

## SUNDAYS AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, December 22, 2024

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Luke 1:46-56

Rev. Kevin Bechtold

9 am Choir Rehearsal, Hildebrand Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

10:30 am Sunday, December 29, 2024

**ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY!**

**Church building will be closed.**

*First Sunday after Christmas*

1 Kings 8:12-13, 27-30, 41-43;

Psalm 68:15-17, 19-20, 24-27, 31-35;

Revelation 22:10, 22-27; Luke 2:41-51

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

10:30 am Sunday, January 5, 2025

Worship in the Sanctuary or Online

*Epiphany Sunday*

Isaiah 60:1-6, 11; Psalm 67;

2 Timothy 1:5-10; Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown



PO Box 21368  
Seattle, Washington 98111

Return Service Requested

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please Note:** This is last print issue of the *Herald* this year. Look for electronic issues of the *Herald* on Monday, December 23 and Thursday, January 2. Stay up to date with all Plymouth news at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

**Volunteers Wanted** to staff a children and youth table in the lounge during the service. We are looking to provide a space geared towards the youngest in our midst with activities during the worship service. We will seek to open this space sometime in the new year. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, please e-mail Rev. Kevin Bechtold, [KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBechtold@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Given in memory of Katherine Parker, *from* Blair Parker.

Given in memory of our parents, John & Jean Haigh, and Alvin & Dorothy Hagen, *from* Jeanette & Ken Hagen

**Additional Contributions:**

Lauren Davis

Judy and Al Bentley



*Donations needed for the Christmas Flower Ministry to continue.*

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Afghan Family (Siblings of Plymouth), Toni Arthur, Ahmed Black (Nephew of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), Wendy Carpenter (Friend of Jocelyn Coit-Durland), Diane Folkert (Mother and Mother-in-Law of Alex & Ara Lawrence), Louis Ford (Friend of Karen Clark), 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), William Chapman Nyaho, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Gevan Woodke (Friend of Karen Clark), Shaniece (Friend of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with Karen Gwilym and family on the passing of her sister, Ruth Oberg.

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

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.



perussion), and Michael Glynn (acoustic bass). Their *Blue Christmas* Concert will feature holiday favorites and other soulful selections that reflect the season's spirit of giving, gratefulness, and reflection. Invite friends for a special evening of music at Plymouth.

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT PLYMOUTH

Join Plymouth in celebration Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, in the Sanctuary and live online at 6:30 pm (special music in Lounge begins at 6 pm). Service features carols and anthems, Scripture and contemporary readings, and sharing of the light. Park in Plymouth garage. If Plymouth is full, use 1200 5th garage (formerly IBM) next door and bring your ticket for a validation sticker. Invite friends!



Service at 6:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 24

## ORDER PLYMOUTH CALENDARS NOW



Each calendar is \$25, and will make great gifts.

Purchase Plymouth calendars featuring families of choice. \$25 each. They make great Christmas gifts! Pre-order your calendar today using the link on the home page of our website: [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Thank you for your support of Plymouth.

—Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown



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# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

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## BLUE CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 21

Come to Plymouth at 4 pm on the longest night, Saturday, December 21, for a concert to benefit families in partnership with our Immigration Ministry. You'll be tapping your toes when you hear this lively trio with its big, warm sound — featuring Nelda Swiggett (piano/vocals), Clif Swiggett (trombone/

## SPACE STILL OPEN FOR SELMA TRIP

March 6-14, 2025, Museum Without Walls is organizing a trip to Selma and Montgomery—two cities that are at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement. This journey will take us to the very places where so much of the fight for equality unfolded, and where lives were changed forever. And we're honored to be partnering with Plymouth Congregational Church / Congregational Church on Mercer Island on this powerful trip. \$500 deposit required when registering. Link to register in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). **Register with deposit by December 30.**



Register by December 30 for the March 6-14 trip.

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, which helped spur the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

If you've been looking for a way to deepen your commitment to social justice, to reflect on our history, and to be part of something bigger than ourselves, please join us on this unforgettable journey as we honor those courageous foot soldiers and explore significant Civil Rights landmarks.

The cost of the trip is \$2,885, which covers airfare, some meals, and entrance fees. To reserve your spot, all we need is a deposit by December 30. The trip is limited but we still have some spaces open, so please, don't wait to sign up. Link to register in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). **Register with deposit by December 30.**

Contact Suzanne Lacey with questions: [admin@museumwithoutwalls.org](mailto:admin@museumwithoutwalls.org). Read more about Museum Without Walls at [museumwithoutwalls.org](http://museumwithoutwalls.org).



# CHURCH COUNCIL REORGANIZING AND RESTRUCTURING



Layesy update from Church Council.

- 1. Improve efficiency and decision-making
- 2. Enhance communication and accountability
- 3. Empower leaders and volunteers
- 4. Align resources with the church’s mission and vision

As part of the Council Reorganizing and Restructuring under a Board governed/Staff-lead leadership model, we wish to share three notable updates:

- (1) Council has sunsetted the Library Committee. The Library is closed and no longer operating. Please return any checked out books to the church front desk. Council is exploring future developments and use of the space to grow the ministries at Plymouth.
- (2) The Community Service and Social Action Board is combined with a reconstituted Investment Committee and will be responsible for oversight of the endowment investments and oversee the process for community grants. Previously the Finance Committee merged with the Investment Committee and became the Fiscal Committee; a reconstituted Finance Committee will provide oversight and support of Plymouth’s finances, but no longer oversee investments.
- (3) The creation of a Justice Equity Ministry which will, in part, connect members in covenant with justice work in our church, city and beyond.
- (4) The Developer Selection Committee, formed two years ago as a short-term committee of those interested in committing to the effort, will be sunsetted since its work is done. Senior Pastor and lay leaders will continue to be in conversation with the development community regarding the potential future for Plymouth’s property, as appropriate.

Stay tuned for further news on reorganizing and restructuring.  
—Church Council

# A WORD ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

As we near the end of 2024, Plymouth UCC invites you to consider a year-end donation to help sustain vital ministries. Your generosity enables our vital work in the community and beyond to continue. Here are ways you can donate:



We give thanks for your faithful support.

- **By mail:** All contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2024. Remember to use our new mailing address — PO Box 21368 Seattle, WA 98111.
- **Website:** Visit our website [www.plymouthchurchseattle.org](http://www.plymouthchurchseattle.org) and click the “Give” tab before December 31, 2024.
- **Cash App:** Download the Cash App and follow the instructions to set up giving directly from your bank account. Our Cash App ID is \$PlymouthUCCSeattle. Send donations by December 31, 2024

For assistance with giving options, or to discuss stock donations, please email Diane Jacobsen ([DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org)). Your support truly does make a difference — thank you for sustaining our shared mission.

# CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING



All gifts received Sunday, December 22, will be divided evenly between **The UCC Christmas Fund** and **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund**. **The Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over

100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

**Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund** remains supported by half of the proceeds from this year’s Christmas Special Offering. These funds are dedicated to assisting members and friends facing financial challenges, enabling them to participate in opportunities provided by Plymouth UCC.

Thank you for your generous and faithful support

# HELP PROVIDE COMFORT

The Community and Care Board requests your help to provide items for comfort bags to be distributed to visitors in need. Please bring gloves, socks, tissues, hand sanitizer, hand warmers, granola bars and other shelf-stable foods that don’t require a can opener. Items can be left in the bin by the Welcome Table in the Lounge on Sundays. Keep reading the *Herald* and website for dates to help assemble the bags. Thank you for helping us reach out in care and compassion to the most vulnerable in our community.



Bring contributions on Sundays.

# STEP UP TO SERVE



Deepen your commitment to Plymouth.

Would you like to become more actively involved in the work of Plymouth Church? The Nominating Committee wants to hear from you. We will be nominating members for 2025 Church Council, Community Service and Social Action Board, Community & Care Board, and Financel Committee. These are the people who form the lay leadership of the church and provide service

to the church community and the community beyond.

Introduce yourself to Michael Gordon, Judy Bentley, Carol Mooney, or Jamie Shilling if you would like to know more about these positions.

# BORN TO BE WILD

Registration is now open for the 2025 Conference Men’s Retreat. We’ll meet at Pilgrim Firs the weekend of January 31 – February 2, 2025. (optional one-day silent retreat begins Thursday evening, January 30). Reverend Bill Comfort will lead this year’s “wild” retreat. Link to register in news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

Bill will guide us in an interactive exploration of how wildness influences who we are, or can be, as men. All believers, seekers and doubters who identify as male are welcome.



Men’s Retreat at Pilgrim Firs Jan. 31-Feb. 2

# SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

During the week of Kwanzaa (December 26-January 1), families and communities come together to share a feast, honor ancestors, affirm social bonds, and celebrate African and African American culture. Each day a candle is lit to highlight the principle of that day and breathe meaning into the principles with various activities, such as reciting the sayings or writings of great Black thinkers and writers, reciting poetry, African drumming, and sharing a meal of African diaspora-inspired foods. The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa:



- **Umoja (Unity)** To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)** To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
- **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)** To build and maintain our community together and make our community’s problems our problems and solve them together.
- **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)** To build and maintain our own businesses and to profit from them together.
- **Nia (Purpose)** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- **Kuumba (Creativity)** To do always as much as we can to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- **Imani (Faith)** To believe with all our hearts in our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

# 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: **206-639-7739**. Messages checked daily. The Care Line is for non-emergency issues. For acute crises, call 988. Members of the Care Team are:



Let us know what we can do for you.

- **Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown** ([KBrown@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:KBrown@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))