



SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, September 14, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 19:1–10

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

3 pm Alain Locke Initiative Luncheon, Lounge

You are invited to a celebration of what would be the 140th birthday of Alain Locke. This is a time to build a network of supporters dedicated the well-being of gay Black men. The Alain Locke Initiative is one of the recipients of our World Communion Special Offering in October.

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.



PO Box 21368
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested



The mission of the Alain Locke Initiative (ALI) is to empower young Black queer men in the Seattle area through mentorship and holistic support and guide them in navigating life’s challenges. By fostering personal growth, resilience, and professional development, ALI aims to inspire these young men to live authentically and achieve their fullest potential. Read more at AlainLockeInitiative.org.

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

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

Our hearts are with Ricky Powell and family on the passing of his Aunt, Sue Shelley.

We grieve with Alex Putnam and Mari Mitchell on the one-year anniversary of the passing of Alex’s dad, Dean Putnam.

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.



REMAIN RESTLESS AND RESISTANT



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Beloved Plymouth, We begin our journey to become more creatively maladjusted. Jesus never called us to fit neatly into the patterns of the world. In fact, the Gospel often demands that we live in holy tension with the forces that seek to dominate, dehumanize, or silence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once spoke of being “creatively maladjusted” to injustice, and I believe that vision is precisely what God is calling us to embrace in this season. We are living in a time when fascism and Christian nationalism are rising—distorting and co-opting the name of Jesus to justify violence, exclusion, and authoritarianism.

These movements mask hatred and domination in religious language, but beneath it lies profound idolatry: loyalty to power instead of love; allegiance to nation over neighbor; worship of supremacy instead of the God of liberation.

As followers of Jesus, we cannot adjust ourselves to such distortions. We must remain “maladjusted”—restless and resistant in the face of lies, vigilant in guarding human dignity, and insistent on the vision of God’s beloved community. To be creatively maladjusted is not to despair or lose hope, but to imagine and live alternative ways of being: communities rooted in compassion, worship that lifts up justice, and witness that refuses to confuse empire with God’s beloved world.

Let us remain joyfully, faithfully, stubbornly maladjusted, envisioning and creating a church where love conquers fear, where justice rolls down, and where Jesus is revealed as the Liberator. With love and resolve,

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

EMBODY CREATIVE GENEROSITY

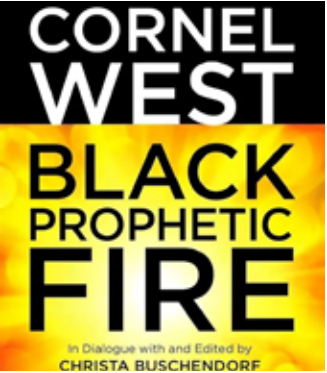
This fall, Plymouth United Church of Christ invites you to participate in our 2025 stewardship campaign: *Creatively Maladjusted*. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we joyfully reject the status quo of injustice and complacency. Your financial generosity helps fuel ministries of justice, love,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

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.

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



THE POWER OF CONNECTION



Register now at PlymouthHousing.org

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. Join us in exploring the power of connection and how, together, we can make a lasting impact. Register now at PlymouthHousing.org.



PROTECT LGBTQ+ YOUTH



Suicide hotlines save lives. Each life is sacred, and we must do everything in our power to ensure LGBTQ+ kids feel like they have a future worth living for. That is why we are calling on Congress to restore funding for the LGBTQ+ youth suicide prevention hotline.

In July 2025, the administration defunded the LGBTQ+ youth-specific hotline, placing millions of queer lives at risk. We know LGBTQ+ youth disproportionately struggle with their mental health because of the discrimination, hate, and stigma towards them. According to the Trevor Project, 12% of LGBTQ+ kids attempted suicide in the last year. 39% of LGBTQ+ youth and 46% of trans and nonbinary youth seriously considered committing suicide. Rates are even higher for youth of color. With lack of accessible mental health care due to high costs and stigma, suicide hotlines are a free, accessible way to manage mental health crises.

Since its inception in 2022, calls to the hotline have continually increased. 1.6 million children have called this hotline in the last four years. That’s 1,600,000 individual lives that have likely been saved by this holy work. Their experiences are unique and require an informed, compassionate approach that takes their sexual orientation and gender identity into account. When handling a delicate situation of a child on the precipice of suicide, there is no time to waste.

The United Church of Christ affirms every queer and trans child is created in God’s beautiful, divine image. It is holy work to make sure each child knows their inherent worth and how loved they are, both by God and by us.

This World Suicide Prevention Month, demand that Congress immediately reinstate the LGBTQ+ youth suicide prevention hotline and that the administration restore its funding. Kids’ lives depend on it.

Send a message to your representatives using the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

CELEBRATE LOVE OF LEARNING

Join TINFA (Technology and INformation for All) 6 pm Saturday, September 20, at Plymouth for dinner, drinks and live music as we celebrate all of the inspiring teachers and students at our partner schools in Guatemala.

Visit Tinfa.org to learn more and reserve your place.

NO KINGS PROTEST OCTOBER 18

No Kings is back in Seattle on October 18 to make history again with the largest nationwide protest our country has ever seen. Millions took to the streets in large cities and small towns for the June 14 protest to stand up to a wannabe dictator and say “*We Have No Kings!*”

This time we’re going even bigger to make this a record-breaking movement. Make it clear we will not be intimidated, we will not be silent, and we will stand up for the rights of everyone and protect our democracy from a fascist takeover.

Join the Seattle protest 12 pm, October 18, at Seattle Central College (1709 Broadway E). Keep checking our website and reading the *Herald* for updates.



ADVOCATE FOR A MORAL BUDGET



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.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Plymouth Choir and Plymouth Quartet have returned 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. As the song says, “All God’s creatures got a place in the choir!” Contact Choir Director Eliza Woodyard (EWoodyard@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).



Lift your voice with Plymouth Choir.

EMBRACE JOY

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.



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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED



Please bring school supplies on Sundays.

- 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

MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

World Communion Sunday, October 5 2025 is the day Christians worldwide celebrate Holy Communion, recognizing their unity in Christ and the global community of faith.

Our World Communion Sunday special offering is one of four special offerings throughout the church year to support national and local ministries within the United Church of Christ. Our October 5 gifts will be divided evenly between Neighbors in Need and Alain Locke Initiative.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of the offering is given to the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), the voice for American Indian people in the UCC, and the remaining two-thirds supports UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

The remaining half of the October 5 special offering will support the **Alain Locke Initiative (ALI)**. Their Mission is committed to empowering young Black queer men (ages 14-21) in the Seattle area through mentorship and holistic support and to guide them in navigating life’s challenges, completing their education, and accessing career opportunities and scholarships. By fostering personal growth, resilience, and professional development, ALI aims to inspire these young men to live authentically and achieve their fullest potential. Read more at AlainLockeInitiative.org

Your generous support of Neighbors In Need and Alain Locke Initiative on October 5 truly makes a world of difference on World Wide Communion Sunday.

WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER



Join monthly online meetings.

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).