

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, September 22, 2024

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

“Talking Loud and Saying Nothing”

Rev. Demontrice Bigham

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge/Patio

11:45 am Sound Medicine Meditation, Hildebrand Hall

The Community and Care Board will collect donations of school supplies every Sunday through the end of September. All contributions are appreciated.

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

WHICH CHURCH IS DYING?



Read full article at ChristianCentury.org/Voices/Which-Church-Dying

The following is a brief excerpt from an article by Debie Thomas in the September 2024 issue of “The Christian Century.” Read the full article at ChristianCentury.org/Voices/Which-Church-Dying.

The church of empire might be [dying]. But I’m not ready to call time of death on the mystical body of Christ.

“You understand that the church is dying, don’t you?” I’ve been asked this question often since I enrolled in seminary last year. The well-intentioned people who ask do so out of genuine concern. As far as they can tell, I’ve lost my capacity for sound vocational judgment. I’ve essentially boarded the Titanic, and I need urgent protection from my own naiveté.

I don’t blame them; I worry about the future, too. Will my classmates and I find sustainable jobs? Will we have to juggle multiple ministry settings to earn a living? Are bivocational pastors the only people who will survive this sea change?

(Debie Thomas, “The Christian Century,” September, 2024) 🌐

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Christian and Kim Arvin (Son and Daughter-in-Law of Donene Blair), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), The Colwell Family, Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), 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), Julie (Friend of Karen Clark), Concetta Lewis (Sister of Jo-Ann Guthrie), William Chapman Nyaho, Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Mari Mitchell & Alex Putnum, Jaime Rubio Sulficio

We grieve with the Mitchell-Putnam family on the passing of Dean Putnam, father of Alex, on September 13, 2024.

Our hearts are with Jerry Rice on the one-year anniversary of the passing of his uncle, Larry L. Rice.

Congratulations and love to the DeCook family on the arrival of Maren Claire! Mom (Robin), big sister (Mira) and grandma (Bev) are all doing well!

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

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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EXPLORE VANPORT AND SELMA



Learn about the Vanport flood Nov. 15-17.

Take a deep dive into complex social history with upcoming educational trips to Vanport, Oregon and Selma, Alabama, led by Museum Without Walls. Contact Suzanne Lacey (Admin@MuseumWithoutWalls.org) with questions. Suzanne will be with us on Sunday, September 22, to talk about the programs.

Trip to Vanport, Oregon, November 15-17, 2024: Between 1942 and 1945, Vanport was the largest wartime housing development in the country and the second largest city in Oregon. By 1948, it was still home to 18,500 residents, including many African Americans. However, in less than two hours, a devastating flood wiped out the town, leaving a displaced community and raising many lingering questions.

Read trip details and register at the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

Trip to Selma, Alabama, March 6-14, 2025: The Selma Jubilee honors the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, which occurred on March 7, 1965, when 525 African-American demonstrators crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, demanding their right to vote. They were violently confronted by more than 50 state



Learn about Bloody Sunday March 6-14, 2025.

troopers, horses, and possemen, who brutally attacked them when they refused to turn back. This shocking event was broadcast nationwide, revealing the grim reality of racism in the South. Two weeks later, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led 3,200 civil rights activists on a historic 49-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, which helped spur the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Join us for this special anniversary as we honor those courageous foot soldiers and explore other significant Civil Rights landmarks.

Read trip details and register at the link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. 🌐

SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION

Tory Trujillo offers a monthly deep healing Sound Medicine Meditation, sometimes referred to as a sound bath. The first session of the program year is this Sunday, **September 22**, after worship in Hildebrand Hall. Tory will begin by centering the group with breath work and embodiment practices. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats, blankets, or pillows. Some mats and blankets will be available to borrow. Sessions last between 60 and 75 minutes.

Other fall sessions are scheduled for Sundays, 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. 🌐



Next session is Sunday, September 22.

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. Scholarships available; contact Mark Boyd, Mark@Pilgrim-Firs.org if you need financial assistance. 🌐

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED, JOE



Thank you and bless you, Joe Williams.

How I have cherished the opportunity to advance Plymouth’s mission and peripherally support many of its crucial ministries. It has also been an honor to promote cultural vitality and equitably bolster this region’s creative economy. However, my tenure in the Pacific Northwest has come to a conclusion and I have made the decision to resign from my role as Director of Music and Arts at Plymouth Church.

The spiritual labor I invested in liberating sound for this congregation has been incredibly worthwhile to me and the ancestors I brought with me each Sunday. Know that your receptive presence and active participation has been essential to our collective healing. Your continued openness to transformation ensures my legacy will not be erased.

Lastly, I am humbled by the genuine support and lovingkindness I experienced in this space. I extend deep appreciation to the honorable Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, the always resourceful “Rev. Kev.” Bechtold and others who attempted to carve a portion of space for my humanity. On the horizon are premieres of my new symphonic and operatic works, the release of my first album by PARMA Recordings and the publication of my scholarship by Oxford University Press. Wishing you all strong health and infinite possibilities.

—Joe Williams 🌍

BE THE CHURCH

Covenant giving includes your time and talents. There are many tasks that you can do. Training provided if needed. Below are a few 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 at 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 🌍



CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE

Hispanic Heritage Month commemorates and celebrates the vibrant cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. From September 15 to October 15, communities across the country come together to honor the traditions and legacies of Hispanic individuals.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate, honor, and showcase the diverse cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. By engaging in cultural events, education, cuisine, art, supporting businesses, and giving back to the community, we can truly embrace the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month in 2024. Don’t neglect to recognize the beauty of Hispanic heritage and continue to promote diversity and unity in our society. 🌍

LEARN TO HELP PREVENT SUICIDE

Suicidal thoughts can plague anyone regardless of age, gender, or social status. Commonly linked to depression, there is no foolproof indicator of suicidal tendencies. Many people suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts cover them up quite well.

In recent years, society has become more open and receptive to discussions and conversations on suicide. However, there is still a stigma surrounding it and, with suicide rates increasing, it still means that the right help is not reaching people on time and we have a long way to go. It’s one of the fastest-growing epidemics around the world — approximately 44,000 people in the U.S. alone commit suicide each year.

The National Council for Suicide Prevention is a coalition of seven national organizations working to prevent suicide. Every year on National Suicide Prevention Month in September, mental health advocates, survivors, friends and family, and mental health organizations across the country and around the world share their experiences and work towards eradicating this most tragic act. Learn more at TheActionAlliance.org.

If you or someone you know is in a mental health crisis, dial 988 for The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, or 911 if in immediate danger. 🌍



SPECIAL OFFERING OCTOBER 6

Our October 6 gifts will be divided evenly between **Neighbors in Need** and **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund**.

In 2024, the **Neighbors in Need** theme is “*Mental Health Justice For All!*” In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health. A just world for all is one where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund remains supported by half of the proceeds from this year’s Worldwide Communion special offering. These funds are dedicated to assisting members and friends facing financial challenges, enabling them to participate in opportunities provided by Plymouth UCC. Thank you for your support and generosity. 🌍



Help support mental health justice for all!

2025 CALENDARS FOR INMATES



A small gesture makes a big difference.

Each year we collect calendars for the coming year to bring to the Monroe Correctional Complex. The inmates really appreciate them. If you get free calendars in the mail, please donate them. Ask friends and family to donate theirs. There is a box at church to leave calendars through December. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones’ cubby in the mailroom (#1S). If you won’t be at church, call or email Christine Hanson (509-679-7430; HansonChristineann@gmail.com) to arrange a pick-up. Thanks for bringing joy to our incarcerated friends. 🌍

STUDY THE BIBLE WITH PLYMOUTH

Join friends Wednesdays at 9 am or Thursdays at 7 pm to discuss Scripture readings for the coming Sunday. The Zoom link in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org will be the same every week for both Wednesday morning and Thursday evening studies. The link requires the usual Plymouth passcode. Email Rev. Bechtold if you need the code. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown. 🌍



9 am Wednesdays and 7 pm Thursdays.

HELP AT PLYMOUTH ASYLUM CLINIC

Thank you so much all of the Plymouth folk who turned out to greet, copy, give directions, interview, interpret, comfort and play with children, and fill out forms at the September 7 Asylum Seeker Legal Clinic! It went so well that we are going to do it again!

In partnership with the Riverton Park United Methodist Church Asylum Legal Clinic organizers, Plymouth will host another all-day asylum legal clinic on Saturday, October 19 from 9 am to 6:30 pm. Asylum seekers will be assisted with completing their asylum applications.

Volunteers are needed to fill many roles including: welcoming and providing directions to the applicants and volunteers; interpreting (Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Lingala); completing legal forms (law students, paralegals, non-immigration attorneys, and community members); copying; serving as immigration attorneys; and providing child care. Some volunteer tasks will include transferring information to a fillable asylum application prior to the clinic. We also welcome donations of snacks and baked goods to keep everyone going throughout the day.

The Plymouth parking garage will be open for volunteers and applicants. Most volunteers will need to arrive before 9 am to complete a brief orientation and training, with materials and a video to review before the clinic opens. Client work will begin at 9:30 am. Most volunteers and their clients will be finished before 6 pm, but some will work together until the last minute. Pizza lunch provided!

If you are available on October 19 and willing to devote your day to helping an asylum seeker, please e-mail Janet Gwilym, J.Gwilym@hotmail.com, or contact Carol Mooney to let us know what role you are able to fill no later than **Friday, October 11**. We will send you further instructions. Thank you for making Plymouth a welcoming space for our immigrant neighbors. 🌍

FREED BETWEEN THE LINES!

Banned Books Week 2024 is September 22–28. The theme of this year’s event is “*Freed Between the Lines*.” We can find freedom in the pages of a book — but book bans and censorship threaten that freedom. During Banned Books Week 2024 and beyond, let’s share our love of the right to read and the freedom found in books. Let’s be *Freed Between the Lines*! 🌍



Volunteer at legal clinic October 19.

