

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

**Worship In Person or Live Online**

**10:30 am Sunday, December 18, 2022**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

11:30 am Coffee Hour

### 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.



## HEARING THE WORD



In 2017, a group from Plymouth UCC set off on a mission trip to visit significant places in the still-ongoing Civil Rights Movement, led by Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown and Deacon Indigo Brown, with Gary Robins, Anna Colwell and Katie Stultz. One stop was Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, once led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and at the time of their visit led by Rev. Raphael Warnock, recently re-elected as US Senator from Georgia. Suzanne Lacey, the trip's facilitator, commented on this photo:

*"You know how you know a church sermon is exceptional? Your group of teenagers wants to go hear it again at the next service. It was worth it. As an extra treat we were honored to meet Martin Luther King's sister, Christine King Farris. At 89, she is the last surviving member of her family."*




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, 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, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Nancy Parker, Jose Robles and Family, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)

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

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!   



# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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## JOIN ONGOING DISCUSSIONS: RETREAT AT PLYMOUTH DEC. 17



Join in person or online this Saturday, 9 am -noon.

The Plymouth Church Council encourages all to participate in continuing conversations of the recommendation of the Exploratory Development Committee. Please join the following events as we discern the way forward together:

- **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](https://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](mailto: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. ✨

## CHRISTMAS WITH PLYMOUTH

Christmas will be here soon! Join Plymouth in celebration on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

- Christmas Eve Services at 6 & 9 pm, in person and live online. Service features beloved congregational carols, stirring anthems, moving Scripture and contemporary readings and sharing of the light. Invite friends and family!
- Christmas Day Service at 10:30 am, online only. ✨

## 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](mailto: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. ✨



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

## SHARE THE SPIRIT



Help spread Christmas cheer.

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.

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](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)). Please make donations by **December 19**. Thank you for continuing this tradition. ✨



## GIVE A WARM WELCOME



Hats and gloves needed!

Help contribute to the welcoming and warming of 24 Central American refugees this Christmas season. If you are a knitter and have a warm hat, gloves or scarves in your knitting fingers, please add them to the box at the entry to the Sanctuary until Christmas as gifts to our ‘families’ on New Year’s Day.

If you are not a knitter, but would like to add any of these to your shopping list, feel free to contribute those to the collection box as well. We need an equal number of child-sized hats and adult hats.

If we end up with more hats than heads, the Immigration Ministry Team will happily find other heads to warm. Thank you for your warm hearts! Contact Vicki Schoettle with questions.

## 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. 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 faithful and generous support. ✨

## A WORD ON YEAR-END GIVING

We count on your year-end contributions to sustain our ministry! Here are several options for how to give. **By mail:** all 2022 contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2022. **Website:** click on the “Give” tab before December 31. **Cash App:** \$PlymouthUCCSeattle and **Text-to-give:** 206.208.1442 by December 31, 2022. Email 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! ✨

## REGISTER NOW FOR MEN’S RETREAT

Registration is now open — find link to register in the news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. We’ll meet at Pilgrim Firs February 3–5 for the Conference Men’s Retreat. The topic is “Gratitude and Practices to Enhance Gratefulness.” There will be music, singing, a wisdom circle and an optional silent retreat Thursday evening (February 2) to begin the weekend. This retreat welcomes all who identify as male.

We all have our own levels of risk tolerance. Vaccines have reduced but have not eliminated the chance of illness or on-going symptoms. Please don’t attend if you are uncomfortable with the risk. Unfortunately, Pilgrim Firs has poor Wi-Fi connectivity so we are not able to offer a remote video option.

Of course, our retreat must comply with state, local and conference center guidelines. We’ll provide more details as we get closer to the date. We hope for safe travels and look forward to a fun and meaningful retreat. In the meantime, enjoy the upcoming holidays!

—Charlie Torres, Don Jenkins, Hans Dankers, Jim Gaudino, Larry Kiriluk, Paul Withington and Rick Russell ✨

## CHORAL ARTS WINTERTIDE CONCERT

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



7:30 pm December 17 at Plymouth

In the blue nights of winter, Choral Arts Northwest presents music capturing the magic of the season, warming spirits with music invoking 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.

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.

Masks and vaccinations are encouraged but not required.

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



Retreat February 3-5 at Pilgrim Firs.

## 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 people 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 especially present with loved ones, to listen attentively and let them know you care.

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.

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. ✨

## 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 and the Care Team makes every attempt to follow up as soon as we are able. Please call and leave a message if there is something you need help with, or feel we should be aware of. 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:

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



You are not alone: reach out for help.

## HUMAN RIGHTS, CLOSE TO HOME

December is Universal Human Rights Month. On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations announced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us.

Eleanor Roosevelt was heavily involved in championing civil rights and social activism. She was appointed chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights which drafted the UDHR. On the tenth anniversary of the UDHR, Eleanor gave a speech at the United Nations called ‘Where Do Human Rights Begin?’ Part of her speech has become famous for capturing the reason why human rights are for every one of us, in all parts of our daily lives:

**“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”**

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home — so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood they live in; the school or college they attend; the factory, farm, or office where they work. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

Read more at UN.org. ✨

## 2023 CALENDARS FOR INMATES



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. Thank you for bringing cheer to our incarcerated friends.

—Christine Hanson and Mike Pierson ✨