

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, September 8, 2024

### HOMEcoming SUNDAY

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Communion

John 4:27-29, 39-42

“Love Notes from the End of Your Rope”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Celebratory BBQ, Lounge/Patio

**Horizon House residents are invited to ride the bus on Homecoming Sunday, September 8.**

**Bus will return to Horizon House after the lunch.**

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.



PO Box 21368  
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

## BE THE CHURCH



As we begin a new church year, you are invited to volunteer at Plymouth Church! Remember that covenant giving also includes your time and using your gifts. There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. Here are some available volunteer opportunities. Contact Toni Arthur, TArthur@

PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, to get started:

- Participating in money counting after worship
- Preparing communion (first Sundays)
- Becoming a greeter on Sundays and special events
- Answering phones 2 days a week from 10 am-2 pm
- Cleaning/decluttering (short-term commitment)
- Food preparation and service on needed occasions
- Join the Companion Ministry

This is a partial list. If you have a talent you would like to share, please contact Toni and discuss how best to contribute your gift to our community. We are grateful for all you bring to the life and ministries of Plymouth UCC. 🌍

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Christian and Kim Arvin (Son and Daughter-in-Law of Donene Blair), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Bruce Chittick & Family (Friend of Karen Clark), Larry Fung (Husband of June Hayakawa-Fung), 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), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), David, Mary, Patrick & Amanda McGee, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Mari Mitchell & Alex Putnum, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Jaime Rubio Sulficio

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



## WELCOME HOME



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Furthermore, Homecoming is our chance to make our joyful intention known, to be connected to Plymouth Church, to participate and support its ministries and mission, and to journey together to build together the kingdom of God.

Our fall theme, “*Love Notes from the End of Your Rope*,” draws inspiration from 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NRSV): “*We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...*”

In our times of struggle and challenge, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and isolated. It’s easy to watch the news or look around at all the changes and assume that all is lost.

Yet, in faithful community, we are free to remind one another to embrace God’s unwavering presence. We are free to restore our hope that doesn’t depend on things going the way we may have planned. Like love notes written to our hearts, may we claim that even while we may face difficulties, love empowers us beyond what we see. Furthermore, may we hold in our hearts that we are not abandoned, that any scarcity perceived may be born in displaced fear.

Even when we face loss, let us remind ourselves that we are never forsaken by the Holy One. Our covenant community may be impacted, different, even unrecognizable as the church some once knew, but we are not destroyed. Far from it! My pastoral sense is that we may be closer to our purpose more than ever. God is faithful.

We invite you to join us in reflecting on these “*Love Notes from the End of Your Rope*.” Together, we will explore how God’s love will meet us in our need. At that point of connection, you and I can write love letters with our loving-kindness as we support one another, uplift each other, and speak life and abundance!

As the long days of summer end, we are excited to begin again. On September 8, Plymouth Church will celebrate its Homecoming Sunday! We are delighted to begin another church calendar year, to pledge our time, our talent and our treasure.

Homecoming is our time as the people of faith to worship, sing and pray together as we

Thank you for being a part of our community, for praying for Plymouth, and infusing our future with your care and support. Plymouth Church is a beautifully unique, multicultural, progressive Christian church with a prophetic voice of radical inclusion for all of creation. Join us on this journey as we grow in faith together with love notes, even at the end of our rope.

Welcome home, *Pastor Kelle* 🌍

## CALLING ALL SINGERS

Plymouth Choir will start rehearsals this Sunday in Hildebrand Hall at 9 am sharp. Singing is a great way to get in touch with your unique instrument, bond with Plymouth congregants, and nurture your spiritual growth. All are welcome! We will do our utmost to accommodate a wide variety of skill and experience levels. Even

if you’ve never participated in a choir before, we would love to have you sing with us! The choir rehearses every Sunday morning before worship and performs each Sunday of the month starting on September 22.—*Eliza Woodyard, Choir Director* 🌍



Lift your voice in song! Sunday at 9 am.

## HELP AT PLYMOUTH ASYLUM CLINIC



Help asylum seekers at Plymouth Sept. 7.

Plymouth will host an all-day asylum legal clinic on **Saturday, September 7 from 9 am to 6:30 pm.** *We are seeking all sorts of volunteers!* Folks to welcome applicants and volunteers; interpreters (Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Lingala); administrative volunteers; and childcare providers. We also need people to provide snacks.

The Plymouth parking garage will be open. All volunteers should arrive promptly at 9 am for a video to review before the clinic. Volunteers who will be completing the applications will also have a brief training session. Client work begins at 9:30 am. Most will be finished before 6:30 pm. Pizza lunch provided!

Please e-mail Janet Gwilym (J.Gwilym@hotmail.com) or contact Carol Mooney. Thank you for making Plymouth a welcoming space to our immigrant neighbors. 🌍



# AT THE CROSSROADS FOR TRANS RIGHTS AND JUSTICE



“Voting is a civic sacrament.” Rev. Theodore Hesburgh’s words remind us that voting is not just our responsibility, but a sacred act. Voting is one of the ways we participate in creating a just world for all. As we approach the upcoming election, the importance of engaging with the electoral process cannot be

overstated. The intersectional nature of voting brings many important issues to light. Trans rights is one of those issues whose protection or destruction will define the very soul of our nation. As legislative efforts across the country target the Trans community, especially Trans youth, we must use our voices and votes to stand up for the dignity and rights of all people. Since January 2024, politicians across the country have introduced 638 anti-Trans bills and passed 45. In Ohio, legislators overrode the governor’s veto to pass the first anti-Trans bill this year. This bill targets Trans youth by restricting access to gender-affirming healthcare and limiting participation in sports. The fact that Ohio’s legislature overrode a gubernatorial veto to pass such a harmful bill highlights the ignorance and hate that dominates chambers of power and exposes the depths that elected officials are willing to take to harm the marginalized. We need electoral engagement to stand for marginalized. This is a political and moral issue.

Ohio is headquarters of both the UCC and the Open and Affirming Coalition, meaning this bill hits close to home. As people of faith, we are called to love our neighbors and to seek justice for the marginalized. The attack on Trans rights is an attack on the principles of equality and human dignity that we hold dear.

Our vote is a powerful tool to effect change. It is a way to hold our elected officials accountable and to ensure that the voices of the marginalized are heard. Voter suppression efforts, targeting communities of color and LGBTQ+ individuals, are on the rise. These efforts seek to silence vulnerable populations, making it even more critical that we show up at the polls and encourage others to do so as well. By casting our ballots, we help shape a future where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

— Rev. Derek Terry, Open and Affirming Coalition Program Director and Pastor at St. Peter UCC Cincinnati (excerpted) Read more at [UCC.org/Our-Faith-Our-Vote](https://ucc.org/Our-Faith-Our-Vote).

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# HONORING OUR SACRED STORIES

Join women of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ for a weekend of faith, companionship and fun at Pilgrim Firs, October 4-6. Set aside time for reflection and renewal. Come as you are; participate as you feel called. This gathering welcomes all women — cis, trans and non-binary people comfortable in a space that centers the experience of women.



Women’s Retreat at Pilgrim Firs, Oct. 4-6.

Our retreat leader is Jan Kinney, who has a PhD in Women’s Studies specializing in Spirituality and Religion. We will tell our own sacred stories and create rituals and altars that honor our life-changing events. How do we make these events sacred? What materials, actions, words, or art will help us affirm the sacredness of our lives?

Check-in at 3 pm Friday, October 4, with dinner at 6:30 pm. Departure at 11 am Sunday, October 6. Cost is \$190, including 5 meals, lodging, linens and program. Register now at [Pilgrim-Firs.org/Calendar](https://Pilgrim-Firs.org/Calendar). Scholarships available; contact Mark Boyd, [Mark@Pilgrim-Firs.org](mailto:Mark@Pilgrim-Firs.org) if you need financial assistance.

# BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Please bring school supplies on Sundays.

The Community and Care Board welcomes donations of school supplies now through September. Please leave in the bin at the Welcome Table. The following list is of the most-needed supplies. Please bring what you can: all donations are appreciated. Thank you.

- Lunch box
- Composition notebook
- Graph paper
- Blue or black pens
- #2 pencils
- Pencil pouch
- Metric/standard ruler
- Small pencil sharpener w/shavings holder
- Eraser
- Tape
- Box of crayons
- Glue stick
- Spiral notebook (single or multiple w/dividers)
- Backpack (no wheels)
- Water bottle
- Fine tip markers (8-10 ct)
- Thick markers (8-10 count)
- Colored pencils (12 pack)
- Scotch tape
- Dry erase markers (4 pack)

# JOIN THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to a new online Bible Study beginning Thursday, September 5 at 7 pm via Zoom using link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) (link requires the usual Plymouth passcode; if you need the code, please email Rev. Kevin Bechtold).



7 pm Thursdays, online via Zoom.

A typical meeting begins with attendees checking in with one another and then discussing the scripture texts for the following Sunday’s worship service before closing in prayer. The leader will provide background and context for the discussion. Biblical knowledge is not a prerequisite for joining this group. If you have questions, or would like to join, please contact Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. We hope to see you Thursday evenings this fall!

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS SOCIAL JUSTICE



Faith Action Network urges you to vote NO on Initiative 2117. I-2117 would repeal the 2021 Climate Commitment Act and prohibit all state agencies, counties, and cities from implementing any type of carbon tax credit trading. If passed it would:

- Devastate billions in funding that protects our water, farmlands and forests, air quality, fish, clean transportation and school health improvements.
- Cancel investments to mitigate climate change and pollution on highly impacted, low-income communities.
- Shift the burden of paying for the impacts of pollution from big industries responsible for carbon emissions onto communities, workers, and families.
- Take away a significant tool for slowing life-threatening climate change and ending pollution

Visit [No2117.com](https://No2117.com) to learn more and get involved.

# PRAYERS FOR PEACE

United Church of Christ General Minister and President Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson welcomes all in the wider church to participate in an interactive season of prayer. The People’s Prayers for Peace Initiative is an open invitation to read and write prayers, now posted daily at [UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace](https://UCC.org/Peoples-Prayers-For-Peace).

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

September is Suicide Prevention Month — a time to raise awareness and discuss this highly stigmatized topic. In addition to shifting public perception, we use this month to spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time to come together with collective passion and strength to address this difficult topic. We can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide, because just one conversation can change a life. Never forget there is always hope. Learn more and access resources at National Alliance on Mental Illness, [NAMI.org](https://NAMI.org).

**If you or someone you know is in crisis — whether they are considering suicide or not — call or text the toll-free Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 to speak with a trained crisis counselor 24/7.**



# SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION



Next session is Sunday, September 22.

Tory Trujillo offers a deeply healing Sound Medicine Meditation, sometimes also referred to as a sound bath. Tory will center the group with breath work and embodiment practices to relax, heal, and help anchor and amplify intentions. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats, blankets, pillows and other items of

comfort. Some yoga mats and blankets will be available to borrow. Sessions last between 60 and 75 minutes.

Fall sessions are scheduled for Sundays, September 22, October 20 and November 17, at 11:45 am in Hildebrand Hall. (Note: start time is subject to change, determined by the length of Sunday service.) Suggested Donation \$20.