

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER

- December 5 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas Advent 2
- December 12 Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith Advent 3
- December 19 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas Advent 4
- December 24 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas Christmas Eve @ 4:00 webcast
Christmas Eve 7:00 PM In-Person & Livestreamed
- December 26 Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas [Luke 2:41-52](#) webcast

Worship with us in-person at 10:00 AM
Worship with us remotely at 10:00 AM at
<https://firstplymouthchurch.org/worship/>
or view previous services on the [FPUCC YouTube Station](#).



FROM THE DESK OF THE PARISH VISITOR

Dear Ones All:

As Advent begins and we prepare our hearts, waiting and watching for the reemergence of the spirit, the birth of promise and hope, we are called into quiet reflection and discernment.



Personally, my preparation time and genesis has been occurring over the past few weeks. During my eight years as Parish Visitor I have grown immensely, and experienced abundant blessings. I have also known my share of heartache and loss. Many of my stars and guides have taken their leave.

I have loved this work as Parish Visitor, but I am very aware that my energy is waning. So, after much thought and deliberation, I have come to the decision to leave this position at the end of December.

Thank you for all your support and care over the years. I am so grateful that you have allowed me to walk with you as a companion and witness to your struggles and challenges, as well as celebrating your moments of joy and triumph.

You all are and have been the heartwood of First Plymouth. I hope and pray that moving forward there will be another someone who will pray with you, support and walk with you until the day you are called to take your place among the stars.

I am blessed beyond measure. Thank you so very much. May God bless you all.

Lois McCloskey

2021-2022 FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator Liz Mascitelli	Members at Large: June 2022: Laura Eley and David Stevenson
Vice Moderator Steve Haskins	June 2023: Deborah Arca and Robert Henderson
Treasurer Carole Westphal	June 2024: Tammy Weatherly and Beth Irtz
Church Clerk Pat Olson	

FIRST PLYMOUTH OFFICE CONTACTS

Senior Minister Rev. Jenny Shultz-Thomas pastor@firstplymouthchurch.org	Teaching Minister Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org
Director of Music Joel Rinsema jrinsema@firstplymouthchurch.org	Director of Administration Carol Hainsey chainsey@firstplymouthchurch.org
Director of Children's Ministry Alix Wright fpchildren@firstplymouthchurch.org	Office Coordinator Lisa Medina office@firstplymouthchurch.org
Pastoral Care (Interim) Lois McCloskey pastoralcare@firstplymouthchurch.org	Communications Coordinator Amy Turner editor@firstplymouthchurch.org
Parish Visitor Lois McCloskey (720-520-5186) parishvisitor@firstplymouthchurch.org	Facility Manager James Trotter jtrotter@firstplymouthchurch.org

Adult Forum

December 12: The Racial Equity Team will sponsor Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser as Adult Forum speaker on December 12. He has been invited to give an overview of the current major challenges facing his office -- with a focus on how racial equity affects his positions and decisions.

The Forum will be held in Room 212 and on ZOOM, at 11:15 AM on following the worship service. Mr. Weiser will speak for about 30 minutes and engage in a Q and A Session following that. If you have specific issues you wish to hear about, please email Ruth Neil ahead of time at RET@firstplymouthchurch.org and she will convey your concerns.

KANTOREI: CAROLS & LULLABIES

American composer, **Conrad Susa**, explores the Christ child's birth through the many moods, rhythms, and colors of Bethlehem carols that use varied texts - Biscayan, Catalanian, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Andalucian, Castilian, and Mexican in Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest. Other lullaby and carol settings will complete this program, including a carol sing-along to raise your voices with Kantorei to celebrate the season!

Thursday, December 9 @ 7:30 PM **Saturday, December 11 @ 7:30 PM**
Lone Tree Arts Center, Lone Tree First Plymouth Church

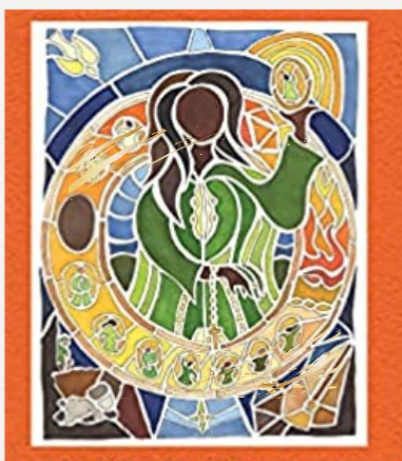
Sunday, December 12 @ 3:00 PM
Christ Church (Episcopal), Denver

Tickets can be purchased online at:
<https://kantorei.org/concerts/christmas2021/>

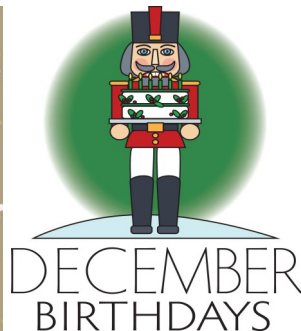


ADVENT YEAR W,
2021

Annunciation



*Strength from our past,
Hope for our future,
Power in the present,
and PEACE for God's people.*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Terry Allen
- Jerry Arca
- Raeanna Biddle
- Jim Brenkendorff
- Fletcher Brown
- Jennifer Brown
- Marvin Buckels
- Patricia Bugh
- Marty Bushey
- Sylvie Diane Chitamitre
- Linda Cunningham
- Nino De Paz
- Alex Dill
- Cindy Eley
- John Falconetti
- Lauren Emily Falconetti
- Martha Faust
- Karleen Gagnon
- Doug Geistert
- Bruce Glenn
- Emily Hoagland
- Dan Jonas
- Sue Lee
- Vicki Lisman
- Noel Ludwig
- Sally Lund
- Krista Luttkus
- Chris Mascitelli
- Lois McCloskey
- Chris McNicholas
- Claire Montgomery
- Suzanne Moser
- Chiedza Muchineripi
- Carey Norrish
- Susan Oakes
- Peggy O'Brien
- Pat Olson
- Allison Pasternak
- Beatrice Jane Pasternak
- James Roe
- Eric Smith
- Dave Thomas
- Penny Trask
- Holly Vogel
- Carolyn Weaver
- Carolyn Weese
- Mark Westlund
- Kristi Zahnow
- Paige Zahnow

Advent & Christmas

In this Advent Year W, follow along with the online worship guide found at <https://tinyurl.com/2021Advent>. There you will find beautiful, thoughtful artwork as well as the lectionary for this Advent Season.

Join us December 5 following the worship service for the annual **Advent Party** where all are invited. Come lend your voice to carol singing, participate in crafts, and help decorate the Christmas Tree.

Children's Ministries will be rehearsing and recording a Christmas program on December 5 and December 12 during Sunday School. This production will be webcast at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service. Actors, singers and off-stage help are needed for this production. Children who don't participate will still have other activities in which to assist and learn. Those who do not wish to participate in Sunday School, may record their "pageant parts" from home and email them to Rev. Alex Wright by December 12. The Nursery is open during Advent at 9:30 AM until the end of the worship service. The nursery will not be open on December 26, nor will there be Sunday School.

"Blue Christmas" services traditionally provide space for those who don't feel so "merry and bright" during the holiday season. This year, Amanda Shaw Newsome and Pastor Jenny will lead a thoughtful service in the Knight Chapel on Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM. There will also be a webcast version, "The Longest Night" to be held Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM.

On **Christmas Eve**, Friday, December 24, Pastor Jenny and the First Plymouth Chancel Choir will lead the Candlelight Worship Service. This service will be held in-person as well as livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

The December 26 Worship Service will be webcast, airing at 10:00 AM

MINISTRY NEWS

The Outreach Ministry reports that The Share-the-Plate Program in August provided \$2,061.60 to the Interfaith Alliance and in September \$2,897 to Graceful Cafe. As reported earlier in October the Empowerment Program and Ready to Work program each received \$10,000. On October 28 the Outreach Ministry arranged for the following contributions on behalf of our church: \$800 for the Denver Inner City Parish Thanksgiving gift-card program, and \$2,500 to The Action Center, and has arranged for our annual Angel Tree contribution effort to be conducted through donations utilizing the online Integrated Family Community Services program.

The Immigration Task Force at First Plymouth announces its partnership between Most Precious Blood and Calvary Presbyterian churches, to support incoming Afghan refugees through services provided by Lutheran Family Services. Watch for details after the new year on how YOU can become involved. In the meantime you may want to donate funds to the Immigration Task Force at First Plymouth as an alternative to Christmas Gifts to family and friends.

