

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, August 23, 2020**

Lectionary text for Sunday, August 23: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, preaching

“Redemption Song”

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

Virtual Worship Only!

Find links to video stream and worship bulletin and participate online at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org.

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

Check 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. 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

Youth Activists Tell All Via Zoom Please join us on to hear from Sarah Pham, from the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellowship Directors and from one or more of the current cohort of roughly 20 young nonviolent activists, ages 14 to 25, who will have just concluded their 10 session, 40 hour online Core Training in Nonviolent Organizing from July 21 to August 18, 2020, including a 3 day international training in Kingian Nonviolence sponsored by the University of Rhode Island. See news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for link to register.

Continue to Stand for Racial Justice Come to Plymouth and join others 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. 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.

Stay Connected In this time of physical distancing, Plymouth Church invites you to connect with others for various activities throughout the week. See list and links at PlymouthChurchSeattle.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)

Congratulations to Elizabeth Stanhope Gordon on her recent Chaplain Residency Graduation to Level 2 Resident/Fellow in Elder Care VA Seattle.

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 58
Number 48

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COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY 2.0



Sue Maul, Moderator; Al Bentley, Vice-Moderator

We write to offer a history of collaborative ministry and the work that the Congregational Council has been engaged in this year in updating and revising the model.

In 2016, lay leadership at Plymouth Church was faced with the challenge of assuring that Plymouth would continue to be led by inspired and faithful clergy. With the resignation of the Reverend Brigitta Remole, a vacancy had occurred in the position of Senior Minister. The Rev. Steve Davis had recently joined the clergy team as Minister of Church Operations. At Brigitta's invitation, the Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown had begun preaching and carrying out many of the other responsibilities traditionally associated with the Senior Minister position. At the time (2016), Plymouth had recently experienced two sudden changes in the position of Senior Minister, separated by the Interim Ministry of Dr. Tom Stiers. Plymouth's leadership at the time decided not to conduct a third nationwide search process and not to seek a second Interim Minister. Instead, the “Collaborative Ministry 1.0” model was established. Kelle became Lead Pastor. Steve became Executive Minister.

In any organization, issues of communication and allocation of responsibilities can and will arise. Plymouth Church is no exception, and to some extent such issues can be compounded when roles and responsibilities are as diffuse as they seem to have been under Collaborative Ministry 1.0. The Council has always sought to assure that our ministerial leadership functions as a team and that the expectations and personal goals of individual ministers are satisfied. In studying the history that led us to now, it is also clear that if we knew then what we know now — that every institution is impacted by white supremacy culture — more care and attention would have been made in addressing and mitigating the racism that is always present in our expectations, interactions, and practices.

Under the leadership of Moderator Sue Maul, the Council this year has engaged at length with Kelle and Steve to identify areas in which the concept of collaborative ministry needed improvement. After in-depth consideration, conversation and prayer, the Council has decided to retain the Collaborative

Ministry model, but to refine it and clarify its meaning. Thus, with the full support of Kelle and Steve, we have adopted Collaborative Ministry 2.0, or centered collaborative ministry. Under Collaborative Ministry 2.0, the model will be that of a flower:



Kelle, as Lead Pastor, will be at the flower's center, providing stability, insight and creativity. She will have responsibility for articulating God's vision for the church, from the pulpit and otherwise, as well as supporting the Care Team. Steve, under a new title, Minister for Church Finance and Operations, will continue to have responsibility for administration, finance, and operations.

With the addition of two clergy positions to the ministerial team since 2016, the experience of collaborative ministry has expanded. Details of this structure remain to be worked out. These details will be worked out, going forward. We are blessed to be served by both Kelle and the Steve, and we look forward to their continued leadership as we seek to always be followers of Christ.

Yours on the journey, Sue Maul, Moderator; Al Bentley, Vice-Moderator ✨

PLYMOUTH YOUTH HELP CAMPS

Calvin and I have been going to church our entire lives, and a big part of the Plymouth community has been family camp and retreats. During the pandemic, summer camps have been unable to happen, causing our camps to lose their main source of funding. On behalf of Youth Forum, Calvin and I would like to ask you to donate to N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs. YF is donating \$3000 from our mission fund, but anything counts. If you've ever been to other programs like women's or men's retreats we also ask you to think about their importance. We love you all,

—Lucinda and Calvin Guthrie, on behalf of Youth Forum ✨

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON



Rev. Steven Davis

“Change is the end result of all true learning.” —Leo Buscaglia

I can already hear some saying, “Oh great! Just what I wanted, one more change in my life!” I understand that all so well. Hopefully, you’ll find this overhaul to a new version of our website exciting. Our current website has served the church for almost 8 years, but has also been challenging to navigate at

time, not intuitive to those who find us as guests, and even staff and congregants have experienced difficulty finding information easily. We’ve learned some things about ourselves and who we want to be, as well as what the world around us is looking for from us. The time has come for a fresh approach and we think you’re going to appreciate what you’ll soon see and experience.

You may have noticed over the last couple of months that I’ve already made some changes to our website to promote better communication and ease in these days of pandemic living and our congregational life beyond our building. I’ve taken down some photos, moved some primary information to our Home Page, and enhance connection and communication links to staff and community. The real excitement will be seeing how others are able to connect with us through this new site. We have been working for many months with Agile Church Technology, a company founded by a nationally recognized UCC minister, that understands “being the Church” and connecting with people in the world.

We have also been intentional to begin filtering through our current site and taking the most important components into a new website expression. Through the lens of justice, we will continue making updates to photo content, focusing on our commitments, and expressing who we are and who we aspire to be as a faith community. With the guidance of the Council and full enthusiasm of the staff, we are intentionally centering vision and leadership in our Lead Pastor, and growing together to fulfill the ministry and mission of Plymouth Church UCC!

In September, we hope as early as in time for our program year start, we plan to “Go Live” with Phase 1 of our new Plymouth Church website. There will be additions to the site as we continue to develop specific areas. One important feature coming in Phase 2 will be a “Resource Center” that will be specifically for those in covenant with us at Plymouth, yet not information being shared globally. We will also be developing a phone app version, so you can easily navigate our website from your smart phone as well as a computer or tablet through the internet.

Changes are challenging. Persistent optimism in times of change is not easy. But, if it was easy, everyone would do it.

And if everyone is doing something, it probably doesn’t require too much leadership or integrity. So, please know in advance, what is presented at first will NOT be “perfect” nor the final version. We will be making many updates as we go, training staff and helping all of us receive the information in ways that help us improve our connections. We will make it, together! And remember this, “A bend in the road is not the end of the road...unless you fail to make the turn.” —Helen Keller

Yours in grace and hope, Rev. Steven Davis ✦

DR. BROWN RECEIVES MAPS VISION AWARD

Each year the Muslim Association of Puget Sound Vision Awards are given to four individuals who have made significant contributions in each of the four cornerstones of MAPS’ vision. These cornerstones are:

- **Faith** — strengthening our faith and deepening our connection to Allah SWT (God Almighty)
- **Outbound Good** — positively impacting, giving back to, and benefiting society at large
- **Inbound Good** — learning from good around us and obtaining benefits for our own community; and
- **Model Citizen** — being well-balanced human beings and model citizens.



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

While there were many candidates, here are the final recipients of the 2020 MAPS Vision Awards.

- **Faith** — our **Imams and Shuyukhs** (scholars) who helped us stay grounded and spiritually uplifted despite a global pandemic and our mosque being closed. Thank you for the inspiration you have provided and continue to provide!
- **Outbound Good** — **Samiah Rizvi** for her tireless work with MAPS-MCRC the past few years, and for going above and beyond in ensuring that the medical clinic operated smoothly as it transitioned to an online model when the pandemic hit.
- **Inbound Good** — **Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown** for her continued, consistent, and fierce support of the Muslim community, even at personal cost at times. A brave, bold and brilliant ally, Dr. Kelle has a beautiful voice that she uses to speak truth to power and stand firmly for justice.
- **Model Citizen** — **Nehath Sheriff** for striving to live out the best example of what it means to be an American Muslim by excelling at her medical studies, her career and her passion and desire to serve the most vulnerable!

Read more about the recipients and about MAPS at MapsRedmond.org. ✦

PLYMOUTH HEALING COMMUNITIES LET THE STRINGS SPEAK UJIMA UPDATE AND OPPORTUNITIES



PHC continues to serve and grow.

Plymouth Healing Communities wants you to know that, despite the pandemic, we are alive and well! Our facilities remain in operation, no residents have contracted the virus, and during this period, we even opened the Eng House and welcomed new residents. We look forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of our founding at our virtual fall fundraiser, Opening the Door to Hope, on September 18, 2020 from 6:30 to 7 pm. More to come on that!

We are also undergoing some staffing changes as we say good-bye to Resident Staff Member Isabel Call, House of Healing House Steward Marcy Laghi, and long-time property manager David Fliegel. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors and our gratitude for all they have given to the PHC community.

During the transition period before new staff are hired, our Beacon Hill houses will be short-staffed and we could use your help providing meals to the residents of these houses. Please know that these meals provide an important social time for residents, which has been challenging during COVID. Our goal is to have at least one meal per week provided to the residents of Eng House, House of Healing and Hofmann House.

Do you like to cook? Fantastic! Simply contact Jms (“Jams”) Stuiivenga, PHC Program Manager, (jstuiivenga@plyhc.org) and they can provide details such as the best date and time, number of meals and special dietary needs, if any. Another option is to support a local Beacon Hill restaurant by purchasing meals delivered from them. Again, contact Jms, or me (janedunkel@gmail.com) and either of us can provide a list of local restaurants. You can simply purchase a gift certificate or donate to PHC and PHC will handle the rest. And . . . don’t think you have to do this alone: consider inviting a small group of friends to join you and contribute to the meal.

Your continued support, especially during these times, is always felt and appreciated. —Jane Dunkel, PHC Board Member ✦

RESIDENT POSITION OPEN

Are you concerned about the impacts of poverty and oppression on individuals experiencing mental health issues? Do you want to participate in social transformation at the level of intimate relationships? House of Healing exists in opposition to stigma, to harmful cycles of poverty, institutionalization, and oppression. It exists for those who feel and perceive the world differently, who find we are better equipped to pursue holistic well-being in the context of loving community. If you are interested in learning more and how to get involved as a Residential Staff Member, contact PlymouthHouse@Plyhc.org or visit Plyhc.org/House-of-Healing. We are currently hiring for open positions! ✦

Virtual event this Saturday, August 22, 4 pm, presented with Dr. Maxine Mimms.



View online this Saturday.

It’s not enough to act once or every once in a while. We believe our collective duty is to dedicate ourselves to the persistent action needed to bring about positive change. Let the Strings Speak (LTSS) serves as the catalyst for this change by using arts and culture to address a community need.

Our goal through this concert presentation is to foster opportunities for greater awareness of string instruments as creative vehicles to inspire, motivate, and heal. For the past five years, we’ve combined local, national, and international artists to showcase their collective talents by presenting Black and Brown artistic expression.

See news article at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for link to register and view event. ✦

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Share your time and talent.

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 ✦

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG

This week, learn about Plymouth and Women’s Suffrage

“In 1909 Plymouth hosted the weeklong National American Woman Suffrage Association Convention with Charlotte Perkins Gilman addressing the issue from the Plymouth pulpit.”



New articles posted every Monday.

New articles posted every Monday at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on the Library box on the homepage and then the link to the blog. Check out archived articles, too. ✦