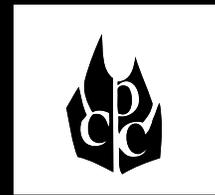


# the flame



Vol. LI No. 10  
October 2020

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | MINNEAPOLIS

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

## Confirmation 2020

SETH PATTERSON, MINISTER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION & THEATER

In the fall of 2019, Plymouth welcomed ten 8th graders into the year's confirmation class. We spent the fall and early winter exploring the many roots of faith and the ways that Plymouth's unique tradition was formed. These classes were built upon curiosity and questions, because Confirmation is an exploration at Plymouth.

Confirmation was supposed to be in late April but was of course postponed due to the

pandemic. It is therefore a joy to celebrate Confirmation Sunday on October 4! This will still be pre-recorded (as our current Sunday services are) but will include ten confirmands. Please participate in the October 4 service and congratulate the ten young people who have chosen to be confirmed.

Our warmest welcome and support to Nathan Barnes, Chloe Boos, Maks Brunelle, Lydia Christensen, Stuart Durand, Lexi Ebeling, Theo Holdsworth, Annika Lofgren-

Janson, Ben Matre and Venna Wiandt!

I am also deeply grateful for the eleven adults who walked with these young people on this Confirmation journey: Karen Barstad, Chris Bohnhoff, Alex Charland, Anne Cheatham, Jeremy Hills-Bonczyk, John Humphrey, Hillary Oppmann, Nora Montañez Patterson, Josh Scharback, Maureen Tanis and Jeff Young.





## Waiting for God's New Thing

BY PAULA NORTHWOOD, ACTING SENIOR MINISTER

*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?* –Isaiah 43:18-19, NRSV

We are solidly into fall, and with the changing of seasons we have new anxieties developing. Questions loom large: Can we make it through a COVID winter with our sanity intact? The new Lead Minister starts at the end of December, but how can we welcome him without a personal connection? There is a great deal going on in the church, and . . . we are waiting for God to do a new thing.

This has reminded me of the Samuel Beckett play *Waiting for Godot*. As you may know, in the play Godot never arrives. The beauty of this play is that there are many ways to interpret it. One interpretation understands Godot to represent compassion. After one of the characters is beaten, it is only by changing their hearts to be compassionate that the other actors are able to move on and no longer have to wait for Godot. They must shift their paradigm for change to happen: Godot was there all along.

It's important for us to understand that when a paradigm shifts, the old paradigm doesn't go away as the new paradigm is being birthed. Those who lead in a time of deep paradigmatic change need to learn how to both bring change to "what is," as well as produce change that will result in what is "not yet."

We are in the midst of a paradigm shift. We are building upon the traditions and goodness of the past as we work toward the new thing that God is creating. We just need to be patient in the waiting, for it will, in God's time, be revealed.

Blessings!  
Paula



Photo: Mark Luinenburg

YOUR SUPPORT

## Ways to Keep Supporting Plymouth

BY PAULA NORTHWOOD, ACTING SENIOR MINISTER

Even though we cannot gather, the ministry of the church continues, and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support. Thank you for your generosity! The ministry, support and programs continue because of your continued donations. To make this even easier you may text your gifts to 612-999-2874 or go the Plymouth Church website at [plymouth.org](http://plymouth.org).

Later in this issue you'll find even more information on how Legacy Giving can support our community.

An easy way to support Plymouth is by shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Select Plymouth as your charity of choice, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Plymouth Congregational Church. <https://smile.amazon.com>.



Thank you!

## Singing From a Distance

BY PHILIP BRUNELLE, ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER



*Making music "virtually" is a continuing challenge, but we at Plymouth Church are creative and will make it happen!*

The month of October will begin and conclude with two marvelous pianists playing the prelude and postlude: Sara Langmead (playing Bach's 6th Partita) and Emma Taggert—don't miss them!

This fall Marie Scholtz is combining our Choristers and Cherub Choirs and calling them the "Cheristers"—a great title! They will perform virtually one Sunday this month as will our Youth Choir with Siri Keller. You will also hear recorded anthems of the Plymouth Choir and in-person music with our Solo Quintet and Jazz Trio. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful array of talent at Plymouth Church!

Philip Brunelle



*Members of the Plymouth Choir sang anthems and hymns at an outdoor sing at Ann Tandy-Treiber's home on September 20, getting ready for their return to Plymouth!*

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](http://www.plymouth.org).

