



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

April 2018

WORSHIP FOR APRIL

Worship is the centerpiece of our common life at Plymouth...it is the first point in our mission statement, and it is what draws us together as a community. Our three Sunday services at 9:00, 11:00, and 6:00 each have a distinctive flavor. Our 9:00 **communion service** is brief (about 50 minutes) so that kids and adults can get to Sunday school classes at 10:00. Our 11:00 **choral service** is led by our ministers, music director, and typically our chancel choir. And our **evening service** at 6:00 is less formal and features an eclectic array of music styles. Children are welcome in worship at all our services!

April 1 - Easter Sunday

Join us for three amazing services at 9:00, 11:00, and 6:00
Communion and brass at all services, and choir in the morning.
Cinnamon rolls at 10am with Easter egg hunt for kids

Please park at the Islamic Center on Lake Street or use on-street parking if you are able-bodied...this makes a welcoming space for guests and for those with mobility challenges. Thanks!

April 8 - Taizé-style worship at all three services

Psalm 133
"How Very Good & Pleasant It Is"

April 15 - Environmental Sabbath

Psalm 24
"The Earth Is the Lord's...and ALL That Is In It."
6:00 Bluegrass & folk with banjo player Josh Beard

April 22

Luke 24.36-48
"Breakfast with Jesus"
6:00 Music of North America (gospel, jazz, Native American...)

April 29

Acts 8.26-40
9:00 Exploring Inclusion with the Ethiopian Eunuch

Choral Sunday:

10:00 Pre-service presentation and discussion on the *Messiah* part III (Easter portion) with John Phippen, CSU Assistant Professor of Music History and Musicology, in the Forum Room.

11:00 A sermon in music and scripture: *The Messiah* part III by George Frederick Händel, presented by the chancel choir joined by an eleven-member chamber orchestra.

6:00 What Does It Mean to Rise with Jesus? (Celtic worship)

SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...

If you haven't noticed the new design and format of the *Placard* this month...well...take another look!

While many congregations have done away with their printed monthly newsletter, our goal is to transform this communication into a useful, single broadsheet that fits into the suite of other communications at Plymouth, primarily the email Update and Overview, but also including our website and our Sunday worship bulletin insert.

As someone who made his living in marketing communications and public relations for 15 years, I also got tired of looking at the tired design of the old *Placard*. And so on a weekend, I took matters into my own hands and redesigned it. I don't always intervene in such things, but I have an odd skill set that includes graphic design.

In today's *New York Times*, a young journalist reported on reading only print journalism (you know...the kind that is on paper) for two months, and one of his reactions was his amazement at how much time he recaptured by not checking online news sources continually. He came up with an axiom that mirrors Michael Pollan's food advice (Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants.) but adapted for the consumption of news: "**Get news. Not too quickly. Avoid social.**"

And while we hope you'll visit us on Facebook, print isn't dead. I actually think it's quite useful to have a copy of the *Placard* hanging around on the kitchen counter or in the bathroom so that you can consult it when you want. And it's nice to have something to hand to our guests who are visiting Plymouth.

And even though the *Placard* will continue in different form, some of the bulk that occupied space in the former newsletter will be transferred to the Thursday Overview in shorter form.



I know this won't please everyone, but our aim is to communicate clearly and well. We also will be exercising more editorial discretion about what gets published and how long it is. In other words, we'll have a content editor! And though it may irritate a few of us because the *Placard* won't include all of the information you used to submit, it will better reflect Plymouth's mission.

The lynchpin in our transformation is Anna Broskie, the newest member of our staff, who will be responsible for communications and information technology. She will be hitting the ground running, and her first priority will be to tame the beast we know as F1Go (our church database). This is the priority that Jake (Anna's supervisor) and I have set forth. If you have a communications or IT project that needs work, please don't contact Anna, but rather be in touch with Jake, who will get it into a priority queue for Anna.

