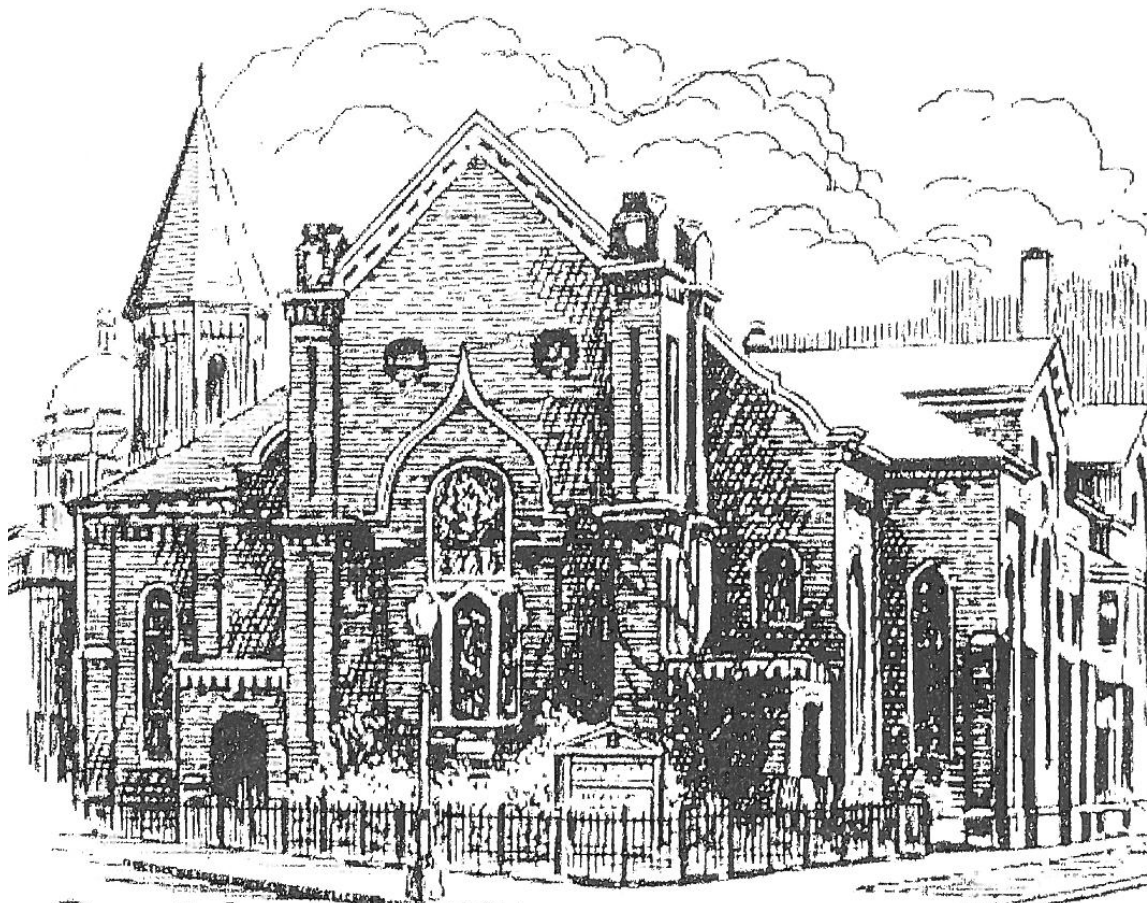


# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
downtown Syracuse, NY*



Plymouth Congregational Church  
Syracuse, N.Y. ~

Service of the Word  
May 31, 2026  
10:00 am – Worship

## ☞ 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                      Shall We Gather at the River                      arr. Dale Wood

WORDS OF WELCOME                      Rev. Craig French

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

One: Eternal God ... infinite and invisible Lover:  
We are in awe.

**ALL: Beyond us, beside us, within and among us,  
you are our life.**

One: Christ ... Beloved ... Word made flesh ... brother in the journey:  
We are in love.

**ALL: Beyond us, beside us, within and among us,  
you are our life.**

One: Holy Spirit ... God breathing in us ... making us one:  
We are in you.

**ALL: Beyond us, beside us, within and among us,  
you are our life. Alleluia!**

\*HYMN                      Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise                      # 1

*\*Please stand if able.*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

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

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

OPENING PRAYER *(from A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

**ALL: Eternal Spirit, living God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,  
to the very secret of our hearts  
and all that rises to trouble us.**

**Living flame, burn into us,  
cleansing wind, blow through us,  
fountain of water, well up within us,  
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.**

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ANTHEM

Creation's Song

Michael Larkin

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Emily Evans

*Following the story, children preschool through  
grade 5 will depart for Learning Community.*

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Mission ~~Im~~Possible

HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#12

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*On the last Sunday of the month, we pray this Māori version of the Lord's Prayer, using contemporary, inclusive language. It is adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book.*

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver  
Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hopes and come on earth.  
With bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For your reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
May it be so. Amen

### CALL TO ACTION

### CALL TO GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM     I Sing the Almighty Power of God     Austin Lovelace

### \*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.**

### \*HYMN

From All that Dwell below the Skies

#27


\*BENEDICTION

CARRYING OUT THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Recessional in C

by Hal Hopson



*Something to Think About*

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*

—Matthew 28.19

By your example,  
you can make of anyone you meet  
a student of love,  
a practitioner of kindness,  
a follower in the way  
of deep trust in grace.

By your example  
you may so touch people  
that something in them heals;  
you can so intrigue people  
that they want to follow.

You will not convince anyone.  
But you may allure them.  
They will not drop everything,  
but something in them may be changed.

It's not you, of course,  
it's the Spirit you bear.

Be a vessel.

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Steve Garnaas-Holmes

We thank Alice Hatt for the wonderful music she provided us with this morning.

If asked for a handout (\$) during worship at Plymouth, we encourage you *Not* to do so. Instead, welcome each person lovingly and respectfully, as a sister/brother/sibling in Christ. Then, make a gift—especially on communion Sundays—to Plymouth’s Good Samaritan Fund. This allows our pastor (on your behalf) to respond to requests for financial assistance.

**☞ Plymouth Runs on YOU ☞**

**USHER:** Gert Danzy and Maurice Forrester

**FLOWERS:** Gert Danzy, to Honor our Military

**LITURGIST:** Rich Jaeger

**DEACONS ON DUTY:** Andrea Abbott, Arne Hook, Frank Leonard

**ONLINE WORSHIP COORDINATOR:** Tom Zorn

**COMMUNITY TIME:** Kathy Ferro

**COUNTERS:** Kim Dill and Keith Jakway

**THIS WEEK AT PLYMOUTH**

- Today                   Worship, 10am, Sanctuary  
                              Community Time, 11:15am, **Search Committee Update\***
- Mon   June 1   Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Choir, 6pm, Memorial Hall
- Tue   June 2   Urban Job Task Force, 4pm, Kirkland Hall  
                              Pastoral Search Committee, 5pm, Parlor  
                              Narcotics Anonymous (NA), 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Wed   June 3   Food Pantry, 2pm, Basement
- Thu   June 4   Urban Job Task Force Advocacy, 5p, Kirtland Hall  
                              Bell Choir Practice, 5:30pm, Sanctuary  
                              NA, 6:30p, Parlor  
                              Vocal Choir Rehearsal, 7pm, Memorial Hall
- Fri    June 5   NA, 6:30pm, Memorial Hall
- Sat    June 6   NA, 10am, Parlor  
                              NA, 12noon, Memorial Hall
- Sun    June 7   Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary  
                              Community Time, 11:15am, Memorial Hall

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

*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.**

**☞ Joys and Concerns\*☜**

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

- Mary G.-J., is in hospital recovering from major surgery.
- Pat H. passed away May 14, 2026. We send our prayers for comfort and support to the 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.*

***June Birthdays\****

|    |                  |    |                        |
|----|------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Logan Ely        | 16 | Edward Bogucz          |
| 2  | Ryan Hopkins     | 17 | Havilah Carroll        |
| 4  | Kirsten Hubel    | 17 | Jennifer Michel        |
| 5  | Carly Alicea     | 19 | Laura Masuicca         |
| 6  | Lindsay Procopio | 20 | Chloe Carr             |
| 10 | Christine Dunne  | 20 | Jennifer Hamlin-Navias |
| 11 | Nancy Poquadeck  | 23 | Christine Hopkins      |
| 11 | Rebecca Mannion  | 25 | Josh Wright            |
| 12 | David Michel     |    |                        |

# Sage Pride 5K CNY FAQ

**What's it like?** The Pride 5K is a walk-run event that welcomes ALL in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Ally Communities. You can participate in person or register virtually.

**When and Where?** June 6, Long Branch Park in Liverpool, 3813 Long Branch Rd. Step Off: 9 am

**What's the course like?** A 5k is 3.1 miles, which typically takes 20-40 minutes to run, or an hour to walk. It's a flat out-and-back course with a water stop. The race starts at the park and proceeds over the bridge, turns right and follows along the lake with a turnaround at the half way point. There are restrooms at the race start and near the turnaround.

**What do I get?** All who register by May 18 are guaranteed a shirt and a swag bag!

**How do I get my shirt & swag bag?** You can pick up your shirt, race bib, and swag bag at SAGE Upstate, 431 E Fayette St, on June 4 & 5, 4:30- 6:30. Or, pick up them up on race day at the park.

**Can I bring my dog?** Four-legged, furry friends are welcome on a leash. We ask that you make sure they are friendly to people and pups, and stay out of the way of serious runners.

**What if I get hungry and thirsty?** There will be a water stop near the halfway point, and refreshments will be available for racers just past the finish line.



**Great! How do I sign up?** Go to [sageupstate.org/pride-5k](http://sageupstate.org/pride-5k) to register online. The cost is \$35 through June 5, but to guarantee you'll get a shirt, register before May 18. Race day registration is available for \$40. If you'd like to register to do the race virtually, the cost of \$45 includes postage for mailing your shirt. Kids 12 and under can register for \$15.



**Hope Courage**

**RESISTANCE**

Syracuse Community Choir  
**SUMMER SOLSTICE CONCERT**

**Sunday, June 7, 2026 4pm**

Tucker Missionary Baptist Church

515 Oakwood Ave. Syracuse, NY 13205

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**Marcia Hagan Gregory Sheppard**

**Rae Sunshine**



Admission 0-\$30 sliding scale  
at the door  
or online

**CONCERT STREAMED**

link [syracusecommunitychoir.com](http://syracusecommunitychoir.com)



**PEOPLE OF FAITH  
CAN  
HELP PREVENT  
NUCLEAR WAR**



An Interfaith discussion  
presented by the

**Syracuse Peace Council**

and

**University Methodist Church**

**June 14th, 2026 — 12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m.**

University United Methodist Church

1085 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

(enter on University Ave.)

We will talk about:

the hopeful  
history of  
antinuclear  
activism  
including  
the role of  
faith groups

the  
horrifying  
history and  
the current  
dangers of  
nuclear  
weapons

the local and  
national  
"Back from  
the Brink  
Campaign to  
Prevent  
Nuclear  
War"

what faith  
communities  
can do

Refreshments provided. RSVP appreciated but not required.

Here's an interesting article to consider:

[People of Faith Helped Stop Nukes Once: Let's Do It Again, Sojourner Magazine, Jan./Feb. 2026.](#)

**We are a Welcoming congregation:** Please wear your name tag during the Service and at Community Time, Forums, and Bible Study. Let's get into the habit of letting people know who we are, whether they are new or just visiting.

**Welcoming Children in Worship:** Children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. At Plymouth we try to engage all ages in different ways. Worship activity kits are available at our worship activity shelf in the back of the Sanctuary for our young children and youth (and for any adults who feel led to use them!). We hope that these activities will help worshipers connect with the service in ways that are meaningful to them. Please return the activity kits with all of the supplies to the shelf at the end of the service.

**Nursery Care:** Infants and toddlers have a special place in worship, too, and are always welcome. We also offer Nursery care for infants and toddlers starting at 9:45am. There are changing tables in the restroom just off the sanctuary, in the nursery, and in the men's restroom in the basement. The Service is piped into Memorial Hall, next door to the sanctuary, for those who would welcome a space apart.

**Flowers** – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$35 but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

**Accessibility:** Individual listening headsets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please contact an usher for help. An elevator and ramp are available. Large print bulletins are at the back of the sanctuary.

**Ample free street parking** is available on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lot behind the Catholic diocese building. For those able to walk a short distance, parking here will allow those with mobility impairments or small children to use the spots directly in front of the church.

**Parking Reminder:** If you are using the Diocese parking lot, please be respectful of where you park. Do not park in front of the garages; there are vehicles that may be needed at any time. Also, please don't park in unmarked spaces. If it is not a designated parking place, then it is used to get to another area in the parking lot. If you park there, you will be blocking someone in or out of legitimate parking spaces. Thank you.

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## ☞ 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

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