

WORSHIP FOR JANUARY

- January 5:** [Matthew 2:1-12](#) Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith
January 12: [Psalm 29](#) & [Matthew 3:13-17](#) Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas
January 19: [John 1:29-39](#) & [Psalm 40:1-11](#) Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas
January 26: [Matthew 4:12-23](#) & [Isaiah 9:1-4](#) 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 9:00A (8:30A starting January 12)
 Adult Choir Rehearsals at 8:30A (starting January 12)
 Adult Education Sundays at 8:45A
 Worship Services Sundays at 10:00A
 Youth Band Practice at 11:15A

Would you like to learn more about First Plymouth? "FP-At-A-Glance" will be held on January 26, following the Service.



Live Podcasts!

If you have enjoyed listening to "The Pastor and the Professor" podcast, or are wondering what it is, you are invited to four live recordings of it by our own Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas and Rev. Dr. Eric Smith. These sessions, held **January 9, 16, 23** and **30** from 6:30P - 7:45P, include small group discussions.

Follow First Plymouth Denver in the Digital World

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



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 05, 2020
12:15 PM Web of Care Meeting
4:30 PM Youth Group - Potluck
Monday, January 06, 2020
10:00 AM Knit Wit Sew Society
Tuesday, January 07, 2020
6:30 PM Mission Team
Wednesday, January 08, 2020
1:00 PM Facilities Team
1:00 PM Healing Touch
6:30 PM FP Racial Equity Team
6:30 PM Whole Earth Meeting
Thursday, January 09, 2020
5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 10, 2020
5:30 PM Social Justice Film Series (off-site)
Saturday, January 11, 2020
8:00 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast
5:30 PM Travel Memories Club
Monday, January 13, 2020
11:30 AM Between the Lines Book Group
6:00 PM Eric Smith - Discussion of Italy Trip
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
7:00 PM FP WISE Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2020
5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, January 17, 2020
6:00 PM Youth MLK Weekend Lock-In
Monday, January 20, 2020
5:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
1:00 PM FP Bookies
6:30 PM FP Council Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020
5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal
Monday, January 27, 2020
11:30 AM Women's Cancer Support Group
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
6:30 PM Stewardship Ministry
7:00 PM Outreach Team Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
7:00 PM PPRC
Thursday, January 30, 2020
5:45 PM FP Bell Choir Rehearsal



OUR SENIORS

Diane Choate
 Judith Clausen
 Beth Eha
 Eva Heller
 Dianne Hornbrook
 Ken Hovland
 Judy Macomber
 Mary Osgood
 Ed Parmee
 Dick Seeley
 Nancy Joe Shaw
 Marilou Taggart
 Marion Taylor
 Jan Updike
 Carol Weldon
 Deanna Wilscam
 George Young

OUR CHILDREN

Nora Chafee
 Charlie Dempster
 Arielle Forgey
 Cameron Forgey
 Kamden Green
 Dylan Nicholas
 John Origer
 Sandoval Stevens
 William Tice

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Epiphany, may we look for God's light to be revealed in the least likely of places, and may we, ourselves, offer that light to the world!

A Word from Epiphany from the Rev. Mary Luti, United Church of Christ pastor, professor, and historian:



EPIPHANY

"Epiphany is an ancient Christian festival that pre-dates Christmas. It is, therefore, one of the two most important celebrations of the Christian year (Easter being the other). "Epiphany" means "revelation." Epiphany initiates a season of light, lasting between 5 and 9 weeks, depending on the timing of Easter each year. During the season of Epiphany, Christians contemplate the figure of Jesus as a revelation of God's character and of God's hopes for the world. It is a period of light and insight into the way we believe God was working for our good through Jesus' ministry of preaching, healing, justice, and reconciliation. In most (but not all) Christian liturgical practice, the season of Epiphany begins with a double commemoration—the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus in Bethlehem on Jan 6, and the grown-up Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river the following Sunday.

Epiphany is one of the festivals in the Christian year on which it is customary to initiate people into the church through the ritual of baptism. In some places in the early church, the newly baptized were known as the illumined or enlightened ones. This season of light is a good time for a renewal of baptismal promises to follow Jesus, to reject the allure of evil and injustice, to do all in our power to repair the world God loves, and to be ourselves the light for the world, as Jesus said.

Worship during the several weeks of Epiphany brings us, depending on the year, gospel stories that ponder Jesus' identity and recount people's responses to him as, in the startling light of his presence, their hearts are opened to the gift of God's mercy. When asked by would-be followers where he lives, Jesus says, "Come and see." We watch Jesus call followers. We watch him teach and heal. We see the light that lives in him lift shadows of despair, violence, and injustice.

But for all the light that is dawning; for all the revelations of Jesus' identity that abound in these texts; for all the excited talk about the Messiah and the Lamb of God; for all the rush to get in on the ground floor and follow him; for all the hope that the new day of the kingdom of God might finally be dawning, confusion about Jesus remains. In fact, the mystery deepens. It won't be long before we are reading stories in which even his closest friends scratch their heads, perplexed by the implacable enigma of this man. Even John the Baptist, who had earlier recognized him as God's chosen one, will ask, "So, are you really The One?"

There will be so many claims and swirling around him that Jesus himself will eventually ask his disciples, "What are they saying about me?" And "What about you? Who do you say that I am?"—a question that will still haunt him when he's hanging on the Cross.

But for now, Epiphany. Attraction, light, revelation, calling, and joy."

December'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
 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas
pastor@firstplymouthchurch.org
Director of Music
 Joel Rinsema
jrinsema@firstplymouthchurch.org
Director of Children's Ministry
 Alix Wright
fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org
Pastoral Care
 Kay Grice & Terry Crews
pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org
Parish Visitor
 Lois McCloskey (720-520-5186)
parishvisitor@firstplymouthchurch.org

Teaching Minister
 Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith
esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org
Director of Administration
 Carol Hainsey
chainsey@firstplymouthchurch.org
Office Coordinator
 Lisa Medina
office@firstplymouthchurch.org
Communications Coordinator
 Amy Turner
editor@firstplymouthchurch.org
Facility Manager
 Don McLean
dmclean@firstplymouthchurch.org

First Plymouth Congregational Church

3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Englewood, CO 80113 303-762-0616
 Find more information on our website at www.firstplymouthchurch.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Healing Touch meets Wednesday, January 8 at 1:00P. Aurelia Tara will teach about how to heal with color, sound and crystals.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast: On **January 11, Ken Hoagland** discusses his career spent financing & building senior & affordable housing. He will share some of his experiences and hopefully help everyone understand more about how affordable housing is developed and why it is so scarce. The men meet in the First Plymouth Commons Room for fellowship, breakfast, and spirited discussions at 8:00A. Women can share breakfast at [Panera Bread at Hampden Ave. and I-25](#), and then join the men at 9:00A for the presentation. For more information, contact Bruce Glenn.

The congregation is invited to attend the First Plymouth **Travel Memories Club** presentation called "Scotland - the Perspective of Two Students" presented by **Claire Montgomery** and **James Thompson** on **Saturday, January 11**. Gather in Plymouth Hall at 5:30P for a 6:00P potluck dinner followed by the presentation at 7:00P. For those who wish to come to the potluck dinner, please bring your own table settings and if your last name starts with A-G bring a salad or side dish; H-K, a dessert; and L-Z, a main dish. **Please RSVP to Nancy Joe Shaw.**

There are still a few weeks left to submit nominations for the **2020 Caring Awards**. Do you know someone who is an exceptional volunteer or who has done exceptional things for the community? Honorees receive a donation made in their honor to the non-profit of his/her choice. This is a wonderful way to acknowledge those who are so deserving of community recognition. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the First Plymouth Foundation website at <https://bit.ly/34e0jwD>. Completed forms can be dropped off in the Foundation's mailbox in the church office, or mailed to Denise Brown. Questions? Please email Debbie Harrington. Nominations will be accepted until early January 2020.

Parents are invited to come hang out in the Commons Room between 9:15A and 10:00A on Sunday mornings at the **"Parenting Place."** Church member Dr. Marian Camden, a psychologist specializing in child and family matters, will be on hand to welcome you, get you connected with other parents and lead a discussion based on your questions and needs. We will also be taking a look at the book "Bless This Mess: A Modern Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic World."

Beginning **January 12**, choir rehearsals are changing. The new **Children's Choir** schedule will allow parents the ability to join the **Chancel Choir** and/or participate in the new **"Parenting Place"** group before church. Revelation Singers, for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5, will rehearse at 9:15A in the CE room. The Cherub choir, for 3-4 year-olds, will rehearse during Sunday School from 11:00A until 11:15A. The Chancel Choir will rehearse Sundays at 8:30A rather than Thursday evenings and the nursery will open at 8:30A to help support these rehearsal times.

Adult CE: January 19

Duncan Miller will share how and why cartoonist Charles Schulz was so successful in helping multiple generations to learn to laugh at themselves. Following a brief synopsis on how Schulz got his start and how he introduced each of the major characters in Peanuts, we will explore how he dealt with such issues as school segregation, the women's liberation movement, school prayer and other social issues during almost 50 years of his cartoon. In addition we will look at how Schulz wrote from his own life experiences and how some of his best ideas came during his darker moments of depression. The program will conclude with the sharing of some of Schulz's best scripts on religion and faith.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Social Justice Film Series presents the film "The Public" **January 10** at **First Universalist Church** located **4101 S Hampden Ave.** 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.

Your **Transition Hospitality Team** continues to plan more intimate "meet and greet" opportunities with Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas. We are scheduling approximately two opportunities each month. If you haven't received an invitation, you will within the coming months. For more information, please contact Joe Shaw or Nancy Joe Shaw.

HELP SUPPORT FIRST PLYMOUTHALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOP!

Support
First Plymouth
Congregational Church.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

You can generate free funds for First Plymouth by shopping at smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com when ordering online. It is the identical shopping experience once you log into your Amazon account from this site. A half of one percent of your purchases will be donated by Amazon to the charity of your choice. When signing into smile.amazon.com for the first time, you will be prompted to choose a charity where you can search for "First Plymouth Congregational Church." Thank you!

MINISTRY NEWS

The **Green Team** invites you to make a New Years resolution to help us reduce consumption and waste at church. Starting in January, when enjoying your coffee or tea in the conversation area, please use a ceramic mug from the cart that will be there.



Our paper cups are made from recycled fibers but they are not recyclable after use. They are compostable, but since First Plymouth does not compost they must go into our trash for the landfill. As always, please **do** use a covered paper cup when taking a beverage into the Sanctuary. Better yet, bring your own covered beverage container from home. It will reduce waste and clean up at church. Please help our diligent staff by placing used mugs back on the cart and paper cups in the trash.

Community Life

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

Back by popular demand, the **Progressive Christianity** class will begin a winter and spring series starting **January 5** through **May 24** at 8:45A in Room 210.

First Plymouth Learning Center: Registration for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year for currently enrolled families begins on **January 7** at 8:00 a.m. in the CE Center. Registration for new families will begin January 21 at 8:00 a.m. in the CE Center. Contact Noanie Geistert at 303-762-9355 for more information.

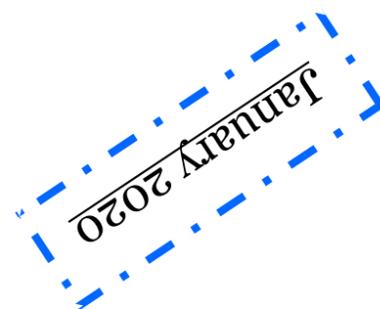
Are you an organized person? Are you passionate about bringing quality programming to our church? The **Christian Education Ministry** needs you. We are looking for new members to organize the Sunday Adult Forum (Adult-CE sessions) after church. This group is undergoing a transition and needs new leadership and new ideas. If you are interested in being a part of this group, contact Alix Wright at awright@firstplymouthchurch.org.

The Stewardship Committee can use your help. We are responsible for leading the annual pledge campaign that generates the financial resources for the church's operating budget. Most of our time is dedicated to planning and implementing the annual campaign. The commitment is less than two hours a month. It primarily consists of sending a few emails during the Spring Pledge Campaign and writing thank you notes. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00P and typically last an hour. We can benefit from anyone who has some spare time and an interest in directly contributing to the First Plymouth community. For more details, please contact **Scott Nuanes**.

JANUARY SHARE-THE-PLATE

The Second Chance Center, Inc. (SCC), a Colorado based 501c3, began its 7th year in February 2019. In 2018, almost 23,000 men and women were incarcerated in Colorado State correctional facilities at an average cost to taxpayers in excess of \$36,000 per person per year. Approximately 800 men and women are released monthly from these facilities with a majority returning to the Denver metro area.

SCC serves an increasing number of these returning citizens with an integrated and innovative program of mentoring, counseling, education, job training and community engagement. In Colorado, nearly 50% of those released, are returned to custody within a three-year period. The national recidivism rate is 39%. In stark contrast to national and local trends, the recidivism rate for SCC clients is less than 10%.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
3501 South Colorado Boulevard
Englewood, CO 80113

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER