

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

Worship In Person or Live Online

10:30 am Sunday, December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:1-16

“On Being Known”

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

11:30 am Coffee Hour,

Celebrating Suzanne Sanderson and Wanda Griffiths

SNOW ALERT!

Staff will monitor weather conditions and will decide by 6:30 am on Sunday whether the church building will be open. We will leave an announcement on the church voice mail (206.622.4865) and homepage of the church website. Messages will also be sent out via social media.

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.

BEHOLD THE STAR






Behold the Star is the third concert in the New American Composers series of Seattle Pro Musica, featuring the works of composer Shruthi Rajasekar. This concert also explores holiday themes, with some classic choral

pieces such as *Gaudete* and *Here is the Little Door*.

- **Saturday, December 10, 3 pm or 7:30 pm:** In person at Bastyr University Chapel, Seattle; pre-concert conversations at 2:30 pm and 7 pm.
- **Saturday, December 17, 3 pm:** In person at Seattle First Baptist Church, Seattle, and streaming live online for free (donations accepted); pre-concert conversation at 2:30 pm.

Tickets and more information at SeattleProMusica.org.

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

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Supported by Plymouth), Toni and Tiffany Arthur, **Emily Blaine-Davis**, Sue Ellen Daniel (Friend of Barb Laski), John Daniels, **Lauren Davis**, Darline Jones (Aunt of Karen Clark), Mark and JT Edwards, **Mamadou Diakhate (Friend of Floyd Gossett)**, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), **Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence)**, Jim Halfaker, Megan French (niece of Sue Jones) & David Dixon & Family, **Lucian Guthrie**, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Nancy Parker, Jose Robles and Family, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

Our hearts are with the family of Nancy Carver on the one-year anniversary of her passing.

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



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PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

December 7, 2022

SINCE I BEEN DOWN: FILM AND DISCUSSION DECEMBER 10




Join us 2 pm at Plymouth December 10 for a film screening of *Since I Been Down*, followed by panel discussion at 4:30 pm. This award-winning film tackles the issues of incarcerated youth, creating community, and defining justice within an unjust system. Panelists include the filmmaker, Gilda


Sheppard, Ginny Parham (*founder of Families Shoulder to Shoulder*), Kimonti Carter (*former president of the Black Prisoners Caucus, freed after 25 years of incarceration*), and Willie Nobles (*longtime member of the Black Prisoners Caucus, freed after 25 years of incarceration*).

This event will be hybrid in-person and virtual to engage with members of our communities near and far.

- **In person:** film will be shown at 2 pm, followed by a break (coffee, tea, snacks will be provided); panel discussion will start at 4:30 pm.
- **Virtual:** ticket holders will be provided with a secure link to watch the film on their own time prior to the event. They will be given a link to participate in the livestream of the panel discussion at 4:30 pm.

This fundraiser will benefit the Washington Poor People's Campaign and Families Shoulder to Shoulder. All tickets are "pay as you're able." Links to tickets in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. 

HEALING BOTH SIDES OF HARM

Restorative justice is a philosophy, a set of practices and a social movement. Join Collective Justice and Multifaith Coalition for Restorative Justice for a virtual panel discussion on restorative justice principles, 7-8:30 pm Sunday, December 11. Register and learn more at: bit.ly/HealingBothSidesOfHarm. 



Online panel discussion December 11

CELEBRATE SUZANNE AND WANDA

Join us after worship on Sunday December 11 during coffee hour time for a time of recognition and celebration of the contributions of Suzanne Sanderson and Wanda Griffiths to the life and faith of Plymouth. Suzanne has been the Church Librarian for 16 years, supporting the active ministry of the written word led by the Library Committee, and curating books for the congregation to check out and use in discussion groups and book clubs as well as individual reading.




Suzanne Sanderson




Dr. Wanda Griffiths

Wanda has been the Music Director and Organist for 11 years, leading vocal groups and bell choir in rehearsals and Sunday worship, preparing and playing the organ for Sunday worship, working collaboratively with church leadership, ministering to congregants through music, and organizing concerts and other music events held at Plymouth.

The church will have individual "mail boxes" out in the narthex on Dec 4, Dec 11, and Dec 18 for your cards and notes to Suzanne, Wanda and also to former minister Jennifer Castle if you missed her farewell celebration. These boxes are to collect both personal messages and any financial contribution you may wish to make to each person. Contact Ruth Williamson at 206.313.5931 (voice or text) for other giving options. 

DIAL 988 FOR HELP

The holidays can be a joy-filled season, but they can also be stressful and especially challenging for those impacted by mental illness. 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 by offering support and understanding. 

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER



Discussions continue over the next month

Gosh, Plymouth, do we ever know how to show up for important occasions in the life of our church! It was wonderful to see Hildebrand Hall so full and vibrant this past Sunday and it was equally wonderful knowing that we had a robust contingent faithfully participating online.

I am beyond grateful to everyone who carved out the time to be present and I want to extend a thank you too, to those of you who were not able to attend but who were present in spirit. If you were not able to attend the presentation or you were present but want to see it again, you can request a link to the recording from Diane Jacobsen (DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). You can also reach out to Diane for a link if you would like to have a copy of the slides that were shared.

As you can no doubt imagine, many, many people made this initial gathering to hear the Exploratory Development Committee’s (EDC’s) recommendation possible, from our stalwart EDC chairs (Grace Lounsbury and Larry Fung), to the EDC members, to your faithful Council, to our incredible Clergy team [one of whom did double or triple duty as the solo tech person!], to the ever-willing and helpful office staff, to the capable and caring building crew, to those who thoughtfully procured the sandwiches and snacks, to those who set our said snacks and cleaned up afterwards, and to all of you who showed up for our community. Thank you everyone!

It was really an incredible “Village People” sort of effort and most everyone involved is going to be hitting repeat in the near future as we prepare for:

- **The All Church Retreat** on Saturday December 17, 9 am–noon; in Hildebrand Hall and online.
- **The Four Congregational Discussion Opportunities**, : 12/19; 12/21; 12/28; & 1/4 all at 7 pm online only.
- **The Congregational Vote** on the EDC’s recommendation, 1/8/23 after Worship; in Hildebrand Hall and online.

Find links for all meetings in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Links will also be sent in email reminders prior to meetings. All require the usual Plymouth passcode. Contact Diane if you need the code or links.

To submit questions about the EDC’s recommendation and its implications for Plymouth, please send an email to Development_Questions@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. All questions submitted before 12/17/22 will be addressed at the Retreat while those submitted after that date will be addressed before the Congregational vote on 1/8/23. Please be advised that we will not be answering individual questions about the EDC’s recommendation either via email or verbally as we are mindful of the need to keep everyone on the same page as much as possible. Questions about the discernment process, however, will be addressed in as close to real time as we can manage.

Although the road ahead is still unfolding and no one knows what our faith community will decide about the future of our building and property, we met a key milestone on Sunday as together we all took the baton from the EDC and started out on the next leg of the journey. If we heed the loving advice our wise sibling, Mari Putnam, gave us and we speak what is on our hearts and we meet one another with grace through this whole process, I am confident that we will come through stronger and better no matter what decision we make together.

Peace and love to all, *Tracy Simpson, Plymouth UCC Moderator* ✨

PACK FOOD BOXES DECEMBER 17

Create Christmas boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in food deserts in the greater Seattle area. We need volunteers to pack boxes at Plymouth, Noon–2 pm Saturday, December 17. Please contact June Hayakawa-Fung (JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) if you can help.

We welcome your financial contribution by check or giving online: click “Give” on the Plymouth homepage, and choose “Christmas Food Boxes” from the fund menu. Boxes will also be available for those in the Plymouth community. If you would benefit from a box, please email June. Thank you for supporting this ministry led by the Community and Care Board. ✨

CALENDARS STILL WANTED



A small act of giving that brings great joy.

Inmates at Monroe Correction Complex appreciate calendars for the coming year. Leave calendars in the box at Plymouth. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones’ cubby in the mailroom (#1S). If you can’t make it to Plymouth, contact Christine Hanson (HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com, 509.679.7430) to arrange a pick up. ✨



Pack boxes or make a donation — your help is appreciated!

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING



All gifts received Sunday, December 18, will be divided evenly between **The UCC Christmas Fund** and **Plymouth UCC Food Boxes**.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired UCC clergy and lay employees for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Many continue to bear the coat of decreased income from the still-ongoing pandemic. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.

Plymouth UCC Food Boxes provide fresh produce and poultry for those living in food deserts in the greater Seattle area. You can also help pack boxes at Plymouth, Noon–2 pm Saturday, December 17. Please contact June Hayakawa-Fung (JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

Thank you for your generous and faithful support. ✨

SHARE THE SPIRIT

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 18. If you can safely deliver flowers, please contact 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, or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online and list names on the form (link to form in news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Please make donations by **December 19**. Thank you for continuing this tradition. ✨

PUT FAITH IN ACTION

Companions learn to develop compassionate awareness for those struggling with mental illness, insecure housing or chemical dependency. Live out your faith and put social justice in action. Contact June Hayakawa-Fung to be a part of this vital ministry of Plymouth: JHayakawaFung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨

DECEMBER IS UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

For some cultures, December marks the season for holidays. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Milad un Nabi are just a few of the celebrations that American citizens will commemorate this month – not to mention the closing of the calendar year.



But December is also observed for another, lesser known reason: it is the Universal Month for Human Rights.

It’s important to understand how the Month for Human Rights started. It began in 1948, when the United Nations wrote up a document called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This happened after the Second World War, because the U.N. wanted to prevent the atrocities that had occurred. They created the document as a way to properly define what human rights would be protected universally.

The very first article of this declaration makes it clear what the purpose is. It states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

The rest of the document lists out what these rights are. It emphasizes how important it is to work towards protecting freedom for all in order to keep peace.

Read more at Ohchr.org. ✨

CHORAL ARTS WINTERTIDE CONCERT

7:30 pm Saturday, December 17, at Plymouth UCC

In the blue nights of winter, Choral Arts Northwest presents music capturing the magic of this season, warming spirits with music that invokes imagery of night and light, feelings of joy and peace. Enjoy a rich variety of cultural traditions, marking solstice, the Festival of Lights, and Las Posadas, with music from Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela.



7:30 pm December 17 at Plymouth

This concert features Reena Esmail’s new work, *The Winter Breviary*, which traces a journey through the solstice and combines new texts by Rebecca Gayle Howell with Hindustani raags for the night and morning light hours. Music by Northwest composers Emily Lau, Andrew Jacobson, and Katerina Gimon capture a spirit of wonder

Tickets are pay-as-you can, \$25 suggested donation, available online and at the door: ChoralArtsNW.org. ✨