

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

May 2011

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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FROM THE STUDENT MINISTER

Thank you. Those two words show up for me every Eastertide. It is a season of things to be thankful for - spring flowers, longer sunny days, the overwhelming miracle of the resurrection and the triumph of love on earth.

As I approach my last Sunday at Pilgrim, June 12th, 2011, those two words are consistently on my mind. Thank you for allowing me to share in worship, prayer, laughter, and conversation with you over the past two years. I have considered it an honor to walk with you through Jon's sabbatical, Julie's welcome, and various other marvelous adventures. I will carry my time at Pilgrim with me as I head to the University of Michigan this fall to begin a Ph.D. to study religion in higher education, as I work towards ordination and my ultimate goal of becoming a university chaplain. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

As we make our way to Pentecost together may we all hear the "Thank You's" of the Easter season loud and clear.

Jess

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

Minister of Communication – Debbie Herrick
 (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>May 20 (June Spire)</i>	<i>May 27</i>
<i>August 19 (Sept. Spire)</i>	<i>August 26</i>

Sr. High Youth Group

May Schedule

- 1st – Parlor
- 8th – Parlor (Mother’s Day)
- 13th – 7-10:30 p.m. - Possible Concert Fundraiser (TBD)
- 14th – 7-10:30 p.m. -Steeple Coffee House Babysitting
- 15th – In Church (Confirmation Sunday)
- 21st – 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Car Wash
- 22nd – Parlor
- 27th – 7-11 p.m. - DJ Dance Fundraiser at church
- 29th – Parlor – Parents meeting

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	11:30 a.m. – 4 th Sunday of month
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 Will & Courtney Sargent on the baptism of their daughter, Avery Petersen on Sunday, April 24.

Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers for healing:

The Anderson family as they mourn the loss of Sue Anderson.

The Foote family as they mourn the loss of Hazel Foote.

Dick & Sue Snyder as they mourn the passing of their dear friend, Walt.

Joe Mercadante & Emily van Nort as they mourn the loss of Joe's grandmother.

Bill Tsen's father

Jean Roetter

Carla Mason

Nancy Kolk's parents

Gertrude Gaudion, Jacquie McClelland and Shari Sanford's mother

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

The young men and women from our church and the community who continue to serve in the military.

A Deacons' Reflection

The day began like any other that had come before it. The sun rose, and life began to stir on a barren desert in New Mexico on July 16th 1945. At 5:29:30 AM a countdown began and at 5:30:01 the world changed. There was a flash of light and fire the likes of which mankind had never witnessed. Light bounced and radiated off the surrounding hills. Sand became glass and animals simply vanished. The heat at the core of the flash was three times that of the sun. Then the smoke column came. It gurgled, gasped, and vented as it went racing into the stratosphere showing every color along the way. At 41,000 feet it finally stopped. A primordial anger had finally been set free and the nuclear age had begun.

One month later two cities within the Empire of Japan lay in ruin and the world was halted from War. Today, sixty six years later, that same nation tormented by nuclear power in war lays in peril from that same power during peace. As we warily look on, another generation passes to the next the question; "Where do we get our power from?" And nature continues to gurgle and gasp.

During this time of lent, we find ourselves bonded by our pursuit of understanding, of cleansing, of preparation for what the bible tells us comes next. Incredibly, 2000 years after Jesus was taken from us his power still bounces and radiates around the globe. What could this power be that resonates in us? What is this power that draws us to a better more meaningful life? What is this power that gives us hope and lets us press on when it seems the pressing on is almost impossible?

Maybe when we pause, when we stop, we are more aware of a different power than the one we so blindly chase. Jesus passed from one generation to the next the best question of all; "How best are we to use *that* power?" Today began like any other that has come before it, but it doesn't have to end like any before it.

Peter Martin

Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 1

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class
2:30 p.m. – Spring Concert

Mondays, May 2 & 16

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

Saturday, May 7

5:30-9 p.m. – Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Sunday, May 8

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Bible 101

Mondays, May 9, 16 & 23

9:30 a.m. – Healthy Living Group

Wednesday, May 11

7:30 p.m. – Council Meeting

Saturday, May 14

7:30 p.m. – Steeple Coffeehouse

Sunday, May 15

Confirmation Sunday
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Faith & Technology Discussion

Friday, May 20

May Spire Article Deadline

Wednesday, May 18

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

Sunday, May 22

Choir Sunday
Tennis Sunday

Sermons & Scripture Readings for May (Series on Living with Uncertainty and Death)

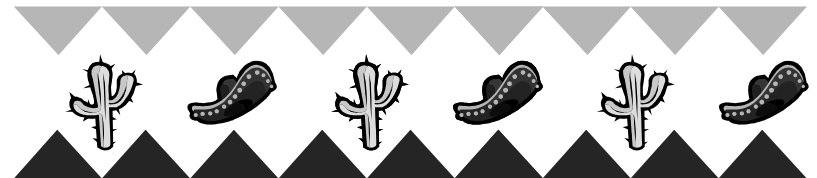
1 – Julie Cedrone Preaching
Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

May 8 – Pam Norley, Deacon, Preaching
Sermon: "The Lord's Prayer"
Scripture Reading: Luke 11:1-4

May 15 – Confirmation Sunday
Sermon: "The Donkey"
Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

May 22 – Music Sunday
Scripture Reading: Psalm 150

May 29 – Sermon: Mystery & Service
Scripture Reading: Acts 17:22-31



Cinco de Mayo

The annual Cinco de Mayo party is our festive spring fellowship event. It's a great opportunity to get together with family and friends to toast a fond farewell to winter!

**Held on Saturday, May 7th 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM
@ the home of Louis & Karen Kuchnir
15 Foxhill Drive, Southborough**

Troop Care Package Drive

There will be a **Care Package Drive to Support Our Troops outside at the Senior Center on Saturday (9-4) and Sunday (9-1), May 14th and 15th**. Conditions in Afghanistan are really tough and they need lots of support to improve living conditions and boost morale.

Lots of changes! Based on feedback from our troops we continue to make changes to the list in order to ship safely and cost effectively, so we can give them what they need. Think of the soldiers as family members when you are choosing your items and packing for them.

FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE PLEASE-----NO OPENED OR USED ITEMS, BULK-SIZE ITEMS, SOAP BARS, CHOCOLATE, AEROSOLS, CANNED GOODS, VHS TAPES

Through your generosity and support we have shipped over 120,000 lbs. and 5,500 boxes over the past 12 Care Package Drives, since Lisa Braccio started this in 2005. This is an opportunity for us to thank our courageous warriors for their service and sacrifice.

No donation is too little, too large or too late! Here are some ways you can help...

1. Make a donation. Postage (about \$6,000) and purchased items are a huge expense for us. You may send me a check made out to **CARE PACKAGES FOR TROOPS**. 100% of your donation goes to the troops. We've received checks from as far away as Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, Colorado, and Arizona!
2. Purchase items on the attached shopping list and bring them to the Senior Center on 5/14 and 5/15. **INDIVIDUAL not bulk size please.**
3. Bring a bunch of cards with a note of thanks and encouragement. They love cards! Some soldiers get nothing at all – no mail, no care packages.
4. Give an hour or two of your time that weekend to help pack care packages. Wonderful community service project for students.

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Care Package Drive (cont.)

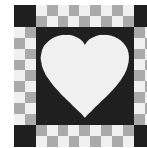
5. Organize your friends, employees, church, clubs, Scouts, students, and collect donations and items and make cards.

The troops tell us that we can never truly know how deeply touched they are by your generosity.

We would be so grateful for anything anyone wants to do and will make it as easy for you to help as we can. At your convenience you can drop off items at my front door. **Or if you aren't around that weekend, we would be happy to pick up your items.**

Proud Army Moms of 1LT Courtney Wilson 864th EN BN!
Deb and Lisa

Debbie Depp Wilson
88 Sears Road
Southborough, MA 01772
508.481.6326
<http://www.fenemoregroup.com>



Happy Anniversary

Bruce & Dee Merritt 2
David & Karen Cvitcovich 8
Todd & Nancy Wentland 10
William & Sharon Balcom 11
Steve & Kathleen Hendrick 18
Chris Willis & Peggy Randel 19
Alan & Kris Snow 20
Wayne & Carol Long 20
Jayson & Mindy Hreczuck 20
Stu & Leah Needels 22
Roger & Fran Rosenquist 24
Joe & Kelli Wagner 26
John & Catherine Campbell 28
Carl & Sandy Altamura 30
Rusty & Janet Short 30
Scott & Jen Cowen 30
Dick & Trudi Bessom 31

Deacons' Corner (cont.)

now practicing on our organ many of the pieces her father played. I can see the joy she receives when playing so closely to where her father played many years earlier.

On rare occasions, for tremendously varied reasons, individuals and families leave Pilgrim Church. I find when having discussions with these individuals around town, they are the first to ask, "How are things going at PC?" and how certain people are doing; they want to still have a connection. I'm often meeting them for coffee, breakfast, and even at Town Meeting! They just want to talk, and I see my role as a listener. It can be a slow process but over time I can see them returning to Pilgrim Church where they have been missed and always loved.

I've had many more experiences than I can express in this Deacons' Corner. As a Deacon over the past year I have enjoyed my experiences as an "inside-out" minister, but my most memorable and enriching experiences have been when I have had the opportunity to bring people closer to a church that I love and cherish; my "outside-in" ministry. For those that have never tried it, it can be spiritually and emotionally rewarding. Oh, and the next time you have an opportunity to speak to a Deacon at coffee, why don't you ask them if their ministry is "inside-out" or "outside-in." Be prepared for some interesting stories!

Paul Renfrew, *Deacon*



Are you planning on buying a new outdoor grill this spring? Is your old grill in good shape and need a good home? Pilgrim Church would love to have two grills on hand for our annual "Cheeseburger" Sunday each year as well as other events throughout the year. (Thank you to the Crothers family who has graciously offered to donate one.)

If you would like to donate a grill, please contact Debbie dherrick@pilgrimchurch.us.

Handbell Choir Annual Plant Sale

The handbell choir will be having their annual plant sale on Sundays, May 1 and May 8 (Mother's Day) in Fellowship Hall directly following the worship service. Donations of plants and flowers would be most welcome. Please contact Dotty Clark (508) 485-0301 if you have plants to donate or if you have any questions.



Car Wash

Saturday, May 21
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Southboro Transfer Station.



Please help support this
Sr. High Youth Group fundraiser.

The funds raised will go towards their trip to
Chicago this summer.

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 (every third Wednesday October thru May) - Jon and The Chapel Choir provide a 3:30 p.m. ecumenical worship service for residents of this Framingham nursing home. Barbara Porter 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

A different way to look at your “ministry.”

At the last Deacons' Meeting, beyond the traditional business, we discussed our “ministry.” That should not seem unusual to anyone at Pilgrim Church as we are often reminded that we are all “ministers of the church.” One of the topics raised was whether our own person ministry was “inside-out” or “outside-in.”

Don't try to Google “inside-out ministry” – I already tried to no avail, but if I were to define these phrases in a sentence, “inside-out” ministry is loving a church from the inside and nurturing a strong congregation by working with services as Staff Leadership, Christian Education, and Sacraments, among others. “Outside-in” ministry is like being a spokesperson, representative, Sheppard, an ambassador to the church; reaching out to the community, either in the form of outreach, pastoral care, or to bring in new members. Many of us have a mixture of both ministries, but when I look at my service over the years, I have decided that the focus of my ministry has been “outside-in.” I'll try to clarify with some examples.

I was recently talking to a colleague about our Messiah concert and how proud I was that the church had been offering this concert to the town for over thirty years! To my surprise my colleague was equally proud of the concert, as her father had been first-violin in the orchestra (*a prestigious position*) that played for our first fifteen concerts before passing away. My colleague was connected as well, as her job was to drive her father to the concert and would then sit in the back of the church and listen proudly to him playing. As she recalled the years, it brought tears to her eyes. As an accomplished musician she always tried to think of a way she could memorialize her father's musical history with Pilgrim Church. My “outside-in” ministry brought her together with Grace Choi, our Minister of Music, where my colleague is

(continued)

Lotsa Helping Hands

You can now sign up to usher, read, greet, be a coffee host or provide food online! We have 77 people signed up so far. **The goal is to have 100 people signed up by June 1!** Please go to the following link: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/635995/> and register. Be sure to confirm your email address and sign in. If you have any questions, contact Debbie (dherrick@pilgrimchurch.us).

Meals for Pilgrims

The Fellowship Committee will once again be serving as the parent committee for the Meals for Pilgrims group. We would love to have more of our church family be able to receive meals in times of celebration (the birth or adoption of a baby) as well as in times of need (a death in the family, extended illness, surgery or accident). Often times the gift of food is the best gift there is!

If you know of someone in our congregation who meals should be arranged for (or if you would like to become a Meals for Pilgrims cook), please contact the Fellowship Committee at: fellowship@pilgrimchurch.us

We look forward to helping nourish the body and soul of Pilgrim Church!

An Afternoon with Christine and Grace

Our fantastic cellist, Christine Tsen and Grace Choi, piano, are holding a second benefit concert on May 1 (Sunday) at 2:30 PM in our sanctuary.

Please bring your family and friends to share the whimsical, mournful, and delightful moments in your life through the music. All donations will go to the homeless people and animals in local areas.



Happy Birthday



Faith and Technology

Addicted to your Blackberry? Are your children consistently moving from one screen to another? Curious how your faith can help you think about technology?

Come to the Parlor at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 15th to talk about just that!

Questions? Email Jess, jessica.joslin@gmail.com.

Body and Spirit: A Women's Retreat

Dinner on Friday, June 10 - Dinner, Saturday, June 11
St. Benedict's Abbey in Still River, MA
Prayer, Ritual, Yoga, Meditation, Spiritual
Conversation, and Friendship!

Led by Jess Joslin and Julie Cedrone

The Parish Relations Committee

The Parish Relations Committee is available to help resolve any issues or concerns that may arise between parishioners, or between parishioners and clergy. Currently sitting on the committee are Karen Kuchnir, Joyce Hudson and Rusty Short. Please contact any one of us, either in person at church, or via telephone or email (we're all in the directory) if you'd like to discuss any issue or concern you may be having. Alternatively, we meet the fourth Sunday of every month right after church, upstairs in the Luke classroom. Feel free to stop by one of our meetings to let us know how you think things are going, or to make suggestions for improvements. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 1.

Richard Houston	1	Dick Dinjian	17
Dave Wilson	1	Laura Scott	18
Viola Laptewicz	1	Diana Nicklaus	18
Steve Hendrick	1	Lane Southard	18
Ryan Hill	1	Morgan Sibley	18
Tom Beck	3	Carol Long	20
Gemma Moore	4	Andrew West	20
Jane Davis	5	Brittany Kern	20
Meghan Hornblower	5	Nancy Kolk	21
Heather Hodgkins	5	Diane Wallace	21
Grant Whitney	6	Macayla King	21
Steve Coldwell	7	Alexandra Mohn	21
Susan Conti	7	Jim Moore	22
Storm McGuire	7	Amy Dietz	22
Louise Turner	8	Chris Lang	23
Brian Sweeter	8	Lucas Hemm	23
Jan Short	10	Shel Tscherne	24
Joe Hodgkins	10	Kelly Schoener	25
Channing Moreland	10	Dick Bessom	26
Dan Field	11	Kathy Moffie	26
Kendra Locke	11	Ben Campbell	26
Conner Hoge	11	Elana Westphal	27
John Ellsworth	12	Katie Davis	28
Chris Davis	12	Rick Scott	28
Pam Dietz	15	Matt Barrieau	28
Karen Cvitkovich	15	Kaylee Harrison	28
Briana Wentland	16	Aaron Landes	31
Lindsay Merritt	16	Irene Garton	31

212th Annual Meeting
Massachusetts Conference, UCC

If anyone is interested in representing Pilgrim Church as a delegate at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference, UCC on Saturday, June 18, 2011 in Sturbridge, MA, please contact Debbie Herrick and she will provide you with the details.