

## SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, November 22, 2020**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Lectionary Text for November 22: Matthew 25:31-46

Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Preaching

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

### 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 care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.

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

As part of the Anxiety, Depression and Our Faith workshop, Faith Community Nurse June Hayakawa-Fung created two handouts of resources for mental health concerns. They are available at [PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](http://PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Please share widely.

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

Return Service Requested

## OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Riley Balcita, Matt Banks, Ken Carter, Pam Dorrance, Rick Eberharter, **Maria Eclipse (Grandmother of Rogie Eclipse)**, Carmen Ramsey Ellington, (friend of Karen Clark), Phil Fredrickson, Jackie Fouts (Mother-in-law of Al Wallace), Keili Geller (Granddaughter of Nancy Geller), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Sharon, Floyd, and Carrie Gossett, Robert Hardy (Friend of Karen Clark), Reg Hearn (Brother of Melony Joyce), Joyce Irving (mother of Rev. Louis Mitchell), Virginia Johnson, Michael Kaid, Renee Lang (friend of Glenda Carper), Libonati Family, Sharon Masse (Wife of Gary Magnuson), John Mooney (Brother of Carol Mooney), Georgia Nelson, Dick, Jean and Alex Paul (Parents and Nephew of Beth Paul Russell), Tommy Rivers Puzey (Friend of Karen Clark), Jose Robles, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams (*bold: newly added*)

Our hearts are with Becky Colwell and family on the passing of her father, Ernie Boyer.

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 11

November 18, 2020

## PLYMOUTH PUTS LOVE IN ACTION



What does love look like? Hearts and flowers? The cozy comfort of home? The sacrificial giving of parents to their children that doesn't feel like a sacrifice at all? I say yes to all of these.

At this moment at Plymouth, love looks like the very hard conversations and learning and transformation we're having around race. It is hard work. I am astonished by the pain I feel and the amount of energy I need just to be a little bit engaged in this work.

It's November. It's raining. There are new stricter COVID rules in place. You could say it's all too much. Let's just focus on the hearts and flowers and cozy comforts for now – the hard stuff can wait. But it can't. This is the moment. This is what God has called us to. This is love in action!

Besides, dodging the hard stuff wouldn't be the Plymouth way. —Cindy Anderson ✨

## CARE TEAM UPDATE

Your Plymouth Care Team is committed to maintaining availability of staff to handle any care concerns that might come our way. There is a new care line phone number to get in touch with the Care Team should anything arise. The phone number is **206.639.7739**.



*We are here for you.*

Messages are checked at least once a day and the Care Team makes every attempt to follow up as soon as we are able. Please call and leave a message if there is something you feel the Care Team should be aware of as we endeavor to serve you!

The Care Team is composed of Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Rev. Donene Blair, Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Jennifer Castle, and June Hayakawa-Fung. We are also available by e-mail. ✨

## WELCOME, WENDY BLIGHT

We are pleased to welcome Wendy Blight back to the Plymouth staff as Interim Director of Operations and Finance. Wendy served as Plymouth Church Business Administrator from 2006 to 2016, and has served as Moderator of the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference.



*Wendy Blight returns to Plymouth staff.*

She says, "I am pleased to be back at Plymouth for an interim time! I look forward to getting reacquainted with the excellent staff and members of Plymouth Church. My hope is that we can do some good and fruitful work together."

In her three-quarter-time capacity she will manage the church's operations and finance. She can be reached at [WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org](mailto:WBlight@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org). Please join us in welcoming Wendy on her return to your Plymouth staff. ✨

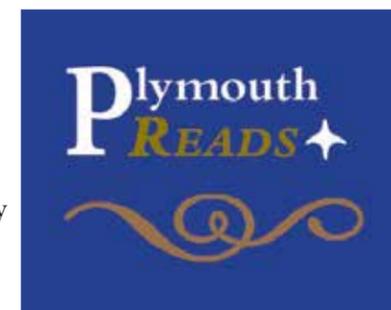
## PLYMOUTH READS

Plymouth Reads is about reading as a way towards change in ourselves, church community and our world.

Last Saturday afternoon, fifty us came together on Zoom and experienced the radical love of James Baldwin.

Our speaker, Dr. Gibson, spoke authoritatively on the power of James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*. And then he brought that power to life, allowing us to express our truths about race and our vulnerabilities and responding with love, not sugar love, but tough, honest love. And in so doing, Dr. Gibson challenged each of us to keep that openness, vulnerability and radical love alive, personally and in covenant with each other.

We'll see you again in January when we read a very different book, *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. We are off to a brilliant start! Many thanks. —Plymouth Library Committee ✨



JOIN TRANS AWARENESS WEEK



Transgender Awareness Week, typically observed the second week of November, is a one-week celebration leading up to Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), which

memorializes victims of transphobic violence. TDOR occurs annually on November 20, when transgender advocates raise awareness of the transgender community through education and advocacy activities.

This year for Transgender Awareness Week, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is encouraging everyone to watch the documentary *Disclosure* on Netflix. The feature from director Sam Feder and executive producer Laverne Cox explores the history of trans representation in TV and film in unprecedented form, revealing how Hollywood simultaneously reflects and manufactures people's deepest anxieties about gender.

It's been said that once people see the media stereotypes, tropes, and clichéd portrayals stacked together in *Disclosure*, it's impossible to unsee them. For trans people and allies, *Disclosure* is an important survey of how media has treated trans people, influencing not only how trans people have come to view themselves but also how the world has, with a call-to-action to better understand and support the community, on screen and off. Find *Tips for Allies of Transgender People* at GLAAD.org. ✦

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Study with friends Wednesdays at 9 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 for the Zoom password, or if you would like to be added to the group's weekly email list. ✦



All are welcome.

CONVERSATIONS RESCHEDULED

In order to honor our precious time together during Advent, Congregational Council has decided to push the budget conversation and vote from December 2020 to January 2021, potentially at the same time as Plymouth UCC's Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 31. Please keep reading the *Herald* and checking the website for updates, and plan to attend these virtual conversations and meetings. Your participation is vital as we move forward. We need to hear from you! ✦

WE'RE STILL STANDING!

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.



There's a place for you here.

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. ✦

PLYMOUTH HOUSING SHARES GRATITUDE AND HOLIDAY CHEER



At Plymouth Housing, 14% of our residents have served in the U.S. military. Every year, we honor them on

Veterans Day with a meal and celebration to build community and recognize their service. Of course, the tradition had to change form, but its spirit carries on. Plymouth residents who have served will receive these gifts and handmade cards from community members out of appreciation.

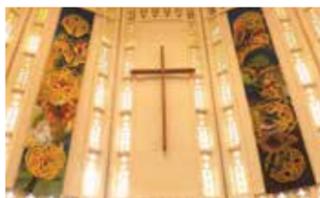
And you can help us carry that feeling of connectedness forward, because Thanksgiving is right around the corner! With the generosity of our community, every Plymouth resident will get to celebrate Thanksgiving safely in their own apartments with a delicious meal.

On a dark, cold winter day, what's better than a cozy gift with a kind message? Help us gift residents warm goods like blankets, socks, or coats with a heartfelt message. Donate a gift through Provide Now and/or write a note to a resident below!

Visit PlymouthHousing.org to learn more and contribute. ✦

LET'S HEAR YOUR STORY

As part of our year-round Stewardship campaign, we invite you to share your story of the impact of Plymouth as it lives out *Love in Action*. Sharing stories helps our community understand the importance of generosity in our lives, the reasons to support the church, and what we accomplish together. To submit a written piece or video, email Kyna at KynaGrace@gmail.com. ✦



Share your experience of Love in Action.

SINCE I BEEN DOWN

*Since I Been Down* is a powerful, critically acclaimed new film from Plymouth member Dr. Gilda Sheppard.

In 1993, Washington State voters passed the three-strikes law and sent children considered irredeemable super-predators to prison for life without parole. Influenced by the national drug war frenzy, escalating crime, and gang activity, during the fear-based political policies of the 1980's and '90's, Tacoma, Washington sacrificed their most-vulnerable children.



Eye-opening film to view now.

The city's lack of both social services and targeted investments in early education; the increasing inequality in housing and employment, and the culture of punishment (including no-parole, three-strikes, hard-time for armed-crime, and other excessive sentencing laws), stained the Tacoma landscape and destined these children to live their lives out behind bars.

Thrown into prison not for education or rehabilitation but for removal and punishment (out of sight, out of mind), these children, who are now adults, could not be silenced. Together they built a prisoners' community of healing that extended beyond prison walls.

*Since I Been Down* spotlights prisoner Kimonti Carter, and follows his efforts as well as a wide group of prisoners, as they break free from their fate and create a model of education that is transforming their lives, their communities, our prisons, and our own humanity.

Visit the *Since I Been Down* Facebook page for news of the film and where/how to view. ✦

REV. KEVIN BECHTOLD DELIVERS MESSAGE THIS SUNDAY

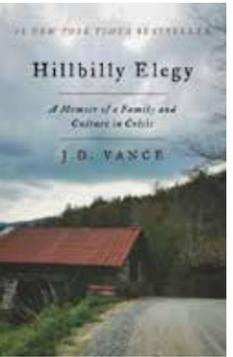
Kevin Bechtold grew up attending Plymouth and claims Plymouth as his church home since his 2001 confirmation. He first heard the call to ministry as a teenager and went on to earn his BA in Religious Studies from University of Oregon and a Master of Divinity from the School of Theology and Ministry at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



Rev. Kevin Bechtold

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY BLOG

Book of the week: *Hillbilly Elogy*. Read it before you watch the movie! The #1 *New York Times* bestseller is now a major motion picture directed by Ron Howard and starring Amy Adams, Glenn Close, and Gabriel Basso—coming to Netflix on November 24.



A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elogy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country. Read it before you watch it.

Do you want to check it out? Read how below. ✦

GET BOOKS TO GO!



Have books delivered to your home.

You can now check books out of Plymouth Library and have them mailed to your home! To find out what we have, go to our online catalog by following these easy steps:

1. Go to the Library Page at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org
2. Click "Online Catalog" in the purple box.
3. Click on Enter the name of the library: VidaBVarey (That's the official name of the Plymouth Library.)
4. Click on "sign in" (no password needed).
5. Search by title, author, subject, etc.
6. 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 need to apply for a card, send the following information to PlymouthLibrary@gmail.com: your name, address, telephone number, and the best email address for you.

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 ✦