

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, October 20, 2024

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

*Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*

Mark 4:21-25

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Picture Day &  
Coffee Hour, Lounge/Patio

11:45 am Sound Medicine Meditation, Hildebrand Hall

### October is Clergy Appreciation Month

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Explore Filipino American History** October is Filipino American Heritage Month. Former Plymouth Librarian Suzanne Sanderson shared a blog post titled, “Pinoys” in October of 2022. In it she details her own discovery of the rich contributions of Filipino culture in America and lists extensive resources available for you to explore in the Plymouth Library. Read the archived post at [plymouthchurchseattle.org/blog/pinoys](https://plymouthchurchseattle.org/blog/pinoys), and visit the Plymouth Library before and after worship on Sundays.

**Please Remember** to fill out your card to pledge your time, talent, and treasure and to express your desire to covenant with Plymouth. We are grateful for your commitment to Plymouth Church over the coming year and welcome you in covenanting with God, Plymouth Church, and one another.

**Order Free COVID Tests Now** Every US household is eligible to order 4 at-home tests completely free – you won’t even pay for shipping. Read more and order tests at [CovidTests.gov](https://CovidTests.gov).

**Study the Bible with Plymouth** Wednesdays at 9 am or Thursdays at 7 pm The Zoom link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) is the same every week for both Wednesday morning and Thursday evening studies.

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

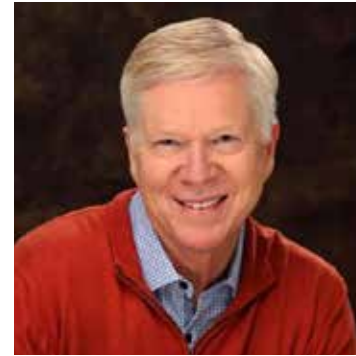
Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Christian and Kim Arvin (Son and Daughter-in-Law of Donene Blair), Conni Bentley (Sister-in-law of Al Bentley), Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), The Colwell Family, Elvis Gordon (Brother of Michael 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, Denny Palmason (Brother of Jon Palmason), Mari Mitchell & Alex Putnum, Jaime Rubio Sulficio

A service celebrating the life of Dr. Maxine Mimms will be held March 8, 2025, at the Evergreen State College Tacoma.

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



## EMBRACING OUR FUTURE



Dr. Mark Smutny

Please join me in welcoming to Plymouth Dr. Mark Smutny of Civic Reinventions, Inc. (CRI) as we pursue strategic planning for a thriving, diverse and inclusive Plymouth Church. Beginning this month, CRI will provide consulting support to Plymouth Church in the following areas:

**Congregation-Wide Historical Awareness:** Facilitating discussions to build an understanding of the church’s history and how it shapes current attitudes, behaviors, and practices.

**Facilitate a Strategic Planning Process** culminating in a written strategic plan owned by the congregation and utilized as an effective tool to guide and motivate the congregation in the next few years.

**Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training:** Conducting training to help the congregation embrace anti-racism principles and foster a more inclusive and equitable environment.

**Conflict Resolution Services:** Providing tools and strategies to resolve conflicts and promote a culture of respect within the congregation.

**Inclusive Meeting Practices:** Implementing best practices to ensure meetings are inclusive, respectful, and productive.

**Mission Focus:** Assisting in refining the church’s mission to strengthen its ministries and focus on core values.

**Future of the Physical Plant:** Facilitating discussions on the future of the church’s facilities to ensure alignment with its long-term vision and mission.

Over the past several years I’ve been involved in a variety of attempts to address the areas above. All have faced barriers like limited capacity from volunteers, turnover halting momentum from one year to another, or lay leadership not having the skillset for our goals and expectations. I believe support from a consultant can help tie these threads together. While Dr. Smutny has the skills, capacity, and experience that I think will make a great fit with Plymouth, CRI is simply a facilitator. Our engagement with, openness to, and faithfulness in this work will determine how effective it is. Please join me in engaging with this exciting process. —Matt Durland, Council Moderator

### Personal note from Dr. Mark Smutny:

“I am truly excited about the opportunity to work with the congregation of Plymouth Church Seattle. It is a privilege to be in partnership with such an important faith community, and I look forward to engaging in meaningful work together. Together we will embark on a journey of reflection and renewal, beginning with conversations about the church’s rich history and how it shapes who you are today. Together, we will develop a strategic plan that reflects the congregation’s shared mission, vision, and values, engage in anti-racism and inclusion training, and strengthen the tools needed to foster respect and resolve conflict. I am particularly eager to help refine your mission, ensuring it aligns with your core values, and guide discussions about the future of your physical space. It is an honor to support Plymouth Church in this transformative process, and I am looking forward to the journey ahead.”

## GET READY FOR PICTURE DAY

Plan to attend church in person on October 20 for picture day. Please dress in black (some black shirts will be available to borrow). We need a few volunteers to help: please contact Toni Arthur to lend a hand. If you can’t make it October 20, plan to be present for make-up day on November 3.

We will be grouping people in dynamic “family” pictures. These pictures will be used for a special project celebrating Plymouth. Your participation is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on camera October 20 or November 3.



Picture Day Oct. 20 (make-up day Nov. 3)

## SOUND MEDICINE MEDITATION



Join Tory after worship this Sunday.

Tory Trujillo offers a monthly deep healing Sound Medicine Meditation. The next session is **Sunday, October 20**, after worship in Hildebrand Hall. Sessions last between 60 and 75 minutes. *(Start time is subject to change, determined by the length of Sunday service.)* **Suggested Donation \$20.**



# A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN DAYS

*Poem by Joyce Rupp*  
*Read in worship by Rev. Donene Blair October 13, 2024*



A Prayer for Autumn Days, by Joyce Rupp

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process. God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them. God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful.

### Closing Prayer

God of love, you enter into our autumn seasons, into our deepest places of inner dwelling, into the heart of our transformation. You give us glimpses of truth. May we allow our experience of autumn to speak to us of necessary change and growth. May we accept the invitation to reflect upon our own death.

Grant us an openness to the continuous process of letting go and moving on that is part of the human condition. We are grateful that you are our faithful companion on this journey. Amen.

# ORBIT AND ORACLE

Hear The Esoterics in concert at 8 pm Saturday, October 19 at Plymouth UCC, performing *Orbit and Oracle: A Reimagining of Ancient Astronomical Legends*. German composer Michael Ostrzyga is hosted in Seattle by The Esoterics for a concert of astronomical proportion! Michael has composed a cappella choral works for each of the planets in our solar system — *Mercurius, Venus, Mars, Iuppiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptunus* — and arranged them into a cycle called *Planets and Gods*. These pieces explore the astronomical and mythological aspects of each planet and the god or goddess for which they are named, while exploring where science and belief intersect. The variety and innovation of Ostrzyga’s music is truly astounding.

More information and tickets at [TheEsoterics.org](https://TheEsoterics.org).



# GIMME SHELTER



Plymouth UCC sends quarterly support to Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) from the Steven Williams bequest, authorized by the Community Service & Social Action Board. DESC is hosting two exciting events at Seattle’s historic Oddfellows Building Friday, October 18,

and you are invited! Dance to the bold and brassy sounds of Billy Joe Huels and the Dusty 45’s while supporting our mission to end homelessness at our 16th annual concert fundraiser, *Gimme Shelter*.

Join a conversation beforehand about innovative and compassionate approaches to addressing homelessness at “Mission Possible: Adaptive Solutions to Homelessness,” 6–7:30 pm Friday, October 18, West Hall, Oddfellows Building (915 E Pine St, Seattle, WA 98122). Conversation is free, but please get tickets at [DESC.org](https://DESC.org).

Then enjoy our annual benefit concert featuring the Dusty 45’s, 6:30–10:30 pm Friday, October 18 at the Century Ballroom (915 E Pine St, Seattle, WA 98122). Tickets for the concert are \$45.

This concert features a dynamic performance by Billy Joe Huels and the Dusty 45’s. Your attendance will help us raise the essential funds DESC needs to provide comprehensive services, treatment, and housing to people experiencing long term homelessness and facing complex issues.

More info and tickets at [DESC.org](https://DESC.org).

# EXPLORE SELMA & BLOODY SUNDAY

Dive deep into complex history with an immersive educational trip to Selma, Alabama, led by Museum Without Walls, March 6–14, 2025.

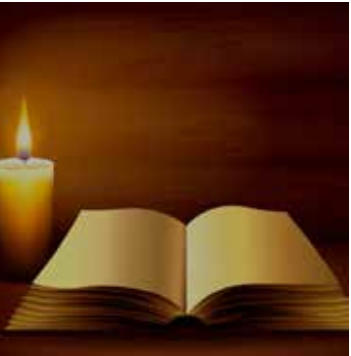
The Selma Jubilee honors the anniversary of Bloody Sunday, which occurred on March 7, 1965, when 525 African–American demonstrators crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, demanding their right to vote. They were violently confronted by more than 50 state troopers, horses, and possemen, who 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, helping to spur the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Limit 26 persons. Register by Nov. 15. Details and registration link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).



Learn about Bloody Sunday March 6-14, 2025.

# SIGN THE BOOK OF LIFE



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

Remember and honor those who have passed by writing their names in the *Book of Life*. The book becomes part of worship on All Saints Sunday, November 3. 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. Send/sign names by Wednesday, October 30.

# 2025 CALENDARS FOR INMATES

We continue to collect 2025 calendars to take to the Monroe Correctional Complex. Please drop them in the box at Plymouth. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones’ mailroom cubby (#1S). If you won’t be at church, call or email Christine Hanson (509–679–7430; [HansonChristineann@gmail.com](mailto:HansonChristineann@gmail.com)). Thank you!



Your kindness makes a world of difference

# SOULS TO THE POLLS

This June marked the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer, a Black voter registration drive in Mississippi that resisted extreme violence and voter suppression. The struggle that began more than 60 years ago continues today, with voting rights still under attack.

The U.S. House of Representatives advanced the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act which would require proof of citizenship status to register for federal elections. According to a study done by the Brennan Center for Justice, millions of American citizens don’t have the types of documents used to prove citizenship. States that passed voter ID laws are more likely to see significant racial turnout gaps on election day. These laws make it harder for voters of color and naturalized citizens to exercise their right to vote.



Read more at [UCC.org/Our-Faith-Our](https://UCC.org/Our-Faith-Our)

*“Democracy is the political enactment of a spiritual idea — we are all children of God and therefore we all deserve a voice in the direction of our country.”*

Democracy is the political enactment of a spiritual idea — we are all children of God and therefore we all deserve a voice in the direction of our country.

Democracy honors the sacred worth of all human beings by recognizing that we all have a spark of the divine that allows us to shape our own destiny. The right to vote is a sacred right and must be protected.

One of the best ways we can combat the concerted effort to keep certain people from exercising their right to vote is to make sure everyone you know is registered — help them register if they are not — and be sure they cast their ballots. You can also become a poll worker to ensure the fair and accurate counting of votes.

In the face of mounting voter suppression, during the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer, it is time to follow in the footsteps of those brave organizers and get people registered and ready for this year’s elections. —*Rev. Michael Neuroth, Director of the United Church of Christ Office of Public Policy and Advocacy (excerpted)*

### Washington State Registration Deadlines

Find information, forms, etc. at [SOS.wa.gov/elections](https://SOS.wa.gov/elections)

- By Mail: Form must be received by **October 28**.
- Online: Form must be submitted by 11:59 pm **October 28**
- In Person: Register at an election center from **October 18–November 5**.

Election day is **November 5**. Ballots must be postmarked by November 5, or placed in a drop-box no later than 8 pm on election day.