

The Spire

April 2017

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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FROM THE MINISTER

Ministry and Building Trust

The wonderful thing about the many ministries at Pilgrim Church is that we help people. While we can't be all things to all people we are so much love to so many folks. As our hunger relief, refugee, housing, pastoral care, and social ministries do good work together, something happens: people talk. We talk a lot.

We talk about what we're doing, why we do it, we tell stories, and we laugh. Pilgrim has sometimes been called "Stand-up Ministry" and the fact that we can brighten spirits in our attitude and approach to ministry is a gift.

The problem happens when we, because we are all ministers, tell a few too many details about the people with whom we do ministry. I'm not writing this because of a particular incident, just a trend I've noticed recently. We want to help and as we help, we want to know what's going on with people.

A positive case study of how we hope our ministries work: A young adult who used the food pantry the entire time they were in high school came up to me recently and thanked me for what the food pantry does. I was shocked. I had no idea. I felt guilty that maybe I should have done more. They were thrilled. They got the care they needed and never needed to worry that their need would get in the way of their other interactions in the church.

(continued)

Sr. High Youth Group

April Schedule

2nd – Church/Parlor

9th – Church/Parlor

16th – Church (Easter)

23rd – Church/Parlor

30th – Church/Parlor

Evening Showing of “Gen Silent”

The local LGBT Community and their families, as well as local residents are invited for a showing of “Gen Silent,” followed by coffee and conversation.

Thursday, April 6, 2017 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Pilgrim Congregational Church

15 Common Street, Southborough

“Gen Silent” is a poignant documentary focused on six elders living in the Boston area. Following the showing, there will be a community discussion about the film, and how BayPath can support LGBT elders in MetroWest.

From the Minister (cont.)

It should always be this way. Confidentiality means that we do not share personal information of the people with whom we do ministry without their permission. Are there circles where people need to know details of a person’s story as we do ministry together? Sure. But the fact that you even know would still stay confidential. The person’s story, their life, is a gift they share with you.

Do Julie and I talk about you as church members? Do we share confidential stories that you tell each of us? Rarely. We don’t have room in a community of over 800 people. Do we give each other confidential updates sometimes? Of course. If someone tells us about harming a child, we must report that. If someone tells us something they have done wrong, even illegal things, it is confidential.

If you are in a group, the information shared stays there. It doesn’t become conversation in other groups. If you are a leader and people give you details, can you share them with a minister or another leader? Yes, but that person should be confidential too.

The question to ask yourself as you talk about the people you care for, fellow church members and people in the community, is: Have I kept their trust?

This is not an exhaustive list of the places and issues that come with building trust and ministry, but a start of a conversation we will be continuing in our small groups. Confidentiality means that the personal details we know from conversations and experience together are truly safe. We will always make mistakes, but when we treat everything people tell us as soulful secrets, gifts of one Pilgrim to another, we build trust that helps build our faith together for a lifetime.

Jon



Happy Birthday



Suzanne Garcia	1	Danny Kolk	17
Sally Vincentsen	1	John Carter	17
Catherine Campbell	2	Daniel Xu	17
Donna Field	3	Christopher McKay	19
Kris Snow	3	Arianna Lescalleet	19
Heather (Landes) McLeod	5	Wendy Crothers	20
Joe Bartulis	6	Nathaniel Tomaino	20
Benjamin Klein	6	Steve Hart	21
John Garton	7	Chase McGuire	21
Stu Needels	8	Lauren (Herrick) Sharifi	22
Justin Hemm	8	Melanie Wagner	22
Nathan Cummings	9	Jesse Zanghi	22
Rose Gebauer	10	Joe Mercadante	23
Ryan Murphy	10	Chase Garcia	23
Sean Murphy	10	Ben Zschokke	23
Nasan Sharifi	10	Nancy Wentland	25
Shelby Wagner	11	Brannock Zanghi	25
Emma Hennessy	11	Boden Connelly	27
Rosie Harrington	13	Kelsey Guilford	27
Shannon Stilla	13	Rachael Guilford	27
Sarah Cheeseman	14	Abigail Campbell	27
Steve Larson	14	Justin Hoge	28
Maggie Mercadante	14	Russ Lang	29
Jessica (Hart) Heney	16	Kyle Zschokke	29



Happy Anniversary

Chris & Virginia Sweeter 2
 Jim & Cindy Moore 5
 Herb & Nancy Kolk 11
 Paul Murphy & Erin Wheatley 22
 Steve & Janet Larson 24
 Aaron & Amy Townsley 28
 Charlie & Joan Baumann 30

“Your Body is a Temple”

WOMEN’S RETREAT

CONVERSATION
 YOGA
 LABYRINTH WALK
 SPIRIT
 LAUGHTER
 SCRIPTURE
 MUSIC
 FRIENDSHIP

Arrive between 4:00pm and 6:00pm on **Friday, April 28th**
 through 4:00pm **Saturday, April 29th**

Edwards House Retreat Center
 1 Badger Road
 Framingham, MA

Led by Rev. Julie Cedrone, Pilgrim Church

Contact Jolene Chapski to RSVP:
jchapski@gmail.com

Deacons' Corner

Quick confession. I have read many parts of the Bible in bits and pieces. But, I have never made a habit of reading daily. I tried three times in my life. First when I was a kid, maybe 9 or 10. I started with Genesis, Chapter 1, verse 1. I read a chapter a day for 3 days. I read a chapter a day until my Dad found out. He wasn't angry, he just wanted me to know that we didn't read the Bible in our family. It wasn't what we believed.

My Faith has come a long way since then, but I didn't start routinely reading the Bible again until I was at Pilgrim. Debbie kept sending emails every week with scripture, and one week, I decided to read it. The scripture was fine, but I forgot how tough names were and the text was tough to read depending on the translation. However, I really enjoyed Marji Warfield's scripture review. Reading AND thinking about the Bible was new to me. I could apply lessons from thousands of years ago to my daily life? What a concept. Still, I struggled with reading scripture beyond once a week emails.

I eventually downloaded the app YouVersion to my phone. Now I carried the Bible with me everywhere. Surely, I was going to read IT all the time. Inspired, I started with a couple reading plans on the app, 1 or 2 weeks of selected scripture around a theme. The habit lasted about a month. The habit didn't stick.

A couple of months ago I was inspired again. We had conversations about routines and rituals at Pilgrim this fall. One example that resonated with me came from Stephen Herbert during an 8:45 Spiritual Conversation. He said the smell of coffee in the morning was his trigger to read and pray. I said, "Hey, I drink coffee. That can work for me." Since November, I have read a chapter a day every morning over coffee. I started with Isaiah (66 chapters!) because that is the name of my youngest son and easy to remember. After that I started reading Luke, because, Star Wars. As I write this, I am 23 chapters into Luke. When you read this in about a month, you will have to ask me what I am reading then.

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Deacons' Corner (cont.)

What have I learned looking back? Building my faith has not been linear. There have been starts and stops along the way. But in the long run, I progressed. These are the key things that I needed to find my way.

- Encouragement (We are a congregation of hundreds ready and willing to support each other)
- Prompts (Weekly emails, the smell of coffee – experiment and find whatever works)
- Convenience (The bible is on my phone in any version I want to download. The App will even read it to me. Eliminate excuses and keep it simple.)
- Plan (Make or find a reading plan. You will have a sense of accomplishment when you complete a plan, and you have something to measure for future success.)

Faithfully yours,
David Hile

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

Lenten Basket Program



The season of Lent is here and your Outreach Committee is asking for your generous donations of items to be placed in Easter bags to be given to the homeless families living at Pathways Shelter in Framingham.

The bags will be decorated and filled by the Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, April 9th and be delivered during Easter week. All donations can be left in the bin marked Outreach located by the side entrance. We need FULL_SIZED, NEW and UNOPENED items for mothers, fathers and children.

Suggestions are:

Men & Women: shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, toothbrush holders, hand/body lotion, antiperspirant, nylon wash balls, socks, hair elastics, men's undershirts.

Babies/Toddlers (under 2 years): sippy cups, baby wipes, baby lotion, toddler snacks, toddler toys, toddler books

Older Kids (ages 3-13): snacks (gold fish, pretzels, granola bars), sticker books, journals, books, toys, arts & crafts, activity books, socks, games, decks of cards, journals, coloring books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, Trolls movie merchandise

Additional items: small snacks such as chocolate, dried fruit, crackers and cookies.

Easter Lilies, Tulips and Hyacinths

Easter Sunday, April 16, is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. You are invited to purchase an Easter Lily, Tulip or Hyacinth, in honor, celebration, or remembrance of someone special. The flowers will be on display in the church on Easter Sunday. You may pick up your flowers after the 11:00 worship service that day; or you may designate that the flowers be delivered to one of the homebound members and friends of Pilgrim Church.

Flowers will continue for sale during coffee hour on April 2 & 9. Orders can also be sent to the church office. Last day to order is April 9. (All orders sent to the office must be received by April 9.) Price per pot is \$10.00.

Easter Lily Order Form

I/We would like to purchase ___Lilies, ___Tulips and/or ___Hyacinths.

Please list the names of those to be honored below.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Given by: _____ Tel # _____

Please choose one of the following options:

I will pick up the plant after the 11:00 service

Please deliver to a homebound member or Pilgrim Church.

Paid: \$ _____ (check) (cash)



**The United Parishes of
Southborough
Easter Sunrise Service**

Easter Morning
April 16, 2017
6:30 AM
Hopkinton State Park
Marina Area

You are invited to join with other members
of the Southborough Christian Community
in a Celebration of the Resurrection.

*In the event of inclement weather,
the service will be held at
The First Community Church
137 Southville Road.*



Holy Week Schedule

*Sunday, April 9
Palm Sunday*

*Thursday, April 13
Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m. - Supper
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service &
Children's Program*

*Sunday, April 16
Easter Sunday
6:30 a.m. - Ecumenical Sunrise Service
@ Hopkinton State Park
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services
@ Pilgrim Church*

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@gmail.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*

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	11:30 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 Thurs. 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

We celebrate the scrumptious brunch put on by the Fellowship Committee on March 12.

* * * * *

Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers for healing:

Alethia Dechellis

Bryan Mohn's father, Dick Mohn

Jeanne Roetter

The Dumont/McGuire family as they mourn the loss of Joan Dumont Clark.

Steve, Kay, Jen & Doug Hendrick as they mourn the loss of Helen Hendrick.

* * * * *

Dates to Remember

April 2

11:00 a.m. - Haiti Slideshow Presentation

11:30 a.m. - Confirmation Class

Sundays, April 2 & 23

11:30 a.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry

Mondays, April 3 & 17

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

Mondays, April 3, 10 & 24

9:30 a.m. - Healthy Living Group

Tuesday, April 4

5:00 p.m. - Our Father's Table

Tuesdays, April 4, 11, 18 & 25

9:30 a.m. - Yoga Class

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19 & 26

7:00 p.m. - Meditation Service

Sunday, April 9

2:00 p.m. - "Journey to the Cross through Art" at the Worcester Art Museum

6:00 p.m. - Friar Tuck Ministries Field Trip to Nashoba Winery in Bolton

Wednesday, April 19

3:30 p.m. - St. Pat's Worship Group

Friday, April 28 thru Saturday, April 29

Women's Retreat

Sunday, April 30

11:30 a.m. - Confirmation Class