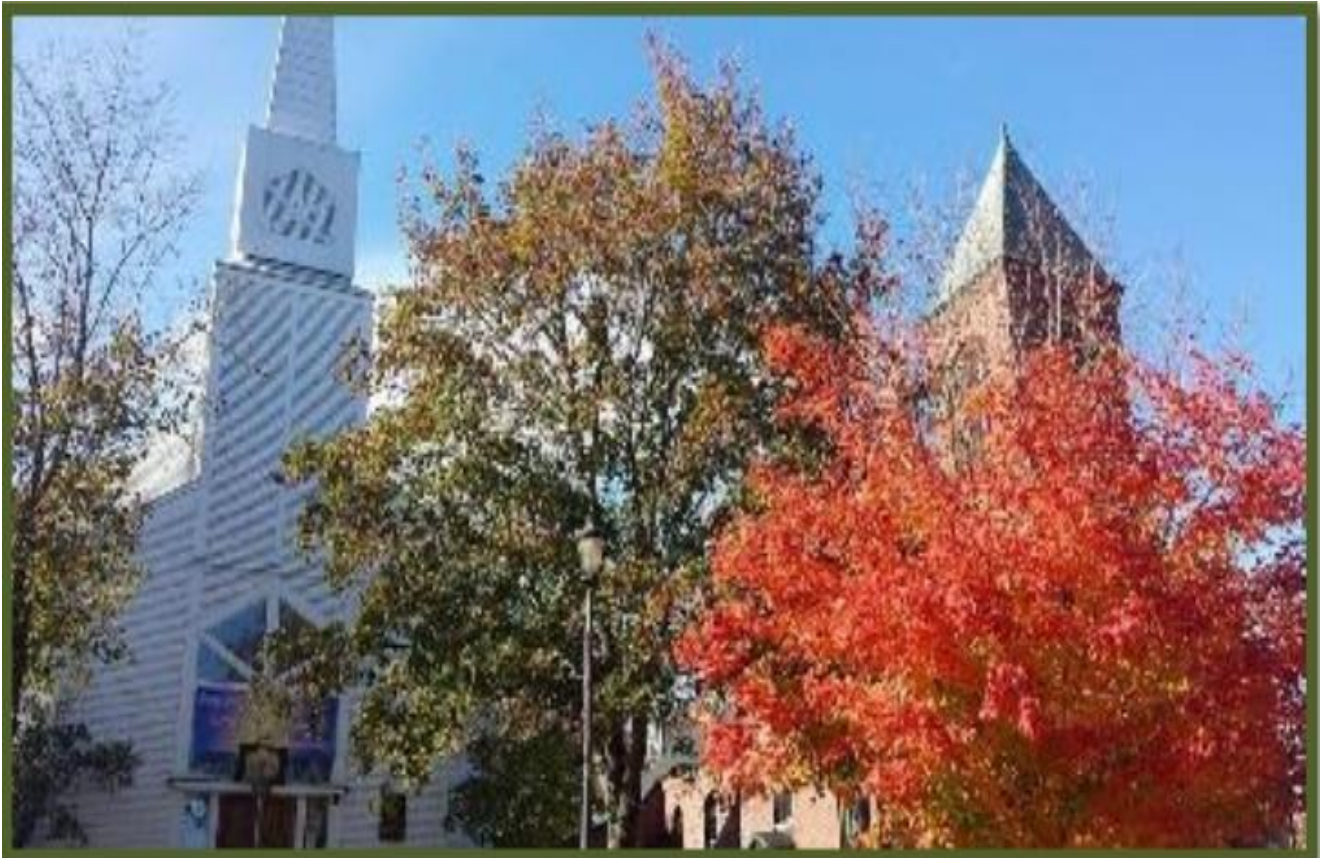


Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2019

9:30 AM



Courtesy of Eileen Torrey

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

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

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Open & Affirming, & God Is Still Speaking Congregation

"An inclusive spiritual family shaping a better you for creating a better world.

A place to make a difference."

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2019

Sacred Fellowship 9:30 AM

We are delighted that you are here today! We hope you will find us an affirming, uplifting, and committed family of faith. Here we work to make everyone, without any exceptions, to feel accepted, inspired, and encouraged in their spiritual journey. In dialogue, we seek to understand. In encouragement, we seek to heal. In all things we yearn to live by love, for peace, with joy. This is a place where your intellect will be challenged, your heart will be nurtured, and your spirit refreshed. Varying beliefs are expressed openly and freely, and your doubts will not be suppressed. We trust that we are all, every person and part of creation, continuing to be blessed by God's grace; and that in community we can help each other to see this grace alive in our lives and relationships. We hope to share our gifts with you, even as we pray that you will want to share your gifts with us. Whoever you are and wherever you may be in your life's journey, we invite you to be a part of our lives and our spiritual home. Welcome!

CALLED TOGETHER AS SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the registration pads when they are handed out by the ushers and pass to your neighbor in the pew.

We ask that you please shut off cell phones and practice quietness during the service. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after the worship in the Fellowship Hall.

* = You are invited to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Welcoming the Light of Love in Our Midst

Acolyte lights altar candle.

We prepare ourselves for communing with the sacred as love's light is brought into our awareness. The light of love burns within and among each of us, and we carry that light into our sanctuary; visually reminding us of the image of the divine that lives in our hearts, minds, and souls – and that we nourish through our faith-filled fellowship.

Choral Introit

Come Let Us Praise the Lord

William Byrd, arr: Hal Hopson

Affirming God's Presence in Us All

"You Matter!"

Sharing Christ's Peace

As a sign of our reconciliation with God and one another, greet and welcome those around you and share "the peace of Christ."

***Opening Hymn**

"Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless"

#461 (NC)

***Centering Our Souls**

Henri Nouwen, Here and Now, 104-5

Compassion means to become close to the one who suffers.

But we can come close to another person only when we are willing to become vulnerable ourselves.

A compassionate person says: "I am your brother; I am your sister; I am human, fragile, and mortal, just like you. I am not scandalized by your tears, nor afraid of your pain. I too have wept. I too have felt pain."

We can be with the other only when the other ceased to be other and becomes like us.

WE LISTEN FOR THE SACRED IN THE MIDST OF OUR LIVES

A Time for All God's Children

Bill Torrey

Prayers

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns, and Acts of Compassion or Kindness

Silent Meditation: The Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Unison

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 keep us from temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 25: 1-10

Message

The Gift of Life Given in Love, Received in Hope and Thankfulness

Luke 10: 25-37

***Hymn**

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

#342 (Red)

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE THROUGH FAITHFULNESS

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Gift of Music: Choral Anthem

Praise, O Zion, Thy Salvation

W.A. Mozart, arr: Walter Ehnet

Tune: Old One Hundredth

***Song of Dedication**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God ye Heavenly host

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, you have given us people who love us and whom we love. In this we find comfort. And you have placed strangers in our lives. In this we find our challenge and your call. Open our eyes to see your face in every person we meet. Open our hearts to count each of your children as a brother or sister. Open our arms to welcome them in. Open our gifts so that we may show them that your love and compassion have no bounds. Through this may we find that you have made your home in us, and us part of your family. Amen.

Prayers For Dedicating Our Gifts And Ourselves

***Hymn** "God, Each Day You Give is Precious"

A Hymn for Organ Donors and Families

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844. Harm. James H. Wood, 1958

Text: Copyright © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2014

God, each day you give is precious; it's a joyful thing to live!

We are stewards of the wonders of these bodies that you give.

In our heartbeats, in our breathing, in our walking, in our sight,

We are blessed to be a blessing, and your grace is our delight.

Yet when tragedy is sudden, when we're faced with pain and death,

When a body is too broken to receive another breath,

When it seems that none can cheer us, when a loved one is too ill,

In these times when death is near us, life becomes more precious still.

We are grateful for the vision of the ones who have prepared:

Who have made the firm decision that, in death, life must be shared,

For when earthly bodies fail them, as they're welcomed into heaven,

Others here will know a blessing from the life these saints have given.

God, we thank you for the families who, in saying their good-byes,

Seek to end their neighbors' suffering, giving hope and changing lives--

And for resurrection glory, we give thanks and praises, too.

Death can never end our story, for you'll make us whole and new.

We are made to make a difference, we are made to laugh and dance,

So we thank you for each person who receives a second chance.

For they know that life is precious; they can see another dawn.

They are blessed to be a blessing as the joy of life goes on.

Benediction

BOW p.553

And now unto the one who is able to keep us from falling and lifts us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy: to God be power and authority, for ever and ever.

Choral Benediction

Dismiss Us, Our Father

Encouragement for the Journey

Rev. William Sloane Coffin

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;
grace to risk something big for something good;
grace to remember that the world is too dangerous for anything but truth
and too small for anything but love.

So, may God take your minds and think through them;
may God take your lips and speak through them;
may God take your hearts and set them on fire.

Postlude

The Light of Love Goes into the World

Love's light is not extinguished from our worship, but is transferred from the flame of the candles to the passion in our hearts that we may go forth to let the light of love shine through us as we go to serve in the world.

WE GO FORTH AS PEACEMAKERS TO CREATE JUSTICE FOR ALL

Our worship is fulfilled, and our purpose is confirmed,
through our service as God's stewards to the world and all creation.

Use the blessings God has given you as you share
the joy in your heart, the wisdom in your mind,
the love in your spirit, and the peace in your soul.

Thank you for sharing sacred fellowship with us.

Plymouth Congregational UCC is an open and affirming church, embracing diversity in our congregation and community, and affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We are an inclusive community of faith that celebrates God's presence through shared stories and experiences of sacred meaning on Sundays, and through the nurturing of divine values and virtues manifested in active practices in our daily lives. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of the church, regardless of race, ethnic background, gender/sexual identity, sexual orientation, physical or cognitive capabilities, nationality/citizenship, or circumstance of life. We are also a Just Peace church, emphasizing peace and nonviolence in all our relationships, personally and collectively, because we see the sacred worth of every person throughout this good earth. We are a Progressive Christian family of faith. We invite you to hear our experiences of the divine even as we are curious in learning about your own spiritual journey. We hope our values may intersect as together we strive to make our corner of the world a better place. Get to know us! We'd like to get to know you!

Keeping in Prayer

Ralph Reynold Mike & Michele Ettelston Dick Brace
Kyle Greenwood Jesse Armstrong Janet Taylor
Pastor Bret's Mom, Ruth Ann Myers
P.V. George

Bob Feeny and Sam Lovett,
members-in-discernment in the Merrimack Association

*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

Today – Sunday Niters at Georgene Fabian’s
November 19th – Holiday Clean-Up Day in Kitchen
November 22nd – Coffee House at 6:15 PM
November 24th – NH Master Chorale at 4:00 PM

Announcements

Director of Christian Education Opening – Position open, part-time, at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. Estimated 13 hour per week, includes Sundays, 10-month period. Minimum education required: Associates Degree. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of interest to: Human Resources, PCUCC, P.O. Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Coffee Hour - Today, everyone is invited to Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the Service for a beverage, snack and conversation plus a special celebration.

Perhaps we will have more surplus garden produce and other items to share. Please leave a cash donation which will go to “Voices against Violence”.

Please remember that the following Sunday, **November 24th** is our monthly “Reduced Sugar Day”. We would like to have foods that focus on Vegetables, fruits, and whole-grains.

Tuesday, **November 19th** will be Holiday Clean-up Day in the kitchen from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Come and help get the kitchen ready for everyone to use during a busy time of year. Mark your calendars and sign up on the bulletin board. Please note that the day of the week will be on a rotating schedule to allow more helpers to attend.

There are many opportunities to help in the kitchen by setting up prior to the service, cleaning up afterwards or bringing in snacks. You may sign-up on the bulletin board near the pass-through window to help or use one of the dated tags on the Will-U poster at the entrance to Fellowship Hall if you are bringing a snack. Please contact Chris Pollock at 603-674-8590 or e-mail at rpollock@metrocast.net to sign up or if you have any questions. Thank you from the Hospitality Committee!

Sunday Niters – Today, Georgene Fabian will host Sunday Niters pot luck dinner on starting at 5:00 PM. Address is 412 Route 3 Holderness. The driveway has stone gateposts, about 2 miles south (toward Meredith) of the Squam Bridge on the left. Come and enjoy the fellowship and great food!

Book Group – The Book Group will be meet on Monday, **November 18th**. We will discuss *My Stroke of Insight* by Jill Bolte Taylor, and on, *Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson.

Service Exchange Fundraiser News – To date, we have earned \$900. There are still 15 additional services being offered which may bring another \$900. Sunday, **November 24th** will be that last day to purchase a service. Thank you for your support!

If you are interested, contact the volunteer directly. All donations must be received by **December 8th**. Make check available to PCUCC with Service Fundraiser and the volunteer's name on the envelope. Payment can be dropped in Sunday's collection plate or mailed to the church office to Finance's attention. Thank you for participating!

Coffee House - Our Speaker will be Marcia Morris, Program Coordinator of the Caring Campus Coalition at PSU. She will update us on the work of the "Campus Ministry" which our church helps support.

Please join us on Friday, **November 22nd** at 6:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring finger food to share if you can. Everyone is welcome ~ bring a friend.

Guest Preachers – PCUCC will have the following guest preachers for the upcoming weeks: **November 24th** – Rev. Bob Feeny and **December 1st** – Rev. Gordon Rankin. In case of emergency, please contact Linda Barnes from the Starr King Fellowship in Plymouth. Rev. Barnes can be contact at 641-351-8762 or minister@starrkingfellowship.org. You may also contact Debbie in the church office at 536-2626 or office@uccplymouth.org. Debbie will be happy to contact Rev. Barnes or a PCUCC retired Pastor for a non-emergency.

Mission News - We will be collecting items for the organization, Voices Against Violence in Plymouth. Please bring items and put them into the laundry basket near the choir area. The wish list includes toilet paper, large trash bags, kitchen size trash bags, gas cards, laundry and dish detergent.

Volunteers Needed – PCUCC is in need of 15 readers for our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on December 24th at 7:00 PM. Please contact Eileen or Debbie if you are able to help. Thank you!

From the desk of Rev. Myers - This Advent is going to be extra special Plymouth Congregational UCC! We're going to create an Advent Devotional booklet made by our members! We are asking you to share your stories or thoughts about Advent and Christmas with one another by writing about your memories or the importance of the season to you. Sharing the meaning of the season with each other encourages us to connect ourselves closer together by sharing our faith experiences regarding Advent and Christmas. It is an opportunity to grow our spirits while blessing one another, and we invite you to do just that! Whether it is a heartfelt personal or family story, a reflection on a particular scripture, or a significant experience, tradition, or a rumination that blesses your soul, **we want to hear/see what you have to write, draw, color, or paint to convey the meaning of this sacred time.** We need at least 24 entries (one for every day of Advent plus Christmas Day) to be **submitted in digital format and up to one page (or so) in length by Tuesday, November 26th**, so that we may compile and print them for the reading/viewing of our congregations. If we have 35 entries, we may also cover the remaining 12 days of Christmas. If we have more than this, we can put several on each day. Children, youth, and adults are invited to contribute more than one

devotional piece – perhaps reflecting different times of your life. **Please include your name on each submission to the office email at office@uccplymouth.org.** This intergenerational sharing will warm your hearts in this season. We hope you and each member of your family can contribute to this sharing of our spirits. The devotionals will be distributed by email and on our Facebook page before the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1st. Please let the office know if you are in need of a hard copy.

The Vision Statement of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Guided by the spirit of Christ,
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
strives to be a place of sanctuary for all,
warmly welcoming those who are seeking acceptance, understanding,
and a spiritual home.

God is still speaking.

Therefore, we welcome diversity of faith and self-identity,
striving to be an active presence in the community,
engaging in social and environmental justice
and providing local and global support.

The Mission Statement of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

We live out our faith by:

- Providing diverse and vibrant worship, music, and educational programs.
- Engaging in mission and outreach for all ages (e.g. substance abuse, homelessness and food insecurity).
- Offering to people in the community opportunities to nurture their spiritual journeys.
- Respecting individuality and creating a sense of belonging for all.
- Engaging and collaboratively working with the town of Plymouth, local agencies and Plymouth State University, including the providing of space for various community groups.
- Actively engaging in ministry teams of the church.

The Rev. Bret S. Myers, Interim Pastor
Deborah Healey, Church Office Administrator
David Williams, Director of Music
Ashley Paine, Organist/Accompanist
Larry Spencer, Church Treasurer
Celia Woolverton, Grace Counseling

pastor@uccplymouth.org
office@uccplymouth.org
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org
organist@uccplymouth.org
treasurer@uccplymouth.org
gracecounseling@uccplymouth.org

Guest Pastor, Rev. Ruth Mosher
Liturgist, Enid Reed

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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Plymouth, NH 03264

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

Please make an appointment with Rev. Myers if you would like to meet with the pastor.

You may call the church office at 603-536-2626,

email him at revbmyers@yahoo.com, or call/text his cell at 608-370-9472.

*Bret's office hours are Sunday 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Tuesday 1:00-7:00 PM,
Wednesday 1:00 – 8:00 PM, Thursday 2:00-5:00 PM and other hours by appointment.*