

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Connected, Covenanted and a Candidate

PAULA NORTHWOOD, ACTING SENIOR MINISTER

September is usually when we rally together and begin the church year. Back from summer vacations, we cherished seeing each other again. Not surprisingly, this Rally Sunday, September 13, will look a little different since we cannot gather in person for worship in the sanctuary. On the 13th at 10:30, we hope you will join us to watch the service on a screen in the parking lot and then join the festivities to celebrate the start of what I hope will be an incredible year. Even amid an ongoing pandemic, I am so grateful for this community and the ways that we have continued to be a community faithfully serving our neighbors.

My heart is full of compassion for what we have weathered in the last few years. I believe it has made us stronger as a community. We have figured out ways to stay connected through online services, phone check-ins, parking lot parties, Zoom meetings and online programs. Using technology new to us, we have embraced the 21st century with aplomb. This season of the year is also a good

time to remember our covenant and the promise that we have made to this community to support it in whatever ways we can. There are many ways to live that covenant. An important one will be to welcome a new leader.

It is with a great deal of excitement that I introduce to you to our candidate for Lead Minister, Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis. In a separate article (see page 2), the Search Committee will outline their process for selection and how, with the support of the Deacons, they will be presenting Rev. Dr. Davis the weekend of September 25-27. Rev. Dr. Davis brings a wealth of experience in ministry, a passion for social justice and excellence in preaching. I hope you take the opportunity to get acquainted with DeWayne before the vote on September 27. More information



about how to register for the vote is available on the website.

In the book of Isaiah, the prophet writes about difficult times and how through it all God's unfailing love and covenant of peace shall remain strong. Let's lean into that promise.

Happy new church year!
Paula

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please note that all scheduled programs are subject to change or cancellation due to the coronavirus outbreak.

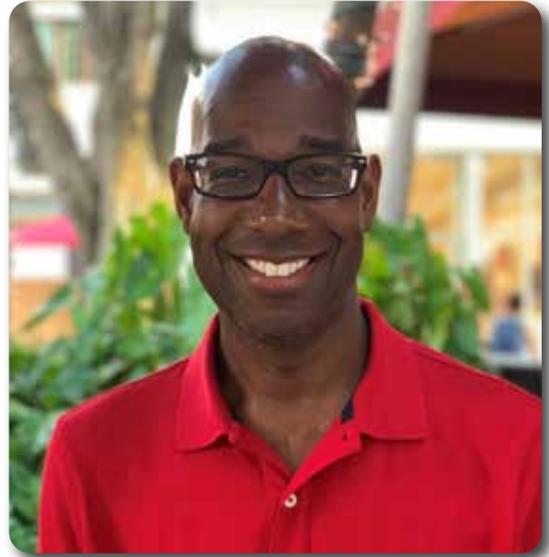
A Candidate for Lead Minister

BY CHRIS BOHNHOFF, CHAIR OF THE LEAD MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE, & KAREN BARSTAD, MODERATOR

Few moments in church life hold as much promise and opportunity for transformation as the introduction of a new church leader. In these times of church evolution, accelerated by COVID-19 and the new urgencies being felt around social and racial justice work, the Lead Minister Search Committee is excited, proud and humbled to present Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis to the congregation. We believe that Dr. Davis is the right choice at the right moment to boldly lead Plymouth in our city and world, and the Deacons unanimously agree.

When the Search Committee began our work last year, we committed to finding a person to minister to us all, who would bring the experience necessary to succeed in the role. As laid out in the Lead Minister job description, we sought a person who could excel in: spiritual, theological and ministerial leadership; preaching; promoting growth; supervision of staff; operations and budgeting skills; outreach; and civic leadership. Dr. Davis's rich career supplies evidence of his skills in all of these areas.

Dr. Davis is currently the Senior Pastor at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis, where he has served since 2013. He has more than 20 years of leadership experience across religious, political organizing and public policy arenas, which brings depth to his leadership approach. In May of this year, Dr. Davis earned his doctorate in Biblical Preaching from Luther Seminary and was chosen as commencement speaker. Communication, preaching and liturgy are among his core passions.



