

SUNDAY AT PLYMOUTH

10:30 am **Worship Sunday, January 3, 2021**

Epiphany Sunday

Lectionary Text for January 3: Matthew 2:1-12

"Home by Another Way"

Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Preaching

This service is pre-recorded

No live Zoom worship January 3

11:30 am Online Coffee Hour

Join friends online this Sunday after worship

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

The church building will be closed 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 care line, **206.639.7739**, checked daily.

Staff e-mail addresses are listed under the "About" tab at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org. Click on "Ministers and Staff."

Take Note: Plan to attend a Congregational Conversation about Plymouth's 2020 finances and the 2021 budget proposal after worship via Zoom **Sunday, January 17.**

KEEP STANDING FOR 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.

Help keep a Plymouth presence on the streets!

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

Return Service Requested

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH...

Cheri Bader (Sister-in-law of Mari Mitchell), 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, Keili Geller (Granddaughter of Nancy Geller), Peter Gibbons (Brother of Eileen Gibbons), Sharon, Floyd, and Carrie Gossett, Robert Hardy (Friend of Karen Clark), 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, Joseph Scott, Naomi Stein, Jim Stultz (Brother of Doug Stultz), Jaime Rubio Sulficio, Mildred Whitehurst (Grandmother of Toni Arthur), Samantha Williams, Stu Williamson (Father of Ruth Williamson) (**bold = newly added**)

We grieve with the family and friends of Phyllis Mines, who passed away December 30.

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
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December 30, 2020

AN APOLOGY



Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown

Every year, Plymouth Church begins a conversation at the end of the year. Usually, the staff and clergy do the work to create a list of people we will contact to follow up on from a pastoral care perspective. We are interested in whether a person or family is still engaged and participating in the life of Plymouth, or if they have found another church or are not active in a church.

These letters are generated because the clergy and staff are interested in the circumstances of those who are in covenant. This is a process that takes some time, care and investigation. The Pastoral Care Team is consulted because often, someone on the team knows details that make one's participation make sense. After a conversation and process, Good Shepherd letters go out in the spirit of discernment and welcome. They are sent to convey connection and concern.

As the Lead Pastor, I apologize for the manner in which this year's letters were sent, as well as any content in the letter that was dismissive and short-sighted. Many of you were surprised, and perhaps shocked and disappointed by the letters you received. Somehow, a decision was made to combine one's financial standing with active participation. In the midst of a pandemic where disconnection and isolation are real, the letters did not take into account the need for an extended process of reaching out to you, along with great compassion in the toughest year most of us can remember.

Before any other function, Plymouth is the church of God in Jesus Christ. Together, we are creating an environment of truth and reconciliation, modeling how to engage challenges with courage.

Each of you is important, and it takes all of us to be the church that is working in the world with God. Clergy and staff will continue to reflect on what it means to be in covenant in terms of "membership" and how to create holistic ways to give of all your resources—your time, your gifts and imagination, and your finances.

As this year comes to a close, accept our heartfelt apology and gratitude for open and listening hearts. —*Plymouth Care Team: Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Rev. Donene Blair, Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Jennifer Castle and June Hayakawa-Fung* ✨

STAR WORDS

Last Epiphany, we shared Star Words with you. They are meant to be guiding words for your year and an opportunity to reflect on who you are and shall be as we follow the star. My hope is that like the magi who followed the star to discover Jesus, we also seek the him, trusting the path will lead us to wholeness by way of our star.

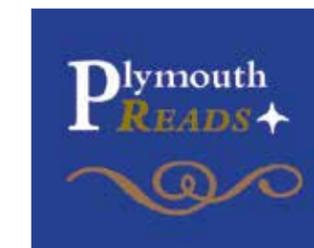


Let your word speak to you.

This week, you should receive your star word in the mail. Trust the word you receive to select you. It is natural to want to police which word you receive, however, give it time to bloom in its meaning for you.

If you do not receive your word in time for Epiphany, don't worry. In addition, if you do not receive one by mail, contact TArthur@PlymouthChurchSeattle.org who will send you a word via email. —*Dr. Brown* ✨

PLYMOUTH READS



Plymouth Reads is back in 2021 with our second of three books! *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi is a 180-degree shift from our first book. Kendi gives us tools for our right brain, the analytical side, to move towards a more just world. His is a

contemporary journey from a third grader in 1990 where he first questions racism, to a professorship at American University in 2017. Add marriage and cancer diagnosis for his new wife, and then himself, that also figure into this intellectual but very human revealing of a path forward.

Be sure to visit the Plymouth Reads web page and see all the great resources put together by our church librarian, Suzanne Sanderson, and to register to receive weekly emails and hear about the latest details on events and other happenings around the reading of *How To Be An Antiracist*.

Click the "Plymouth Reads" button at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org for link to registration and resources. ✨

PUTTING LOVE IN ACTION



Beloved, Love in Action

Cancelled travel plans. Postponed trips. Physical isolation from family and friends. As we look back at the hardship and heartache of 2020, I'm noticing one silver lining is that I feel more deeply connected to my faith and my faith community than ever before. 2020 has helped me understand, in new ways, how important Plymouth is to my life. Even though it will be a while before we can gather together in person, I'm so appreciative of each of you, and the way this community is showing up to support each other through this difficult time. That care and support is truly love in action.

2020 has been a tough year for the Plymouth budget. Covid-19 caused a massive reduction in parking lot revenue and in rental income for the church. The good news is that we've been able to reduce our expenses, and pledges have remained strong (the last report I saw had pledges at 94% paid - thank you for your faithfulness!). We're projecting to end the year with a deficit of around \$40,000 - 60,000. In such a tumultuous year, I count this as very good news! I look forward to sharing more about Plymouth's 2020 finances and the 2021 budget proposal at a congregational conversation January 17, after worship, via Zoom. Put it on your calendars.

The pandemic has impacted each of us in different ways, with some experiencing financial hardship and uncertainty, while others might have set aside funds for a trip or project that was cancelled or postponed in 2020. I've had several members reach out to me and ask if the church needs some extra support. That generosity of spirit is another way that we put our love into action! If you have the means, please consider an end of year gift to support our church, to help Plymouth reduce our year-end deficit and to begin 2021 with strength and abundance.

You can donate by Cash App at \$PlymouthUCCSeattle, text your gift to 206.208.1442, or manage your giving from the SimpleChurch app. You can also mail a donation to the church (1217 6th Ave, Seattle WA, 98101), make a secure online gift on our website, or support the church with a transfer of stock. Thank you! —Kyna Shilling

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Flowers given in memory or in honor

John Blaine, Lillian and Wallace Davis, Sr.,
from Lauren Davis

Al Bergman, from Ardy Bergman

John and Jean Haigh, from Jeanette and Ken Hagen
Our Mothers, Addo Lee Haucke and Isabel Decker,
from Roberta and John Devine

Robert (Bob) Hanson, Ernest E. Colglazier,
Alberta Colglazier, Carol White,
from Bertha Hanson

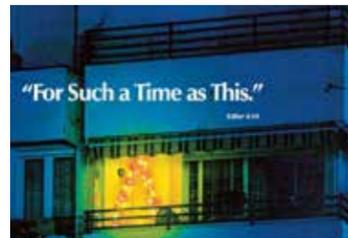
Additional Contributions from

Vicki Shoettle

Jon and Maryann Counts

Darlene and Kerry Krenzkie

SPECIAL OFFERING CONTINUES



Gifts through the end of December will be divided evenly between *The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross* and *Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund*.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to our lower-income retirees. In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

The Plymouth UCC Scholarship Fund continues to support members and friends in financial hardship take part in opportunities offered by and through Plymouth UCC. We are grateful for your support.

PLYMOUTH HOUSING THANKS YOU

This was a challenging year for all of us. But at Plymouth Housing, our load was made lighter by the giving spirit of our community. We're filled with gratitude to all of you who have supported our mission this year in whatever way you could.

In 2020, supporters like you provided 1,200+ Plymouth residents with warm homes, supportive staff, supplies to keep them healthy, holiday meals, and many moments of joy. So much of this would not be possible without you. Thank you again for your support, and may we all have a brighter new year.

Visit PlymouthHousing.org to learn more about how you can help.

EMBODIMENT IN DISEMBODIED TIME MAY'S VOTE



Join online retreat January 29-30, 2021.

All male gender identifying people are invited to register for the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Men's Retreat January 29-30. The theme is "Embodiment in a Disembodied Time." Our host will be Phil Porter of Interplay.

The retreat will be held online, Friday evening, January 29, 7:30 to 9 pm for music, worship and introductions, continuing Saturday with program led by Phil Porter, 9 to 11 am and 2 to 4 pm, ending Saturday, 7:30 to 9 pm, with Wisdom Circle. Link to register at PlymouthChurchSeattle.org (click news article "Embodiment in a Disembodied Time.")

Contact Hans Danker, JDank@msn.com for scholarship assistance, Advent blessings, —Rick Russell, member of Planning Team and Prospect UCC, Seattle

GET BOOKS TO GO!

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:



Have books delivered to your home!

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.

If you are going to be in downtown Seattle, email me for how to contact someone who will answer the door of the church building to take your books. You may also mail them using the library mail rate to: Plymouth Church Library, 1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Please keep our library materials in a safe place and return them as soon as you are able.

—Suzanne Sanderson, Plymouth Church Librarian

May's Vote — a play about the two women who led the campaign that won the vote for women in Washington State in 1910 — is coming to Plymouth Church UCC for two virtual performances at the end of January! Don't miss your chance to get to know these fascinating women.



Catch online performances January 26 & 29.

Learn about how Washington State's victory became a turning point in the fight to win the vote for women nationwide — and about the important role that Plymouth Congregational Church played in the Washington State campaign.

The *May's Vote* performances are being sponsored by University Congregational UCC, in collaboration with Plymouth Church UCC and the Pacific Northwest Conference. Join us for this online play about two extraordinary women from Washington's past. The actors will give a brief live introduction before the virtual performance and will answer questions in a post-play online discussion after the show.

Virtual Performances (link will be given later):

- Tuesday, January 26, 2:30 pm (Pacific Time)
- Friday, January 29, 6:30 pm. (Pacific Time)

Prim and proper Emma Smith DeVoe and outrageous, flamboyant May Arkwright Hutton worked side by side — but seldom eye to eye — to win the vote for women in Washington State in 1910. Emma and May were as different as night and day, which makes for a very lively play!

Written by Toni Douglass, *May's Vote* has toured extensively throughout Washington in the past. In 2020, in honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment (and the 110th anniversary of Washington's victory), a new production was mounted by Key City Public Theatre in Port Townsend, under a Votes for Women Centennial Grant from the Washington State Historical Society.

Historical Notes



Plymouth Church building at 3rd & University, c. 1910

Plymouth Congregational (and other Seattle churches) played an important role in the Washington suffrage campaign. In the summer of 1909, conventions for the state and national suffrage organizations were scheduled in Seattle, in conjunction with the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

Plymouth Congregational Church hosted these conventions, and the support of many other churches and ministers was enlisted in planning them. The conventions culminated with the celebration of Suffrage Day at the A-Y-P Exposition.