

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, June 23, 2024

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 8:27-38

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

11:30 am Coffee Hour Lounge/Patio

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), 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 6 weeks unless requested.

The People's Prayers for Peace Initiative is an open invitation to read and write prayers, posted daily at UCC.org. Share prayers at UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace.

Volume 62
Number 40

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

June 19, 2024

HEALING AS FREEDOM, FREEDOM AS HEALING

CELEBRATING
BLACK
JOY, HOPE, AND HEALING

The African American spiritual, *There is a Balm in Gilead*, reminds us of the freeing power when one finds healing. This Juneteenth, United Church of Christ congregations are invited to discover the healing balms that can still “make the wounded whole” and “heal a sin-sick world” today.

Racial Justice Ministries and Join the Movement toward Racial Justice invite you to honor and celebrate Juneteenth this year by remembering and discovering the healing practices that sustained freedom in the bones of our ancestors, before and after emancipation. Through music and prayer, poetry and art, reflection and ritual, may we find a medicine bundle, a poultice, a libation, that teaches us the sound of freedom, echoing from legacies of healing and singing futures of wholeness.

The Rev. Velda Love, minister for Racial Justice and lead for Join the Movement campaign, noted that Juneteenth serves within many African American communities as their Independence Day as opposed to July 4. Its reach, though, is growing throughout the country as more communities learn about the history and join in on the celebration — and the work that is still to be done to ensure freedom for all.

“The movement for equity and full inclusion remains on the hearts and minds of each generation. Juneteenth is a day of remembrance that will continue for generations to come,” said Love. “Our commitment as a family of faith is to come together and remember that the freedom and liberation of African Americans is tied to the liberation and freedom of our siblings who cannot experience life without war and suffering across globe.”

Rev. Love envisions “congregations remaining on a journey of living into God’s vision” of full inclusion beyond June 19: “We are all created in the image and likeness of God. There is no hierarchy within the human family. There are no superior people groups. African Americans have sacred stories that are historical, contemporary and beautiful. We can all thrive and live into the abundance of God’s grace and love when we open our hearts for the kingdom of God to manifest today on earth. That’s what I envision. May it be so.”



CAMP WITH THE CONFERENCE

You are invited to be a part of the Pacific Northwest Conference’s camp at N-Sid-Sen this year from August 4-10. Come enjoy camp and get to know others from around the conference. All ages are welcome!

Scholarships are available on an as needed basis. Please contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold to discuss a scholarship. To sign up for camp or find out more about the conference’s camps, visit N-Sid-Sen.org.

Our name, “N-Sid-Sen,” comes from the indigenous Coeur d’Alene people, meaning “Point of Inspiration.” Here you can immerse yourself in creation and find inspiration as you explore the woodlands, creeks and meadows nestled along the shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Camp facilities provide unique opportunities for learning, growth and renewal to people from a wide variety of backgrounds and faith traditions. You are welcome here.



Conference camp August 4-10.

MAKE COMFORT BAGS FOR SUMMER



Bring items and assemble bags.

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.



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A MOMENT OF LGBTQA+ HISTORY



Social movements, organizing around the acceptance and rights of persons who identify as LGBTQA+ began as responses to centuries of persecution by church, state, and medical authorities. Where homosexual activity or deviance from established gender roles/dress was banned by law or traditional custom, such condemnation took the form of public trials, exile, medical warnings, and

language from the pulpit. These paths of persecution entrenched homophobia for centuries—but also alerted entire populations to the existence of difference.

By the 20th century, a movement in recognition of gays and lesbians was underway, abetted by the social climate of feminism and new anthropologies of difference. In the United States, there were few attempts to create advocacy groups supporting gay and lesbian relationships until after World War II. However, prewar gay life flourished in urban centers such as New York’s Greenwich Village and Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

Studies such as the 1947 Kinsey Report suggested a far greater range of sexual identities and behaviors than previously understood. But it would not be until 1973 that the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality as an “illness” in its diagnostic manual. Throughout the 1950s and 60s, gay men and lesbians continued to be at risk for psychiatric lockup as well as jail, losing jobs and child custody when courts and clinics defined gay love as sick, criminal, or immoral.

Expanding religious acceptance for gay men and women of faith, the first openly gay minister of a mainstream Christian denomination was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1972. Other gay and lesbian church and synagogue congregations soon followed. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), formed in 1972, offered family members greater support roles in the gay rights movement. Recent supportive remarks from Pope Francis (“Who am I to judge?”) have given hope to LGBTQA+ Catholics worldwide.

In the first part of the 21st century internet activism grew, and attention shifted to global justice, namely in the 75 countries where homosexuality remains illegal, with capital punishment a penalty in some. United States LGBTQA+ siblings know intimately the nature of being deemed an outcast. With more than 547 anti-LGBTQA+ bills in this year’s legislative session, our response, more than ever, needs to be *Love OUT LOUD*. The UCC initiative, *Love is Louder: Love Your Neighbor OUT LOUD*, faithfully supports the spiritual and physical well-being of LGBTQA+ siblings by equipping faith communities with resources for just action and care. Read more at [UCC.org](https://ucc.org). 🌐

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. 🌐



PUT FAITH IN ACTION TOGETHER



Make sure your voice is heard.

Faith Action Network invites you to join a Network of 100% Voting Faith Communities. The network is a community space to share ideas, tools, and peer support as we collectively build civically engaged multi-faith communities. We will offer monthly Zoom meetings through the summer to stay engaged as a network. We welcome

individuals and communities interested and committed to getting out the vote in their faith community and beyond.

We are committed to voicing the values from multi-faith traditions in the electoral process. Visit Fanwa.org/Advocacy to learn more and sign up. 🌐

OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE

The *Our Faith Our Vote Campaign* is an initiative of the UCC’s Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, DC, formed in partnership with *Power the Polls*, a nonpartisan organization launched in 2020 to address a nationwide poll worker shortage.

As the UCC’s nonpartisan election engagement campaign, *Our Faith Our Vote* offers resources for voter registration, issue education, voter mobilization and more. Since the partnership began, many UCC members have signed up to be poll workers through the UCC’s link with *Power the Polls*. You can sign up to be a poll worker at PowerThePolls.com/UCC. 🌐



TAKING TIME

There will be no paper/pdf edition of the *Herald* the first week of July. Look for the electronic edition on Wednesday, July 3. The *Herald* will be on hiatus the following three weeks in July and will return to regular publication August 1. Communication from Plymouth will be less frequent in the month of July while staff are on vacation and most programs are on pause. Look for periodic email updates and stay current on our website. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 🌐



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. 🌐

BRING CLOTHING AND SHOES

Plymouth Church, UCC is a proud sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound. You can help by dropping off clothing and shoes at the church in the grey bin located by the elevator on the 1st floor. Gently used clothing and shoes of any size are appreciated. This is also an opportunity to help the environment by diverting used clothing from landfills.



Bring gently used clothing and shoes.

Read more about the mission and programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound at InspireBig.org. Contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping. 🌐

FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

Add your light to From Hiroshima to Hope, Seattle’s annual lantern-floating peace ceremony, on Sunday evening, August 6 at Green Lake. The event includes music, poetry, dance, speakers and candle-lit lanterns floating on the lake. Marking the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, From Hiroshima to Hope honors the bombings’ victims and all victims of war and violence. This year also marks the 82nd anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans on the U.S. West Coast.



6 pm Sunday, August 6 at Green Lake.

The event begins at 6 pm with lantern preparation. The family-friendly program begins at 7 pm. This year’s keynote speaker is Naomi Otswald Kawamura, Executive Director of Densho, an organization dedicated to preserving the story of the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans. The candle-lit lantern ceremony begins at 8 pm, with lanterns floating on the lake at dusk.

Performing artists include choreographer Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, debuting a new dance performance; Japanese American drum group, Seattle Kokon Taiko, Troy Osaki, an award-winning Filipino Japanese poet, organizer, and attorney; Sound Singers, a Japanese choir, with folksinger Michael Stern, and traditional Japanese koto music with Koto no WA.

This year is the 40th anniversary of From Hiroshima to Hope, one of the largest commemorations of the atomic bombings held outside of Japan. This event is created annually by the non-profit organization, From Hiroshima to Hope, and is sponsored by local community organizations, including Plymouth Peace Action Group. It is held just south of the Bathhouse, on Green Lake’s northwest shore at West Green Lake Drive North and Stone Ave North, and is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome on-site, or in advance at FromHiroshimaToHope.org. 🌐

PLYMOUTH COOKS

Like to cook? Have a favorite meal to make? Be a part of the new Plymouth cookbook! Send us old family recipes, or ones you’ve created yourself. Include ingredients and instructions, and maybe a note about why the dish special to you. Send to: RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. 🌐



Share your specialties with us.