

Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
On the Common P.O. Box 281
Southborough, Massachusetts 01772
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The Spire

March 2011

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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FROM THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The journey home is a universal quest. Whether spiritual or geographical, a longing for a sense of place or relationship, I suspect that most of us have a yearning to belong somewhere or to someone. Being at home is not exactly a tangible project, nor a solitary one, but a pursuit that inevitably engages what is deeply spiritual within us. Ultimately, we must embrace the intensely internal challenge of being at home in ourselves, a traveling peace that can endure most exterior landscapes.

I couldn't have chosen a more magnificent winter to return to my hometown, and one that could only be appreciated after over a decade away in a radically different climate. There is so much to learn from winter, especially after the holidays when the shimmer and shine are removed, and what remains is a stark, leafless backdrop: the storm that brings a furious whirl of snow and also a muffled quiet, the solitude and restlessness of being perpetually inside.

This mighty winter has forced us again and again to cancel our normal lives and surrender to being at home. Robert Frost defined home as a place "where nobody asks you to leave," and yet we seem to find so many reasons to leave ourselves without a "nobody" in the equation! I can't help but expand on Frost's words and suggest that home is a place where God asks you to stay... and the invitation is accepted.

Thank you all for inviting me home, to this community that has braved many winters and will soon be trudging to this one's finale. Thank you for the peace of being at home, for a welcome with open arms from natives and newcomers. Thank you for the invitation to creating a church home with you.

Julie

Church Staff & Contact Information

Minister – Rev. Jonathan Wortmann (508) 786-0677
jwortmann@pilgrimchurch.us

Associate Minister –
 Rev. Julie Cedrone (508) 485-4847
jcedrone@pilgrimchurch.us

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 (508) 485-4847 dherrick@pilgrimchurch.us

Minister of Music – Grace Choi
 (978) 467-5588 graceatpilgrim@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director – Carla Mason (508) 770-1222
carlapm@townisp.com

Director of Sr. High Youth Programs –
 Sarah Hile (781) 820-7093
sarahjhile@gmail.com

Student Minister – Jessica Joslin (253) 709-3907
jessica.joslin@gmail.com

Upcoming Spires

<i>Deadline For Submission of Articles</i>	<i>Date of Mailing</i>
<i>March 18</i>	<i>March 25</i>
<i>April 15</i>	<i>April 22</i>

Sr. High Youth Group

March Schedule

5th & 6th – Lock-In 7 p.m. – 7 a.m.

6th – No Youth Group

13th – Parlor followed by Parent's Meeting

20th – Parlor

Silent Auction

12 p.m. – Auction Set Up

3 p.m. – Table Set Up

5 p.m. – Dinner Set Up

5:30 p.m. – Dinner & Silent Auction

28th - Parlor

Standing Church Meetings

Church Council	7:30 p.m. 2 nd Wednesday
Chancel Choir	7:30 p.m. every Thursday
Youth Choir	Following the Worship Service
Handbell Choir	7:30 p.m. every Tuesday
Buildings & Grounds	6:30 p.m. – As scheduled
Christian Education	7:00 p.m. – 2 nd Thursday
Diaconate	7:00 p.m. 2 nd Monday of month
Fellowship	11:30 a.m. – 1 st Sunday
Personnel	As Needed
Parish Relations	As Needed
Financial Resources	As Needed
Music	11:30 a.m. – 1 st Sunday of month
Outreach	As Needed
Stewardship	As Needed

Celebrations & Concerns

Celebrations

Congratulations to Ben & Becca Lally on the baptism of their daughter, Violet Taylor on Sunday, February 6.

Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers for healing:

The Rotermund family as they mourn the loss of
Cindy's mother, Catherine Born.

The Hendrick family as they mourn the loss of Kay's aunt.

Shirley Owen's mother

Hazel Foote

Bill Tsen's father

Also continued prayers for Elliott & Marty Larson,
who continue to teach in Afghanistan.



EASTER BAGS

The Outreach Committee is asking for your kindness and generosity by providing items to fill Easter Bags for the homeless families at the Pathways Shelter in Framingham.

We need small, NEW, unopened items for fathers, mothers and children of all ages, such as:

Women's toiletries-toothbrush, toothpaste, nail polish, lipstick, lotion, shampoo

Men's toiletries-comb, aftershave, flashlight, toothbrush, toothpaste

For the children-coloring and activity books, construction paper and drawing pads, pencils, markers, crayons, glue stick, stickers, matchbox cars, small toys, jump rope, puzzles, toothbrush, toothpaste

A plastic tub is in the church entry nearest the Town Hall for your donations.

GRIEF AND HEALING WORKSHOP

You are invited to a workshop to reflect on the ongoing journey of grieving. As people of faith, we will explore the role of spirituality in the healing process through ritual, sharing, and prayer. This workshop will take place on Wednesday, March 2 from 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Pilgrim Church parlor and will be facilitated by Julie Cedrone.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 9

@ 7:00 p.m.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, March 1

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Yoga Class
5:00 p.m. – Our Father's Table

Wednesday, March 2

7-9 p.m. – Grief & Healing Workshop

Sundays, March 6 & 20

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class

Mondays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28

9:30 a.m. – Healthy Living Group

Mondays, March 7 & 21

7:30 p.m. – Women's Spirituality Group

Wednesday, March 9

7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service
7:30 p.m. – Council Meeting

Saturday, March 12

7:30 p.m. – Steeple Coffeehouse

Sunday, March 13

Reception of New Members
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Bible 101

Monday, March 14

7:00 p.m. – Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday, March 16

3:30 p.m. – St. Patrick's Manor Small Group

Friday, March 18

April Spire Article Deadline

Sunday, March 20

5:30 p.m. – Dinner & Silent Auction

Tuesdays, March 22, 29, April 5 & 12

6-8 p.m. – Lenten Series

Sunday, March 27

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Energetic & Spiritual Healing

42nd Annual Pancake Breakfast
and U.S. Forces Drive
Troop 1, Southborough
Neary School Cafeteria
Sunday, March 6, 2011
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Adults \$5.00



Children 6-12 & Seniors \$3.00
Children 5 and under Free

Eagle Scout Project – U.S. Forces Drive
Organized by Ricky Scott (Pilgrim Church Member)
Please bring an item or cash donation to the
pancake breakfast.

Suggested items: Letters and Cards!
Non-perishable food: cookies, candy, bagged tuna,
dry soup mix
Hygiene items: deodorant, soap, toothpaste
and brushes
Entertainment items: DVDs CDs, batteries, books,
beanie babies



Pilgrim Yoga

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. – Tuesdays
Beginning March 1st
in Fellowship Hall
Contact Michele Landes
with any questions

musicmom.landes@gmail.com

Concert Featuring Works of Johannes Brahms

On March 18th at 7:30 pm, Peter Arvantely (Julie Cedrone's husband), joined by pianist Eric Stumacher, violinist Ian MacKay and cellist Jacob MacKay, will present late chamber music works of Johannes Brahms. The musicians are all part of the SONAD Peace Project www.sonadproject.org, an arts collective formed by Stumacher in 2007 to foster freedom and equality for all people through worldwide concerts and artistic performance workshops. Peter has traveled with Eric to countries in the Middle East for such workshops, using music to bring together people who are traditional enemies. This concert at Pilgrim Church will be a benefit for SONAD: admission is free, and all donations will be accepted no matter how small or how large. Mr. Stumacher will present slides of his most recent workshops in Israel and the West Bank.

The program will include:

Slides of Sonad Project

Two Clarinet Sonatas of Brahms, Op. 120 #1 and #2

G Major Violin Sonata of Beethoven, movement 1

Clarinet Trio by Brahms, Op. 114

Sermons & Scripture Readings for March

6th - Jess Joslin Preaching
Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

13th - "Original Sin"
Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

20th - "Good Works"
Scripture: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

27th - "The Last Supper"
Scripture: Luke 22:7-20



Spaghetti Dinner Raffle & Auction March 20 at 5:30 PM

Sponsored by the
Youth Group & Men's Club
Proceeds to benefit
Church's Mission Trips

Ticket Prices

Adults - \$8.00

Seniors & Children under 12 - \$6.00

Special Family Price \$25.00
(No matter how many kids)

Tickets may be purchased at Coffee Hour
or from Youth Group Members

Examples of some auction items: vacation home,
Red Sox tickets (set of 4), Patriots pre-season tickets
(set of 6), Avon Limited Edition Barbie, Pizzeria
Uno's Pizza-a-Month for a Year and other restaurant,
salon, etc. gift cards. Also, we have babysitting from
our teen babysitters.

Rotation Story for 2/27 thru 3/20

David & Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-58

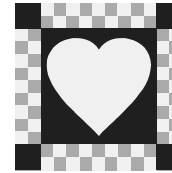
The story of First Samuel describes the transition from Judges (Samuel) to kings (Saul). David emerges as the king-elect, anointed by God but will not be recognized by Saul. In the Old Testament, David is shown as a Christ-like person. David was born in Bethlehem, worked as a shepherd, and later is the King of Israel. The New Testament calls Christ the "descendent of David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3) and "the root and the offspring of David" (Rev. 22:6). The story of David and Goliath begins as the Philistines and Israelites prepare for war. Goliath, a huge Philistine Champion, challenges any Israelite to a duel. He declares that if any Israelite can beat him, then the Philistines will surrender, but if he wins, then the Israelites must surrender. David hears of the challenge and declares that he will fight Goliath. David is confident that he will win because the Lord will be with him. Using a slingshot and stone, David beats Goliath and the Israelites defeat the Philistines.

When God is on our side, we need nothing else.

Activities:

- Writing
- Math
- Cinema
- Art/Comic Strip

Thank you to our rotation teacher/volunteers, John Ellsworth, Stephen Coldwell, Freddie Gillespie, Deb Cooksey, Karen Kuchnir and Julie Cedrone.



Happy Anniversary

John & Darlene Flanders 13

Dan & Donna Field 17

Dick & Lorraine Dinjian 27

Motoko & Atsushi Suzuki 29

Lenten Series

For the tenth year in a row the clergy of Southborough and the United Parishes of Southborough will be hosting a Lenten reflection series at each of their churches. This year's theme is "Not Disunity but Unity: The Body of Christ Across Denominational Lines". Each speaker will talk about "What ecumenism means to me." The series takes place on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 o'clock. After a brief worship service and a shared meal, the talk is followed by small group discussion. The following is the schedule for the series:

March 22nd- Hosted by Pilgrim Church/First Community at Pilgrim Church-Fr. Tom Garlick speaking

March 29th- Hosted by St. Matthew's, Fr. Phil LaBelle speaking

April 5th- Hosted by St. Mark's, Rev. Paul Sanderson speaking

April 12th- Hosted by St. Anne's, Rev. Julie Cedrone speaking

Small Group Opportunities

Sunday 8:45 a.m. Spiritual Conversations (every Sunday mid-September thru mid-June) Rev. Jon Wortmann 508-786-0677
Email to: jwortmann@pilgrimchurch.us.

Women's Spirituality Group (1st and 3rd Mondays 7:30-9 p.m.)
Debbie Herrick 508-485-4847 Email to:
dherrick@pilgrimchurch.us.

Koinonia (every Tuesday @ 8:00 p.m.) Fran Rosenquist 508-485-7971
Email to: frannyro@yahoo.com

Family Outreach Projects Group Sally Fodor 508-485-5689
Email to: sfodor2@verizon.net

Chancel Choir (every Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.) Grace Choi 978-467-5588
Email to: graceatpilgrim@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Carla Mason (every Tuesday @ 7:15 p.m.)
Email to: carlapm@townisp.com

"Littlest Angels" Children's Choir (3-6 year olds) Barbara Porter & Joan Pflug (most Sundays following worship)
Email to: brbrprtr1@aol.com

"Celestial Singers" Children's Choir (2nd-5th Graders) Grace Choi (most Sundays following worship)
Email to: graceatpilgrim@gmail.com

Sr. High Youth Group Sarah Hile 508-329-1381
Email to: sarahjhile@gmail.com

Jr. High Youth Group Steve Gutro (every Sunday 10:15-11:00 a.m.)
Email to: s.gutro@comcast.net

Small Groups (cont.)

Girls Night Out Deb Wilson (every 5-6 weeks) 508-481-6326
Email to: debbiedepp@fenemoregroup.com

Sex, Drugs & Kids Education Sarah & David Hile (quarterly)
508-329-1381 Email to: sarahjhile@gmail.com

St. Patrick's Manor Worship Group Barbara Porter (every third Wednesday) - provides worship for residents of a local nursing home 508-435-9205
Email to: brbrprtr1@aol.com

Men's Club Bill Harrington (as scheduled) 508-485-8737
Email to: banjobillo@verizon.net

Bible 101 Jon Wortmann (second Sunday of each month during the school year @ 11:30 a.m.) 508-786-0677
Email to: jwortmann@pilgrimchurch.us

Our Father's Table Joan Anderson 508-481-0644 (1st Tuesday of the month)
Email to: janderson56@verizon.net

Food Pantry Steve Pflug (Tuesdays 7-8 p.m., Fridays 10-11 a.m.)
508-832-2263 Email to: joansteve@juno.com

Pastoral Care Team Fran Rosenquist (monthly) 508-485-7971
Email to: frannyro@yahoo.com

Healthy Living Jon Wortmann (9:30 a.m. on Mondays with the exception of holidays) 508-786-0677
Email to: jwortmann@pilgrimchurch.us.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (As scheduled) Sheryn Carew 508-624-0706
Email to: kelonac@aol.com

Spiritual Healing (As scheduled) Dick Wallace 508-481-2565
Email to: dickwallace01@gmail.com

Deacons' Corner

We have had fun talking and thinking lately about the fact that each and every one of us has a special talent, which produces great satisfaction when it is being exercised. It is like a calling that each of us has. To find our calling, however, requires a lot of self knowledge and a degree of self confidence. Sometimes knowing yourself is not quite as easy as it sounds.

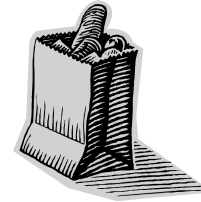
We may all too often blame forces outside of ourselves for mishaps or failures. We may also find that we gain our sense of self worth by looking outside of ourselves for approval and a feeling that we are "okay". The problem here of course, is that if you look to others to give you a sense of self worth, you are internally placing yourself in subjugation to "the someone" who makes you feel "I'm okay". This does not lead to real self knowledge. That only comes by looking within and working as constructively as possible with what you find.

Every one of us has everything we need. We can find what is best and most useful to the work, within us. It is actually as if we each possess an inside suitcase which will take a lifetime to unpack. Each layer that we uncover reveals another layer filled with new stuff that we didn't even realize we had. Our job is to be sure that we are looking in the right place for our personal information and then using what we find. Tapping the real substance of Being within us is both vital and revealing. God never lets us down. This is how we gain breadth and a better sense of our real calling. It's then up to us individually to see what we find!

Jean Roetter

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST FEBRUARY 2011

We need **ONLY** the following items at this time:



Cereal
Juice Boxes
Individual Snacks
Canned Fruit:
Peaches
Pears
Fruit cocktail
Mandarin oranges
Hamburger Helper
Pancake mix and syrup
Plain Tea Bags
Corned Beef Hash
Beef Stew
Clam Chowder
Cup of Soup
Ramen Noodles
Paper Towels
Shampoo and Conditioner
Laundry Detergent

We do NOT need pasta, tomato products, green beans, corn, or any kind of soup, thanks to the Scouts.

Come One! Come All!

To the Fellowship Brunch!

Sunday, March 13th

immediately following the worship service.

We hope to see you there!



Happy Birthday



A Deacon's Reflection

Fran Rosenquist	1	Catherine Weber	15
Jocelyn Pietro	1	Jack Martin	15
Tony Schoener	2	Valerie Moreland	17
Marji Warfield	2	Chris Flanders	17
Nicole Grdinich	2	Vanessa Honey	17
Kelsey Krapf	3	Alex Hile	18
Abby Kuchnir	3	Alyssa Ruggles	18
Nicole Ferrari	5	Adam Cormack	20
Brad Herrick	5	Sue Roberts	20
Ray Goldwell	6	Jon Wortmann	22
Steve Pflug	6	Chris Schoener	22
Dan Beck	6	Kate Qua	23
Ellie Long	6	C. J. Younis	26
Dick Draper	7	Barb Dumont	27
Susan Carter	7	Jeff Watkins	27
Beth Hart	8	Peter Anick	27
Kendall Merritt	8	Kate Leist	27
Julie McHenry	9	Jess Scott	27
Laura Calef	9	Stevie Ulfelder	28
Avery Garcia	9	Samantha Needels	28
Mark Conti	10	Benjamin Weber	28
Jed Watters	10	Anna Hemm	28
Jim McCaw	11	Martha Mead	29
Nicole Crothers	12	Margaret Mead	29
		David Cvitkovich	30

My wife and I have had to begin the process of unplugging our children. It's a problem that's starts like any other I suppose; barely noticeable and novel. Then, before you know it, your reality is quite different than just a few weeks prior. Attentions are gone. Attitudes altered. Behavior is...different. Its all centered around the "battle of the screens" as many parents nowadays call it. Trying to have kids experience the life they have rather than the one offered through an Ipad, Ipod, Itouch, TV, laptop, DS, PSP...or any other screen that apprehends their childhood. It's the battle to give back to children the universe's most powerful tool... attention.

Thomas Edison, after inventing the telephone, believed that it would create world peace now that people, anywhere in the world...could talk to each other! Many sociologists in the 1950's argued that, with all the advancements in electronic gadgetry for the home, our greatest social challenge of the future would be deciding what to do with all our *leisure time*. Has your Iphone or laptop created more time for you? "Easier and efficient" simply gets sucked into the vacuum of more. I'm not a total curmudgeon; it's just that technology is overly ample with its self praise.

It was with these thoughts I saw my children spellbound to one game or online activity after another. Witnessing my son twitch his fingers on the key board without emotion for 15 minutes I looked, curiously, at the URL and noticed he was on www.addictinggames.com! Calling my wife over we decided to have a family gathering in the living room. One by one, they trudged in, irritated by this respite from a screen. "Sit down" I beckoned. Arms crossed, they grumpily complied.

"Let's go around the family and, to each, say five things you like about that person." I asked. "What!" was the first response from my son. "That doesn't count" I replied. Silence gave way to a sigh and then, finally, we started hearing "He plays with me", "He's nice to me", "She helps me a lot", "We play basketball together", "He helps me with homework". Suddenly the mood changed. The chemistry and dynamics of the family seemed to come back to reality, even if just for a moment. Attentions weren't lost to a surreal online world. Body language changed. A child beaming with pride and self worth appeared. It was that simple to change the mood.

A Deacon's Reflection (cont.)

The greatest screen the world offers is the one presented to our eyes each day. We are all part of the most fascinating source of entertainment and energy the universe ever created. The challenge is that we have to be present and aware of the great drama before us. It's easy to see why the screens create such discord and we need to be unplugged; they distract us from the fact that we are already...plugged in.

Peter Martin

(continued)