

LITERARY WITNESSES

## Celebrate Robert Bly's *Collected Poems*

BY JAMES LENFESTEY

**A celebration of the publication of Robert Bly's *Collected Poems* will be held Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., at Plymouth Church, co-sponsored by Literary Witnesses and RainTaxi Review of Books.** Bly's biographer, Dr. Mark Gustafson, will provide a summary of Bly's achievements, followed by performances of Bly's poems by, among others, his children, grandchildren, friends old and new, and representatives of the Minnesota literary ecosystem Bly inspired and helped build over the past 60 years.

A special guest is William Duffy, co-founder with Bly of the magazine *The Fifties*. Music will be provided by Zachary Cohen, principal bassist of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Gaylord Schanilec has created a broadside of the iconic Bly poem "Keeping Our Small Boat Afloat" to commemorate the event. It will be available for purchase at the reception following the program, along with Bly's books, by Birchbark Books.

The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend the celebration of a founder of Minnesota's literary feast.

Robert Bly turned 92 in December 2018, the same month his *Collected Poems* was released by

WW Norton to a rapturous review in *The New York Times*. The nation's literary world will not see his like again.



When Bly moved back to the family farm in Madison, Minn., after time in the Navy, Harvard, New York, the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a Fulbright-funded experience in Norway, his ear for the sound of Midwestern landscapes changed American poetry. His fascination with Jungian psychology and ancient, pre-Christian stories changed poetry's subject matter, returning grief and spiritual longing to the center, a deep swerve away from the academic and arcane. His activism

against the illegal war in Vietnam changed the stance of American poets from passive observation to active intervention, protesting a "wrong turn" in American poetry as well as politics.

Bly's translations of poets from around the world broadened the mind and landscape of American poetry ever since. Bly's trenchant criticism and path-breaking introductions to poems, poets and poetry in essays and anthologies remain as essential today as the day he wrote them beginning in 1958 with his publication *The Fifties*, then *The Sixties* and *The Seventies*. That magazine, edited from the kitchen table of his family farmhouse in Minnesota's western prairie, influenced the world.

But the core of Bly's achievement remains his poetry, from the quiet, Chinese-inflected *Silence in the Snowy Fields*, first published in 1962 and still in print, through his remarkable adaptations of the Persian ghazal of his latest collections. Which is why publication of Bly's *Collected Poems* is the major literary event it is.

Do not miss this, my friends.

# Abundance or Scarcity?

BY PAULA NORTHWOOD, ACTING SENIOR MINISTER



In the beginning of our Hebrew scriptures, creation is all about abundance.

From the first chapters of Genesis, God not only initiates

abundance, the calling forth of plants and fish and birds and animals, but promises continued abundance by commanding them to “increase and multiply” (1:22). God’s generosity and fidelity reach their climax on the sixth day, when God proclaims a sufficiency for “everything that has the breath of life” and declares all this “very good” (1:30-31).

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, in an article entitled “Enough is Enough,” writes: “But the peculiar thing, at least from a biblical perspective, is that the rich—the ones with the abundance—rely on an ideology of scarcity, while the poor—the ones suffering from scarcity—rely on an ideology of abundance. How can that be? The issue involves whether there is enough to go around—enough food, water, shelter, space.

“An ideology of scarcity says No, there’s not enough, so hold onto what you have. In fact, don’t just hold onto it, hoard it. Put aside more than you need, so that if you do need it, it will be there, even if others must do without.”

People have spoken to me about the concerns they have with the financial future of our church. I have heard such

mistaken ideas as: “We have spent down our endowment to nothing!” (Our *endowment* is an invested funds account of which we spend only the earnings—not the principal). While we sometimes take more out of our overall investments than we would like, the truth is that in the last several years our investments have grown from \$4 million to \$6 million. Our endowment makes up about \$1.3

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As we think about  
how to  
share our resources,  
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million out of the \$6.2 million total of invested funds. For a facility the size of Plymouth, one could argue that isn’t enough. Indeed, we will continue, with the help of the Legacy Committee, to strive to create a more solid foundation for the future. Annually, it takes \$2 million to keep the church up and running.

What’s more disconcerting than our endowment being slightly underfunded is that our pledging and contributions are flat. The Stewardship Committee is working hard to encourage new giving and for members to increase their contributions. Most of us live out of great abundance—can we move to

greater generosity?

Over the Christmas holidays, in the Christian scriptures we heard Mary sing her Magnificat: “He has filled the hungry with good things” (Luke 1:53). And the Magnificat, it appears, borrows from 1 Samuel, in which Hannah, the mother of Samuel, sang that “those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil” (1 Samuel 2:5).

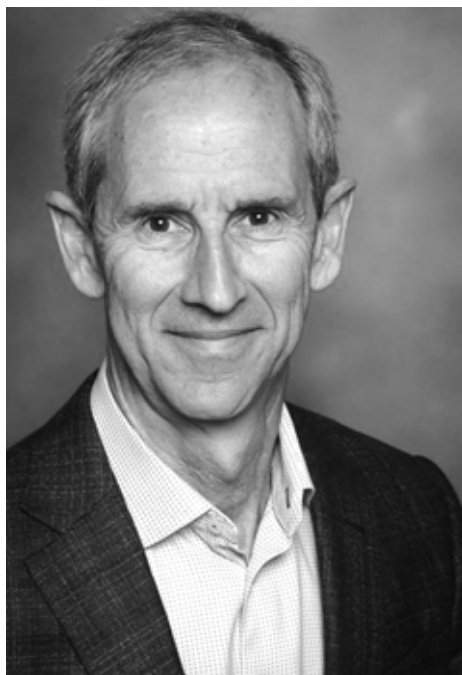
Jesus remembered the songs of God’s generosity toward those in need. Jesus is well-schooled in the transformative generosity of God. Jesus is also well-schooled in the conviction that if you share your bread with the neighbor, the world will be made new. Jesus knows that generosity isn’t something you just think about, it’s something you do.

As we move into our season of setting the budget and thinking about how we share our resources, let us school ourselves in the transformative generosity of God.

# Ministerial search process to begin soon

BY BRIAN SISKA, MODERATOR

**Many of you have been wondering about the search process for finding a new minister.** Paula Northwood has stated her desire to retire in late 2020, and that will leave a necessary space to fill on the ministerial team. I'm glad to tell you this search is getting underway this month. We have been working with our Interim Minister, Dan



Wolpert, since May and, along with our ministerial staff, have undergone a critical period of discernment about who we are as a church, the transition toward our future and our spiritual growth. While Dan's work will continue into May of this year, the Deacons have decided it was the right time to begin our search for our next Minister.

Our first step is to identify a strong chair for the search committee, then involve that person in selecting the other members of the committee and refining the search charter. We want broad and varied representation from the congregation, while at the same time including people with a mixture

of human resources, strategic and organizational skills. We also want to insure that we choose people who are active in the life of the church in order to effectively represent the church to our candidates and to determine which candidates are the best fit. Once the committee members are selected, we will go to the congregation for approval in April. The Deacons will directly supervise the work of the search committee.

What have we learned that will be valuable to us in this ministerial search? First is that we truly benefit from the collaborative team approach that has been implemented by our current ministerial staff, which tells us that our next minister should be someone who has proven ability to work effectively within a team environment. This seems to be the way the church world is moving and also is the kind of position that many ministers are seeking. While we are still using the title of Senior Minister in our governing documents, this position will not look like the hierarchical Senior Minister of years past.

**While many of us have strong attachment to the Plymouth of the past 20 years, we are hiring for the next 20 years and beyond.**

Our discernment work over the past months has taught us that we need someone competent in what we are calling "spiritual administration," which is the process of building energy around the wakefulness and deep listening of what God wants for us and how the Spirit moves within us. While we expect this person to have strong preaching skills, the work of spiritual administration goes well

beyond that to inspire us to live up to our stated desire, as we spoke of in our 2010 strategic plan, "to embody the radical love and justice found in the life, spirit and teachings of Jesus," or, as we alternately state it in our current Purposes of the Church, to "humbly seek and serve God within, among and beyond ourselves."

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The search committee, once fully formed and active, will address the long-term strategic and spiritual needs of Plymouth Church while seeking to fill this position. Much work has already taken place in defining the future we seek to live out together, but more is yet to be done, and this work will continue in strong partnership with the Ministers, Deacons, Boards and you, the members of the church.

# Celebrating 50 years with anthems

BY PHILIP BRUNELLE, ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER

During my 50th year with you at Plymouth Church, I want to include some of the anthems that have been meaningful to me—and to you, I hope!

Sunday, Feb. 3, is the day after Candlemas, celebrating the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. British composer Cecilia McDowall has composed an anthem on the words of Simeon: “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.” And on this day, the Plymouth Choir will also sing an anthem composed by Ian Kellam in honor of long-time Plymouth member, Tom Hunt: *Deus Amor Est (God Is Love)*.

Peter Schickele (aka P.D.Q. Bach) composed an anthem for my 20th anniversary at Plymouth Church, “Guide My Soul,” which the Choir has sung on many occasions. And David

Evan Thomas, long-time friend of Plymouth, composed a lovely anthem some years ago in honor of Plymouth member Claire Colliander, *Forever Toward You*, celebrating her years as our music librarian.

Music of the English composer Herbert Howells and the Swedish composer Otto Olsson will be heard on Feb. 17, and we welcome back Melanie DeMore on Feb. 24 singing for us, and with a new anthem she composed in honor of Carolyn Brunelle’s 50 years as a Plymouth Choir member!



ARTS

# Daniel Roth—don’t miss this free concert

BY CAROL BRANDENBURG, MEMBER, 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE AND PLYMOUTH GROWTH TASK FORCE

Plymouth members and friends have a very special treat in store—another free concert, in honor of Philip Brunelle’s 50th year as Plymouth Congregational Church’s organist-choirmaster!

On Sunday, Feb. 10, at 4 p.m., DANIEL ROTH, the renowned organist of St. Sulpice, Paris, will give a concert on our Plymouth organ (which will be brought forward on the Chancel as it was for Philip’s September recital, making the organist’s hands and feet visible to the audience).

“In the world of international organists, Daniel Roth is regarded as one of France’s finest,” says Philip.



Photo: Sjaak Verboom

“His playing is superb and his improvisations are amazing!”

We hope you’ll invite your friends, family members and music lovers—especially those not familiar with Plymouth—to attend this exciting event. This is one way to bring new people to experience our beautiful church and learn about the rich array of activities and opportunities to connect that Plymouth Church offers.



## Attention Plymouth Artists!

There will be a members’ show in the gallery in early May.

Look for more information in the coming months.

We look forward to seeing your art.

—Carolyn Brunelle and Susan Larson

# A time of light and transformation

BY BETH A. FAETH, MINISTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WORSHIP

The season of Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday, March 6. During this season of light and revelation, we are invited to “awaken to God’s initiative” (Bruce Epperly, [www.patheos.com](http://www.patheos.com)). On Sunday mornings at Plymouth, we have just begun to delve into the Purposes of the Church, value statements to which this congregation aspires. Examining our 14 purposes, particularly through a racial justice lens, beckons us to center more deeply in a spiritual community dedicated to radical hospitality and transformation. The messages evoked from the Purposes are meant to challenge and inspire us, waking us up to the difficult yet redeeming work of racial equality. Embracing the message of the Epiphany season, we should expect to be changed and enlightened.

**Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs** will be our guest preacher at both services on Feb. 10. Rev. Bear Jacobs is a

member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, an American Indian tribe located in central Wisconsin. Currently, he is a parish associate of Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church and is the Program Director for Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches. He is founder/convener of “Healing Minnesota Stories,” which is dedicated to creating events of dialogue, education and healing, particularly within faith communities. Rev. Bear Jacobs has been invited to preach here as we continue our conversations about the embroideries and the work our congregation is facing as we pursue racial justice. The Purpose of the Church that Rev. Bear Jacobs will address is: “Live in the hope of renewal and transformation.”

During the First Service on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6, I invited each worshipper to choose a “star word.” Hundreds of words—including hope,



REV. JIM BEAR JACOBS

endurance, loyalty, perseverance, courage and so on—were printed on a construction-paper star. The spiritual practice of a star word is to trust that the word chooses you and is meant as a guide to your prayer, thought, action and intention in the coming year. I offered star words last year and many folks were pleased to participate again.

It is truly amazing how often your star word shows up throughout the course of a year, when we are mindful and focused. I have a lot of star words to share. If you would like one, please let me know.

Blessings, Beth

## DEACON SPOTLIGHT

# Meet justice seeker Katie Dillon



I believe that my faith is not only a personal spiritual journey but is also a catalyst and foundation to act for positive change in our world. When

looking for a church shortly after my move to Minneapolis in 2005, I knew I wanted to find one that was inclusive, supported members’ faith journeys and was committed to living out faith through action and commitment to social justice. I knew Plymouth was the church for me when I found information about the Outreach

groups here, including Caring for Creation, which I joined right away. Over the years, I have served at Plymouth as a teacher, an Outreach Board member and chair, as member of the Strategic Planning Committee and of the Transitional Policy Board, a Deacon and, now, as Clerk.

When I hear fellow Plymouth members speak about what drew them to Plymouth, our commitment to social justice is most often given as a reason people come here and a reason people stay—just as it was for me. In the last few years, I have seen a growing commitment within Plymouth

to racial justice. But what do we mean when we talk about racial justice? Is it ensuring that people of color feel welcome? Is it about addressing economic and educational disparities? Is it about understanding how our own white privilege affects our ability to see injustice? I think it is all of these things—and more.

Our faith teaches us that we must work for and with the marginalized and oppressed, and to tear down the systems that are oppressive. I feel deeply that to fully live in to our church Purposes, we need to start with our own systems and our own selves.

