

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, June 8, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Pentecost Sunday

Wear Something Red

Acts 2:1-18

“Purifying Fire”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

12 pm American Mosaic, 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
of Plymouth Church UCC.*



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

PLAN NOW

Plan to join these upcoming events and observances.
Keep reading the *Herald* and checking our website for updates and details.



- **Thursday, June 19:**
In observance of Juneteenth, staff are on holiday, and the building will be closed.
- **Sunday, June 15:** Father's/Masculine Parent's Day.
Watch the film “1946” immediately after worship, followed by conversation.
- **Friday, June 20:** All Church Slumber Party in Hildebrand Hall
- **Sunday, June 22:** Liberation UCC presents “Pride in the Pews,” a Gospel Drag Brunch, 12 pm in Hildebrand Hall. Tickets are \$20.
- **Sunday, June 29:** 10 am Worship; Pride Parade 11 am.

There will be no paper/pdf edition of the *Herald* the week of June 16. Communication from Plymouth will be abbreviated during the month of July. Stay current at our website: PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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), **Jo-Ann Guthrie**, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Robert Malae, Don Mayer, 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), **Diana Solomon** (Friend of Anne Kiemle), 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

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COURAGE IN THE TIME OF COWARDICE



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

As a member of Seattle's faith community, I attended the counter-protest to stand in solidarity with queer and trans youth. In the flurry of legislation and bigoted presence happening all over the country, I stood shoulder to shoulder with queer and trans youth, fellow clergy, and those in solidarity who were compelled by conscience and faith to speak truth to power.

In like fashion of the events at Cal Anderson Park on the previous Saturday, the “Christian” concert at City Hall revealed a stark illustration of who is deemed worthy of protection in Seattle. When the conservative, fundamentalist Mayday USA group brought their anti-trans and anti-abortion presence couched in religious music and “worship, the event was met with a righteous, passionate, peaceful counter-protest. Yet, as tensions rose, it was only the concert-goers who found themselves shielded by a wall of police officers, who essentially acted as the additional security force to a group that already had paid security.

Meanwhile, queer and trans youth, many of whom were teenagers, were met with force, just as they had in the park, and ultimately, arrest.

This was a show of force and power. Interestingly, an announcer at the concert thanked the Seattle Police Department at the end to an uproar of applause, all while some of those let into the plaza held signs naming “sin” and asking for Mayor Harrell's resignation.

Public safety ought to be infused with equity and justice. If they wanted to provide safety at the event, they could have split the force in half to protect protesters and counter-protesters alike—except I witnessed a police officer assault a clergy person, and, later, observed another clergy's arm being sliced as the officers continuously moved the barricades to accommodate the Mayday USA group.

True safety is rooted in justice, and justice demands that we protect the vulnerable, not criminalize them for their courage. We are called to stand with the marginalized, to speak out when the powerful use their platforms to sow division and fear. I am grieved by the city's failure to uphold the dignity of all its residents, and by the overwhelming protection of people who lived in other cities and states.

If we remain silent, we become complicit in the injustice that unfolds around us. As people of faith, as neighbors, as citizens, we must stand up—not just for the right to assemble, but for the right of every person to live, exist, thrive and love without fear.

Let us stand for justice, for dignity, and for the radical belief that every person—queer, trans, or otherwise—is beloved and worthy of protection. Now is our time for courage!
—Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown 🌍

AMERICAN MOSAIC THIS SUNDAY



12 pm Sunday, June 8, in Hildebrand Hall

American Mosaic, our diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop series concludes at 12 pm Sunday, June 8, in Hildebrand Hall, led by Dr. Mark Smutny. All are welcome—whether you've attended previous sessions or are joining for the first time. Come ready to share your voice and ideas. Invite your friends and community members. In this final session, we'll:

- Reflect on key learnings from previous workshops.
- Brainstorm innovative ways to make Plymouth Church more inclusive, welcoming, and culturally competent.
- Engage in a dynamic exercise that challenges assumptions and sparks transformation.

We look forward to being with you Sunday, June 8. 🌍

DISCOVER VANPORT

Join Plymouth and Museum Without Walls August 15-16 for a journey to Portland to uncover the history of Vanport, once Oregon's second-largest city, destroyed in a flood in 1948. We'll visit the former site, hear firsthand accounts, and reflect on the enduring lessons of race, housing, and resilience in America. Registration will open mid-June. Approximate cost \$395. 🌍

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING



“The Gathering,” launched May 2.

Throughout the month of June, gifts marked Pentecost Special Offering will be divided evenly between **Strengthen the Church** and **Alain Locke Initiative**.

Strengthen The Church (STC):

The primary duties of the Church Development Committee of our Pacific

Northwest Conference United Church of Christ are to consult, assist and provide funding in partnership with those involved in church formation or transformation. Most of our budget for helping churches comes from Strengthen the Church, one of five special mission offerings of the UCC. Earlier this year, our committee provided seed money for antiracism and community engagement projects at 12 churches.

One of these projects is “The Gathering,” launched on May 2 by The Christian Worship Center in Anchorage, AK, with a vibrant youth event of spirit-filled music and dance. This event brought in much interest from the wider community.

Rooted in the UCC motto, “That they may all be one,” The Gathering is dedicated to dismantling systemic barriers by promoting cultural understanding. Through workshops and community forums, it uplifts the histories, traditions, and contributions of marginalized communities. The initiative also provides direct support to those affected by racism through mentorship programs, scholarships for underrepresented youth, mental health counseling and legal assistance.

At its inaugural event, The Gathering welcomed 350 youth and empowered them to connect with one another through dance, music, and personal testimony. Our offering to Strengthen the Church directly funds projects like “The Gathering.” Half of what churches receive for STC June 8 stays right here in the Pacific Northwest Conference, and half goes to the national setting to fund a variety of church vitality initiatives.

Alain Locke Initiative (ALI):

The remaining half of the June 8 special offering will support the Alain Locke Initiative. Their Mission is committed to empowering young Black queer men (ages 14–21) in the Seattle area through mentorship and holistic support and to guide them in navigating life’s challenges, completing their education, and accessing career opportunities and scholarships. By fostering personal growth, resilience, and professional development, ALI aims to inspire these young men to live authentically and achieve their fullest potential. Read more at AlainLockeInitiative.org.

Please give generously to Strengthen the Church and Alain Locke Initiative on June 8, Pentecost Sunday! 🌍

BREAKING CHAINS

Juneteenth marks our country’s second independence day. On June 19, 1865, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to take control of the defeated Confederate state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.



Emancipation Day in Texas, 1900. Photo from Austin History Center.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing, for assessment, self-improvement and planning for the future. It is a time for people of all races, nationalities and religions to join hands and truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Only when sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others can we make the Beloved Community a reality.

Please note: The Plymouth Staff will observe Juneteenth Holiday on Thursday, June 19. The church building will be closed. 🌍

DAY OF PROTEST JUNE 14



Nationwide protests on June 14: NoKings.org

A coalition of pro-democracy partner organizations announced the No Kings Nationwide Day of Defiance on Flag Day (June 14). The actions are set to take place during Donald Trump’s military parade in Washington, D.C., on June 14. Instead of allowing this military parade to be the center of gravity, activists will make action everywhere else the story of America that day.

Alongside local organizers, partners, and leaders from across the pro-democracy and pro-worker movements, activists across the country will come together for marches, rallies, and demonstrations to reject corrupt, authoritarian politics in the United States. Check events near you at Mobilize.us/NoKings.

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.

Read more at NoKings.org. 🌍

MARCH WITH PLYMOUTH

Plymouth UCC is again joining the Pacific Northwest Conference for the Seattle Pride Parade on Sunday June 29. Bring signs and friends for a day of celebrating and supporting our LGBTQ+ siblings.

Worship on June 29 will begin at 10 am to leave time to assemble for the parade. Be prepared for traffic delays that Sunday: the parade route will close 4th Ave between Pike St and Denny Way.

We welcome all who want to march in solidarity and celebration. This is a time to commemorate the past, celebrate and defend wins for equality, and encourage one another for the work yet to come. More info at SeattlePride.org. 🌍



Help represent Plymouth Sunday, June 29.

PRIDE IN THE PARK



Pride in the Park June 7 at Volunteer Park.

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

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

HELP WITH HEALING

Plymouth Healing Communities welcomes your donations of new and gently-used household items for new residents moving in to their new apartments. Many are coming out of homelessness with few items and could use a warm welcome. Please bring new or gently used household items to make them feel at home.

The drive has been extended to June 10. Leave items in the bin on Sundays, or reach out to Dakota Nixon (206-707-2801; dnixon@plyhc.org;) for different drop-off times or questions.

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! 🌍



Bring new or gently used items on Sundays.

ENJOY AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH

June is African American Music Appreciation Month. Created by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, this month celebrates the African American musical influences that comprise an essential part of our nation’s treasured cultural heritage.

Though by no means exhaustive, here’s a brief guide to some of the genres that African Americans have created, inspired and fostered. This list of musical styles merely scratches the surface. In addition to these genres, African American musicians and artists have also developed and influenced classical music traditions, country and western music, pop music, and dance music, among other styles.

- **Sacred Music**, which includes spirituals and gospel music, illustrates the central role that music plays in African American spiritual and religious life. The earliest form of Black musical expression in America, spirituals were originally an oral tradition and imparted Christian values while also defining the hardships of enslaved people.
- **Folk Music** African American folk music links back to African cultural traditions. Stemming from field hollers, work chants and game songs, folk music bursts with social commentary.
- **The Blues** form the foundation of contemporary American music. As did sacred and folk music, the blues also greatly influenced the cultural and social lives of African Americans.
- **Jazz** evolved from ragtime, an American style of syncopated instrumental music. Jazz first materialized in New Orleans and is often distinguished by African American musical innovation.
- **Rhythm and Blues** The predecessor to soul music, R&B is another stylistically-diverse genre with roots in jazz, the blues and gospel music. R&B helped spread African American culture and popularized the idea of racial integration.
- **Rock and Roll** incorporates elements from all African American music genres and combines them with pop and country music components. Born in the 1950s, it appealed to the rebellious yearnings of American youth culture.

• **Hip-Hop and Rap** are firmly embedded in African American culture. Like jazz, hip-hop has become a global phenomenon and has exerted a driving force on the development of mass media. Hip-hop spawned an entire cultural form, while rap remains a means for artists to share experiences regarding social and political issues.

There’s so much more to explore. Get started at Nmaahc.si.edu. 🌍

