

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Third Sunday after Epiphany



20th Century, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth TX

Icthus (“fish” in ancient Greek) was a symbol for the early church. The letters in this acrostic signify “**I**esous **X**ristos **T**heou **U**ios **S**oter,” meaning “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”

January 21, 2024

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.

Unison Gathering Prayer (*Richard of Chichester, 13th Cent.*)

Day by day, day by day,
O, dear Lord, three things we pray:
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.
(Repeat prayer) Amen.

***Bodily Confession** *From "Hand in Hand: A Litany," by Sue Downing*

(*Silence*)

God's Promise of New Life/Our Bodily Assurance

Response Angels from the Realms of Glory (verse 3) NCH (black) #126
Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations, guided by Christ's natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship God, give thanks and sing.

Word for Young People

Response You Are the Seed 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 Psalm 62:5-12 (Echo Scripture) Mark 1:14-20

One: May God bless to our understanding these words of Holy Scripture.
All: Amen.

Message "By Twos or Threes – and More" Rev. Ruth Martz

SENDING

***Hymn** Community of Christ NCH (black) #314

***Pastoral Benediction**

Choral Benediction Alleluia John Ferguson

Postlude Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers David Christensen

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 coffee, food, and fellowship.
Coffee Hour today is hosted by Sunday School and Faith Formation.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Hanna and Peter Starck

Prayers for Bill Torrey as he recovers from a fall

Prayers for Alice Carey, friend of Alice O'Connor, who will be undergoing radiation therapy

Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O'Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer

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

Prayers of comfort and strength for Ruth & Dale Mosher

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 our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo 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, January 22	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, January 23	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, January 24	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, January 25	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 26	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, January 29	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Friday, February 2	6:00 pm Coffee House: Faith Communities and Racial Justice with Renne Rouse

CHURCH LIFE

A note from our accompanist, Ashley Rose:

Dear Church Family,

It is with both sadness and joy that I write this. I want to inform you all that Sunday, January 21st will be my final Sunday as the organist/accompanist at PCUCC. This has been a supportive, inviting, spiritual and nurturing church community for the last almost five years, but it is time for me to turn my focus more firmly towards other areas of my life. Hopefully we will see each other in the future when I return to substitute. I wish you all the best and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words regarding my music, your friendliness and care towards Lorelei and Benjamin, and a big thanks especially to David and the choir.

With love,
Ashley

Our deep appreciation to Donna and Butch Castor for taking down the Christmas decorations. Donna organized the storage room off the balcony, marked all the decor and neatly stored them in the storage room. A big, big thank you!!

Let's Talk Gathering: All are welcome! Sunday, January 28, following Coffee Hour, in the Chapel. We will continue some one-on-one conversations along with group sharing, in response to such questions as:

- How are you feeling about the past 4 months at church? How are things going?
- What ministry or aspect of our church life needs support or a new direction?
- Which activities (on poster board in chapel) are you willing to attend or help organize?

Please join us, especially if it is for the first time!

Coffee House, February 2: Join us in the fellowship hall at 6pm for an interactive and informative talk with Renee Rouse about why faith communities should care about racial justice and what we can do. Bring a snack to share if you can, or just bring yourself and a friend!

Preaching Schedule:

January 21 – Rev. Ruth Martz

February 4 – Rev. Ruth Martz

January 28 – Rev. Campbell Lovett

February 11 – Alison Thatcher

Book Group is reading The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science by Kate Zernike during the month of January. Join the discussion on Monday January 22 at 10am. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings 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. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

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.

Church Snow Policy: If the Sunday morning Worship service is cancelled due to snow and/or ice, notification will be announced by 7:00 a.m. in the following ways:

1. An all-church email sent out
2. The church Facebook page
3. WMUR closings announcement

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Warmest thanks for your generous donations to our Christmas Star Program, the UCC Christmas Fund, and Habitat for Humanity.

- Star Program: 9 wrapped gifts and 4 gift cards for Head Start children; 19 gift cards for Plymouth High School students. Our Mission and Outreach Committee contributed \$250.
- UCC Christmas Fund: \$585
- Habitat for Humanity (local and national): \$1,133

You have helped to make a big difference in people's lives. *Thank you!*

Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring a hot lunch to the 6-10 workers at the Habitat for Humanity House on Pleasant St. in Plymouth. So far, Holderness students signed up for Saturdays in January, and Ruth Martz brought chili on January 12. These young men, along with Dale Mosher, REALLY appreciate these lunches (and they love second helpings)! Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/muffins/fruit/ dessert are optional. Some paper goods and plastic ware are on site, but please check in with Ruth for details: ruthm.joy@gmail.com/603-630-7936

January and February Mission Focus: Masvingo congregation, Zimbabwe

The Mission and Outreach Committee invites everyone to join us in writing cards, drawing/painting pictures, and gathering photos that our congregation will send to the good people of our partner church in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. Deadline: Sunday, February 25. Children, youth and adults are also encouraged to sign up for a personal pen pal. Please let Ruth Martz know or sign up on the sheet next to the collection box. THANK YOU!

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
David A. Williams, Director of Music	musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
Ashley Rose, Organist, Pianist	organist@uccplymouth.org
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation	faithformation@uccplymouth.org
Ann Thurston, Treasurer	treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz

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Celebrating Birthdays in January in our Community

If you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary, please email office@uccplymouth.org

Rohan Magrauth	January 1	Steve Majeski	January 22
Hanna Starck	January 15	Sophie Kelsey	January 26
Ashley Rose	January 16	Peggy Martin	January 27
Butch Castor	January 18		

