

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, January 29, 2023

Worship In Person or Online

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Tobit 13:11-17

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

JOIN 153RD ANNUAL MEETING

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

Horizon House residents can ride the bus this Sunday, January 29, to attend both the service and the Annual Meeting afterward.

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.



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, **Michelle J. Bennett, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett)**, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett), Montecino Family, Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), **Abby Scott (Friend of Anne Mohundro)**, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)



Our hearts are with Albert Gordon and family on the passing of his wife Della Gordon May 4, 2022.

bold=newly added. Names will remain on list for six

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!   

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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COME TO ANNUAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY



After worship, in person and online.

I imagine most of you are aware that we are holding our 153rd Annual Congregational Meeting right after Worship this coming Sunday, January 29. The meeting will be hybrid with those attending in person gathering in Hildebrand Hall and those gathering remotely will join via Zoom using this link. Usual Plymouth passcode required.

In addition to the usual Annual Meeting agenda involving review and voting on the lay leadership slate, we will be covering two other major topics:

- Review and vote on the 2023 operating budget
- Review of the Charter and the self-nomination process for the new developer
- Selection Committee to take the next major step in our redevelopment process

I hope that you can join us for this important meeting and for this opportunity to gather with our beloved community.

Peace and love, *Tracy Simpson, Council Moderator* ✦

UCC GRIEVES WITH CALIFORNIA

"The national setting of the United Church of Christ mourns with the nation the tragic deaths of those killed in Half Moon Bay and in Monterey Park, and we pray for the families and communities grieving this tragic loss of life. On Saturday evening in Monterey Park, what should have been a festive celebration of the Lunar New Year became a horror in a matter of moments. Our hearts are broken for these families and for a world where the mobilization of hatred continues to be aided by our refusal to responsibly regulate guns. May these grieving families feel our love and know our commitment to change."



Mourning the mobilization of hatred.

—The Elected Officers of the United Church of Christ ✦

FINDING MEANING AND HOPE AND DYING WELL

This workshop is appropriate for anyone contemplating their mortality and curious about what a good death means. Explore these concepts in a community setting led by Rev. Lorraine Leist, a palliative care chaplain in Seattle. At Plymouth and online Saturday, February 4. Link to register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.



In person or online Saturday, Feb. 4.

These workshops are focused on different aspects of the dying process. First, a three-hour retreat-style workshop, **9 am-12 pm**, called *Moments of Peace: Finding Meaning and Hope Toward the End of Life*, will focus on the spiritual journey and the limitations to completion of life's tasks near the end of life. Second, in a 90-minute forum-style workshop, **1 pm-2:30 pm**, called *Dying Well: An Open Conversation About a Good Death* will explore what a good death means.

Do these topics interest you? For some the answer may be a resounding *yes*. For others, the thought of spending time on topics related to death and dying may require deeper reflection. Wherever you are, you are encouraged to come engage in a meaningful time with others, journeying through the spiritual and emotional dimensions of completing life. Questions? Contact June Hayakawa-Fung, JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✦

LAST CHANCE! REGISTER NOW

Registration is now open (find link in the news article at 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. ✦



Retreat February 3-5 at Pilgrim Firs.

UCC CLERGY CHALLENGE ABORTION BANS



Rev. Traci Blackmon

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is speaking out and taking action against the abortion ban in her home state of Missouri. The UCC Associate General Minister is one of 13 clergy from six faith traditions challenging the abortion bans in Missouri, saying that laws based on one religious doctrine cannot be imposed on everyone.

Four of the 13 plaintiffs serve the United Church of Christ. Others represent the Episcopalian, Orthodox Judaism, Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalism and United Methodist traditions. The group filed a lawsuit Jan. 19 in St. Louis Circuit Court to overturn the ban, contending that Missouri’s abortion restrictions violate the separation of church and state protected in the state’s constitution.

The lawsuit, *Rev. Traci Blackmon v. State of Missouri*, states that Gov. Michael Parson and the Missouri Legislature violated the state constitution by using their personal religious beliefs about abortion to enact law, incorporating several abortion bans as part of House Bill No. 126, and criminalizing abortion access in the state.

“I am not here to debate the morality of abortion with anyone,” Blackmon said. “I’m here to defend women and birthing people’s right not to have to. And to expose the hypocrisy of legislators who hide behind a feigned pro-life agenda in a pro-death penalty state.”

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) and the law firm Arnold & Porter represent the plaintiffs, who say they are compelled by their faiths to support abortion access because of the critical importance it holds for the health, autonomy, economic security and equality of women and all who can become pregnant.

Missouri is one of more than a dozen states that have denied or severely restricted abortion access since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. The suit urges the Circuit Court to issue a permanent injunction striking down abortion bans.

“Missouri’s abortion bans are an unconscionable abuse of religion to oppress all Missourians,” Blackmon said. “Legislators do not have the right to impose their faith on me or anyone else. They’re betraying the separation of church and state that has enabled the religious plurality we enjoy in our state and in our country.”

Read more at [UCC.org](https://ucc.org). ✦

“Legislators do not have the right to impose their faith on me or anyone else.”

HELP OUR MIGRANT SIBLINGS

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.”



Online, 10 am-1 pm February 1

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. Find link to register in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✦

UNDO INSTITUTIONAL RACISM



Register now for Feb. 16-18 workshops.

The Undoing Institutionalized Racism workshop is offered by The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond (PISAB), a national multiracial, antiracist collective of veteran organizers and educators dedicated to building an effective movement for social change.

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 or PinwSeattle.org. ✦

PLEASE RETURN LIBRARY MATERIALS

There is a box at the entrance to the Sanctuary where you can deposit your library books, tapes, etc. If you are not planning to worship in person or have moved away, please mail your items to: **Plymouth Church Library/1217 Sixth Avenue/Seattle, WA 98101**. Use “media mail” to get the best rate. Thank you. ✦



Please return items for others to enjoy.

ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE

Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia, 9 am–3 pm Thursday, February 9, brings the voices of compassion and justice to our elected leaders. Meeting with your legislators and their staff on this day is putting your faith into action! Please register to attend in person by January 29. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost to attend this year. Visit FanWa.org to register.



Meet with legislators in Olympia February 9.

We will gather at The United Churches of Olympia (110 11th Ave SE Olympia, WA 98501) in the morning and meet with legislators in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided. We will provide updates about online participation and registration for online activities as more is known.

Join workshops on Faith Action Network’s 2023 Legislative Agenda, meet with advocates from your district and then meet with your legislator!

We encourage you to sign up early so that we can guarantee you a spot. Please join us to raise voices of faith and conscience in our State Capitol! —Faith Action Network ✦

BE THE CHURCH



As we begin a new year, you are invited to volunteer at Plymouth Church! Remember that covenant giving also includes your time and using your gifts. There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. Here are some available volunteer opportunities. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, to get started:

- Participating in money counting after worship
- Preparing communion (first Sundays)
- Becoming a greeter on Sundays and special events
- Answering phones 2 days a week from 10 am–2 pm
- Cleaning/decluttering (short-term commitment)
- Food preparation and service on needed occasions
- Join the Companion Ministry

This is a partial list. If you have a talent you would like to share, please contact Toni (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) and discuss how best to contribute your gift to our community. We are grateful for all you bring to Plymouth UCC. ✦

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Human trafficking is slavery. The U.S. Department of State uses the terms slavery or “modern-day slavery” to encompass all forms of trafficking. It has taken on different forms from sex trafficking to labor trafficking. Slave “owners” now have the ability to use different means of technology to provide slaves to people and organizations and the number of people enslaved and profits earned by traffickers is constantly growing.



Visit DHS.gov/Blue-Campaign

Both terms, slavery and human trafficking are defined to include the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or exploitation of vulnerability. It is important to remember that those enslaved cannot walk away from those that have imprisoned them. There are many reasons why victims cannot leave, including lacking access to their passports, mental trauma or being beaten badly enough that physically they cannot walk away.

There are many ways that individuals, organizations, and communities can get involved. One simple way is to reach out to your Congressperson to let them know this is an important issue they need to get involved. At this time, the US Federal law, The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA) has not been reauthorized by the Senate. Many states, including Virginia, do not have robust state laws that specifically get to the heart of the issue but focus on other ways such as racketeering to convict traffickers of their crimes. Click here for more information on the laws by state. There are also many petitions that individuals can sign focused on legislation and other slavery advocacy issues through Change.org and others.

You can educate yourself, your employer, your friends about the issues and determine how you can be involved in eradicating slavery. As you learn about modern-day slavery and think you might have observed someone who is a victim of slavery, there is the National Human Trafficking Resource Center or hotline you can call to report: 1.888.3737.888. ✦

ALL ABOARD!

Horizon House residents can ride the charter bus to Plymouth the first Sunday of every month. The bus will pick you up at Horizon House and bring you to Plymouth in time for the 10:30 am service and return you to Horizon House afterward. Residents can ride the bus this Sunday, Jan. 29, to attend both the service and the Annual Meeting afterward. ✦