

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, September 27, 2020**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Text for September 27: Matthew 21:23-32

Jennifer Castle Preaching

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

Virtual Worship Only!

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

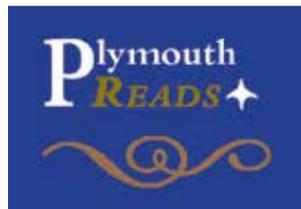
The church building will be closed for all activities until further notice.

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."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plymouth Reads begins October 1! Hear about the books in the Moment of Ministry during Sunday Worship. Then starting on Monday, go on the Plymouth Church website to find out about the related activities. Click the box labeled "Library" on the Home Page and then click once more on the word "Blog" in the Library banner. And let's get reading!!

Check Out the Library Blog We have new books! You can check them out, and we will mail them to you. 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.

Text To Give Simply text amount you want to give to Plymouth UCC's mobile giving number (206.208.1442). First time donors receive a link request to provide your name, address and credit card number. Then click send! Questions? Contact Diane in the Church office.

Shop with Smile and Contribute Support Plymouth every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com). Enjoy the same prices and vast selection as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of purchase price to Plymouth UCC! Visit AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and simply select Plymouth Congregational Church of Seattle to receive donations from eligible purchases before you shop.

 **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), Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Michael Kaid, Libonati Family, Sharon

Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), Jackie Maxon (Mother of Rev. Steve Davis), Bob and Jo Mitchell, **Jim Mohundro**, 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 Sulficio, Jordyn Woodke and David Flores (friends of Karen Clark)

***Bold = new addition**

We grieve with David Fliegel and family on the passing of his mother, Ruth Fliegel on September 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

Volume 59
Number 3

September 23, 2020

LOVE IN ACTION



Beloved, Love in Action

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." — Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

Years ago, our minister, the late Joseph Williamson, wrote the following words in the *Plymouth Herald*: "We are dissenting Protestants. We believe that governments and economic systems which are not based on the principles of equity, justice, freedom and power to all people, are contrary to the will of God."

This is our history. With the prophetic leadership of Dr. Kelle Brown, this is our present.

Years ago, when the decision on becoming an "Open and Affirming" congregation was presented for a vote at an all-church meeting in Hildebrand Hall, an older man stood up. He said he was against the proposal and gave his reasons. Immediately after this statement, a member of Y. F. came up to the dais and answered him directly in these words: "I hear what you say. I know you have concerns, but we love you. Though we may disagree, we know you are a vital part of this church."

That congregational meeting — resulting in overwhelming support for becoming O & A — is our history. O & A is our blessed present.

Years ago, Plymouth's minister Tony Robinson and 11 members of the congregation traveled to Managua, Nicaragua to share a week of fellowship time with members of Iglesia Morava, then our brother-sister church. On Sunday, we joined them in singing the following words (my translation, from the Spanish): "I don't care what church you may go to, if with me you're standing by Calvary. If your heart like mine inclines toward Jesus, give me your hand, and I your sibling will be."

This is our history. Thanks to a Y.F. trip to the border a few years ago, and especially to the dedicated ongoing efforts of the Immigration Ministry Team, this is our present.

In the few words quoted above, and in many others, Plymouth Church has been "Love in Action," in the past and in the present. With your ongoing support — with your time, talent and financial offerings — those words can inspire our future, too. —Al Bentley ✦

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP RE-STARTING

2020 has been a really difficult year, to say the least. Many of us are feeling all kinds of grief, especially those who have lost a loved one. Our Grief Support group met only once before the pandemic hit and the Plymouth Church building was closed. We are ready to



Online group begins early October.

re-start this group, and invite others to join us. As a church community, we can help each other navigate the grief process, and offer mutual support. Rev. Donene Blair, Minister of Community Care, will facilitate the group, with other special guests. **We will meet via Zoom starting the week of October 5.** Please send an email to Donene to indicate your interest and to notify her of your preferred meeting day(s) or evening(s) and times that will work for you.

Donene's email is DBlair@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. You may also contact her by calling the church Care Line, 206.622.4865 ext. 33. ✦

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS, FALL 2020



Jennifer Castle, Director of Faith Formation & Pastoral Intern

Last week's *Herald* included an article that focused on Plymouth's faith formation programming for children and youth. This week, we turn our attention to faith formation programming for adults this fall. Even though we won't be meeting in person, I am hopeful that these offerings will help us connect with one another while we grow in our faith.

Bible Study:

- Lectionary Bible Study — Wednesdays at 9:00 am on Zoom. Led by Jennifer Castle, this group studies the biblical texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Attendance ranges from 12-20 people, and the Zoom link is accessible from the Plymouth website. Please contact Jennifer at JCastle@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org if you have questions, would like the Zoom password, or would like to be added to the weekly email list for this group.
- Second Bible Study Offering — Video of Rev. Kevin Bechtold's thoughts on a passage accompanied by discussion board. To begin late fall or early winter. We will work through a book of the Bible rather than following the lectionary as we consider the intersection of scripture, our experiences, our tradition, and the world around us.

Movies that Move:

- We will watch a movie together online and hold a discussion. Saturday evenings October 17, November 21, and December 19. Our first movie will be *White Savior: Racism in the American Church*.

Plymouth Reads:

- This faith formation effort, led by the Library Committee, will invite the Plymouth community to read three books together over the program year. All three books focus on racism in the United States. The program kicks off in October with the book *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin. Watch the *Herald* and worship announcements for more information.

Retreat for those identifying as Female or Non-Binary:

- This event will be held online Saturday, October 24 in the afternoon/evening. Ages high school and up. Please contact Anna Colwell (AColwell@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) or Jennifer Kaiton (JKaiton@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org) for more information.

Workshop for Coping with Anxiety and Depression:

- These are difficult times, and estimates indicate that at least half of the U.S. population is showing symptoms of anxiety and depression. In a joint effort with June Hayakawa-Fung, Plymouth's Faith Community Nurse and the Community and Care Board, we will hold a workshop to share resources, learn about coping strategies, and support one another as well as explore what it means to be a person of faith in these times. Date TBA.

Advent/Epiphany Faith Formation Series:

- Core Tenets of Progressive Christianity — this class will be held online weekly and will begin the week of November 29. ✦

WORLD COMMUNION OCTOBER 4

Our World Communion Sunday special offering is one of four special offerings throughout the church year to support national and local ministries within the United



Church of Christ. October 4 gifts will be divided evenly between **Neighbors in Need** and **Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund**.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC supporting ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations working for justice. These grants fund projects ranging from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Special consideration is given to serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

The Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund has been busy the last few years, diminishing its funds. Thanks to you, half of our annual special offerings continues to replenish the balance, supporting members and friends in financial hardship take part in the future opportunities offered by and through Plymouth UCC. ✦

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 saribreznau@gmail.com and she will walk you through how to contribute. We'd love to see more Plymouth faces! ✦

BLESS THE HANDS THAT FEED US



Anything you can do helps.

As we continue to struggle with COVID times and emerge from our smoke filled air, the Immigration Ministry Team asks your support and prayers for the Farmworkers in

our state and everywhere. We recently contributed \$1500 in the name of Plymouth, as well as personal donations, to support the "Farmworkers United for Justice" (FUJ) in our state whose health and livelihood have been greatly impacted.

They are working long hours in the fields, sleeping in very close quarters and working side by side in processing plants without masks and protection from smoke or COVID. They have not been eligible for federal relief money, nor have they had easy access to COVID testing. A positive COVID test means 2 weeks without work or income and a risk to all around them.

As we savor newly harvested apples, pears, sweet potatoes, peppers and so much more, please include a word of gratitude for these essential workers and a prayer for their well-being. Thank you. —Plymouth Immigration Ministry Team ✦

STAND FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

As a majority white Christian church we have helped create, and have benefited from, systemic institutional racism. Now we must be part of changing it. Join friends at Plymouth for any length of time you are able. Distancing and mask-wearing protocols must be observed.



Ruth Williamson is coordinating and scheduling this effort. Contact her (206.313.5931) for parking and other logistics. Remember to bring your sign and mask. ✦

WOMEN'S RETREAT ONLINE OCT 24



All those identifying as female or non-binary are invited to connect online for a retreat with each other. We plan to host this retreat during the late afternoon/evening of October 24 and we'll provide some program time mixed with

social time. Looking forward to having you there! To register, please email Jenny Kaiton JKaiton@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org and Anna Colwell AColwell@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org ✦

OUR FAITH, OUR VOTE: MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED!



Many of us are concerned about the coming election. We want to make sure our voice is heard and our ballots are counted. It is really important to confirm you are registered. You may have moved recently and suddenly your registration is out of date. You can easily check your registration online at Olvr.Votewa.gov.

Washington offers online voter registration. You can register by mail to vote in Washington by printing a voter registration form, filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person if you prefer. You can register or update your address online or by mail until 8 days before an election. You may also register in-person through Election Day. Registration forms submitted by mail need to be received not postmarked by the 8-day deadline (October 26).

To register in Washington you must:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be a legal resident of Washington State, your county and your precinct for 30 days immediately preceding the election in which you want to vote
- be at least 18 years old by election day (16- and 17-year-olds can sign up as Future Voters and be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18)
- not be disqualified from voting due to a court order
- not be under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction (*find more information on voting rights restoration at Sos.Wa.gov*)

If you need help with registering, mailing in your ballot or finding your nearest drop box you can call a member of the Our Faith, Our Vote committee and we will help you. The members are: Christine Hanson, Tracy Simpson, Al Bentley, Glenda Carper and Betty Eberharter. You will probably get a call from one of us in the next few weeks. We want to make sure all the members and friends of Plymouth United Church of Christ are able to vote! We look forward to the conversation. ✦

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, Oct 25, 11:30 am:

Congregational Conversation about the 2020 budget (update about pledges, projected budget deficit) and the 2021 high/low budget projections.



Join online discussions and vote.

Major issues will be outlined and discussed. Feedback will be incorporated into the final budget. **Sunday, Nov 15, 11:30 am:** Congregational Meeting and budget vote. ✦