### Weekly Sunday Service

is available every Sunday by 10:30 via Facebook Live or at [www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org).

### Morning Meditations

every Tuesday and Thursday on Facebook or our website.

### Email Reflections

are available to be delivered to your inbox Mondays and Wednesdays. To sign up to receive these reflections, e-mail [doug\(at\)plymouth.org](mailto:doug(at)plymouth.org).

### Sunday Forum

Every Sunday @ 9:30  
See schedule at [Plymouth.org](http://Plymouth.org) or in pages below.

### 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.

### Spiritual Exploration Classes

More information at [Plymouth.org](http://Plymouth.org)

## Staff Announcements

### **Anne Gustafson joins Plymouth as Director of Operations**

It is with joy and excitement that Plymouth Congregational Church introduces our new Director of Operations, Anne Gustafson.

Anne comes to us with over 20 years of business and operations management experience. Most recently, Anne was the Director of Operations at First United Methodist Church in Duluth. Anne is attending United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and working towards her Master of Arts in Leadership with a specialized ministry in Church Business Administration and Operations.

Anne adores her beloved adult children & their partners: Victoria & Micky, Tyler & Elizabeth, and Charlie. She enjoys attending social justice events, listening to audiobooks and



spending time with her little 14-year-old rescue dog, Grace. Anne has a deep spiritual life and is grateful for God's grace in her life.

Please make sure to warmly welcome Anne to the Twin Cities and Plymouth Church.

### **Nina Jonson Promoted to Director of Children & Youth Ministry**

It is our honor and joy to announce that Nina Jonson has a new title.

Nina began her full-time work at Plymouth in February 2018 as Programs Manager and has now been promoted to be the Director of Children & Youth Ministry. Nina is a joyful and compassionate leader with a deep love of youth education and community. She is a wonderful colleague and a blessing to this church. Please join us in congratulating Nina on this well-deserved new title!



### **Malcolm Williams Promoted to Safety & Custodial Administrator**

It is with great excitement (as well as an honor) that we announce that Malcolm Williams has a new title.

Malcolm began his work at Plymouth in 2010 as Security Manager. In 2011 his position was expanded to Public Safety Manager, and he has now been promoted to Safety & Custodial Administrator. His gentle and thoughtful demeanor has helped de-escalate many situations. Malcolm has gone above and beyond during these unusual times. He has taken on additional custodial management responsibilities as well with the transition between our Business Administrator and Director of Operations.

Please join us in congratulating Malcolm and thanking him for all his hard work.



## BEACON

## Homebound? Zoom with Beacon to Get Homes for All.

BY ANNE SELTZ

Join Beacon Interfaith staff October 5 and 8, 6:30–8:00 p.m. when they will be Zooming with candidates for County Commissioners and Legislators. By joining these Candidate Forums as a caring (though muted!) Zoom attendee, you show future leaders you too want all to have a home.

For more information and how to Register, please go to these two links:

<https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/event/cf1005/> and

<https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/event/cf1008/>

In these days of forced isolation, the homeless and under-housed are in even more peril. Fill the Zoom gallery with beautiful Plymouth faces. **Your muted voice will be heard!**

## 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.

**October 4**

### **The Hidden Benefits of Landscaping with Native Plants**

Presented in collaboration with the Climate & Environmental Justice Committee (Board of Outreach)

Not only are native plants beautiful, but they also help to improve soil health, conserve water and support insects, pollinators and birdlife. Protecting and creating healthy native plant communities where creatures large and microscopic can live is our best hope to remedy the causes and consequences of environmental damage.

**October 11**

### **The Historical and Political Context of the Second Amendment**

In addition to discussing the historical and political context of the Second Amendment, Dr. Matthew Filner of Metropolitan State University will explore why regulating guns to mitigate gun violence is entirely consistent with the Second Amendment and work with participants on how to respond best about the Second Amendment in gun violence discussions.

**October 18**

### **Rebuilding Minneapolis**

Chanda Smith Baker from the Minneapolis Foundation has more than 20 years of experience working in, for and with underestimated communities. Chanda joined the Minneapolis Foundation in 2017 as the Senior Vice President of Impact. She oversees the foundation's grantmaking programs, provides strategic direction to community initiatives and partnerships and is the host of the award-winning podcast *Conversations with Chanda*. She is expected to talk about how the Minneapolis Foundation is helping to rebuild Minneapolis following this summer's unrest.