# Anti-Racism as Neighborhood Strategy

BY MARJAAN SIRDAR, BRYANT NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION VICE CHAIR

*Marjaan Sirdar is a friend of Deacon Katie Dillon (please see Deacon Spotlight, previous page); his article is reprinted here with permission.*

Anti-racism is a lifelong commitment to ending racism, everywhere racism exists. It is the belief that racism is a system. And that in order to benefit from such a system, one must have power. The late civil rights leader Stokely Carmichael (later, Kwame Ture) described racism like this: “If a white man wants to lynch me, that’s his problem. If he’s got the power to lynch me, that’s my problem. Racism is not a question of attitude; it’s a question of power.”

The People’s Institute for Survival & Beyond, a 40-year-old anti-racist organization based in New Orleans,

returned to the Twin Cities with their transformational “Undoing Racism” training in Saint Paul recently. Ron Chisom Institute also defines racism as “racial prejudice + power.”

Racism is no more or no less important than any other form of oppression, and a true anti-racist is an intersectionalist and an internationalist. Anti-racists believe that all oppression is interconnected, therefore our liberation is bound together, collectively. Anti-racism is a strategy to end all forms of oppression by focusing on white supremacy.

Some of the very first laws written on the books by English invaders in Jamestown were created to divide labor along racial lines, placing Whites at the very top.

We saw these laws expand and change to suit the need of the moment. We also witnessed the laws target other groups over time, restricting rights of women, LGBTQ people and immigrants, as well as criminalizing the poor. Just as racism was the fundamental strategy for monopolizing power in the hands of a few, anti-racism is the key strategy for decentralizing that same power and liberating the many.

This column . . . is also a call to action for Southside neighbors who already identify as anti-racist, in [that] it is not liberalism or progressivism, it is anti-racism.

Suggested reading: ***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota***, edited by Sun Yung Shin.

## Why work for racial justice?

BY PETER EICHTEN, RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Plymouth Racial Justice Task Force is now the Racial Justice Initiative. The new name clearly states that Plymouth is committed to working long term for racial justice. But, what exactly does it mean for Plymouth to be working for racial justice, and why would we do it?

As a predominately white congregation, it means that we need to take a good hard look at what it means to be white now, when the country is becoming brown. And because racial justice is a moral issue, we simply cannot ignore it if we are to call ourselves Christians.

The culture we all live in is a white culture. That sounds innocent enough, but is it anything but. It is a culture that has oppressed people of color from the day white people set

foot on what is now the USA. “To be white is to be superior to any person of color”: Hopefully, this is not what you or I personally believe, but it doesn’t matter what you or I believe—because we have been immersed in this culture of white supremacy since the day we were born. And so all white people are part of the racism that is so prevalent in our society.

That does not make us bad people, it just is. ***Racism is a structure, not an event, and the structure of this country is white supremacy.***

White supremacy leaves people of color behind: Opportunities and resources available to white people for the past 400 years have not been available to people of color. We stole land from the native inhabitants as we tried to exterminate them. We put

over 3 million Africans into slavery for 250 years, and then under Jim Crow segregation for another 90. Yet, treating our siblings in this way is antithetical to what we believe as Christians. Thus we are called to do this racial justice work because our Christian faith demands it. We have a moral responsibility to work for racial justice. It’s not an option: It’s at the very heart of our faith.

To work for racial justice at Plymouth means that we are being faithful to the call for justice central to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. We continue to do this work not just for us, but for the edification of those who have suffered, and who continue to suffer, from the great oppression that was created by our white ancestors. It is not easy work, but together we can make a difference.

# Racial Justice Initiative: Goals for spring

BY SONIA CAIRNS AND CATHERINE SHREVES, CO-CHAIRS, RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Embroideries discussions during the last weeks of 2018 and ongoing programs early this year have created a particular sensitivity to exploring issues of institutional or systemic racism at our beloved church.

***Institutional or systemic racism encompasses economic, political, social, and cultural structures, actions and beliefs that systematize and perpetuate an unequal distribution of privileges, resources and power between white people and people of color.***

(definition by Peter Eichten; see previous page). Many people have expressed distress about the portrayal of Native Americans/American Indians in the Thanksgiving embroidery (*Churchmen in the New World*), finding it an example of systemic racism. The ministers invited the congregation to have discussions about the Embroideries in a compassionate, respectful way, acknowledging both the years of loving work by the Needlers as well as the pain caused by some of the images in the Embroideries. These discussions continue.

We, the members of the Racial Justice Initiative, humbly approach our work not as experts on racial justice. Rather, we are Plymouth members who are particularly passionate about exploring together to create a welcoming atmosphere that pervades every aspect of our life at Plymouth.

Our goals are to:

- Expand our awareness and deepen our understanding of racial justice, equity and inclusion;

- Address issues of white privilege and institutional or systemic racism within the Plymouth community;
- Ground conversations in spiritual principles;
- Decrease the level of racial injustice in our congregation and our wider community;
- Refrain from establishing goals related to increasing racial diversity of our church membership.

In the past months:

- We proposed new language to the Purposes of the Church to make explicit a commitment to racial justice. The Deacons then amended the Purposes.
- Peter Eichten, Racial Justice Initiative member and college professor, conducted a training session for the Leadership Council and Deacons on white fragility. (He recommends the recent published ***White Fragility*** by Robin Diangelo.)
- We invite all Plymouth boards to adapt the Racial Justice Covenant, originally drafted by Jasper Jonson and the Board of Worship, to the work and purposes of their own boards.

Going forward:

- In addition, we will meet with each board this year to explore how each can take concrete actions to address and dismantle systems of racism and exclusion within our church structure, per Leadership Council guidance. Boards will report directly back

to the Leadership Council about their progress by April.

- We continue to partner with community organizations doing racial justice work. In January, for example, Plymouth hosted a Hennepin History Museum presentation by Augsburg College Professor Bill Green titled **Racism in Minnesota, How We Got Here**. We also co-sponsored a free performance of ***Acting Black: Demystifying Racism*** by Carlyle Brown, Jan. 26, in our Conn Theater.
- On Feb. 24, the Film Club will feature ***13th***, a film that traces mass incarceration of black Americans to its historical origins in the Thirteenth Amendment, which “banned slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for a crime.” A discussion facilitated by Nekima Levy-Pounds, civil rights lawyer, racial justice expert and activist, will follow the film.

The Racial Justice Initiative is privileged to be partnering with Plymouth’s ministers, the Leadership Council and the Deacons, all of whom have expressed their strong commitment to furthering our mutual understanding of our white privilege at Plymouth and to make changes that foster racial justice and inclusivity. We are also pleased to partner with our fellow congregation members in this work.

We, the Racial Justice Initiative members, are eager to hear from you! Contact us at: [scairns@mosscairns.com](mailto:scairns@mosscairns.com) and [cshreves@comcast.net](mailto:cshreves@comcast.net).

## Rich in spiritual exploration opportunities

Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart, Feb. 3 (registration closed Jan. 20)

Philip Brunelle—Through the Years, Feb. 4, April 1, May 6

Healing Touch and the Chakras, Feb. 12

The Intersection of Joy and Grief: Honoring Each, March 3

Relationship as Spiritual Practice: Foundation of Nonviolent Communication, March 8–9

Letters to All of Us: James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* and Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, March 14–April 11

Book Study: *Almost Everything* by Anne Lamott, March 28, April 4 & April 11

Retreat: Men Being Better, April 5–6 (offsite)

Flower Arranging as a Spiritual Practice, April 6

A Call to Contemplation: learn to nourish your spiritual life, May 3–4 (offsite)

Pilgrimage to Chartres Cathedral, May 10–18 (really offsite)

### Ongoing Spiritual Practices

Meditation, 10–11 a.m., Sundays, Chapel. No charge. No registration.

Meditation, 9:00–9:30 a.m., Tuesdays, Chapel. No charge; no registration. Led by members of Plymouth's ministerial team.

Conversations from the Heart Compassionate Communication Practice Group meets at 10

a.m., Wednesdays, weekly. \$10–\$25 donation suggested. No registration. All levels welcome.

Spiritual Yoga, Ben Lee. 6:45–8:00 p.m. Wednesdays (except holidays), One Groveland. \$10. No registration.

Learn more online ([www.plymouth.org/explore/adult-spirituality/](http://www.plymouth.org/explore/adult-spirituality/))

or pick up a booklet from the literature racks.

To register, go to the relevant calendar entry ([www.plymouth.org/events/](http://www.plymouth.org/events/)), which has the registration link.

## ARTS

## Journey Within—Journey Abroad: Complementary art

BY LYNNETTE K. BLACK, GALLERY CO-CHAIR

Join us for a visual feast of color by two outstanding artists who use their life experiences to inform their artistic visions. View globally inspired jewelry designs by Robyne Robinson and luminous paintings that Laurel O'Gorman creating during a life time of reflection, meditation and inward exploration.

Artists' reception: March 3, noon–1 p.m.

### Robyne Robinson—Rox Minneapolis Jewelry

Robyne's years of living in Greece, curiosity about gemstones and study of jewelry design all led to the creation of her beautiful, globally



influenced Rox jewelry line. "We have a natural attraction to the stones and minerals around us," says Robyne. "They are a part of our history and a part of us." Robyne also lectures on Stones and Healing at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Education Center. ([square.com/store/rox-minneapolis-jewelry](http://square.com/store/rox-minneapolis-jewelry); [Instagram.com/roxmplsjewelry](https://www.instagram.com/roxmplsjewelry); [mkt.com/rox-minneapolis-jewelry](https://www.mkt.com/rox-minneapolis-jewelry))

### Laurel O'Gorman—Horizons Series

The Horizon Series of paintings reflects Laurel O'Gorman's visual journey from 1980 to 2018. She explores inner and external landscapes with thought-provoking perspectives. O'Gorman is an artist, educator, curator, consultant and graphic designer. She spent 10 years at



St. Catherine University as an art teacher and gallery director. (<https://laurelogorman.com>)



# Ted Bowman to lead two programs on grief

BY BILL SCHAFER, PLYMOUTH MORTALITY PROJECT

The Mortality Project is privileged to offer two grief-related programs with Ted Bowman at Plymouth Church on Sunday, March 3. Ted is a nationally known educator, author and consultant with special expertise in helping others navigate end of life transitions and grief. The two programs are:

## 1) Giving Grief Words: The Power of Naming and Story-Telling (March 3, 10 a.m., Theater)

At times of loss, people can also be at a loss for words. While words are not essential, they can be helpful and healing to griever and those that care for them. An old aphorism is that if something is unmentionable, it can be unmanageable. In this session, perspectives and tools for eliciting words of loss, following metaphors, questions that invite stories, use of

literary prompts and more will be presented, demonstrated through examples and discussed by all.

## 2) The Intersection of Joy and Grief: Honoring Each (March 3, 12:15 p.m., Jackman)

Either/or ways of seeing and responding to events and feelings can compromise both the either and the or. Rather than push one away, a both/and approach acknowledges overlaps of feelings and experiences. In this session, ways of honestly honoring one's joy and one's grief will be asserted and discussed using personal and family vignettes. At this session there will also be small table discussions after a presentation by Ted Bowman.

Ted Bowman's current career emphasis is on aiding people in utilizing their strengths and the

resources of others in facing change and transition. He is the author of many books and articles listed on his website ([bowmanted.com/Books.html](http://bowmanted.com/Books.html)). He



says: "For over 40 years, I have worked in human service, educational, medical, mental health, governmental, spiritual and related settings leading retreats; providing workshops; speaking at conferences or community meetings; consulting with staff; writing for newsletters, journals, and organizational publications; and leading in worship."

Please join us for one or both of these useful sessions informed by a speaker with diverse professional experiences and a deep sense of the spiritual aspects of grief and loss.

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

# Forums in February: Sundays at 10

*Unless noted, Forum presentations take place in Jackman.*

## Feb. 3 Whittier School Volunteers Update

In 2019 Plymouth continues its partnership with Whittier IB Elementary School. Plymouth volunteers are making a difference in the lives of Whittier students by assisting teachers in the classroom, playing piano as the children enter and leave the school and, for the second year, doing intensive literacy tutoring with students through Reading Partners.

## Feb. 10 The Bible, Racism, and Faith in the 21st Century

Scripture is an important ally for

building the Beloved Community. Yet, the Bible has been used to oppress people throughout history. We will reclaim the liberating power of Scripture by looking at examples of how biblical interpretation addresses racism and injustice and develops cultural competency in congregations and communities. Presented by **Rev. Dr. Curtiss Paul DeYoung**, CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

## Feb. 17 Panel on Minneapolis Food Shelves

Our church helped found the food shelf housed in our lower level near One Groveland, which serves a vital need in our neighborhood. Yet our efforts are just one among many

other food shelves, all trying to help struggling Minneapolis residents maintain healthy diets. This panel will help us understand some of the successes and challenges these organizations face.

## Feb. 24 Embroideries in Context, Guild Hall.

Third of four opportunities to discuss the embroidery *Churchmen in the New World*. "Embroideries in Museum Context," includes Lyndel King, Director, Weismann Gallery, University of Minnesota, and Annette Atkins, historian and Plymouth member.

# February 2019

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## 01 FRIDAY

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## 02 SATURDAY

8:30 Leadership Day II

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## 03 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 First Service  
9:00 Archives—open for visitors  
9:30 Adult Handbells  
10:00 New member class  
10:00 Meditation  
10:00 Church School  
10:00 Nonviolent Communication for Parents and Grandparents  
10:00 Forum  
10:00 Theology of the Purposes of the Church (Theater)  
11:00 Second Service  
12:00 Katy's Cafe  
12:15 Church tour  
12:15 Film club: *Hilary and Jackie*, hosted by Philip Brunelle  
1:00 Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart (offsite, at MIA)

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## 04 MONDAY

1:00 Home Retreat Meeting  
6:30 MAITRI Meditation  
6:30 Philip Brunelle: Through the Years  
7:00 Great Books Group

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## 05 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer  
4:00 Personnel Committee  
6:30 Deacons  
6:30 One More Chair Bridge

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## 06 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit A Bit  
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group  
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
2:00 Archives  
4:00 Legacy Giving Committee  
5:00 Katy's Cafe  
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement: Youth activities  
6:00 100 Hands  
6:00 Alleluia Dancers  
6:00 Cherub Choir  
6:00 Confirmation  
6:00 Young Voices

6:30 Fun with Dylan  
6:30 Chapel Singers  
6:35 Chorister Choir  
6:45 Genesis Dancers  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration–Yoga  
7:00 Plymouth Choir  
7:20 Bells—Young people  
7:35 Youth Choir

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## 07 THURSDAY

10:30 Meals on Wheels  
12:00 Plymouth Pew Clergy Group  
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

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## 08 FRIDAY

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## 09 SATURDAY

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## 10 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 First Service  
9:00 Archives—open for visitors  
9:30 Adult Handbells  
10:00 Meditation  
10:00 Church School  
10:00 Nonviolent Communication for Parents and Grandparents  
10:00 Forum  
10:00 Theology of the Purposes of the Church (Theater)  
11:00 Second Service  
12:00 Katy's Cafe  
12:00 Second Service Worship Hosts  
12:00 Film Club: *The Power of Minnesota*, hosted by Caring for Creation  
4:00 Daniel Roth—organ concert in honor of Philip Brunelle's 50th year as Plymouth Organist-Choirmaster

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## 11 MONDAY

6:30 Church Growth Task Force  
6:30 MAITRI Meditation  
6:30 Racial Justice Initiative  
7:00 Literary Witnesses: Celebration of Robert Bly's *Collected Poems*

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## 12 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer  
10 & 6:30 Healing Touch and the Chakras  
4:00 Building & Grounds Meeting  
5:30 BeFrienders  
6:00 Immigrant Welcoming Working Group

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## 13 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit A Bit  
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group  
10:00 HABIT 18 Support Group  
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center; Love Song Singalong, with Philip  
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement: Youth activities  
5:00 Katy's Cafe  
5:30 Board of Fine Arts  
5:30 Sunday Forum Committee  
6:00 100 Hands  
6:00 Alleluia Dancers  
6:00 Cherub Choir  
6:00 Confirmation  
6:00 Young Voices  
6:30 Board of Community Life  
6:30 Board of Outreach  
6:30 Board of Spiritual Formation  
6:30 Fun with Dylan  
6:30 Chapel Singers  
6:35 Chorister Choir  
6:45 Genesis Dancers  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration–Yoga  
7:00 Plymouth Choir  
7:20 Bells—Young people  
7:35 Youth Choir

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## 14 THURSDAY

10:30 Meals on Wheels  
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
6:30 Board of Worship  
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

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## 15 FRIDAY

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## 16 SATURDAY

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## 17 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 First Service  
9:00 Archives—open for visitors  
9:30 Adult Handbells  
10:00 Meditation  
10:00 Church School  
10:00 Nonviolent Communication for Parents and Grandparents  
10:00 Forum  
10:00 Theology of the Purposes of the Church (Theater)  
10:00 New Member Class  
11:00 Second Service

12:00 Katy's Cafe  
12:15 Church Tour  
12:15 Caring for Creation  
5:00 Third Sunday Meal

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## 18 MONDAY

1:00 Spiritual Exploration Committee  
6:30 MAITRI Meditation

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## 19 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer  
6:00 Immigrant Welcoming Working Group  
6:30 Families Moving Forward: Reflections on Hosting

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## 20 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit A Bit  
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group  
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
1:30 One More Chair Book Club  
3:30 Stewardship Committee  
4:00 BeFrienders  
5:00 Board of Finance & Admin.  
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement: Youth activities  
5:00 Katy's Cafe  
6:00 Plymouth Bus Drivers Training  
6:00 100 Hands  
6:00 Alleluia Dancers  
6:00 Cherub Choir  
6:00 Confirmation  
6:00 Young Voices  
6:30 Fun with Dylan  
6:30 Chapel Singers  
6:35 Chorister Choir  
6:45 Genesis Dancers  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration–Yoga  
7:00 Plymouth Choir  
7:20 Bells—Young people  
7:35 Youth Choir

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## 21 THURSDAY

10:30 Meals on Wheels  
12:00 MAITRI Meditation  
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

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## 22 FRIDAY

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## 23 SATURDAY

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## 24 SUNDAY

8:45–12:15 Childcare  
9:00 First Service  
9:00 Archives open for visitors  
9:30 Adult Handbells  
10:00 New member brunch reception  
10:00 Meditation  
10:00 Church School  
10:00 Nonviolent Communication for Parents and Grandparents  
10:00 Forum  
10:00 Theology of the Purposes of the Church (Theater)  
11:00 Second Service  
12:00 Katy's Cafe  
12:15 Film Club: *13th*, hosted by Racial Justice Initiative

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## 25 MONDAY

6:30 MAITRI Meditation  
6:30 Church Growth Task Force

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## 26 TUESDAY

9:00 Contemplative Prayer  
5:00 Theater Committee  
6:30 Gun Violence Prevention group  
7:00 The Mortality Project

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## 27 WEDNESDAY

9:00 Knit A Bit  
9:30 Groveland Food Shelf  
10:00 Conversations from the Heart Practice Group  
1:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
2:00 Archives  
5:00 Wednesdays in the basement: Youth activities  
5:00 Katy's Cafe  
6:00 Leadership Council  
6:00 100 Hands  
6:00 Alleluia Dancers  
6:00 Cherub Choir  
6:00 Confirmation  
6:00 Young Voices  
6:30 Fun with Dylan  
6:30 Chapel Singers  
6:35 Chorister Choir  
6:45 Genesis Dancers  
6:45 Spiritual Exploration–Yoga  
7:00 Plymouth Choir  
7:20 Bells—Young people  
7:35 Youth Choir

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## 28 THURSDAY

10:30 Meals on Wheels  
6:00 Strobel Drop-In Center  
6:30 Discussions that Encounter  
7:00 Vivir Mi Vida Salsa Dance

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### No. 9s Member Reunion

**Come to the Member Reunion March 3.** It's a great opportunity to connect with members who joined Plymouth Church in a year ending in nine, 1939 to 2009. Don't remember when you joined? Ask Doug Freeman ([dougf@plymouth.org](mailto:dougf@plymouth.org)). Don't miss this evening of song, fun and fellowship. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share; we'll provide the entertainment and childcare. Philip Brunelle performs music, celebrating his 50th year at Plymouth! We will gather in Jones Commons, 5 to 7 p.m. Didn't receive an invitation? Need more information? Contact Remona Weaver, [remonaw@comcast.net](mailto:remonaw@comcast.net), or Doug. Mark your calendar and come to celebrate with your friends!

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#### PARISH REGISTER

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##### BAPTIZED

Nora Mae Koester Cavallo, child of Anna Cavallo and Shawn Koester

##### DEATH

Tom Heller, husband of Mary Heller

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**EARLY DEADLINE: Submit items for publication no later than Feb. 12 for the March issue.** We reserve the right to edit or delay the publication of any article.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 a.m. First Service in the Chapel

10 a.m.

11 a.m. Second Service in the Sanctuary

To find out who is preaching, please go to the Worship page on our website (<https://www.plymouth.org/worship/>) the Monday before.

Plymouth Congregational Church

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## Film Club: Three in February

BY RICHARD JEWELL AND COMPANIONS

*Film showings begin at 12:30 p.m., in Jackman. Buy lunch at Katy's Café or bring your own—Jackman has tables for eating.*

**Feb. 3: *Hilary and Jackie*** (121 min., 1998, R rated), hosted by Philip Brunelle. Philip says: "This is the story of the great cellist Jacqueline du Pré and her sister Hilary, and their sibling rivalry. It tells of Jacqueline's rise to fame and, later in life, her struggle with multiple sclerosis. Lots of classical music is heard during the film: Elgar, Haydn, Bach, Brahms and many more composers. The film was controversial, with friends of Jacqueline saying she was not depicted correctly, but everyone agreed that it was acted marvelously."

**Feb. 10: *The Power of Minnesota*** (2018, 18 min.), hosted by Caring for Creation. This exciting new documentary shows the positive impacts clean energy has on individuals and communities across Minnesota. Emily Minge, solar outreach manager of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, will lead the discussion afterward.

**Feb. 24:** The film *13th* (2016, 100 min.) hosted by Racial Justice Initiative. This Oscar- and Emmy-winning documentary traces current mass incarcerations of blacks from post-Civil War Jim Crow laws through the Nixon, Reagan and Clinton eras of increasing systematic criminalization of blacks. Nekima Levy-Pounds, civil rights lawyer, racial justice expert and activist, leads discussion afterward.