

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER

October 4	Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas	Matthew 21:33-46
October 11	Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas	Matthew 22:1-14
October 18	Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith	Matthew 22:15-22
October 25	Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas	Matthew 22:34-46



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](#).

From Pastoral Care An Election Prayer

Dear Lord, so many are feeling anxious, worried and stressed during this political election time. We ask you to fill us with your peace and help our minds to be at rest. Please bring forth the best person(s) to lead this country into a just society which includes all your creation. May the leadership and all citizenry work selflessly to guarantee equality for all, anchored in the principles of the Constitution.

Help us to remember that no matter who becomes President, you are still on the throne and fully in control. We pray that honesty, fairness and truth will prevail. We ask that you would grant us your wisdom and fill us with your love, that we might overcome all that divides us. We humble ourselves before you as we pray, Lord, and we ask you to heal our land and shed your grace and mercy on America once again. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

From the Pastor's Desk

Exodus 16:31-32

The house of Israel called it manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, in order that they may see the food with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

The daily Hebrew lesson from the RCL is a reminder that in our loneliest deserts, in our most isolated wilderness experiences when the breath of God seems distant and the presence of God a mere mirage, even then God's hand is upon us.

It might surprise you to imagine an omer (a modern 1/2 gallon) of coriander seed as God's glorious reminder to her people that a land of milk and honey is surely over the next horizon. It does not exactly speak to me as an abundant ration to fill children's bellies or appease the grumbling desert caravan who long for the cucumbers of their past. I'm not particularly eager to cook with coriander much as the taste is rather blah and sometimes bitter when not mixed with just the right spice combination.

However, that is precisely why this choice is so significant. God's promises to us are never about the substance of our material existence. We seek food in the desert, water for our lips, and the comforts of home to assure us of our place in the world, but God longs for our eyes to see beyond the veil of human need. God waits just off the page, wishing us to witness the abundant manna within her star-hung sky, under the shade of the generous fig tree, within the bosom of the beloved people among whom she has planted us.

So often, what we long for is not the taste of sweet honey or the quenching thirst of a cold glass of water, but the dull spice of coriander to remind us that our sustenance comes from the God who turned water into wine and seed into a forty-year meal. May we taste and eat, and may we become the manna in the desert for a world wandering in the wilderness.

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



OCTOBER SHARE-THE-PLATE

Loaves & Fishes is First Plymouth's outreach link to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver which consists of a coalition of eleven churches in the Denver area. Together, we have completed twenty-one houses since the coalition was organized in 1998.

Habitat for Humanity is one of the largest private builders of homes in the world, having served over one million families since its inception in 1976. In that same period, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver has built more than 600 homes, helping to carry out the Habitat vision of "a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

Remember, your contribution to Habitat is "a hand up, not a hand-out." To find volunteer opportunities, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y6fweg9c>.

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.**

First Plymouth Congregational Church

3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Englewood, CO 80113 303-762-0616

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

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

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Margaret Sensel
Heidi Stevenson
Amy Turner
Phyllis Updike
Sarah Waldorf
Tammy Weatherly
Carole Westphal
James Wieland
Grover Wrenn
Isaac Yun

866
**OUR
VOTE**

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

The national, nonpartisan [Election Protection](#) coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Made up of more than 100 local, state and national partners, Election Protection works year-round to advance and defend the right to vote. Election Protection provides Americans from coast to coast with comprehensive voting information on how they can make sure their vote is counted. Questions about voting? Having trouble casting your ballot? Call the voter helplines:

- ⇒ 866-OUR-VOTE:
(Administered by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law)
- ⇒ 888-VE-Y-VOTA:
(English/Spanish - Administered by the NALEO Educational Fund)
- ⇒ 888-API-VOTE:
(Asian Languages - Administered by APIAVote & Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC)

#VoteFaithfully

866ourvote.org



Thank You for the New Website!

Thanks to funding by First Plymouth's **Endowment Fund**, we have a new website. This investment updates our church's public facing image to one that is more aligned with our progressive ideals.

All Saints

Pastor Jenny has asked for Members and Friends of First Plymouth to submit names of loved ones who have passed during the past year to Pastoral Care. This list of individuals will be shared during the All Saints Day worship service, Sunday, November 1.

Please submit your list via the online form found at <https://tinyurl.com/yxcbhcxk> by October 28.

MINISTRY NEWS

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://tinyurl.com/y5tl4ox>. Please make sure you are subscribed to our weekly parent email list to get the most up-to-date information. Email Alix at fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org to be included in the weekly email.

Children's Ministries is offering Sunday School in the Courtyard each Sunday in October except for October 18. A special "Halloween Fun" is also scheduled for Saturday, October 24. Watch for sign-ups. Bible Budz meets regularly with timing and information coming from the Robinsons. Online Zoom Sunday School will be held on October 4 and October 25. A craft video or story will be presented at 11:30 AM on October 11 and October 18.

Like so many other things, Youth Group looks different this fall. But we are still meeting and gathering in different ways, and if you haven't been involved before, it's a good time to start! At First Plymouth, Youth Group is for people in Grades 6-12, and it's open to anyone in that age range, whether they are members of First Plymouth or not--so invite friends! If you want to get the communications about youth activities and events, contact Eric at esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org!

Thanks to the generous donations from our members to the **Green Energy Fund** and the work of the Facilities Team designing the project, the interior LED lightning phase for the church is underway. When completed and when the church building is fully open, we expect annual energy savings of about \$2700. Since its inception with \$1000 from a Caring Awards grant, the Fund has grown to \$8,672. This interior phase is budgeted at \$6,000, with the actual installation being done by church staff and Facilities Team. The exterior phase is still in the planning phase, but is expected to cost \$3500 to \$4500. Your continued support of the **Green Energy Fund** is essential in helping First Plymouth Church reduce its carbon footprint and in the process, become a UCC "Cool Congregation." Future projects under consideration include solar panel installations on portions of the roof, porticos or in the parking lot. To contribute to the **Green Energy Fund** simply send a check to the church with Green Energy Fund in the memo line or select "Other/Green Energy Fund" via text or online giving.

FPWISE will have another distribution event of their new book "You Are Not Alone" from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM during the **October 17** E-Waste event. There is a \$10 suggested donation.

The **Racial Equity Team** is excited to announce a new resource page on the church website devoted to learning and growing our knowledge of racial equity. Find the team's recommendations on books, podcasts, sermons, TedTalks, YouTube videos, movies and more at <https://tinyurl.com/y4fshz8e>.

Join virtual meetings and classes from the church calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/y2jvogby>.

ADULT FORUM

October 11: Difficult Conversations around Racial Justice presented by Amanda Henderson. How *not to fight, flight, or freeze* when talking race with family and friends.

Do you jump into that facebook fight with words swinging? Do you avoid these hot conversations at all costs? Do you simply shut down when you hear racist sentiments or denial? Join us as we share stories and build skills for stepping into important conversations, even with those we love, about the racism that shapes our lives in ways seen and unseen.

October 25: What are Reparations, exactly? What is the specific history behind the call for Reparations? What are other churches doing, and is this something we should consider at First Plymouth?

September'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 Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott at pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org for inclusion on our webpage.

Meet the Chikumbas



Ralphias and Evelyn Chikumba, members of First Plymouth since 2016, immigrated from Harare, Zimbabwe to Colorado in 2013 to be near their daughter and her family. Ralphias is a diesel mechanic and Evelyn works as a nursing assistant at the Life Care Center in Aurora. Before our church shut down its facilities and went virtual due to COVID-19, Ralphias served as an usher during worship services at First Plymouth. You undoubtedly have been greeted by his smiling face on many Sunday mornings. Last year, he and Evelyn completed all the requirements to become US citizens, and this year, they were thrilled to become new homeowners in Aurora.

As UCC members in their native Zimbabwe, they were very pleased to find First Plymouth with its welcoming Christian congregation. The closing of our building was very disappointing to them; and without internet skills, they lost all contact. However, their Web of Care coordinators recently visited them; and working with their son, a senior majoring in computer science at Metro State College, helped them access the church website and thus our Sunday services. They are now participating in virtual Sunday services until the reopening of the building!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Black Lives Matter vigils will be held Saturdays from 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM in October. Meet in the church courtyard with your signs. Sign-up is not required. Masks and social distancing will continue to be enforced. Include Census and Voting messaging on your signs. Suggestions: YOU COUNT! - complete the census; ALL VOTES MATTER; Silence is Violence: VOTE!; BLM: ALL VOTES MATTER.

Men's Fellowship meets via ZOOM on Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 AM. The items to be discussed are Amendment B (to the Colorado Constitution) which would repeal the Gallagher Amendment that currently, among other things, tends to result in relatively higher commercial property taxes by requiring a fixed ratio of residential to commercial property taxes; and Proposition 114 Reintroduction and Management of Grey Wolves (west of the continental divide). Please contact Bruce Glenn should you have other ballot initiatives you wish to discuss. Women are invited to participate.

First Plymouth will again serve our **Denver Inner City Parish Thanksgiving** dinner on Monday, November 23. In our new normal, it will look a bit different. Instead of a sit-down dinner, we are packing to-go dinners. Volunteers are needed to do the cooking in their homes, to pick up and deliver the food to the Denver Inner City Parish and more volunteers to fix the take-home boxes. Volunteers may sign-up at <https://tinyurl.com/y5ne89ve> after October 1. Contact Noanie Geistert at fpdirector@firstplymouthchurch.org or Anne Kleinkopf with questions.

First Plymouth's Learning Center is currently seeking a church member to serve on its Board of Directors for a 3-year term. Monthly meetings are currently held via Zoom for approximately 90 minutes, typically around the 3rd or 4th Monday evening of the month. This past year the Board has met 9 times. The Board values organized, professional people who are passionate about the well-being of children. For more information or to submit your name, please contact [Noanie Geistert](#), Director.

E-Waste Event - October 17, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Save those old computers, TVs, and other electronic gadgets that must be discarded safely. The 8th First Plymouth sponsored Community E-waste collection event will be held in the Church parking lot. For more information go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5pocw33>.

2020 Annual Meeting

Did you miss the Annual Meeting to watch the Bronco game? View the recording of the meeting here: <https://youtu.be/noieJjCgRxc>.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER