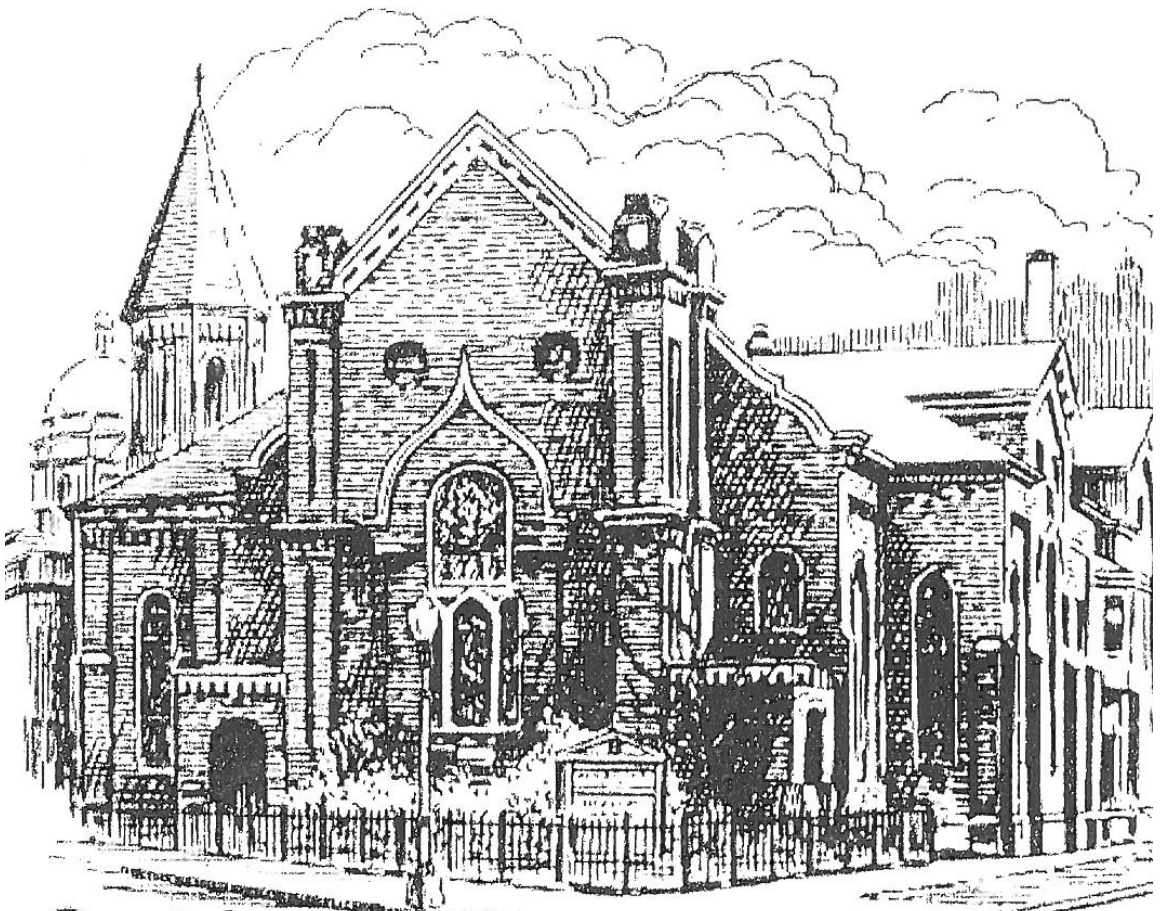


**Plymouth Congregational Church**  
*a Congregation of the United Church of Christ*  
*in downtown Syracuse, NY*



Plymouth Congregational Church  
Syracuse, N.Y. — E. Nielsen

Service of the Word  
May 24, 2026  
10:00 am – Worship

**Pentecost Sunday**

## ☞ Order of Worship ☞

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

*Be still ... and aware of God's presence  
within you and all around you.*

### BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

PRELUDE

Petites Litanies de Jesus

Gabriel Grovlez

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Craig French

CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Steve Garnaas-Holmes)*

Kathleen Deters-Hayes

One: Breath of Life, raise us up.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: Wind of grace, carry us always.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: Light of God, show us the way.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: Spirit of God, make us one.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: Flame of Love, send us forth.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Alleluia!**

\*HYMN

Let Every Christian Pray

#261

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**ALL: And, also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with those around you.*

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST *(from unfoldinglight.net)*

**ALL: Graceful Power, move in me.  
May my living give language to your miraculous ways.  
May my words express your goodness,  
my actions reveal the abundance of your blessing.  
Spirit, be the nerve that moves me as your body  
to do your will,  
that all that I do might clearly embody your grace  
and be your living example.  
May all whom I meet be given to understand  
in the language of their hearts  
your loving presence. Amen**

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ANTHEM                      Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove                      J. Dykes  
arr. Joe Downing

STORY FOR ALL AGES                      Emily Evans

*Following the Story for All Ages, children preschool through  
grade 5 will depart for Learning Community.*

SCRIPTURE                      Acts 2:1-21                      *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE                      Shaken or Stirred?

\*HYMN                      Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness                      #286

CALL TO PRAYER                      Spirit of the Living God                      #283

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*In an effort to pray in unison while respecting the different versions that many of us have prayed since childhood, we will cycle through the different versions over the course of a year. We will pray the prayer with "debts" through August.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## CALL TO ACTION

## CALL TO GIVING

## OFFERING

*Today we are receiving a special offering for the ongoing work of the United Church of Christ: **The Strengthen the Church offering**. Checks made out to Plymouth and marked Strengthen the Church (STC), or any offering put in the specially marked envelopes in the pews, will help the UCC fulfill its commitments to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Offerings not so marked will go to do all that same work and more locally, here at Plymouth.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      Father, Thy Holy Spirit Send      Melchior Franck

## \*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God whose breath fills all the earth,  
Whose love reveals our sacred worth,  
Whose Spirit leads us all to thrive,  
Of every nation, every tribe.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN      On Pentecost They Gathered      #272

\*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

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Something to Think About

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak in other languages,  
as the Spirit gave them ability.*

—Acts 2.4

Probably not eloquently. More likely  
in halting Phrygian, mangled Mesopotamian.  
It probably took some back-and-forth, some double-checking,  
requiring not just proclaiming but listening,  
relating, getting feedback,  
patience on the part of the hearers,  
and courage and humility on the part of the speakers—  
willingness to risk, to be beginners, to appear foolish,  
to forgo the safety of being in the dominant group,  
overcoming barriers.

None was a solo. They were all ensemble pieces.

Pray for such humility and courage,  
to risk for the sake of love,  
to be foolish for the sake of relating,  
to let other people's reality be real.

To harmonize.

This is how the Holy Spirit speaks, loud and clear.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**Plymouth's Food Pantry** is asking for donations of laundry detergent and fabric softeners (either powder, liquid, or sheets) through the month of May.

**☞ Plymouth Runs on YOU ☞**

**USHER:** Frank Leonard

**FLOWERS:** Maurine McTyre-Watts

**DEACONS ON DUTY:** Aspen and Kailyn Wright

**LITURGIST:** Kathleen Deters-Hayes

**ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR:** Tom Zorn

**COUNTERS:** Kathleen Deters-Hayes and Linda Milosky

**THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH**

- Today           **Pentecost Sunday** Worship, 10am, Sanctuary  
Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall\*
- Mon    May 25 **Memorial Day**, the Church Office is closed.  
Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Choir, 6pm, Memorial Hall
- Tue    May 26 Church Council, 5:30pm, Parlor\*\*  
Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall  
Christian Formation, 7pm, Parlor\*\*
- Wed    May 27 Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement
- Thu    May 28 Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary  
NA, 6:30p, Parlor  
Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Fri    May 29 NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Sat    May 30 NA, 10am, Parlor  
NA, 12noon, Memorial Hall
- Sun    May 31 Worship, 10am, Sanctuary  
Community Time, 11:15am, **Search Committee Update\***

*\*You are invited to join us for Community Time for coffee, tea, and refreshments in Memorial Hall after worship.*

*\*\* Board meetings are open to all; please contact the Church Office to be put in contact with the Chair who can receive your request and share meeting information with you.*