We also sought a leader who operates collaboratively, while also being able to step out front as a strong public voice for justice. Dr. Davis's work at the congregational, denominational and policy level all attest to his ability to bring out the strengths of others and build coalitions that move the needle.

The Search Committee, the clergy, and the Deacons have had in-depth conversations with Dr. Davis and have found him to be engaging, prophetic and visionary, with a deep commitment to collaboration with his clergy colleagues, the boards and committees of the church and the congregation at large. His theology is progressive, he celebrates the role of children and youth in the life of the church, he understands that church growth is about more than just numbers, he cares deeply about social justice and he is enthusiastic about how the church can truly make a difference in this 21st-century world.

More information about Dr. Davis, and about the process that the Search Committee employed, will be mailed to members in the days to come. Plymouth members will have opportunities to virtually meet Dr. Davis prior to a vote to call him to the Lead Minister position at a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 27. Details of these events will be announced in the coming days. We look forward to introducing him to Plymouth members, and we're eager to work with him in this next chapter of Plymouth's life.

51 Years and Counting

BY PHILIP BRUNELLE, ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER



September 2020 begins my 52nd year as Plymouth's Organist-Choirmaster, and it certainly will be a unique one in my history! Musicians are creative souls, however, and I will do my best to make this church year enriching and fulfilling for each of you.

I am grateful to our five Plymouth soloists and our Jazz Trio, who have continued to provide glorious music all summer and will be with us as we begin the fall season. I am also pleased that Marie Scholtz, director of our children's choirs, has agreed to become Music Coordinator for our Wednesday music and dance programs. You will be hearing more from Marie about ways that our choirs can appear virtually in the coming months.

September begins with Dan Dressen, Jim Bohn and the Jazz Trio providing spirited music Labor Day weekend, including a new composition by our own Laura Caviani, and with Sonja Thompson playing a wonderful variations by David Evan Thomas on *America the Beautiful*.

Rally Sunday, September 13, will include (as always) Bach's triumphant *Prelude and Fugue in D minor*—a tradition by yours truly since I came to Plymouth! Some musical surprises (virtually) will also be offered in the coming weeks, and on September 27 our amazing handbell director, Timothy O'Grady, will offer another grand handbell prelude: one player and 30 bells!

As we begin another church year, the words from Psalm 100 continue to offer us joy and comfort: Sing joyfully to God, all the earth; serve God with gladness for God is gracious, and God's truth endures for all generations.

Philip Brunelle

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

Virtual Offerings to Keep Us Connected

We offer these virtual options until we can gather together again in person.

More information may be found on www.plymouth.org.

Weekly Sunday Service

is available every Sunday by 10:30
via Facebook Live or at www.plymouth.org.

Morning Meditations

every Tuesday and Thursday
on Facebook or our website.

Daily Reflections

will resume soon
To sign up to receive these reflections,
e-mail [doug \(at\) plymouth.org](mailto:doug(at)plymouth.org).

Contemplative Prayer

is available Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m.
and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Musical Moments with Philip Brunelle

A musical reflection is available every day at noon.

Nighttime with Nina

A bedtime story is available every evening.

PARISH REGISTER

BIRTH

Lucy Mae Makepeace, child of Annie & Jeff Makepeace, grandchild of Don Doberstein and Bill Schafer

DEATHS

Marian "Meem" Wahlquist Asp, wife of Ray Asp. Mother-in-law of Jan & Rick Neville. grandmother of Missy, Stuart, and Meredith neville, Sister of Loey Husbands, aunt-in-law of Jill and Rick Schubert
Robert "Bob" Holloway, father of Bruce Holloway
Mary Lou Wilkinson

Every Job Has Dignity: A Thank-You to Our Custodial Staff

BY PAULA NORTHWOOD

“A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use.”

—Romans 12:4

The writer of the book of Romans knew that it takes every part of the body to make a human function effectively. In the same manner, it takes all kinds of people with all kinds of skills to keep this church running.



If your vision of a custodian is a person who cleans all day, you understand only a fraction of what they do. It is mind bending to see all the tasks they must accomplish in a week, from setting up rooms to assisting guests. And now, there is an added layer of disinfecting rooms.

It makes sense that the word “custodian” has the synonyms of keeper, guardian, steward and protector. Our custodians are often the first ones to work and the last ones to leave. They clean up our messes and messes left by our neighbors and they do this day after day, with grace. They continue to show up every day in spite of the pandemic. Let’s give our custodians the praise and respect that they deserve. A heartfelt thanks to our custodians:

Kathy Bahl started cleaning as a teenager in her grandfather’s doctor’s office and now has over 50 years of experience. She’s run her own housecleaning business and spent 10 of those over-50 years with us at Plymouth!

She remembers the time they were dealing with bats in the building

and one was haunting them for days. One morning she went to step off the elevator and almost stepped on the bat!

“I like the variety of work, from set-ups to carpet cleaning to scrubbing floors. Plymouth’s staff and congregation are super!”

Tracy White started as a helper after Christmas in 2012 when the nighttime custodian quit. Tracy worked 10 years for a construction company after high

school and opened his own painting business for seven years. Tracy remembers: “One Halloween Paula was dressed up as a fortune teller, and her costume was so good that I did not know who she was!” Tracy says that Plymouth is one of the best places to work and all roads have led him to here.

Misha Davis started working at Plymouth two years ago after working as a home health aide. “I went to school for numerous things, only to fall in love with a profession I’d never even thought of doing. Funny how life works, right? I’ve lived in this neighborhood my entire 27 years in Minnesota and never thought I’d work at the big church. Now that I’m here, I know for a fact that I can’t see myself any place but here.”

DeShouna McCray has been at Plymouth for just over a year. She has twin toddlers who keep her very busy. She enjoys her work at Plymouth, meeting and greeting members and visitors as she sets up a room for their events (before COVID, of course) and has been essential keeping Plymouth COVID-safe.

Thank you Kathy, Tracy, Misha and DeShouna! We love you!



Plymouth Sunday Forum Schedule

BY REBECCA MILLER

The Sunday Forum Committee is looking forward to the variety of topics and speakers we have scheduled. All fall sessions will be held virtually via Zoom webinar. These are similar in format to congregational meetings, though no registration is required. You can also be in fellowship in the Chapel for either a live or remote presentation. Chapel attendance is limited to 10 people, and you must register and follow Plymouth's attendance protocols. Sessions start at 9:30 and end by 10:20, with the last 10-15 minutes set aside for questions and answers.

September 20	From Death to Life—Mary Johnson-Roy & Oshea Israel Presented in collaboration with the Board of Spiritual Formation
September 27	Integrating Deep Spiritual Formation & Creative Political Action— Mark Van Steenwyk
October 4	The Hidden Benefits of Landscaping with Native Plants—Marilynn Torkelson Presented in collaboration with the Climate & Environmental Justice Committee of the Board of Outreach
October 11	The Historical and Political Context of the Second Amendment— Dr. Matthew Filner
October 18	TBD
October 25	Inner Mastery: Outer Impact—Dr. Yvette Erasmus Presented in collaboration with the Board of Spiritual Formation
November 1	Art for All: The Stephanie Evelo Fund for Art Inclusion— Sheryl and David Evelo and Mark Olson Presented in collaboration with the Gallery Committee of the Board of Fine Arts
November 8	TBD
November 15	Doing Justice: Moving from Social Concern to Strategic Action— Rev. Dr. Steven Newcom
November 22	All Square: A New Approach to Overcoming Discrimination for Those Coming Out of Incarceration—Emily Hunt Turner
December 6	What Muslim Americans Would Like You to Know about Islam— Ali Osman & Imam Abdulmagoud
December 13	Hidden Recipes: A Holocaust Memoir—Eva Moreimi

We look forward to hearing your questions at a future Sunday Forum!

—Bryce Hamilton, John Humphrey, Tim Jensen, Jane Koll, Rebecca Miller (chair), Seth Patterson, Jackie Prince

Racial Justice Initiative Urges: Get Out the Vote

BY BARB IVERSON, RJI MEMBER

Registering voters for the November general election is one concrete and powerful way to create racial and economic equity in Minnesota and nationally. RJI offers information below on several organizations through which volunteers can participate to Get Out the Vote. When contacting the organizations below, please copy or enter the link into your browser.

Isaiah, a nonprofit faith-based organization, and Faith in Minnesota, its 501c4 partner, aim to turn out the vote in suburban and out-state areas. Register for training in September and receive a list of 100 specific residents to phone and/or text. <https://bit.ly/MetroTrainings>

Vote Forward is a nonprofit organization that sends letter templates that volunteers then print, sign and send to specific residents in districts around the United States. Research shows that people who

receive such letters are significantly more likely to vote.

<https://votefwd.org/>

The Movement Voter Project (MVP) aligns donor dollars in support of the best and most promising local community-based organizations in key states, with a focus on youth and communities of color. In Minnesota, the group has identified 17 grassroots organizations working on voting rights and voter mobilization efforts. You can donate directly or through MVP with 100 percent going to the organization. Minnesota groups are here: <https://movement.vote/groups/?loc=minnesota>

Fair Fight is the organization that Stacey Abrams founded to fight voter suppression. Its website lists volunteer and donation opportunities. <https://fairfight.com/fair-fight-2020/>

League of Women Voters (LWV) Minneapolis is again offering voter registration training, which

provides participants with the statutory framework and the myriad accommodations for specific voting situations. Registration is required. Sessions are limited in the number of participants, so sign up today at <https://forms.gle/pCZvua6D2YLw3kZb6>

State all the dates that can work for you, and you will be registered for the first date available. Once you have registered, you will receive the link for the training. Two days before the training, you will receive background materials and the link again. After you have completed the training, e-mail Miriam Maples at registervotes@lwvminpls.org, and she can give you more information on volunteer opportunities and add you to our list of volunteers. If you have any questions about LWV training for voter registration, please contact Marilyn Cantisano at marilyncantisano@gmail.com



RJI Features a Second Interview on Policing in Minneapolis

BY BARB IVERSON, RJI MEMBER

Catherine Shreves, who co-chairs the Racial Justice Initiative at Plymouth, is the host of the second in a four-part series of discussions with community leaders on the most current issues concerning policing in Minneapolis. The series is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters Minneapolis. Catherine's

55-minute interview can be watched here: <https://vimeo.com/447950563>. Her featured guests include Don Samuels and Kandace Montgomery. Samuels, a former Minneapolis City council member and Minneapolis Public Schools board member, is an ordained minister and co-founder of the PEACE Foundation, now

known as Northside Achievement Zone. Montgomery is the Director of Black Visions Collective, co-owner of the Purple Palace Collective and a trainer with Momentum. The four-part series is titled "We the People/Minneapolis—Policing Issues: Reform, Dismantle, Defund?"

Fall Programming for Kids and Teens at Plymouth

BY NINA JONSON, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

As the pandemic that halted school, work and much of life back in March drags into its sixth month, and with many children “returning” to school via a screen, the mental and emotional health of children is waning, even as they seem less likely to be physically impacted by the virus. According to an article from the August issue of *Time*, after even a month of quarantine, kids may show upticks in both depression and anxiety symptoms. As the Director of our Children & Youth ministry, the wellbeing of our young people is extremely important to me, and after successfully running programming over the summer, we are going to be rolling out in-person, small group programming for the children and teens at Plymouth. These opportunities for them to get together are an important part of “being the church” in this uncertain time. Weekly opportunities will include:

Hybrid church school/youth group, alternating weeks of in-person and Zoom church school:

On in-person weeks, kids will attend church school on Sunday afternoons in 50-minute sessions, one after another (ages 3-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade, high school). Sessions will be held in Guild Hall, and COVID-19 precautions will be taken. On “virtual Sundays,” kids will attend church school as they have been since March, via Zoom before service on Sunday morning.

Co-working/schooling

opportunities: Families can sign up for times to come to Plymouth



and do their schoolwork in a space with a few other kids for socializing opportunities, while parents can get work done in an empty classroom.

After school clubs: We’ll have weekly drop-in gatherings for kids and teens focused on biking, book-making, theater improv and a *makerspace*.

What is a *makerspace*? It’s a place for kids to tinker. Want to make a necklace? We have the stuff! Want to build some cardboard armor? We can facilitate that. Want to hammer some nails? Learn how to work a hot glue gun? Sew on a button? All of those are things kids will be able to try.

To make these programs a reality, we are looking for assistance! If you are comfortable being indoors with a small group of children, we are looking for tutors (especially in math and science), conversation partners (we have many kids in Spanish and

Chinese immersion schools) and helpers with the book-making club and the makerspace.

If you love biking, we would love a few extra adults to assist with Bike Club. People who are willing to help kids learn to repair bikes and to help little riders learn to ride without training wheels would be greatly appreciated.

If you are not able to help in person but want to support our programs, we are looking for lots of cardboard, glue guns and hot glue sticks, hammers, nails and scrap wood, a sewing machine, pool noodles, copper wire and more.

If you are interested in volunteering or able to donate any of these materials, please e-mail Director of Children & Youth Ministry Nina Jonson at [ninaj \(at\) plymouth.org](mailto:ninaj@plymouth.org).

In-Person Summer Programming at Plymouth a Success!

BY NINA JONSON, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Earlier this summer, I made a vow that I was going to run in-person camps this summer. We were going to figure it out, and we were going to do it safely.

Over the month of July, we've run camps every day, with groups of 10 and below, outside whenever possible, masked when inside, and with daily temp checks, social distancing and lots of hand sanitizing.

We kicked off the month with sessions of Puberty Camp and Healthy Relationships Camp—things kids don't often get to learn about at church. The kids had a great time, learning about the history of teenagers in the world, how to tell if a friendship or relationship is a positive one, how to ask someone out on a date and how to stay clean during puberty—we even made our own natural deodorant!

After those camps finished, we jumped into a modified Peace Camp, with our theme of the summer

being Compassion and Community. Kids aged 5-14 made lunches for people in the encampments, delivered water bottles and kind messages to people around our church, cleaned up the neighborhood and participated in art, theater, Zoom discussions and building. They tie dyed beautiful fabric that we turned into both the roof of our "compassion house" and beautiful masks that we wear with pride.

The kids loved it, we loved being able to provide a fun and safe summer opportunity, and we all got to continue to improve the world, in ways big and little.

A big thank you goes out to Plymouth's Child & Youth Specialist Dylan Church, the best co-camp



leader ever, as well as Hannah Faeth, Gina Cassellius, Paige Schuller, Sophia Rice, Sara Ohotto Bauer, Annie Krishnan, Carole Humphrey and Nora Montañez Patterson for the myriad ways they enhanced the camp experience for our kids.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Zoom into Your Spiritual Journey This Fall

BY MEMBERS OF THE SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

The Spiritual Exploration Committee is honored to work with several Plymouth working groups and committees to help advance some fascinating classes for the fall semester. The Racial Justice Initiative, Mortality Project, Immigrant Welcoming Working Group, Plymouth Contemplatives and the clergy are all coordinating offerings with our committee's assistance.

As has become the norm, most programs will be held via Zoom, but they will be a combination of lecture and interactive/group discussion. Some classes that were cancelled from the spring agenda are being offered again in this new format. Those include "The Heart of Aging with Wisdom," "Forced Into Camps," and "Welcoming Prayer." Weather permitting, Emily Jarrett Hughes will lead a "Living Water" pilgrimage to a lakeshore. New for

the fall are "Illuminating the Way," featuring discussions of books related to contemplative practice, "Colonists, Indians and Slavery in Early New England," lead by Hazel Lutz and a series guided by Spiritual Director Julie Neraas, who will help us explore a path to hope in this time of upheaval. More information is forthcoming via digital and email announcements regarding class descriptions, times, dates and registration instructions.

Preparing for a Different Fall

BY BETH HOFFMAN FAETH

Most years, September brings with it a new feeling: the onset of another church program year, the excitement around the choir returning to Second Service worship and the commencement of an abundance of classes for youth and adults. While this year the September hype is much more subtle, there is still much to look forward to regarding worship at Plymouth Church. Clergy will continue preaching from the Common Lectionary; Philip, the Jazz Trio, soloists and special guests will provide stellar music offerings; plans are being made to incorporate dance and other vocal ensembles safely and remotely into our recorded worship services. As of this writing, we will continue to record worship

on Thursdays for viewing on Sunday. There may be exceptions to this, which you will be alerted to in advance. Stay tuned for some special ways to be involved in our Rally Sunday worship on September 13.

And of course, there is big news about the Lead Minister candidate and a special Sunday for candidating at the end of September. That will be a joyous time of worship, indeed!

While we remain a scattered yet gathered community of faith, I take great comfort knowing we are held together in God's love, and encouraged to be united people of



grace in a world that is needing our voice, our heart, our hands to bend the arc of justice towards goodness. May our worship experiences sustain you, even when we cannot be together.

Blessings,
Beth

CONN GALLERY

Conn Gallery Fall Virtual Exhibit

BY SUZANNE JOYCE AND JIM CONAWAY, PLYMOUTH CHURCH GALLERY COMMITTEE

We are hoping fall will be in the air as we open our new virtual gallery show in September. The show will feature two local artists: a glass sculptor and a painter. Both are colorists who use color to spark the viewer's interest and awake our imaginations.

Peter Zelle is a Minneapolis sculptor who has been working with glass for over 35 years. He has studied with Dale Chihuly at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and received his BFA in Sculpture/Glass from the Rhode Island School of Design. Peter is a full-time artist doing commission works, exhibitions and public art projects. His work is exhibited nationally and is held in many private and corporate collections throughout the country.

Artist's Statement: I want my viewers to be moved by the richness of my use of color. My art is an exercise of my intuition and my passion for color and form. I want the viewer to be drawn to my textures and shapes.

Patty Canney has a BA degree in Fine Arts from the University of Minnesota. Her work experiences in television graphics, advertising and graphic design were important, but her love of the fine arts—especially painting—inspired her to find a studio in the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District. She has been painting in that studio full time for past 9 years.

Patty's post-graduate training includes fourteen workshops in the United States, France and Italy. Her

extensive exhibition record includes 26 solo and group exhibitions in local galleries and exhibition venues throughout the Midwest. Her work is included in private and corporate collections across the country.

Artist's Statement: As a child, I played dress-up with a trunk of old clothes in the attic. There were colorful fabrics, needle and thread and paper patterns. I was intrigued by dresses, shoes and objects of life as well as the places they inhabit. These memories are my inspiration. Patty says, "My paintings invite the viewer to join me in entering that space where fantasy and memory converge."

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Submit items for publication to Elizabeth Blanchette, ElizabethB (at) plymouth.org, no later than SEPTEMBER 16 for the October issue. We reserve the right to edit or delay the publication of any article.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Please check our website (www.plymouth.org) for September services.

No calendar is available for September due to changing circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak.



Seeking Written Reflections

BY JAN RABBERS, CO-CHAIR, PLYMOUTH SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

The Spiritual Exploration Committee invites you to help continue a popular practice begun in April: a daily reflection sent to members and friends of Plymouth by email every morning.

This ministry receives a good deal of response, helping to bring a feeling of connection and positivity to our community during this time.

Please consider submitting your reflection to be shared electronically with the congregation. We hope to collect enough on an ongoing basis to send out a meditation every weekday

until we can all gather again in person.

The format is much like our annual Lenten booklet: 1. A quote from the Bible or a favorite resource; 2. Your personal reflection about why this quote is provocative; 3. A prayer.

Please feel free to submit one, or as many as often as you wish, to Jan Rabbers at [jrabbers \(at\) comcast.net](mailto:jrabbers@comcast.net) or Jan Mattox at [jan.mattox701 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jan.mattox701@gmail.com). Please indicate whether you wish to include your name when published, or if you would like to remain anonymous.