

The Spire

September 2017

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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FROM THE MINISTER

The New Core of Religion

Is America a Christian country? Are we a pluralistic, multi-religious nation? Are we still a nation with separation of church and state?

Each question has historical and political implications that are interesting and valuable for an after-church education event. If you are interested, let me know and we can book it (during the school year there will be adult education every Sunday after church...the schedule will be released in September).

These are not the most important questions, however, in my opinion. I believe, for the next century, whether you are Christian, believe in another faith tradition, or claim no religious affiliation as more and more people do, values will become the common language of our faith life and the public square.

I believe for America to be a country where religion is valuable to all--those who participate and those who touch against its beliefs in community life--we need to be clear about our values.

A value is what is most important to you. What, if you had to put them into one word phrases, are the most important values in your life? For your family? For your Church? For the greater Pilgrim Community? For our nation? For our world?

(continued)



Happy Anniversary

John & Sally Fodor 1
 David Klein & Elizabeth Wetherbee 2
 Tom & Lois Abel 3
 Jamie & Colleen Clark 3
 Bill & Helene Harrington 6
 Scott & Tracy Navaroli 8
 Mark & Susan Conti 10
 Dave & Kristie Aker 12
 Richard & Freddie Gillespie 13
 Jerry & Storm McGuire 15
 Steve Ulfelder & Anne Hollows 17
 John & Janet Beck 20
 Brian & Sandy Coombs 20
 Ross & Sara Tomaino 20
 Brent & Ann Kern 21
 Dan & Sue Maurice 23
 Joe Mercadante & Emily van Nort 25
 Michael & Susan Mills 27
 Dick & Diane Wallace 28

From the Minister (cont.)

The reason for the widening litany of spheres is that if a value is important to us and in conflict with our brothers and sisters from another tradition or nation, we aren't very good at navigating the conversation. World leaders used to come to Armistices and build United Nations. Now, well, what are we doing to build a peaceful, loving global world for all people?

I believe our first act is to define what values actually define us. Julie will be teaching 8 classes on different values like love, mercy, and generosity this year.

In preparation, what are your core values? Can you talk about them? Are you ready to talk about them with people who disagree with you?

That is one of the reasons we need church. We need a new common language to use the words of Jesus and the history of our faith to be in closer relationship with God and everyone in our world. We need friends to help us get better at the difficult conversations. That is the work we are about to do this year. Can you name yours?

Jon



Lost & Found Clothing

As the warm summer days begin to fade and the chillier weather arrives, you may be looking for that jacket or coat that you thought was in your closet but now can't find. You may just find it at Pilgrim Church. Please take a look in the coat area outside the kitchen to see if perhaps you may have left it here. All items that are not claimed by October 1 will be placed in the shed at the back of the church for donation.

Sr. High Youth Group

September Schedule

17th – Church/Parlor

24th – Church/Parlor



Happy Birthday

Chris Sweeter	3	Pete Turner	17
Tom Abel	4	Sarah Coldwell	17
Joan Choudhary	4	John Gillis	19
Dru Lindgren	4	Nolan Lescalleet	19
Chase Whitney	4	Joan Anderson	20
Sue Maurice	5	Marshall Hudson	21
Paul Renfrew	5	Helene Harrington	21
Edward Scullion	5	Violet Lally	21
Herb Kolk	8	Cindy Kallandar	23
Dean Andron	9	Roger Rosenquist	24
Mimi Hodgkins	9	Andrew Warfield	24
Marion Black	10	Kelsey Dinjian	25
Karen Moriarty	10	Keane Southard	26
Rusty Short	10	Sabrina Choudhary	26
Matt Younis	11	Lee Andron	27
Kenny Kuchnir	13	John Younis	27
Dave Monroe	13	Elisabeth Thorpe	28
Ryan Lang	14	Carole Jolie	29
Dick Snyder	16	Wayne Long	29
Ty Mohn	16	Jessica Flanders	29
Kelly Becker	17	Carole Jolie	29
Jen Calef	17		

Healthy Living Seminars

Three Healthy Living Seminars have been scheduled for September 24, October 1 and October 8 after church. The first one will be hosted by Michele Landes and will be on Healing with Essential Oils. The second session will be hosted by Susan Stone who will be discussing Energy Medicine, Techniques for Balancing and Energizing. The topic for the third session has yet to be determined. These seminars will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please email Michele Landes musicmom.landes@gmail.com.



Southborough Food Pantry HELP!

It has been a busy summer for the Food Pantry trying to fill the needs of our clients. We need help filling the holes on our shelves. Take this list when you go shopping. Check out the coupons and specials in the grocery store, Walgreens, Rite-Aid and others.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Coffee | Cleaning Supplies |
| Cereal | Dish detergent |
| Cake/Brownie Mixes | Saran Wrap |
| Pineapple | Tin Foil |
| Cookies | Baggies |
| Crackers | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Individual Juices | Toothpaste |
| Large Juice Bottles | Toilet Paper |
| Near East Original Rice Pilaf | Paper Towels |
| Potato Mixes | Kleenex |
| Jello | Dish Detergent |
| Tuna | Pump Hand Soaps |
| Beef Stew | |
| Mayo | |

Dan & Sue Maurice will be walking in the Walk for Alzheimer's on Sunday, September 24. They will be walking in memory of Sue's father, Bill Short, longtime member of Pilgrim Church. If you'd like to donate, please see Sue in the Toddler Room or at Coffee Hour after church. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Deacons' Corner

The Gift of Understanding

Generosity can come in many forms, but I've noticed that giving the simple gift of understanding to someone can make the biggest impact. When I was young and learning about the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, understanding was presented as more of an intellectual virtue. It meant how well you comprehend the meaning of God's message. I know I'm just playing around with definitions, but I could never quite accept this gift as being anything more than showing empathy. That was the real power this gift held, and the real meaning of the word for me - the more active part of the definition. So, I changed my understanding of understanding, and I liked it much better.

Every day I see opportunities for me to shower others with this simple gift. Sometimes the opportunity is seized and sometimes it is squandered. Everyone wants to be heard and feel like they belong. Simple acts like a smile, a willingness to listen, or a gesture of friendship can be all it takes to make someone feel understood and valued. If I'm lost in the problems of my narrow world or scared of putting myself out there I can miss these opportunities. These missed opportunities only make me feel empty, and I do not comprehend the meaning of God's message. Saint Paul really captured the empathy side of understanding in his letters to the Ephesians when he said, "...be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you".

So as summer closes and we get ready for fall, I want to share the beginning of one of my favorite prayers with you and I hope it inspires you to think about the gift of understanding.

"Teach us O Lord, to understand that generosity is shown not only by sharing with others from what you have given us but also by every act of helpfulness toward those who are in need, and that every human being stands in need of friendship and kindness, understanding and encouragement."

Sara Tomaino

IT/AV Committee News

In addition to continuing to upgrade the church's AV capabilities, the IT/AV Committee has been busy with software upgrades. The church is now using church management software that allows Debbie, the Financial Secretary, and Stewardship to all use the same software. We announced last spring the availability of an online church directory and the ability for families to update their own information. We recently went live with a new web site that Logan Snow created for us. The church staff and officers are now using Office 365 and we are in process of moving to Microsoft SharePoint for committees to work together and share documents. Later this year, we will be working with Stewardship to implement a new online giving tool.

Have some time and experience with Office 365, SharePoint or software support? Please contact the IT committee at IT@pilgrimchurch.us if you would like to get involved.



Singers Wanted for St Patrick's Manor Ecumenical Service

For more than 10 years each month Jon and a group of singers provide the residents of St Patrick's Manor in Framingham with an ecumenical service experience. We are currently looking for some additional singers for our small choir. If you enjoy singing hymns in four parts and can invest just 2 hours a month providing a rewarding experience for the appreciative elderly residents, this activity is for you. The approximately 30 minute service is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the St Pat's chapel at 3:30 pm. Prior to the service there is a 40 minute rehearsal to review the music the majority of which are familiar hymns.

Please call either Marge Carpenter 508-485-2151 or Bill Harrington 508-485-8737 if you would like to be a part of this special ministry!



FAMILY FUN DAY

Hopkinton State Park

Meet and greet new friends from Pilgrim!!

Please join the "Events Committee" for a picnic and boating on Sunday, September 24th at 1:00pm.

We will meet at a designated picnic area.

Please bring a dish to share for the picnic and your own drinks.

Kayaks, paddleboards, canoes, sailboats and paddleboats available for rent after the picnic! Paddle out to the island and take a swim or explore the lake!

It is \$8 to get into the park and about \$20 to rent a boat and life jacket!

Please let Susan scs924@verizon.net
or Eric Wieland skibum1030@verizon.net
know if you are interested so we can get the best picnic spot for the group!

Sunday School 2017-2018

Pilgrim Church's Christian Education program enthusiastically announces our FISHING FOR FAITH program for 2017-2018. Through storytelling, music, crafts, film, drama, and games, we will explore the following stories: Jesus Feeds the 5000, Jonah and the Whale, Jesus Walks on Water, John the Baptist, The Parable of the Sower, Angels and Advent, The Tower of Babel, and The Last Supper.

We will kick off our Sunday School year on Sunday, September 17th, RALLY SUNDAY, with a fun morning of events to get kids excited about faith and learning.

Download the [Sunday School Registration Form](#) and email to Debbie (Herrick) Rowe drowe@pilgrimchurch.us.

HAITI MISSION TRIP 2018

Are you called to make a difference in Haiti? Join our team, February 3-10 as we travel to coastal Haiti and stay at the Be Like Brit Orphanage. There, we will build a home for a local Haitian family in the mornings and work with the orphans in the afternoon and evenings. This is a heartwarming and heartbreaking experience! Your faith will be challenged and deepened, and you will return with a new understanding, inspiration, and a team of new friends.

Cost is \$1950 which includes airfare.

Contact Pastor Julie at jcedrone@pilgrimchurch.us
or team member Scott Navaroli
at navaroli56@verizon.net

Contact Information

Staff

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

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

Officers

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jtblack25@gmail.com

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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*

September 15 (October)

October 20 (November)

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

Congratulations to Amanda & Tim Stone on the birth of their daughter, Irie Elaine Stone on May 20. Janet & Steve Larson are the proud grandparents.

Congratulations to Michael & Heather Cummings on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Avery who was born on June 6. Brian & Nancy Cobb are the proud grandparents.

Congratulations to Debbie Herrick & Rik Rowe who were married on July 8.

Congratulations to David Cedrone & Cindy McComiskey who were married on August 12.

Blessings to Dane & Danika McLaughlin who were baptized on August 13.

Concerns

Please keep the following people in your prayers for healing:

Alethia Dechellis

Sue Baust and her family who mourn the loss of Sue's sister, Janet who passed away on July 20.

The Merritt family as they mourn the loss of Bruce's father, Ted Merritt.

The family of Jean Roetter as they mourn her loss. Jean was a former Deacon at Pilgrim Church and passed away on July 19.

Verrill Edwardsen

Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 3

Last 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, September 4

5:00 p.m. – Our Father's Table

*Friday, September 8 thru Saturday,
September 10*

Camp Takodah Family Retreat

Sunday, September 10

10:00 a.m. Worship Services Begin

Monday, September 11

7:30 p.m. – Council Meeting

Sunday, September 17

Rally Sunday

Monday, September 18

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

Friday-Saturday, September 22 & 23

Men's Mission Trip

Sunday, September 24

11:30 a.m. – Healthy Living Seminar

1:00 p.m. – Church Picnic @ Hopkinton State Park

Friday-Saturday, September 29 & 30

Men's Mission Trip