

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6	Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas	Matthew 18:15-20
September 13	Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas	Matthew 18:21-35
September 20	Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith	Matthew 20:1-16
September 27	Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas	Matthew 21:23-32



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 the Pastor's Desk

I recently came across the word "coddiwomple." It seems like a fitting word to describe the greater part of this last year. Coddiwomple is a verb that means "to travel in a purposeful manner towards a vague destination."



As a community of faith, we have covenanted together to walk the journey side by side regardless of the circumstances. Though some may believe differently, I have never understood the spiritual life to be one compelled by the destination. Rather, it is the company with whom we travel "the way" that makes each step a little lighter and more meaningful.

In July 2019, we began our journey together, arm-in-arm, cheek-to-cheek, and for the last few months, we have discovered what it means to accompany one another heart-to-heart. The destination may be vague, as the background usually blurs when we focus on our target, but the vision I see before me is clear; the foreground is glittered with joy, illumined with compassion, emboldened with an appetite for justice, and rooted in prayer. We are a historically significant congregation in Denver with a rich heritage of influencing social change and calling for equity and inclusion. I believe that our present-future will have equally as substantial an impact on our community, and on us, as our past. The coronavirus forced us to revisit the methods of our mission, and we have taken many risks to successfully uphold the mission initiatives set-forth by leadership. You increased your support by 15% during a pandemic; you maximized your staff's capacity in technological support, pastoral care, and children and adult ministries. Not only did you exceed the stewardship campaign's target, but you also gave sacrificially to the Pastor's discretionary fund helping families crippled by the pain of grief, loss, and economic hardship in this lean time. The First Plymouth Foundation and the Outreach ministries also generously supported those directly impacted by the pandemic.

In my first year as your Senior Pastor, I have witnessed an incredible transformation within our ecosystem. The transition team you chose and tasked with carrying out a very complex and intricately crafted process to ensure the health and wellness of the congregation raised the bar on excellence in leadership. From assembling the church profile to throwing celebratory parties, to color-coding spreadsheets and interviewing candidates, the integrity within this structure has given way to a new day at First Plymouth. Every leader I have had the privilege of working with holds the soul of this community in the highest regard. The council and mission team, the staff, and volunteers have demonstrated professionalism, honesty, and vulnerability in welcoming new leadership. Your trust has allowed me to live into my call as your Pastor to be "a transformational leader of faith for a 21st century time."

From transforming our worship services to include children and families with weekly children's messages, and a dedicated children's corner, to calling upon our congregation to decry racism a sin while we hold vigil on Colorado Blvd., to launching FP Roots, a virtual small group ministry that extends beyond the reach of the institutional Church, my hope is that with each faithful step we take, we are compelled to take another. One of my mentors taught me that a healthy church is always growing another church within its walls. In this new paradigm, I believe the Church is re-birthing itself outside of its walls. As I continue my doctoral studies in Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, I vow to listen for a new word from our ancient story and invite you to share your own as we work together at building the beloved community.

[\[continued on next page\]](#)

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

FIRST PLYMOUTH OFFICE CONTACTS

Senior Minister

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Pastoral Care

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Annual Meeting

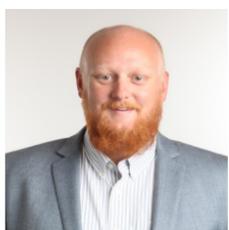
All members and friends are invited to First Plymouth's Annual Meeting on **September 20 at 11:30 AM** following the worship service. Members are asked to vote on the final 2020-2021 Budget. Find the meeting link on the church calendar at <https://bit.ly/FPC-calendar>.

An Invitation from First Plymouth's Teaching Minister

Study on the Book of Acts

By now you've probably heard about our new Treehouses and the platform they use, called Canvas. As a demonstration course for some of the capabilities of the platform, **Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith** is offering an 8-week course on the Acts of the Apostles. This course is offered *entirely asynchronously*, meaning that we won't be meeting at the same time on a platform like Zoom, instead, we will be using the text and video capabilities of Canvas to have our discussions online at your convenience. We will be covering lots of different aspects of Acts, including its authorship and date, its depiction of early Christianity, the way gender and sexuality are portrayed in the book, the way it mimics and uses other sources like works of Homer, and how the book relates to the Roman Empire, among other things. There will be a couple of books recommended for the class, but if you don't feel like buying or reading any new books you can do just fine with just your bible. If you want to join this course, or if you just want more information, email Eric at esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org.

The first session begins the week of August 31 through September 4, but because of the format you can always join later with minimal disruption. Join us to learn about Acts, to learn about the capabilities of Canvas, or both!



- Chip Cole
- Sharon Connelly
- Melissa Depper
- Roger Diggle
- Inga Erickson
- Carolyn Eustace
- Richard Geist
- William James
- Joyce Kennedy
- Sara Kleinkopf
- Peggy LaTourrette
- Merry Low
- Michael McCoy
- Alison McNicholas
- Farai Muchineripi
- Amanda Nicholas
- Marcy Nicholas
- Scott Nuanes
- Kent Oakes
- Debbie Parise
- Lee Probasco
- Yana Probasco
- Connor Ray
- Lisa Ray
- Ann Rea
- Christopher Reaves
- Louann Reilly
- Zachary Robinson
- Gordon Rockafellow
- Colin Roe
- Laura Roe
- Miki Seeley
- Kate Serio
- Jean Sharer
- Ian Spillman
- Tricia Springer
- Jeffrey Stevens
- Kacie Thomas
- Phil Thompson
- Beth Tice
- Emma Tice
- John Weeda
- Kwame Wiredu
- Gail Young
- Zachary Zahnow

Meet Marvin Buckels

A church member for 46 years, Marvin has lived his values, assisting many institutions and individuals along the way. Read about his life-long service at <https://tinyurl.com/y5rww6qx>.



