

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, July 26, 2020**

Lectionary text for Sunday, July 26: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jennifer Castle, preaching

“Seeds and Weeds”

### No formal online coffee hour in July

#### Virtual Worship Only!

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

The church building will be closed for all activities until further notice.

Check [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for updates.

**All pastoral care will be via telephone or e-mail.**

If you have personal concerns, you may contact a minister or member of the Pastoral Care Team by calling the pastoral voice mail, 206.622.4865 \*833, checked daily.

Staff e-mail addresses are listed under the “About” tab at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Click on “Ministers and Staff.”

*Whether you are a seeker, skeptic, believer or somewhere in between on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in worship and service of Plymouth Church UCC.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Staying Connected** Sunday coffee hour and weekday online gatherings are on hiatus in the month of July. This is a chance to practice sabbath, for rest and renewal. You are encouraged to continue to connect on your own through phone or social media and be a source of encouragement and companionship. You may also want to subscribe to the UCC Daily Devotional. Sign up at [UCC.org/Daily\\_Devotional](http://UCC.org/Daily_Devotional)

**Anti-racism Resources** A list of resources has been compiled, intended to serve white people and parents to deepen anti-racism work. If you haven't engaged in anti-racism work in the past, start now. View list at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org).

**Now is the Time to Serve** Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps, a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates rewarding opportunities for service, community and spiritual formation for adults 50 and better who are committed to social and ecological justice. We are offering new ways for our members (JVEs) to serve from home during this time of increased need for those who live on the margins. JVEs meet monthly online or in-person, creating spiritual community while staying safe. JV Encorps is an inclusive and welcoming community. Priority application deadline: **August 31**. Opening retreat in September. For more information visit: [JvenCorps.org](http://JvenCorps.org).

 **PLYMOUTH CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,  
Washington 98101-3199

Return Service Requested

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...



Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ernie Boyer, Glenda Carper, Anna Colwell, Steve Davis, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, Ellie Edelweiss, Mark Edwards, Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Keili Geller (Granddaughter of Nancy Geller), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Don Gwilym, Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Jo Mitchell, Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Jose Robles, Rod Shutt, Jim Stultz (brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Jim Tsuchiya (Brother-in-law of Bill Castello), Jordyn Woodke and David Flores (friends of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with the family and friends of Hilda Blaikie, member of Plymouth since 1951, who passed away July 17.

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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July 22, 2020

## ALWAYS ESSENTIAL



**W**hat do you know about the work and living conditions of the people who harvest your food?

On July 2, members of Plymouth's Immigration Ministry Team participated in a webinar titled: *Always Essential: A Community Awareness-Raiser*, sponsored by Bellevue Congregational Church

along with 7 other local inter-faith communities. Rosalinda Guillen and Australia Hernandez Cosby from Community to Community Development (C2C), a Bellingham, women-led grassroots organization dedicated to food sovereignty and immigrant rights, shared the experiences of agricultural worker communities during this COVID pandemic as well as their organization's ongoing work to create a more just food system in Washington State.

Although agricultural workers have been deemed 'essential' during the COVID pandemic, their terrible work conditions make it evident that while their labor is essential, the companies that own the farms are not valuing their lives. In May, due to inadequate safety precautions, lack of hazard pay, paid sick leave and a lack of transparency over COVID-19 cases at those facilities, seven fruit processing warehouses went on strike. Despite the Governor's response with new safety regulations, workers continue to be housed tightly and transported in full buses to fields where there are not always adequate handwashing facilities or masks.

Last year the food industry brought over 24,000 workers from Mexico using H2A visas and contracts that dictate where they work, live and their conditions and treatment. They are housed in rural areas, these workers don't have the right to strike. It is incredibly difficult for them to complain because they're in remote areas, have no transportation, and their employer holds on to their visa. In reality, the H2A workforce is a quasi-slave labor force.

What can we do? **Pray for them. Advocate for them.** Call state officials to ask for an increase in appropriate COVID protections and their enforcement for agricultural workers using the Farmworkers Matter script provided by C2C.

**Governor Inslee:** 360.902.4111 / **State Legislators:** 1.800.562.6000 / **Department of Health:** 360.236.4501 / **Dept. of Labor & Industries:** 360.902.5800

—Anne Kiemle for the Immigration Ministry Team 

## STAND UP, SPEAK OUT

Join others at Plymouth standing for racial justice. We as a majority white Christian church created and have benefited from systemic institutional racism, and we must be part of changing it. Come when you can, stay for any length of time you want. Social distancing and mask-wearing protocols will be observed.



*Keep the issues front and center.*

Ruth Williamson has been coordinating and scheduling this effort. Contact her (206.313.5931) for parking and other logistics. Remember to bring your sign and mask. Ruth notes:

*“Looks like the weather has finally turned to summer. Wear sunscreen and stand in the shade!”*

*“I have heard from many of you of the positive reactions, responses, and interactions with drivers and pedestrians who appreciate the stand we're taking and the messages conveyed. While the majority of responses are supportive, not all are...verbal abuse can occur. Nothing I'm aware of has gone beyond verbal abuse or hand signals, but there are unstable people around. Please stay alert and always take care of yourself first. Leave immediately if you don't feel safe. Call the custodian. Flag down the parking attendant across 6th Avenue. Call 911 if you need to.”*

*“Later this summer we may be adding activities to the message signs, such as distributing masks and hand sanitizer. If you have thoughts or suggestions about other compatible activities, let me know. Or just do it!”*

Help keep a Plymouth presence on the streets! See photos of folks bearing witness at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Under the “Connect” tab, click on “Albums.” 

## LAST HERALD FOR THREE WEEKS

This week's *Herald* is the last before a brief summer break. There will be no formal *Herald* newsletter sent the weeks of July 27, August 3 and August 10. The next regular *Herald* will be sent again the week of August 17. In the meantime, visit [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for the latest in Plymouth news, and check your email for updates and important notices. 

LET'S GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT



The United States spends over \$700 billion dollars (yes, that's billion with a "B") on the Pentagon every year. That's more than

53% of the discretionary budget. It's more than we spend on education, federal courts, affordable housing, green energy, and public health combined.

Can you imagine what we could do with those funds if we reinvested them in people instead?

Right now, progressive champions in Congress are trying to do just that. U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders (D-VT), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) are joining U.S. Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Mark Pocan (D-WI) to push a 10% cut to the Pentagon budget to reinvest in other domestic and human needs.

We have a chance right now to defund the military and invest in our communities, but it can't happen without your help.

Email your Senator and Representative today and urge them to vote "yes" on the new amendment to cut 10% of the Pentagon budget. (See news article at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for links to contact information.)

10% of next year's proposed military spending is \$74 billion — a pittance to the Pentagon, but that money could make a huge difference elsewhere.

- \$74 billion could fund 900,000 new teaching positions to reduce class sizes, create jobs, and make school — real school, not Zoom school — much safer during the coronavirus.
- \$74 billion could house every family and individual who experienced homelessness in 2019, with many billions to spare for the families likely to soon join their ranks without government help.

Congress will vote on the amendment next week, so now is our time to make a difference.

If there was ever a time to look after our neighbors and say no to military contractor greed, it's now. Email your representatives, and then feel free to contact them by phone, or on Facebook or Twitter, with talking points from this social media guide.

It's time to send a message to the military-industrial complex: Tanks and ships can't save us from our greatest dangers, so let's pay for the things that can. With the money we save, we can start to put the world back together again.

Visit National Priorities Project: [NationalPriorities.org](http://NationalPriorities.org) to learn more and get involved.

—Submitted by Adele Reynolds, for Plymouth Peace Action Group ✦

HEAR MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER CASTLE JULY 26

Jennifer Castle serves as Plymouth's Director of Faith Formation and works to help the congregation develop and grow as people who engage their faith in the world. She is also a seminarian serving Plymouth as a Pastoral Intern as she works toward her Master of Divinity degree, which will be completed in May 2021. In this capacity, she participates in worship planning and leadership and also serves on the pastoral care team. ✦



Jennifer Castle

REV. KEVIN BECHTOLD DELIVERS MESSAGE AUGUST 2



Rev. Kevin Bechtold

Kevin Bechtold grew up attending Plymouth and claims Plymouth as his church home since his 2001 confirmation. He first heard the call to ministry as a teenager and went on to earn his BA in Religious Studies from University of Oregon and a Master of Divinity from the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. He was ordained

at Plymouth Church UCC and serves as Minister for Children and Families, leads Plymouth's middle school and confirmation groups, assists with pastoral care, helps develop faith formation resources and participates in worship leadership. ✦

COVID-19 INFO & RESOURCES

The City of Seattle Mayor's Office has set up a frequently updated page listing comprehensive resources available at this time: [Seattle.Gov/Mayor/Covid-19](http://Seattle.Gov/Mayor/Covid-19).

This page contains information and links for programs and services that help residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs and services are available to everyone regardless of where you live. All Seattle residents regardless of immigration status are eligible for City of Seattle programs and services. The page is continuously updated.

Learn more about the services listed on this page over the phone by calling the City of Seattle Customer Service Bureau from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm at 206.684.2489 or 206.684.CITY. If you are a King County resident and have symptoms of COVID-19 or questions, you can call 206.477.3977. This helpline is open from 8 am - 7 pm. every day. The operators are able to connect with a third-party interpreter. Please look out for each other and check in with your neighbors. We are in this together, and we will get through this together! ✦

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG

This week begins a four-part series titled "Fun with Books!"

*"Of course I like to read books, but I also like to arrange books, display books, be surrounded by books. A house without books is a house without soul. (After writing that, I thought it was so insightful that maybe someone else had come up with the saying before me. Sure enough, Cicero wrote: 'A room without books is like a body without a soul' and from Horace Mann we have 'A house without books is like a room without windows.')"*



New articles posted every Monday.

New articles posted every Monday at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog. Check out archived articles, too.

On another topic, Admiral Congregational UCC is co-sponsoring a series of documentaries on the theme "Telling the Truth About Race." More information at [AdmiralChurch.org](http://AdmiralChurch.org). ✦

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Share your talent and passion.

Plymouth involves congregants in the leadership of the church through various groups. Currently there are openings on the Congregational Council, Community & Care Board, and the Community Service and Social Action Board, as well as the Finance, Investment and HR

Committees. Each of these will have openings next February as well. Stay tuned to hear more from your Nominating Committee during coffee hours after worship in the month of August. We hope to talk to many of you! —Ruth Williamson ✦

YOUR CARE TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU

This summer, as many of the staff take time off, we remain committed to maintaining availability of the pastoral care staff to handle any care concerns that might come our way. Members of the care team will be on call during various weeks of the month in case care needs arise. As always, we encourage you



Let us know how we can help.

to call the pastoral care voicemail with any care concerns. The voicemail is checked at least once a day (usually in the morning). This is one of the best ways to make sure the care team is aware of a pastoral care concern. **The number is 206.622.4865 ext. 33.**

—Rev. Kevin Bechtold, for the Plymouth Care Team ✦

CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING TIMES

Going to camp transforms and changes lives, and we are in the midst of challenging and changing times. The camps, retreats, workshops and meetings at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs this spring, summer and fall are simply not able to happen for health and safety reasons. And we deeply grieve this loss.



However, we want you to know, your camps are still here! The beauty, the birds, the gentle sound of the lakes in the evening, the wind whispering through the trees, the quiet trails, the opportunity to experience the embrace of creation's beauty, the space to renew, create and learn and so much more still remains. And our typical camp events will continue to be present again for our campers and churches, as soon as it is safe to do so!



Help our camps in this challenging time.

We are ministering in new ways at both camps this summer. N-Sid-Sen is providing a different kind of camp experience for "Families At Camp." This allows small "family" groups to still be present at camp in safe ways. Pilgrim Firs has formed

a temporary partnership with Kitsap County, and continues to offer housing and respite for individuals infected with the coronavirus. These new ministry opportunities have provided limited income to help keep some of our staff in place. But we need a lot more funding to continue our mission.

We now anticipate a budget deficit of approximately \$215,000 this next fiscal year (June 2020-May 2021). The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ has committed \$100,000 to support N-Sid-Sen in this time of need. That support comes with an invitation to those of us who hold this camp dear.

Help us reach our goal of \$200,000! Currently we have already raised over \$145,000. Can we, as individuals and faith communities that have experienced the magic of this sacred life-transforming place, step up with our gifts? No one knows when we will return to 'normal' or what the new 'normal' might be, but we do know that this sacred space will remain. Our gifts will keep our camps open, ready to welcome you and continue to change lives.

Donations can be made through [N-Sid-Sen.org](http://N-Sid-Sen.org), or by texting to 844.922.2085 (enter \$amount followed by a space, then #NSS), or by check sent to N-Sid-Sen Camp & Retreat Center, 36395 S Highway 97, Harrison, Idaho 83833. Thank you! ✦