

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, January 8, 2023

**Worship In Person or Online**

*Second Sunday After Christmas*

*Epiphany Sunday*

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

### MEETING AND VOTE AFTER WORSHIP

Join the meeting and vote on the recommendation of the Exploratory Development Committee, January 8, after worship in Hildebrand Hall and live online. Link to online meeting at the bottom of the Worship Page at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Participation online requires the Plymouth passcode. Contact Diane if you need the code.

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at **[PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)**.



1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,  
Washington 98101-3199

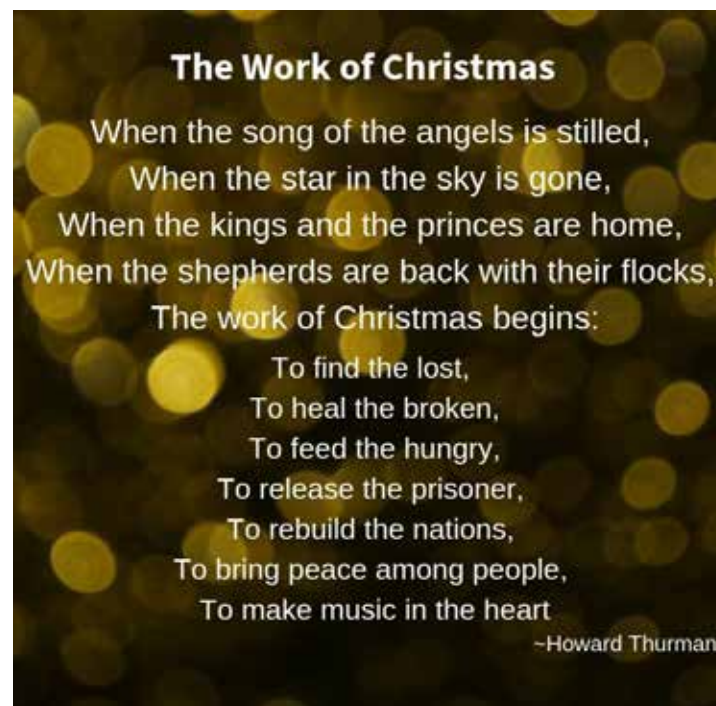
Return Service Requested

### OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Emily Blaine-Davis, Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Lauren Davis, Mark and JT Edwards, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Megan French (niece of Sue Jones) & David Dixon & Family, Mamadou Diakhate, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Jose Robles and Family, **Bill Stanley** (Father of Michael Stanley), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon).

**bold=newly added.** Names will remain on list for six weeks unless requested.

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team by calling the pastoral care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.



The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week. **Deadline is Monday, 10 am, for Wednesday publication.** Stay current with Plymouth happenings on our website. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 61  
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January 4, 2023

## WELCOME, JOE WILLIAMS NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ARTS



Joe Williams, Director of Music & Arts

Joe Williams is an active pianist, scholar, visual arts curator and proud uncle from Tacoma, WA. He holds a B.M. in Piano Performance from Oberlin Conservatory and a M.M. in Piano Performance from Cleveland State University. He has been invited to perform at venues across the country including Merkin Hall in NYC and the John F.

Kennedy Center for the Performing

Arts in Washington, D.C., as well as abroad in the Middle East. Williams' transformational leadership touches many communities and sectors within the arts: he is currently researching Florence Price's keyboard catalogue having been awarded the 2022 Paul Charosh Independent Scholar Fellowship from the Society for American Music; he serves on the Tacoma Arts Commission; he is on the curator roster for the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA); he is a member of the international DEI committee for Music Teachers National Association.

An educator at heart, Williams is Director of Programs at The Residency. The Residency seeks to build a powerful community of young hip-hop artists equipped with the artistic and leadership skills, business acumen, and mentorship necessary to become professional artists and cultural change makers. Through their participation in The Residency, young artists from low-income families in the Seattle area acquire tangible artistic and professional skills while also gaining confidence, teamwork, and a deepened understanding of their own identity and power.

