

## WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY

- February 2:** [Matthew 5:1-12](#) - Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith  
[1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#) (Service of Holy Communion)
- February 9:** [Matthew 5:13-20](#) - Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas
- February 16:** [Matthew 5:21-37](#) - Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith
- February 23:** [Matthew 17:1-9](#) - Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas



Worship with us remotely on Sundays at 10:00A at  
<https://bit.ly/2kUz3IT>  
or view previous services on the [FPUCC YouTube Station](#).

## Regularly Scheduled Sundays

Nursery opens at 8:30A  
Adult Choir Rehearsals at 8:30A  
Adult Education Sundays at 8:45A  
Worship Services Sundays at 10:00A

Would you like to learn more about First Plymouth? "FP-At-A-Glance" will be held on February 23, following the Service.

## Follow First Plymouth Denver in the Digital World

Facebook: @firstplymouth  
Instagram: @FirstPlymouthDenver  
Twitter: @PlymouthDenver



## Guess who's turning 99?



**Harold Harris** will be celebrating his 99th birthday on February 17 and is already looking forward to next year as an Centenarian!

A Grandfather to eight and Great-grandfather to 18, Harold has a story to tell! Learn more about Harold's life at <https://bit.ly/2uSsVPw>.



### OUR SENIORS

**Dick Anderson**  
**Amy Diller**  
**Harold Harris**  
**Nik Johnston**  
**Verne Moser**  
**Nancy Schwartz**  
**Brian Snow**  
**Carol Weale**  
**Tom Wilsam**  
**Marian Winstanley**  
**Suzie Wrenn**

### OUR CHILDREN

**Paxton Cole**  
**Oliver Fenn**  
**Zerin Hassan**  
**Andrea Ramirez**  
**Camila Ramirez**  
**Evangelina Sainz-Carrasco**  
**Thomas Stubner**

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Sunday, February 2, 2020</b>	11:15 AM Adult CE: "Just Mercy"
<b>Monday, February 3, 2020</b>	10:00 AM Knit Wit SewSociety
<b>Tuesday, February 4, 2020</b>	1:00 PM ITF - Valentine making 6:30 PM Mission Team
<b>Thursday, February 6, 2020</b>	5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, February 7, 2020</b>	7:30 PM Stratus Chamber Orchestra
<b>Saturday, February 8, 2020</b>	8:00 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 5:30 PM "The Group"
<b>Sunday, February 9, 2020</b>	11:15 AM Adult CE: "Coffee with Council" 12:30 PM Immigration Task Force
<b>Monday, February 10, 2020</b>	11:30 AM Between the Lines Book Group 5:30 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Immigration Task Force
<b>Tuesday, February 11, 2020</b>	7:00 PM FP WISE Meeting
<b>Wednesday, February 12, 2020</b>	1:00 PM Facilities Team 1:00 PM Healing Touch 6:30 PM Whole Earth Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM FP Racial Equity Team
<b>Saturday, February 15, 2020</b>	12:00 PM Bells Choir Potluck Retreat
<b>Sunday, February 16, 2020</b>	11:15 AM Adult CE: Hassan Latif
<b>Monday, February 17, 2020</b>	Church Closed: Presidents' Day
<b>Tuesday, February 18, 2020</b>	1:00 PM FP Bookies 6:30 PM FP Church Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, February 19, 2020</b>	3:00 PM HR Meeting 7:00 PM PPRC
<b>Thursday, February 20, 2020</b>	5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, February 25, 2020</b>	7:00 PM Outreach Team Meeting 7:00 PM Stewardship Ministry
<b>Thursday, February 27, 2020</b>	5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear FPCC Community,

February is traditionally a cold and crisp winter month sparked by the warmth and love of Valentine's Day. Following the Thanksgiving-to-New Year's holiday season, as we enter this month, we are jet-lagged from inspiration, melancholy from hellos and goodbyes and desperate to get on with tomorrow. We have finally packed up Christmas and New Year's, re-gifted, or repurposed those "extra special" gifts and are ready to return to center. But that begs the question, what—or where—is center?



I often think of this post-holiday "meantime" as a gateway between two worlds: the one we love and yet regret, and the one we loathe and yet long for. This is the Christmas to Easter Journey. You might scoff and say, "Pastor, that's not how I usually think about Christmas and Easter?"

Hear me out:

We have sensationalized the Christmas season to the point that it overpromises on the front end and leaves us wanting like a hangover from cheap booze in its aftermath. But we love it, don't we? We are desperate to believe in the magic of LOVE to bring us together, to illustrate our lives with twinkling lights and real friendships at the rate of 1, 2, 3 Christmas parties with laughter, and dancing, with peppermint mochas and Virgin Mary cocktails. We cling to the beauty of life in its fullness, at the rate of overspending, overindulging, and overpromising. We bathe our children in "the love we never received as kids," offering them spectacular gifts and experiences, cherishing the snuggles and candy cane kisses that are all too fleeting at that age.

We love Christmas, and yet we often regret our overreaching during the season. We are too busy; we overeat, we drink too much, we spend too much; it's all just a little too much.

Finally, after we've seen the four-year-old angels and shepherds and the infant Jesus crying out from the manger after we sing Silent Night and lift our candled spirits to the sky, we are drawn back to center. Center, the place from which we started. The place Thich Nhat Hanh calls "precious," saying, "Be yourself. Life is precious as it is. There is no need to put anything in front of us and run after it. We already have everything we are looking for, everything we want to become."

In this "meantime," we are given a divine invitation to look in the mirror again, to wake-up from our slumber, and to just be. "All the elements for your happiness are already here," said Hahn. "There is no need to run, strive, search or struggle. Just be."

In the meantime, practice "just being." As we prepare for the Lenten journey, when we will walk through the "Wilderness" together—you will be thankful that you know exactly what and where your center is.

Let us "be" together in this meantime,

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

## January'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.



### 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

**Senior Minister**  
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**Director of Children's Ministry**  
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### First Plymouth Congregational Church

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Find more information on our website at [www.firstplymouthchurch.org](http://www.firstplymouthchurch.org)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Interfaith Alliance is sponsoring the event, **"Day at the Legislature,"** on **Monday, February 3 from 8:30A - 2:30P** at the State Capitol. To learn more about this event and to register, go to <https://bit.ly/38vaKy7>. The cost of this event is \$30, which includes a light breakfast and lunch.

**The Immigration Task Force** is making Valentines on **Tuesday, February 4**, for people held in the Aurora Detention Center. Join us in Plymouth Hall from 1:00P - 3:00P. Please bring one supply with you, such as glue sticks, paper, stickers, paints, scissors, ribbons etc., but no staples or pipe cleaners can be used. Come for the whole time or join us when you can. You may also drop off homemade Valentines in the box at Mission Central. This is one way we can share our love and light with people being held in detention. We are partnering with Coloradans for Immigrant Rights on this project. Contact Beth Irtz or Nancy Osborne with your questions.

At the next **Men's Fellowship Breakfast**, FP members Geoff Lynch and Nancy Erickson, who are former FAA Controllers, will give a presentation and field questions about the FAA on **Saturday, February 8**. The men meet at First Plymouth for fellowship, breakfast and spirited discussions at 8:00A. Women may share breakfast at Panera Bread at Hampden Ave. and I-25, and then join the men at 9:00A for the presentation. Contact Bruce Glenn for details.

**"The Group"** will be hosted by Genette and Bob Henderson on **Saturday, February 8 at 5:30P**. Please check ShelbyNext, your printed directory, or contact the church office for their address. New members are most welcome. Please bring a hearty appetizer, dessert and/or a bottle of wine to share. For more information, call Genette.

**Healing Touch** meets **Wednesday, February 12 at 1:00P**. Janna Moll will be presenting "The Truth About Working With Pendulums." Bring a pendulum or a pendant if you have one. If you don't, we will have extras!

On **February 15** Mountain View United Church will host an **Adult Mental Health First Aid Training workshop from 8:00A - 4:30P at 10700 E. Evans Avenue, Aurora**. This class, taught by Rev. Amy Petré-Hill, a nationally certified Mental Health First Aid instructor, will teach you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested to help cover the cost of the breakfast and lunch provided. To register, email Amy directly at [revamypetre@gmail.com](mailto:revamypetre@gmail.com).

The Spring 2020 **New Members Program (NMP)** will be held on **Sunday, March 8 from 11:00A - 3:00P**. Lunch and everybody's favorite, "Getting-to-Know-You", will start us off. Then we will tour the church while gaining information on the Governance, Christian Formation, Stewardship, Outreach, Worship and Community Life facets of First Plymouth. Q & A and good fellowship will occur throughout our time together! Please email Heidi Thomas to reserve your spot and confirm your lunch preferences.

**First Plymouth Learning Center** needs your special talents! Opened in 1995 FPLC is a mission of our Christian Education Ministry. It has a talented, dedicated staff of teachers and the cutest students you've ever seen! FPLC staff and students invite you to come see us and to support us in any way you can. Some of the things you could help with are reading a story to a class; helping during art time; helping in our Pre-K class; leading a Friday Chapel service; or helping us build a new sandbox. If interested, please contact Director Noanie Geistert at [fplcdirector@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:fplcdirector@firstplymouthchurch.org) or by calling 303-762-9355. Thank you!

All FP Men are invited to join the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Road Trip** June 12-15. Find out more about this trip online at <https://bit.ly/31b7ZzD>. Space is limited so if you are interested contact Craig Eley as soon as possible.

**The church office** is hoping for "back-up" volunteers to answer phones, doorbell and perform occasional projects. No specific days are needed, rather the ability to fill in as needed should regular volunteers become sick or go on vacations. Contact Lisa Medina at [office@firstplymouthchurch.org](mailto:office@firstplymouthchurch.org) if you are willing to be contacted to fill in. Normally on Mondays we know what the volunteer status is for the week, so having a few days notice is not uncommon. Thank you!



Check out the [2020 Events Calendar](#) for **La Foret Conference and Retreat Center** at <https://bit.ly/2tYxJTL>.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

**The Social Justice Film Series** presents the film "Crisis in Leavittown" **February 14 at First Universalist Church located 4101 S Hampden Ave.** The Black middle-class Myers family moves into all-white suburb of Levittown, PA in August, 1957, and are snubbed and mistreated, in this powerful landmark documentary showcasing racism in the United States. Meet at 5:30P for a Potluck supper (please bring something to share). The film begins at 6:30P with a discussion to follow. Go to <https://bit.ly/2MGPayn> for more information about the film.

On **Sunday, February 23 from 1:00P - 3:00P** experience **"Five Points: Then and Now,"** an interactive glimpse of Denver's Black history on a walk through Five Points, one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods. Register for this event online at <https://bit.ly/2UdNtN3>. Maximum 20 spots.

**Become a Liturgist;** those who assist the preacher during the service by leading certain responsive readings and reciting the scripture lessons for that Sunday. Consistent with our church's open and affirming belief, we encourage *all* to consider and become involved as a liturgist, with a special emphasis on younger members, including parents, and new members. If interested in this important service, please contact Doug Brown via ShelbyNext directory, printed directory or by contacting the church office.

## MINISTRY NEWS

First Plymouth moves to safer lawn care. After extensive research, the **Whole Earth Ministry** and Facilities Team have identified a vendor willing to service our campus more organically without 2,4D weed killers. To read more about this decision, please go to <https://bit.ly/2Ug8sim>.

**Community Life Ministry** needs individuals to adopt a Sunday or Sundays in which to host Coffee & Fellowship hour. If 24 church-goers sign up for twice a year, our Community of Life Ministry can be better supported.

- Volunteer to assist with FP's Fellowship Hour: <https://bit.ly/2OQhHU9>.
- Volunteer to assist with FP's Extravagant Welcome: <https://bit.ly/2RgfvXt>.

Participating in the **Stewardship Ministry** is a great way to get involved at First Plymouth. Our purpose is to gather resources that support the shared mission of First Plymouth. The Spring 2020 Pledge Campaign will kickoff on March 29. Please attend our monthly meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month. Contact Scott Nuanes with your questions.

The **Outreach Ministry** is pleased to announce three new ministry members: **Hedy Asenjo, Steve Wilson and Ken Hoagland**. The ministry appreciates their energy and time they contribute. The 2019 Outreach Report summarizes the contributions First Plymouth has made as the Hands and Feet of Jesus in the community and world this past year. *This report can be viewed through the FP Members portal of the church's website at <https://bit.ly/37MRHiD>.*

The **Youth Group** invites the congregation to their **Sunday, February 9** potluck supper from 5:00P - 6:00P. The youth are getting the hang of planning these potlucks and have a great program designed to share. Please join us and bring something to share!

## FEBRUARY SHARE-THE-PLATE

For the past six years the Whole Earth Ministry has collected new and gently used books (recycled) to benefit [Reach Out and Read Colorado](#). This organization works with medical clinics for the underserved. Healthcare providers guide parents to read to their children regularly. Children are given age appropriate new books to keep. In addition, all the clinic waiting rooms have free books for the children to take home. Your donations during February benefit this worthy organization and book donation bins can be found at Mission Central through **February 23**.

## Adult CE: February

**February 2: Discussion of the movie "Just Mercy":** Join us as we discuss Bryan Stevenson's 30-year fight to represent the wrongfully incarcerated people on death row in Alabama.

**February 9: "Coffee with Council":** Church Council would like to introduce themselves to newer members; hear your opinions on church policy and direction; and would love to answer any questions you may have on church governance.

**February 16: "Criminal Justice Reform" with Hassan Latif:** After spending 18 years in prison, Hassan Latif founded the Second Chance Center in 2012 to help people released from prison to lead meaningful and productive lives.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC  
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER