

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, October 8, 2023

Worship In Person or Online

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Blessing of the Animals*

*Indigenous Peoples Sunday*

Matthew 25:31–46

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

9 am Plymouth Singers Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

*Let your hard-working and beloved Plymouth clergy know they are appreciated.*

### Health Notice

With COVID, RSV and flu cases spiking in King County, singers and performers at Plymouth will be required to wear masks. Plymouth maintains a “mask optional but encouraged” policy for all others in the building.

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please Note:** On Sunday, October 1, 2023, I shared that Monique Johnson was referred by Michelle Sarju to become Plymouth’s ASL interpreter. Our current Moderator, Tracy Simpson, in fact, made the referral. Thank you, Tracy, for your grace, and the congregation for keeping me accountable. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

**Plymouth UCC Welcomes** soprano Ibidunni Ojikutu as our Artist-in-Residence, October 8 to June 2, 2024. In addition to bimonthly appearances in worship, she will perform a full-length recital with New York City based pianist Dr. Nnenna Ogwo following the service on October 29.

**Join Plymouth Ukulele Club** What better way to cheer up the colder months than strumming a ukulele with new friends! Ukulele is a fantastic starter instrument, and even if you have no musical experience you’ll find yourself strumming along in no time. Ukulele Club meets online on Mondays at noon, with occasional in person gatherings. Email Sari at [SariBreznau@gmail.com](mailto:SariBreznau@gmail.com) for info. We even have instruments you can borrow to get started!

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](#)



1217 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

*Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Susan Carter (Mother of Heather Banks & Kathleen Bernard), Bruce Chittick & family (Friend of Karen Clark), Mike Correy (Friend of Karen Clark), Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), Mark & JT Edwards, JoAnn English (Relative of Lucian Guthrie), Diane Folkert (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), 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), 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), 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), Judy Young (Friend of Glenda Carper)*

*We grieve with Gary Robins and family on the passing of his mother, Charlotte Robins.*

*Our hearts are with Jerry Rice and family as they grieve the multiple losses of his father and 2 uncles.*

*We grieve with Heather Banks on the death of her beloved companion, Peppermint.*

# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



10:30 am Sunday, October 8.

All are welcome to bring your pets to the 10:30 am service on October 8 for the *Blessing of the Animals*. The Blessing will occur near the beginning of worship. After your pet’s blessing, you will be invited to recess out so you may place your pet in the car or other location as needed. If your pet might be too rambunctious,

bring a favorite photo. Please let the church office know if you will bring your pet. Email [Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

Our pets have an enormous impact on our well-being and the well-being of others in our communities. They are our beloved companions through life and in their selfless and unconditional love, we catch a glimpse of God’s love. Please join this special Sunday as we celebrate creation and all that lives within it. 🌍

## REVIVAL FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

*“Reclaiming the Welfare of the City: A Revival for Racial Reconciliation,”*

based on Jeremiah 29, includes vibrant music, powerful preaching, creative expression, and multi-racial community building.



The revival began October 3 at Mount Zion Baptist Church and continues **7 pm October 5**, at Plymouth UCC. Preaching this night is Rev. Steve Jerbi, Minister of Christian Formation, Love & Justice at University Congregation UCC in Seattle. The Chancel Choir from UCUC will offer music and the Black Girl Magic Ensemble returns as our praise band.

Closing night, **October 6**, moves to University Congregational UCC. Rev. Joe Kim, lead pastor at Bothell United Methodist Church, is our preacher this night. Musical selections will come from the Black Girl Magic Ensemble and the praise team at Kingdom Family Worship Center. Details in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). 🌍

## OBSERVE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY

Indigenous Peoples’ Day is celebrated the second Monday of October (Oct. 9 this year) in the United States, in lieu of Columbus Day. Indigenous Peoples’ Day aims to celebrate and honor the past, present, and futures of Native peoples throughout the US and acknowledges the legacy of colonialism, which has devastated Indigenous communities historically and continues to negatively impact them today. More importantly, Indigenous Peoples’ Day moves beyond the narrative of oppression and honors the histories, cultures, contributions, and resilience of contemporary Native peoples. Visit [DuwamishTribe.org](https://DuwamishTribe.org) to learn more. 🌍



## THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY

Since 2009, October has been recognized as Filipino American History Month in the United States.

Filipinos were the first documented Asian people to arrive in the United States. October 18, 1587, marked the first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental U.S., when “Luzones Indios” came ashore from the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Senora de Esperanza* and landed at what is now Morro Bay, California. Filipino Americans today are the second-largest Asian American ethnic group in the nation, after Chinese Americans.

This month is a time to recognize the many ways that Filipino Americans have created spaces and programs to better enhance our communities, maintaining long-lasting legacies for future generations. In acknowledging the many contributions of Filipino Americans across the nation, we are encouraged to reflect on the significant role Filipinos have played in American history.

Take time to explore the history, arts, and culture of our Filipino siblings. Learn more at [Fanhs-National.org](https://Fanhs-National.org). 🌍





## MAKING VISIBLE THE 5TH STRAND



Welcome Rev. Yvonne V. Delk Oct.15

Plymouth Church UCC welcomes the Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk Sunday, October 15. Plymouth and The Pacific Northwest Conference invites congregations to learn the often untold story about our Afro-Christian roots in the shaping of the UCC faith tradition. Please join us for this rare opportunity!

- **Sunday, Oct. 15, 10:30 am:** The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk preaching at Plymouth Church UCC, in-person and online.
- **After Worship at Plymouth:** Presentation by The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk, editor, *Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ* (Pilgrim Press, 2023), on the Convention's Franklinton Center at Bricks in nurturing racial equity and justice. In-person, interactive, hybrid event. Introduction by Rev. Joanne Braxton, PhD, President of the Braxton Institute for Sustainability, Resiliency and Joy.
- **Monday, Oct. 16:** Dialogue on *Resisting and Thriving*. Mother Delk leads a small group conversation about the significance of the Franklinton Center at Bricks as a fundamental UCC resource for the Conference. Facilitated by Dr. Braxton. For Conference leaders, congregants, friends of the Conference. TBA. Maximum 20 participants. To sign up: JBraxton@BraxtonInstitute.org.

The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk was the first Black woman ordained in the UCC, and the second woman to hold a national leadership role in our denomination. Mother Delk, as she is respectfully known, contributed to programs focused on ecumenism, racial justice, anti-poverty, and the full inclusion of marginalized persons in religious life. She continues to mentor women leaders and advocates for LGBTQ participation in church leadership. She chaired the Program to Combat Racism for the World Council of Churches. As chair of the National Planning Committee on Children in Poverty, and she presented its findings to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1988. In 2023, she edited and contributed to *The Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ* (Pilgrim Press), a groundbreaking history of a forgotten tradition within the UCC.

Mother Delk's ordination and work for the UCC has provided a pathway for the inclusion of other women in religious leadership. And her efforts to combat injustice at local, national, and global levels encouraged others to work toward building a more inclusive church. Delk received the UCC's Antoinette Brown Award in 1979 for "trailblazing leadership." She was awarded the YWCA Sojourner Truth Racial Justice Award in 1994. In 2020, the Virginia Council of Churches gave her a lifetime award in ecumenism. Preaching in the Afro-Christian tradition, many consider her to be one of the best preachers in the world.

## SHOW OUR YOUTH WE CARE

The Community and Care Board continues our Plymouth tradition of sending "We Care Packages" to graduated high school seniors. Please join us in sending love and uplifting messages by contributing cards, notes, and small items (snack items, tea or coffee, gift cards, school supplies, etc.). Bring contributions to the church by October 14. Your help in reaching out with love and support is greatly appreciated.

Our graduated seniors are Lucinda Guthrie and Max Maher.



Send gifts and messages of love.

## LICKS OF FIRE: HELP ELIMINATE MEDICAL DEBT



Help make this a year of jubilee!

Over a hundred million Americans struggle with the weight of medical debt. Your donation helps lift the burden. Through your gifts, RIP Medical Debt purchases bundled medical debt for pennies on the dollar and then eliminates that debt. 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!

Here's what happens when you join the cause:

- **You Make a Donation.** We use data analytics to pinpoint the debt of those most in need: households that earn less than 4x the federal poverty level (varies by state, family size) or whose debts are 5% or more of annual income.
- **We Buy Medical Debt at a Steep Discount.** We buy debt in bundles, millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. This means your donation relieves about 100x its value in medical debt.
- **Together We Wipe Out Medical Debt.** People across the country receive letters that their debt has been erased. They have no tax consequences or penalties to consider.

Contribute to Plymouth's campaign, "Licks of Fire" by using the link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

Visit [RIPMedicalDebt.org](https://RIPMedicalDebt.org) to learn more.

## TAKE THE SURVEY

Please help Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team by filling out a short online survey: [bit.ly/imt2023survey](https://bit.ly/imt2023survey).

Your responses are important to help us in our mission to seek justice for the most vulnerable among us. Thank you.

## KEY TO HOPE

Please join us for Key to Hope: Cultivating Compassion on Friday, October 13. Now in its 20th year, Key to Hope is a signature fundraising event for Plymouth Housing. This year's luncheon, featuring a keynote presentation by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, will explore ways we can harness the power of empathy in our response to homelessness. Dr. Burke Harris is an award-winning physician, researcher, and public health leader who has dedicated her career to serving vulnerable communities and addressing the root causes of health disparities.

Register (or donate online if not able to attend) at [PlymouthHousing.org](https://PlymouthHousing.org). We give thanks for your support.



## GOD SAYS NOW!



Special evening at Plymouth October 26.

At 7 pm Thursday, October 26, Plymouth welcomes Father Anne to discuss why ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church matters. At 8 pm there will be an element of action, followed by Mass at 8:30 pm.

Father Anne was ordained on October 16, 2021 in Albuquerque, NM through the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests and is now an independent Roman Catholic priest. Father Anne's mission is to see women welcomed into the Roman Catholic priesthood. Father Anne obeys the call of the Holy Spirit to collaborate with God on the project of equality within one of the most powerful institutions in the world. Learn more at [FatherAnne.com](https://FatherAnne.com).

## SIGN THE BOOK OF LIFE

Remember and honor friends and family who have passed by writing their names in the *Book of Life*. The book becomes part of worship on All Saints Sunday, November 5. Names of persons who have passed away in the last 12 months will be spoken in prayer during service that Sunday. Add names using the online form (link in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)) or sign the book in the Lounge. Please place an asterisk by names of those who have passed in the previous 12 months. Please send/sign names by Wednesday, November 1.



For all the saints who from their labors rest...

## CENTERING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: THE WORK CONTINUES

When Charles Lee began working on the intersection of racial and environmental justice back in the 1980s, there wasn't any kind of language to describe it. "These issues related to the confluence of race, poverty, environmental quality did not even have a name," he said.



Lee — principle author of the landmark 1987 United Church of Christ study *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States* — is now a senior policy advisor for environmental justice at the Environmental Protection Agency. He explained that, during that time, people questioned what race and class had to do with environmental concerns. Part of his work with the UCC was to educate people on clear examples of this justice intersection — for example, the relationship between historically redlined neighborhoods and adverse environmental impacts and health outcomes. But even so, the message wasn't well understood.

"When we sent the 1987 report to the EPA, the response we got ... was that EPA deals with issues of technology, not sociology," Lee said. Nearly 40 years later, much has changed. Recent legislation has earmarked "something like \$60 billion of resources for environmental justice," he said, with about \$3 billion going to the new EPA environmental justice program. "It was just a short time, maybe three or four years ago, where something like an EJ grant of \$25,000 was a really big deal," Lee said. Now, environmental justice grants totaling \$1 million or more are being awarded. For the EPA to center these principles is "a really big deal," he added. Certainly, the fight for environmental justice, especially where it intersects with race and class, is far from over. But the movement has come a long way. Read more at [UCC.org](https://UCC.org).

## UNDO INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

Undoing Institutionalized Racism workshops are designed to educate, challenge and empower people to "undo" racist structures that hinder effective social change. The training is based on the premise that racism has been systematically erected and that it can be "undone" if people understand where it comes from, how it functions and why it is perpetuated. Next workshop is **November 6-8**. Find full schedule and link to register at [PinwSeattle.org](https://PinwSeattle.org).

