

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



February 23, 2025

9:30 am

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...”

Jesus Christ

Our Congregational Values Include:

Finding Unity in our Diversity

Seeking peace with justice

Welcoming LGBTQ+ people

Listening for the Still Speaking God

Striving to be an Anti-Racism church

“Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking is not”

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.
Worship Services may be viewed online at the Plymouth UCC Facebook Page*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Welcome to Tim and Chandra Hazelton who are sharing their musical gifts with us this morning. Thank you Tim and Chandra!!

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign the **red friendship** pad 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. Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.

INTROIT O Splendor of God's Glory Bright arr: Michael Praetorius

*Those who are able may stand.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Lavon Baylor Liturgist – Bill Heron

One: God of the whirlwind and fire, sweeps into our presence in this hour.

All: Glory be to God, who strengthens us and blesses all people with peace.

One: God, who called all worlds into being, calls forth new life in us today.

All: Glory be to God, in whose creative purpose we are claimed and empowered.

One: God, whose spirit unites all people in a common language of love, confirms God's gifts in us as we gather here.

All: Glory be to God, who created light in which we can journey in confident expectation.

*HYMN I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty New Century #50 verses 1 & 4

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER *By Colbert S. Cartwright*

Bounteous God, increase our faith as we gather as your people. Pour forth your love upon us and shower us with gifts of the Spirit. In our turning to you, grace us this hour with your abounding love, joy, peace, and patience. Fill us with kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Strengthened in faith, may we share your generosity with all the world. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, we share signs of peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

A WORD FOR ALL AGES

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 45:1-11, 15 *Joseph is reconciled with his brothers*

Luke 6: 27-38 *Jesus advocates a love for enemies and against judging others*

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

All: Amen

MESSAGE

In Relationship

Rev. Campbell Lovett

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Lord, Fill My Heart with Thankfulness

Stephen Kramer

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

One: We shall love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength, and we shall love our neighbor as ourself.

All: We make these offerings as a pledge of our love and loyalty; to God, to each other, and to all our fellow human beings. We commit ourselves to live in love and to be everyone's loyal servants, in the name of Christ our Servant Lord. 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

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 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love New Century # 498

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

MUSICAL BENEDICTION Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name ELLERS

POSTLUDE

The Postlude ends our 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.
Thank you to all who help set-up, provide goodies, and clean-up.***

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Joan whose son passed away after heart surgery, from Fran Taylor

Prayers for Peter Starck

Prayers and condolences for the family of Paul Harman, from Larry and Eleanor Spencer

Prayers for Martha Richards who is undergoing chemotherapy, from Alice O'Connor

Prayers for Bill Straub who is undergoing tests for cancer, from Alice O'Connor

Prayers for Mark Fabian who is recovering from brain surgery

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis

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

Prayers for the faithful work of our Pastoral Search Team

Prayers for the people of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for people affected by the devastating wildfires in and around Los Angeles

Prayers for Rev. Muchayi, his wife Maria, and our partner church in Zimbabwe

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

Monday, February 24	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, February 25	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, February 27	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 27	7:00 pm NA Meeting
Friday, February 28	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, March 3	10:00 am Book Group

Preaching Schedule

March 2: Rev. Rebecca Larson

March 9: Rev. Ruth Martz

Ash Wednesday, March 5: Rev. Ruth Martz

March 16: Rev. Ruth Martz

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Our pastoral Transition Team is excited to invite you to a special Lenten Worship series entitled "Gifts of the Dark Wood," based on the book by Dr. Eric Elnes and Worship Design Studios liturgy by Marcia McFee. Through music and Word, litany, reflection, and prayer, we will explore how experiences of life through the "dark wood" (uncertainty, emptiness, lostness, etc.) can be seen as gifts. How can the struggles of life be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fullness of life? Please join us for this inspiring series, from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Easter (April 20),

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY:

Many of the members and friends of PCUCC could participate more fully in the joys of our common Christian life if they had transportation to worship services and events at the church. The Deacons would like to explore the possibility of having a volunteer transportation coordinator and a roster of volunteers willing to provide rides to and from church. If you are able and willing to provide transportation, or are able to volunteer to coordinate, please contact Lynn Morrison 603-536-5950 phone or text; email llynnraej@protonmail.com.

Plastic Bags Needed for FOCT

Our packers for Feed Our Children Together need plastic grocery bags! Please bring in plastic grocery bags and leave them by the door to the Christ Room in the fellowship hall or outside the church office. Thank you!

Become a Pen Pal and Discover the World Through Letters! Hey there, Are you looking to connect with people from a far corner of the Globe, share stories, and learn about a new culture through the magic of writing? Then let's be pen pals! Jenny and Diane are setting up the Pen Pal program with our amazing Masvingo Zimbabwe church. We are excited to exchange letters with anyone who wants to chat about everything, discover new perspectives, and build a long-distance friendship. Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault or Diane Arsenault.

February Mission Focus: Blanket Collection The Mission & Outreach Committee asks members of the congregation to contribute new or gently used, twin-size, non-wool blankets (cotton, acrylic) for clients of the Bridge House in town. We are also collecting old blankets for pets at the Lakes Region Humane Society in Laconia. Please put donated blankets by the signs on the pew in the Narthex. Warmest thanks!

The Book Group is discussing James by Percival Everett. Join the discussion on March 3rd and 17th at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

The 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!

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, this week please call Transition Team Member Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936.

Or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

If you or a family member is hospitalized,
please inform the church office so we can ensure timely pastoral care

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

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

Janet Taylor	February 2	Maris Thatcher-Forgues	February 11
Ken Howe	February 11	Beverly Tedeschi	February 26
Chris Pollock	February 11	Robert Pollock	February 28

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

Preaching: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Music: Tim & Chandra Hazelton, Melanie Dixon

Transition Team: Rebecca Larson, Campbell Lovett, Ruth Martz

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