**October 25**

Inner Mastery: Outer Impact—Dr. Yvette Erasmus

Presented in collaboration with the Board of Spiritual Formation

How do the core principles of nonviolence help you to maintain your integrity, compassion and vision so that your leadership at home and work emerges from your conscious and compassionate inner core?

**November 1**

Art for All: The Stephanie Evelo Fund for Art Inclusion—

Presented in collaboration with the Gallery Committee (Board of Fine Arts)

This project was established to support artists with disabilities in the community. The Art for All Fund was created by Sheryl and David Evelo in partnership with ICI at the University of Minnesota in honor of their daughter, Stephanie, a gifted artist and dedicated ICI employee. Sheryl, David and Mark will share experiences raising a daughter with disabilities, how her life impacted others and why the arts are important in all our lives.

## Racial Justice Initiative Meets

BY BARB IVERSON

The Racial Justice Initiative team met on Saturday, Sept. 19, in Nancy and Brian Siska's front yard for a half-day retreat. The group, which was facilitated by Kathy Graves of Parenteau Graves consulting firm, worked through a valuable exercise

that examined RJI's purpose, goals and programming ideas for the year ahead. A summary of the retreat and the group's plans will appear in the November issue of *The Flame*. Participants included Mari Bennett, Sonia Cairns, Patricia Hoven, Barb

Iverson, Jean Kennedy, Ann Ludlow, Hazel Lutz, Ann Manning, Rev. Seth Patterson, Shirley Rutherford, Mary Kay Sauter, Catherine Shreves and Nancy Siska.



## Racial Justice Initiative Programming in October

BY BARB IVERSON

Plymouth's Racial Justice Initiative is sponsoring and supporting programming activities in October:

### Forced Into Camps

For the five Thursdays in October (October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29), Seth Patterson, Plymouth's Minister for Spiritual Formation & Theater, and Joan Thompson, Ph.D., retired English professor, will lead this program on Zoom, sponsored by the Immigrant Welcoming Working Group and supported by RJI. The novel *When the Emperor Was Divine*, by Julie Otsuka, and the movie *Children of the Camps*, by Stephen Holsapple (director) and Satsuki Ina, Ph.D. (producer/project director), examine Japanese internment, family separation and their aftermath. We will discuss these artworks alongside current journalism and documentaries on immigration and families.

Separation, incarceration, deported parents and government policy are all possibilities. What positions did the church and citizens take regarding Japanese internment? How might this inform our calling as church members and citizens today? Students will need a copy of *When the Emperor was Divine*, available on Amazon Prime and also on Kanopy. Class times and registration are available at [plymouth.org/explore/take-a-class](http://plymouth.org/explore/take-a-class).

### Colonists, Indians and Slavery in Early New England

Hazel Lutz, Ph.D., will lead a discussion from 1 to 3 p.m. on five Wednesdays, October 7 through November 4, via Zoom. Within 17 years of their arrival in New England, the Pilgrims were taking Indians captive, binding them into labor for individual colonial families, and trading others into the Atlantic slave

trade. In this class, the group will discuss the book *Brethren by Nature: New England Indians, Colonists, and the Origins of American Slavery*, published in 2015. In open class discussions, we will focus on two questions:

1. How do we reconcile the facts uncovered by this new research with what we learned in childhood about the Pilgrims?
  2. How do we now spiritually connect to our Congregationalist forbears, both early Pilgrims and their Abolitionist descendants?
- Such knowledge aids us in the task of furthering social, economic and racial justice, as well as deepening our understanding of our faith tradition. Class participants will be required to purchase the book. Register at [plymouth.org/explore/take-a-class](http://plymouth.org/explore/take-a-class).

## What's Up with Our Young People

BY NINA JONSON, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Top row: John Humphrey helps a young person with their math homework during drop-in tutoring; Dylan, Adella, Dag and Jack enjoyed a beautiful night to bike from Plymouth to the Sculpture Garden and back; and members of the BuilderSpace club are hard at work on their first project.

Middle row: young people exploring all the different projects they can create in the MakerSpace; and our 6th-8th graders at their first day of in-person church school!

Bottom row: kids working on their welcome project for Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis; and members of the Senior High Youth Group after a courtyard gathering.



## Plymouth Library Resumes Service!

BY HAZEL LUTZ

In this time of pandemic, we are excited to be able to announce that the Plymouth Library will resume service on the first of October. New books donated over the last half year are being entered into the catalogue and placed on the shelves. Patrons will be able to search the online catalogue, request materials they want by email and then pick up and return materials from a cart in Jones Commons. Due to safety concerns, we are not able to provide direct access to the library for browsing the shelves at this time.

Here is the step by step process for accessing materials in the library.

1. Search the library catalogue from home at [www.librarycat.org/lib/plymouthcc](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/plymouthcc). It requires no user name or password. You can search by author, name of the book or topic. (Please do not click the “Check Out” button in the catalogue.)
2. Make your requests by copying the name of the book(s), cd(s) or tape(s) you want to request and send them,

along with your name, via email to [library@plymouth.org](mailto:library@plymouth.org).

3. A reply email will be sent to you when your materials are ready for pick up.

4. Come to Jones Commons any time Mondays or Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. You may have to push the button at the LaSalle entrance for admission into Jones Commons. Pick up your requests from the side of the library cart marked “Pick up.”

5. When you are finished with the materials, return them (again, Mondays or Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.) to the opposite side of the Jones Commons library cart, marked “Returns.”

In order to maintain the safety of all of us from exposure to COVID-19, we ask that you pay strict attention to the signage on the two sides of the cart. Keeping the pickup and return materials separate is necessary for our safety.



## Theater 45°

BY SETH PATTERSON, MINISTER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION & THEATER

Theater 45° (a program of Plymouth Congregational Church) is excited to announce the commission of three Black playwrights for a new project. These three playwrights—Antonio Duke, C. Micheal Menge and Atlese Robinson—will each write a play inspired by *My Grandmother’s Hands* by therapist Resmaa Menakem. This

groundbreaking *New York Times* best seller examines the “damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of trauma and body-centered psychology.” With conversations facilitated by Theater 45°’s Producing Artistic Director Ashawnti Sakina Ford, these three playwrights will read the book

throughout the next year and engage in its powerful exercises. This time together will then inspire the plays they will write, and the plays will be premiered next year. We encourage you to read the book as well! More information on the playwrights can be found at [www.theater45.com](http://www.theater45.com).

## Everything You’ve Always Wanted to know About Legacy

### Giving . . . and Weren’t Sure Whom to Ask

BY BECCA NORRIS, CHAIR OF LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE

Q: What is legacy giving to Plymouth?

A: Simply stated, this is a deferred, planned gift to Plymouth Congregational Church made possible by including the church in your estate plan. Legacy giving creates a legacy beyond your lifetime.

Q: Do I have to pay anything before my death?

A: No. A legacy gift to Plymouth most commonly is a bequest in a will that costs nothing during one’s lifetime but benefits the church at the death of the donor.

Q: How much do I need to commit to give?

A: A legacy gift of any size is welcome and appreciated! Even a small legacy gift can make a difference. The specifics of your gift are kept confidential.

Q: How do you leave a gift in your will?

A: An easy way is to designate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate.

Q: What are examples of a legacy gift?

A: Gifts can take several forms. Examples include cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs, life insurance, real estate or personal property.

Q: How are the Flame Society and legacy giving connected?

A: Plymouth members and friends who make plans for a legacy gift to Plymouth become part of the Flame Society. The Flame Society and Legacy Givers are one and the same. Most years, Plymouth expresses gratitude to legacy givers at an annual luncheon. Note that you can remain anonymous as a legacy giver if desired.

Q: Do I need a lawyer to set up a legacy gift to Plymouth?

A: You don’t have to use an attorney to set up a specific legacy gift in your

will or trust, but you may want to contact an estate-planning attorney or financial planner, particularly to discuss any tax benefits for the donor or heirs.

Q: Where do legacy gifts go?

A: Your legacy gift should be designated to either Plymouth’s Legacy Fund or Plymouth’s Endowment Fund. You can find fund definitions and an example of words to use in your will at this link: <https://www.plymouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Legacy-web-language.pdf>.

Q: Where can I get more information about setting up a legacy gift to Plymouth or get more information?

A: The church website has information about completing and submitting a Bequest Confirmation Form. You can find this form and information at this link: <https://www.plymouth.org/act/give-2/legacy-giving/>.

#### DISOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Annette Atkins & Tom Joyce

#### DEATHS

Pat Brunsberg, August 29, 2020

Illona Melgaard, September 9, 2020. wife of Hans Melgaard; stepmother (-in-law) of Rebecca and Evan Newton; mother of Andrew Melgaard; grandmother of Sean Newton and Lianna Newton; great-grandmother of Caiden Newton

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**Please check our website  
([www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org))  
for October services.**

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