

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday



September 3, 2023

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people
We are an Anti-Racism Church

🎵 We Listen for the Still Speaking God

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.

Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.

GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements

If you are new to our community and want to know more, email us at office@uccplymouth.org.

Sunday School for all ages will begin on September 10.

Children can fill a bag with books and toys from the narthex that they can use during the worship service.

Prelude

Give Me Jesus

Richard Billingham

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: In the best and worst of times, we hear the call of faith to join in worship.

Many: From deep within, we sense the need to offer praise and offer up our burdens.

One: Despite the circumstances we face, God desires to provide the very best for all of earth's children.

All: So we come to the Table of Christ, where we find God's provisions in abundance, satisfying the true hungers of our hearts.

*Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise

NCH (black) #24

Passing of the Peace

If you are at home, we invite you to send someone a note of peace today.

One: God be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Unison Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, we gather this morning in this house of worship which, thanks to your love, is our home away from home. We come to add our human voices to the chorus of praise raised by your creation! We come as we are – distracted and weary, hopeful, and open – know that you accept us and are ever mindful of our cares and joys. Still in us now the many voices that clamor for attention, that we might center ourselves upon you.

Speak to us in word and melody and quiet, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for your service. Amen.

Moments for Confession and Silence for Personal Reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God is faithful to forgive and to redeem. God will sustain us through the hard work of confronting the truth about ourselves, our communities, and our world. Receive the companionship of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us in all truth.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response Spirit of the Living God NCH (black) #283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

Message For All Ages

Jennifer Byam

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like. The message for all ages will truly be intergenerational this morning so if children want to stay in the pews that is okay too!

NCH (black) #325:

***Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.***

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Exodus 3:1-15

Matthew 16:21-28

One: Here end the readings from our tradition. Let us feel God's extraordinary love in this ordinary time of our church year. O Holy Spirit, we pray You move between words and hearing.

All: Amen

Message

"On Holy Ground"

Rev. Rebecca Larson

***Hymn**

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

NCH (black) #572

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing Communion

The Usher/s will guide participants forward to share in Communion. Each person will be offered a simple piece of bread tiny juice cup as the officiant & assistant offer simple words of blessing such as: "This is the bread of heaven and the cup of the new covenant."

After each participant receives the elements, the group will be invited to take and eat. You will then be invited to return to your seats and the next group of twelve will take your place.

****The bread is gluten & nut free and the juice is non-alcoholic.****

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanks in Unison

Almighty and loving God, we marvel at the privilege of eating at Christ's table. Made one with Christ in the fellowship of this meal, we know ourselves to be at one with all your people everywhere. Help us to express Christ's hospitality toward all we meet. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Vigilate Mecum

Andrew Grant

We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Offertory Prayer**

We will not proclaim our faith with our words only, but with our lives and these gifts we offer to you, O God, we pray that others might be transformed by your grace, your hope, and your peace. Amen.

Prayers of the People

You are invited to offer your personal prayers from the silence of your heart.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father**, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

**We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.

SENDING

***Hymn** Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant NCH (black) #539

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude American Hymns Tunes 2. Nettleton Gilbert Martin

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.
Feel free to let the music lead you out, or stay to listen, however the Spirit moves you.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for retired PSU professor Duncan McDougall as he recovers from a fall
Prayers for all those affected by Hurricane Adelia
Prayers for the family and friends of Al Mather who recently passed away
Prayers for the people of Maui, Hawaii as they recover from a devastating wildfire
Prayers for Jeff Foster, cousin of Diane Arsenault, who is in hospice
Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who is undergoing chemotherapy

Prayers of strength and healing for Donna Coulter, friend of Paulette Brace
 Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, who will be undergoing surgery
 Prayers for Claire Campbell, daughter of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
 as she makes her way through the tumult of divorce
 Prayers for Marissa and Seth, family members of Diane Arsenault & Peter Pirnie,
 who have been chosen to adopt a baby
 Prayers for Paul Santonelli
 Prayers for Tony Amodeo, friend of Jim and Linda LaPrad,
 who is undergoing cancer treatments
 Prayers for the family of Timothy Ward and for Timothy's spirit
 Prayers for Sherry Weymouth Morison, who is recuperating from cancer surgery
 Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher
 Prayers for Matt, family member of Ruth Martz & Steve Majeski
 Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie
 Prayers for Ellen who struggles with cancer, family member of Ruth & Dale Mosher
 Prayers of healing for Sue Switaj
 Prayers for Alice Avery
 Prayers for our partner church in Zimbabwe, Mosvingo UCCZ

*If you have a prayer request please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray,
 or send an email to plymouthpastor@uccplymouth.org.*

This Week and More at PCUCC

Tuesday, September 5	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Friday, September 8	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, September 10	Rally Sunday!
Thursday, September 14	1:00 pm Knitting group
Sunday, September 24	"Let's Talk!" following Worship

CHURCH LIFE

Sunday School begins September 10th! Sunday School will be held on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month from September through June. It will not be held if there is a 5th Sunday in a month. Sunday School focuses on Bible lessons, outreach projects, and family activities. The children will learn how to use the gifts God gave them to positively impact their community. Volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Jennifer for more details at faithformation@uccplymouth.org

Fellowship Coffee Hour resumes Rally Sunday, September 10th. Our church committees will be providing snacks, coffee, tea, etc. following Sunday worship throughout the school year. AND you don't have to be on a committee to bring a dish. If you're in the mood to cook, bake or arrange a platter, your dish will be a welcome addition to the table. We love to talk and share food, so please join us for fellowship and snacks starting September 10th.

“Let’s Talk!”: On Sunday, September 24, following Worship/Coffee Hour, you are all invited to gather for conversation during this time of pastoral transition in our congregation. We are experiencing a variety of emotions: sadness, worry, hope, and a deep faith to share together. Let us talk with one another in a spirit of respect, compassion, and hope. Rebecca Larson and Ruth Martz will be our facilitators; depending on the number of people, we will meet in the Chapel. This may be the first such gatherings to be held in the coming months. Please join us!

Feeding Our Children Together: For the past few years, our church has participated in a local program called Feeding Our Children Together (FOCT). This program provides a bag of various foods for families at the Plymouth Elementary School and the Plymouth HeadStart Program. We pack on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Michael, who used to be our building caretaker here at PCUCC, picks up the bags on Thursdays and delivers them to PES and HeadStart so that the kids can take them home on Fridays to help with weekend meals. If you would like to be a packer for this program, please notify Alice O'Connor at alimaenh@gmail.com. Packers usually pack about once a month.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

VEGETABLES TO SHARE! The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to bring any garden vegetables that you would like to share with people within and beyond our church. Please put the veggies in the crate on the front steps of the church. The produce will remain outside The Little Food Pantry until Monday morning, when anything left will be taken to a local senior center. **Thank you!**

RIP MEDICAL DEBT—The UCC NHC Merrimack Association is inviting churches to support the UCC National Fundraiser that will help relieve people in debt throughout the United States. **In the month of September** (2023), there will be two collection boxes for your donations, one in the narthex and the other in Fellowship Hall. RIP Medical Debt flyers will be available with more information (also online: ripmedicaldebt.org).

Each \$1 that you donate relieves \$100 of medical debt! The Mission and Outreach Committee will match all donations, with a cap of \$250. At the Merrimack Association Fall meeting this October, the total sum raised by our Association churches will be announced. Checks may be made out to our church, with RIP Medical Debt in the info line. **Thanks in advance for your contribution!**

Our HOPE Fund and Little Food Pantry are always in need of your support!

The HOPE Fund supports families at risk who need assistance paying for rent, electricity, and medications. Send your check to PCUCC and write HOPE Fund in the memo.

Our Little Food Pantry in front of the church is always in great need of being filled. You can put items right in the pantry or bring them to the church office.

FROM FINANCE

Support PCUCC with no cost to you! Purchase a **Hannaford Gift Card** in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

We will offer the option of meeting digitally indefinitely. You may also catch our services (one week delayed) on Sunday nights on PBTv at 7:00 pm. (Local channel 1302.) Please check Constant Contact and the Facebook page for ongoing updates.

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936 or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator	office@uccplymouth.org
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Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in August and September in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next,
please email to: office@uccplymouth.org

Judy Floyd	September 8	Cameron Woodsum	September 20
Diane Arsenault	September 12	Anna Switaj	September 25
Philip Wei	September 16	Andrew Hedberg	September 27
Molly McCahan	September 20	Madelyn Kelsey	September 29

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