



THE HERALD

ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2026

2000 D STREET • LINCOLN, NE 68502 • 402.476.7565 • FIRSTPLYMOUTH.ORG



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 9:00AM WORSHIP

We will lift up the names of church members who have died since November of last year as well as remember all our loved ones who have entered eternity.

*"Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted."*

Matthew 5

The State of Faith in America Faith in America is Changing. What Does it Mean for Us?

Join us for an engaging evening with Ryan Burge, one of America's leading researchers on religion, politics, and the future of faith. Explore how America's religious landscape is changing—and where hope for the future can still be found.

Monday, November 2, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
\$10 suggested donation

Ryan Burge is professor of practice at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis. He has authored over thirty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters alongside six books about religion and politics in the United States. He has written for the *New York Times*, *POLITICO*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He has also appeared in a number of other media outlets including the CBS Evening News, and 60 Minutes, which called him, "one of the country's leading data analysts on religion and politics."



www.graphsaboutreligion.com | X: @ryanburge

For more info., contact addie@firstplymouth.org

The Future of Faith

Festival Sermon Series by Dr. Jim Keck
Sundays, Nov 1, 8, 9:00 & 10:30am services

Join us for this sermon series exploring the changing landscape of faith, the church, and our lives. Together we'll ask big questions about where we're headed and what it means to be people of faith in a rapidly changing world.

You are invited

Service of Ordination for KJ Langlais

Saturday, November 28, 5:30pm
In the Sanctuary
(as part of the worship service)

A light reception
will be held immediately
following the service

Spend thirty minutes
to be still,
exhale and rest
in silence and song.

Compline

Sunday, November 8

7:00-7:30pm, Sanctuary.

Ancient Worship for the modern soul.

Sponsor Altar Flowers

Cost: \$95 Sign-up on

firstplymouth.org/events-calendar

Not Your Ordinary Bible Study

with Dr. Jim Keck

Thursdays, Noon-1:00pm, in the Choir Room. A spiritual adventure using the Bible to launch the imagination, and catapult us into far-ranging topics of real interest.



Theology on Tap

What Does it Mean?

Big Words. Bigger Questions.

with Pastor Juan Carlos Huertas

Mon. Nov 16, 6:30-7:30pm,

at Ironhorse Bar & Event room (728 Q St)

We hear them, we repeat them, we think we might understand them. Do we? This Fall and

Spring Pastor JC will dig into churchy words, their history, the ideas they are trying to convey, and what they might mean for us today. Join us!



Salvation

What is salvation? What do we need to be saved from? Why? What does it have to do with Jesus? Church? Or Worship? Where does this idea come from? Another word, another conversation at Theology on Tap.

Give Hope.
Find Your Joy.
Thanks for Your Help.

Our annual pledge drive is officially underway! You may have already received your pledge card in the mail, or perhaps you've already submitted your pledge for 2027. If you have, thank you! However you choose to participate, your generosity helps support the life and ministries of First-Plymouth and makes so much of what we do together possible.

Each pledge matters deeply. Together, we support:

- Worship that inspires and renews us
- Music that uplifts and heals
- Christian education that engages our children and youth
- Outreach ministries, including Hope House, that bring dignity and care to our neighbors in need

Your pledge of any size helps write the story of love and hope in our church and our community. Every dollar will be put to careful use by our Board of Trustees as we plan for 2027, ensuring that First-Plymouth continues to bring God's love to life in powerful, tangible ways.

Make your pledge today at firstplymouth.org/giving or by contacting LeEtta Suhr in the church office.

Thank you for being part of this community of love, hope, and peace.

Pledge Today



"The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage"

Academic Bible Study. Sundays, Nov 1, 8, 15, Dec 6, 13, 20, 11:30am, Tower Room. Led by Leah Cech.

The Tears of Things:

Join us for a study of Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things*, exploring how the biblical prophets teach us to move beyond anger and grief toward compassion in a world filled with injustice and suffering. Together, we'll consider how faith calls us beyond criticism toward a deeper love that challenges injustice and brings hope to a hurting world. Purchase the book prior to the first class.

Purchase Book
today

First-Plymouth Presents - NEW South Location!

The Future of First-Plymouth

We just had a sermon series about the "Future of Faith" but now join us at Rosie's for a sermon that zeroes in on our particular congregation. What is the vision, strategy and outlook for First-Plymouth Church? Where are we heading in a complex, ever-changing world? Join Jim for a celebration and elaboration of our core mission.

Live music from singer-songwriter Josh Hoyer
Sunday, November 15, 6:00pm (Doors open at 5:30pm)

Rosie's South Sports Bar & Grill – Event room

Grab a soda or beer (available for purchase)



Stephen Ministry

Christ Caring for People through People

Are the shorter days giving you the blues, or is this the first holiday season after losing a loved one, maybe unexpected loss of a job, or becoming an empty-nester for the first time? Any number of things could have you going through a difficult time – spiritually, emotionally, or relationally.

You don't have to walk alone. Our congregation's Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christ-centered care and support. A Stephen Minister is a compassionate listener who will walk beside you for as long as needed.

To learn more or to be connected with a Stephen Minister, please call (402) 476-7565 or email Pastor KJ Langlais, kj@firstplymouth.org.



Brunch @ FPSouth

2nd Sunday of each month following the 9:30am Worship

On the second Sunday of every month, Brunch @ FP South brings us together around the table for good food, good company, and a different activity. It's a chance to deepen friendships, meet someone new, and discover new ways to connect with our community and one another. All ages, all people, and all appetites are welcome.



It's time to Deck the Halls, and we need your help!

Join us Sat, Nov. 21, from 11:00am–3:00pm to prepare decorations (pizza provided!) or Sun Nov. 22, from 3:00pm–6:00pm to decorate the church. Come as you're able, and bring the family! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Questions? Contact Jeremy Roberts at jeremy@firstplymouth.org.



Grief Support Group

2nd Friday (Nov 13) monthly, 3:00pm, Calvert Parlor. Group led.

Grief and the Holidays

Tues, Nov 17, 6:00-7:30pm. Led by Lisa Borchardt, Associate Professor Nebraska Wesleyan University. A small group gathering to help ease the grief and pain as the holiday season approaches. Free, but registration requested. Register with addie@firstplymouth.org.

Grief Support Sessions

Tues Dec 15, Feb 16, April 20, 6:00-7:30pm. Facilitated by Lisa Borchardt, Associate Professor Nebraska Wesleyan University. A monthly educational group offered for those experiencing the death of a loved one. Each month a different topic will be presented to help us acknowledge our grief and move through the mourning process. Individuals may choose to come to one or all of the groups to feel in community and gain support as needed. Free, but registration requested. Register with addie@firstplymouth.org.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Add to the joy and beauty of the season by giving to the altar poinsettia display. Complete this form and return it to church by December 14. Cost \$25.

Honoree:

_____ Poinsettias at \$25 each

Given by:

Wednesday Night Live

A New Midweek Tradition

No WNL November 25th

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

5:30-6:00PM SANCTUARY

Life doesn't always leave room for Sunday mornings, so we're creating a new opportunity to gather as a church family in the middle of the week. Join us for a joyful, intergenerational worship service where families can worship, sing, and grow together.



FP Kids Children's Choir and Worship Arts

Get ready to sing, ring, and create! Our kids are in for another treat with Choir, Handbells, and Liturgical Art.

For your child's safety, please pick up children on the 2nd floor rather than having them wait outside, especially now that it's dark and there is no outdoor supervision. If you need to pick up your child early, please let us know ahead of time.

6th Grade Youth Group

Discovering God's story and finding our place in it.

7th-8th Confirmation Youth Group

Building a foundation of faith and discovering what we believe.

Adult Programs

Contact Addie Vortherms, Program Director, addie@firstplymouth.org

SCHEDULE

4:45-5:30pm

Dinner – by Greggo's in Pilgrim Hall, \$5 suggested donation. As supplies last.

