

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



July 28, 2024

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

We Listen for the Still Speaking God

We are striving to be an Anti-Racism church

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

Love God. Love Neighbor. Include Everyone.

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

If you want to know more, email the office at office@uccplymouth.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.

*Those who are able may stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 145:10-18)

Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: We call upon the Holy One, who is near to us. We testify to your power to make your kingdom known among creation.

Many: All your works shall give thanks to you, Holy One, and all your faithful shall bless you.

One: We speak of the glory of your miraculous acts, your abiding presence, and your abundant love.

Many: All your works shall give thanks to you, Holy One, and all your faithful shall bless you.

One: With justice and grace, with hope and mercy, with abundance and discernment, you sustain those in need, you uphold those who have been broken, and you satisfy those who seek a better way.

Many: All your works shall give thanks to you, Holy One, and all your faithful shall bless you.

*HYMN

I Come with Joy

NCH(black) #349

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Great and Mighty God, we seek your presence among us. We strain to hear your voice as it so often gets drowned out by the noise of the world. We pause to consider your works, your word, and your way. Speak to us now in spirit and in truth. Open your hand and our hearts that we may join in this moment of holy encounter. Forge us as a community committed to following the path Jesus has marked for us. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Creator God, we confess that we fail to recognize the bounty around us. We are not satisfied; we never have enough. We consider what we have received and what we have generated, and label it too little rather than sufficient. We need to cultivate our imagination and our faith to observe abundance and opportunity rather than scarcity and deficiency. Help us to comprehend that, in your kingdom, the fragments you gather are more than enough for flourishing.

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, you are enough. God's grace, strength, love, and hope meet you with sufficiency. Through the Holy One's sustaining power, we can gather the fragments that make our lives beautiful and God's kingdom real in the world.

Sung 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.**

WORD FOR ALL AGES

Sung Response Break Now the Bread of Life (verse 1) NCH(black) #321
**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me, as you once broke the loaves
beside the sea; Beyond the sacred page I seek, Lord;
my spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **2 Kings 4:42-44
John 6:1-21**

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

All: Amen

MESSAGE "Butterflies and Miracles" Rev. Rebecca Larson

*HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ NCH(black) #347

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *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.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Sustaining God, receive our offerings and magnify them beyond our imagination for the benefit of your kingdom, this ministry, and your creation. Cultivate a heart of generosity within us and enable us to witness the abundance that can be found in the fragments that remain as testimony to your power at work in us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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**

Praise with Joy the World's Creator

NCH(black) #273

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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 and condolences for the family of Eva Karcher who passed away on July 23

Prayers for Paul Santonelli as he awaits housing in Laconia

Prayers for the Ukama Delegation of the NHCUCC in their travels to Zimbabwe this week

Prayers for Paul & Jane Hartman, friends of Eleanor Spencer

Prayers for Dick and Paulette Brace

Prayers and condolences for the Mead family following the death of their beloved Hansi

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

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

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Prayers for the people of Palestine and Israel

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Rev. Muchayi and 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 office@uccplymouth.org

This Week and More at PCUCC

Tuesday, July 30

7:00 pm AA Meeting

Friday, August 2

8:00 pm AA Meeting

Sunday, August 4

11:30 am Climate Up Close at Starr King UU

Monday, August 12

1:00 pm Knitting Group

Preaching Schedule:

Aug. 4: Alison Thatcher (Rev. Ruth Martz serving Communion)

Sept. 1: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Aug. 11: Larry Spencer

Sept. 8: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Aug. 18: Rev. Ruth Martz

Sept. 15: Rev. Ruth Martz

Aug. 25: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Sept. 22: Alison Thatcher

Sept. 29: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Climate Up Close is an event offered by a panel of climate scientists who are there to answer any questions you have about what we know about climate change and what measures are being taken to mitigate its effects. PCUCC is co-sponsoring this event with Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and it will be taking place in their building at 101 Fairgrounds Road in Plymouth (a 5 min. drive) on Sunday, August 4 at 11:30. Please join us to learn something new about Creation Care and collaborate with our neighbor faith community. And bring a snack to share if you're able! **Directions to Starr King UU:** turn left onto Main St (US-3 N), turn left onto Fairgrounds Rd just before Common Man Lodge, Starr King is a half mile down on the left.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS as our Church participates in the Plymouth TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 from 9.am. to 3 p.m.

All proceeds will support our church HOPE FUND.

We will set up tables in front of our church:

- 1) Hospitality table (drinks, baked goods)
- 2) Church pamphlets, including the Hope Fund, ministries, and music programs
- 3) Individual Yard Sale tables (about 10 tables)

SIGN-UP by writing your name on the sheets in the Narthex, or by emailing office@uccplymouth.org.

At the annual meeting, the 2024-25 budget presented supported a 3/4 time rather than a full time minister. Because there was strong support for a full time pastor, the church members voted to ask for an increase in everyone's annual pledge to make up for the \$27,500 by the end of August. If this amount was not received by then, it was agreed to hire a 3/4 minister to insure a balanced budget.

It has only been a few weeks since the 2nd stewardship request was mailed. Even though we have a ways to go, Ann and I are encouraged. We want to thank everyone who has sent in their Part 2 Stewardship increasing their annual pledge. We know there are some questions, but there are so many variables that could give a different response to "WHAT IF" scenarios that we ask you to wait at least till the end of July before we address those questions. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider raising your annual pledge.

Linda LaPrad
Chair, Finance Committee

Ann Thurston
Treasurer

Carol Stewart
Chair, Church Council

Horton Center Pen Pal Program: Our church has been partnered with Caroline, a staff member at Horton Center, to be pen pals throughout the summer! She will send us a postcard once a week and we will send her one. If you would like to pick a week to send Caroline a postcard to let her know what we've been up to or a bit about our church, please contact the church office. We will provide postcards and stamps.

Calling for Summer Altar Flowers and Lemonade: Please sign up to bring flowers for our Sunday altar; the sign up sheet is on the wall in the Narthex. Open Sundays: 7/23, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 9/1. During our summer Sundays, after Worship, we would like to offer lemonade in front of the church. Plastic cups are available in the kitchen closet, along with a card table in Fellowship Hall. Let's keep things simple! Please sign up to bring lemonade, on the sheet in the Narthex. Dates available: July 14 to September 1. Warmest thanks!

Knitting Group meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. Join us with your fiber art of choice, trouble-shooting questions, or just for fellowship!

Keep the Soft Plastics Coming! During the summer months, the Mission and Outreach Committee also asks everyone to bring in non-perishable food to restock our Food Pantry. Please place food items in the large basket in the Narthex. Many thanks!

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.

INVITATION FROM COUNCIL PROFILE TEAM/SEARCH TEAM

On the Road – Again!

Dear Church Members and Friends,

By now you should have received Campbell Lovett's letter describing the road PCUCC will be traveling to its destination – a settled pastor. As with all road trips there are scenic overlooks that beckon us to pull over, admire the view and, perhaps, discuss details concerning “what now?”

Two details – the writing of our church profile and subsequently forming a Search Team require both time and a deep commitment to our church and its mission. Church Council is inviting all members to nominate [suggest] persons you would like to see fill the slots and a brief reason why. Good writers and those with a depth of knowledge about the church and community will be great candidates to help create the church profile. Those who work well with others on a team, are open-minded, can maintain confidentiality, and are available for meetings over the course of nine to twelve months, make for excellent Search Team members. You can suggest yourself if you like. As Campbell remarked “We are all in this together!”

Give your selection(s) to a Council member or leave it in the Council mailbox outside the office. We will prayerfully and carefully evaluate everyone who agrees to be considered. Don't be shy. **We would like to have your responses back by August 18th** so that we can begin processing information and have an announcement ready for Homecoming Sunday, September 8th. Think of this as an opportunity to serve your church in a very meaningful way as we continue down the road.

Grace and Peace,
Carol

Carol Stewart
Council Chair

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Transition Team Member 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

Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation

faithformation@uccplymouth.org

Ann Thurston, Treasurer

treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Jim Tyrrell, Summer Interim Accompanist

Guest Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Transition Team: Rebecca Larson, Campbell Lovett, Ruth Martz, Alison Thatcher

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next, please email to:

office@uccplymouth.org

Molly Simpson	July 6
Marilyn Wixson	July 6
Sally Jean Jensen	July 8
Johanna Bentwood	July 17
Alfie Kerr	July 18
John Anderson	July 21
Rose Shimberg	July 24
Bev Newton	July 26
Bill Torrey	July 31

Jan Bass	August 1
Arline Bownes	August 11
Dick Brace	August 15
Natalie Amtmann	August 21
Jim LaPrad	August 21
Marti Shoemaker	August 29

