

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday of Easter: Communion Sunday



May 5, 2024

9:30 am

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people

We are an Anti-Racism Church

🎵 We Listen for the Still Speaking God

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

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Deep River

American Spiritual

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@uccplymouth.org.

On Communion Sunday the children begin downstairs in Sunday School and come up for Communion.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Worship** *by Steve Garnass-Holmes*

Liturgist – Carol Stewart

One: O God, Energy of Love, you call us into being.

All: We abide in your love, and your joy is in us.

One: Heart of Love, you guide us in each moment, each breath.

All: We abide in your love, and your joy is in us.

One: The world does not understand love, but your love conquers the world.

All: We abide in your love, and your joy is in us. Alleluia!

***Hymn**

At the Font We Start Our Journey

NCH(black) #308

Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Unison Gathering Prayer** *by Steve Garnass-Holmes*

Gracious God, in Jesus you have loved us deeply. You have shown us what love looks like, in his life and ministry, and in scripture,. Help us, as we hear the scripture read and your Word proclaimed, to know your love and receive your love, so that we might be more able to give your love to others in the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession *by Steve Garnass-Holmes*

One: The grace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

**All: God of love, help us to see ourselves with the eyes of love,
to see all that is in us that is loving,
and all that is not loving.
By the grace that we know in Christ,
forgive us, heal us, and perfect your love in us.**

Silent prayer ... the word of grace

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.**

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture John 15: 9-17
Acts 10: 44-48

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

All: Amen

Message "Pentecost on Repeat" Rev. Rebecca Larson

***Hymn** Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether NCH(black) #337

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Holy Communion

Invitation and Welcome to the Table

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Prayer of Consecration and Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup (By Intinction)

This morning Communion will be by Intinction, which simply means “dipping in.” Please come forward in a single line down the center aisle and receive the elements then return to your seat by the side aisles.

**The bread is gluten free and nut free: the grape juice is non-alcoholic.*

Communion Music

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving** *by Steve Garnass-Holmes*

Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have chosen us; you have loved us; you have laid down your life for us; you have empowered us to go and bear fruit. How can we but shine with gratitude, radiate joy, and bear love into this world, to your deep delight? Send us, Beloved, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Offertory Anthem In My Native Country Edvard Grieg
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 Prayer of Dedication** *NCH #845*

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

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** Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts NCH(black) #329

***Pastoral Benediction**

Postlude Ride On, King Jesus Traditional Spiritual

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.

Keeping in Prayer:

Prayers for Georgene Fabian who is recovering at Genesis Rehab Center. She would appreciate visits and cards sent to 175 Blueberry Ln, Laconia, NH 03246

Prayers for Ken Morris, very good friend of Butch & Donna Castor,
who has metastatic cancer

Prayers for the Rev. Judy Downing, friend of Eileen Torrey,
who is critically ill with an aortic aneurysm

Love and condolences to the family of Carl Getty, Eileen's brother-in-law,
who passed away in Michigan on Sunday, April 7th

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for Eleanor Spencer's brother, Ron Ury

Prayers for Kristin, friend of Alice O'Connor, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer

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 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

Today, May 5	3:00 pm Pemi Choral Society Concert at Silver Center
Monday, May 6	10:00 am Book Group
Tuesday, May 7	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Wednesday, May 8	11:00 am Lectio Divina
Thursday, May 9	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, May 10	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, May 13	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Tuesday, May 14	7:00 pm Concert: Claire McCahan
Sunday, May 19	Following Worship: Board Game Coffee Hour!
Saturday, June 1	Plant Sale
Sunday, June 16	Following Worship: Annual Meeting

CHURCH LIFE

Preaching Schedule:

May 12: Alison Thatcher	June 9: Rev. Ruth Martz
May 19: Rev. Campbell Lovett	June 16: Rev. Ruth Martz
May 26: Rev. Ruth Martz	June 23: Rev. Sam Lovett
June 2: Rev. Rebecca Larson	June 30: Rev. Campbell Lovett

Concert: Claire McCahan, May 14: An evening of art song with Claire McCahan and Allan DiBiase. Tuesday May 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm sponsored by the Joan Campbell Lovett music fund. Also featuring Molly McCahan. Free, donations taken at the door.

Board Game Coffee Hour, May 19: Faith Formation is hosting a coffee hour and board game event during coffee hour on Sunday may 19. During the next few weeks, please sign up to bring a board game for May 19th. We hope this will be a fun-filled intergenerational event. Please join us!