Stay in Touch!

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/FPC-MailChimp>.

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

Join virtual meetings and classes from the church calendar at <https://bit.ly/FPC-calendar>.

MINISTRY NEWS

Progressive Christianity Class - fall 2020: "In this world, but not of this world." This fall's series of Progressive Christianity classes will explore the ideas around this very confusing statement. After exploring the mystics of early and continuing Christian history this past year, we discovered that they all had a different way of looking at the world. Now it is time to discuss the questions this background raises. How are we going to use our faith, not our belief, to create a better world? What is the difference between the brain and the mind? What is meditation, really? The class meets every Sunday starting September 13 through December 20. Meetings will be via Zoom starting at 8:30 AM and run through 9:45 AM.

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_SSRegistration. 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 or to find out more about "The Lunchbox"!

September 6: Craft video
September 13: "God's Gifts" video
September 20: Digital Sunday School at 11:30 AM
September 27: Music with Abby

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!

Since Pastor Jenny's arrival, the Whole Earth Ministry has been in the process of becoming a UCC Creation Justice Church, and we're almost there! In addition to changing our name to **Creation Justice Ministry**, to complete the process, the congregation will have the opportunity to affirm and commit to this [Creation Justice Covenant](#) at our annual meeting on September 20. We invite you to read the covenant in advance, and send questions or comments to Pam Schmidt or Jan McCoy.

[From the Pastor's Desk - continued from front page]

I covet your prayers and your partnership as I faithfully stand up with you, and sit down among and beside you.

Church, I am exceptionally awed by you, and by your love and commitment to supporting one another in friendship and hospitality, in caring for each other, and challenging one another to get into, what the late John Lewis called "good trouble." May we keep learning together, growing together, and walking the journey, side-by-side, cheek-to-cheek, and heart-to-heart.

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

SEPTEMBER SHARE-THE-PLATE

Solar Energy International (SEI) is a leading global solar energy training and educational non-profit located in Paonia, CO with a vision of a world powered by renewable energy. SEI is dedicated to training the global solar energy workforce to significantly impact climate change. During the past 29 years, SEI has trained 76,000 solar professionals from more than 145 countries who have been involved with over 10% of the world's installed solar capacity.

SEI has been building local solar skills capacity installing solar systems in underdeveloped countries for decades, but our Share-the-Plate proceeds will support two programs closer to home: **Solar Forward** creates jobs and installs solar systems in West Slope communities where jobs in the coal industry have disappeared and unemployment is high. **The Tribal Train the Trainer (T4)** program trains Native American solar technicians, who then teach these skills to members of their tribes, and bring electrical power, in some cases for the first time, to homes on tribal lands.

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

Men's Fellowship begins the 2020-2021 program year on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. The first meeting of the year will be a discussion of how all are doing during the pandemic. Please feel free to offer a short update on how you have spent this summer. Traditional programs with presenters will resume in October. Speaker suggestions are always welcome.

Women's Retreat 2020. Along with the many other wonderful annual FPCC events, the Women's Retreat at La Foret for 2020 is cancelled. In the spirit of connecting with other women at First Plymouth, the planning committee urges each of you to reach out to one or more women in the next couple of months. This effort is to remind us to continue to think about and care for each other during this pandemic.

Shredding Event: First Plymouth is hiring an "on-site" shredding company to assist in the purging of church records. The church office invites church members and friends to take advantage of this service for FREE. Interested parties should email office@firstplymouthchurch.org to arrange a drop-off time between **September 14 - September 17**. Dropped off materials will be locked in the church until the arrival of the shredding company. The church's custodial staff will supervise the shredding process.

E-Waste Collection Event: Save those old computers, TVs, and other electronic gadgets that must be discarded safely. The 8th First Plymouth sponsored Community E-waste collection event is being rescheduled from May to this coming **October** to be held in the Church parking lot. Further details will be forthcoming. This year we will need help actually unloading and sorting the e-waste, collecting drop off fees, traffic control, and administration of COVID-19 protocols. For further information, please contact Bruce Glenn.

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. Watch for details in the First Plymouth newsletter and email blasts! SignupGenius will go live on October 1. Contact Noanie Geistert, fpdirector@firstplymouthchurch.org or Anne Kleinkopf with questions.

MomsRising is providing a totally FREE and powerful **Get-Out-The-Vote** effort for the 2020 election! Do this outreach from the comfort of your home! Sign-up now to write 10 or more postcards to registered voters who haven't always voted on Election Day in the past. In September, you will receive a packet of pre-addressed, pre-stamped postcards along with some quick instructions. Write a short note of encouragement (we'll provide sample messages) and send them directly to voters ahead of the November 3 election! Go to www.momsrising.org/ to get your cards!

August'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.

ADULT FORUM

September 6: Marla Korpar, Development Director for Solar Energy International, will offer a presentation about the organization's work internationally, and the exciting challenge it faces to scale-up the solar energy workforce to reverse climate change. Solar Energy International, with non-profit partners including Red Cloud Energy, is also training Native American solar technicians to bring jobs and solar energy to homes on tribal lands.

September 13: Jasmin Barco, from Eco-Cycle, will discuss the latest in recycling and composting. They have an international reputation as a pioneer and innovator in resource conservation. In preparation for Jasmin's presentation, it is suggested that people view the various short (about 5 min each) videos at <https://ecocycle.org/videos>.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER