

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR JULY

- July 5 The Reverend Jenny Shultz-Thomas [Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)
- July 12 The Reverend Jenny Shultz-Thomas [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)
- July 19 The Reverend Jenny Shultz-Thomas [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)
- July 26 The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith [Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)



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



"Coffee with the Pastors" will not meet in the month of July.



- Thom Amabile
- Boyd Barker
- Verlyn Barker
- Austin Boyd
- Teena Brenkendorff
- Scott Broertjes
- Wanda Coleman
- Rich Dangremond
- Jessa Decker-Smith
- Dalyce Due
- Paxton Erickson
- Bob Friis
- Pat Gregg
- Pat Harwood
- Amanda Henderson
- Diane Hoagland
- Kristen Hovland
- Sue Hovland
- Jo Ickstadt
- Sidney Jackson
- Wendy Kellstedt Cory
- Jack Kleinheksel
- Don Kludt
- Bonnie Larson-de Paz
- Doug Lindsey
- Alan Long
- Alice Love
- Mason Mangiameli
- Sophie Mangiameli
- Donald Nagel
- Peggy Olson
- Kent Owens
- Craig Passon
- Nini Post
- David Raymes
- Paige Rooney
- Elijah Sainz-Carrasco
- Anna Serio
- Phillis Shimamoto
- Jason Spillman
- Madi Spillman
- Gigi Van Egeren
- Norman Weldon
- Matt Westlund
- Rhiana Westlund
- Jim Woodward, Jr.
- Donald Zeller

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"May Healing Lead to Wholeness"



"We can meet our match with a poodle or with a raging guard dog," writes Buddhist monk, Pema Chodron in her book, *When Things Fall Apart*, "but the interesting question is — what happens next?"

Most of the pain in the world is due to fear. Fear of the unknown, of the "other," but if we are honest with ourselves, we know that fear has its origin in what we hide from ourselves. Hate doesn't come from that which is outside of the self, it must first find light in the darkness of our souls, and its growth depends upon our watering it, listening to it, and encouraging it. Hate only grows stronger and ultimately wins when it is shared, when it becomes too much to bear alone, and thus we (the host) expel it and project it onto another.

If we are to deny hate the right to live and grow and dwell within the sacred human soul, to keep us from truly belonging to one another, we must first respond to that which we fear. We must begin to acknowledge the deep longings we have for wholeness and acceptance, forgiveness, and compassion. We must accept the pain from our brokenness if we are to recognize the pain we have caused others. This is not easy, but it is necessary.

"Generally speaking," says Chodron, "we regard discomfort in any form as bad news. But for practitioners or spiritual warriors—people who have a certain hunger to know what is true—feelings like disappointment, embarrassment, irritation, resentment, anger, jealousy and fear, instead of being bad news, are actually very clear moments that teach us where it is that we're holding back. They teach us to perk up and lean in when we feel we'd rather relax and back away. They're like messengers that show us, with terrifying clarity, exactly where we're stuck. This very moment is the perfect teacher, and, lucky for us, it's with us wherever we go."

A friend of mine recently wrote and published a blog post titled, "It's okay to hate him," — Donald Trump, that is.

This article was shared widely, and comments debating this claim filled many a Facebook page. It has become unremarkable, really, the passion-filled sentiments that surround this man's name. Whether love or hate, what is the same is the intensity with which people feel things in response to "45". Of course, it is due him as pain emanates from his being, and cripples everything and everyone he touches. It is a charade, however, the hating game. It will only cause us more pain and paralysis as we continue to solidify our annulment to the truth of our exhaustion—our fear of love. When we name the disease that haunts humanity, we inculcate a sense of shared responsibility in ourselves, alongside those we "supposedly" hate. Love is scary. When we profess its deficiency, it has the power to either sear the hole it left in our hearts forever, or reveal its overwhelming ability to envelop everything that left us wanting more. Love is our nemesis, not hate. Hate neither exists nor holds power in the shadow of unconditional love. Love is all there is but is only as accessible to us as our relationship to fear allows.

There are times in everyone's life when, undoubtedly, the world around you, the seed of your soul, the unknown energy that is the substance and the essence of all life— is beckoning you onward and upward, to rise, or to turn around, to let go, and to extinguish the fear that is holding you back. Love calls. Whether it is the love of self that you seek, the affirmation from another, or the realization of your own agency, the freedom of this world to pursue ultimate healing and wholeness requires our attention and demands our participation.

Remember, love is scary, as Carl Jung suggested, "The most terrifying thing is to accept oneself completely." But the healing of the world begins with our own. May it be so.

Spirit is leading the way,
Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

2020-2021 FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator

Phil Thompson

Vice Moderator

Liz Mascitelli

Treasurer

Carole Westphal

Church Clerk

Pat Olson

Members at Large:

June 2021: Allison Pasternak and Sandy Clough

June 2022: Laura Eley and David Stevenson

June 2023: Deborah Arca and Robert Henderson

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

Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott
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

What's Happening?

During the pandemic and social distancing, First Plymouth has transitioned to holding worship services, classes and meetings online via Zoom and GoToMeeting.

To find the most recent scheduling of these opportunities, please go to the Church Calendar online at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-calendar>.

Stay in Touch!

The administration at First Plymouth uses email as the main method of communicating with members and friends.

MailChimp's semi-weekly and monthly updates are sent to those who "opt-in" via a subscription form, whether members or not at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-MailChimp>.

Members & Friends can maintain their own information in ShelbyNext with their own credentials. Need credentials? Contact Amy at editor@firstplymouthchurch.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE

Church Council wishes to congratulate Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas on the occasion of her one year anniversary as the Senior Pastor at First Plymouth Congregational Church! It has been a wonderful year despite the challenges of having a church building that is closed. There is a lot of energy, vitality and creativity happening at First Plymouth and much of it is due to the excitement and positivity Jenny brings to both the pulpit and to our leadership.

We are excited to partner with Jenny over the next year and beyond, as she leads us in new directions, and works alongside our beloved community in fulfilling our shared Mission and vision.

Congratulations Jenny, and here's to many great years ahead! — Church Council

First Plymouth Congregational Church

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

MINISTRY NEWS

On Sunday, July 12 following the worship service, join the new Church Council members for "Coffee with Council." Find the link for this virtual meeting on the church calendar at <https://bit.ly/FPC-calendar>.

The **Progressive Christianity** class will continue throughout *July on the second and fourth Mondays at 4:30 PM* and *on the second and fourth Mondays in August at 7:00 PM*. The 2020-2021 program year begins in September at which time we expect the schedule to change again. Join these meetings via the Church Calendar at www.firstplymouthchurch.org.

Children's Ministries continues Summer Sunday School. Watch for emails explaining the activities for the first three Sundays of July and August. During the **1st Sunday of the month** there will be a Family Activity. The **2nd Sunday of the month** there will be a video from a congregation member. During the **3rd Sunday of the month** there will be a Zoom Summer Sunday School session. We are looking forward to connecting with you this summer!

Below are three spiritual practices for you and your family.

- 1) [Here is one piece of a Mandala](#). Please print, color and mail them to the church. As we get pieces Alix Wright will put them together, and even though we are apart, we can create art together. This project is not just for our younger folks, but everyone can join in!
- 2) Here is a [downloadable book](#) that is full of prayers and activities for families. Thank you to Deb Arca for this product for our families.
- 3) Find [Illustrated Ministries weekly coloring pages here](#).

Nursery & Sunday School Registration is now open for the 2020-2021 Program year. Please register your child(ren) today on the church's website at https://bit.ly/FPCC_SSRRegistration.

Busy traveling this summer? No worries, Children's Ministries is offering a **digital VBS** designed to be flexible for your schedule! **Beginning July 13**, content provided will last for five weeks! Play along with us at your convenience. **Register your child(ren) online at** <https://bit.ly/FPCC-VBS2020>.

After 26 years as a **Whole Earth Church** the urgency of the climate crisis and our desire to partner with other groups advocating for Creation Justice has motivated us to embrace a new name: **Creation Justice Ministry**. This terminology is consistent with national UCC programming and better reflects both our current practices and future goals as we actively move towards applying to become a designated Creation Justice Church. We have established a Green Team that is energized by green faith tasks and this group can continue to operate under the Creation Justice Ministry umbrella as it helps us all to be better stewards of God's creation. Read the Creation Justice Ministry covenant at <https://bit.ly/3ig3RGE>.

The **Racial Equity Team** has organized Black Lives Matter vigils to be held on the south side of Hampden Ave. and Colorado Blvd. First Plymouth will host these vigils each **Monday and Thursday** at 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM through **Thursday, July 30**. There is a 25 person limit per vigil, so please register for one or more vigils at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-BLM>.

The **FPWISE Task Force** is offering their newly published book, "You Are Not Alone" at drive-thru book party later this summer. In the meantime, they are available at the church office for a suggested donation of \$10.

JULY SHARE-THE-PLATE

The Outreach Ministry has named Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network as the July Share-the-Plate recipient. Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network dates back to the early 1990s when a group of volunteer immigration attorneys came together to address grave injustices they witnessed at the immigration center in Aurora. It became a nonprofit in 2000. Individuals in immigration proceedings do not have a right to free representation as do defendants in the criminal justice system. Even children have been forced to represent themselves. RMIAN's Children's Program provides representation for the most vulnerable children, is developing a statewide network of assistance for immigrant children and the professionals who serve them, and collaborates with national and statewide advocates for these children. RMIAN needs our support to fund training for pro bono lawyers and to provide ongoing mentoring to them.

Contribute to Share-the-Plate via [text to give](#), [ACH or Credit Card](#) or by check **made out to First Plymouth Church with "STP" noted on the memo line and mailed to the church.**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please donate to Kentucky Circle Village. 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. 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. The office number is 303-756-5218. **Please note that only one staff member works in the office and occasionally needs to step out to assist residents. There should be a sign on the door if this should this occur. The office remains open if you would like to just drop off your donation, or you can call ahead to schedule a drop-off time.**

2020 Summer Family Camping at La Foret! Though FP Community Camp has been cancelled due to the coronavirus, La Foret is offering special rates for individual families to rent a cabin or yurt in the beauty of the Black Forest. All amenities, including meals, pool, labyrinth, sports courts, trails, etc. will be available with social distancing. Make your reservation(s) today at laforet.org/family-camping.

Beth Irtz and husband Chris Sabin continue to sponsor Maribel who immigrated from Mexico where her journey took her to the GEO Aurora Detention Center. Maribel's story is compelling. Read more about her journey at <https://bit.ly/3gdjwEy>.

Join us **Saturday, July 11 at 4:00 PM** for a [community discussion via Zoom](#) of the movie "13th", a documentary covering the history of racial inequality in the United States. This film was directed and produced by [Ava DuVernay](#) and can be viewed on Netflix or YouTube. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, but with one loophole; "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted...". Please watch the film prior to the discussion. Contact Trinity Thomas or Whitney Andreasen for more information.

Join member Amanda Henderson for an online launch of her new book, "Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times" on **Tuesday, July 14** at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Register at <https://bit.ly/38gE9Oa>.

PASTORAL CARE MESSAGE

by Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott



In previous articles, I have written about grief, its purpose, and the impact it has on an individual. Grief is sneaky. One moment, you may feel, aside from the loss you have suffered, that all is well. In the next moment, grief shows up and manifests itself in whichever ways it sees fit. Grief is an emotional process which may begin following a loss or change of any kind. The sort of change or loss commonly thought to precipitate the grieving process is the death of a relative or friend. However, any and every change in life's journey IS a loss of a sort. If by nothing else, the grief process can be brought on by our illusions of what was. David Whyte, 21st century author and poet mused about grief as a well. While it is true that the well is filled with life giving water, the grief process can be akin to falling into the well and finding oneself overwhelmed, overcome, drowning.

In the span of two months we have experienced a number of reasons to grieve. Just to name a few things that may have a grief impact, Covid-19, the manifestation of racism and white supremacy in the death of George Floyd and so many others, employment loss, and loss of a sense of normalcy. Grief is a well. Grief is a sea. Grief can be life giving. But, like a deep well, grief's waters are best accessed with adequate tools. Like a sea, grief is vast and deep, sometimes deceptively so. It is best navigated on a ship equipped with provisions, companions and life preservation tools.

For six weeks, beginning **Sunday, July 19** at 11:15 AM, I will be facilitating a course on grief. Using "Good Grief" by Granger Westburg as a guide we will journey through universal components of the grief process. All are welcome to join the course via Zoom. The only materials you need to participate in this course are yourself, willingness to participate, and the book "Good Grief". The book is available for purchase via Amazon or a bookseller near you. Please email me at pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org to register or for more information.



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

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER