

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am Sunday, December 31, 2023

Worship In the Sanctuary or Online

*First Sunday After Christmas*

Luke 2:25–38

“A Sign Provoking Contention”

Rev. Stephen G. Guantai

11:30 am Coffee Hour, Lounge

**Reminder:** All 2023 contributions must be postmarked by Saturday, December 30, 2023 or delivered to the church (via offering plate or online) by Sunday, December 31. We give thanks for your gifts that sustain vital ministries to our community and the world.

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://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.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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

Don Frothingham, *from* Ann Frothingham



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), Sally Galliher (Cousin of Doug Stultz), Marni Good (Friend of Ricky Powell), Floyd Gossett, Carrie Gossett (Mother of Floyd Gossett), Lucian Guthrie, Joanna Lemly and Family (Sister of Hayden McManus), James McDowell (Cousin of Jerry Rice), Barbara Miller (Friend of Barb Laski), Shirley K. Shelley (Aunt of Ricky Powell), Dr. Maxine Mimms, Ian Nelson (Son of Diane Nelson), Paula Orrego, Mary Margaret Pruitt, Jose Robles and Family, Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Charon Washington (Sister of Michael & Elizabeth Gordon), **Irene Wall (Friend of Ruth Williamson)**

We are with Mike & Britt Stanley on the one-year anniversary of the passing of Mike's father, Bill Stanley.

Our hearts are with Gary Magnuson and family on the one-year anniversary of the passing of his mother, Mary Magnuson.

We grieve with Jerry Rice and family on the passing of his cousin-in-law Duane Whittle McDowell

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! [f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

# PLYMOUTH CHURCH HERALD

Volume 62  
Number 16

December 27, 2023

## WELCOME, REV. STEPHEN GUANTAI



Rev. Stephen G. Guantai

This Sunday, December 31, we welcome Rev. Stephen G. Guantai to preach at our 10:30 am service. Rev. Guantai was born and raised in Meru, Kenya, East Africa. After attending Methodist Training Limuru Theological College in Limuru, Kenya (BDiv), he studied for his MDiv at Seattle School of Theology and Ministry.

Stephen served with the Methodist Church in Kenya for seven years as circuit minister. He preached in his native language of Kimeru as well as Swahili and English and several other tribal languages. He came to the United States in 2000 and did a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy Program in Kennewick, Washington prior to attending one year of Clinical Pastoral Education at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. Currently, Rev. Guantai serves as associate pastor at Good Shepherd Baptist Church.

Please welcome Rev. Guantai to Plymouth this Sunday. 🌍

## ENGENDERING SPIRIT

Dr. Sherry Warren, UCC Minister for Women's and Gender Justice, looked around and saw a need for more discussion around faith and gender: gender roles, reproductive justice and women's role in the church. So she went to work putting together an educational video series addressing these issues.

Warren, who is part of the Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministries Team, has launched "Engendering Spirit." Anyone can join in and view the series for free by registering using the link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Once registered you'll be notified when a new episode drops.

"Congregants can access this series alone or in groups," said Warren. "I'm giving people an opportunity to learn about these contemporary concepts — as well as the timeless issues around these topics — and discuss them or just think about them on their own." Read more at [UCC.org](https://UCC.org). 🌍



## CELEBRATE DR. KING'S MISSION

There has been over 400 years of oppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; which includes human trafficking, enslavement, genocide, torture, disenfranchisement, segregation, imprisonment, dispossession of land, and so much more, and yet none of this has ever broken the spirit of our Peoples to achieve justice and equity.



Rally and March January 15

2024 marks forty-one years that the residents of Seattle and King County have and continue to honor the legacy and the mission of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a rally, march, internships, workshops, youth led programming and job fair. The first forty years were but the beginning. Seattle's annual MLK celebration aims to inspire this and future generations to live up to Dr. King's dream of achieving the Beloved Community.

Come together on the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, to honor the past and the countless champions who came before, stood alongside, and have continued after King was taken from us — fighting for both our present and our future because "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Learn more about events and register at [SeattleMLKCoalition.org](https://SeattleMLKCoalition.org).

- **Youth Event 2-4 pm January 14:** This event offers a platform for young leaders to exhibit their talents, connect with community leaders, and engage in meaningful discussions. Join us on January 14, 2024, at 2 pm at the McKinney Center for a cultivating experience with the community.
- **Workshops, January 9-15:** Workshops offered in-person and online. Come prepared to be engaged!
- **Rally and March, January 15:** Gather at Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave, Seattle 98122). Indoor Rally at 11 am, March at 12:30 pm. The march route will be shared publicly 1 week in advance due to concerns for safety and security. Questions? Contact [MLKseattle@gmail.com](mailto:MLKseattle@gmail.com). 🌍



# STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANTS



Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) urges you to join Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day, an opportunity for communities across Washington State to convene in Olympia and engage in advocacy by being present, visible, and vocal at the State

Capitol. Attendees will hear from leaders, participate in a march and rally at the Capitol Building and speak directly to our Representatives and Senators regarding our initiatives and their significance.

Join us in Olympia, Wednesday February 7, 2024. Link to register in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or at [WAISN.org](https://WAISN.org). Please be sure to submit your registration before January 12, 2024.

We will advocate for rights, protections, benefits, justice & pro-immigrant policies to support all Washington residents, regardless of immigration status. Our focus is on two campaigns: Health Equity for Immigrants, which will provide equal access to healthcare for all low-income Washingtonians, regardless of their immigration status; and Unemployment Insurance for Undocumented Workers, which will create a permanent, separate unemployment system that provides benefits to undocumented workers.

We encourage participation from immigrants, refugees, undocumented youth, and allies with voting power, to come and share their stories.

- **Location:** Olympia Ballroom [116 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501]. Please note, this venue does not provide parking. Attendees who choose to drive will need to locate street parking and pay for parking upon arrival and through departure.
- **Transportation:** WAISN will provide bus transportation from **Eastside:** Tri Cities, Yakima, Ellensburg; **Westside:** Seattle. Please indicate on the registration form if you will need transportation and select a pick up location. The WAISN team will reach out to further coordinate your transportation needs.

WAISN will also provide a prayer room and a lactation room. If you would like further information please indicate in the comment section of the registration form.

Submitting the registration form is the first step to stand by our undocumented communities in demanding access to safety net programs. Thank you for showing up. 🌍

# SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

During the week of Kwanzaa, 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 original 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 to solve them together.
- **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)** To build and maintain our own stores, shops and 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. 🌍

# HELP TO HEAL



At Plymouth Healing Communities, we seek to build a trustworthy, stable, and empowering community for people threatened with mental health crises and co-occurring conditions, who are living with housing instability or homelessness. We believe healing happens when everyone

is shown the care, love, and respect they deserve. Our goal is to create ever widening circles of care for our residents and the companions who journey alongside them. You can make a difference in the lives of people living with mental illness, poverty, and housing instability. Visit [Plyhc.org](https://Plyhc.org) to learn how to share your time and talent and support the programs and operations of Plymouth Healing Communities. 🌍

# SPIRIT OF THE SALMON PEOPLE

“Spirit of the Salmon People: The Muckleshoot Story” is a documentary produced by KOMO News in partnership with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, telling their story of survival and perseverance and what they are doing now to ensure their culture stands the test of time. The documentary explores the tribe’s unique connection to their relatives of the sea and what they are doing to keep the salmon population thriving for everyone. Use the link in the news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](https://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) to watch, or go to the KOMO News YouTube channel. 🌍



Watch the documentary online.

# PUT FAITH IN ACTION



Faith Action Network’s Interfaith Advocacy Day, 9 am–3 pm February 8 in Olympia, brings the voices of compassion and justice to our elected leaders. Meeting with your legislators and their staff on this day is putting your faith into action.

Visit [FanWa.org](https://FanWa.org) to register. Registration deadline is January 29. We are limited to 200 participants due to regulations at The United Churches of Olympia. We encourage you to sign up early so that we can guarantee you a spot. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, there is no cost to participate. You are welcome to donate anytime to keep our advocacy moving forward in 2024.

After you register, you will receive more information via e-mail as February 8 approaches, including details on the agenda, workshop topics, and times of your legislative appointments. We’re excited to have you be FAN in the halls of power on this great day! 🌍

# JOIN 154<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend Plymouth’s 154th Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024. The Annual Report will be reviewed, and your vote is needed to install new lay leadership and approve the 2024 budget for our church family. Celebrate 2023 and look ahead to 2024. This meeting will take place in person and live online. 🌍



After worship January 28.

# HOPE FOR JUSTICE: STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING



**HOPE FOR JUSTICE**  
Change lives. End slavery.

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, as decreed by presidential proclamation. It is a key time for us all as individuals to educate ourselves about human trafficking and crucially to learn to spot the signs of trafficking. It is also a time for us take these messages to our workplaces, our churches, our schools, our representatives and everywhere else.

At Hope for Justice, we investigate cases of human trafficking and work closely with law enforcement to rescue victims and ensure evidence is gathered against perpetrators to see them brought to justice. Our team of investigators is drawn from some of the most respected and prestigious law enforcement agencies in the country, such as the FBI and NCIS.

If you commit to do just one thing during National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, you can learn how to spot the signs of trafficking. Hope for Justice can help: we have extensive information on our website,

“There are more people trapped in modern slavery today than at any other point in history.”

[HopeForJustice.org](https://HopeForJustice.org), as well as downloadable resources like posters and flyers. You can learn to spot the signs of the most common

kinds of human trafficking, such as trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficked for the purposes of forced labor. Some of the signs and indicators of human trafficking might surprise you and there are some myths and falsehoods that exist. To get more information or report a concern, contact Hope for Justice by phone at 615.356.0946 or email [Info.Us@HopeForJustice.org](mailto:Info.Us@HopeForJustice.org)

There are more people trapped in modern slavery today than at any other point in history. This month, we are asking you to support our Empower, Prevent and Protect campaign. Because National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month is a time for us to educate ourselves and our friends, family and colleagues to ensure that more people are aware of the issues around human trafficking.

Because awareness is key for prevention, we have created a library of social media resources for your use during this month of awareness. Visit [HopeForJustice.org](https://HopeForJustice.org) to access these resources. We need people to be aware of the facts and the signs and to feel confident to report their concerns to groups like Hope for Justice. 🌍