The Sanctuary looks so beautiful when decorated for the holidays with poinsettias. Now you can donate poinsettias online in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/FP-Poinsettias> to pay online, or [download a form here](#) and send a check to the church.



FP Lecture Series: Racial Justice: Building Coalitions for Change! April 30 - May 1, 2022



Keynote Presenter:

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis,

Senior Minister for
Public Theology and Transformation at
Middle Church, New York City, NY.

Middle Church's historic church building was destroyed by a fire on December 5, 2020. If you would like to donate to "Middle Rising" in support of their rebuilding efforts, go to <https://www.middlechurch.org/rising/>.

REGISTER for the FP Lecture Series at
<https://tinyurl.com/FPlectureSeries>

The First Plymouth Lecture Series is made possible by
a grant from the Grover and Suzie Wrenn Fund.

DECEMBER SHARE-THE-PLATE READY TO WORK

Ready to Work is a "work-first" approach to addressing homelessness. Ready to Work offers 1 year of housing, employment and support for adults experiencing homelessness. Ready to Work is the only holistic model in Colorado focused on addressing homelessness through social enterprise and employment combined with housing. Ready to Work operates in 2 communities in Metro Denver. After 7 years in Boulder, Bridge House replicated the model in Aurora, CO, which expands its presence from a capacity of 44 in Boulder to 94 in the region. Learn more about Ready to Work at <https://boulderbridgehouse.org/what-we-do/>.

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 BREAKFAST - Saturday, December 4: We are excited to participate in the phased reopening of the building by once again gathering in person to enjoy fellowship around the breakfast table in the Commons Room. After breakfast, we will engage in our annual project: installing Christmas lights around the entrance. Please call Bruce Glenn to volunteer. Because of continuing COVID-19 protocols, attendance at the 8 AM breakfast portion of the meeting will be limited to about 20 participants, who must pre-register (<https://tinyurl.com/FPC-MensB-Fast>) or just call the church; show proof of vaccination; and remain masked when not eating. If a program is included at this gathering, it will begin at 9:00AM in person and via ZOOM. As usual, women are invited to attend in person. There is no need to preregister, but masking and proof of vaccination will be necessary. For additional information, please contact Bruce Glenn.

Colorado Gives Day is December 7: This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Go to <https://www.coloradogives.org/> to learn more. To find a list of prior FPC Share-the-Plate recipients, go to the church website under [Community & Caring > Outreach > Share-the-Plate](#).

ALIGNING SPENDING WITH OUR SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE VALUES

First Plymouth is proud to be one of the founding members of [Co-Purchase Colorado](#) (CPC). This is an initiative launched by [Center for Community Wealth Building](#) (CCWB) in October 2020. The purpose is to help congregations align their spending with their social and racial justice values. First Plymouth has done a wonderful job of aligning our spending with our environmental values and we hope to have similar success with CPC.

You can help CCWB achieve its vision of a people-owned, inclusive, and sustainable Metro Denver economy that catalyzes prosperous and resilient communities, free from racism and injustice, by increasing the impact of Co-Purchase Colorado: Visit CPC's current vendor lists for your own business or personal needs. Businesses on the list are endorsed by CPC as providing high quality services and being values aligned. In addition, if you know of local businesses owned by women, People of Colorado, LGBTQIA, or veterans, please complete CPC's short Refer A Business form. The CCWB team will follow up with these businesses in the hopes of adding them to the list.

RECENT NOTABLES

Berkeley Rich, a 47 year member of First Plymouth, died November 24. A Celebration of Life is being planned for the near future.

Carlyne White, a 58-year member of First Plymouth, died October 25, with her family near. A Celebration of Life will be held in the Sanctuary at First Plymouth on December 6, at 1:00 PM.

A Celebration of Life for **Boyd Barker**, a 53 year member of First Plymouth, took place November 13 in the Sanctuary. The service, which was livestreamed, can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/BoydBarkerService>.

Shawn Feaster-Johnson passed away late in the evening of November 1. Her family and friends plan to scatter her ashes near the final resting place of her husband in celebration of their loving relationship. There are no plans for a church memorial service at this time.

Deb Hubbard's 91-year-old father, **John**, passed away October 25. Please keep Deb and Tammy, and Deb's three siblings and extended family in prayer during this difficult time. A memorial service was held November 13 in Vermont.



First Plymouth Congregational Church UCC
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER