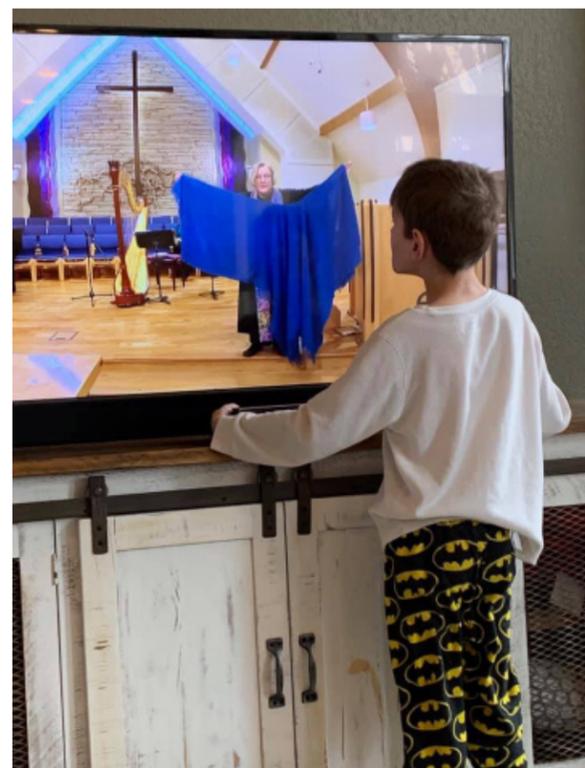
MINISTRIES

Need to book a Zoom Room for your church event? Go to plymouthucc.org and select **News & Events**. Click the button: *Request to Add an Event to the Church Calendar* ...or go directly to plymouthucc.org/cal For your room request, pick Zoom.

The Congregational Life Board and the Cinnamon Roll Team regret to announce that, due to the COVID-19 Virus, we won't be able to hold the Cinnamon Roll and Fresh Fruit **Easter Brunch** this year.

Plymouth needs individuals to pour passion into our **annual retreat!** Due to external constraints, the event will take place locally -- but it can only take place if folks come together to give it purpose and structure. The Congregational Life Board wants to hear from folks willing to shape this year's experience. If you are interested, email Erika Michalski to be included in further correspondence: erika.michalski@gmail.com

At the March **Interfaith Council** meeting, the group completed a service project by making hygiene bags for unaccompanied minors living in Fort Collins. There was also a discussion about a new grant process for non profits and strategic planning for the next year. - Renae Matkins



Young and old alike are viewing Plymouth's livestream! Go to plymouthucc.org/streaming to join the livestream or see past service recordings.

Non-profit organization
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