

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, June 16, 2024

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 6:30-44

“Satisfied”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Development Discussion, Hildebrand Hall

2 pm Freedom Dream: Juneteenth Concert, Sanctuary

7 pm Music of Resistance and Hope, Paramount Theater

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

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.

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!



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Susan and David Anderson Cousins of Jeanette Hagen, Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Bruce Chittick & family (Friend of Karen Clark), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Sally Galliher (Cousin of Doug Stultz), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Kay Heekin (Mother-in-Law of Kate Forrester), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Tom Lemly (Father of Hayden McManus), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), James McDowell (Cousin of Jerry Rice), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Mary Margaret Pruitt, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Jaime Rubio Sulficio

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

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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FREEDOM DREAM



Join us 2 pm Sunday, June 16, at Plymouth for an unforgettable afternoon celebrating Juneteenth through the powerful lens of Black Women. Curated by the acclaimed soprano Stephanie Ann Ball, this unique concert brings together the rich heritage of Black classical music with the

evocative narrative based on the book *As If She Were Free*, edited by Erica L. Ball, Tatiana Seijas, and Terri L. Snyder.

Emcee Kiesha Garrison will guide you through this sensory experience of freedom — what does it feel, taste, and sound like? Award-winning pianist Jessica Evotia Andrews-Hall joins Stephanie to breathe life and energy into the music. Through their exquisite performance, this trio delves into the joy amongst the pain and the lightness against the dark.

This concert is not just a celebration but a profound exploration of Black resilience, creativity, and triumph.

Free parking is located at 515 University St. All are welcome. This is a free event; registration requested. RSVP at bit.ly/juneteenth2024sea.

MUSIC OF RESISTANCE AND HOPE

Songs of Black Folk returns even bigger, bolder, and grander for its 2024 production 7 pm Sunday, June 16, at the iconic Paramount Theater in Seattle.

The audience will experience how Black music functions as both a tool of political resistance and as a potent source of hope for a Black people who have endured four centuries of white supremacy and its relentless assault on Black lives. Ultimately, the SBF experience will connect the African American struggle for freedom, justice, dignity, and happiness with the struggles of other American communities who have had to fight their way from the margins of American society into the mainstream. Read more and get tickets at SongsOfBlackFolk.org.



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.

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 Wednesday, June 19. The church building will be closed.

DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION JUNE 16

Please join the Developer Selection Committee (DSC) this Sunday, June 16, after worship in Hildebrand Hall to learn more about current redevelopment status, and to start to look to our future. This gathering will be in-person only. There will be future gatherings and conversations that will include remote participation on-line. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

The DSC has news to share with the congregation: we were informed by the developer recently that they have determined that a redevelopment project on the Plymouth property is not feasible at this time. All are invited to gather this Sunday to hear more details on the information we have.



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



Join the discussion this Sunday, June 16.

PLYMOUTH’S ENDOWMENT AT WORK



“Parable of the Mustard Seed,” Kelly Latimore

In a message to the congregation on a recent Sunday, Rev. Kevin Bechtold held up the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32) and challenged us to seek its application in our lives. We thought of this in a recent meeting of the Fiscal Committee. The Fiscal Committee, chaired by Mark Sandstrom, prepares the Church budget, manages the Church’s finances, and oversees the endowment.

Plymouth’s endowment has two components — the larger share is professionally managed and is invested in securities that pass recognized, socially-responsible principles. A smaller share (about \$1 million) constitutes the Community Investment Fund. The Community Investment Fund makes low-interest loans to organizations with a social justice mission.

For many years, one of the groups Plymouth has made low-interest loans is Homestead Community Land Trust. Homestead is a housing developer with a unique mission — to promote home ownership for low to moderate income persons by purchasing land at below market cost, building homes and selling them at below-market prices to applicants of low to moderate income. Homestead owns the land and leases it for 99 years to the homeowners (which helps keep the purchase price down). Homeowners are able to build equity and are free to sell the home later if they wish, subject to limits on resale prices designed to maintain availability of housing for those of low to moderate-income.

Plymouth’s loan to Homestead was comparatively small, and Homestead was a small operation when Plymouth began supporting them. However, Homestead has grown substantially, and it is now supporting housing developments throughout King County. In fact, one of Homestead’s current projects involves Admiral Congregational Church UCC in West Seattle! Admiral is going to sell its property to Homestead at a below market price so that Homestead can build 21 new housing units (13 of which will be below market). As part of the agreement, the church will have a new home-space in a central multi-use building.

What does this have to do with a mustard seed? Jesus said that when a mustard seed is grown, “it is the greatest of all shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” So, too, we dare to hope that a little mustard seed from Plymouth’s endowment will in time contribute to providing shelter to others during the continuing housing crisis. —Al Bentley, for the Fiscal Committee

MAKE COMFORT BAGS FOR SUMMER

The Community Care Board is looking for donations to create Comfort Bags for our neighbors this summer. These are the items we are looking for: non-perishable snacks, facial tissue, hand sanitizer, lotion, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and sunblock. Travel size of these items can be found in most drug stores. If you would like, you could donate a hand fan or small battery-operated fan. There will be a donation basket or bin at the welcome desk for collection of these items.

Beginning July 7 and continuing on subsequent Sundays, we will have elements available at the back of the church for folks to assemble bags during worship. All are encouraged to lend a hand. Thank you for helping us help our neighbors.



Bring items and assemble bags.

PLYMOUTH LIBRARY CITINGS



Visit the Plymouth Library this Sunday.

The UCC’s Join the Movement and Racial Justice Ministries have created an All Church Read for 2024. An online curriculum is offered with themes and readings from two books, along with additional resources. The books are:

Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves by Chanequa Walker-Barnes; and

Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human by Cole Arthur Riley.

Plymouth Library has acquired both of these books. They are now on display in the library and available for you to peruse or check out. For more information about the UCC’s All Church Read program and the resources it offers, go to: FrontLineFaith.org/p/2024-All-Church-Read.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

United Church of Christ General Minister and President Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson welcomes all in the wider church to participate in an interactive season of prayer. The People’s Prayers for Peace Initiative is an open invitation to read and write prayers, now posted daily at UCC.org. Share prayers at UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace.



PLYMOUTH WALKS WITH PRIDE

Plymouth UCC is sponsoring a parade entry on behalf of Pacific Northwest Conference for the 50th Annual Seattle Pride Parade on Sunday June 30. Bring signs and friends for a day of celebrating and supporting our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

Worship on June 30 will begin at 10 am to leave time to assemble for the parade afterward. The parade starts at 4th & Pike and ends at 2nd & Denny. More info on Seattle Pride at SeattlePride.org. We welcome all who want to march in solidarity and celebration. This is our opportunity to commemorate the past, celebrate and defend wins for equality, and encourage one another for the work yet to come.



BEING PREPARED



Responding with physical and spiritual care.

The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries encourages congregations to have in place disaster preparedness policies, which include knowing who their Conference Disaster Response Coordinators are. (available at UCC.org).

Formerly known as Conference Disaster Coordinators (CDCs), the recent addition of

“response” to the name illustrates a renewed focus on better equipping, educating and connecting emergency volunteers and congregations to the resources available in a time of crisis. The name change from CDC to CDRC also avoids any confusion with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Each conference has a CDRC that works directly with the conference minister to help the conference, associations and local churches prepare for and respond to disasters. Planning for disasters during “blue sky days” is a phrase commonly heard within responder circles, underscoring the importance of having a plan in place before a disaster happens. These disasters include hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, and more recently, gun violence.

In addition to CDRCs, UCC Disaster Ministries also offers an Emotional and Spiritual Care Team, a network of individuals trained to provide support to pastors and congregations in the aftermath of a disaster. An emerging topic of importance in disaster response work is cultural humility, where volunteers recognize the importance of working side-by-side with residents, listening and learning the local vernacular and respecting cultural traditions. Read more at UCC.org/What-We-Do/Wider-Church-Ministries/Global-Hope/Disaster.

A MOMENT OF LGBTQA+ HISTORY

The movement for LGBTQA+ rights in the United States dates at least as far back as the 1920s, when the first documented gay rights organization was founded. Since then, various groups have advocated for equal rights and the movement accelerated in the wake of the Stonewall Riots of 1969. This Pride Month, Plymouth highlights milestones of the gay rights movement.



Protesting gay customers refused service, 1966. (Fred W. McDarrah/Getty Images).

In 1966, three members of the Mattachine Society, an early organization dedicated to fighting for gay rights, staged a “sip-in”—a twist on the “sit-in” protests of the 1960s. The trio visited taverns, declared themselves gay, and waited to be turned away so they could sue. The “Sip-In” had begun.

The practice of refusing service to gay people in bars was common at the time, although it was more veiled than discriminatory legislation like Jim Crow laws in the South that forced racial segregation. Because a person’s sexual orientation couldn’t be discerned as easily as a person’s sex or race, the New York State Liquor Authority instead based requirements for service on what was deemed “orderly conduct.” Intimate encounters between two men were deemed disorderly.

The State Liquor Authority denied the discrimination claim, responding that the decision to serve or refrain from serving individuals was up to bartenders. Soon after, the Commission on Human Rights got involved, claiming that homosexuals had the right to be served in bars, and the discriminatory policy by the State Liquor Authority no longer viewed homosexuals as “disorderly.” Afterwards, gay patrons were allowed a freedom that they hadn’t experienced before.

For the next few years in New York, the gay community felt empowered. Police raids became less commonplace and gay bar patrons had recovered their safe havens. Along with that sense of community came the strength to defend it. The landmark 1969 Stonewall Riots may not have happened if the gay community hadn’t reaped the benefits of the Sip-In years prior. (Source: History.com)

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.