

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR APRIL

April 5: Palm Sunday - [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

April 10: Good Friday

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

April 12: Easter - [John 20:1-18](#) / [Psalm 46](#)

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

April 19: Earth Day Service - [John 20:19-31](#)

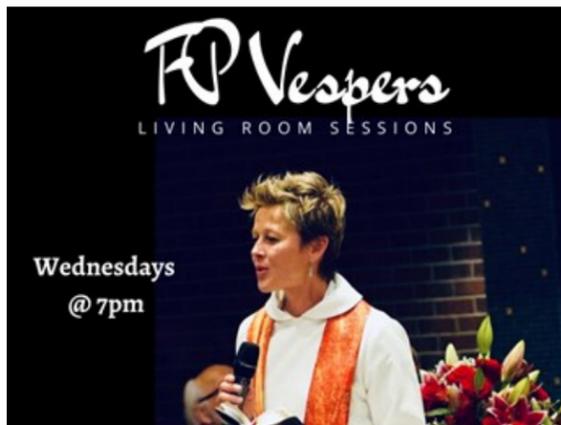
Alix Wright

April 26: Stewardship Sunday

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas



Worship with us remotely on Sundays at 10:00A at
<https://bit.ly/FPC-Worship>
or view previous services on the [FPUCC YouTube Station](#).



Pastors Jenny and Eric invite you to evening Vespers service each Wednesday at 7:00P. Find the link to join on the church's website calendar.



Meet Marilyn Miller!
A First Plymouth member since 2002, Marilyn is known to many of us due to her high level of involvement at FP. Read more about her life at <https://bit.ly/MMillerBio>.



OUR SENIORS

Neil Bachman

Melba Bouquet

Kathie Brand

Jim Clark

Gladys Connelly

Ellyn Domnik

Dot Dulaney

Donna Evans

John Fox

Adrienne Glenn

Lynn Hornbrook

Margaret Link

William Morrill

Marcia Nelson

Dan Porter

Jim Rogers

Sara Siegesmund

Rev. Dr. Phyllis Taylor

Bruce Thumm

Carlyne White

Kathy Whitney

OUR CHILDREN

Bremner Bangs

Danielle Giefer

Maya Hyslop

Madeline Hyyppa

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear FPCC,

As we wild this wilderness journey, it is important for us to stop and listen, to truly see what is right in front of us—what has been there all along, and to share our stories with one another.

Maybe your story will be similar to the Italians' who allowed the light to shine as they opened their kitchen windows and leaned into the terrace between them uniting their voices in song, lifting up spirits and the darkness with a profound miracle— one that neither life or death can destroy— human connection within lies the power of hope and possibility.

Or like the Chino Hills High Chamber Singers' choir whose concert was canceled, and so they chose to perform it on Zoom— where not only their parents could hear it, but a world who needed to be reminded that “nothing” can cancel hope, nothing can close down “possibility.”

Eric reminded me this week of a quote by the late and great civil rights leader and elder Vincent Harding who asked the question after a particular difficult and divisive election cycle: “Is America possible?” I'm not sure about America, but let's start with ourselves?

Am I possible?
Are we possible?
Is life possible?

I think a difficult and yet profound truth shining in the darkness of this Lenten quarantine experience is that, “No, I am not possible. In fact, I am blind to possibility without you, and you, and you. It is only when “WE walk the journey together, that possibility is born, that we can truly see the hope that lives within us, within our shared lives, through our shared resources, and by our shared faith, perseverance and love. May we continue to wild the wilderness together this day and every day. Amen.

—excerpt from Sermon, “Blind Sight” from March 22, 2020

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas
Pastor, First Plymouth Congregational Church



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

10:00 AM Yacht & Donut Club
1:00 PM Facilities Team
7:00 PM Wednesday Vespers

Thursday, April 2, 2020

11:30 AM The Pastor & the Professor

Sunday, April 5, 2020

8:45 AM Bible Basics
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Progressive Christianity
11:15 AM Adult Forum: Climate Crisis
5:00 PM Youth Group

Monday, April 6, 2020

12:00 PM Poetry & Prayer

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

10:00 AM Yacht & Donut Club
7:00 PM Wednesday Vespers

Thursday, April 9, 2020

11:30 AM The Pastor & the Professor

Friday, April 10, 2020 GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 PM Good Friday Worship Service

Saturday, April 11, 2020

9:00 AM Men's Fellowship

Sunday, April 12, 2020 EASTER

8:45 AM Bible Basics
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Progressive Christianity

Monday, April 13, 2020

11:30 AM Between the Lines Book Group

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

10:00 AM Yacht & Donut Club
7:00 PM Wednesday Vespers

Sunday, April 19, 2020

8:45 AM Bible Basics
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Progressive Christianity
11:15 AM Adult Forum: Whole Earth
5:00 PM Youth Group

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

10:00 AM Yacht & Donut Club
7:00 PM Wednesday Vespers

Sunday, April 26, 2020

8:45 AM Bible Basics
10:00 AM Worship
11:00 AM Progressive Christianity
11:00 AM Adult Forum: FP WISE

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

10:00 AM Yacht & Donut Club
7:00 PM Wednesday Vespers

Morning Devotionals

In addition to Sunday morning Worship, midweek Vespers and the many small group opportunities made available for your spiritual nourishment, our Ministerial Staff will be sharing morning devotionals on Facebook. You can follow our Facebook page to access these devotionals at <https://www.facebook.com/firstplymouth>



March's Joys and Concerns

For our members' privacy, a list of the prior month's [Joys and Concerns](#) is available on the church website under the [FP Members](#) section.

In our time apart, Members and Friends are interested in any joys or concerns you may have. They can be emailed to Anthony Scott at pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org for inclusion on our webpage.

2019-2020 FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Kim Wooldridge

Vice Moderator

Phil Thompson

Treasurer

Steve Haskins

Church Clerk

Lee Probasco

Members at Large:

June 2020: Kent Lemburg
and Peter Fogg

June 2021: Allison Pasternak
and Sandy Clough

June 2022: Laura Eley and
David Stevenson

FIRST PLYMOUTH OFFICE CONTACTS

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Find more information on our website at www.firstplymouthchurch.org

From the Green Team: Earth Day 2020 -- The 50th Anniversary

In the 1960s American industry belched out smoke into the air and sludge into rivers and lakes with little fear from either the law or public pressure. Air pollution was accepted as the smell of prosperity. The Great Lakes were in danger of becoming the "Dead Seas of the United States." In January 1969 a huge oil spill near Santa Barbara wreaked havoc on 300 miles of the California shoreline, killing thousands of birds, fish, and sea mammals. In June 1969 the Cuyahoga River near downtown Cleveland caught on fire, severely damaging two railroad bridges.

But by the end of the 1960s, large numbers of Americans were no longer oblivious to environmental degradation and how a polluted environment threatens human health. The idea of a decentralized "national teach-in on the environment" was originally conceived by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin in the fall of 1969. The first Earth Day occurred on April 22, 1970. About 10% of the total American population, or 20 million people—from 10,000 elementary and high schools, 2,000 colleges, and over 1,000 communities — took action on that day. The people in the first Earth Day crowds were young and old, labor union members, farmers, truck drivers, scientists, and politicians from all ideologies—from Barry Goldwater to Edward Kennedy.

Earth Day 2020 marks fifty years of Earth Day. This year the Earth Day Network will coordinate activities in 193 countries. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. Every individual can do something to help the environment as Pastor Jenny has suggested with "Lent with Less." Though many planned in-person events are cancelled due to the Shelter-in-Place order, some online presentations can be found at **The 2020 We Don't Have Time Climate Conference** at <https://www.wedonthavetime.org/event/earthdayweek>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

At the **April 11 Men's Fellowship "No-Breakfast"** at 9:00A, First Plymouth's own **Larry Strawser** gives a presentation on "Recent Advances in Biotechnology: A New Beginning For or the End Of Humankind?" Larry will present a brief history of what led to the current biotechnology revolution, and will provide a descriptive summary of some of the latest technical achievements in this field. He will then lead a discussion on the ethical issues associated with this technology. Read more at <https://bit.ly/MenBFast-April>.

As in the past few years, a group of First Plymouth folks will be heading to Creede, Colorado **August 7 through 10** to attend performances of the Repertory Theatre and to take in the natural beauty of the area. This year, three comedy plays will be offered including Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" as well as the musical "Oklahoma." If you would like to join in the fun and fellowship or would like more information, contact Craig Eley as soon as possible.

During these difficult times, many residents at **Kentucky Circle Village** are faced with food insecurity, financial limitations and mobility issues that restrict their ability to search for some basic food and/or household items. Please consider donating basic items such as: easy-open canned food items like soup, tuna, Chef Boyardee-ravioli or spaghetti, rice, cereals, and powdered milk. At least ONE toilet paper roll would also be appreciated. Items can be dropped off at the KCV office at 4901 E. Kentucky Circle Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30A and 4:00P. Our office number is (303) 756-5218. THANK YOU.

In this time of uncertainty, supporting one another as well as this church is crucial. Beginning this April, we will refrain from funding "Share-the-Plate" and instead financial gifts may be made to our "Mission Giving" fund, non-pledged donations, Minister's Discretionary fund as well as continued commitment payments on your 2019-2020 pledge. You may mail in your gifts in the form of a check to the church office or make an online donation on the church website at bit.ly/FPC-giving.



Facebook: @firstplymouth



Instagram: @FirstPlymouthDenver



Twitter: @PlymouthDenver

MINISTRY NEWS

The Stewardship Ministry announces the Annual Pledge Campaign kick-off. This year we are faced with a challenge. Can we conduct a successful Campaign without the weekly in-person worship service? The answer is YES! This campaign prepares us for budgeting for the 2020-2021 Program year. Look for "The River Plymouth" on social media and website paired with a gauge of our progress. Let's continue to come together as a beloved community during this tough time and support each other and our church. Pledges can be made at: <https://firstplymouthchurch.org/stewardship-forms/>.

Children's Ministries is offering virtual Sunday School, as well as Parenting Place and other activities. Check Alix Wright's weekly parent email to stay in touch. Please email Alix at awright@firstplymouthchurch.org if you are not receiving this email. The Children's Moment is a regular part of our virtual worship service and we are asking that the kids send their favorite emoji to let us know they are watching.

A Climate Crisis Manual for the Church: "Cathedral on Fire | A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis", written by Brooks Berndt, Minister for Environmental Justice for the UCC, explores how the church can protect the environment and our earthly cathedrals through combating climate change.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Take a break from the anxieties of COVID-19 and share your thoughts about Earth Care. We can feel more empowered by exercising our Green Faith and practices together. Your input is important! Please take a few minutes today to fill out our Green Team Congregational Survey. Look for a report on the results at the April 19 Adult Forum. Please take a moment to complete this survey at <https://bit.ly/2HFGLLe> or by scanning the QR code.

Consider celebrating Earth Day with a generous contribution to the **First Plymouth Green Energy Fund**. The GEF was established one year ago to fund projects that directly reduce our carbon emissions. The Whole Earth Ministry/Green Team, in conjunction with the Facilities Management Team, is close to announcing the GEF's first project - completing the transition from incandescent and fluorescent lighting to LEDs. The impact on our carbon footprint and FP electricity costs will be significant!

First Plymouth's Galapalooza has been postponed due to the coronavirus. We will be planning how to honor the Caring Award recipients and how to best inaugurate this "Rollicking Fun(d) Evening" once this virus has "passed over" and we will be safe to gather in a large group. The Wellshire Event Center has been so supportive to work with us on this change.

Adult Forum: April

April 5: Flattening the Curves (online meeting)

The Reverend Peter Sawtell will lead an on-line conversation about the lessons that can be shared as we face the dual challenges of pandemic and climate chaos. Find the meeting link on the church calendar. Go to <https://bit.ly/FPC-April5> for more information.

April 19: Whole Earth for the 2020s (online meeting)

When First Plymouth voted to become a Whole Earth congregation in 1994, "climate change" was a phrase used mostly by scientists and politicians and switching from styrofoam cups to ceramic seemed like a major accomplishment. But times have changed and so has the UCC's framework for actively engaging in the urgent work of creation justice. Come hear the results of the recent congregational survey about our own intentional practices and those of our church, learn about the work of the First Plymouth Green Team, and about our efforts to become a UCC Creation Justice Church.

April 26: FP WISE (online meeting)

Join our virtual presentation to learn about the new FPWISE covenant, (First Plymouth's mental health task force), to become a nationally affiliated WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Amy Petré Hill will explain the process and lead the discussion. The congregation will vote on the covenant and to become a national WISE church during the June Congregational Meeting.



APRIL 2020

First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER