

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, June 4, 2023

**Worship In Person or Online**

**Service in the Sanctuary**

*Trinity Sunday*

*Sacrament of Communion*

Hosea 11:1–4, Matthew 28:16–20

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

**12 noon** Big Hats and Bow Ties Brunch, Hildebrand Hall

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

**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.

**Special Offering Continues** 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.

**Come to Camp** 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.

**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!   



Return Service Requested

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

**Jim & Adele Reynolds**, Mark & JT Edwards, Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel, John Daniels, Skylyr Effler (Nephew of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Anna Florey, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), 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), Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine), Jose Robles and Family, Beta Utu Malae (Brother of Mary Ryan), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper)



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



## GETTING IT RIGHT



Hello again Plymouth,  
I am writing this week to issue a correction: The actual date Plymouth voted to become an Open and Affirming congregation was

**May 16, 1993**, not May 26 of that year as stated in last week's *Herald* article. I apologize for the mistake. I know that getting dates right is important.

I also know that Love is timeless so whether it is the exact anniversary or a random day on which you are moved to give thanks, I hope you will find (and make) opportunities to lift up gratitude for the wise ones who courageously moved Plymouth closer to the Kingdom of God and Love. Blessings and peace to you all, —Tracy Simpson, *Plymouth Moderator* ✦

## COME CELEBRATE!

Enjoy a radically inclusive celebration of parents of every identity **this Sunday, June 4**. 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. Suggested donation of \$25. Link to RSVP in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Questions? Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✦



## CONNECT WITH COUNCIL



Meet via Zoom June 14.

Members of the Plymouth community are invited to meet with Council members to ask questions, make suggestions, and express their hopes for Plymouth. Join Council members online via Zoom 7-8 pm the second Wednesday of each month.

**Next opportunity is 7 pm**

**June 14.** Email Diane Jacobsen

(DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) by 5 pm the day of the meeting for the Zoom link. ✦

## PLYMOUTH CHURCH LIBRARY REOPENS THIS SUNDAY

Pop in this Sunday before or after church, 10 am to noon! For some of you this will be a welcome return to a beloved space. For others, this could be your first visit. The books in their embracing curve are still there to entice. But there are also some changes to reflect Plymouth's open and affirming community.

Walking in you will immediately see something new. A "Welcome Table" inspired by James Baldwin's Welcome Table at his home in France. A place where friends gathered with James, sharing in community and mighty ideas. Grab a chair and settle in at Plymouth's Welcome Table with friends, be they piles of books or your fellow Plymouthians. Or better yet, both!

And while you are there, pick up a Plymouth Church Book Bingo card and start the summer off exploring books you wouldn't normally take from the shelf. Each square gives a description, like this one, "a book written by an author who experienced being a refugee." Complete a row, several rows, or the whole card and enter to win fun gifts when we finish up the church year next June. But of course, most importantly, use this project to inspire you on your unique path of faith and justice.

Warmly, —Plymouth Church Library Committee ✦

## THANK YOU, PLYMOUTH CHURCH



On Sunday, June 11, Plymouth Healing Communities will host coffee hour following worship service to say "Thank You" to our Plymouth Church friends for your continued support and advocacy.

Please plan to join the PHC Board of Directors and our new Executive Director, Padrica Hoffman, for a time

of fellowship, laughter, and delicious refreshments.

We hope to see you there! —Nancy Parker ✦



# WALK WITH PRIDE



Represent Plymouth Sunday, June 25.

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!

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](http://SeattlePride.org).

For planning purposes and further details, please email Br. Stephan Gerhardt at [Gerhardt\\_Stephan@yahoo.com](mailto: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. ✨

# ABOUT SEATTLE PRIDE

The Mission of Seattle Pride is to create unity, honor diversity, and achieve equal human rights throughout our region and the world.

The first Seattle Pride Parade (a march of fewer than 200 people) took place in 1974, although it wasn't officially recognized by the city. Just three years later, the Parade welcomed 2,000 attendees, and Seattle Mayor Wes Ulman declared the first "Gay Pride Week." In 1992, the Seattle Pride festivities expanded to include bisexual and transgender identities (LGBT).

Today, the Seattle Pride Parade is one of the largest in the country, attracting an estimated 300,000 members of the LGBTQIA+ community, friends, and allies. The Parade provides our entire community an opportunity to celebrate the present, envision the future, and honor our past

Over the years, we've come to understand that Pride parades and other celebrations are crucial. But they're not enough. We're continually expanding our advocacy and allyship efforts year-round to promote diversity and inclusivity—and to call our community to action. ✨

# LUNCH AND LEARN WITH COLE ARTHUR RILEY

Seattle First Baptist Church (1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle) hosts a Lunch and Learn with Cole Arthur Riley: "Embodied Souls: Beauty, Terror, and the Stories We Carry." Saturday, June 10, 12 noon for lunch, then 1 pm lecture, followed by Q&A and book signing with the author.

**FREE!** Please register by June 5. Link to register at [SeattleFirstBaptist.org](http://SeattleFirstBaptist.org), or in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

Cole Arthur Riley is a writer, poet, and author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*. She is the creator of Black Liturgies, a space that integrates spiritual practice with Black emotion, Black literature, and the Black body; and a project of The Center for Dignity and Contemplation, where she serves as Curator. Read more about her at [ColeArthurRiley.com](http://ColeArthurRiley.com). ✨

# JOIN WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

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](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.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**. Schedule and link to register at [PinwSeattle.org](http://PinwSeattle.org). ✨



At Seattle First Baptist June 10.



Study the Bible with friends online.

# NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPENS

The first affordable high-rise in Seattle in more than 50 years opened on May 23. The 17-story building in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood is a joint development of Plymouth Housing and Bellwether Housing. Plymouth Housing will operate 112 studio apartments for seniors and veterans who have experienced chronic homelessness, plus three live-in staff apartments. Bellwether will operate another 250 units for lower income working individuals and families. There are also three community rooms, a courtyard and computer lab.

Blake House is built on land donated by Sound Transit and is conveniently located near transit lines. The building's ground floor features a retail space. In addition to its proximity to health care providers in the neighborhood, Blake House will proudly offer onsite health care services to residents through a partnership with Swedish Health Services.

Named after a long-time local housing advocate, Blake House honors the legacy of the late Blake Nordstrom. For more than 25 years, Blake contributed his time and energy toward various efforts to end homelessness in Seattle. During that time, he was a loyal Plymouth Housing supporter, finding different ways to partner with us and improve the lives of our residents.

Read more at [PlymouthHousing.org](http://PlymouthHousing.org). ✨

# SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION



Tory Trujillo

Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. A Sound Medicine Meditation is sometimes also referred to as a sound bath. Participants are welcomed to sit or lie down comfortably. Tory will center the group with breath work and embodiment practices and will continue by playing Quartz

Crystal Singing Bowls, A Mayan Ocean Drum, and improvising vocal toning for the purposes of relaxation, healing, and to help anchor and amplify each participant's intentions. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats, blankets, pillows and other items of comfort if they wish to participate while lying down. Some Yoga mats and blankets will be available for participants to borrow. Be prepared to receive a profoundly transformational and healing experience.

**Please join us in Hildebrand Hall next Sunday, June 11, from 11:45 am-1 pm. Suggested Donation \$20. Upcoming dates this summer are July 16 and August 20.** ✨



Blake House opened on First Hill.

# REPARATIONS NOW

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister, stood with Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) and other lawmakers in front of the Capitol on May 17, as Bush introduced the "Reparations Now" resolution to urge the United States government to compensate Black Americans for centuries of slavery and systemic racism.



Rev. Traci Blackmon in Washington DC.

"I am one of the 40 million people in this country descended from enslaved Africans," said Bush. "Our ancestors were torn away from their homes and families, enslaved, and forced to fuel this country's economy since the day it was founded. And then they were left landless, impoverished and disenfranchised.

"Black people continue to bear the harms of slavery and its vestiges, through the Black-white wealth gap, segregation and redlining, disparities in health outcomes, a racist and destructive criminal legal system, and countless other ways," she continued. "Yet our federal government refuses to acknowledge the lasting harms of slavery and the unjust world it created for Black people."

The resolution calls for \$14 trillion in compensation for Black Americans to close that racial wealth gap.

*"America owes generations of African descendant people in this country more than a financial debt...America owes us its dream."*

Rev. Blackmon referenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s last set of essays in her remarks: "When millions of people have been cheated for centuries,

restitution is a costly process. Inferior education, poor housing, unemployment, inadequate health care — each will require billions to correct. Justice so long deferred has accumulated interest, and its cost for this society will be substantial in financial as well as human terms."

UCC advocates have long supported the call for reparations. Most recently, last June church leaders called on President Joe Biden to issue an executive order to explore reparations, and the Join the Movement for Racial Justice campaign hosted a webinar on the subject. Next month, the General Synod of the UCC will consider a resolution, submitted by the Indiana-Kentucky and Central Atlantic Conferences, to publicly proclaim support for a U.S. commission to study and develop reparation proposals.

"Reparations are ultimately about respect, reconciliation and healing," Bush said, "in the hope that one day Americans of all backgrounds can walk together toward a more just future."

"America owes generations of African descendant people in this country more than a financial debt," Blackmon said. "America owes us its dream." ✨