## *Standing on Holy Ground*

**We acknowledge with respect to the Onondaga Nation,  
Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee,  
Indigenous People on whose ancestral land  
Plymouth Church now stands.**

*What does SAGE do to promote community health and wellness for older LGBTQ people focusing on the following aspects:*

- *Encourage physical activity through a fun and engaging event.*
- *Raise awareness for local health initiatives and resources.*
- *Foster community spirit and connection among participants.*
- *Support fundraising efforts for health-related charities or programs.*
- *Provide a family-friendly environment with activities for all ages.*
- *Celebrate personal achievements and milestones in fitness.*

*see page 11 about their Pride 5K run*

## **☞ Joys and Concerns ☞\***

**In the week ahead, you are invited to pray for:**

- Mary J. is in hospital after a serious car accident and surgery.
- Pat H. passed last Thursday (5/14/26). We send our prayers for comfort and support to family and friends of Pat.
- Marvis H., a food pantry volunteer, is home recuperating.
- Jeff C. for his sister-in-law's 3 yr old son dealing with brain cancer.
- Kathleen W. recuperating after successful hip surgery.
- Mable W. asking for your prayers. She and her family are going through some emotional and medical issues.
- Chris H. in rehab at Loretto.
- Our shut-in congregants; Fung-Chan C., Joanne C., Elizabeth H., Geri H., Chris H., Marilou O., and Mable W.
- Folks dealing with mental illness, incarceration, and homelessness.

*\*The listings for Joys and Concerns will be kept for one month; after that you can request they be re-upped by contacting the Church Office.*

## **Instructions if you want to visit Mary Giegengack-Jureller from her daughter, Chrissie.**

Mary continues to be at Upstate Hospital in the ICU but she is becoming more stable and may be moved to a different room in the next few days. At this time, she is not able to have “drop in visitors”. If you are interested in visiting her, please contact Kathleen Deters-Hayes 315-863-3919 and you will be added to a visitor schedule. Right now she has 2 visitors per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon based on a schedule put together for Mary. Much of this experience right now is sitting with her, holding her hand, etc. She talks more but she is also exhausted. If you are scheduled to visit, please use hand sanitizer and wash your hands prior to your visit.

If you are interested in being kept abreast of how Mary is doing, let Kathleen know and you will be added to a text chain. Please contact Kathleen with any additional questions and keep Mary in your prayers for her healing.

If you would like to send a card or letter to Mary, please send it to her home address: 7804A Hicks Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027. Chrissie will bring the cards to Mary at the hospital.

### **What is Pentecost?**

Something shifts at Pentecost. The waiting ends, the Holy Spirit arrives, and nothing is quite the same again. If you've been longing for that kind of awakening in your own faith, or hoping to guide others into it, this is the season to lean in.

Whether you're reading on your own, leading a small group, or choosing a resource for your congregation, these three books meet you where you are and draw you toward something more.

Pentecost is not just a date on the church calendar. It's a standing invitation to receive the Holy Spirit, to be filled with God's renewing presence, and to go out as the church alive in the world. Whatever your next step looks like, we're here to equip you for it.

Pentecost is recognized as the “birthday” of the Christian Church and offers a creative opportunity to celebrate the wonder and mystery of God, the teachings of Jesus Christ, and the powerful gifts and movements of the Holy Spirit. In diverse ways we are encouraged to encounter and engage in that which strengthens us in our faith.

This Pentecost Sunday, let us come together in person or virtually and still be a witness to the world, through encouragement of celebrating Pentecost outdoors from our windows, balconies, and our yards, clanking and making noise for everyone to hear and be encouraged that the Courage and Strength of the Holy Spirit is with us, to sustain us always in Jesus Christ.

## Music Notes for Sunday, May 24, 2026

Gabriel Grovlez (1879-1944) was prominent in the Paris musical scene in the late nineteenth century. In addition to his compositions (including piano and chamber music as well as operas) he was well respected as a pianist and was a conductor for operas who toured internationally. Our **prelude** was originally for piano solo.

Our **anthem** is an arrangement of the hymn tune St Agnes, with the first verse in four parts, the second verse in three-part counterpoint, and the final verse in five parts (four parts plus descant.)

*Come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, with all your quickening powers.  
Kindle a flame of sacred love In these cold hearts of ours.*

*In vain we tune our formal songs, In vain we strive to rise.  
Hosannas languish on our tongues, And our devotion dies.*

*Come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, With all your quickening powers.  
Come shed on us the Saviour's love, That it may kindle ours.*

Melchior Franck (c. 1579-1639) was a German composer of the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods. In addition to writing secular songs and dance music, he composed over 600 motets for church use.

*Father, thy Holy Spirit send on us who here before thee bend.  
We lift our hearts to Thee, O Lord, who are by heaven and earth adored.*

*Cleanse thou our hearts from earthly stain. Our sin rebuke; or will restrain  
'Till we thy living temples be, devoted only Lord, to thee.*

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881) was a Belgian organist and composer. He studied organ in Germany, focusing on the music of J. S. Bach. German organists were known for their use of the pedals since the seventeenth century; in contrast, the organs of England had no pedalboards and the organs of France had limited pedalboards that were not used extensively in their compositions. Lemmens developed a formidable technique on the pedals and taught that to his students when he moved to France to teach. His students included Alexandre Guilmant and Charles-Marie Widor. In fact, I wonder if our fiery **postlude** may have provided the inspiration for Widor's famous Toccata (which I am playing in honor of Pentecost with its fiery flames.)

A poem of Eastertide

**Music**

When I was a child  
I once sat sobbing on the floor  
Beside my mother's piano  
As she played and sang  
For there was in her singing  
A shy yet solemn glory  
My smallness could not hold

And when I was asked  
Why I was crying  
I had no words for it  
I only shook my head  
And went on crying

Why is it that music  
At its most beautiful  
Opens a wound in us  
An ache a desolation  
Deep as a homesickness  
For some far-off  
And half-forgotten country

I've never understood  
Why this is so

But there's an ancient legend  
From the other side of the world  
That gives away the secret  
Of this mysterious sorrow

For centuries on centuries  
We have been wandering  
But we were made for Paradise  
As deer for the forest

And when music comes to us  
With its heavenly beauty  
It brings us desolation  
For when we hear it  
We half remember  
That lost native country

We dimly remember the fields  
Their fragrant windswept clover  
The birdsongs in the orchards  
The wild white violets in the moss  
By the transparent streams

And shining at the heart of it  
Is the longed-for beauty  
Of the One who waits for us  
Who will always wait for us  
In those radiant meadows

Yet also came to live with us  
And wanders where we wander.

Anne Porter



June 6, 2026  
Long Branch Park  
Liverpool, NY

Register at  
[sageupstate.org/pride-5k](https://sageupstate.org/pride-5k)

Through June 5: \$35

\*\* Register by May 18 to guarantee shirt\*\*

Event Day: \$40

Virtual \$45 (includes mailing shirt)

Kids 12 and under: \$15

*(A processing fee will be applied)*

For more info: [sageupstate.org/pride-5k](https://sageupstate.org/pride-5k)

or 315-478-1923

Proceeds benefit programs for older LGBTQ people

## ☞ About Plymouth ☞

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracuseans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrant, native, worker, LGBTQ+ and women's rights; and sought to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for God, and the Way of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is over 2,000 years old; our thinking is not!

**We are Open and Affirming** We believe God calls us to welcome all and their gifts regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, physical ability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

**We are Just Peace** We covenant to live actively within the holy longing that weds justice with the quest for peace – within us, between us, in community, and across the globe. We covenant to affirm the sacredness of all life and to honor and preserve creation.

**We are Sanctuary** We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

**We are Immigrant Welcoming** We seek to learn, support, and develop practices and programs that facilitate the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants into our congregation and community.

**We are Progressive Christians** We try to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our brother and savior. We believe God speaks new meanings for new days, and that She does so not only in the church and the ancient words of the Bible, but through the insights of science, the arts, the revelations of other religions, and the best strivings of the human spirit. We believe God has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. Join us!

Rev. Craig French, Transition Pastor  
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music  
Lori A Forrester, Church Administrator  
Emily Evans, Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator  
232 E Onondaga Street ☞ Syracuse, New York 13202  
(315) 474-4836  
plymouthsyr.org ☞ office@plymouthsyr.org