

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, January 12, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

*Baptism of Christ*

Genesis 21:14–19; Psalm 34:1–14;  
2 Corinthians 9:6–13; Luke 4:1–15

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:45 am American Mosaic Series, Hildebrand Hall

Members and Visitors in the church building can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at **PlymouthChurchSeattle.org**.

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.

*Whether you are a seeker, skeptic, believer  
or somewhere in between on life's journey,  
you are welcome here. We are grateful for your presence and  
invite you to participate in worship and service  
of Plymouth Church UCC.*



PO Box 21368  
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Toni Arthur, Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), William Chapman Nyaho, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark))

Our hearts are with Karen Gwilym and family on the passing of her sister Virginia Oberg.

*bold=newly added. Names will remain on list for 6 weeks unless requested.*



## GOD IS FAITHFUL



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Beloved Plymouth, As we stand at the threshold of a brand new year, I wanted to share with you my personal greeting to each of you. Welcome to 2025, a divine opportunity for renewal, reflection, and recommitment to our spiritual journey together. We now begin the 155th year of our ministry together! God is faithful.

In the past year, we've witnessed the movement of the Spirit in many ways: through moments of unexpected blessings in our lives; in the challenges that strengthened our faith; and in answered and unanswered prayers, as we discovered that sometimes, the ones not answered were blessings, too.

It may feel like we are in the hot seat—and perhaps we are. However, together as the people of God and followers of the way, we can shift the energy toward caring for one another; being ready to answer the calls of justice; and keeping our lamps trimmed and burning. I'm reminded of Lamentations 3:22–23, which states: “The steadfast love of the Holy One never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” What a beautiful promise as we enter 2025!

I hope that we will not be driven by fear, but by anticipation for how God will continue God’s faithfulness. This year, I encourage each of you to:

- Deepen your personal relationship with the holy, taking on a new spiritual practice
- Serve more actively in our church community, committing to regular attendance, giving and participation
- Extend love and compassion to those around you, to include you, and
- Trust God’s plan, even when the path seems uncomfortable and uncertain.

More than ever, I pray that we welcome this new year with open hearts and hands moving in discipleship. May God bless our church and surrounding community in 2025, guide our feet, and use us as vessels of the love so needed.

In boundless love, *Pastor Kelle* 🌍

## AMERICAN MOSAIC WORKSHOP SERIES CONTINUES

Engage in an experiential, life-transforming workshop series. Gain new insights and practical tools to build respect, inclusion and belonging in organizations and communities, including Plymouth Church Seattle. Sundays January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 12–1:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall, led by Dr. Mark Smutny.



*After worship every Sunday through Feb. 2.*

Participants will:

- Unpack how stereotypes, unconscious biases, and microaggressions damage people and harm communities.
- Deepen understanding of racism and how it affects us personally.
- Examine privilege and power in human relationships through the Privilege for Sale Exercise.
- Explore how different cultures have different deeply embedded assumptions about conflict, communication, time, values, and leadership.
- Learn successful strategies for communicating with people from different cultures and national origins.
- Brainstorm opportunities for Plymouth Church to more fully understand and welcome people from our diverse neighborhoods.

We look forward to exploring these issues together with you every Sunday through February 2. 🌍

## ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 16

Plan to attend Plymouth’s 155th Annual Meeting Sunday, February 16, after worship in Hildebrand Hall and live online (the link to join online via Zoom will be shared closer to the meeting date.). Light lunch provided. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership and approve the 2025 budget for our church family. Celebrate 2024 and look ahead to 2025. Please join us for this important meeting and to gather with our beloved community. 🌍



## HONORING DR. KING



Ways to honor the man and vision this month.

Honor our nation’s foremost human rights leader by gathering, marching and volunteering in the spirit of service and building equitable and inclusive community.

**King County MLK Celebration 6-9 pm  
Tuesday, January 14, Renton Performing Arts Center  
(400 S 2nd St, Renton)**

The theme for the 2025 Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration is Dedication to Community. As Dr. King said, “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence. Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

**MLK Day of Service 9 am-1 pm Monday, January 20**

Continue Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy of service by making January 20 a day of volunteer activism. Visit [ParentMap.com/Calendar/mlk-day-service-2025](https://ParentMap.com/Calendar/mlk-day-service-2025) to view a list of volunteer opportunities on MLK day all around the greater Seattle area, and sign up (preregistration required for most).

**Rally and March - We Rise AGAINST Project 2025  
Monday, January 20: 11 am Rally at Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave, Seattle); 12:30 pm March**

The Seattle MLK Jr. Organizing Coalition is an all-volunteer organization composed of grassroots, labor, business, people of color, and progressive community organizations and volunteers from throughout the Puget Sound region. Annually, these groups come together and organize our community’s largest tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year’s keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. 🌍

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE

United Church of Christ  
General Minister and President  
Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson  
welcomes all in the wider church to participate in an interactive season of prayer. The People’s Prayers for Peace Initiative is an open invitation to read and write prayers, now posted daily at [UCC.org](https://UCC.org).



“Our collective voices in prayer can make a difference. This is an act of faith.” Thompson said. “This is a time for us to be reminded we are not alone in our desire to see change in the world.” Share prayers at [UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace](https://UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace). 🌍

## TRANS LIFELINE

Trans Lifeline is a trans-led organization that connects trans people to community support, and resources needed to survive and thrive. For 10 years, the impact of Trans Lifeline’s work has extended far beyond the direct services we provide. From our program design to our advocacy efforts, everything we do at Trans Lifeline supports broader movements for collective liberation.

We are building community-based alternatives to the ways trans people have been policed, pathologized, and targeted by oppressive systems at every turn. With the forthcoming presidential administration, much looms in the air regarding the rights, dignity, and well-being of trans people and our families.

Since the election, we’ve already seen our incoming calls to the hotline increase by 400%. Fear, concern, and anxiety are running high. Given the nature and persistence of Trump’s anti-trans rhetoric and the volume of coordinated legislative attacks against our community over the last several years, panic is understandable. But as one of the largest trans-led direct service provider to trans folks in North America, we are determined to remain steadfast in our politics of care.

Community support has always sustained our work. Learn more about Trans Lifeline and how you can get involved at [TransLifeline.org](https://TransLifeline.org). Together, we will continue to offer life-affirming care for trans and non-binary people. 🌍

## STUDY THE BIBLE WITH PLYMOUTH

Join friends Wednesdays at 9 am or Thursdays at 7 pm to discuss Scripture readings for the coming Sunday. The Zoom link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) is the same every week for both studies. The link requires the usual Plymouth passcode. Email Rev. Bechtold if you need the code. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. 🌍



9 am Wednesdays and 7 pm Thursdays.

## CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE

Plymouth’s 2025 calendar featuring families of choice are available to pick up on Sunday for those who pre-ordered. Please stop by the office for your copy. The press run is limited, but more copies are for sale. Order yours today using the link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Each calendar is \$25. 🌍

## BORN TO BE WILD

Sign up now! Registration closes January 15 for the 2025 Conference Men’s Retreat. We’ll meet at Pilgrim Firs the weekend of January 31 – February 2, 2025. Reverend Bill Comfort will lead this year’s “wild” retreat. Link to register in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). All believers, seekers and doubters who identify as male are welcome.



Men’s Retreat at Pilgrim Firs Jan. 31-Feb. 2

Bill will lead an interactive exploration of how wildness influences who we are, or can be, as men and will pose questions for large and small group discussions as we figure out together what being wild means for our lives. As always, these discussions will be safe, welcoming and confidential. Closer to the retreat there will be a list of some of the questions so that you can ponder on your answers in advance. 🌍

## HELP PROVIDE COMFORT



Bring contributions on Sundays.

The Community and Care Board requests your help to provide items for comfort bags to be distributed to visitors in need. Please bring gloves, socks, tissues, hand sanitizer, hand warmers, granola bars and other shelf-stable foods that don’t require a can opener. Items can be left in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge on Sundays. Keep reading the *Herald* and website for dates to help assemble the bags. Thank you for helping us reach out in care and compassion to the most vulnerable in our community. 🌍

## SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION

Tory Trujillo offers a monthly deep healing Sound Medicine Meditation, sometimes referred to as a sound bath. The next session is **Sunday, February 9**, after worship in Hildebrand Hall. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats, blankets, or pillows.

Sessions last between 60 and 75 minutes. (Note: start time is subject to change, determined by the length of Sunday service.) Suggested Donation \$20. 🌍



Next session is Sunday, February 9

## WEAR BLUE JANUARY 11

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11. In recognition of this important day, Blue Campaign hosts a social media campaign called #WearBlueDay. The color blue is internationally symbolic of human trafficking awareness and global anti-human trafficking efforts. To raise awareness of human trafficking, we ask people to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media, along with our #WearBlueDay hashtag.

Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases. Blue Campaign works to develop general awareness trainings, as well as specific educational resources to help reduce victimization within vulnerable populations.

Located within the Office of Partnership and Engagement and aligned with the Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking, Blue Campaign leverages partnerships

with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, and state/local authorities to maximize national public engagement on anti-human trafficking efforts. Blue Campaign’s educational awareness objectives consists of two foundational elements, prevention of human trafficking and protection of exploited persons.

Through the Blue Campaign, DHS raises public awareness about human trafficking, working with organizations and making awareness-raising resources available to educate the public to recognize human trafficking and report suspected instances. The Blue Campaign also offers training to law enforcement and others to increase detection and investigation of human trafficking, and to protect victims and bring suspected traffickers to justice. Visit [DHS.gov/Blue-Campaign](https://DHS.gov/Blue-Campaign) for more information and to access resources.

**Report suspected human trafficking: call 1-866-347-2423.**

**Get help from the Human Trafficking Hotline: call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733). 🌍**

