

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, May 11, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Celebratory Worship

Judith 10:1-8

“You’d Better Recognize”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Horizon House bus will run this Sunday

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

Members and Visitors in the church building can access Plymouth Guest wi-fi network using password: peaceonearth.

The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week.

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

*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*



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

NOURISH BODY AND SOUL



Join a special worship service this Sunday.

Let’s celebrate the maternal figures in our lives. Who has poured into you? Who have you poured into? This Sunday, May 11, we gather in love as we honor the legacy of motherhood and embrace nontraditional ways we mother and have been mothered. Tables will be set up in the Sanctuary,

where we can be in community with soulful music and food. Dr. Brown’s message is “You’d Better Recognize,” with inspiration drawn from the Book of Judith (Judith 10:1-8).

The Book of Judith is included in the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles but excluded from the Hebrew canon and assigned by Protestants to the apocrypha. It tells a compelling story of faith and God’s presence in the face of adversity, offering a message that resonates today with lessons about trusting in God’s plan and standing up for what is right.

Come hear the Word and lift up all the mothers in our lives, 10:30 am Sunday, May 11, in the Sanctuary.

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), Lin Davis (Wife of Mo Longworth), JT Edwards, 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), **Artrice Gordon** (Brother of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Robert Malae, William Chapman Nyaho, Richard Paul (Dad of Beth Paul-Russell), Colleen Rood (Aunt of Kathy Rood), Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Patricia Valentine, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

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 36

May 7, 2025

CREATING SACRED SPACE



meeting logo, created by Conference Moderator Indigo Brown (above). Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Associate Minister Kevin Bechtold and Plymouth non-voting members Al and Judy Bentley were also in attendance. Plymouth Member and PNCUCC Moderator Indigo Brown also attended.

There are 75 churches in the PNCUCC, spanning Alaska, Washington and Northern Idaho. Roughly half of those churches sent delegates to the annual meeting. Rev. Phil Hodson serves as designated conference minister. PNCUCC Moderator Indigo Brown, called the meeting to order on Friday, April 25.

Exciting Additions

Conference delegates welcomed two new churches to the PNCUCC. Did you know that American Samoans now make up 11 churches in our conference? These congregations are located in Alaska and Washington. Delegates welcomed and celebrated the addition of two more American Samoan churches to our conference. These congregations played a powerful role in helping to lead Conference delegates in worship.

Time to Organize!

Organizing is leadership that enables people to turn the resources they have into the power they need to make the change they want. Keynote Speaker and Guest Preacher Rev. Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference, UCC, kicked off the meeting with his keynote address. Rev. Palmer emphasized the need to organize collectively so that we might follow the example of Jesus as inspiration for creating justice in the communities our churches serve. He emphasized that UCC churches must do justice work within their congregations, as a necessary prerequisite for doing justice outside the walls of the church. Without doing such work, particularly around racial justice, efforts to create justice in our communities risk being performative rather than substantive.

Rev. Palmer went on to describe efforts within the Central Atlantic Conference to do anti-racist training for the staff and congregations of his conference. He closed by emphasizing the need to build coalitions between our churches, communities of other religious expressions and civil society organizations in an effort to build the Kin-dom of God.

This is Sacred Space

Moderator Indigo Brown, in her report to the conference, emphasized similar themes. As moderator for the last two years, she observed that PNCUCC efforts to build anti-racist congregations, while present in some churches, still have much work to do to become substantive and effective in transforming us on the inside so that we can do work on the outside.

She observed that PNCUCC efforts toward justice are often siloed within churches, thus weakening PNCUCC efforts to build unity between our churches.

In her parting words as she ended her term as Moderator, she challenged us to seek unity and accountability within our conference in an effort to form us as followers of Jesus, so that we might become more powerful advocates for those furthest away from justice.

Meeting attendees thanked and honored Indigo for her 2 years of faithful service as conference Moderator. Thank you Indigo!

Heading the Prophet Micah

Rev. Bianca Davis preached the annual meeting final worship. She opened by describing herself as unapologetically Christian, black and a woman. She leveraged her past experience as a UCC pastor in a western Washington UCC congregation to illuminate the challenges before us. She believed she had accepted a call from a church that was ready and willing to do the self-reflection and work it takes to transform itself so that it might become more effective advocates for justice.

Instead, what she encountered was a congregation that welcomed her ministry, but only if she assimilated to whiteness, played to white comfort and muted her prophetic voice. She continued by expressing her faith that all things are possible with God, and through truth telling and the work of the holy spirit, we can be transformed to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Delegates also voted to approve the 2025 Budget for the PNCUCC. Want details on that and other things PNCUCC? Check out Pnucucc.org/Annual-Meeting.

—David Guthrie, Plymouth UCC Moderator

HONORING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



The United States has many heritage months that celebrate the various communities that form the mosaic of our country, including Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and more. By celebrating heritage months, we learn about one another, and honor the richness of our diverse nation

Each May, hundreds of organizations and Americans of all backgrounds join together to discover, explore, and celebrate the vibrant and varied American Jewish experience from the dawn of our nation to the present day. In a Proclamation on Jewish American Heritage Month, 2024, President Joe Biden stated: “For centuries, the perseverance, hope, and unshakeable faith of the Jewish people have inspired people around the world. During Jewish American Heritage Month, we celebrate the immeasurable impact of Jewish values, contributions, and culture on our Nation’s character and recommit to realizing the promise of America for all Jewish Americans.

“American Jews have always pushed America to live up to its promise as a nation that upholds freedom and justice for all.”

helping define one of the bedrock principles upon which our Nation was built. Jewish American culture has been inextricably woven into the fabric of our country. Jewish American suffragists, activists, and leaders marched for civil rights, women’s rights, and voting rights. Jewish American scientists, doctors, and engineers have made scientific breakthroughs that define America as a land of possibilities...As public servants, artists, entertainers, journalists, and poets, they have helped write the story of America, making it — as Emma Lazarus’ poem on the Statue of Liberty states — a home for the ‘huddled masses yearning to breathe free.’”

Jewish Americans have always pushed America to live up to its promise as a nation that upholds freedom and justice for all. This month, we hope you will celebrate the many contributions of Jewish Americans and learn more about the history, culture, accomplishments, and diversity of the American Jewish community.

Learn more at JewishHeritageMonth.gov.

NO KINGS

Volunteer Blue and its 40-plus partner organizations invite you to join No Kings – Then or Now: Fighting on All Fronts, 2:30 pm (PDT) Friday, May 9. This free online event will focus on strategies and pragmatic actions we can take to stop the destruction of our democracy with special guest speakers:

- Historian and political writer Heather Cox Richardson
- Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell
- U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin

Link to register in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.



HELP WITH HEALING



Bring new or gently used items on Sundays.

Plymouth Healing Communities welcomes your donations of new and gently-used household items for new residents moving in to their new apartments. Drop off at Plymouth on Sundays through May 22 in the PHC donation bin in the Lounge. Reach out to PHC Program Manager Dakota Nixon (206-707-2801; dnixon@plyhc.org) for different drop-off times, or questions. Thank you

for helping make a home for our residents.

For a full list of most requested items, please see the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org or visit Plymouth Healing Communities at Plyhc.org. Thank you for helping make a home for our residents.

EMBRACE JOY

The Pacific Northwest & Central Pacific Conferences of the United Church of Christ join together every three years to offer a spiritual and motivational women’s retreat. The retreat theme for 2025 is “Embrace Joy” and registration is now open. Plan now to join us November 7-9 for a fantastic event at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA.

This open and affirming gathering warmly welcomes all who identify as women. Come and take time just for yourself. Breathe deeply, relax fully, and explore, enrich, and rekindle your spirit.



Register now for Women's Retreat Nov. 7-9

BEYOND THE BRIDGE: A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

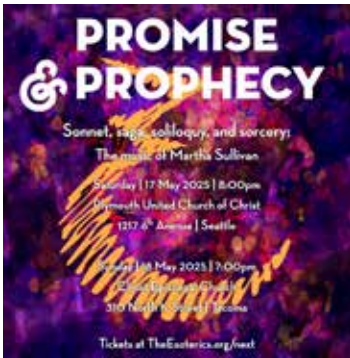
Downtown Emergency Service Center is thrilled to support the upcoming free film screening of “*Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness*,” and we invite you to this special event 5:30 pm Tuesday, May 13 at Town Hall Seattle. (Get free tickets using link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or visit TownHallSeattle.org.)

Following the film we’ll be joined by local and statewide advocates and experts for a panel conversation and Q&A. Our goal is for this film to be a part of a community-wide conversation about homelessness. Invite others to this free screening, panel, and Q&A, so that we can all be a part of answering the question: *How can Seattle solve homelessness in a comprehensive way?* Come explore the possibilities May 13.



Film & discussion 5:30 pm Tuesday, May 13.

PROMISE AND PROPHECY



8 pm Saturday, May 17, at Plymouth

The Esoterics will celebrate spring at Plymouth 8 pm Saturday, May 17, with the choral music of New York composer Martha Sullivan. This a cappella repertoire presents a collection of compositions featuring adventure, magic, mischief, romance, hope, anguish, joy, loss, longing — and of course, *dragons*.

The centerpiece of the program will feature *Epithalamion*, Martha’s setting of verse from Edmund Spenser’s *Wedding Ode*: 24 stanzas to depict each hour of their wedding day in honor of his bride, Elizabeth. Sullivan sets five of these stanzas that focus on the delights and distractions of the wedding night.

Following this are settings from Emily Dickinson and Shakespeare — each depicting moods and metaphors on themes of love, lament and longing. Then comes *Madrigals of Nostradamus* — four French quatrains by the celebrated soothsayer. This cycle will be followed by Martha’s setting of *The new Colossus* by Emma Lazarus.

To finish the program, The Esoterics will premiere Sullivan’s six-movement cycle entitled *Certain Dragons*. In these six songs, we will celebrate the legendary creatures and their extraordinary nature: volatile, violent and virtuous; fiery, fearless and fierce.

Please join us for this celebration of lavish literature and sumptuous song! More info and tickets at TheEsoterics.org.

LET’S GET MOVING

Join the Movement toward Racial Justice is an invitation to demonstrate God’s love and to partner with others who are working for the transformation of racism in our world so that we might foster flourishing lives for all.

As evidenced in the wake of the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd, and numerous attacks on our siblings of color across the nation, the movement for racial justice cannot be separated from faith commitments to do justice and love our neighbors. As divides deepen across our country and world, we are being called to grow our capacity for interdependence and nurture connections that value difference and promote equity.

We find ourselves living in a time where increasing numbers of individuals, organizations, and communities are actively building and amplifying our collective power to move toward racial justice. This movement is not new. We build on the revolutionary work of our freedom-making ancestors. But this particular moment offers us unique opportunities to cultivate movements with healing and repair at the center. The Christian church began as a movement towards a just world through the teachings of Jesus. As followers of Jesus, it is our mandate to seek justice, love, and compassion, as we join with and become our own Spirit-led movements toward racial justice.

We all have a role to play in actively building and amplifying our collective power to move toward racial justice. Whether you’re sharing a story, seeking resources or inspiration, collaborating with others or attending an event, everyone everywhere can Join the Movement and help create a truly just world for all.

Read more and get involved at JoinTheMovementUCC.org.



PRIDE IN THE PARK



Pride in the Park June 7 at Volunteer Park.

Seattle Pride in the Park, produced by Seattle Pride, will kick off Seattle’s 51st annual Pride Month celebration on Saturday, June 7 at Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill.

This free event features a performances, , food trucks, local nonprofit booths, queer vendors, and more. There’s also plenty of family-friendly fare, including a teen space designed and hosted by youth in collaboration with Seattle’s LGBTQ Center and Seattle Pride. ADA accommodations available. See SeattlePride.org.