

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, February 2, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

1 Kings 17:17–24; Psalm 146;

1 Corinthians 15:12–26; Luke 7:11–17

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

12 pm American Mosaic Series, Hildebrand Hall

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has recently announced an end to long-standing policy of not entering places of worship on enforcement operations. We have no information that ICE is planning such action in Seattle, but if for any reason you are concerned about the possibility, we encourage you to worship with us online.

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**.

The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week.

Deadline is **Monday, 10 am**, for Wednesday publication.



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), William Chapman Nyaho, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), 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), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Jaime Rubio Sulficio

bold=newly added. Names will remain on list for 6 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.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 63
Number 22

January 29, 2025

WELCOME, MAJDI ALHURIMY



Welcome Majdi Alhurimy, Director of Finance.

Dear Plymouth Church Community,
Grace and peace to you! My name is Majdi Alhurimy, and I am truly honored to serve as your new Director of Finance. Born and raised in Bethlehem, the sacred birthplace of Jesus, my roots are deeply intertwined with the story of faith, hope, and redemption. This

background has profoundly shaped my life and my commitment to serving others with integrity, humility, and love.

I hold a Master of Accounting and Taxation, am a Licensed (CPA), and Certified Management Accountant (CMA). I am also currently pursuing a Doctorate in Project Management to further develop my leadership skills. Throughout my professional journey, I have found great wisdom in Proverbs 16:3: “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” This verse resonates deeply with me as I step into this new role, reminding me that true success is built on trust in God, disciplined planning, and collaboration within a loving community.

I bring to Plymouth Church over 15 years of experience in financial management, strategic leadership, and teaching, all of which I hope to use in support of this community’s mission of inclusive community, faith, and social advocacy. My goal is to faithfully steward the church’s resources and contribute to its vision of transforming lives and fostering hope in the world.

I am thrilled to join Plymouth Church, a community dedicated to embodying Christ’s love in action. I look forward to walking alongside each of you in faith and building a stronger future together.

In His grace, *Majdi Alhurimy*, CPA, CMA, MACC 🌍

WORKSHOP SERIES CONCLUDES

American Mosaic, our experiential, life-transforming workshop series, concludes this Sunday, February 2. Come to this last session to review the tools we’ve learned to build respect, inclusion and belonging in organizations and communities. 12–1:30 pm in Hildebrand Hall, led by Rev. Dr. Mark Smutny. 🌍

PUT FAITH IN ACTION

Gather in Olympia and online for Faith Action Network’s Annual Interfaith Advocacy Day to promote FAN’s legislative agenda with state legislators, 9 am–3 pm Thursday, February 20. Interfaith Advocacy Day 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!

On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to:

- Join plenaries and workshops that will explore the issues on FAN’s 2024 Legislative Agenda.
- Meet with advocates from your legislative district to prepare for your legislative visits.
- Meet with your legislator or their legislative assistant! If you register by February 3, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district.

Visit [Fanwa.org/Event/Interfaith-Advocacy-Day-2025](https://fanwa.org/Event/Interfaith-Advocacy-Day-2025) to register to be part of this important day in Olympia.

Registration deadline is February 3. Sign up early to be guaranteed a spot. This year we are limited to 200 participants due to regulations at our gathering place, The United Churches of Olympia (110 11th Ave SE Olympia, 98501). Thanks to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost to participate.

Lunch will be provided. If you need child care please let us know one week in advance so we can arrange for adequate staffing. After you register, you will receive more information via e-mail as February 20 approaches, including details on the agenda, workshop topics, times of your legislative appointments and other logistical details.

Faith Action Network is a statewide, multifait partnership striving for just, compassionate, and sustainable communities through courageous advocacy and public action.

Read FAN’s 2025 Legislative Agenda and learn more at [Fanwa.org](https://fanwa.org). 🌍



Join Interfaith Advocacy Day February 20.

REMINDED OF OUR CALLING



Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, prominent religious leaders from across the country filled the sanctuary of Healing Cathedral Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, with music and united visions of hope. Many gathered in person, online, and at satellite sites around the country to participate in “For Such a Time as This,” a national worship service and mass

meeting. The event brought people of faith together at a time of high emotions as the presidential inauguration took place on the day marked for reigniting King’s vision.

And reigniting a vision was a clear message of the evening. Bishop William J. Barber II, president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, described President Donald Trump’s return to the Oval Office as one “symptom” of the kind of “sick society” King referenced in his final speech.

“We gather today around the nation to be reminded of our calling and work — not just from MLK, but from God,” Barber said. “Our problem is not just because one person gets the title ‘president.’ Our calling exists no matter where or when we are in the nation, because the nation is still infected with the diseases of racism, poverty, and militarism. If we make it about one man in the presidency, we miss it.”

Gathering to remember King should bring into clarity “who we are and whose we are,” he said. “We already have vision – the problem is following it. Maybe it’s time to work the vision rather than having to keep writing new ones,” he added.

More than twenty interfaith leaders spoke at the event which was developed from the vision of United Church of Christ General Minister and President Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. As she addressed the crowd, Thompson spoke about the crucial need to unite around an inclusive vision and “our ability to come together and say ‘no more’ to injustice.”

“We are here to say we are going to work together for the people whose lives will be disrupted by the policies of this government. We are here to say that the love of God by many names brings us together and moves us forward for such a time as this,” she said.

The event offered a model for emphasizing connection between people at the outset of Trump’s presidency, because, as the Rev. Dr. Soni Cantrell-Smith, president of Centers for Spiritual Living, said, “We got a hell of a lot of work to do today.”

“Beloved,” she added, “the work we have ahead is not easy, but it is holy.”

Read more and view a recording of the event at [UCC.org/Interfaith-Service-And-Moral-Mass-Meeting](https://ucc.org/Interfaith-Service-And-Moral-Mass-Meeting) 🌐

SAY NO!

The United Church of Christ Office of Public Policy and Advocacy urges people of faith to say NO to xenophobic immigration policies. President Trump has signed or is poised to sign multiple executive orders mentioned in his Inaugural Address that punish immigrants all while wasting government resources. This includes:



Stand up and speak out against injustice.

- **Declaring “illegal” immigration a national emergency**, which would allow the administration to unlock military funds for border wall construction and the mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, as well as directing law enforcement to being the mass deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants across the country.
- **Reinstating the “Remain in Mexico” policy**, which forces asylum seekers, people fleeing persecution in their home countries, to wait in dangerous cities in Mexico while their cases are processed, which could take months or years.
- **Ending the so-called policy of “catch and release,”** which could prevent asylum seekers from living in community rather than in custody while they await a hearing on their case, causing unnecessary detention.

Regardless of what policy the Trump administration enacts, faith communities will continue to look to our sacred texts and centuries of tradition to live out our faith by welcoming immigrants and protecting the most vulnerable among us. Visit [UCC.org](https://ucc.org) to learn more and make your voice heard. 🌐

STRONGER TOGETHER



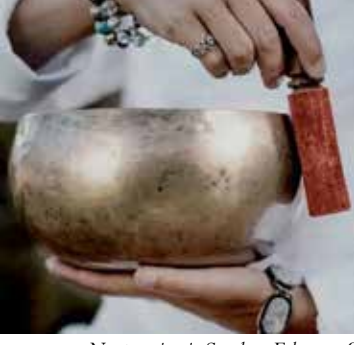
Your support brings help and hope.

Immigrant justice means creating a state where everyone—no matter where they are from—can live with dignity, access opportunity, and feel a sense of belonging. Now more than ever, the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network is determined to provide unwavering support and resources to immigrant and refugee communities.

The urgency of this work is all around us. Harmful policies, systemic inequities, detentions, deportations, and everyday injustices impact individuals, families, and entire communities. Every gift you contribute fuels this fight for justice. Thank you for showing up for immigrants in this critical moment. Visit [Waisn.org](https://waisn.org) to learn more and make a donation. 🌐

SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION

Tory Trujillo offers a monthly deep healing Sound Medicine Meditation. The next session is Sunday, February 9, after worship in Hildebrand Hall (start time is determined by the length of Sunday service). Participants are encouraged to bring mats, blankets, or pillows. Sessions last between 60 and 75 minutes. Suggested Donation \$20. 🌐



Next session is Sunday, February 9

HELP PROVIDE COMFORT



Bring your 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. Thank you for helping us reach out in care and compassion to the most vulnerable in our community. 🌐

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 time to gather with our beloved community. 🌐



155th Annual Meeting Sunday, February 16.

2024 GIVING STATEMENTS

All fourth quarter 2024 Giving Statements were emailed January 27, 2025. If you did not receive your statement, prefer a hard copy, or have any questions, please contact Diane Jacobsen at DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Thank you for your faithful support of the staff, programs and mission of Plymouth Church UCC. 🌐

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, the US honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country’s history.



Carter G. Woodson, Bettmann Archive

Critics have long argued that Black history should be taught and celebrated year-round, not just during one month each year. It was Carter G. Woodson, the “father of Black History,” who first set out in 1926 to designate a time to promote and educate people about Black history and culture. The idea wasn’t to place limitations but to focus and broaden the nation’s consciousness.

“The idea wasn’t to place limitations but to focus and broaden the nation’s consciousness.”

Woodson was an American historian, author, journalist, and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. One of the first scholars to study the history

of the African diaspora, Woodson envisioned a week-long celebration to encourage the coordinated teaching of Black history in public schools.

He designated the second week of February as Negro History Week. February was chosen because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, so it was traditionally a time when African Americans would hold celebrations in honor of emancipation.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month during the country’s 1976 bicentennial. Ford called upon Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

Forty years after Ford formally recognized Black History Month Barack Obama, the nation’s first Black president, delivered a message from the White House, a place built by enslaved people: “Black History Month shouldn’t be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington or from some of our sports heroes...It’s about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America.”

—Excerpted from an NPR.org essay by Jonathan Franklin, 2022 🌐