He sincerely feels honored to co-create vibrant and embodied worship experiences at Plymouth in tandem with the Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. ✨

## JOIN 153<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend Plymouth's 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2023. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership for our church family. Celebrate 2022 and look ahead to 2023. This meeting will take place in person and live online. ✨

## MEETING AND VOTE SUNDAY

This Sunday, January 8, 2023, is a big day in the life of our church community as we decide together whether to vote in favor of the Exploratory Development Committee's recommendation to redevelop the Plymouth property. On behalf of the Church Council, I invite you to join us immediately after worship either in person in Hildebrand Hall or online to help determine the next chapter for our beloved community by casting your vote on the EDC's recommendation. If you plan to join us online, please use the link posted at the bottom of the Plymouth Worship Page. (Participation online requires usual Plymouth passcode.)

The EDC's recommendation is as follows: *The EDC recommends that the church proceed in pursuing a development option for our site. Specifically, the EDC recommends that the church pursue gathering further information from all 6 developers who have expressed interest in the project and then move to the Request for Proposals (RFP) stage with a subset of those developers.*

Starting with the well-attended EDC presentation on December 4, 2022, it has been inspiring to witness the ways so many of us have shown up throughout the focused discernment time this past month. Dozens of us took time out of our holiday schedules to share what is on our hearts and to listen deeply to one another about our excitements and concerns regarding both redeveloping and not redeveloping. It is clear that we love Plymouth, this faith community, and one another.

Members of the Church Council have developed an updated FAQ that addresses the questions and concerns about the EDC's recommendation that were raised during our discernment process to date. Access the FAQ at: [bit.ly/RedevelopmentVoteFAQ](https://bit.ly/RedevelopmentVoteFAQ). I invite you to take a look ahead of the vote this Sunday, January 8.

Whether the congregation votes to redevelop or votes not to redevelop, we will be passing the proverbial torch to our future selves and setting the course for our next decade together. Given how well we have navigated this crucial discernment process, I am confident that no matter what we decide, our future will be spirited and bright.

Peace and love to you all, *Tracy Simpson, Church Moderator* ✨



Join in person or online this Sunday.



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## MEET COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Your vote at Plymouth's Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 29, will install new lay leadership for our church family. Meet two candidates for Plymouth Church Council, Dr. Tiffany Johnson and Dr. Gilda Sheppard.



Dr. Tiffany Johnson

Dr. Tiffany Johnson is a Parks and Recreation Executive for the City of Tukwila Parks and Recreation, a Qualitative Researcher and the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Rocket Solutions Consulting, LLC. She is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) who has also attained a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Public Management, a Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) in Parks and Recreation Management, a Minor in Business Management, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership. She joined Plymouth because of the presence for all populations, particularly those that have been traditionally underserved. Her goal is to support Plymouth UCC by working with the church on key organizational processes including: planning, budgeting, business performance measurement, and resource allocation decisions.

Dr. Gilda Sheppard is an Emerita faculty at The Evergreen State College, Tacoma Campus in Sociology, Cultural and Media Studies. She is a local, national and international award winning filmmaker, activist, and anti-racist organizer. She joined Plymouth because of Plymouth's presence in diverse communities and issues of justice as a Christian practice. ✦



Dr. Gilda Sheppard

## BE THE CHURCH



We are grateful for the generosity of those who have made their covenant commitment for 2023. If you haven't yet, please let us know your giving plans. There is no expectation of what amount is pledged. We are grateful for any gift you can make. Email your covenant commitment amount to [Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), with full contact info, put your card in the offering on Sunday, or mail it today. We are in a time of discernment, listening together for where we are called as a congregation. What is not changing is our commitment to make our faith visible in the world. Thank you for your continued support of Plymouth's ministries. ✦

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS 101

Buses of migrants from the U.S. border may be coming to our city, and the new arrivals will need help from local churches. The busing started last spring as a political statement by some state governors to show their displeasure with U.S. border policy by relocating migrants to "sanctuary cities."



Learn how you can help migrant siblings.

UCC members, congregations and other entities have been pitching in to welcome these migrant siblings. More importantly, they are finding ways to help them begin the next step of their journeys. However, more help is and will be needed.

Northwest Immigration Rights Project will host Immigration 101 training to support all responding to this humanitarian crisis. This virtual training is completely free to attend and is aimed at helping social service providers learn how to better serve and support immigrants in their work. The training will take place via Zoom, 10 am–1 pm PT February 1, 2023. Find link to register in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

The training will be live captioned in Spanish, recorded and posted to our website ([Nwirp.org](https://Nwirp.org)) as a free resource for the community. Invite friends and colleagues who might benefit from this training session. ✦

## COMPANIONS: FAITH IN ACTION

Plymouth's Companion Ministry exemplifies social justice in action. Companions learn to develop compassionate awareness for those struggling with mental illness, insecure housing or chemical dependency. Companions develop skills to listen with openness, understand an awareness of limits and boundaries and how to ease isolation. Being a Companion also stretches us beyond our comfort zone, and it is truly 'walking the talk.'



Are you called to this ministry of care?

We stand at a crossroads, a place where both dire need and great opportunity exists. Become a Companion. Live out your faith and put social justice in action.

Contact me to talk about what it means to be a part of this vital ministry of Plymouth.

—June Hayakawa-Fung, Faith Community Nurse  
[JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). ✦

## TAKE ACTION TO STOP TRAFFICKING

January is Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Join the effort to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking in your community and the world.

According to the International Labor Organization, approximately 40 million human trafficking victims exist worldwide. Human trafficking impacts all races, classes, religions and gender. Despite the bleak picture human trafficking paints, there are ways to take action.



- **Knowledge:** Learn how human trafficking is happening. Visit [DHS.gov/Blue-Campaign](https://DHS.gov/Blue-Campaign) to inform yourself about what human trafficking looks like.
- **Get Involved:** Contact local, state, and regional service organizations to volunteer time, services, or a donation.
- **Get Help:** If you suspect someone needs help, call 1.888.373.7888. Read more at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). ✦

## UNDO INSTITUTIONAL RACISM



The UIR workshop is designed to educate, challenge and empower people to "undo" the racist structures that hinder effective social change. The training is based on the premise that racism has been systematically erected and

that it can be "undone" if people understand where it comes from, how it functions and why it is perpetuated.

Cost is \$350 per person. Next workshop will be held **February 16–18**. Find full schedule and link to register at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or [PinwSeattle.org](https://PinwSeattle.org). ✦

## REGISTER NOW FOR MEN'S RETREAT

Registration is now open (find link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).) We'll meet at Pilgrim Firs February 3–5 for the Conference Men's Retreat. The topic is "Gratitude and Practices to Enhance Gratefulness." There will be music, singing, a wisdom circle and an optional silent retreat Thursday evening (February 2) to begin the weekend. This retreat welcomes all who identify as male. Read more at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). ✦



Retreat February 3-5 at Pilgrim Firs.

## UCC TOP STORIES OF 2022

Among other things, the year witnessed climate change, war, restriction of reproductive rights—and the people of the United Church of Christ responded, living into the commitment to build a just world for all. This list shows one small snapshot of a complex year. Please visit [UCC.org](https://UCC.org) to read more in-depth background and analysis of these topics.



**10: A New Home for the UCC National Setting** The UCC sold its Cleveland headquarters at 700 Prospect Avenue and relocated to leased space at 1300 E. 9th Street.

**9: All-church Summit for the Emerging Church** In September, attendees from across the country identified areas for the needs of the emerging church.

**8: Disaster Recovery** It was another year of severe weather events. Disaster Ministries offered initial assistance and began the groundwork for long-term recovery, in the US and abroad.

**7: Response to Gun Violence** Churches across the country engaged in prayer and protest for a just response to shootings in a year when gun death rates hit the highest level in decades.

**6: Welcome for Migrants** UCC congregations worked to sponsor and support Afghan people who fled following the takeover of the country by the Taliban. Many also welcomed and assisted migrants bussed to "sanctuary cities" from states in the southern U.S.

**5: Reproductive Justice** The issue of reproductive justice became critical when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. The UCC, led by the faith conviction that everyone deserves the right to follow their personal beliefs regarding reproductive healthcare, encouraged ongoing advocacy.

**4: Climate Justice** The U.S. created a new office linking environmental and racial justice, an achievement stemming from a history of fighting environmental racism that included activists from the UCC. Climate justice leaders continue to advocate for legislation promoting environmental justice.

**3: Transgender and Nonbinary Solidarity** People are beloved by God. That's the message UCC leaders emphasized as they affirmed solidarity with trans and non-binary children and youth, their parents, caregivers and health care providers.

**2: Support for Ukraine** UCC Global Ministries worked with partners around the world to assist vulnerable communities fleeing the violence in Ukraine.

**1: Racial Justice** This work remained a top focus in a year when Join the Movement launched a capital campaign to raise \$8 million to fund current racial justice work and create an endowment to fund this work for future generations. ✦