

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

**NOTE: SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 25
BEGINS AT 10 AM!**

Worship In Person or Online

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Open & Affirming Celebration
Pride Sunday*

Matthew 15:21–28
“Loving to Life”
Min. Ara Lawrence

11 am Coffee Hour, Lounge/Patio

11:15 am Walk with Pride

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.*



Return Service Requested



OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), **Mae Bell**, Michelle J. Bennett (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, Mark & JT Edwards, Skylar Effler (Nephew of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas), Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Anna Florey, Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Irma Johnson (Friend of Toni Arthur), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), **The Keith Family (Friends of Mari Mitchell and Alex)**, 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, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper), Lindsey (Niece of Nan Macy)

A service celebrating the life of Ruth Kiemle will be held at Plymouth 3 pm Saturday June 24.

A memorial service for Nancy Schoettler will be held 2 pm Sunday, July 2, at Horizon House Sky Lounge.

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PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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IN SOLIDARITY



March with Pride this Sunday.

Thirty years ago, our Plymouth elders and ancestors voted to become an Open & Affirming congregation, actively, radically choosing to welcome LGBTQIA+ people into the fold. As a sign of our continuing solidarity with LGBTQIA+ people, we proudly fly the Pride flag – all the time, not just in June when it's fashionable.

To grow and strengthen our commitment to liberation, diversity, inclusion, belonging, equity, and access for all people, our clergy preach the Word in ways that challenge and inspire us – all the time, not just in June or February or the other “occasion months” when it's expected.

And how do we do our own work so that we aren't relying solely on the prophetic voices of our clergy folk or the flags we fly or the affirmations our elders made? Well, we pray and we give thanks. And we study and we learn.

In service of all of this – our prayers, our thanks, our studies, and our learning – I invite you to check out the newly re-opened Plymouth Library. Set a spell at the gathering table. Peruse the catalog and see what speaks to you in a “gosh, I never thought about that” kind of way. Notice that our holdings contain many books that are banned in other parts of the country. Celebrate that we have created and maintained a space for books and other resources that push us to question our assumptions, that push us to grow.

The Library Committee has generously created a resource guide detailing the LGBTQIA+ books currently available to us, everything from *A Tale of Two Daddies* to *Sex and the Constitution: Sex, religion, and law from America's origins to the twenty-first century* to *Transgendering Faith: Identity, sexuality and spirituality*. The guide also contains information about LGBTQIA+ resources beyond our doors and ways to support authors of banned books. A hard copy of the guide can be found in the Library and an electronic copy can be obtained through the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. We are blessed, indeed.

May we continue to push ourselves and our community to hold the doors wide open in radical welcome as we head into our next 30 years of actively choosing to be an Open & Affirming congregation in all the ways. In solidarity, peace, and love,

Tracy Simpson, Plymouth Moderator ✨

RISE UP!

In June, we celebrate Pride, a time to honor our Queer and Trans siblings, and to remember the struggles and triumphs of the community. This important time in the life of Plymouth Church remembers that though we have been an Open and Affirming community for 30 years, too many of God's children have not ever been fully welcomed. We remember that Pride is a time to wear colors of the rainbow, be swept up in the excitement and joy and to remember this sacred time where those who dare to be who God created them to be can do so, we pray, with love and safety.

Let us recall that Pride was born out of rage and revolution, and honor that Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera began an intersectional movement to stand against oppression and overt injustice. This Sunday, all people of every age, ability and identity who are able are encouraged to march in the Pride Parade. This witness is one of solidarity. In doing so, we can be a force of righteousness that says there is a church and denomination that believes Queer and Trans siblings as whole and worthy of human rights, dignity and compassion. Let us say with full voice that we are sorry for the ways the church universal has not embraced nor seen the Queer and Trans community. Let us admit that even as the faithful, we have often perpetuated a way of thinking about scripture that promotes tolerance rather than celebration and inclusion. The church has been death-dealing for too many.

This is a chance to connect our embodied faith and commitment, to show our lament for the many times the church universal has not gotten our stance right. It is a moral act to say we are sorry, especially in the face of continued hate and antagonism. This is not to deny the times we are on the right side of justice; however, such a posture can convey that our desire to be in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community is authentic and beyond lip-service, and to show that we want to represent a hopeful vision of the church.

Let us walk the parade this Sunday to declare the United Church of Christ's commitment to loving all people in the way of Jesus. Rise up! —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown ✨

**Worship service on Sunday, June 25, begins at 10 am.
The earlier start will help with the logistics
of joining the Pride Parade.**



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

PLYMOUTH WALKS WITH PRIDE



Represent Plymouth with pride!

Plymouth UCC and University Congregational UCC are co-sponsoring a parade entry on behalf of the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC for the Seattle Pride Parade on Sunday June 25, starting around 11 am (**Note: Worship service begins at 10 am Sunday, June 25**).

We welcome all to march together in solidarity and celebration. Bring your signs and your friends for a day of celebrating and supporting our LGBTQIA+ siblings! The parade route is along 4th Ave in downtown Seattle, starting at 4th & Pike and ending at Seattle Center. More info on Seattle Pride at SeattlePride.org. ✨

SEATTLE PRIDE COMMUNITY EVENTS

In addition to the June 25 Seattle Pride Parade, there are dozens of community events this month and beyond. A few are listed below. Check out the full calendar at SeattlePride.org/Events

June 22 Seattle Storm Pride Night
Seattle Storm vs. Indiana Fever at Annual Pride Night 7 pm Thursday, June 22 at Climate Pledge Arena.



Visit SeattlePride.org/Events

June 24 Considering Matthew Shepard: A Choral Suite The profound work *Considering Matthew Shepard* has been moving audiences around the world with its compelling message of love and acceptance. 7 pm at First Congregational Church, Bellevue.

June 24 Seattle Sounders Pride Match \$5 of your ticket purchase will be donated directly to Seattle Pride to support their important work within our LGBTQIA+ community. ✨

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 workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to “undo” racist structures that hinder effective social change. Cost is \$350 per person. Next workshop is **July 10-12**. Plymouth scholarships available. Find full schedule and link to register at PinwSeattle.org. ✨

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP

Time to sign up 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 immersion experiences, and meaningful connections.

- Teens and Adults (13+): \$300
- Older Kids (ages 8–12): \$275
- Younger Kids (ages 3–7): \$220
- Youngest (2 and under): Free
- Deposit required to hold your spot: \$50 per person or \$100 per family.
- We do not want camp fees to be a barrier to attendance! Please contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold (KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for scholarship assistance.

Registration is now open. Link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Be sure to mark on the registration if you would like to volunteer in any capacity at camp. We hope you will make quality time away with family and friends at N-Sid-Sen a priority this year. ✨

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. Meetings begin with checking in, then discussing the scripture texts for the following Sunday's worship service before closing in prayer. Kevin provides 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. ✨

SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION

Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation. A Sound Medicine Meditation is sometimes also referred to as a sound bath. **Plan to join us in Hildebrand Hall at 12:30 pm Sunday, July 16. Suggested Donation \$20.** ✨



Sign up now at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

WHO TO GO TO FOR WHAT

Hello Plymouth! I want to bring your attention to a wonderful new feature on our website.

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and several others in our midst, we now have a “Who To Go To For What” guide as well as an Organizational Chart that shows all of the Clergy and Staff. You can find the link to the guide on the “Meet our Staff” page under the “About” tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (in the blue banner, under “Meet Our Amazing Team”).

The guide includes contact information as well as particulars about each person's workweek schedule. When you reach out to folks, please be sure to take into account that many of our clergy and staff do not work traditional Monday through Friday schedules and that some work part-time.

We very much hope that both the contact guide and the organizational chart are helpful to you. If you see that something is missing or you have questions about either one, please contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold, KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

—Tracy Simpson, Plymouth Moderator ✨

DR. MIKHAIL JOHNSON BEGINS RESIDENCY



Dr. Mikhail Johnson, photo: Adolfo Estrada

Plymouth UCC is pleased to announce that internationally renowned composer and keyboard virtuoso Dr. Mikhail Johnson will serve as Organist in Residence beginning Sunday, June 25. In this role, Dr. Johnson will lead profound worship experiences for us. Dr. Johnson's seven-week residency will culminate in a recital following the service on Sunday, August 6.

He reflects, “A Residency of any kind is a creator's space to explore, learn, experiment and shape the very things that mean the most to them: their art. In the context of this residency, I am for a time, a steward of music to this church. I assist in elevating the worship experience, bringing joy, solace, healing, exuberant praise, and essentially the church's congregation a little closer to that foretaste of glory divine, through music. Many thanks to The Reverend Dr. Kelle J. Brown and Mr. Joe Williams for the opportunity to present musical offerings in this capacity to God and to God's congregation at Plymouth Church.”

Read more in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨



Who to contact with your questions.

VISION OF HOPE

At the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, June 30–July 4 in Indianapolis, the denomination will elect a new General Minister and President. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will be present.

In February, the UCC Board's search committee recommended the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, current Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries, as candidate for the UCC's highest office. A few weeks later, the full Board affirmed this recommendation, voting to make Thompson the official GMP nominee.

Now, General Synod must decide if Thompson is to become the first woman —and the first woman of African descent — to lead the denomination.

“When I think about the United Church of Christ, I think about the risks that the denomination has taken to open wide the table.” —Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson



Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

During Synod, delegates will hear Thompson give a nomination speech at the June 30 plenary, have an opportunity to ask her questions during a “Meet the Candidate” session

July 1 and ultimately will cast their votes, likely the morning of July 3. To help delegates learn more about the candidate, search committee chair the Rev. Noah Brewer-Wallin recorded an interview with Thompson ahead of Synod, whose theme this year is “Making All Things New.” Video of the interview available at UCC.org.

That theme, Thompson explained, was chosen with the accompanying text of Isaiah 43:18–19, but is actually a direct quote from Revelation 21:5. “In the Revelation text ... John is reflecting on the Isle of Patmos about, really, the oppression of the Roman Empire,” Thompson reflected in the interview. “And in this particular part of the chapter, it talks about a new heaven and a new earth and making all things new. And I don't think it's so much about throwing out the baby with the bathwater as much as it is imagining that there could be a different world possible, in the face of everything that people are experiencing.”

She called this verse of Revelation a “vision of hope,” in contrast to how the biblical book is sometimes perceived as disturbing and apocalyptic. This kind of hope in the present could be particularly important for envisioning the future and possibility of the Church.

“I wonder, 25 years from now, what would people say about us in this moment?” Thompson asked. “We look back and we say, ‘We're a church of firsts.’ And I wonder, what are the firsts that are yet to come for us?” ✨