Spring Plant Sale June 1: 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. **Please drop off plants on the afternoon of May 31.** Contact Jenny Thibeault at thibeaultjenny@gmail.com or 603-254-7824 if you have any questions.

Annual Meeting, June 16: The Annual Meeting of our congregation will be on June 16th right after church in the sanctuary. **All committee chairs need to send their annual report via email to the church office by Friday, May 24th** giving Alison time to produce the Annual Report a few weeks before the meeting. Thank you!

Attention church members and friends. Nominating Committee is looking for interested individuals to join our church committee teams. If you have a passion and willingness to share your time and talents to contribute to the life of our church please consider joining one of the wonderful groups of dedicated committee members. Please reach out to Megan Magrauth after church or by emailing meganmagrauth@gmail.com.

Learn more about the Human Resources Committee: Human Resources is a standing committee of the church. Our HR committee is made up of four persons, Rebecca Larson, chair; Bev Tedeschi, liaison to Music committee; Chris Pollock, liaison to Faith Formation; and Kathy Henning, at-large liaison. Our duties include monitoring compliance to the Personnel Policy, maintaining current job descriptions, coordinate hiring, termination and annual reviews of all employees. We also recommend compensation of staff to the Finance committee, act as support for all staff members, and mediate the staff grievance process.

Interested in becoming a member of PCUCC? We will be receiving new members soon. If you would like to become a member of PCUCC or know of someone who would like to become a member, please contact Ruth Martz or Eileen Torrey.

Lectio Divina: All are invited to gather Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon for a Bible study modeled on Lectio Divina, the sacred reading of scripture. Please join us. Rebecca Larson will lead us.

Book Group is reading Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future by Patty Krawec. Join the discussion on May 6 and 20 at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: henkat52@gmail.com.

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!

Smores Time! Sign up for an UCC Outdoor Ministries Camp! Kids & Adults are Welcome! Horton Center is currently accepting registrations for sessions this summer. Come enjoy a transformative week on top of Pine Mountain celebrating the beauty of God's natural wonders and be a part of this incredibly supportive and positive community. Catalogs are available and can also be found online at www.hortoncenter.org. Conference scholarships are available. Counselors are also needed- enjoy great food and fun and a week of camp for free! Contact Tivvi Pare at tpare@nhcucc.org or Megan Magrauth at meganmagrauth@gmail.com with any questions. Hope to see you on the mountain this summer!

FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

Soft Plastics Collection April and May: All soft plastic MUST be cleaned of food, dried, and stick-on labels cut out. Soft plastics include items such as: plastic bags, frozen food bags, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap, mulch/dirt bags, plastic nut bags, etc. Please place items in the large box in the Narthex and the bag in Fellowship Hall, where there are also samples. All soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia, where it is trucked to Maine and repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture. Thank you! Please pick up excellent resources for limiting your use of PLASTIC: “Real Faith in a Synthetic World: Plastic Jesus.”

FROM FINANCE

2024-25 Stewardship Campaign Imagine Together

Our current fiscal year is coming to a close. This is when we look back at all we've accomplished and a time to imagine what we can do together to keep the flexibility, creativity, and faithfulness alive and thriving. The budget, of course, is the biggest driver that determines our mission and ministry focus for 2024-25, and it is our annual pledges that makes it possible to turn what we imagine into reality. Although the church has several sources of income, pledges are the most important factor in influencing the mission and ministry focus. Unfortunately, many members have moved or passed away over the past several years resulting in an overall reduction in pledge income. Council and Finance are working together to minimize the impact of the upcoming shortfall/negative balance in next year's budget, and it is our hope that you will prayerfully consider increasing your pledge. You will shortly receive the stewardship package that was mailed this past week, and Stewardship Sunday is May 19th. Please return your pledge card by May 17th to PCUCC Finance by US mail to PO Box 86, Plymouth, NH 03264, email to treasurer@uccplymouth.org or place your pledge card in the collection plate.

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 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

Preaching: Rev. Rebecca Larson

Accompanist: Margot W. Swift

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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(603) 536-2626 - office@uccplymouth.org - www.uccplymouth.org

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in May in our Community

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

Jim Preston	May 2	Robbin Adams	May 20
Alison Thatcher	May 8	Tessa Nicole Kelsey	May 22
Troy Tedeschi	May 9	Jenny Thibeault	May 23
Eric Kelsey	May 12	Kathy Henning	May 24

