

The Spire

March 2017

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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FROM THE MINISTER

The Four Laws of Christianity

I have been thinking a lot lately about the future of Christianity. Having been a minister for 21 years, a preacher for 27, and a lover of God and all things Jesus and Mary since I was five, I have been wondering what our kids who are five today will experience as they enter their third score.

We have always been political animals and the discord today was worse in the times of Washington, Lincoln, and probably Kennedy. We have always come to church for different reasons: spiritual insight, community, service. We have always been imperfect human beings trying to make meaning with short days and many things that cause us worry. But our world did not have smart phones, YouTube, and social media even a dozen years ago. We are the same—tribal, diverse, sinful—and we are reminded of our imperfections every moment we plug into the virtual or media world.

This has made me more aware of why Christianity and a church that can withstand the ebbs and flows of personality, social tensions, and global conflicts are so important.

The truth of Christianity used come down to love God, love neighbor. Love loves to love love Joyce said in Ulysses. I have always taught the confirmation class: love love, love neighbor. That was the core. That was enough.

We added two more this year. We need to be more robust, even in our simplest restatements of Jesus' teaching.

(continued)

Sr. High Youth Group

March Schedule

5th – Church/Parlor

12th – Church/Parlor

19th – Church/Parlor

26th – Church/Parlor

5:30 p.m. – Spaghetti Dinner & Auction



Happy Anniversary

Dick & Lorraine Dinjian 27

April 9th - Palm Sunday - 2:00pm

"Journey to the Cross through Art"

Worcester Art Museum

Reflect on the dramatic scenes of Holy Week through the ages, portrayed in a diversity of artistic styles and theologies at the Worcester Art Museum led by Dr. John Garton, Professor of Art History at Clark University, and Rev. Julie Cedrone, Associate Pastor at Pilgrim Church.

Children's art program will be provided. Open to members of all Southborough churches. RSVP by April 2nd to jcedrone@pilgrimchurch.us.

From the Minister (cont.)

Love yourself. Turns out that all the negative messages, images, and news is burying our souls. I see some people I have loved for decades behaving badly. I see them lashing out. I kept wondering why? If you don't know that you are priceless; if you don't believe that God loves you and you are worth loving; if you don't know that you are more than your pain, conflicts, and emotional insecurity; well, you will end up miserable, alienating the people who care about you, and adding to the madness. If you know you are a unique, essential part of God's creation, the madness is the fodder of learning and deeper faith.

Love your enemy. I used to take conflicts, both with and between church folks as well as the global messes that surround us, as a personal challenge. I believed in utopia. I believed communication, leadership, and awareness could lead us to love each other more. Turns out, while this is true when our goal is winning or profit, in families, churches, and towns, only faith allows us to be in mutual, consistent, lifetime relationships. There are people in your life who have wronged you. To be honest, recently a few you have wronged me and despite my best efforts I have failed some of you. When we are truly willing to look at every person on God's earth as having God in them, we don't have enemies. Even the people spitting barbs or trying to harm us, they become even more valuable members of the body of Christ. This is not flowers and chocolate love; this is faith applied to pain with a constant belief that resurrection is God's final answer to all struggle.

Love God. Love neighbor. Love yourself. Love your enemy. These are the four laws of Christianity. Leave any of them out and the church is a political action committee, a social club, or a resource center. While we use our human interests to gather us, the reason for a robust Christianity, both theologically and as churches, is to keep lifting these truths in the face of history. If we keep doing this, our community will remain vital through all the changes and trends our kids will see in the decades to come.

