

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, February 9, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Proverbs 8:1-4, 10-17; Psalm 111;

James 3:13-18; Luke 7:18-35

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:45 am Sound Medicine Meditation, Hildebrand Hall

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has recently announced an end to their 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.



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Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

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PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

February 5, 2025

VOTE WITH LOVE



Help get out the vote for February 11 election!

In the February 11 special election, Seattleites will be voting on an initiative with huge implications for funding a new housing tool in Seattle — social housing. If it passes, Prop 1A would generate an estimated \$50 million for social housing through a progressive revenue tax on the wealthiest businesses.

Funding social housing would:

- **Create permanently affordable, publicly owned housing:** Housing would be created for people, not for profit, and stay in public hands in perpetuity.
- **Add housing that meets the highest green standards:** Buildings account for a significant percentage of overall greenhouse gas emissions. New social housing buildings must meet Passive House standards in Seattle.
- **Foster mixed-income communities:** Social housing will serve households across the income spectrum, with the rents of higher income households subsidizing those of lower incomes.

The Church Council of Greater Seattle is part of the broad coalition working on this initiative, which includes labor, climate action groups, and local businesses. Special elections typically see low turnout. Please help get the word out to educate voters on this critical issue and remind them to vote by February 11.

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

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 even years. The last time President Trump instituted this policy, people who were sent to Mexico were subjected to horrific crimes and exploitation, including kidnappings, rape, and other violent attacks.
- **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. This will lead to the prolonged and unnecessary detention of millions of families who are already traumatized by fleeing persecution.

We believe all people are made in the image of God. Yet the punishment of asylum seekers fleeing persecution, the building of border walls, and the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants fails to respect the God-given dignity of every person and our call to welcome the stranger. No matter what policies are put forward, 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. Tell President Trump that people of faith oppose these proposed policies today.

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

All who live in fear of expedited removal, detention, or deportation, 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, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), **Patricia Valentine**, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Tara Watts and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of her mother, Christine Watts

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.



NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY 2025

WHY BOTHER?
A TOWN HALL AND COMMUNITY PANEL

HILDEBRAND HALL
PLYMOUTH CHURCH
1217 6TH AVE
SEATTLE, WA 98101

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
2:00-4:00 PM

Food and light refreshments will be served

MODERATED BY HOWARD RUSSEL

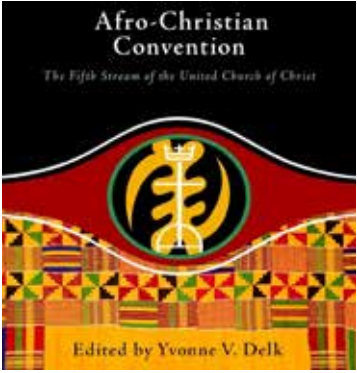
PANELISTS
| ANDREW ASHIOFU | ARIYAH JANE | DALE PEACE | GEORGE DICKS | JSANI HENRY | KURT RAGIN | MARCUS JOHNSON | MICHELE ANDRASIK | RUSSELL CAMPBELL |

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:

KINGDOM FAMILY, POCAN, HEALTH, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, AARTH, NAACP, CO FORUM, Public Health, GenPride, Iwinc, Converge, SWACE HEALTH, Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Renee McCoy reneem@aarh.org or Brittney Lincoln brittlincoln06@outlook.com



LEARN BLACK CHURCH HISTORY



The United Church of Christ Historical Council encourages continued study of Black history within the denomination. The book *Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream* of the United Church of Christ, published by Pilgrim Press, highlights the tradition of independent Black churches with deep African rootedness

that is acknowledged as one of the unique historical religious streams that came together to form the modern-day UCC.

“The story of the Afro-Christian Convention as the fifth stream of the United Church of Christ is a little-known part of our ‘hidden history,’ that clearly points to some of the gifts and challenges of our collective story,” said Julia Speller, a member of the Historical Council and a leading voice of the Afro-Christian tradition. “But it also reveals important lessons that will help us live more faithfully and fully into our commitment of being a ‘united and uniting’ church.”

The book’s description explains how the Afro-Christian Convention offers a story of faith, survival and empowerment in the hostile environment of racism, and yet, “the spirit, worldview, worship and impact of Afro-Christian Convention churches are not appropriately represented under the banner of the Congregational stream of UCC history, a stream informed predominantly by white perspective.”

A free, eight-part study guide to accompany Afro-Christian Convention is available for download here. It is intended for Bible studies, book clubs, and all who want to learn about and discuss the Afro-Christian tradition.

Speller, a co-author of the study guide, says: “While it is important to know this story, it is equally necessary to discover how the values that sustained the Afro-Christians in the past can be important tools for our work and witness today.” Read more and download the free study guide at [UCC.org/news](https://ucc.org/news). 🌍

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 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.

THE WORK CONTINUES

A word from our Duamish siblings:

“At the time of this writing, we are reeling from an onslaught of changes from the new presidential administration. It is hard to know what impacts these will have on Native tribes, both recognized and unrecognized, and on all of our communities. This is where our commitment to solidarity in its many forms will be tested. At the same time, we have the good news we sent out a few days ago about the Duwamish Tribe’s federal recognition lawsuit. We will keep in touch with relevant news as we know it, but for right now, we’ll carry on.”

Learn more about the Duwamish Tribe and become an ally at DuwamishTribe.org. 🌍



STRENGTHEN TRANS LIFELINE



Trans Lifeline is a trans-led organization connecting trans people to community support and resources needed to survive and thrive. For 10 years, we have been building community-based alternatives to the ways trans people have been policed, pathologized, and targeted by oppressive systems at every turn. With the current presidential

administration, much looms in the air regarding the rights, dignity, and well-being of trans people and our families.

Fear and anxiety are running high. 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. Learn more and get involved at TransLifeline.org. Together, we will continue to offer life-affirming care for trans and non-binary people. 🌍

CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Enjoy Seattle’s Lunar New Year celebration in the historic Chinatown/International District 11 am–4 pm Saturday, February 22. Vendor booths will line South King St. With dance and music, a variety of food options, family-friendly activities and cultural exhibits, there’s something for everyone. Visit SeattleChinatownID.com to learn more. 🌍



Join the festivities February 22.

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.

COME IN FROM THE COLD



Access resources to stay warm at Kcrha.org.

King County is expecting freezing temperatures. If you or someone you know is in need of a place to get and stay warm, overnight and daytime shelters are open around the county. Visit Kcrha.org for a list and links to resources and information about work being done to help end homelessness. 🌍

BRING ITEMS FOR COMFORT BAGS

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. Leave donations in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge. Thank you for your care and compassion to the most vulnerable in our community. 🌍



Bring your contributions on Sundays.

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/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace 🌍

EXPLORE BLACK CULTURE IN SEATTLE

Seattle’s Black community is a key part of the city’s authentic culture and historic roots, a population that should be honored and celebrated year-round. Yet as February marks Black History Month, it’s a great time to bring attention and support to this community, highlighting the significant contributions and narratives of those based here.



Local Black culture, art, food, music, business, industry, and beyond offer a lot for both visitors and locals to explore.

Below are just some of the options to honor Black history, in February and beyond. Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

- **The Soul of Seattle** On Saturday, February 8, the fourth iteration of this fest celebrating Seattle’s Black-owned eateries will be an all out culinary party: small bites of food and drinks circulate in a cozy lounge to the tunes of DJ Lady Coco, and an art auction raising funds for vendors and a local mentorship nonprofit. VIP tickets score a multicourse dinner with a keynote speaker and wine pairings. 5:30–10 pm at Block 41 (115 Bell St, Seattle). Info at TheSeattleSoul.com.
- **Black Ice: An American Sitcom Improvised** Talented improvisers will get together at 7 pm every Sunday, February 9, 16, 23 at Unexpected Productions (1428 Post Alley Seattle) to create an on-the-spot sitcom in the style classics like *All In the Family* and *The Jeffersons*, with the audience providing suggestions to guide the show’s outcome. More info at UnexpectedProductions.org
- **The Northwest African American Museum**, located in the historic Colman School building in the Central District, is a great place to visit year-round. Special exhibit this month is *Coloring Outside the Lines*, a celebration of creativity, resilience and the trailblazing spirit in Black communities. Visit Naamnww.org.
- **Call to Conscience Black History Museum** features installations and virtual experiences celebrating the achievements of Seattle’s Black community. The pop-up museum at Columbia City Theater (4916 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle) is open 11 am–7 pm. Tuesdays–Sundays in February. Read more at CallToConscience.world.
- **A Scheme to Forget, a Demand to Remember** Author Victor Luckerson is interested in untold—or worse, hidden—histories, specifically the century-long battle to remember the Tulsa Race Massacre. 6:30 pm Wednesday, February 26, at Town Hall Seattle (1119 8th Ave, Seattle). 🌍