

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

**10:30 am Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**Worship In the Sanctuary or Online**

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
Acts 16:16-24; Luke 1:46-56

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

**11:30 am** Fiscal Committee  
Budget Information Meeting and Conversation

### JOIN THE DISCUSSION

After worship Sunday, December 17, please join a presentation by the Fiscal Committee about a preliminary proposal for Plymouth's 2024 budget. This is an informal, informative meeting and conversation with no votes involved. Your presence and input are requested. Those not in church this Sunday can join online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85223467196>. Use the usual Plymouth passcode — if you need the code, contact Rev. Kevin Bechtold: [KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

*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](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

## BE AWARE!



During the holidays, with shopping, charitable giving and other distractions, it's good to remember best practices for internet security. As we have shared before, *no one* from the Plymouth Church UCC staff will ever send requests for financial or other personal assistance.

Fraudsters use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine sophisticated technology with age-old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. They add new twists to old schemes and pressure people to make important decisions on the spot.

Losing money or property to scams and fraud can be devastating. If you receive a text, call or email that seems suspicious, don't respond to it.

See the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for good tips on how to handle suspicious emails, current scams making the rounds, and resources to help you stay ahead of scammers. Stay alert, and stay secure. 🌐



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), 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), RL (Friend of Karen Clark), Beta Utu Malae (Sister of Robert Malae), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Ian Nelson (Son of Diane Nelson), Paula Orrego, Jose Robles and Family, Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Philomena Worme

Our hearts are with Jeanette and Ken Hagen on the one-year anniversary of the loss of their brother-in-law Mark Wilkins.



# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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## A CREATIVE, FAITHFUL RESPONSE



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Over the course of the pandemic, the building where Plymouth Church meets stood as a witness for who we are. Though we were meeting virtually as the church, our banners and building represented our choice to remain a vital presence and progressive, faithful voice in Seattle.

Like other buildings in downtown Seattle, there was an impact to our church facility over the course of the pandemic. One example is that both of our signs facing 6th Avenue were vandalized. The glass was broken, and for many months, the fragments seemed to tell the story that the boards were symbolic of Plymouth. For sure, the shards of glass that remained at the edges were dangerous for any passers-by that may have placed a hand there. However, the empty places left by the damage invited a creative and faithful response.

Certainly, we could have replaced the glass, and continued to do so each time it is broken. However, I was inspired when a woman experiencing homelessness came into the building and asked how Plymouth church helps when someone asks for food or other resources. Our encounter and the spirit prompted the pastoral team to offer tangible love and solidarity.

Today, the former signs are small pantries for the community. Several times a week, the pantries are filled with food, hand warmers and other items, and as the days become darker faster and colder, the pantries provide an outward display of compassion and solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and under-resourced. In addition to the small bags of resources several of you put together, we now have an outreach tool which offers touches of love from all of us to our neighbors.

Each of you are invited to support this ministry! We are a people of justice, ones who believe that the world can transform through our choice to follow the spirit through radical inclusion and acts of faith. When you pass the pantries, feel free to add bottled water, protein bars, or even notes that remind the reader that they are beloved. —Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown 🌐

## HELP PACK FOOD BOXES DEC. 22

Help create boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in food deserts in the Seattle area. We need people to pack boxes at Plymouth, **Noon-2 pm Friday, December 22**. Please contact June Hayakawa-Fung ([JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:JHayakawafung@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)) if you can help.



Pack boxes or make a donation.

You can contribute financially by mailing a check or contributing online: on our “Giving” page, choose “Christmas Food Boxes” from the fund menu. Food boxes will be available for those in the Plymouth community as well. If you or someone you know would benefit from a food box, please email June. Thank you for supporting this ministry of Plymouth, led by the Community and Care Board. 🌐

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT PLYMOUTH



Services at 10:30 am & 5:30 pm

Christmas will be here soon! Join Plymouth in celebration Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, in the Sanctuary and live online at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. Services feature beloved congregational carols, stirring anthems, moving Scripture and contemporary readings, and sharing of the light. Invite friends and family! 🌐

## SHINE WARM A LITTLE LONGER

Come to Plymouth 7:30 pm Saturday, December 16 to hear Choral Arts Northwest perform Morten Lauridsen's *Mid-Winter Songs*, evoking hope and possibility for renewal with a cyclic setting of Robert Graves' poetry. Additional repertoire includes a variety of solstice and winter-themed settings to warm long winter nights with celebration and community. Visit [ChoralArtsNW.org](https://ChoralArtsNW.org) for tickets. 🌐



Concert at Plymouth 7:30 pm December 16



## THE GIFT OF CLIMATE HOPE



United Church of Christ donors gave more than \$60,000 for climate justice to mark Giving Tuesday this year. That \$60K will translate into grants for churches and other UCC institutions to have youth and young adult summer fellows, as well as support a lead organizer for the Climate Hope campaign and the program for the special

Earth Day event, according to the Rev. Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice.

“Ultimately, the gifts build the leadership capacity of the United Church of Christ in working for justice,” Berndt said. “We place particular emphasis on supporting our youth and young adult leaders. The younger generation has been the leading force in driving change as we face the climate crisis, and we have the unique opportunity to support their leadership within an intergenerational context. With this next generation of leaders, I see the future I want for our denomination and our world.”

The 2024 Earth Day Summit next spring will include a keynote from author and activist Bill McKibben, a panel of grassroots leaders, presentation of the Dollie Burwell Prophetic Action Award, a reveal of the next Climate Hope Art Contest winner and recognition of environmental ministries at UCC churches.

To commemorate the focus of this year’s Giving Tuesday, the UCC hosted a Creation Justice webinar discussion, “You Can’t Stop Justice,” featuring UCC minister and environmental justice pioneer Rev. Benjamin Chavis and Tennessee activist and state Rep. Justin J. Pearson, one of the “Tennessee Three” expelled by the state’s House earlier this year. The two leaders spoke about their experiences giving public witness to justice movements, highlighting why donations can help support those movements.

Read more and help support the cause at [UCC.org](https://ucc.org).

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

“Glow,” the 2023 UCC Advent Devotional produced by the Stillspeaking Writers Group and contributors, guides us through the days of Advent and Christmastide to the celebration of Epiphany.

Plymouth has purchased a number of pdf editions available for download and print editions. Contact Diane Jacobsen ([DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)) to obtain your link to the pdf edition or to request a print version.



## A WORD ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

We count on your year-end contributions to sustain our ministries. Please remember all 2023 contributions must be postmarked by December 30, 2023 or delivered to the church (via offering plate or online) by Dec. 31. Below are listed several options for how to give. Email [DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for assistance with any of these giving options. Your gifts sustain vital ministries to our community and the world around us — thank you!



*You are Plymouth Church UCC.*

- **Online Giving through Simple Church** Click on the MAKE A GIFT box at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Choose to deduct directly from your bank account or credit/debit card to make a one-time offering, or schedule recurring offerings. Be sure to donate on or before December 31.
- **Text to Give** Simply text to 206-208-1442 and enter a dollar amount. You will receive prompts to complete the transaction. Once set up, you will be able to text offerings with one step.
- **Cash App** Download the Cash App mobile app and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Questions? [DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)
- **CHECK BY MAIL** Mail your offerings to the church: Plymouth Church, UCC / 1217 6th Ave / Seattle WA 98101

## ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE

CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) is dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations such as Plymouth UCC raise funds through its vehicle donation program. CARS has returned more than \$450 million to their nonprofit partners.

CarEasy.org is just what it says — easy. They handle everything from beginning to end of the donation process, including marketing, free pick-up, selling, mailing a thank you letter with tax information to the donor and most importantly, mailing Plymouth a check!

If you would like to donate your used vehicle (includes car, motorcycle, boat, plane or RV), avoid the hassle of a private sale and benefit Plymouth UCC in the process, go to [CarEasy.org](https://CarEasy.org), or call CARS at 1.855.500.RIDE and they will do the rest.



*It's quick and easy! Visit [CarEasy.org](https://CarEasy.org)*

## 988: HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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.



*You are not alone: reach out for help.*

It is a stressful time for pastors, too, who are only human and also experience depression, anxiety and feelings of despair. Congregations can be mindful by offering grace and respect for boundaries around days off and vacation time for pastors.

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, call **988** to connect with trained mental health professionals. 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



*Let us know what we can do 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 mental health crisis, call 988. Members of the Plymouth Care Team are:

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

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Gifts received Sunday December 24 will benefit The Christmas Fund and Plymouth UCC Immigration Fund. Please give as generously as you are able. We give thanks for your faithful support. Read more in last week’s *Herald* or in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

## SEEKING RACIAL EQUITY IN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Understand racism as a public health crisis, and how to shape practices to advance equity in this free online training: 1-4 pm Monday, December 18. Highly recommended for anyone who works in community service fields including social services, health services, education, etc. Limited spots, registration required: go to [tinyurl.com/together206](https://tinyurl.com/together206). Training will be on Zoom and delivered in English. Closed captioning enabled.



*Free online training 1-4 pm Dec. 18*

\$25 gift card given to all who complete the training! Questions? Contact [seedsofsuccess206@gmail.com](mailto:seedsofsuccess206@gmail.com).

## 2024 CALENDARS STILL WANTED



*A small gesture makes a big difference.*

We continue to collect calendars for the coming new year to bring to the Monroe Correctional Complex. If you receive free calendars in the mail you won’t use, would you please donate them? Ask your neighbors to see if they might wish to donate theirs.

There is a box at church to drop off calendars on Sundays until the end of this month. If you live at Horizon House, please put them in Sue Jones’ cubby hole in the mailroom (#1S). If you are unable to make it to church, call or email Christine Hanson (509-679-7430) to arrange pick up. Thank you for this simple act which brings so much joy to our incarcerated friends!

## CARING AT CHRISTMAS

The Community and Care Board continues a tradition of delivering cheerful Christmas flowers to Plymouth folks who are isolated or have suffered a loss. We will make deliveries 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](mailto:RTurner@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org), or include a note with your check to the church. You can also donate online on our “Giving” page. Thank you.