Jon



Happy Birthday



Fran Rosenquist	1	Jack Martin	15
Jocelyn Pietro	1	Tricia Phaneuf	15
Owen Douglas	1	Steve Getchell	17
Tony Schoener	2	Valerie Moreland	17
Marji Warfield	2	Vanessa Honey	17
Conor Hoolahan	3	Alex Hile	18
Kelsey Krapf	3	Alyssa Ruggles	18
Abby Kuchnir	3	Gus Hebert	19
Nicole Ferrari	5	Kurt Ledebuhr	19
Brian Dean	6	Sue Roberts	20
Dick Draper	7	Jon Wortmann	22
Susan Carter	7	Chris Schoener	22
Phoebe Heney	7	Kate Qua	23
Beth Hart	8	Sam Chilton	24
Kendall Merritt	8	Jim Denman	24
Laura Calef	9	Amanda Hixson	26
Avery Garcia	9	Barb Dumont	27
Kevin Hoolahan	9	Jeff Watkins	27
Mark Conti	10	Peter Anick	27
Andrew Gebauer	10	Jess Scott	27
Jed Watters	10	Joseph Garcia	28
Jim McCaw	11	Stevie Ulfelder	28
Nicole Crothers	12	Samantha Needels	28
Kathy Marple	12	Benjamin Weber	28
Cameron Wehrle	12	Anna Hemm	28
Harper Dean	12	Neil Scullion	28
Catherine Weber	15		

Deacons' Corner

Have you ever had a prayer answered?

You might think this is a stretch but I know it isn't. Last fall I was fishing with my two older brothers and my Dad off Chatham on the Cape. It was a beautiful sunny day with little wind and perfect for boating. We were all casting our lines in different directions, watching the birds dive at random pods of bait, and trying to see what the other boats were using for gear. Everything looked right, it even smelled fishy...but no bites. Time was passing. My dad isn't in the best of health and as I looked around I suddenly offered up a quick prayer to God. Could he please have my Dad catch a fish? I know, I know, every fisherman prays for fish eventually but I prayed, gently, for a fish on my Dads line right then. "Whoa! Wait a minute! I got something!" My Dad exclaimed. I was so caught up in the moment I started yelling "What do you think you have?!" and had forgotten that I just prayed for that fish! My brothers started giving advice... "give him line, loosen up the drag, keep your pole up!" He just patiently battled the fish and played it perfectly. Best of all we looked and saw our Dad smiling. There were no health concerns in that moment. It was a deep smile, one that had been buried too long and waiting for a day with his all too busy sons on the water. Just like a smile he shared when he taught us to catch our first fish so many years ago, a simple prayer was answered.

After I took the picture and the fish was returned to the sea, I looked up and gave a huge internal "Thank you!!" I smiled a deep smile of gratitude. Be ready. Be ready to be surprised and awed and reminded of the power that walks step by step with you. Dream big and pray big but also enjoy the simple prayers and deep smiles along the way.

Peter Martin



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 1

@ 7:00 p.m.

Southborough United Parishes Lenten Series
Unpacking Jesus and Lent: The Journey to the Cross
March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 6-8:00pm

March 14: St. Matthew's...Ben Keyes speaking on Jesus' 40 days in the desert

March 21: St. Anne's...Introduction by St. Anne's clergy...Father Phil LaBelle speaking Gethsemane

March 28: Pilgrim/Community/Marlborough hosting at Pilgrim...Jon speaking on the walk to the Cross

April 4: St. Mark's...Barbara Talcott Speaking on descent from the Cross

Parishes will provide worship, dinner, and a kid's program and child care.

NEW MEMBER INQUIRY SESSION

An inquiry session for new members of Pilgrim Church has been scheduled for **Sunday, March 26** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor following worship. Various lay leaders will be present to answer any questions people might have about the church and its various programs. The session will help to prepare those who might desire to unite in church membership. If you can't attend the new member meeting, please let Debbie dherrick@pilgrimchurch.us know before **March 26** and she will give you the information that will be distributed at the meeting. Childcare will be available.



You are invited to a
Fellowship Brunch

March 12

Immediately following church
in Fellowship Hall.
Come join your fellow church
members for good food and good
conversation.



Save the Date

April 28 & 29
UCC Conference Center
1 Badger Road, Framingham

Cost - \$100 (This includes one-night stay, three meals and supplies for scheduled activities.)
Stay tuned for details.

If you have any questions, contact Julie Cedrone
icedrone@pilgrimchurch.us

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction/Raffle Fundraiser



March 26, 2017

Doors Open @ 5:30pm

Dinner Served @ 6:00pm



MaMa Pietro's

Meatballs & Sauce Pre-Sales \$7

MBs & Sauce Raffle Tickets \$5 (5 for \$20)

Dinner Ticket Prices

Adults \$12

Seniors & Children \$10

Family Price \$40

Children under 5 Free

Dinner and Raffle Tickets may be purchased at
Coffee Hour

Childcare - Available for a donation

*The Men's Club and Youth Group present their
Annual Mission Trip Fundraiser*

Please join us for
GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY
A celebration of Sisterhood

What: An inclusive, interfaith
service in celebration of Girl Scout
Week

Who: ALL Girl Scouts and their
families. You do not need to be a
member of Pilgrim Church, or any
church, to attend.

When: Sunday March 12th from 3-
4pm, including a short reception
following the service

Where: Pilgrim Church, 15
Common St., Southborough



Contact Information

Staff

Minister – Rev. Jonathan Wortmann (508) 485-4847
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) 579-9263 carlapm@townisp.com

Director of Sr. High Youth Programs –
Sarah Hile (781) 820-7093 sarahjhile19@gmail.com

Officers

Moderator – Cindy Torilli (508) 361-2297
cynthia.torilli@emc.com

Financial Secretary – Jim Black (765) 994-9065
jtblack25@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sally Vincentsen (508) 786-9566
svincentsen@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer – Randy Dinjian (617) 620-5248
rdinjian@hanover.com

Clerk – Karen Kuchnir (508) 330-1163
karenkuchnir@yahoo.com

Faith Community Nurse

Sharon Balcom – pilgrimfcn@gmail.com

Upcoming Spires

*Deadline For
Submission of Articles*

March 17 (April)

April 14 (May)

May 19 (June)

Standing Church Meetings

Church Council	7:30 p.m. – 2 nd Monday of month
Chancel Choir	7:30 p.m. every Thursday
Celestial Singers Choir	11:00 a.m. – Most Sundays
All Souls Choir	11:15 a.m. – Most Sundays
Handbell Choir	7:00 p.m. every Wednesday
Buildings & Grounds	As Needed
Christian Education	8:30 a.m. – Sunday TBA
Diaconate	11:30 a.m. – 2 nd Sunday of month
Fellowship	As Needed
IT/AV	8:30 p.m. – 1 st Wed. of month
Personnel	As Needed
Parish Relations	11:30 a.m. – 4 th Sunday of month
Financial Resources	7:30 p.m. – 2 nd Tuesday of month
Music	11:30 a.m. – 3 rd Sunday of month
Outreach	11:30 a.m. – 2 nd Sunday of month
Stewardship	As Needed

Celebrations & Concerns

Celebrations

A successful mission trip to Haiti.

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Concerns

Please keep the following people in your
prayers for healing:

Alethia Dechellis

Verrill Edwardsen

Helen Hendrick

Carla Mason

Jeanne Roetter

The Flot family as they mourn the loss of Bob's
mother, Priscilla Flot.

Sue Baust as she mourns the loss of
her stepfather, Thomas Lindeman.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, March 1

7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22 & 29

7:00 p.m. – Meditation Service

Sundays, March 5 & 19

11:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Ministry

11:30 a.m. – Confirmation Class

Mondays, March 6 & 20

7:30-9 p.m. – Women's Spirituality Group

Mondays, March 6, 13, 20 & 27

9:30 a.m. – Healthy Living Group

Tuesday, March 7

5:00 p.m. – Our Father's Table

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28

9:30 a.m. – Yoga Class

Sunday, March 12

3:00 p.m. – Girl Scout Sunday Event

Wednesday, March 15

3:30 p.m. – St. Pat's Worship Group

Sunday, March 19

3:00 p.m. – Friar Tuck Ministries Cold Harbor in
Westborough

Sunday, March 26

Gospel Sunday

11:30 a.m. – New Member Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Men's Club Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction