

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, May 28, 2023

**Worship In Person or Online**

**Service in the Sanctuary**

*Pentecost Sunday*

*Wear Something Red!*

Acts 2:1-18

“Let’s Stay Together”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at **PlymouthChurchSeattle.org**.

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.

*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.*




## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bible Study Sip & Chew Event** Please join us for Bible study and fun at Station 18 Drinks & Eats in Ballard on Thursday, **June 1 from 4-6 pm**. Participants are responsible for their own food and drink. RSVP to Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) by **May 29**.

**Dates to Note:** Sunday, **June 18** – Juneteenth Celebration; Sunday, **June 25** – Plymouth’s 30th Anniversary of being an Open & Affirming Church and Pride Parade; **July 16-20** – All-Church Camp at N-Sid-Sen in Idaho.

**Connect with Council** Members of the Plymouth community are invited to meet with Council members online via Zoom 7-8 pm the second Wednesday of each month. Next opportunity is **June 14**. Email Diane Jacobsen, (DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link.

**Be The Church** You are invited to volunteer at Plymouth Church! There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. Contact Toni Arthur: TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week. **Deadline is Monday, 10 am, for Wednesday publication.** Stay current with Plymouth happenings on our website. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!   



1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,  
Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Mark & JT Edwards, Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Anna Florey, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Jerome Robinson, **Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine)**, Jose Robles and Family, Doug Ryan (Brother of Mary Ryan), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), **Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper)**

We grieve with the family and friends of Anthony (Tony) Brown who died May 22, 2023. Tony was a beloved soloist and choir member with Plymouth from 1983-2000. He will be dearly missed.

Our hearts are with the family and friends of Stan Orr on the one-year anniversary of his passing.

On Memorial Day we remember those who sacrificed their lives in military service to this country and the immeasurable loss to their families, friends, and communities.

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# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

May 24, 2023

## THIS IS PENTECOST SUNDAY: WEAR SOMETHING RED



*Celebrate the “birthday of the Church.”  
Art by Jan Richardson*

Pentecost is a major day in the church calendar; it comes 50 days after Easter and marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, helping fulfill their mission to “preach the Gospel to all nations.” For this reason, Pentecost is also called “the birthday of the Church.” So our gifts remind us that we are all “being church” together and that “church” had a beginning — at Pentecost.

Sunday, May 28 and throughout the month of June, gifts marked Pentecost Special Offering will be divided evenly between UCC Special Offering Strengthen the Church and Scholarships for Plymouth UCC members to take the Undoing Institutional Racism training.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The Pacific Northwest Conference and the national setting equally share the gifts received. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Just think, by your generosity to this special mission offering, you build up the Body of Christ, by planting new churches, awakening new ideas in existing churches and developing the spiritual life in our youth and young adults!

One-half of the Pentecost special offering will be earmarked to scholarships for Plymouth members to take the Undoing Institutional Racism training. Undoing Institutional Racism Workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to “undo” the racist structures that hinder effective social change. See full schedule and details at PinwSeattle.org. Contact Diane Jacobsen for scholarship details.

Please give as generously as you are able. We give thanks for all your gifts. ✨

## WALK WITH PRIDE

Plymouth UCC and University Congregational UCC are co-sponsoring a parade entry on behalf of Pacific Northwest Conference UCC for the Seattle Pride Parade on Sunday June 25, starting around 11 am. Bring your signs and your friends for a day of celebrating and supporting our LGBTQIA+ siblings!



*Have fun and represent Plymouth UCC.*

We welcome all individuals and churches who want to join us to march together in solidarity and celebration. The parade route is along 4th Ave in downtown Seattle, starting at 4th & Pike and ending at Westlake Center. More info on Seattle Pride at SeattlePride.org.

For planning purposes and further details, please email Br. Stephan Gerhardt at Gerhardt\_Stephan@yahoo.com to let us know you are interested in helping us plan our presence at the 49th Annual Seattle Pride Parade. This is our opportunity to commemorate the past, celebrate new wins for equality, and get encouragement for the work yet to come. And it’s a lot of fun! Keep reading the *Herald* and website for updates. ✨

## JOIN WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY



*Study the Bible with friends online.*

All are welcome to online Bible study via Zoom every Wednesday, from 9-10:30 am, led by Rev. Kevin Bechtold.

A typical meeting begins with attendees checking in with one another and then discussing the scripture texts for the following Sunday’s worship service before closing in prayer. Kevin studies the texts beforehand to provide background and context for the discussion. He also sends a weekly email with a link to that week’s scripture texts as well as a link to the Zoom meeting.

Biblical knowledge is not a prerequisite for joining this group! If you have questions, or would like to join, please contact Kevin at KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. We hope to see you Wednesday morning! ✨



PLYMOUTH: A PEOPLE OF  
EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME



Celebrating 30 years of being Open & Affirming.

Dear Plymouth,  
If you were fortunate enough to have participated in worship this past Sunday (5/21/23) you got to witness Plymouth being its incredible self. If you were like me, you got to have your world rocked listening to Jane Elliott’s conversation with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. They

spoke passionately and forthrightly about racism, anti-racism, and the dire struggle to not let the white supremacist forces that occupy some corners of organized religion be the face of religion in our country. For me, it was a buckle-up and hold on time and I am so grateful.

Also, if you were like me, you might have teared up a bit earlier in the service when Rev. Kelle so movingly in our presence read the Mayor’s Proclamation that last Sunday was officially designated by the City of Seattle to be Plymouth’s day of celebration marking our 30th anniversary of being an Open and Affirming congregation. I felt so proud of what we did for ourselves back in 1993 and that we have been living into this promise for 30 years such that we find ourselves with ample representation from the queer and trans community among our lay leaders and in our congregation at large here in 2023. I also felt and feel hopeful for our future selves in the years ahead as we intentionally break the circle open and welcome everyone in!

Last Sunday was really the kick-off of a month-long celebration of our 30th anniversary of being an Open and Affirming congregation. For those of you who were around back in 1993, you might recall that the actual date of the vote was May 26 of that year. My hope is that folks will give particular thanks to the power of love on May 26, 2023. Then, on Pride Sunday — June 25 — we will have a time in worship to lift up this anniversary and what it means about who we are and who we are becoming, followed by some special coffee hour treats to sustain us for the Pride parade that many will be joining.

We have much to be grateful for, Plymouth. We have elders who made wise decisions decades ago that pushed us to become inclusive and loving in new, if not altogether comfortable ways. In the here and now, we are blessed to have clergy, lay leaders, and sibling-congregants who are doing the holy work of pushing us to become ever more inclusive and loving, even — and especially — when it is not altogether comfortable. For me, this is what being church is about and I’m confident that I’m not alone in this.

Peace and love —Tracy Simpson, Plymouth Moderator

CITY OF SEATTLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, was founded in Seattle in 1870; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, Plymouth Congregational Church has been a leader in the community in advocating for racial, individual and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, as a progressive Christian community located in downtown Seattle, Plymouth Congregational Church understands the Bible as a mandate to be welcoming and extend love to all, including persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual, recognizing that all people are made in God’s image; and

WHEREAS, in May 1993, Plymouth Congregational Church resolved to be an “open and affirming” congregation, welcoming all persons, including persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual; and

WHEREAS, for the past 30 years, Plymouth Congregational Church has tried to embody the spirit of the 1993 resolution by welcoming persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual and giving them full opportunities to participate in worship and in leadership of the church’s affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes Plymouth Congregational Church as it celebrates the 30th anniversary of its adoption of the “open and affirming” resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE A. HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 21, 2023 TO BE

Plymouth Church’s Open and Affirming Celebration Day

Bruce A. Harrell

Mayor Bruce A. Harrell  
City of Seattle



Believing that God’s love transcends all human distinctions, Plymouth UCC welcomes people of all races and cultures, of varied social and economic conditions and regardless of sexual orientation. We are open and affirming of all people, and we call all people to the cost and joy of Christian discipleship.

YOU MAKE PLYMOUTH POSSIBLE



Your support is vital.

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministries of Plymouth United Church of Christ. Listed below are a variety of ways for you to provide offerings and gifts. Your support makes a world of difference.

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH SIMPLE CHURCH Click on the MAKE A GIFT box at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings.

TEXT TO GIVE Simply text to 206.208.1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.

CASH APP Download the Cash App mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Questions? DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org

CHECK BY MAIL Mail your offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, UCC / 1217 6th Ave / Seattle WA 98101

COME CELEBRATE!



Enjoy a radically inclusive celebration of parents of every identity. Wear your biggest hat and most stellar bow tie, and come for a Sunday

music brunch in Hildebrand Hall as we honor parents of every sort. Enjoy good food, good company and live music. Suggested donation of \$25. Link to RSVP in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Questions? Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. See you there!

SUMMER IS COMING

Plan to join Plymouth campers July 16–20 at N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. N-Sid-Sen means “Point of Inspiration” in the language of the indigenous Coeur d’Alene people. Enjoy woodland and waterfront activities, faith-based experiences, and meaningful connections. Keep reading the Herald and website for updates and details.



Join All Church Camp July 16-20

PREPARING TO HELP

Federal public health order, Title 42 — which limited migration at the United States’ southern border, purportedly as an emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic — expired May 11. And as it did, migrants, asylum seekers and immigration rights advocates remained uncertain about what the future would hold. The end of Title 42 signals new possibilities for better policies. But those haven’t manifested yet.

“While it’s a relief that the inhumane border policy of Title 42 is finally coming to an end, we remain concerned that the criminalization of vulnerable migrants seeking safety appears to be the priority for U.S. immigration policy,” said the Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, who leads the UCC’s national refugee and migration ministries.

“Instead of increasing capacity to process asylum applications or expand pathways to immigration, the federal administration continues to invest in militarization and marginalization strategies that do nothing to alleviate strain and suffering. We urge churches to continue speaking out against inhumane treatment of migrants, as well as engage their congregational capacities to welcome the stranger as our faith urges of us.”

Besides direct aid, she also pointed to the significance of faith communities as advocates and the importance of speaking up. “We need to hold the Biden administration accountable, the same way we did the Trump administration. We need to demand better,” she said, adding: “There’s no way this is over.”

Plymouth’s Immigration Ministry Team is working to help migrant siblings. The team meets on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month and all are welcome. Contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold (KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

Read more national UCC news at UCC.org.

UNDO INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

The Undoing Institutionalized Racism workshop is offered by The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, a national multiracial, antiracist collective of organizers and educators dedicated to building an effective movement for social change. The training is based on the premise that racism has been systematically erected and that it can be “undone” if people understand where it comes from, how it functions and why it is perpetuated. Cost is \$350 per person. Next workshop is June 14–16. Find full schedule and link to register at PinwSeattle.org.



“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”