To submit information for any of Plymouth's media, send your request and copy to communications@plymouthucc.org

I hope that the *Placard* is a useful addition to the way you learn about what is happening in our amazing congregation!

Shalom!

Calendar Highlights

Go to PLYMOUTHUCC.ORG and click on NEWS to see [our full calendar](#)



- April 2** Office closed (Easter Monday floating holiday)
- April 7** Planned Giving event at 10:30
- April 15** Environmental Ministry fair
- April 15** Placard submissions due to communications@plymouthucc.org
- April 16** Office closed for annual staff off-site retreat
- April 22** Youth book sale to support mission trip
- April 28** All-church potluck and bingo night at 6:00 p.m.
- April 29** Front Range Youth event/service project at 3:00 p.m.

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.), janneanne@plymouthucc.org

Mark Heiskanen, music director, 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

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

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

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 Joseph, 970-412-6114 for emergencies

Jane Anne Ferguson, 303-257-4933 for emergencies



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

The **Pastoral Relations Committee** (prc@plymouthucc.org) has worked with personnel, the ministers, and representatives of the Leadership Council (LC) to update and clarify processes with the growth of our ministerial staff. A huge thank you to Nina Burkhardt, Ann Lundeen, Tom Nesler and Bob Calhoun for their long and invaluable service on this committee. The LC, as directed in our Constitution, has approved the 2018 PRC: Ruth Billington, Bob Calhoun (Chair), Lori Clukey, Nancy de Lap.

Linda Preston and Marilu Theodore have been working on **lay leadership development and engagement and recruitment of members into active service** at Plymouth. Linda and Marilu have been meeting with stakeholders in this process and will continue to work with various groups such as the Nominating Committee, our Board Support

Resource people, and Boards and Ministry Teams. The overarching goal of this working group is "to nurture and promote a culture in which being fully engaged in the church is seen as part of one's spiritual journey." It's exciting to see this strategic effort to grow Plymouth's mission of equipping the saints. Stay tuned!

Income:

Income for February 2018: \$67,761

Budgeted income for February: \$69,184.50

Income YTD \$186,331.82

Budgeted income YTD: \$138,369.00

Expenses:

Expenses for February 2018: \$60,060.46

Budgeted expenses for February: \$70,798.11

Expenses YTD \$121,879.86

Budget expenses YTD: \$146,630.91

- Judy Barth, Treasurer

BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

Deacon's Bench When Tom and I retired to Fort Collins in 2007, Plymouth Congregational Church played a large part in our decision. We knew we needed a vibrant progressive faith community and we found it here. Over the years the wisdom of our decision has only increased for us. The willingness of this congregation to share their heartfelt prayers each week never fails to move me. The public affirmation of faith that these prayers will make a difference is palpable. During the Lenten season I have used the "Just As I Am" reflections to enrich my daily devotions and also feel this sharing of faith journeys also has been inspirational. To each of you who has opened your heart to me and others, I say "thank you." May my faith always be encouraged and supported by this community of believers who walk with me each day. Blessings to each of you, Karen Guter

Spring Cleanup for Plymouth is scheduled for **Saturday, April 21, 2018**. Bagels, coffee and juice will be offered beginning at **8:00 am**. Work is to begin around 9:00 am through noon-ish. We will be doing general yard work. Please bring work clothes, gloves, rakes, pruning shears, tarps, wheelbarrows, blowers, drop cords, shovels/pitch forks (for mulch distribution), etc. for the grounds work. Please mark your calendar and come join in the fellowship and help keep Plymouth looking great. Thank you. - Tom McIntosh, Co-Coordinator, 307-871-0553

Join your Plymouth family for an **all-ages potluck and bingo** night **Saturday, April 28 at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The potluck theme is cafeteria/kid food (think meatloaf, mac and cheese, pudding) and you are invited to offload your family friendly white elephants and unneeded silly objects as prizes. You might even wrap them using your paper recycling. If possible, please sign your family up on the bulletin board or email Susan Rayner at sampietro2rayner@gmail.com, but failure to RSVP is not punishable by detention. Just come!

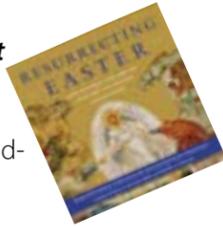
The **2018 Stewardship Board** is Irene Wherritt, Bill DeMarco, Jan McIntosh, Laurel Boss, David Bohling, Jane Anne Ferguson, and Jackie Schneider, with Linda Preston as liaison to the Leadership Council. Our theme for this year is *Generosity: A Way of Life*. Some of our board members will attend an interactive workshop entitled "Engaging Generations Through Generosity" with other church leaders in the Fort Collins/Loveland area. At this workshop, we will learn what generosity means to different generations -- and why it matters. Stay tuned for an exciting new campaign this year. Stewardship Campaign Sundays are October 14, 21, and 28.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Formation Classes for April 8 - May 13

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement, by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barbour II. Community organizing across multiple social divides takes spiritual grounding, and Dr. Barbour describes what he has learned through success and failure leading the Moral Monday movement. *Viki Johnson in the North Adult Rm.*

Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision, by John & Sarah Crossan. Easter is central to Christian faith, but imagined differently in the Western and Eastern Churches: grandly solitary in the west, profoundly communal in the East. *Mark Lee in the Fireside Rm.*



April Adult Ed Forums

April 8 *Christmas in April: The Versatility of the Carol*. Explore carols throughout the liturgical year, and even sing a few.

April 15 *Gregorian Chant in Our Time*, with Joel Bacon, who teaches organ and liturgical studies at CSU.

April 22 *Celtic Songs and Prayers from Pilgrimage*. We will learn about and sing songs based in Celtic spirituality from Ireland and Iona.

April 29 - Choral Sunday (see listing in Worship, over)

MINISTRY TEAMS

As warm weather approaches, you can be involved in the construction of **Plymouth's new labyrinth**, connected to the Memorial Garden. The Labyrinth team is Pat Slentz, Allen Norskog, Christian Koslowski, Wendy Thompson, Vicki Thompson, Lucy Sharp, Dan Michalski and Jane Nicolet. We invite you to work with us as your labyrinth develops into a pathway of prayer and spiritual reflection. To volunteer: speak with any of the team, fill out a Labyrinth volunteering sheet (available at a table between services), or sign up at bit.ly/plymouthlabyrinth.

Please sign up on the white board in the fellowship hall to help with **coffee hour!** Several years ago, we started to use china cups for coffee hour instead of paper, so cups need to be washed...but not by hand. Club 4-5 learned how to use the dishwasher --- you can too! Thanks! Questions call Kathee Houser, 928-600-4610

Plymouth is the first congregation in the three-state Rocky Mountain Conference to vote to become an **Immigrant Welcoming Congregation**. We also joined ISAAC, a joyous mix of faith communities supporting our immigrant neighbors. In February, we contributed letters, valentines and emergency funds. Upcoming CSU event: *Human Rights Film Festival* April 5-14 (details and tickets actfilmfest.colostate.edu).



May 5, 8:30-12:00, Fireside Room Dr. Christine O'Brien presents: **Research on how gratitude and meditation improve brain and body function:** talks and two periods of Centering Prayer, incorporating a brief how-to instruction. Sign-up and more information on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

Earth Day Environmental Fair - April 15, all morning. Do you have lingering questions about recycling, composting, vermicomposting, or new ways to save energy (and money!) while feeling good about fighting climate change? There will be demonstrations, quizzes, and activities for kids of all ages -- including a puppet show after the second service. If you would like to help during the fair or bring in items to display, contact Wayne Carpenter at waynecarpenter@msn.com.

Plymouth Congregational UCC
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THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

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