

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH
10:30 am Sunday, September 7, 2025
Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Homecoming Sunday
Sacrament of Communion

Wear Something Green or Gold

Isaiah 40:6–11
“Creatively Maladjusted”
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Celebration Lunch, Lounge

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

The Plymouth *Herald* is published every week.
Deadline is **Monday, 10 am**, for Wednesday publication.

*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.*

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE



Starting Sunday September 7, Plymouth Choir and Plymouth Quartet will return to Sunday services, singing each week with our two-part Soprano/Bass Choir featured at the end of each month. We'd love as many people as possible to join our choir community each Sunday. All are

welcome each week because as the song says, “All God’s creatures got a place in the choir!”

If you have always wanted to sing in a choir, come sing with Plymouth. Contact Choir Director Eliza Woodyard (EWoodyard@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

WE ALL NEED SOMEONE

Feeling in need of support? Join the Transitions Support Group. We meet monthly on Zoom and support each other in life’s ups and downs of care-giving, loss and empty nesting. Contact Faith Community Nurse June Hayakawa-Fung (JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

All who live in fear of expedited removal, detention, or deportation., Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Monica Blume (Family of Kate Forrester), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Lin Davis (Wife of Mo Longworth), JT Edwards, Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), Artrice Gordon (Brother of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Jo-Ann Guthrie, Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael and Elizabeth Gordon), Allie James (Friend of Dawn Bennett), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), **Debbie Longworth** (Siister of Mo Longworth), Robert Malae, **Dave Mom** (Brother-in-law of Mo Longworth), Dale and Jinny Sewell, Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), **Rev. Harriet Walton** (Friend of Dr. Maxine Mimms), Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Helen Gorsuch and family on the passing of her husband Phil Gorsuch on August 25. A service will be held 1 pm Friday, September 5, at Congregational Church on Mercer Island (4545 Island Crest Way).

bold=newly added. Names will remain on list for 6 weeks unless requested.

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.



CREATIVELY MALADJUSTED



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Welcome to Homecoming Sunday at Plymouth UCC! On September 7, we begin our liturgical year that marks an extraordinary milestone—155 years of ministry, faith, and service together as a congregation. All are invited to join in this joyful celebration by wearing green and gold, colors that

symbolize growth, rebirth and renewal, and the enduring value of harmony and unity among us.

Our Homecoming’s theme, “Creatively Maladjusted,” draws inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who reminded us that there are circumstances—like injustice, poverty, and hatred—where we must refuse to become adjusted to what is. We must purposefully choose another path not often taken, to be the progressive church that is imperfect perhaps, but ever reflective and growing in faith and good works.

In addition, we look to scripture to help us rediscover who we are: “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind...”

To be creatively maladjusted means to take a courageous, imaginative stand for what is right, with God as our helper, finding new solutions and fresh hope where societal habit tells us to settle for the status quo. We are change agents and movement makers!

This anniversary is a time to remember the generations who have faithfully walked before us, building a foundation of love, radical welcome, and community impact. Today, we give thanks for every act of kindness, every word of prayer, and every bold and conscious expression of faith that has shaped Plymouth UCC.

Whether a lifelong member, a newcomer, or someone seeking spiritual home after time away, everyone is welcome at Plymouth—and your presence adds joy and purpose to our celebration. As we gather in green and gold, let these colors declare our unity, diversity, and hope for the future. In addition, our faithful choir is back; we’re adding an upcoming

new member-in-covenant orientation; childcare on the first Sundays, and faith formation opportunities, to include hands-on ministry.

Homecoming also signals the exciting start of our annual stewardship campaign, noting that at Plymouth, stewardship is more than financial giving. Stewardship means actively choosing to follow the way of Jesus in how we live, give, and serve in our church, community, and world. This is a holy opportunity to discern how each of us might support our shared mission in ways that are meaningful and life-giving.

This year, let us move forward in faith, refusing to join in indifference, gradualism, or the eternal making of plans that immobilizes our action. Let us be creatively maladjusted: championing justice, practicing compassion, and walking forward in the radical love of Jesus. Let us step into this new chapter with gratitude, imagination, and the assurance that God still has more for us to do and be.

With joy on the journey,
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

WELCOME HOME

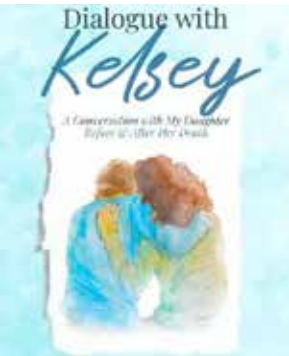
Celebrate Homecoming Sunday with Plymouth September 7, as we begin a new program year together. Plymouth Choir returns to nourish our spirits in song, and lunch with friends after the service will nourish our bodies. This is a special day to pledge time, talent, and treasure and to express our desire to covenant with God, Plymouth, and one another.

This fall, Plymouth United Church of Christ invites you to participate in our 2025 stewardship campaign: *Creatively Maladjusted*. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we joyfully reject the status quo of injustice and complacency. Your financial generosity helps fuel ministries of justice, love, inclusion, music, and worship. Join us as we seek to raise \$500,000 and embody courageous, creative generosity.

Let’s be maladjusted—on purpose, for good, and for the future God imagines!



DIALOGUE WITH KELSEY

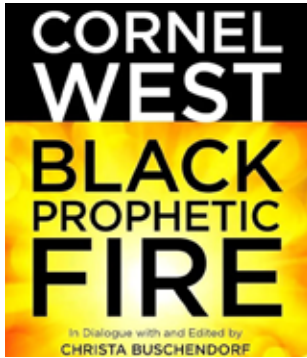


3 pm Sept. 6 in Hildebrand Hall.

Learn about Barbara Bennett’s new book on grief, healing, and a forever relationship. *Dialogue with Kelsey: Before and After My Daughter’s Death* will speak to those who have lost a child or a close loved one and also to those trying to balance sorrow and pain with joy. 3 pm Saturday, September 6 in Hildebrand Hall. Park in Plymouth garage.

When Barbara’s twenty-eight-year-old daughter, Kelsey, was killed in a bicycle-bus accident in Boston, she yearned to find a way to continue their conversation. Although most of Barbara’s religious beliefs were destroyed the moment she learned of Kelsey’s death, she soon realized grief could be a form of spiritual practice and embarked on an inward pilgrimage that included mindfulness meditation, Jewish methods for interpreting sacred texts, Quaker ways of listening for the inner guide, and Shamanic drumming. The beaches and forests on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State provided daily inspiration as she learned to balance a never-ending sense of loss with ever-increasing joy. 🌍

READ TOGETHER, LEAD TOGETHER



An all-church discussion of the book *Black Prophetic Fire*, by Cornel West will begin in September. Purchase your copy now. Available from Beacon Press: Beacon.org.

Black Prophetic Fire is an unflinching look at nineteenth- and twentieth-century African American leaders and their visionary legacies. In an accessible, conversational format, Cornel West, with distinguished scholar Christa Buschendorf, provides a fresh perspective on six revolutionary African American leaders: Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King Jr., Ella Baker, Malcolm X, and Ida B. Wells. In dialogue with Buschendorf, West examines the impact of these men and women on their own eras and across the decades, rediscovering the integrity and commitment within these passionate advocates but also their fault lines. By providing new insights that humanize these well-known figures, Cornel West takes an important step in rekindling the Black prophetic fire so essential in the age of Obama.

Keep checking our news page and the *Herald* for updates on discussion details. Get your copy at Beacon.org. 🌍

FAITH IN THE TIME OF MONSTERS

Come to Town Hall Seattle (1119 Eighth Avenue) 6 pm Saturday, September 6, for an evening with Dr. Cornel West, presented by Valley and Mountain UMC. Get tickets now at TownHallSeattle.org.

As the nation faces significant turmoil and division, faith institutions have a unique role to play in healing the national rupture. Valley and Mountain Fellowship—a progressive faith community—is committed to helping create a more just world. In service of this mission, the Fellowship has invited noted public intellectual Cornel West to share his wisdom with the community. The event serves as a fundraiser for the Center for Faith, Art, and Justice. 🌍



Cornel West at Town Hall Seattle September 6.

DETENTION LOTTERY



September 7 at Seattle First United Methodist.

The Church Council of Greater Seattle invites you to a special presentation of Detention Lottery 4 pm Sunday, September 7, at Seattle First United Methodist Church (180 Denny Way, Seattle).

Detention Lottery brings awareness to the realities of migrant detention in our country, including the hidden costs of detaining migrants to our democracy and to our communities. This event is a powerful exploration of the effect our immigration enforcement system has on US citizens and permanent residents, including millions of children. Following the production there will be a 45-minute open discussion.

Read more and RSVP at TheChurchCouncil.org/News. 🌍

SCHOOL SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED

Donations of school supplies are still being collected every Sunday. Please leave them in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge. Supplies will go to Urban Impact, a local organization dedicated to helping people and communities thrive. See list of most requested items in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. 🌍



Please bring school supplies on Sundays.

ADVOCATE FOR A MORAL BUDGET

With the support of the United Church of Christ Office of Public Policy & Advocacy, Washington Faith Action Network is hosting a Moral Budget Advocacy Week, September 22–26. During this week of action, registrants from around the state will have in-district meetings with their members of Congress to urge the importance of a moral budget that funds our social safety net and rejects increases to the administration’s mass deportation campaign.

Please join us to urge Congress to prioritize funding for social safety net programs and humane policies that protect the rights and dignity of migrants. Read more at FANWA.org. 🌍



THE POWER OF CONNECTION



Keynote speaker Dr. Vivek Murthy

Support Plymouth Housing at *Key to Hope: The Power of Connection*, Noon–1:30 pm Wednesday, September 17, at the Seattle Westin downtown (1900 5th Ave). This inspiring event brings together forward-thinking community to take meaningful steps toward ending homelessness.

This year’s luncheon will feature a keynote presentation by Dr. Vivek Murthy, the former U.S. Surgeon General and a leading voice on public health, connection, and well-being. Dr. Murthy has championed the importance of social connection as a critical factor in public health, warning of the dangers of loneliness and its impact on mental and physical health. The connections formed at Plymouth — between residents, staff, and supporters — offer more than just housing; they offer stability, care, and a sense of belonging. Join us in exploring the power of connection and how, together, we can make a lasting impact. Register now at PlymouthHousing.org. 🌍

988: A LIFELINE

Sometimes, because of the stigma and shame associated with mental health challenges, people are hesitant to share when they are struggling or having a hard time. It is important to be especially present with loved ones, to listen attentively and let them know you care. **If you or someone you know is struggling, dial 988** to connect with trained mental health professionals. 🌍

SAY “I DO” AT PLYMOUTH

If you or someone you know is planning a wedding, we invite you to attend the Seattle Wedding Show with a special discount from Plymouth. The show is held Jan. 31–Feb. 1, 2026, at the Convention Center (705 Pike Street).



Plan your wedding with Plymouth.

When purchasing tickets, use the code: **SWSPC** for 50% off tickets for a limited time; after that, \$5 off per ticket. Visit WeddingShow.com for tickets.

For those considering Plymouth for their ceremony, please keep in mind what we offer. Located in the heart of downtown Seattle, Plymouth Church offers a stunning, light-filled sanctuary featuring a majestic 5,000-pipe organ—perfect for unforgettable wedding moments.

As an open and affirming congregation, we joyfully welcome all couples and everyone seeking to celebrate love in a sacred, inclusive space. Our ministers work closely with you to create a personalized ceremony that reflects your values, traditions, and story. Celebrate your beginning in a place where all love is honored. Plymouth Church—where your story belongs.

Please contact Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org to inquire about availability and start planning. 🌍

EMBRACE JOY



Register now for Women’s Retreat Nov. 7-9

The Pacific Northwest & Central Pacific Conferences of the United Church of Christ join together every three years to offer a spiritual and motivational women’s retreat. The retreat theme is “Embrace Joy” and registration is now open. Get set to join us November 7-9 for a fantastic event at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA.

This open and affirming gathering warmly welcomes all who identify as women. Our aim is to create a supportive and empowering environment where everyone feels valued and included. The planning committee is excited to have Rev. Andrea Rose Cano joining us as the keynote speaker and Rev. Danáe Ashley joining us as our worship leader. We have fabulous workshops lined up to help you embrace joy through movement, music, creativity, nature, and more. Come and take time just for yourself. Breathe deeply, relax fully, and explore, enrich, and rekindle your spirit. This is a retreat created for YOU. Learn more and register now at NRWR.org. 🌍