

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Sunday!



September 10, 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

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Bob Walters

Welcome & Announcements

*If you are new to our community and want to know more, email us at office@ucpblmouth.org.
Sunday School for all ages begins after the Message for All Ages on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.
Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.*

Introit

In Christ God Reconciled the World

Carl. F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Worship

Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: How beautiful it is when we come together for worship!

ALL: What a gift to give thanks and praise to God!

One: We are different people with different gifts and stories.

ALL: But in Christ we are one body, the Church.

One: With one voice, we sing and pray, share concerns and good news.

ALL: We rejoice in our shared identity in Christ.

One: How beautiful it is when we come together for worship!

ALL: What a gift to give thanks and praise to God!

*Hymn

Enter, Rejoice and Come In

NCH (black) #73

*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

Holy One, we call upon your Spirit
to move through us and between us in this holy place.
We celebrate the gifts you have given us to share
as members of Christ's church.

We need each other, and so we ask you to help us listen to one another with patience and compassion. As we worship you this morning, may your Spirit reveal to us the ways in which we might better serve, guide, love, and follow. Amen.

Moments for confession including silence for personal reflection

God's Promise of New Life

One: God, return us, we pray, to a clear focus on your compassion and generosity.

ALL: Guide us each day as we seek to "put on Christ," visible to others like the clothes that we wear, in the words that we speak and the relationships that we initiate.

One: We give great thanks for your loving kindness.

ALL: Through your grace, may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Response To You, O God, All Creatures Sing NCH (black) #17

Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part.

Sing your praises, alleluia!

To you we lift our pain and care, receive the burdens that we bear,

Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Message For All Ages

Children and youth are welcome to come forward during the message for all ages if they like.

NCH (black) #528

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout,

You're the star that will shine through the day.

You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all:

Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14a

Matthew 18:15-20 (The Message)

One: The Word of God for the people of God. May we bear witness to the signs of new life blossoming in unexpected ways, through the power of the Spirit in our midst.

ALL: Amen.

Message

“Let’s Stick Together!”

Rev. Ruth Martz

*Hymn

We Are Your People

NCH (black) #309

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Our Church Covenant

We covenant one with another to seek and to respond to the Word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. We depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God and look with faith toward the triumph of righteous and eternal life.

Offertory

Lord God, We Worship Thee Ahasuerus Fritsch (1629-1701)

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**

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Make us worthy, Blessed One, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger.

Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy to all. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

You will also be 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** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You NCH (black) #4

***Choral Benediction** Open Our Eyes and Ears John Helgen

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Sunshine Medley arr. Marilyn Ham

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.

Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments and fellowship!

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers and condolences for the friends and family of Judy Detzel, who recently passed away

Prayers for retired PSU professor Duncan McDougall as he recovers from heart surgery

Prayers for all those affected by Hurricane Idalia

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

Prayers for Paulette Brace's son, Shawn Cassington, for ongoing medical issues

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

Monday, September 11	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, September 12	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, September 13	11:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study
Thursday, September 14	1:00 pm Knitting group
Friday, September 15	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, September 24	"Let's Talk!" following Worship

CHURCH LIFE

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

Book Group will meet on Monday, September 11 to discuss [The Forest Lover](#) by Susan Vreeland. Contact Peggy Martin for more information: pmartin03223@yahoo.com.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings beginning Sept. 13, from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. We'll begin with the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel written, and read through it listening for God's Still Speaking voice. Please join us. At the first gathering we'll make plans for our time together. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

“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 Plymouth Elementary School and the Plymouth HeadStart Program. We pack on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and the bags are picked up on Thursdays and delivered 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.

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<p>Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz</p> <p>Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org</p>	

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in 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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