

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, September 6, 2020**

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*The Cross and the Lynching Tree:
A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery*

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."

Sharing Faces of Peace We are collecting videos of Plymouth members "Passing the peace" to be used in our online worship services! If you would like to make a short video snippet to be included, email Sari at saribrezna@gmail.com and she will walk you through how to contribute. It's simple, quick, and we'd love to see more Plymouth faces!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Themes This Fall October 25–November 22 "Building a World: Grit and Gratitude." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..." November 29–January 6 *Advent*: "Enter the Mystery." *Christmas*: "Engage the Miracle." *Epiphany*: "Embody the Message."

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

Openings Available at Seattle Infant Development Center Part-time and full-time spaces available, infant - 5 years. The health and well-being of children, staff and families is SIDC's number-one priority. SIDC is exceeding the recommended COVID-19 safety guidance to ensure a safe place for your child. Learn more about progressive curriculum, facility and philosophy at SIDCKids.com.

Text To Give! Simply text the amount you'd like to give (i.e. 10.00) to Plymouth UCC's mobile giving number (206.208.1442), hit send. Questions? Contact Diane in the church office (206.622.4865).

 **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, Bob Brennan, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, 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), Jackie Maxon (Mother of Sterve Davis), Jo Mitchell, Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, Rod Shutt, Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart (cousin of Karen Clark) and his wife Karen, Jim Stultz (brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulificio, Jordyn Woodke and David Flores (friends of Karen Clark)

Our hearts are with David Koeger and family on the death of his father, Herbert Koeger, who passed away early August 2020.

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 50

September 2, 2020

BUILDING HOME



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Can you believe it? Since February, Plymouth Church has done its best to cut a path without knowing how long things would continue or how big the challenge would become. We prayed it would be a couple of months, hoping we'd be temporarily inconvenienced, but back in our beloved church building soon. In faith, our community scattered the church into our homes in response to the Coronavirus and in effort to have an overabundance of care and concern for our community.

For more than seven months, we've built our house while living in it. It was necessary, as our congregation is full of folks who would be significantly impacted by the virus, and because we trust and believe science. Listening to our governor and public health leaders, while tapping into the creativity, energy, and innovation of the Spirit, we've done our best to listen, respond and follow God.

Our foundation has been our faith and morality, and our desire to help create a more free and just world. We've built sure walls by promoting connection and care. The house is untraditional, but filled with love and longing, heartache and healing. And we're trusting God to bind us together in unity and justice, even while forces threaten to undo our work toward wholeness.

Still, Plymouth Church is striving to keep on with God as our helper, as it appears the end it's not yet in sight. We cannot return to traditional worship and activities until sometime in 2021.

And God is still blessing us, spurring us toward a vision of being church that continues truth-telling, faith formation, pastoral care, worship and administrative facets of ministry for the sake of the kingdom, for the turning of the world.

Homecoming Sunday is September 13 at 10:30 am. On that day, worship will return to the Zoom platform so that most of our worship experience is live and more interactive. At 2 p.m. that afternoon, we will have a physically-distanced drive-by blessings at Plymouth Church. We pray you'll come and feel the connection and comradery again.

Friends, together we are building home. This may not be the house we imagined, but it is the home and world we will dream into existence. When all around us is shaking with uncertainty, let us dare to be builders who have caught the vision of hope; who move forward knowing that challenge and struggle can help us become stronger to craft all the pieces we need.

May we all invest our time with eagerness, our gifts and resources with cheer, recalling our covenant with God in Jesus Christ with gratitude, expectation and patience, living into the beloved hymn:

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place*

Many blessings,

—Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown ✨

OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE

"Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!" —Isaiah 58:1

Plymouth United Church of Christ is joining the UCC's Our Faith Our Vote campaign to register voters, educate ourselves on important issues at stake in the election and encourage voter participation. Since we are not able to do in person registration at church the Our Faith Our Vote committee will call each church member to make sure their voter registration is up to date.

Our vote is important! If you would like to volunteer to be a member of the Our Faith Our Vote committee, contact Christine Hanson at 509.679.7430 or email her at HansonChristineAnn@gmail.com.

Learn more at UCC.org/OurFaithOurVote. —Christine Hanson ✨



CHECK IT OUT!



Get books from Plymouth Library mailed to you.

You can now check books out of Plymouth Library and have them mailed to your home! The depth of our selection of books on religious topics is much greater than what you may find in a

public library. We also have many current, in-demand titles of literary fiction and books on social justice topics, which may be available without a lengthy wait.

To find out what we have, go to our online catalog by following these steps:

1. Click on the following link: PlymouthChurchSeattle.org/Library/Blog.html.
2. Click on "Library" in the purple box.
3. Click on "Online Catalog."
4. Enter the name of the library: VidaBVarey (That's the official name of the Plymouth Library.)
5. Click on "sign in" (no password needed).
6. Search by title, author, subject, etc.
7. When you find a book you would like to check out, email me at PlymouthLibrary@gmail.com with the author, title and call number and your mailing address.

If you received this information in the Monday email that I send out weekly, you already have a library card on file. If not, you will need to apply for a card by sending the following information to PlymouthLibrary@gmail.com: your name, address, telephone number, and the best email address for you.

A library volunteer will go to the library each week, as needed, to fill orders. Books will be mailed to you with a prepaid mailer you can use to return them. We will mail up to two books at a time. Books must be returned before you can check out more.

A word about returning books you have already checked out: If you are going to be in downtown Seattle, email me for instructions on how to contact someone who will answer the door of the church building and take the books from you. You may also mail them using the library mail rate to: Plymouth Church Library, 1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Otherwise, please keep our library materials in a safe place and return them as soon as you are able.

—Suzanne Sanderson, Plymouth Church Librarian ✨

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Eye-opening reads about the institutional racism embedded in US housing policies and prisons, especially for profit prisons

THE COLOR OF LAW: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, c.2017 by Richard Rothstein.

This is a searing expose of the building permit guidelines, private covenants, lending policies, employment discrimination, placement of interstate freeways, real estate sales practice, civic action, and brutality which has resulted in the housing segregation of White people and African Americans. This was by design, not default. Its effects are enduring and flamboyant today

AMERICAN PRISON: A Reporter's Undercover Journey Into the Business of Punishment, c. 2018 by Shane Bauer. Mr. Baurer

is a reporter who in 2009 was one of three Americans who was imprisoned in Iran, he for 26 months, after hiking near Iranian border in Iraq. He is a contributor to Mother Jones. He hired as an entry level prison correction officer (guard) at Winn Correctional Center in Louisiana, managed by then Corrections Corporation of America, on a for profit basis. He alternates between his shocking discoveries of deficiencies at Winn and the history of the prison system in America. The latter exposes the rise of America's prison system, post civil war convict leasing, and the re-enactment of the slavery of African American In pubic and for private prison systems. (The UC Constitution has this loophole.) In both scenarios, African Americans are/were re-enslaved and state treasuries and private companies are/were enriched.. He documents that this abuse continues today. Its jacket reads, " It is a blistering indictment ...A necessary document about the true face of justice in America." It truly is. —Kathryn Rood, Library Committee ✨



Suggestions for delivery to your home.

STAY CONNECTED

In this time of physical distancing, Plymouth Church invites you to connect with others for various activities with us each day. Direct links to all these online gatherings are on the homepage, PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on "Stay Connected."

Sundays, 10:30 am Worship ONLINE

Sundays, 11:30 am Coffee Hour ONLINE — Bring Your Own Coffee! (BYOC!)

Wednesdays, 9 am Bible Study — Sharing God's Word with God's People

Thursdays, 12 pm Prayer at Noon — Light a candle and pray together with our community in faith! ✨

FAN ENDORSES R90

The Faith Action Network (FAN) Governing Board has unanimously endorsed Referendum 90 that will appear on your November ballot. They want to tell you about it and invite your endorsement and participation today.



'During the 2020 legislative session, a coalition of parents, educators, medical professionals, and advocates passed SB 5395 (Sen. Claire Wilson) in Washington state focused on keeping young people safe and healthy. This law requires all public schools to teach age appropriate, inclusive, comprehensive sexual health education to K-12 students. It was backed by a large statewide coalition and has strong support from a majority of Washington state voters. Those opposed to the bill, sometimes citing religious reasons, have launched a misinformation campaign and gathered enough signatures to put that law up for a public vote this November. See more at the campaign's website: Approve90wa.org '

Once again we are grateful to FAN for investigating & sharing information on important political issues (but not personalities). —Adele Reynolds, Plymouth Peace Action Group ✨

AN EASY WAY TO DONATE



CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) is dedicated to helping non-profit organizations such as Plymouth Church United

Church of Christ raise thousands of dollars in vehicle donations through successful car donation programs.

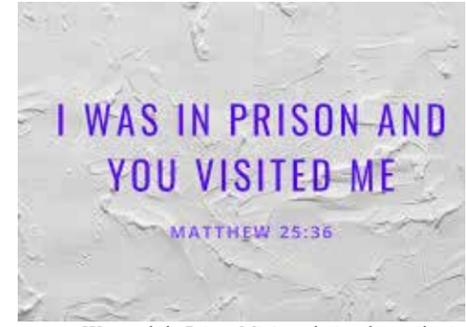
Careasy.org is just what it says, easy. As the staff person who activated Plymouth's participation in the program in 2014 and the donor of 2 work vans, I have experienced both ends of the spectrum. They handle everything from beginning to end of the donation process, including marketing, free pick-up, selling, mailing a thank you letter with tax information to the donor (AKA me) and most importantly, mailing Plymouth a check! Alan and I had our own business for over 30 years and our work vans played an important role. Watching them towed away was extremely hard but were comforted in knowing that our donation benefited Plymouth UCC.

If you would like to donate your used vehicle (includes car, motorcycle, boat, plane or RV), avoid the hassle of a private sale and benefit Plymouth UCC in the process, go to Careasy.org, or call CARS at 1.855.500.RIDE and they will do the rest.

—Diane Jacobsen ✨

SUPPORT PRISON MINISTRY

For the past several years Lead Pastor Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Executive Minister Rev. Steve Davis and various other Plymouth Church members, together with others in the community, have regularly visited inmates who are in the Special Offender Unit (SOU) of the Monroe Correctional Center, located about 45 minutes northeast of Seattle. The men incarcerated in the SOU have been assessed to have a serious mental illness. Many had received no outside visits before being visited by Plymouth Church or other volunteers as part of this special visitation program; some had gone a decade or more without a visit.



Ways to help Prison Ministry during the pandemic.

Due to the risks of COVID-19, the Department of Corrections suspended the SOU visitation program months ago. Prison and Department of Corrections rules and policies have prevented contacts with inmates since then, but there are now some opportunities at least to lift inmate spirits in the absence of visits and other volunteer contacts. Prison staff are conducting bingo games regularly during the pandemic and they apparently are quite popular with inmates. Financial contributions toward bingo prizes would be welcome. Also, many inmates have been asking for art supplies during this challenging time, and so those in the visitation program are taking contributions for that purpose, as well. Prison staff will let SOU inmates know that the volunteer visit team has organized the gifts, so even if we cannot have direct contact in this time, at least SOU inmates will know we are thinking of them.

One other way to help is to hang onto any 2021 calendars that you don't need, once they start reappearing in your mail. Calendars are greatly appreciated by SOU inmates. Last year, many dozens of 2020 calendars found their way from you to the church office, and from there to the prison, and SOU inmates ✨ would happily have taken even more than we delivered. There will be follow-up news in the fall about how to arrange for the pick-up of any spare calendars you have.

If you want to donate money for SOU bingo prizes or art supplies, send a check made out to Virginia Sewall (one of the volunteers), to 9535 Mercerwood Drive, Mercer Island, WA 98040. We plan to collect donations for a couple of weeks, and then send a money order (DOC's preferred method) and donation approval form (also required) as instructed. Sorry, but these gifts are not tax deductible. Thanks in advance for whatever people feel able to do! —Mike Pierson, Plymouth Prison Ministry ✨