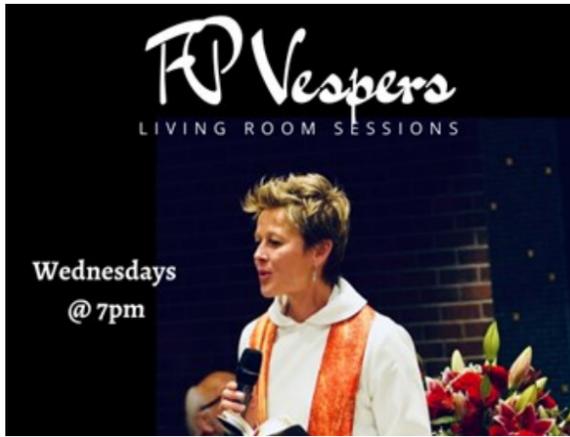


SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR MAY

- May 3 [John 10:1-10](#) The Reverend Jenny Shultz-Thomas
- May 10 [John 14:1-14](#) The Reverend Jenny Shultz-Thomas
- May 17 [John 14:15-21](#) The Reverend Jenny Shultz-Thomas
- May 24 [Acts 1:6-14](#) The Reverend Dr. Eric C. Smith
- May 31 [John 20:19-23](#) The Reverend Dr. Anthony Scott



Worship with us remotely on Sundays at 10:00A at <https://bit.ly/FPC-LIVE-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 and Coffee w/ the Pastors each Thursday at 11:00A. Find the links to join on the [church's website calendar](#).



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

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/FPC-calendar>.

Stay in Touch!

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

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

ShelbyNext, FPCC's membership database, also allows for emails to be sent to Members & Friends of First Plymouth.

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



Meet Ken Hoagland
A First Plymouth member since 1982, Ken has been very active at First Plymouth. His spiritual journey has informed his extensive participation on numerous nonprofit boards and a decision on a career that resulted in housing for people not served by the private market. Read more about Ken's journey at <https://bit.ly/Bio-KHoagland>.



OUR SENIORS

- Judith Brandt
- Tom Brightwell
- Nancy Elofson
- Gale Erlewine
- Ron Gardner

Dorothy Herbertson

Janie Hutchison

Ellie Isbill

Dean Lund

Katherine Moore

Gretchen Nagel

Jan Spomer

Hatsy Strong

Bob Watford

OUR CHILDREN

William Chafee

Karter Green

Aubrey Anne Kridler

Claire Litwinski

Will Litwinski

Charlie Origer

Noah Painter

Eleanor Pasternak

Norah Rowe

Brennan Williams

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Pastoral Letter to the world:



In Paul's letter to Timothy, he wrote a word of encouragement, saying, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7)

Paul's letter was meant for exhortation and encouragement for Timothy as Paul knew his own life would soon be coming to an end, and thus Timothy would need to sustain the faith without Paul, and continue proclaiming the gospel even in his isolation. Paul knew that people's lives depended on Timothy's unwavering faith and that the community needed to hear a steady and bold witness for the gospel to be salvation for those who were suffering and dying. Thus, Paul spoke truth into Timothy's fear, and reminded him of the God who "brings things into existence that did not exist before," the God whose presence is promised "to abide with and within us," to "never leave or forsake us." These are not empty promises or shallow projections based on the roll of a dice, or a best-case scenario, they are based on the historical character and presence of God with God's people who delivered them from bondage, fed them in the middle of the wilderness, and breathed peace into the isolation of their exiled lives.

We too need a word of encouragement, a bold and prophetic witness, and sound mind to speak into the dissonance of our lives at this time. The media, the White House, the President, state, and local government officials are speaking competing narratives and confusing agendas into the vortex of this swirling cyclone of pandemic anxiety. Now is not the time for confusion, or corruption, for politicking or playing economic roulette with the least and lost among us. Now is the time for an unwavering voice of sound mind, of power and love, to proclaim life in the face of death, to point towards a resurrection hope that lies ahead of us, and within us, as a people who will rebuild, and re-imagine life once more. Now is not the time to guide us down a winding road that leads straight back to the tomb. It is not time to "re-open the country."

Our community, the lives, and livelihood of our friends, neighbors, and families, healthcare workers who are risking it all, putting it all on the line, depends on a bold and honest proclamation of truth right now. The only truth we know. We are not ready. We do not have tests in hand, and the curve is not flat. The morgue is still filling up, grandparents and elders are still quarantined in their bedrooms while half of their community will die before they ever come out. We are not ready.

It is cowardice and irresponsible to bow to the fears of empire as leader after leader beats his chest and salutes the air calling one by one to follow suit. If we are to abandon the only truth we know, for the one that we gain to lose, we will never see the hope that lives within us live again. As Easter people, we have been here before. We know what it is to lose, to suffer, to die, and to be reborn. That time will come, and it is coming with every mask we sew, with every donation we make, with every hand we wash, and with every minute we choose to stay at home, but we are not ready, and it is not time to re-open the country.

Stay home. You are only "Safer-at-Home" if you ARE home.

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound mind."

Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

2019-2020 FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

- Moderator**
Kim Wooldridge
pastor@firstplymouthchurch.org
- 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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Pastoral Care
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Parish Visitor
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First Plymouth Congregational Church

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

COMMITTEE NEWS

At the request of Pastor Jenny and Carol Hainsey, the Director of Administration, a group of church members with diverse backgrounds and medical expertise convened in mid-March to review the best available information and provide advice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This group originally made a recommendation to close the church, including the Learning Center, until May 15.

First Plymouth's COVID19 Task Force is now recommending that this date be extended until June 15 with the understanding that new information in the interim may result in modification of this recommendation. At their meeting on April 21, **Church Council endorsed extending the closure date to June 15.** To discuss this and other COVID19 related issues, Council has scheduled an all-church virtual meeting on **Sunday, May 17 at 4:00P.** The purpose of this all-church meeting would be to update members, answer questions and get ideas about how the First Plymouth community can move forward to support its members and advance the church's mission in the midst of this pandemic. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Carol Hainsey, Director of Administration, was informed in mid-April by AMG Bank that the church's Payroll Protection Plan loan was approved and that the church will be receiving a loan of roughly \$185,000 to cover payroll over the next two and a half months. The loan is provided by the Federal Government through the SBA, and is eligible for forgiveness if the church uses the funds to keep First Plymouth and First Plymouth Learning Center employees on the payroll. Thank you to Carol Hainsey, whose quick action to apply for this loan ensured that the church was early in line to receive these special funds, which will help to protect our church's on-going operations during these uncertain times.

COMMUNITY NEWS

With social distancing still being enforced, **Community Camp** co-deans are discussing the possibility of canceling the week, scheduled for **July 19-25.** Learn more about this ongoing discussion at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-camp>. **Responses from campers to the co-deans is requested by May 8.**

On **Saturday, May 9 at 9:00A,** FP member Joe Shaw will host the **Men's Fellowship** virtual meeting. Joe, a University of Denver OLLI lecturer, will present "China: Apart from the World To Being A Part of the World." Find more information and the meeting Zoom link at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-050920>.

Denver Inner City Parish is thinking "outside the box" during this time of social distancing. From meal deliveries to "phone trees" and needs distribution, they are working to meet the needs of their community. To assist in these efforts DICP has issued a "Call to Action". Find out more about what you can do to help on their website at dicp.org, Facebook or download [their flier](https://bit.ly/3d1Y5Fg) at <https://bit.ly/3d1Y5Fg>.

Metro Caring has long been the recipient of food bank donations from First Plymouth on CAN DO Sunday each month. They need our help. Continue reading to find out how YOU can help at <https://bit.ly/2YkWUwq>.

Mask Makers Collective are making home-made masks available to First Plymouth members and friends. Order yours today <https://bit.ly/FPCC-masks>.

Adult Forum: May

May 3 - Spirituality and Sustainability: Marianne Langridge, PHD, Founder and CEO of Sustainable Synthesis Limited, PBC offers a message of faith and hope.

May 17 - "Living with COVID-19": The discussion will focus upon uncertainties, anxieties and fears surrounding this pandemic as well as the stress impact upon each of us living within the family or living alone, as a result of prolonged confined, social isolation.

May 31 - "You Are Not Alone": Join us to learn about the conception of the new FP WISE book, its collection of stories, the themes and other contributions which made this book possible.

April'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. Email your Joys and Concerns to Anthony Scott at pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org for inclusion on our webpage.



A letter from **Alix Wright, Director of Children's Ministries:**

Hello families, I miss seeing all of our little ones at church, but it has been great to see so many of you in our Zoom Sunday School classes!

Every week I have been sending out announcements, Sunday School details, fun activities, etc. in a weekly parent letter. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact me at awright@firstplymouthchurch.org.

Volunteers, do you miss seeing our little ones too? Did you know we are still offering Sunday School? If you are interested in leading one of these Sunday School classes please contact me. The curriculum is easy to adapt to an on-line format, and as always I am available to assist in any way you need.



MINISTRY NEWS

Children's Ministries: While we are away at this time, Alix Wright wants to create art that can bring us together. Download one piece of a Mandala at <https://bit.ly/FPCC-mandala>. Please print, color and mail them to the church. As we get your pieces, I 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!

Members of the **Outreach Ministry** met Thursday, April 23, by virtual meeting. We discussed the increased community needs from the Covid-19 crisis. Members believed that presently, food needs are adequately and creatively addressed. We asked ourselves: what needs will arise as our community faces mass unemployment? Our most vulnerable members will more likely have a slower return to work. We decided to give \$5000 to the Empowerment Program and Second Chance Center, earmarking the money for assistance with rent.

First Plymouth Responds: As hardship brought on by the coronavirus continues to rise in our community, First Plymouth is pleased to announce our support of many FPCC Denver area mission partners who are offering direct assistance to the most vulnerable among us. Due to your generous support and contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we mailed the following checks this April:

- ◆ Kentucky Circle Village - \$300
- ◆ Metro Caring - \$300
- ◆ Interfaith Alliance - \$300
- ◆ Denver Inner City Parish - \$500
- ◆ Food Bank of the Rockies - \$500
- ◆ Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - \$300

These groups are offering meals, essential supplies, food, and shelter to those in need. Your financial contributions make it possible for First Plymouth to carry out our mission as an inclusive, caring community of faith, following in the ways and words of Jesus. Thank you for your generosity!

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Matthew 25: 35-36)

The **Whole Earth Ministry** thanks the First Plymouth family (children, adults and friends) whose generosity continues to support the work of the Reach Out and Read program in the clinics for the underserved in every county in Colorado. The books will be sent to the clinic waiting rooms for families to take home and enjoy. During well children visits, the doctors and nurses encourage the parents to read and bond with their children. Each child is given an age appropriate book to keep. The results of our seventh year was \$2,647.07 for the Share-the-Plate Offering and 810 gently used and new books donated.

In celebration of the **50th anniversary of Earth Day**, express your love of creation by participating in the UCC's campaign to plant 50,000 trees. For \$1/tree, The Arbor Day Foundation will plant trees on your behalf in a national park where fires, diseases and insects have taken their toll. The **Whole Earth Ministry** has purchased 100 trees as a contribution from First Plymouth Church. To purchase a tree for the UCC campaign, go to <https://bit.ly/2Yer04L>, or you can purchase a tree in honor/memory of a loved one, pet, or in celebration of an occasion at <https://shop.arborday.org/>.

Email Pam Schmidt to let her know how many trees you have planted so she can keep a tally of trees planted by June 1 for FPCC.

Take a look at the results of our Green Faith Congregational Survey and the implications they suggest for future direction at <https://bit.ly/3bNFxZ5>.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER