



THE PLYMOUTH PLACARD

May 2018

WORSHIP FOR MAY

Spring is here! As we move through May, we'll celebrate Confirmations, Pentecost, and new members as we move toward our summer service hours.

Enjoy the choir at our 11:00 service, because they'll be on summer vacation after May 20.

Your participation in worship helps keep it vital. Children are welcome in worship at all our services!

As a reminder, through May 20, we have three services each Sunday:

- 9:00** Communion service
- 11:00** Choral service
- 6:00** Evening service with communion

And once our summer hours begin on May 27, we'll have two services:

- 10:00** Morning service (communion first Sunday of the month)
- 6:00** Evening service with communion

May 6

John 15.9-17
Gospel music is in store at **6:00** p.m.

May 13 – Confirmation Sunday

John 17.6-9
Enjoy ice cream after all three services, courtesy of Congregational Life (bring your favorite toppings).
At **11:00** join us to celebrate confirmation
Our **6:00** service will feature a more contemplative mood.

May 20 – Pentecost Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2.1-21
At **11:00** enjoy the choir's last Sunday until Jubilee Sunday in August!
We'll celebrate Pentecost with World Music at **6:00**

Summer service times begin: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

May 27 – New Members' Sunday

John 3.1-17
Love jazz? Join us at **6:00** p.m.



Next Month:

Mark your calendar for the all-church service and picnic at Rolland Moore Park on Sunday, **June 10**. Stay tuned for details.

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., Thurs.), 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



FROM HAL'S DESK:

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Let's face it, death is one of those things we'd rather not talk about. In my family growing up, the kids didn't typically attend funerals or memorial services. And when my dad died in June 1986, we didn't have his memorial service until September, so we could "get over his death" before the service. Of course, this meant that we had an open wound of grief for three months. This is a poor way to approach death.

One of the deepest learnings for me in coming into ministry in the church is that this is one place where we do not deny death. It happens to all of us; or as someone I know at Plymouth puts it "None of us makes it." We have a strong faith tradition that helps us approach death and dying with less fear than my family experienced growing up. To be sure, Jane Anne and I have had too much practice with this in the past four months, but our faith provides waypoints to help us move with our grief.

Here at Plymouth, we try to help our members approach death and dying healthily and openly. We have a form to help you plan your memorial service or funeral; we have copies of "Five Wishes" in the church office for you to help clarify end-of-life plans; we have occasional adult ed. opportunities around death, dying, and estate planning. And we have clergy who are happy to talk with you about how your thoughts and fears and how to plan.

We can't determine or control what occurs beyond this life, but we can leave a legacy. A recent study showed that \$30 trillion will be inherited by the next generation. (According to Kiplinger's, 70% of inherited assets are gone in a single generation and 90% are gone by the succeeding one.)

What will your legacy be? What are you leaving to ensure the success of en-

suaging generations? Some of us will leave behind our DNA through our kids. (That takes care of the evolutionary imperative.) Others have published volumes of research that will be a stepping stone for future generations. (That takes care of the intellectual imperative.) But is that it? Isn't there something more?

All of us want to leave more than an empty pew and a plaque on the Memorial Garden wall. One way to have an enduring impact is through a planned gift by bequest for Plymouth. You can help ensure that what matters to you most in your spiritual journey continues to be available in succeeding generations through Plymouth's endowment. We got a late start on it, compared to other congregations, but it will be an essential tool for our church in 25, 50, 100 years from now.

Our Planned Giving Committee has an easy-to-use new web page that you can reach by going to plymouthucc.org, clicking on the "give" menu, and then clicking on "planned giving." There you hear from other Plymouth members why they have included Plymouth in their estate plans, and you can see different ways of giving that best fit your circumstances. (Since I still have younger kids, I've made a planned gift to Plymouth through part of an insurance policy.) Bob Hoel, our planned giving chair, can provide more info at BobH@filene.org or you can reach me at hal@plymouthucc.org.

As the title of the Jimmy Stewart movie says, "You Can't Take It with You," but you can ensure that your legacy is an enduring impact for your faith community.

Shalom!



Calendar Highlights

May 5 Spring Centering Prayer Retreat at Plymouth, 7:30 a.m.

May 9, 16, 23 New Members Classes at 7:00 p.m. RSVP to barbara@plymouthucc.org

May 13 Confirmation Sunday (11:00) and Ice Cream Social following each service

May 15 Placard articles due (communications@plymouthucc.org)

May 20 Strengthen the Church offering

May 27 Worship summer schedule begins: two services at 10:00 and 6:00

May 27- June 3 Faith Family Hospitality guests at Plymouth



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

Leadership Council is hard at work overseeing the governance of Plymouth and our strategic plans. First, thanks to all who filled out **ministerial evaluations**. Representatives from Leadership Council and Personnel will be meeting with our ministers in May to give feedback and develop goals for this next year.

We are also moving forward on a huge strategic objective: formation of a **Database Design Task Force!** Alongside Jake and Anna Broskie, our new IT coordinator, Leadership Council will be recruiting a team to work with stakeholders (e.g., staff, boards and committees) to determine what will be included in member profiles and other fields. Get this right and we will have an incredible database from which to match volunteers to service and fellowship oppor-

tunities and data to help plan events, worship, stewardship, etc. So we aim to get this right!

Stay tuned for more information over the next several months.

- Dianne Stober, Moderator

Income:

Income for March '18: \$89,294.90

Budgeted Income for March '18: \$69,184.50

Income YTD: \$275,626.72*

Budgeted Income YTD: \$207,553.50

Expenses:

Expenses for March '18: \$67,212.26

Budgeted Expenses for March '18: \$70,798.11

Expenses YTD: \$189,737.99

Budgeted Expenses YTD: \$217,429.02

*Deferred pledges received in 2017 in the amount of \$54,604 were included in YTD income.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Classes (Sundays at 10 a.m. through May 13)

Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision, by Dom & Sarah Crossan. *Mark Lee in the Fireside Rm.*

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement, by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. *Viki Johnson in the North Adult Rm.*

Forums (Sundays at 10 a.m. through May 20)

May 6 Catholic Charities

May 13 No Forum, Enjoy the Ice Cream Social!

May 20 No Forum, gather to honor Sunday school leaders (Fellowship Hall)

Watch for special forums during the summer!

June 3 Habitat for Humanity International



Annual Adult Sunday School Planning Workshop, Saturday, **May 5, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** including lunch, Forum Room. All interested are welcome to bring topics and proposals and work together to plan the Sunday school offerings for Fall 2017 – Spring 2018. RSVP to Mark Lee, mark@plymouthucc.org.

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

As we finish out our program year, the **Kids' Club** and **Club 45** kids will be exploring ways they can become Peacemakers in our community through the new theme of Peace Lab, Sundays at 10 a.m. Our last class is May 13th.

Confirmation Sunday is May 13th at 11am. Each of our 6 confirmands and their mentors chose a path of faith discovery (spiritual practices, mission, and world religions) and learned what it means to be a member of Plymouth. Come and celebrate the confirmation journey with us.

Teacher Appreciation Sunday is May 20th at 10am. Please join us in thanking our teachers and celebrating their ministry during a special Fellowship Hour. We would not have the vibrant children's and youth ministries that we have if it weren't for these dedicated volunteers. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration, hear the stories and give thanks for our teachers, leaders, and mentors.

Summer camp at La Foret July 8th-14th. Check out rmucc.org for more information on which camp is right for you. We do have scholarships available.

June 15-17th several local UCC churches are teaming up for a weekend **mission trip to Denver for current 5th-7th graders.** Mission, fun, worship, and fellowship! The cost is \$75 per youth (scholarship available) and the registration deadline is May 25th. Sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/B8IVR5YwnifcCOOR2> - Mandy

BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

Deacon's Bench: Part of the mission statement for your Board of Deacons is to *participate in the spiritual life of the church.* You see us do this on a weekly basis as we prepare communion for the 9:00 and 6:00 services, and on a monthly basis for the 11:00 service. Communion is a very special ministry to your deacons. We take the preparation seriously and it is our honor to assist our clergy in serving you with this important connection to the Divine. We also realize that among our congregation there are those of us who, for various reasons, are homebound either on a temporary basis or a permanent basis. To assist our clergy in connecting our homebound members with the important connection of communion, six members of your Deacon Board have created a Ministry Team and have received training from Hal to bring communion to you, whether you be in your home, the hospital or a rehab/nursing facility. *To request this service, please contact any of our pastors at 970-482-9212 or by e-mail.* We look forward to serving you. - Anna Olsen

Spring 2018 New Members Class: If you are interested in joining the church, learning more, or know someone who might be interested, our next new members classes will be Mondays **May 9th, 16th, and 23rd** at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. Email Barb Gregory to register or Jake Joseph for more general information.

MINISTRY TEAMS

May 5, 8:30-12:00, Fireside Room. Dr. Christine O'Brien presents **The transformative changes of the mind, body and spirit through the practices of Gratitude and Wonder and Awe.** Dr. O'Brien works with veterans on healing from the effects of war. The event includes instruction & practice of Centering Prayer. Sign-up/more info on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. By donation.

Plymouth's **World Missions Ministry Team** is selling **note cards** in Fellowship Hall on Sun. **May 6 and 13** to fund its annual commitment to the RAWDAT El-Zuhur school located in East Jerusalem. Each year for over 17 years our church has sent \$600 or more to support two Palestinian students attending this school. And learn how to **cook Ethiopian cuisine** on Tues. **June 5** from 1-3pm or 3-5pm or Wed. **June 6** from 4-6pm in Plymouth's kitchen. RSVP to Linda Mahan (Lmah-an@alum.bu.edu) or sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. This is in preparation for the **Ethiopian dinner** to benefit the Lango Kindergarten in Wosha, Ethiopia. Wed., **June 6** at 6pm. \$15 (\$6 for 12 and under). *Reservations and payment can be made on 5/27 and 6/3 at the informational table in the Fellowship Hall, or RSVP emdornfest@gmail.com, 970-817-0426.*

Ram Fellowship @ Plymouth is open to all college and university students. Kick off summer break with us with a night of friends and trivia – **Wed. May 5 @ 7:30pm** at Illegal Pete's in Old Town. Congregational Life will buy burritos at 7:30pm and Geeks Who Drink trivia starts at 8:00pm. Email Nic (nredavid@gmail.com) or Rev. Jake to RSVP. We will take a break for the summer, and kick off the school year with Taste of Plymouth on Sunday, Sept. 9th. Stay tuned for details!

Fort Collins **Habitat for Humanity** is currently undertaking an ambitious new build of 48 units at the SE corner of Taft Hill and Harmony. We have committed \$1,000 to Fort Collins Habitat in 2018 and have already donated \$600. We have two dates for "Plymouth Builds" coming up, so please mark your calendars: Saturdays, **July 7 and August 4.** Currently, we can only send 10 people a day to build, but we may need more help providing lunches to keep the builders fed. (Tues./Thurs. build days are also options for those who have the flexibility.) Look for detailed information soon. In addition, four Plymouth members are scheduled to work on homes in Paraguay this July. - Lynn Wartgow, Brian Betsill, David Stubbs, Bruce Lieurance

Plymouth **Men's Fellowship Bike Ride** to Vern's in Laporte is on Saturday, **May 19 at 8:00 am.** Meet at Lee Martinez Park parking lot, north Sherwood St., where we will start our casual ride along the Poudre River Trail to Vern's for brunch. Distance is about 6 miles each direction. Just show up and ride. No reservations. There are also those who cheer us on and then drive to Vern's!

On Pentecost Sunday, **May 20th**, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, a special day in the life of the church. In the UCC, this celebration is marked by our **Strengthen the Church donation.** Here at Plymouth we are blessed with a vibrant church which is always striving for relevancy in our lives. The STC offering gives us an opportunity to reach out to other communities and help them build new vibrant churches and support youth ministries. This spring please be a part of the UCC's effort to plant new seeds that will help our denomination grow into the future, seeds that will help build up the body of Christ. - Karen Guter

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