

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, July 9, 2023
Worship In Person or Online

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 2:18–21, 26; Psalm 111;
1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 18:21–35
Rev. Stevi Hamill

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge/Patio

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!



Return Service Requested

WELCOME, REV. STEVI HAMILL



Rev. Stevi Hamill preaches Sunday, July 9.

This Sunday, July 9, we welcome Rev. Stevi Hamill to preach at our 10:30 am service.

Originally from Southern California, Stevi Hamill (*they/she*) earned their Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at Point Loma Nazarene University. They spent a year in Seattle

working for Seattle Public Schools before returning to California to earn a Master of Arts in Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University. Looking to return to the forests and mountains of the Pacific Northwest, she moved back to Seattle where she completed her Master of Divinity at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.

Stevi is grateful for the ecumenical education and religious experiences she has gained throughout her life, having been a part of evangelical, mainline, and Catholic communities in different capacities. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ.

Please welcome Rev. Hamill to Plymouth Sunday, July 9.

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, Skylyr Effler (Nephew of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas), Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Anna Florey, Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), The Keith Family (Friends of Mari Mitchell and Alex), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Lindsey (Niece of Nan Macy), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), 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, 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.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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FISCAL COMMITTEE AT WORK



Breaking new ground with Homestead CLT.

Attendees at the January 2023 Plymouth Annual Meeting may remember that that meeting marked the beginning of Plymouth's new "Fiscal Committee," a merger of the formerly separate Finance and Investment Committees. We have been working hard since that date, with committee

members Mark Sandstrom (Chair, as Church Council Treasurer), Dorothy Mann, Kael Sherrard, Robin DeCook, Dave Koeger, Marcia Almquist, Al Bentley, and Robert Neer. One of our key functions is to administer the "Community Investment" loans made from Plymouth's Endowment Fund assets. There are currently four community recipients of loans, and the Fiscal Committee has been meeting with each organization, one per monthly meeting. Our first loan review meeting this past spring was with the Homestead Community Land Trust, led by Kathleen Hosfeld, a name familiar to some of you from her other interactions with Plymouth over the years.

Kathleen gave us an impressive presentation about Homestead's work (**HomesteadCLT.org**), which helps finance home ownership loans to buyers who cannot qualify under standard mortgage lending practices. Homestead has enjoyed many years of successful growth, and showed us documentation of both sound business practices and innovative thinking. Plymouth's investment in Homestead now totals \$418,730 and the Fiscal Committee enthusiastically extended their loan term one additional year, into the 3rd quarter of 2024.

I will write about other Community Investments soon, keep reading the *Herald*! —*Mark Sandstrom Treasurer* ✨

WHO TO GO TO FOR WHAT

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. 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 and particulars about each person's workweek schedule. ✨

RIP MEDICAL DEBT: HOW IT WORKS

Over a hundred million Americans, one in three, struggles with the weight of medical debt. Your donation helps lift the burden. Join us as we end medical debt for the most impacted in the Pacific Northwest, the South, and in places where the crisis of medical debt looms. Together, you and I can do the work of equity and justice, following the spirit to infuse freedom in the world. —*Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown*



Help make this a year of jubilee!

Here's what happens when you join the cause:

You Make a Donation. We use data analytics to pinpoint the debt of those most in need: households that earn less than 4x the federal poverty level (varies by state, family size) or whose debts are 5% or more of annual income.

We Buy Medical Debt at a Steep Discount. We buy debt in bundles, millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. This means your donation relieves about 100x its value in medical debt.

Together We Wipe Out Medical Debt. People across the country receive letters that their debt has been erased. They have no tax consequences or penalties to consider. Just like that, they're free of medical debt.

Visit **RIPMedicalDebt.org** to learn more. Contribute to Plymouth's campaign, "Licks of Fire" by clicking the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨

FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

Every year since 1984, an annual event in Seattle expresses the hope that we can resolve international conflicts without violence and learn the habit of living in peace with all our neighbors on this earth. Mark calendars now to attend 6–8 pm Sunday, August 6, at the Green Lake Bathhouse, 7312 West Green Lake Drive North, Seattle. Keep reading for program details. ✨



Join with others to keep hope alive.

ANOTHER UCC FIRST



Outgoing UCC General Minister Rev. John C. Dorhauer and incoming General Minister Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ made history Monday, July 3, when it elected the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, and the first Black woman, to lead the denomination as General Minister and President. Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

“Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together,” she said after the vote. “It won’t be the last first.”

She thanked Delk and Brown Zikmund, stating that they “kicked in the doors,” paving the way for her election. “As I stand here before you as your newly and duly elected General Minister and President, I stand here as a Jamaican immigrant woman, a mother and a grandmother, a sister and a friend to many,” Thompson said. “... The enormity of this moment will be with me for many years to come.”

In speaking to the UCC Board before her nomination, she emphasized that dismantling oppressive systems everywhere is necessary for both communities and congregations, internationally and domestically, to thrive. “Decolonizing the church on all levels has to be a priority,” she said. “Decolonizing the church includes our commitment to racial justice and more. Being antiracist and inclusive requires that we decolonize our institutions in ways that afford all to be present and participate equally. This is a commitment to equity for all.”

She will start her new role Aug. 1, taking over from the Rev. John Dorhauer, who has served for the past eight years. Thompson has been serving as Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries since 2019. She has served in the National Setting of the UCC since 2009, previously as minister for racial justice and minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Thompson holds a doctorate in ministry, with a dissertation in religious multiplicity among African Caribbean people, from Seattle University; a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary; and a master of public administration degree from North Carolina Central University. ✨

CAR NEEDED

Can you help the Afghan family of 8 people Plymouth is supporting? The insurance company has decided that the donated 2001 Toyota Corolla car the father has been driving for the past year is a total loss after being rear-ended in December and then stolen in May.

He needs a safe, reliable car to get to work and to college as well as doing all of the transportation a family with 6 children needs. Some day he hopes to get a vehicle that can hold the whole family of 8, but his immediate need is just safe, reliable transportation.

If you would consider donating or selling your car at a reduced price, or know someone who would, please contact the church office or Carol Mooney as soon as possible. Thanks very much.

—Carol Mooney for the Plymouth Welcome Circle ✨

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.

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.

Plan to join us in Hildebrand Hall at 12:30 pm Sunday, July 16. Suggested Donation \$20. ✨

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. Next workshop is **July 10-12**. Find full schedule and link to register at [PinwSeattle.org](https://pinwseattle.org). ✨



Your help is needed and appreciated.



Join Tory Trujillo July 16

LEND A HELPING HAND

Plymouth Church, UCC is now a proud sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound (BBBSPS). This sponsorship aligns with Plymouth’s values by partnering with a non-profit organization which has been serving local youth for 65 years. BBBSPS provides support to youth by pairing them with caring adult mentors to nurture positive impacts in their lives. Such mentoring helps youth grow in self-esteem and results in higher high school graduation rates. Read more about their mission and programs at InspireBig.org.

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. These items will be collected monthly and taken to local Value Village thrift stores, which will in turn pay BBBSPS for the donations by weight on a per pound basis. This is also an opportunity to help the environment by diverting used clothing from landfills.

So, clean out your closets of unwanted clothing and shoes! Everyone is welcome to drop off donations including Plymouth congregants, visitors, SIDC teachers and parents. Every little bit helps BBBSPS to continue their valuable work of defending potential in children. Please contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you have any questions. ✨

DON'T WAIT: REGISTER NOW



Register now at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Immerse yourself in creation. Explore woodlands, creeks and meadows along the shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene. Relax with friends on decks and patios overlooking some of the most beautiful scenery in the Northwest. Worship at the lakeshore or on a mountain top and make lasting 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: \$50 per person or \$100 per family.

Link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. We do not want camp fees to be a barrier to attendance! Please contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold (KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for scholarship assistance. Questions about camp or want to help organize activities? Call Lyn Stultz at 353-640-3552. ✨



Bring gently used clothing and shoes, any size.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. GILDA SHEPPARD!

Hello Plymouth. I am excited to share the news that Plymouth congregant and Council Member, Dr. Gilda Sheppard won Best Director of a Documentary Film at the NYC Independent Film Festival last month in New York for her film *Since I Been Down*.



Dr. Gilda Sheppard

Many of us had the good fortune to view and discuss the film with Dr. Sheppard and Kimonti Carter, a main subject/storyteller in the documentary, through Plymouth-sponsored events, but if you haven’t yet seen it, you can learn about the film at SincelBeenDown.com. The link includes information on how to access it and if you keep scrolling to the end of the site, you’ll see that Dr. Sheppard and her team have been honored for this work by dozens of film and arts groups, a clear testament to the powerful nature and importance of the story itself and how it was told.

The following description ran in the October 6, 2021 issue of the *Herald*, in advance of a panel discussion on the film:

Meet Kimonti Carter. Joined a gang at age 11. At age 18, sentenced to 700 years in prison for his role in a drive by shooting in 1997. Against all odds, Kimonti became an inspirational role model within the prison system. As a leader of the Black Prisoners’ Caucus, at age 34, Kimonti founded TEACH (Taking Education and Creating History), a remarkably innovative prisoner education program.

This film, told by the people who have lived these conditions unravels why children commit violent crime and how these children — now adults — are breaking free from their fate by creating a model of justice that is transforming their lives, our humanity and the quality of life for all our children.

I hope you will take a moment to congratulate Dr. Sheppard when you see her. She is one amongst us who unflinchingly shines light on things we collectively need to reckon with and she does so with great warmth and compassion for both her subjects and her viewers. I know I for one, have much to learn from her. Peace and love to you all.

—Tracy Simpson, Plymouth Moderator ✨

RESOLUTION PASSES AT SYNOD

The resolution, “*Condemning Prolonged Solitary Confinement as a Form of Torture*,” was overwhelmingly approved at UCC General Synod last weekend. Many at Plymouth and in our conference work with people who are confined and imprisoned, and we all give thanks for their ministry to prisoners. Information on more synod resolutions will be published in next week’s *Herald*. ✨