

## CHRISTMAS AT PLYMOUTH

6 & 9 pm, Saturday December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

Lessons and Carols  
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

### CHRISTMAS EVE SNOW ALERT!

Staff will monitor weather conditions and will decide by **10 am on Saturday** as to whether the church building will be open for Christmas Eve services. 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.

10:30 am Sunday, December 25, 2022

ONLINE ONLY

Christmas Day  
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

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.

### CALENDARS STILL NEEDED!



*A small act of giving that brings great joy.*

Visitations have started up again for Monroe Correction Complex inmates and we are excited to reconnect with our friends there. The inmates really appreciate a calendar for the coming year and last year we collected over 1000! As you receive free calendars in the mail, please donate them if you can't use. Ask your neighbors to see if they might wish to donate theirs.

There will be a box in the Plymouth Lounge to leave calendars on Sundays. We will collect into December. 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 Plymouth, we will do our best to collect them. Call or email Christine Hanson 509-679-7430, to arrange a pick up. Thank you in advance for this simple act which brings so much joy to our incarcerated friends.

—Christine Hanson and Mike Pierson ✨



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, Mark and JT Edwards, Susan Emerson (Mother of Kate Forrester), Diane Folkert & Family (Mother-in-law of Ara Lawrence), Megan French (niece of Sue Jones) & David Dixon & Family, Mamadou Diakhate, Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Montecino Family, Nancy Parker, Jose Robles and Family, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael Gordon)



We grieve with Karen Clark and family on the passing of her Aunt Darline Jones.

Our hearts are with Jeanette and Ken Hagen on the passing of their brother-in-law Mark Wilkins.

**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

Volume 61  
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December 21, 2022

### CHRISTMAS WITH PLYMOUTH



*Christmas Eve 6 & 9 pm in person & online;  
Christmas Day 10:30 am online only*

Celebrate with Plymouth on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Invite friends and family! **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.

**Christmas Day Service at 10:30 am, online only.**

*Please Note: Staff will monitor weather conditions and will decide by 10 am on Saturday as to whether the church building will be open for Christmas Eve services. We will leave an announcement on the church voice mail (206.622.4865) and homepage of the church website. ✨*

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

**Flowers given in memory, or in honor of...**

John and Jean Haigh (Jeanette's parents),  
Alvin and Dorothy Hagen (Ken's parents)  
*from Jeanette and Ken Hagen*

Robert Hanson, Carol White,  
Ernest Colglazier, Alberta Colglazier,  
*from Bertha Hanson*

Don Frothingham, Juno Griswold, Janet Perry,  
*from Darlene and Kerry Krenzke*

John Blaine, Lillian and Wallace Davis, Sr.  
*from Lauren Davis*

Jun and Alice Hayakawa, George and Helen Fung  
*from June Hayakawa-Fung*

Larry A. Jones, *from Sue Jones*

Geraldine Rood, *from Kathy Rood*

Jim Mohundro, *from Anne Mohundro*

James Edward Kaiton, *from Ann and Jon Palmason*

Sieg Kiemle, *from Anne Kiemle and Kael Sherrard*

**Additional Contributions from...**

Adele Reynolds

Karen Gwilym

### GIVE A WARM WELCOME

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.



*Thank you for much-needed hats and gloves.*

If you are not a knitter, but would like to add any of these to your shopping list, feel free to contribute store-bought items 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. ✨

### YOU MAKE PLYMOUTH POSSIBLE



*Thank you for your faithful giving.*

Greetings to all in this tender season—I'm writing here with a reminder about thinking and acting on your covenant with Plymouth, as Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown invited us to do by submitting covenant cards. We are grateful for the generosity of those who have already turned them in or notified the church of their covenant commitment for 2023.

If you haven't yet done so, you can support Plymouth's ministries by letting us know what your giving plans are for 2023. We are now in a time of special discernment, listening together for where we are called to go as a congregation. Whatever the details turn out to be, what is not changing is that we, this church, are committed to make our faith visible in the world. There is no expectation of what amount is pledged. Everyone has a different circumstance and we are grateful for any financial commitment you are able to make.

Email your covenant commitment amount to Info@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org, with your full name and contact information, or put your covenant card in the offering basket on Christmas Eve, or mail it for arrival by January 3.

—Ruth Williamson, Treasurer, Plymouth Church UCC ✨



## RETREAT SHOUT-OUT & REPORT



Thank you for your continued participation

Once again, Plymouth, we showed up for ourselves and for our future! This past Saturday morning, 60 Plymouth congregants and clergy gathered in Hildebrand and online for a 3-hour retreat to discuss the Exploratory Development Committee's (EDC) recommendation that Plymouth redevelop our property. It was a packed morning with an ambitious agenda.

Fortunately, those of us in the room were sustained by yummy gluten-laden and gluten-free options (thank you June!) as well as coffee and tea (thank you Rogie!). And, through some skilled technical wizardry (thank you Rev. Kevin and Doug!), those online were able to see people in the room and people in the room were able to see folks online. Incredible!

If you weren't able to join us, you are welcome to view the retreat recording by requesting a link from Diane Jacobsen (DJacobsen@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Either way, here are some of the highlights:

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown opened us with prayer and then Matt Durland walked us through a version of our Covenant for Healthy Relationships tailored to the retreat context:

*As individuals and as Plymouth, we strive to... start with gratitude and respect for one another / speak and listen respectfully / listen compassionately for understanding / show up physically, mentally, and spiritually / engage and encourage others to engage; speak up and make space for others to contribute / reach beyond our own interests and be curious about and open to other points of view / relinquish a culture of criticism / accept imperfection / affirm and nurture our relationships for the long term.*

I followed these inspiring offerings with an arguably drier but still very important report on Council's decisions regarding the January 8 vote on the EDC's recommendation, as follows:

- "The Council invites people to vote who are currently in covenant with Plymouth Church through their participation and support."
- We will use the traditional show of hands to cast our votes
- The vote will be decided via a simple majority of those present (greater than 50%), assuming we meet quorum. According to our bylaws, quorum is 10% of the congregation, so we need at least 40 people present to hold the vote given our current membership of 400.

Various folks then took turns addressing the 17(!) questions that were submitted through the Development\_Questions@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org email portal (which is still open for submissions). We will fold the questions received and responses

to them into an updated version of the EDC's FAQ that will be available by January 6, 2023.

At this point, we broke into 8 small groups and discussed the following questions:

- What about redeveloping excites you? What concerns you?
- What about keeping and renovating the present facility excites you? What concerns you?
- How can we individually and collectively foreground spirit/fairth/divinity in our hearts, our processes and community as we discern our way forward relative to this decision?

During the report out session when we heard from each of the groups, it was clear that we are a community that is able to have thoughtful, balanced conversations. It was also clear that most (though not all) of the people present are excited about the prospect of redeveloping our property and that most are

***"I am grateful to be part of a community that knows how to show up, that is able to dream, and crucially, that is willing to be honest and ask itself the hard questions."***

able to move our social justice mission to a new level, there was thoughtful consideration about how we can achieve healthy processes for decision-making and for maintaining a sense of community and cohesion throughout the long timeline that redevelopment would necessarily take should the Congregation vote in favor of the EDC's recommendation.

Personally, I came away from the morning feeling really, really good about Plymouth. I am grateful to be part of a community that knows how to show up, that is able to dream, and crucially, that is willing to be honest and ask itself the hard questions. My sense is that whatever the Congregation decides on January 8, we will discover ways to capitalize on the synergy among these ingredients ~ our ability to show up and to dream honestly ~ and I am confident that together we will figure out a faithful, creative path forward.

If you would like to discuss your excitement and/or your concern about the prospect of redeveloping the Plymouth property before the January 8 vote, there will be more opportunities:

- **Wednesday 12/28/22 @ 7pm** via Zoom with Melony Joyce & Matt Durland
- **Wednesday, 1/4/22 @ 7pm** via Zoom with Alex Korahais & Matt Durland

Please contact Diane Jacobsen for link and passcode.

In closing, hope that this Christmas time brings you and yours great joy as well as a sense of renewal and possibility.

Love and peace, *Tracy Simpson, Council Moderator* ✨

## THANK YOU!



Thanks to all who helped create Christmas boxes of fresh produce and poultry for those living in food deserts in the greater Seattle area. Your help with this ministry is so greatly appreciated. You can still make a financial contribution by check or giving online: click "Give" on the Plymouth homepage, and choose "Christmas Food Boxes" from the fund menu. ✨

## 988: HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS



You are not alone: dial 988 for help.

The holiday season is a time of year when many are vulnerable to stress, anxieties, feeling overwhelmed, loneliness and feelings of sadness. This time of year can be 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. ✨

## 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! ✨

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

December is Universal Human Rights Month. The belief that everyone, by virtue of her or his humanity, is entitled to certain human rights is fairly new. Its roots, however, lie in earlier tradition and documents of many cultures; it took the catalyst of World War II to propel human rights onto the global stage and into the global conscience.

The extermination by Nazi Germany of over six million Jews, Sinti and Romani, homosexuals, and persons with disabilities horrified the world. Trials were held and officials from the defeated countries were punished for committing what was newly codified as "crimes against humanity." Governments then committed themselves to establishing the United Nations, with the primary goal of bolstering international peace and preventing conflict.

Member states of the United Nations pledged to promote respect for the human rights of all. On December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the 56 members of the United Nations. The vote was unanimous, although eight nations chose to abstain.

The UDHR extended the revolution in international law ushered in by the United Nations Charter — namely, that how a government treats its own citizens is now a matter of legitimate international concern, and not simply a domestic issue. It claims that all rights are interdependent and indivisible. The influence of the UDHR has been substantial. Its principles have been incorporated into the constitutions of most of the more than 185 nations now in the UN.

Read more at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨

## 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. Read more at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. ✨



Retreat February 3-5 at Pilgrim Firs.