MENU

5:30-6:00pm

Worship, Sanctuary

5:45-7:15pm

- Children's Choir and Worship Arts (K-5th)
- FP Littles (3-5 years)

6:00-7:15pm

- Adult Programs
- 6th Grade Youth Group (Ends at 7:30pm)
- Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) *Ends at 7:30pm.

7:15pm

Plymouth Choir Rehearsal

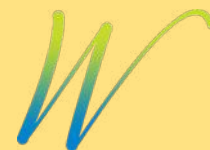
Hope House Presents Priced Out of Lincoln

*Nov 4, 6:00pm, Pilgrim Hall. Presented by Emily Wolf and Destiny Herbers
journalists with Flatwater Free Press.*

Hear from journalists Emily Wolf and Destiny Herbers, about what they learned while working on the story of how the capital city became the state's hardest place to afford a home.



Wednesday Night Live Continued . . .



How to Love Your Neighbor When Your Neighbor is a Jerk Revised for 2026

Nov 11, 6:00pm, Pilgrim Hall.

Led by Tom Tiegs, Psychologist, PhD.

Join Dr. Tiegs for practical psychological tips and strategies to tackle the sometimes monumental yet always rewarding task of loving your neighbor, even when it feels impossible.

Discover First-Plymouth

Nov 11, 6:00pm, Art Room.

Led by Pastor Juan Carlos.

Learn about the heart and soul of First-Plymouth. Explore what it means to be a member and how to take the next step if you feel called to join our community. A great opportunity to experience what makes FP vibrant, welcoming, and forward-looking. Register with julie@firstplymouth.org

First-Plymouth and the United Church of Christ (UCC)

3 part series - Nov 18, Dec 2 & 9, Pilgrim Hall.

Led by Jacob Mason.

What makes First-Plymouth who we are? Explore the stories, history, and beliefs that have shaped our congregation and the United Church of Christ. Join Jacob Mason for three sessions of discovery and conversation about our roots, our values, and the faith tradition that continues to shape who we are today.



Parent Connect: Big Feelings, Big Questions

Nov 18, 6:00–7:15pm, Art Room. Group led.

Our kids are carrying big feelings—and sometimes big worries. How do we know when everyday stress becomes something more, and how can we help our kids build healthy coping skills and emotional resilience? Join us for an honest, supportive conversation about anxiety, stress, and helping our kids navigate their emotions.

Yoga

Wednesdays, 6:00pm, Chapel. Free. Led by Jessica Jewell. All ages and abilities, including beginners, are welcome. Bring your yoga mat.

Share Your Voice in the 2027 Lenten Devotional Booklet

FP is seeking volunteers to contribute brief reflections for the 2027 Lenten Devotional Booklet. All are welcome to participate—no writing experience is necessary. For more information, contact Dale Hauptmeier at dale.hauptmeier@gmail.com or call/text (402) 429-1371.

Love the Planet

A helpful tip from FP Sustainable Living Ministry and Climate Action Team Shopping online this holiday season? Consolidate purchases and choose “no-rush” shipping when possible to reduce carbon impact.

Thank You Grounds Crew Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard over the summer weeding, planting, pruning, hauling and sweeping. Our goal is to keep the church property looking beautiful! I encourage others to join in our efforts for this coming season.

Many thanks, Candy Crellin

FP Men's Noon Discussion with Dr. Keck

1st & 3rd Wednesdays,
Noon-1:00pm, online
via Zoom. Email
addie@firstplymouth.org
to get on the email list.



FP Singles Ministry

Join our email list for monthly events. Email addie@firstplymouth.org.

Plymouth Pride Ministry

Open to all LGBTQIA+ and allies.
Join the email list for the latest events and announcements, email addie@firstplymouth.org

FP Littles & FP Kids

Sunday Mornings in November

Explore the story of Ruth and Naomi and discover how God provides friendship, courage, opportunities to help others, and hope for the future. Join us on Sunday mornings for FP Littles & FP Kids 9:00 & 10:30am & 9:30am out at FP South, as we learn how God helps us all be everyday heroes.

