

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, March 9, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 9  
SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!**

*First Sunday in Lent*

Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 49:1–2, 5–15;

Ephesians 1:15 –21; John 3:1–8

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

**9 am** Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

**11:30 am** Coffee Hour, Lounge

*Please note: Dr. Brown is traveling with a group from Plymouth and Congregational Church on Mercer Island on a tour of Civil Rights sites in Alabama and Georgia through March 14.*

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...

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), Eleanor Fordyce, Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), William Chapman Nyaho, Dylan Schilt (Cousin of Colin Warme), Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Raymond & Ann Stanhope (Parents of Elizabeth & Michael Gordon), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Kate Forrester and her husband Bob on the passing of his mother Kay Heekin.

We grieve with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown on the passing of her great Aunt, Juanita Price.

*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

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March 5, 2025

## REPENT!



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

These are the days for which fasting is called. This is the time for deep learning and profound listening, for quieting the noise within and outside of our bodies and minds. We are being buried. We've gone the way of the seed, and the Lenten season invites us into a season of repentance.

Lent is a season of 40 days that remind us of the 40 long years of the Hebrew people meandering in the wilderness; the 40 days where Jesus engaged Satan in the wilderness, as Jesus, like many vulnerable people, was given impossible choices in a time of scarcity. We are reminded our connection to God and remembering who we are will see us through.

This year, however, we are presented with a different opportunity. Some of us have perpetually given up everything, so it is particularly offensive to ask folks who are vulnerable, on the bottom, harmed time and time again, justifiably afraid, to give up or sacrifice anything.

Let us gather, rather than dismiss. Let us release what is no longer useful. Allow it to flake away so that we can become renewed-- oppression; myths about ourselves that are harmful; scapegoating those who appear to stand in the way of your comfort--and gather the gifts and mindfulness of abundance that is available to us all.

If we are willing to reclaim our faith that includes repentance, we will find ourselves in right relation with ourselves and God, and will be capable of destroying the yoke of division among us and within ourselves. Finally, if we dare to peel the husks of our hearts, to plant our seeds in the fertile soil God has prepared, we will live into the promise of Isaiah's words:

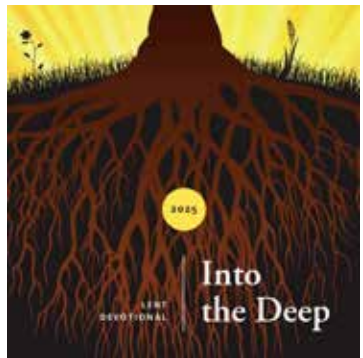
Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.  
Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

What a vision! Shout it aloud. Claim it, for I believe we will come to discover together. Repent, and the resurrection is sure to follow. Resurrect, and the resistance will begin!

—Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE

"Into the Deep," the 2025 UCC Lenten Devotional produced by the Stillspeaking Writers Group and contributors, guides us through the days of Ash Wednesday March 5 through Easter, April 20. Plymouth has purchased a limited number of print editions and pdf editions available for download. Contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) to obtain your link to the pdf edition or to request a print version.



## WEAVING OUR STRENGTHS



Join the Church Council of Greater Seattle for a day of workshops and reflection on the community organizing principles and anti-racism values that ground us in transformational change for liberation and justice. Saturday, March 8 at University Congregational United

Church of Christ (4515 16th Ave NE). More information at TheChurchCouncil.org.

## ORBIT AND ORACLE

Hear The Esoterics in concert at 8 pm Saturday, March 8 at Plymouth UCC, performing *Orbit and Oracle: A Reimagining of Ancient Astronomical Legends*. German composer Michael Ostrzyga is hosted in Seattle by The Esoterics for a concert of astronomical proportion! These pieces explore the astronomical and mythological aspects of each planet and the god or goddess for which they are named, while exploring where science and belief intersect. More information and tickets at TheEsoterics.org.





RISKY AT BEST



Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson

The following is an excerpt from the latest entry of “On My Mind Today,” a blog written by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, UCC President and General Minister. Read the full article at UCC.org.

In the US, the immigration debate escalated – again – this time fueled by Executive Orders signed by the President of the United States. Individuals and families are being rounded up in mass deportation actions, some being sent to countries from which they did not originate. As the deportations persist, there is very little conversation about the push and pull of immigration or why people would risk moving to another country. Instead, the focus is on the other, a xenophobic response in the midst of rising Christian nationalism.

*“People want to live. They want their families to flourish. They hold hope for their children to achieve what they could not.”*

Our world is changing daily. The climate crisis is one of many reasons people are looking for places to live. War, civil unrest, food insecurity, drought,

economic distress, land theft by multinational corporations, unemployment and underemployment are push factors for many. People want to live. They want their families to flourish. They hold hope for their children to achieve what they could not. The pull of developed countries is compelling. Europe and North America flourished as a result of forced labor and cheap labor. Yet, these lands are seen as providing the opportunities for work and income to send back to members of the family left behind. Relocating people is no easy task and yet, the forced and voluntary movement of people is itself at crisis with over 100 million people on the move around the world. No one country can take all those who are displaced. All will have to play a part in housing the global homeless as the maps of the world are being redrawn and people are being pushed out of the places where they used to live. The risk of relocation is high, whatever the circumstances or the need.

I continue to hold hope for the millions of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers looking for homes, risking all they have to leave the certainty of the homes they have known for places unknown, places at times unaccepting and devaluing of who they are. Our immigration and refugee policies will need to be relevant in addressing the causes of displacement and the ways the actions and needs of the global north continue to plague the global south.

PROVIDE COMFORT

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. **Help assemble bags during worship each Sunday in March.**

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



Pack bags during worship each Sunday in March.

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC



April 24-27 at Seattle Center.

A project of Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation, Seattle/ King County Clinic brings together healthcare organizations, civic agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and volunteers to produce the largest community-driven free health clinic of its kind in the United States.

This four-day clinic, April 24–27 at Seattle Center, provides FREE dental, vision, medical, and social services to more than 3,000 people who struggle to access and/or afford care each year. All are welcome. As a low-barrier clinic, patients do not need any form of documentation or proof of income, insurance, or immigration status to receive care. Patients do not need to be residents of Seattle or King County. Interpreters are available. Learn how to volunteer at [SeattleCenter.org/skcclinic/volunteers](http://SeattleCenter.org/skcclinic/volunteers). Information for patients at [SeattleCenter.org/skcclinic/patients](http://SeattleCenter.org/skcclinic/patients).

REMINDER

Please remember that Plymouth Church UCC has a PO Box. Send all postal correspondence to:  
**Plymouth Church UCC**  
**P O Box 21368**  
**Seattle WA 98111**

USPS will continue to forward all mail sent to our street address to the PO Box, but to avoid delays, please send directly to the PO Box.

SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION

Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. Tory will center the group with breath work and embodiment practices. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats, blankets, pillows and other items of comfort. Be prepared for a profoundly transformational and healing experience.



Next session Sunday, March 23.

Next session is March 23, after worship in Hildebrand Hall. (Note: start time is subject to change, determined by the length of Sunday service.) Suggested Donation \$20.

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE



The United Church of Christ is again conducting a Climate Hope Art Contest. The theme this year is “Planting Seeds of Hope.” UCC children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color works of art that bring this theme to life.

A fitting scripture to spark the imagination is Matthew 13:31–32 in which Jesus declares, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Art submissions will be accepted from February 2 to March 14. Visit [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) to learn more and submit artwork.

WOMEN’S DAY CONCERT

Ludmilla Dabo and musician David Lescot, sings a moving, intimate, and dazzling portrait of Nina Simone, the iconic “High Priestess of Soul.” Through the legendary singer’s music and life story, Dabo charts Simone’s journey from young musical prodigy to a major figure in the civil rights movement.



The Alliance Française de Seattle is excited to welcome this production to Seattle for one night only to celebrate International Women’s Day. 7 pm Saturday, March 8, Center Theatre at Seattle Center Armory. \$35, \$25 for members of the Alliance. More info and tickets using the link in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

ACCELERATE ACTION FOR EQUALITY

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, roughly five generations from now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum. One of the best ways to forge gender equality is to understand what works and to do more of this, faster. International Women’s Day (IWD), March 8. is an opportunity to amplify voices, challenge bias, and push for change.

Accelerate Action is a worldwide call to acknowledge strategies, resources, and activity that positively impact women’s advancement, and to support and elevate their implementation. Focusing on the need to Accelerate Action emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

As individuals, we can all take steps in our daily lives to positively impact women’s advancement. We can call out stereotypes, challenge discrimination, question bias, celebrate women’s success, and so much more. Additionally, sharing our knowledge and encouragement with others is key. Collectively, we can Accelerate Action for gender equality.

Read more about what you can do year-round to Accelerate Action at [InternationalWomensDay.com](http://InternationalWomensDay.com).



LENTEN SPECIAL OFFERING

Gifts to 2025 Lenten Special Offering will be divided evenly between **One Great Hour of Sharing** and **Plymouth Immigration Ministry**.

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The support of OGHs serves individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, OGHs provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope, improving the lives of people in these challenging situations.

Thank you for your generous and faithful support.



Lenten Special Offering: “Be The Light.”