

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Homeless Jesus by Timothy Schmalz

September 22, 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.

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Andante

Eugene Hill

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.

INTROIT

God has called us

Carl F. Schalk

*Those who are able may stand.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist – Kathy Henning

One: The Giver of Life calls us to be co-creators of Paradise on Earth.

All: Praise be to the Creator of love and beauty and wonders!

One: Christ calls us to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and marginalized.

All: Praise be to the Ultimate Ally, Love Incarnate, Subverter of Empire!

One: The Holy Spirit calls us, empowers us to use our talents for good.

All: Praise be to the Divine Energy that infuses all things!

We have heard the call. What will we do next?

*HYMN

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

NCH(black) #22

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

**Holy One, we invite your Spirit to flow within us and among us
in this time of congregation and exploration.**

**Calm our bodies, energize our spirits,
and awaken our minds with wonder and curiosity.**

**Remind us that your message of extravagant welcome is alive and relevant
and meant for everyone.**

May our ears be full of it and our actions be overflowing with it.

In the name of the one who shows us the way of compassion, amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God of grace and mercy,

**You created us in your image, you came down to show us the way,
and still, too often our actions do not reflect your love.**

We poorly bandage our insecurities with arrogance and competition.

**Remind us that it is only through vulnerability, humility, and grace
that we can be reconciled with you and your creation.**

Silence for personal reflection.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Our God has promised to never forsake us, no matter what. We are adopted into Christ's family, not because we deserve it, but just because we are. That is enough. And when we turn away from the folly of earthly power and validation, when we humble ourselves and seek God's wisdom and grace, we find it is already there right in front of us. We are forgiven, we are redeemed, we are loved.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Sung Response

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

NCH (black) #82

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone; Waking, sleeping, I am
with you, you are my own; In my love's baptismal river I have made you
mine forever, Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

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

All: Amen

MESSAGE	“Bumblin’ and Humblin’”	Alison Thatcher
*HYMN	O God of Earth and Altar	NCH(black) #582

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY	For the beauty of the earth	Hal H. Hopson
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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

**Giver of Life, we hear your call to be co-creators and caring stewards
of your just and peaceable garden.
Bless this offering given by our community this morning.
May it lift up this church to continue doing your work,
and flow beyond our walls as extravagant welcome
and radical compassion. 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 Lead on Eternal Sovereign NCH(black) #573

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Guide my eyes to You Aaron David Miller

POSTLUDE Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise arr. Alice Jordan

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.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Alice O'Connor's friend Diane Straub who has been diagnosed
with breast cancer

Prayers for the victims of war and famine everywhere

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

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

Today, September 22	4:00 pm "Triggered: A Man's Journey Through Recovery"
Monday, September 23	10:00 pm Book Group
Monday, September 23	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, September 24	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, September 26	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 26	7:00 pm NA Meeting
Friday, September 27	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Sunday, September 29	5:00pm Sunday Nighters at the home of Linda & Jim LaPrad
Sunday, October 6	Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Preaching Schedule:

Sept. 29: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Oct. 6: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Oct. 13: Alison Thatcher

Oct. 20: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Oct. 27: Rev. Ruth Martz

Nov. 3: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Nov. 10: Alison Thatcher

Nov. 17: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Sunday Nighters: Jim and Linda LaPrad would like to invite you to their house for a gathering of Sunday Nighters at 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 29th. This is a pot-luck meal so bring something to share. Please contact Jim and Linda if you need directions. And save the date! Campbell and Eileen Lovett will host Sunday Nighters on November 3rd.

“Triggered: A Man’s Journey Through Recovery” Performance at PCUCC **Today, September at 4pm.** Gifted actor and writer, Michael Stoddard has created a brilliant one-man show which deals with our nation’s growing drug and alcohol disorder epidemic. Through the first-hand account of an individual recovering from these substance use disorders, Michael portrays over 20 different characters in this 50-minute production. He helps audiences to better understand the devastating consequences faced by both the individual and the people around them who care. Q & A to follow. **Appropriate for grade 6-Adult.**

Book Group is reading The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters. Join the discussion on September 23 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Come Sing with the Plymouth Festival Chorus at PCUCC!

Rehearse and perform three different concerts for the 2024-2025 season. Participate in one, two, or all three! Whatever works best for you. Rehearsals for the October 27th concert (which includes Randal Thompson’s *Frostiana* and Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring*) begin Saturday, Sept. 28th. Scan the code to view the performance programs, rehearsals, and registration to participate. Email David Williams at musicdirector@uccplymouth.org with any questions.



Neighbors in Need Special Offering, October 6: Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

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!

Ignore Strange Texts, Emails, and Calls from Transition Team members or “Pastors.”

Ongoing awareness is needed to avoid scams. Pastors and churches all across the country are experiencing being misrepresented in texts, emails, and calls. Unfortunately, it is nearly impossible to track down and stop these criminals. Please notify Alison in the Church Office if you receive one of these messages – please also report them as spam to your email or phone provider. And, by all means, never go out and buy Gift Cards and send codes by text or over email. **Pastors will never ask for funds through emails or texts.** Thank you.

FOOD PANTRY Collection of Non-Perishable Items

For the month of September, we invite you to donate BREAKFAST FOODS. These can be instant oatmeal, shelf stable milk, single serving cereal boxes, granola bars, or fruit cups. Please place items in the basket in the Narthex. Warmest 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.

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

Music: Dan Perkins

Preaching: Alison Thatcher

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

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

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Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

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

Diane Arsenault

September 12

Philip Wei

September 16

Maddy Kelsey

September 29