FP Kids WNL

Wednesdays, 5:45–7:15pm

Get ready to sing, ring, and create! See page 5 for details.

Parent Connect: Big Feelings, Big Questions

Wed Nov 18, 6:00–7:15pm

Join us for a supportive conversation about anxiety, stress, and helping our kids navigate their emotions. See page 6 for more information.

Tower Club 3: Coffee & Connection Social Group

Looking for a chance to meet other young couples and parents? Join us for Tower Club 3, a monthly social where you can grab a coffee, relax, share some laughs, and build new friendships. Kids or no kids, whether you're new to FP or have been here for years, you're welcome! Join us Wed. Nov 11, 6:00–7:00pm, at The Mill – Telegraph (330 S. 21st St.), following the 5:30pm WNL service.



Over 1,100 people stopped by this year's Trunk or Treat!

THANK YOU!

A HUGE thank-you to our wonderful congregation for the incredible generosity shown through your Trunk or Treat candy donations! You truly came through for us, and we are so grateful for the abundance of treats you provided. Thank you for making the magic happen!



9-12th High School Youth Group

Sundays, 5:30-7:30pm

(Dinner Included)

Exploring faith, life, and what it means to follow Jesus together.

7-8th Confirmation Youth Group

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

Building a foundation of faith and discovering what we believe.

6th Grade Youth Group

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

Discovering God's story and finding our place in it.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 & 10:30am

Study of Sermon on the Mount

6-12th Youth Singers

Sundays, 4:30-5:30pm

Open to all abilities and levels

Email Jeremy@firstplymouth.org to sign up.

Confirmation Crash Course

Nov 1, following the 9:30am worship at FP South. Topic: Who is God?

High-School Lock-In

Nov 7-8, 7:00pm-7:00am

Come hang out, play games, and drink plenty of caffeine (Subject to cancel if not enough sign-up for participants and volunteers).



Meet Some of our Youth Leaders! This wonderful group of High Schoolers are hard at work planning events for the Youth.



Check Out our Confirmation Class! They completed their Urban Plunge Experience, servicing five different organizations all around Lincoln and learning the true meaning of service!

REGISTER

VOLUNTEER

Want to get involved in mentoring our youth?
Email Tori@firstplymouth.org.



MIAMI ARTS STUDIO VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Free Concert Sunday, November 8, at 4:00 p.m.

The award-winning youth make their
Nebraska debut.

This viral ensemble is mostly made up of Hispanic students who are all first or second generation immigrants from the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America.

Freewill offering to benefit El Centro de las Américas



Handel's *Messiah*

Lincoln's Community Sing

Free Concert Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

This year, strings, trumpets, timpani, and organ will accompany First-Plymouth's Schola cantorum, soloists, and the audience in a living performance of this iconic masterwork.

Freewill offering to benefit the **Heartland Cancer Foundation**.

Joy & Concerns

BAPTISMS

Asher Finn Larson

IN MEMORY

Clayvena "Clay" Capek, member since 1961, died Oct. 3

WEDDINGS

Chelsea Svava & Adam Anderson,
Oct. 17

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Danielle Calvillo

Lori & Don Changstrom

Viray Coe

Greg Kallhoff

Jo Kelly

Jerri Leslie

Shana Michalski

Kay Richter

Julia & Luis Tondo

FP Merch Store is OPEN

During the month of November our pop-up online store will be open again to purchase FP apparel. Items will be available in December for shipping or in-person pick up at Screen Ink 1827 O St, Lincoln.



Shop FP Merch

IWG

INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP

Dear First-Plymouth,

In 2023, Pastor Juan Carlos invited First-Plymouth to form an Indigenous Working Group. Little did we know how deeply this journey would change us.

