

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

First Sunday in Lent



February 18, 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

The Angelus

Gordon Young

Welcome & 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@ucplymouth.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

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God

Healey Willan

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist – Jenny Thibeault

One: I'm thinking of a word that characterizes why we are here this morning

All: Is that word celebration??

One: No

All: Is that word edification??

One: No

All: Is that word joy?

One: No. The word is community. For the past week we've been apart, but now to start out the new week we come together as a community of believers, to celebrate, to become edified and to be joyful.

All: We hear the word and are gladdened.

***Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

NCH (black) #4

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Unison Gathering Prayer

God of the ubiquitous drought, rising seas, and local earthquakes

Of cloudy days and heavy rainfall,

Of silent voices that speak quietly over the tumult of cable news.

Show us your Word in fresh ways

And speak to us in a familiar tone.

**May we possess the wisdom
To tune out the cacophony of words that assault us daily
And to focus on the message of Christian charity
Found in the New Testament**

Word for All Ages

Congregational 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 Psalm 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15

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

All: Amen

Message "What's in a Word" Larry Spencer

***Hymn** God of the Sparrow God of the Whale NCH (black) #32

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory O Jesus, My Lord, My God Johanus Erasmus Kinderman

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.**

***Unison Offertory Prayer**

**God of many gifts, we return but a portion
of your unending abundance this morning.
Yet we give with cheerful, open hearts,
And with anticipation to see how this offering
will manifest your good news.
Refresh our trust and hope that with your blessing
It truly does make a difference. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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

Response: Hear your people at prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

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.

****We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.**

SENDING

***Hymn** You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore NCH (black) #173

***Pastoral Benediction**

***Choral Benediction** Grant to Us Your Comfort Aaron David Miller

Postlude Diapason Dialogue Gordon Young

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 the Sunday School.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer's brother, Ron Ury

Prayers for Rebecca Herr

Prayers for Sarah Dreshaj as she recovers from a skiing accident

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she awaits a kidney transplant

Prayers for Hanna and Peter Starck

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 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

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| Monday, February 19 | 10:00 am Book Group |
| Tuesday, February 20 | 7:00 pm AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, February 21 | 11:00 am Lectio Divina (Lenten Book Study) |
| Thursday, February 22 | 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday, February 23 | 8:00 pm AA Meeting |
| Saturday, February 24 | Prepared to Serve Event Register Now! |
| Monday, February 26 | 1:00 pm Knitting Group |
| Sunday, March 3 | 11:30 am Potluck and Presentation from the Immigration & Refugee Support Group (IRSG) |

CHURCH LIFE

Preaching Schedule:

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|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| February 18 | Larry Spencer | March 17 | Rev. Ruth Martz |
| February 25 | Rev. Ruth Martz | March 24 | Rev. Rebecca Larson |
| March 3 | Marcia Morris | March 31 (Easter) | Rev. Ruth Martz |
| March 10 | Alison Thatcher | April 7 | Rev. Gordon Rankin |

Lenten Book Study Wednesdays at 11am: The Wednesday Morning Bible study group will be reading “The Last Week: What the gospels Really Teach About Jesus’s Final Days in Jerusalem” by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. We’ll read a chapter a week during Lent beginning Feb. 14th. All are welcome to join in, or you might consider reading this book as your own Lenten devotional.

Please donate plastic bags! FOCT needs your Hannaford and Market Basket grocery bags. We go through 72 bags a week so please bring in as many as you can. Extra points and MUCH appreciation for double bagging. Saves the packers lots of time. Leave them on the Christ room door handle or on the pew in front of the office by the back door. Thanks for supporting this wonderful program.

Book Group is reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus in February. Join the discussion on February 19 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

Prepared to Serve: Saturday, February 24, 8am to 4pm. This day of workshops and panel discussions for all UCC Congregations will be held at Pembroke Academy, 209 Academy Rd in Pembroke, NH. Register online and view the amazing workshop schedule at www.nhcucc.org (Under “Caring for Congregations,” Prepared to Serve 2024). See more details in our weekly newsletter.

Potluck and Presentation from the IRSG Sunday, March 3: Please bring a dish to share and join us for a presentation by members from the IRSG of the NH Conference UCC. They will tell us about how they help folks here in New Hampshire and we can help their efforts.

Spring Plant Sale Upcoming in May: Calling all green thumbs! We're looking for donations of a variety of indoor and outdoor plants AND veggies plus pots to use for the sale. More information coming soon! Please reach out to Jenny Thibeault at ThibeaultJennyR@gmail.com or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Habitat Lunch Update: 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 at 61 Pleasant St. in Plymouth. These workers, along with Dale Mosher, REALLY appreciate the home-made food! Warmest thanks to the church members who have brought lunches. Suggestions: pasta, chili, chicken pot pie, stews, soups. Additions such as bread/fruit/ dessert are optional. Some

paper goods and plastic ware are on site; please check in with Ruth for details:
ruthm.joy@gmail.com or 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.

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| 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 |
| <p>Guest Speaker: Larry Spencer Guest Accompanist: Dan Perkins</p> <p>Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ 4 Post Office Square, P.O. Box 86 Plymouth, NH 03264 (603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org</p> | |



Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in February in our Community

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

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