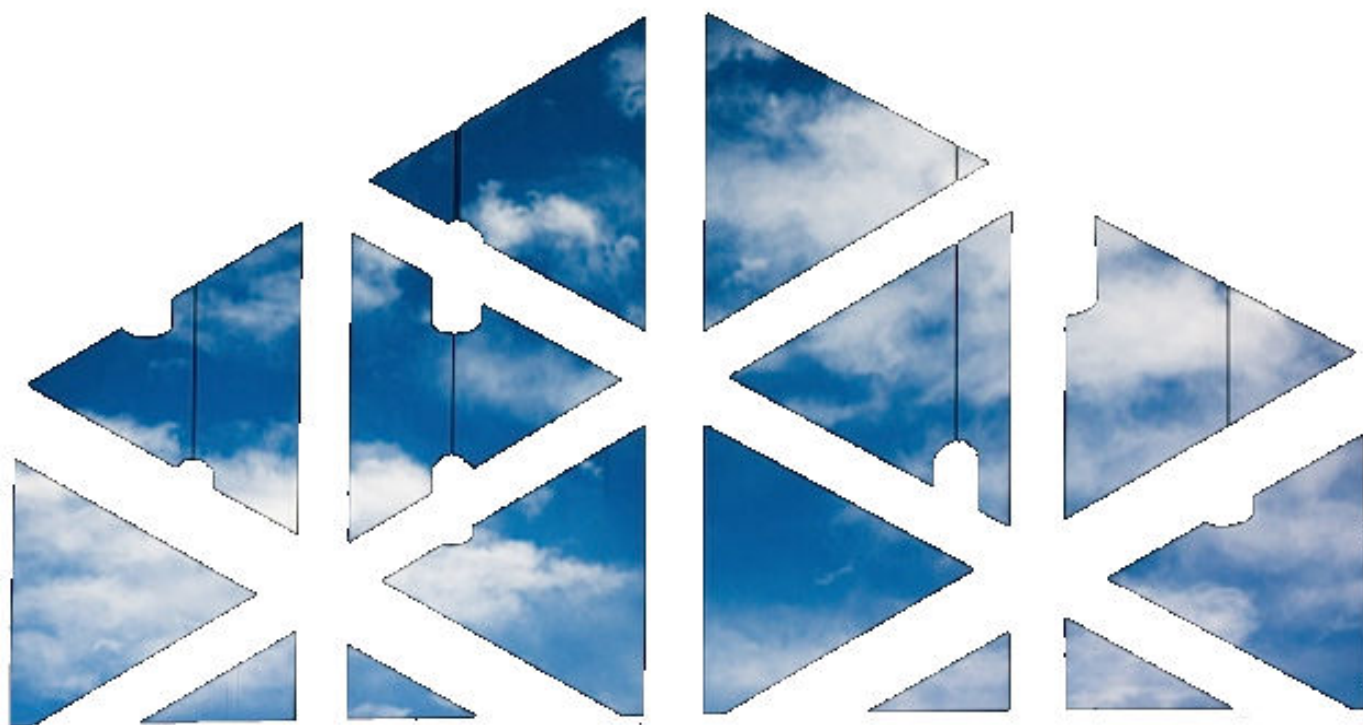


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 22, 2018

9:30 a.m.

A Just Peace Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A God is Still Speaking Congregation



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

Welcome to Worship!

A compassionate community, intentionally inclusive, openly searching, joyfully serving in the way of Christ

We are grateful for your presence this morning. If you are new to Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, the following information may be helpful.

- We are an Open & Affirming congregation where all people are valued and accepted regardless of sexual identity or orientation.
- We are a Just Peace church that affirms that peace is possible in human history and prays ceaselessly that peace may prevail on Earth.
- We celebrate our Christian heritage and seek to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

A Special Word to our Visitors

- Please fill out the fellowship pads the ushers will hand out at the beginning of the service. We would love to get to know you better and keep you up-to-date on all the programs, events and activities offered throughout the year.
- Families with infants and children are especially welcome to our service. Childcare is available during the worship service in the nursery. Please speak with an usher if you need assistance to find our nursery.
- Children's bulletins, activity bags (to be returned after worship) and toys are available in the Narthex. To find out more about our Sunday school program, we may talk to our Faith Formation Director Cindy Bjerklie or visit our website.
- Our service can be heard in the parlor and nursery.
- Our sanctuary is equipped with the Telecoil Loop System for the hard of hearing. For assistance on how to connect to the Telecoil, please speak to one of our ushers.
- Our building is fully accessible to all people. A small parking lot on the south side of the church is available only to persons with limited mobility or physical disability. The entrance to the parking lot is located immediately behind the Post Office, off Highland Street. An elevator connects all three levels.
- Join us for Coffee Hour in the fellowship hall immediately after the service.

Help us to protect the environment by dropping your bulletin in one of the recycling baskets at the two main entrances to the sanctuary. You may also download your bulletin from our website and follow the service on your own mobile device.

Large print bulletins are also available.

Transcripts of our Sunday Sermons and videos of the worship services are available on our website, www.uccplymouth.org.

Our worship service is live-streamed on our Facebook page every Sunday.

GATHERING

Prelude

Adante pastoral

Paul Reade

The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

Welcome and Life of the Church

Centering Song *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Call to Worship

**Indicates congregation standing*

One: Giver of this new day, we gather in your Presence.

All: Generous and inclusive God, we come together to praise you.

One: Lover of laughter, we come to you with our joys and our worries.

All: Loving and patient God, we gather as we are to worship you.

One: God of Easter, we are here to thank you for the gift of a living faith.

All: Constant Companion, meet us here and bring us closer to the love of Christ. Alleluia!

*Congregational Response

Halleluja

Traditional

Musical notation for the first line of Halleluja. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Musical notation for the second line of Halleluja. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

This joyous response may be used following readings of scripture, or as a processional or recessional, especially during Easter.

Tune: HALLELUJA
Caribbean melody

Prayer of the Day

One: Friends, may we pray knowing that the Spirit of the Living God is present with us now to listen, to comfort, to heal, to challenge, and to enfold us – body, mind, and spirit. Open your hearts, minds, and souls to God’s Holy Spirit, as we join our voices in one prayer, saying:

All: Maker of us all, here we are, your children, with our unique stories, our different needs, our tightly held secrets, our doubts, our varied gifts and our faith. Encircle us with the Easter wonder and wrap us deep in Christ’s love. We give thanks that the teachings of Jesus bring us into this sacred place and inspire us to be a Living Church - bound together by our faith and our common humanity. In this time of worship, help us to catch a glimpse of our potential to love and change the world. Remind us once again that we are Christ’s Body on Earth and ours are the hands to reach out with kindness; the feet to walk with others; the arms to embrace those who hurt; the mouth to speak words of love and protest. Show us how to live as Easter Christians so our worship may always reveal the power of love that overcomes even death. Amen.

Silence for Personal Reflection

Prayer Response “Dying You Destroyed our Death” (sing twice)

Capo 5: (Am) (Em) (Dm) (Am) (F) (G)
Dm Am Gm Dm B \flat C

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death; ris - ing you re -

(Dm7) (E \sharp us) (E7)(Dm) (Em) (A)
Gm7 Asus A7 Gm Am D

stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

God's Promise of New Life

One: Friends, believe in the Good News that can never be taken from us!

All: Easter is our turn-about moment! From now on, we will be lovers of life, lovers of one another, lovers of Christ, and lovers of the great mystery of faith that takes us closer to the Great Lover of the Universe. Alleluia!

***Hymn**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Blk#43

***Sign of Peace**

One: May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: Not an easy peace, not a conditional peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of the Risen Christ is with us now. Alleluia!

One: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

Parting Blessing

Noreen, Daamin, Tara and Ganza

***Congregational Blessing**

**All: Noreen, Daamin, Tara and Ganza,
May God guide your feet and minds today;
May you travel safely
And find kind companions on the way.
God be with your hand and your hearts today
When you wave goodbye
And prepare to welcome new friends into your lives.
God be in your lives
As you travel on;
May you find new opportunities and a heartfelt welcome
In your new church and hometown.
May God be with you always,
A constant Companion,
Guardian, Friend and Guide.
May you carry our love with you;
May the blessings of God be yours
On this new journey.
May God keep and bless you
All the days of your lives.**

***Song**

"Farewell, Good Friends!"

Dm

Fare - well, good friends! Fare - well, good friends! Sha -
Sha - lom, cha - ve - rim! Sha - lom, cha - ve - rot! Sha -

Gm C7 Dm

lom, sha - lom! Till we meet a - gain, till we
lom, sha - lom! Le - hit - ra - ot, le -

Gm A7 Dm

meet a - gain, sha - lom, sha - lom.
hit - ra - ot, sha - lom, sha - lom.

While it is true that the Hebrew word *shalom* means "peace" and that it is used to greet people and bid them farewell, its larger sense is a feeling of contentment, wholeness, and harmony. Singing this round in the original language is one way to share in that fuller meaning.

TEXT: Hebrew blessing
MUSIC: Israeli melody

SHALOM, CHAVERIM
Irregular

Children's Message

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

One: Listen for the Word of God

Epistle Lesson

1 John 3:16-18

Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-18

One: May God bless our reading, hearing, and doing of God's holy word.

All: Amen

Sermon

"What Is In Your Bible?"

***Hymn**

"We Are One in the Spirit"

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
 Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
 D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
 B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

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.**

Offertory

Be Still, My Soul

Roy Hopp

Gift of Music

***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.**

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

All: God of Easter, remind us that the incredible risk of love demands more of us than easy answers and pretty prayers. Help us to give, not because we have too much or because we can, but because we want to experience the love that comes as we share our lives and our blessings with others. May our giving today bear witness to our faith in your saving love. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

Blk#393

*Benediction

*Choral Response *Dismiss Us With the Blessing of Thy Peace*

Postlude

Summer

Paul Reade

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.

Keeping in Prayer

Jack & Vicky Meyers
Lynn Anderson

Eilene Greenwood
Nancy Pirnie
Pat Andrews

The Jaeubowski Family
Ginny Arsenault

Bob Feeney, our Chicago Seminary Student

Prayers for Sam Lovett, a member-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

Our sympathy to the Brace family
in the loss of Dick's brother Ron Brace.

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a prayer card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.

Save these dates

April 23rd - Adult Education with Paulo 4:00pm

April 26th - Colin Reception following choir practice 8:30pm

April 27th - Annual Reports Due

May 20th - PCUCC Annual Meeting following worship service

Announcements

Sunday Niters On **April 22nd** at 6pm, come sample Maple Porter at Anderson's Brewery in Campton, 1323 Rte.175, white building on left in village. Yes, bring a dish to share.

Faith in Action: be the Church We are ready to launch a new church-wide initiative. On the fifth Sunday in April, we will get together immediately after the worship service to do a mission project. The whole congregation, including families, children and youth, is invited. The service will be a tad shorter to give all of us the opportunity to put our faith into action. "Faith in Action" will happen in those months with a fifth Sunday. On **April 29th**, we will gather on the front steps of the church (weather permitting) to write letters of solidarity, hope, encouragement, and love to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. There will be cards and pens available. Invite friends and neighbors to stop by and write a card. Potluck will follow. Families whose last names begin with the letters A-K, please bring salad, relishes or vegetable plate. Families whose last names begin with L-Z, please bring dessert.

Adult Education Walter Brueggemann's new book is an invitation to reflect on the gift of the Christian faith in today's world. In the book, Brueggemann - a Beloved and respected scholar, teacher, and preacher offers penetrating insights on Scripture and prophetic diagnoses of our culture. Instead of maintaining what is safe and routine, *A Gospel of Hope* encourages readers to embrace

the audacity required to live out one's faith. This must-have volume gathers Brueggemann's wisdom on topics ranging from anxiety and abundance to partisanship and the role of faith in public life. We will meet on Monday, **April 23rd** in the Church Parlor from 4:00 to 5:30pm, chapters 1 and 2.

PCUCC Annual Meeting Our meeting will be on **May 20th** following church. **All annual reports which include reports from Finance, Pastor's Report, HR, Membership Statistics, Building & Grounds, Worship, Mission, Zimbabwe, Habitat, Spiritual Formation, Fellowship, Church Council, Diaconate, Nominating, Budget proposal and last year's minutes need to be sent to Debbie at the church office by Friday, April 27th.** These reports will be available on our church's website. To save church paper resources please consider reviewing them on the website ahead of our meeting or bring your electronic device to review at the meeting. If you are willing to do this, please let the church office know so we won't need to print as many report booklets! There will be a hard copy of the budget proposal available at the meeting.

Calling All Bakers! Food for Finals at PSU is **May 12th** and is asking interested parishioners to provide homemade goodies-cookies or squares free of nuts please-for the residence halls the first night of Finals Week. Please contact Debbie Healey in the front office at 536-2626 if you are able to volunteer as a coordinator for PCUCC.

Groceries and Raising Money for PCUCC Everyone has to eat and many of you shop at Hannaford's. Have you thought about using a Hannaford gift card. For the next couple of months, the Finance Committee will be offering Hannaford Gift Shopping cards in a variety of denominations to see how this program works as a fund raising effort. The cards will be available in a variety of denominations (\$50, \$100 and \$200). For every one hundred dollars you spend on the card, we will get back five dollars. See either Linda LaPrad, Chair of Finance, or Larry Spencer, Treasurer. You can either supply us with cash or a check made out to PCUCC with Hannaford gift card in the memo line.

Coffee Hour News Thank you for bringing snacks. Please sign-up on the Will You Tree poster if you're able to bring something. Suggestions are crackers & cheese, salsa & scoops, vegetables & hummus/drip, fruit & sweet dip, coffee cake, quick bread & cream cheese, muffins, chex mix, mixed nuts and pretzels. Please label gluten-free foods and a sign for snacks. Kitchen Crew We need volunteers to join the Kitchen Crew to make coffee and set-up food. We also need folks to help with clean-up after. Please sign-up on the Kitchen Crew Calendar. Thanks again from the Hospitality Committee.

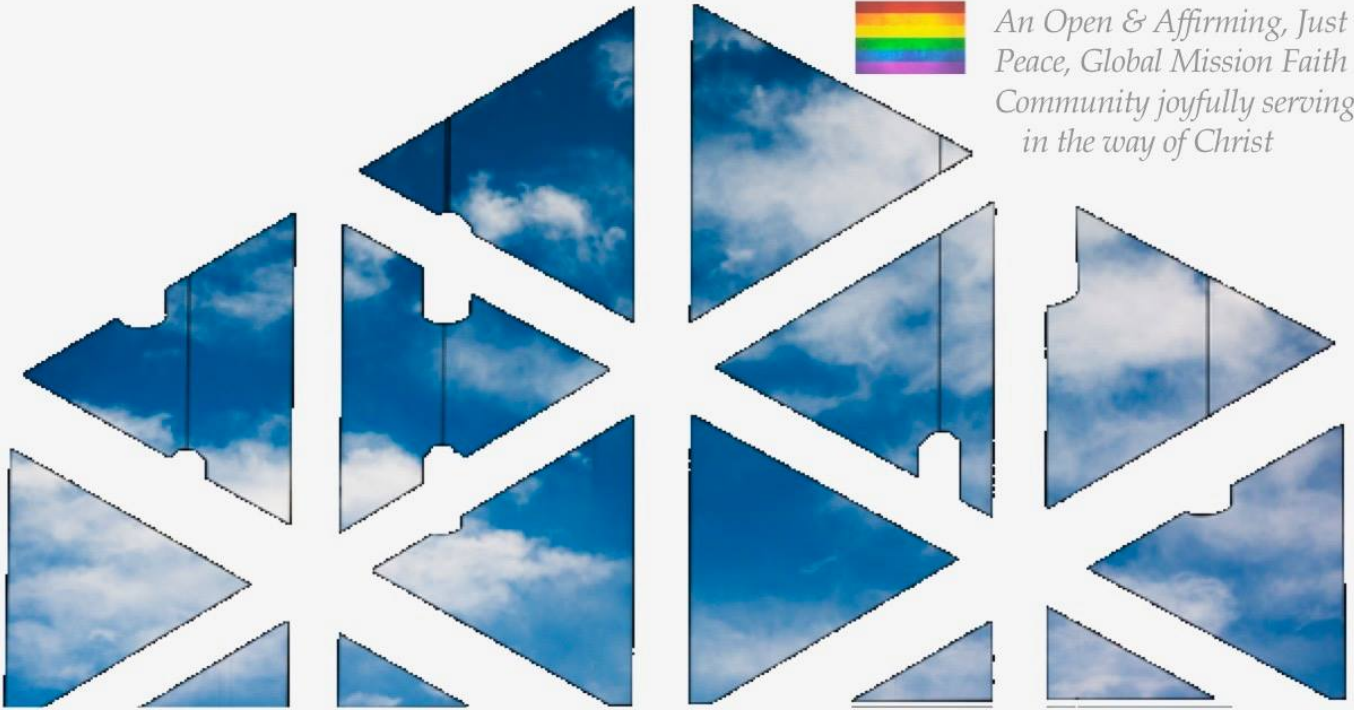
Faith Formation We are seeking volunteers to help with our children's programs, particularly with teaching Sunday School and music. If you're interested in working with our great kids, please contact Cindy Bjerklie at faithformation@uccplymouth.org.

COFFEE HOUSE - There is Something About Cuba Friday, **April 27th** at 6:30pm. From music to healthcare, Cuba remains a unique social and political experiment in the Americas. Join us to hear the reflections Dr. Diane Arsenault, Peter Pirnie, Rev. Carol Asher, Susan Wei, Philip Wei, and Eileen Torrey as they share about their trip to Cuba last January.

SMUGGLING HOPE INTO AMERICA Friday, **May 18th** at 6:30pm. Polish Poet, teacher and translator Ewa Chrusciel will read some of her poems and speak about her journey to America as a Polish immigrant. Bright, funny and captivating, Ewa Chrusciel uses her love of words and personal experience to talk about the ways immigrants smuggle hope and dreams into America. Ms. Chrusciel is an Associate Professor of Humanities at Colby-Sawyer College.



*An Open & Affirming, Just
Peace, Global Mission Faith
Community joyfully serving
in the way of Christ*



The Coffee House at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, presents:

There is Something about Cuba...



From music to healthcare, Cuba remains a unique social and political experiment in the Americas. Join us to learn about the experiences of our church members who traveled to Cuba last January as part of the UCC Cuba Study Seminar.

Special Music by Alison Thatcher

Friday, April 27th at 6:30 PM

The Reverend Paulo G. França, Minister
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
Cindy Bjerklie, Director of Christian Education
David Williams, Interim Director of Music
Colin McIver, Organist
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

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Rev. Michael Carrier, liturgist

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