

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, March 23, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 16:2–18; Psalm 65:5–13;

Acts 27:1, 27–38; Luke 9:12 –17

Rev. Erica Williams

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

12 pm 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.

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.



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, Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), **Blair Parker (Daughter of Nancy Parker)**, Dylan Schilt (Cousin of Colin Warme), Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Raymond & Ann Stanhope (Parents of Elizabeth & Michael Gordon), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

We grieve with the family and friends of Judy Raymer who passed away last week. A memorial at Plymouth is planned for Saturday, May 3 at 2 pm.

Welcome to the world Baby Boy Parker, son and grandson of Blair and Nancy Parker.

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



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.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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CHARTING PLYMOUTH'S FUTURE



9 am-1 pm Saturday, April 12, at Plymouth.

You are invited to join a transformative journey of faith and community at our strategic planning retreat, led by Rev. Dr. Mark Smutny. 9 am-1 pm Saturday, April 12 at Plymouth. Lunch will be provided.

Together, we will embark on an engaging and interactive process to:

- Reimagine our mission, vision, and values.
- Set priorities and work plans for the next three years.
- Foster inclusivity by brainstorming ways to welcome and include the vibrant diversity of Greater Seattle.

This retreat promises to be a collaborative, imaginative, and spiritually enriching experience. Don't miss this opportunity to shape the future of Plymouth Church and strengthen our commitment to building a more inclusive and just community. Whether you're a long-time member or new to Plymouth, your voice is vital. Let's come together as fellow travelers on the journey of faith to envision what's next for our congregation.

Save the date and keep reading the *Herald* and website news for more details. For questions or to RSVP, contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

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 is 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.

WELCOME, REV. ERICA WILLIAMS

This Sunday, March 23, we are pleased to welcome Rev. Erica Williams to preach at Plymouth's 10:30 am Worship Service.

Rev. Williams is a spiritual leader, national social justice organizer, and international human rights activist who has contributed to such campaigns and organizations as Repairers of the Breach, The Poor People's Campaign:

A National Call for Moral Revival, and Community Renewal Society. She serves on the Board of Trustees for The World Student Christian Federation-U.S. Williams has participated in global organizing efforts in South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Brazil, Palestine, and Mexico.

She is ordained by the Christian Church Disciples of Christ and received a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity in 2016. She is a graduate of the inaugural cohort of the Master of Religion of Public Life at Harvard Divinity School.

Come hear the message from this dynamic preacher as we continue our Lenten journey together.

SHARE EASTER JOY

Plymouth's Community and Care Board delivers cheerful Easter flowers to folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. If you can deliver flowers, please email June Hayakawa-Fung at JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Support this ministry by making a donation in the name of loved ones. Names of donors and those honored will be listed in the *Herald*. Email names of those to be honored to Robert Turner at RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. You can also donate online using the "Give" tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Thank you for helping continue this tradition of care.



Rev. Erica Williams preaches this Sunday.



Thank you for supporting this ministry of care.

LIVING LOVE BOLDLY



The Rev. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, is calling on the church to “pause, pray, and prepare to live love boldly.” In a time of political division, rising inequality, and social uncertainty, she emphasizes that the church’s role is not only to speak about justice but to actively embody it.

Her call to action aligns with the theme of the upcoming General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches: “Persevere in Your Witness.” In a world facing polarization and growing threats to democracy, the UCC remains steadfast in its commitment to justice, ensuring that faith is not only professed but lived out through action. The UCC, known for its diverse membership, faces the challenge of political polarization within its own congregations. “We are not a red church or a blue church; most of our congregations are purple,” Thompson said, acknowledging the spectrum of political perspectives within the denomination. In an era where partisan divides seem insurmountable, she emphasized the central Christian tenet of love.

A critical distinction in the UCC’s approach is its unwavering focus on policy rather than political affiliation. The UCC’s Our Faith, Our Vote campaign encouraged members to vote with justice in mind, ensuring that civic engagement remains a core value of faith practice. With escalating political tensions, the role of the church is increasingly vital. As political discourse grows more hostile, the UCC is committed to fostering conversations that bridge divides.

As the first Black woman and first immigrant to lead the UCC, Thompson’s personal journey deeply informs her leadership. “It’s not just about being the first African descendant woman. It’s also about being the first leader who was not born in this country,” she said. Her experiences as a Jamaican immigrant provide her with a unique perspective on issues of justice, inclusion, and faith-based advocacy. Her leadership is rooted in a firm belief that the church must be both a sanctuary and a force for change. “We cannot do this alone,” she said. “It will take all of us—across denominations, across faiths, and across borders—to push back against the forces that threaten justice and democracy.” In this post-election moment, as the country recalibrates and churches discern their role, Thompson’s message serves as a reminder that faith is not just about belief—it is about bold, compassionate action.

Read more at [UCC.org](#).

STAND WITH THE DUWAMISH

Our Duwamish siblings invite you to learn and join in community by participating in events throughout the year. Below are a few upcoming dates to note on your calendar now. Read more about how you can get involved and lend your support at [DuwamishTribe.org](#).



- **Vietnam Veteran’s Pow Wow** hosted by the Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center, honoring and welcoming all Vietnam veterans. Lunch will be served. 11 am-5 pm Saturday, March 29. More info at [DuwamishTribe.org](#).
- **Climate Circle** A hospitable in-person circle to witness ecological harms together, weave stories to express feelings and seek personal resilience during uncertain times. 9-11 am Sunday, April 13, at The Duwamish Longhouse. Tickets at [DuwamishTribe.org](#).
- **Spring Art Market** Indigenous artists will showcase and sell their arts and crafts at the Duwamish Longhouse 10 am-5 pm Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & 27. Enjoy this festive weekend to celebrate and support local talent.

LENTEN SPECIAL OFFERING



Lenten Special Offering: “Be The Light.”

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

“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous [Parent] in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 14-16, The Message Translation)

One Great Hour of Sharing supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. 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.

SCAM ALERT!

Recently, counterfeit emails purporting to be from Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and Indigo Brown have been received by members of Plymouth and the Conference. If you get an email or text asking for assistance, do not open it or respond to it. As we have shared before, **no one from the Plymouth staff will ever send requests for financial or other assistance.**



Fraudsters use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine sophisticated technology with age-old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. Losing money or property to scams and fraud can be devastating. If you receive a text, call or email that seems suspicious, don’t respond to it. Read about the latest scams and how to protect against them at [ConsumerFTC.gov/scams](#).

BRING COMFORT



Pack bags during worship each Sunday in March.

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. **Help assemble bags during worship each Sunday in March.** Thank you for reaching out with compassion to the most vulnerable.

STUDY THE BIBLE WITH PLYMOUTH

Join friends at 9 am every Wednesday to discuss Scripture readings for the coming Sunday. The Zoom link in the website news article is the same every week. The link requires the usual Plymouth passcode. Email Rev. Bechtold ([KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](#)) if you need the code.



9 am Wednesdays online via Zoom.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Bechtold.

EQUAL PAY DAY

Equal Pay Day (March 25 this year) is observed to raise awareness of the gender pay gap. In the US, this date symbolizes how far into the year the average median woman must work in order to earn what the average median man earned the entire previous year. Demographic Equal Pay Days throughout the year raise awareness about harmful wage gaps faced by women of color as compared to their white male counterparts.



Help end the wage gap.

According to 2022 Census data, the wage gap for women compared to men is 84 cents on the dollar for full-time, year-round workers. When you look at all earners, including full-time, year-round earners and part-time and part-year workers, the wage gap widens to 78 cents. These wage gaps are unacceptable. Women continue to be underpaid and undervalued.

Pay transparency policy reforms – like the posting of job ranges and banning the use of prior salary history in setting wages – are important tools in the effort to close they wage gap. They require employers to set and publicize wages tied to job duties and experience and increase the information available to employees about how positions are compensated. They decrease subjectivity in setting wages; such subjectivity can allow bias to seep into the process.

Equal Pay Day is more than just a date—it is a call to action. Until the gap is closed, women will continue working longer for the same pay. The fight for wage equality affects everyone, and together, we can make fair pay a reality.

2025 Equal Pay Day Calendar

- All Women’s Equal Pay Day – March 25
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Women’s Equal Pay Day – April 7
- Moms’ Equal Pay Day – May 6
- LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Day – June 17
- Black Women’s Equal Pay Day – July 10
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Women’s Equal Pay Day – August 28
- Latina Equal Pay Day – October 8
- Disabled Women’s Equal Pay Day – October 23
- Native Women’s Equal Pay Day – November 18

Visit [EqualPayToday.org](#) to learn more and get involved.