

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, November 19, 2023
Worship In the Sanctuary or Online

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:34-40

“Sacred Bonds”

Rev. Dr. Joanne Braxton

9 am Plymouth Singers Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

12 pm Talent Show & Lunch, Hildebrand Hall

The Plymouth Library is open before and after worship on Sundays.

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.

Stay current with Plymouth happenings on our website.

Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



1217 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

ENJOY LUNCH AND A SHOW



Enjoy lunch and a show after service Nov. 19

Have a good time with friends and take in the talent of our community at our all-church talent show after worship this Sunday, November 19, in Hildebrand Hall. Come enjoy some good food and fun and help show our appreciation for Sari's musical ministry with

us. Contact Sari to let her know you will attend so we can get a count for lunch: SariBreznau@gmail.com. 🌍

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Devotional Plymouth will purchase the national UCC Advent Devotional this year instead of creating our own. The national devotional is available in digital and paper editions. Look for information on how to obtain your preferred version in upcoming issues of the *Herald*.

Please Note There will be no paper/pdf edition of the *Herald* next week. Look for the electronic *Herald* on Wednesday, November 22, and the regular worship reminder email on Saturday, November 25.

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Michelle J. Bennett (Sister of Dawn Bennett), Walter Bethel (Friend of Karen Clark), Marilyn Bumpas, 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), Mykesha Davis (Daughter of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Mark & JT Edwards, 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), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Vance McDill, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Paula Orrego, 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)

The memorial for Don Mitchell will be Saturday, November 18, 1 pm at Horizon House Sky Lounge. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown will officiate. E-mail Rev. Kevin Bechtold for Zoom link and details.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 62
Number 10

November 15, 2023

STATEMENT FROM THE PASTORAL STAFF OF PLYMOUTH



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

The pastoral staff of Plymouth Church United Church of Christ is horrified and heartbroken by the violence we are witnessing in Israel and Palestine. The loss of life and bloodshed is an affront to our moral sensibilities and to the Divine Creator.

No matter the faith background or origin, we condemn the targeting and killing of all civilians through bombing and military campaigns, specifically the kidnappings and murder of Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, and the targeted violence towards those civilians living in Gaza. As a progressive Christian church intent on pursuing justice and peace, we call for the immediate end to all violence and bloodshed.

The Bible repeatedly admonishes us to care for our neighbors wherever they might be. We grieve with Jewish people, Muslim people, and people of any or no faith background who have lost loved ones and who continue to live in terror.

We recognize that there are efforts to diminish the suffering and position one group over another. God grieves any time there is a loss of life due to human systems which fail to recognize the divine love embodied in each person. Instead of choosing “sides”, let us recognize the fear and horror of all those impacted, and pray for the day in which every person lives free from fear, brutality and death.

As a community of faith, we beseech our elected officials of the United States to work with all stakeholders in the region to de-escalate the violence that has taken hold. We ask for an immediate ceasefire; the safe return of all hostages held captive by Hamas; an immediate cessation of acts of war; the restoration of basic necessities such as food, water, and electricity to the Gazan people, and the opening of humanitarian aid corridors.

We reject any characterization or effort to conflate the actions of Hamas with the Palestinian people, just as we reject any characterization or effort to conflate the actions of the

Israeli military or government with the people of Israel or Jewish people around the globe. We condemn antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, anti-Arab bigotry, or any form of oppression in all its guises that may result from these most recent acts of violence and war in Israel and Palestine.

May God's desire become our collective heart's song in the world: “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Sovereign God. Turn, then, and live.” (Ezekiel 18:32 NRSV)

In hope,

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Rev. Donene Blair

June Hayakawa-Fung 🌍

AN URGENT APPEAL



The war in Israel/Palestine declared on October 7, has claimed thousands of lives, and tens of thousands of people have been injured. Approximately one million Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced, still within Gaza, as there is nowhere to go. It is increasingly difficult for Gazan Palestinians to find safe space. Food, water, fuel,

and electricity have been cut off, and supplies are running out.

Convoys of trucks carrying humanitarian relief await the opportunity to bring much-needed relief into Gaza from Egypt, but border crossing between Egypt and Gaza has been damaged by rocket strikes. The UCC is learning from Palestinian Christian partners how they are attempting to respond to the needs of the people of Gaza, even amid steady bombardments.

Please advocate for a cease-fire, access for humanitarian assistance, and for the core issues to be addressed. At the same time, we invite your financial support to undergird the work of our partners with whom we have had a long-standing relationship. Your gifts will make a difference during these days of lamentation and suffering. To make a donation online and learn the latest updates, go to Support.UCC.org/MiddleEast. You can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note “Middle East Support” in your check's memo section. We give thanks for your prayerful giving. 🌍

WELCOME REV. DR. JOANNE BRAXTON NOVEMBER 19



Rev. Dr. Joanne Braxton

This Sunday, November 19, Plymouth welcomes Rev. Dr. Joanne Braxton to preach at our 10:30 am worship service. Dr. Braxton is the CEO and president of the board of the Braxton Institute, a nonprofit organization that heals cycles of violence through research, education, and community-based public health interventions. Her early work on Black women’s literature and particularly the outraged mother in the slave narrative genre constitute a foundational contribution to Womanist Thought.

Dr. Braxton is a member of All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C. and The Great Awakening United Church of Christ in Portsmouth, Virginia and has served as a pastoral and spiritual caregiver in clinical, congregational and movement settings. Please welcome Dr. Braxton to Plymouth this Sunday, November 19.

WORLD CHILDREN’S DAY

World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day and is celebrated on November 20 each year to promote international togetherness, awareness of issues among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare. World Children’s Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.



November 20 is World Children’s Day.

Parents, teachers, healthcare providers, government leaders, civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate moguls and media professionals, as well as children themselves, can play an important part in making World Children’s Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations. World Children’s Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children’s rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children. From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future. This World Children’s Day, it’s more important than ever that the world listens to their ideas and demands as they stand up for a more equal, inclusive world. Take action at Unicef.org.

WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 10



After worship Dec. 10, in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, December 10 at 12:30pm, Plymouth Church invites Oregon Koto-Kai to offer a unique winter concert with narration. Come learn the heartwarming story of “Tebukuro wo kai ni” 手袋を買いに (Buying Mittens) by Nankichi Nimi (1913-1943) accompanied by traditional Japanese koto music. The second half of the concert features familiar holiday selections innovatively arranged for koto ensemble. Suggested donation is \$20 per adult and \$2 per child. Don’t miss this very special performance.

SHARE THE JOY

The Community and Care Board continues a long tradition of delivering cheerful Christmas flowers to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. We will make deliveries to Horizon House and other senior living facilities, and to some individuals on Sunday, December 17. If you can safely deliver flowers, please email June Hayakawa-Fung.



Help spread Christmas cheer.

You can support this ministry by making a donation in the name of loved ones. Names of donors and those honored will be listed in the *Herald*. Please email names of those to be honored to Robert Turner, RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online on our “Giving” page. Thank you for helping to spread Christmas cheer though this Plymouth tradition.

2024 CALENDARS FOR INMATES



A small gesture makes a big difference.

Each year we collect calendars for the coming new year to bring to the Monroe Correctional Complex. If you receive free calendars in the mail, please donate them. Ask your neighbors to see if they might wish to donate theirs. Drop them off at church on Sundays in the box in the Lounge. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones’ cubby in the mailroom (#1S). If you can’t make it to church, we’ll try to collect them. Call or email Christine Hanson (509-679-7430). Thank you for this simple act which brings so much joy to our incarcerated friends!

988: HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS



You are not alone: reach out for help.

The holiday season is a time of year where many are vulnerable to additional stress, anxieties, feeling overwhelmed, loneliness and feelings of sadness. We may turn to coping mechanisms that are harmful to us and others. Some are triggered this time of year as they navigate personal histories of trauma and unresolved grief. This time of year can be especially challenging for those impacted by mental illness. Sometimes, because of the stigma and shame associated with mental health challenges, people are hesitant to share when they are struggling or having a hard time. It is important to be present with loved ones, to listen attentively and let them know you care.

If you or someone you know is struggling, dial **988** to connect with trained mental health professionals. **988** is an easy-to-remember number to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis resources. The Lifeline is available for everyone. Get help for yourself, or be the vital difference for a loved one.

CARE TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU

Your Plymouth Care Team is committed to responding to all care concerns that come our way. Please use the Plymouth Care Line phone number to get in touch with the Care Team should anything arise: **206-639-7739**. Messages are checked at least once a day. The Plymouth Care Line is for non-emergency issues. For acute crises, call 988 or text “Home” to the Crisis Care Line at 741741. Members of the Care Team are:



Let us know what we can do for you.

- **Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown** (KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)
- **Rev. Kevin Bechtold** (KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).
- **Rev. Donene Blair** (DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)
- **Faith Community Nurse June Hayakawa-Fung** (JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)

TAKE THE SURVEY

Plymouth Church Council has created a survey to gauge interest in various social action efforts. Fill out the paper survey today, or online at <https://bit.ly/2023councilsurvey>. More info and direct link to the survey in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://www.plymouthchurchseattle.org).

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

For generations, the transgender population has suffered various forms of abuse (and even death) for challenging the views, notions, and stereotypes around “male” and “female” identity. Every year we set aside November 20 as a Transgender Day of Remembrance. This holiday is meant to honor, commemorate, and memorialize those who face discrimination and stigma (often on a daily basis) across the nation. This holiday is also meant to advocate for transgender people’s rights as well as focus on the persistent struggles they face in their everyday lives, and how others can share their love, support, and hope.



Gather at University UCC 6:30 pm Monday, November 20.

Transgender Day of Remembrance encourages us to stop and reflect on the transgender community — specifically the abuse many of them face as they attempt to lead their everyday lives. It’s also meant to help spark transgender advocacy, support, and change across the U.S. This day offers the opportunity for others to better understand the stigma, discrimination and barriers that many transgender people face. This understanding can lead to deeper empathy, and can remind us that we are all more alike than we are different. It is an invitation for communities to come together and unify against the powers of hate and fear.

All are invited to come together in solidarity and hope to lift up the lives we have lost to hate and violence **6:30 pm Monday, November 20, at University Congregational UCC, 4515 16th Ave NE, Seattle.**

Join the cause of equality for the transgender community: visit TransEquality.org to get involved.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who contributed to creating comfort bags for visitors in need. The Community and Care Board anticipates a continuing comfort bag ministry. Keep watching the *Herald* and website for upcoming opportunities to participate in this ministry of compassion and care. (Photos courtesy of Rev. Donene Blair)

