

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, July 23, 2023

Worship In Person or Online

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:1, 4–18

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge/Patio

Traffic Alert!

This Saturday and Sunday, July 22-23, expect traffic congestion downtown on account of baseball games and concerts.

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.

AND...ACTION!



Reel Youth Film Camp is the recipient of one of Plymouth UCC's 5 mission grants. Reel Youth Film Camp offers fun, hands-on, educational film programs for BIPOC youth, focusing on enrolling youth from under-served neighborhoods in Central and Southeast Seattle. Courses

offer one-on-one instruction, engaging group sessions, and hands-on training. Upcoming events include:

- **Summer Camp Festival Submission:** Ages 15-17, August 7-11, 9:30 am-3:30 pm at Langston Hughes Center, 104 17th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144
- **Action Academy Stunt Film Camp:** Ages 10-14, August 28-September 1, 9:30 am-3:30 pm at Rainier Arts Center, 3515 S Alaska St Seattle, WA 98118

Visit ReelYouthFilmCamp.org. ✨

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! [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#)



1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

John Adams (Father of Katherine Guthrie), Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Ashley and the Zorich Family (Granddaughter of Betty Eberharter), Mae Bell, Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mark & JT Edwards, Skylyr Effler (Nephew of Bill & Marilyn Bumpas), 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), 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), Alvina Mae & Walter Bethel (Friends of Karen Clark), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Paula Orrego, Jim Oswald (Friend of Bing Tso), Anna Partch (Friend of Sari Breznau), Joshua Robinson (Grandson of Patricia Valentine), Jose Robles and Family, **Rachel Sebastian (Friend of Jeanette Hagen)**, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon), Pluma Wright (Friend of Glenda Carper)

Our hearts are with the family and friends of AJ Newland, on the one-year anniversary of her passing.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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MAKING ALL THINGS NEW



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Friends, I happily return to you after the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ held in Indianapolis, Indiana. For a week, I carried you with me, along with a faithful contingent of delegates from the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC. This Synod was deeply historic in the ways we broadened the table of communion, to include the

election of the first African American woman General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.

I was honored to chair the committee presenting the resolution of witness for the Synod to consider: "Actively Affirming the Human Dignity of Transgender and Nonbinary Persons." In this time in history of profound, targeted danger for gender diverse and expansive people, it became our sacred work as a body of faith to actively amplify and secure the human and civil rights of trans siblings. It is our duty to make this claim to the world! Through consensus building and honoring the lived experience of siblings generously sharing their profound angst and joyful overcoming.

As you have been apprised of other resolutions, I won't detail them here. Yet, know that we are the church working to do justice and equity for those whose voices have been muted, to include the earth and all of creation. In our worship, our protest and stances for righteousness, in our fellowship and through the forging of connections in great love, we live into the theme: *Making all things new*.

Allow me to amplify another joyful moment of justice. The "Fifth Stream", which is the historic Afro-Christian tradition of the UCC, was affirmed by the Synod. Traditionally, four streams have been recognized as foundational to the denomination: Congregational, Christian, Evangelical and Reformed. However, the Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk, a person of the movement, the first African American woman ordained in the UCC, and a pillar in the denomination is leading the charge to acknowledge the Afro-Christian movement as equal to the previously accepted four streams. Rev. Dr. Delk will be preaching and leading at Plymouth this fall.

I pray that we continue and renew our covenant and commitment to the United Church of Christ. I pray that we will affirm and support the ministry and leadership of the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, and help to sustain and revitalize the denomination as we move with the Spirit to determine what we shall be. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown ✨

DEVELOPER SELECTION REPORT

Greetings! The Developer Selection Committee ("DSC") has been working together faithfully and it's time for a brief status report. Our charter, voted on by the congregation in late January, is to select a developer to enter with us into a feasibility phase, during which we will develop together design concepts and a financial outline for a potential project, and subsequently present the elements of both to the congregation for approval. We are assisted by Meriwether Advisors ("MWA"), who have successfully shepherded other churches and entities through this process.



News from the Committee

To date the DSC has interviewed five developers to narrow the field to a short list. (Seven developers responded last fall to the Request for Interest issued by MWA on behalf of Plymouth; since then, two developers are no longer able to pursue the Plymouth project.) We have selected three developers to interview in depth. Further conversations with these teams will take place over the next several months, culminating in the selection of a finalist developer with whom to enter the feasibility phase.

The congregational input process in December and January gave us a good sense of the congregation's interests, collective values, and priorities, which continue to guide us. We do invite congregational input to the committee at any time, through use of the email DSC@plymouthchurchseattle.org. We anticipate selecting a developer with whom to enter the feasibility phase in the fall. At that time we will inform the congregation and have a plan for congregational input, as we work with the selected developer to outline design and financial concepts that ensure project feasibility. We are encouraged and energized by our work to date, and we're honored to represent you in this effort. Thank you for your support.

DSC: Marcia Almquist; David Guthrie; Melony Joyce; Tom Maul; Bing Tso; Ruth Williamson; Dorothy Woods

Ex Officio: Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown; Rev. Kevin Bechtold; Tracy Simpson, Moderator; Matt Durland, Vice-Moderator ✨

TAKE ACTION NOW



Protect our our Afghan neighbors.

Last week, Congress reintroduced the Afghan Adjustment Act, which would establish a path for displaced Afghans to apply for permanent status in the U.S. and expand pathways to protection for Afghans who remain left behind. Since the fall of Kabul in August 2021, millions of Afghans have been displaced from their homes, including many who risked their

lives in support of the U.S. mission. During the evacuation, the U.S. welcomed more than 76,000 Afghans via humanitarian parole, which provides only temporary protection and no clear path to permanent status.

Almost two years after the evacuation, tens of thousands of evacuated Afghans are stuck in limbo in the U.S. with only temporary status. Many more remain at risk in Afghanistan where pathways to evacuation and protection have been limited and backlogged.

We must provide a pathway to permanent status for our Afghan neighbors. The Afghan Adjustment Act would provide stability for our Afghan neighbors and expand safe pathways for those left behind in Afghanistan or other countries where they remain in harm's way.

Please see the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for links to contact your representatives and help spread the word among your friends. ✨

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.



Your help is needed and appreciated.

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 ✨

FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

Candle-lit lanterns will spark hope at Seattle's annual lantern-floating peace ceremony on Sunday evening, August 6 at Green Lake, just south of the Bathhouse. Program includes music, poetry, dance and speakers. The event marks the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, honoring all victims of war and violence. This year also marks the 81st 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 and includes the popular Japanese-American drum group, *Seattle Kokon Taiko*. This year features a performance by dancer/choreographer Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, presenting a piece titled “*Sadako and the Cranes*.” Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will be the keynote speaker.

The candle-lit lantern ceremony begins at 8:15 pm. Patrick Johnson will play *shakuhachi* at the dock, the traditional flute music accompanying the floating lanterns.

This event is created annually by the non-profit organization, From Hiroshima to Hope, and is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome. Visit FromHiroshimaToHope.org for more information or call 206-928-2590. ✨

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

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.



Help make this a year of jubilee!

Through your donations, RIP Medical Debt purchases bundled medical debt portfolios from the secondary debt market and hospital systems and then eliminates that debt for pennies on the dollar. Each recipient will owe nothing on the debt and will face no tax penalty. For those touched by this movement to abolish medical debt, it will be a year of Jubilee! —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown
Contribute to Plymouth's campaign, “Licks of Fire” by clicking the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Visit RIPMedicalDebt.org to learn more. ✨

ORGAN RECITAL AUGUST 6

Plymouth was blessed to welcome internationally renowned composer and keyboard virtuoso Dr. Mikhail Johnson as our Organist in Residence on June 25. Dr. Johnson will continue to lead worship experiences for Plymouth until his residency culminates in a recital following worship on Sunday, August 6. Plan now to attend a special musical afternoon and to thank Dr. Johnson for his contribution to our worship life. ✨



Dr. Mikhail Johnson

LEND A HELPING HAND



Bring gently used clothing and shoes, any size.

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.

Contact Toni Arthur (TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you have any questions. ✨

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 workweek schedules. ✨

BOOK BINGO: CHECK IT OUT

Have you picked up a copy of Plymouth's Book Bingo challenge? Not many have but we all need a nudge sometimes. Especially to do those things that will do us the most good. Let me give you a gentle nudge with a peek at my journey so far.



Visit Plymouth Library this Sunday

I start my search in the Plymouth Church Library collection. I just walk, slowly that wonderful curving wall of books and titles jump out at me. Sometimes I will focus my search with the online catalog at Opac.LibraryWorld.com which you can then make a favorite on your browser. The library name is Plymouth Church. No password is required.

For the Book Bingo challenge, I started with the square, “Children's picture book.” The church has over 500 children's books, even after several cullings. Rev. Kelle reminded us in her sermon last Sunday to be faithful to the present gifts of Plymouth and not to define our worthiness by the number of children. And so why do we still have so many children's books when we have so few children? Could it be because of the truth Jesus spoke that to receive the kingdom of God, his followers must do so as a little child? Children remind us of simple truths. And so do the books that are written for them. So the library collects and treasures these beautiful books.

The book that found me was *The Flood Tales* by Richard Monte. This is not your typical children's book on Noah and his ark.

“...the books that would be written.” (John 21:24-25)

Noah had questions and so did I by the last page. Was he called by God or was he

following his own folly? Was the flood caused by global warming, as suggested by his son, Ham, or God's wrath? The book gives no answers to these questions but encourages one to ponder and respect the mystery even while following with passion into action. I highly recommend for its realistic visual imaginings of “ark living” and narrative of a family changed by their calling to act.

I will share one more discovery. This came from the square, “Written by or about activists or revolutionaries.” I wanted to think outside the box on this one, being as it was about those who do. And this book, *Revolution: the year I fell in love and went to join the Sandinistas* by Deb Olin Unferth so captured my imagination. With a title like that, how could I not grab from the shelf, take home, and quickly devour like a yummy chocolate! It did not disappoint. Although the journey includes a quest for love, there is nothing romantic about her adventure, but everything real, about love and revolutions. And, of course, like many good books, it led me to other books. **Please continue reading this article in the news section at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.**

—Melony Joyce, Plymouth Church Library Committee ✨