We began by developing a Land Acknowledgment letter but came to understand that acknowledgment without land return rings hollow. This realization led us to support and participate in the semiannual Niskithe Prayer Camp and explore the potential of eco-villages as places of cultural reclamation and renewal.

Along the way, we've built meaningful relationships at the Indian Center of Lincoln and the Ponca Center, where we've been welcomed with open hearts as relatives. We've been fed, blessed, and invited to

dance in celebration of life, youth, and the Return of the Thunderbirds. We've stood in solidarity with Native families still searching for children who never returned from Indian boarding schools, and we've listened to stories of generational trauma, resilience, and hope. These experiences have changed us forever.

We are grateful to First-Plymouth for providing seed funding in 2025 and 2026 to support this journey. These funds benefit the Indian Center of Lincoln's Food Sovereignty Program, helping cover a month of meal expenses. The Center provides free meals each week to elders, youth, and the broader community, bringing Native and non-Native neighbors together.

We invite you to join us for Indigenous speakers and films on the fourth Thursday of each month, September through May, at 5:30pm in Pilgrim Hall. November and December programs take place on the third Thursday. Watch The Herald for details and additional events.

Through these experiences, we've encountered both the painful legacy of cultural loss and the profound beauty of cultural renewal. We pray that our First Nations and tribal neighbors continue to heal and thrive, and we're grateful that First-Plymouth provides a welcoming space to learn from our history and build a stronger future together.

Thank you,
The Indigenous Working Group

NEW! Joyful Movement

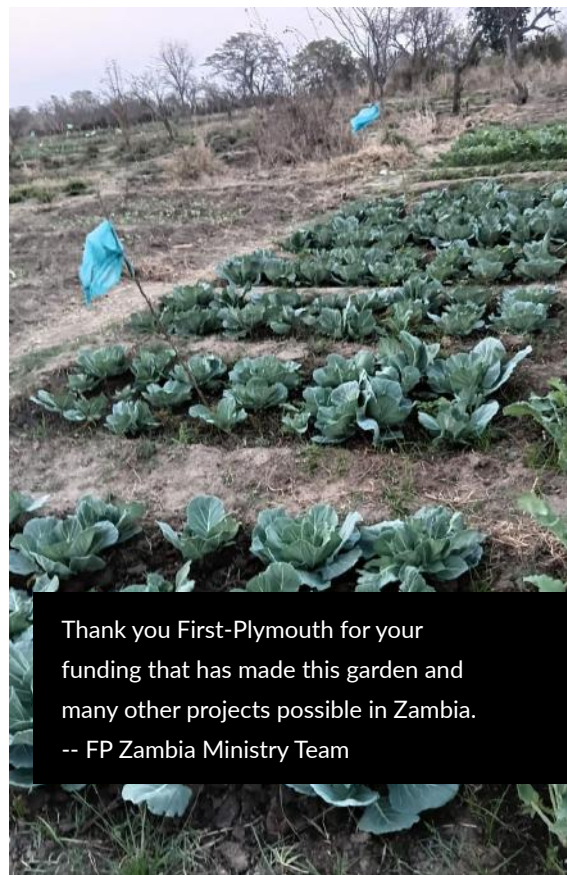
Sundays, 2:30 -3:15pm through Dec. 6, in the Chapel. (no class Nov 29). Inspired by dance, yoga, and martial arts, this Nia-inspired movement series invites you to move mindfully and energetically in your body's way. Be a happy beginner! Wear comfortable clothing and bring a playful spirit to this practice.

breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Thanksgiving is a time to count our blessings and remember that hunger and poverty persist—not because our nation lacks resources, but because of inequity and injustice.

This ministry calls people of faith to move beyond charity to address the root causes of hunger through advocacy and action. Guided by the gospel, we are called to make love visible by working toward a more just world where everyone has access to nutritious food.

For more information contact Tim Shaw at timothyshaw@gmail.com.



Thank you First-Plymouth for your funding that has made this garden and many other projects possible in Zambia.
-- FP Zambia Ministry Team