

# The Spire

October 2017

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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Southborough, MA 01772

## These Things Take Practice

Sometimes we get lured into believing that our commitment to the faith should be a one-time thing. I've professed my faith, perhaps I've been baptized, perhaps I've said some particular prayer or set of prayers or been through some other initiation ritual like Confirmation: why then do I still struggle with this whole God-thing?

These things take practice.

I remember in college when a bunch of my friends started getting into yoga. They'd come back from time on their mats and talk about their "practice". Those of us who meditate often say the same thing; meditation is practice.

In truth, any form of religion takes practice; that's why we call it "religious practice". A single prayer will not radically reorient your heart, nor refresh the way you see the world. Likewise, one session of yoga doesn't magically turn us into yogis, nor does one light jog turn us into world class marathoners.

In order to see the world with new and fresh eyes, to see the Kingdom of Heaven at work, to understand that God lives inside each and every one of us—and that includes you!—you've got to practice.

Over the coming weeks, I will write more about what it means to practice Christianity and give some specific exercises that you can try so that you can see what works for you. In each case, I suggest you start small. The best spiritual practice is the one that you'll actually do each day without exception.

See additional blog posts by Stephen Hebert on our web site that follow up to this one at <http://pilgrimchurch.us/pilgrim-blog/>



# Happy Anniversary

Tony & Kathy Schoener 1  
 Jim & Joan Haugen 2  
 Justin & Amanda Hemm 2  
 Steve & Cindy Getchell 7  
 Jason & Denise Honey 7  
 Eric & Susan Wieland 8  
 Russ & Bonnie Lang 9  
 David & Melissa Esteves 14  
 Peter & Shannon Stilla 20  
 Michael Garcia & Nicole Ferrari 27

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION

An inquiry session for potential new members of Pilgrim Church has been scheduled for **Sunday, October 29** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor following worship and Coffee Hour. 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 (508-485-4847 or [drowe@pilgrimchurch.us](mailto:drowe@pilgrimchurch.us)) know before **October 29** and she will give you the information that will be distributed at the meeting. Childcare will be available. Reception of new members will take place **Sunday, November 12**.

### Time

#### Commitment:

A commitment to 6-7 rehearsal dates and dress rehearsal is all that is required.

### Rehearsal Time

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#### Location:

7:00 – 8:10 PM

Pilgrim Church  
 15 Common Street  
 Southborough

### Rehearsal Dates:

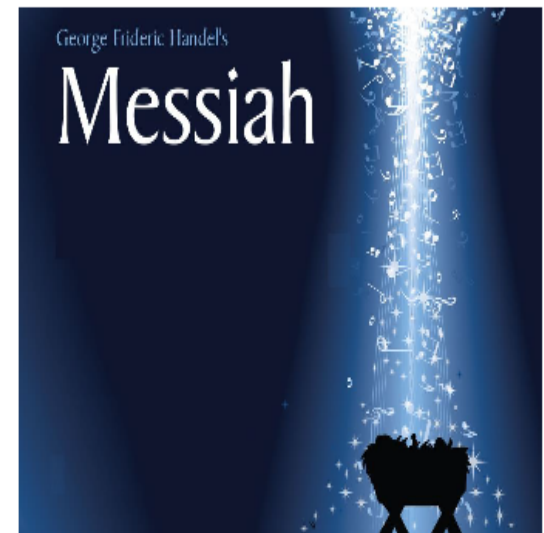
Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

### Dress Rehearsal:

Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>  
 3:00-4:30 pm

**Rehearsals start soon!!**  
*Please join us and lend your  
 voices in ...*

The Messiah Community Chorus  
 performance of selections from



**Performance Date:**  
**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 3:30 P.M.**

**Pilgrim Congregational Church**

For more information or to let us know  
 that you can join us, please email:  
[singhandel@gmail.com](mailto:singhandel@gmail.com)



# Happy Birthday

Debbie Herrick	1	Sean Cullen	19
Kirk Carter	1	Isaac Tomaino	19
Peter Stilla	2	Colleen Clark	20
Lorraine Dinjian	3	Stephen Hebert	20
Casey Kent	4	Nici Hornblower	21
Lauren Cullen	5	Rebecca Lally	21
Parrish Stilla	7	Joe Markey	23
Leah Needels	9	Eric Qua	23
Sally Watters	9	Kristie Aker	24
Betty Randel	9	Sarah Edwardsen	24
Jason El-Massih	10	Rik Rowe	24
Edith Garton	10	Avery Sargent	24
Marnie Hoolahan	10	Kim Rizzitano	25
Don Jolie	11	Margaret Hart	26
Calliope Arvantely	12	Lynne Guilford	27
Daniel Esteves	12	Patrick Gardner	27
Colby Becker	13	Anne Scharpf	27
Gracie Becker	13	Anne Bartulis	29
Sarah Torilli	14	Rob Denman	29
Riley Dinjian	15	John Krapf	30
Marge Coldwell	16	Connie Anick	30
Kyla Wester	17	Taylor Landes	30
Marge Carpenter	19	Eric Wieland	30
Jerry McGuire	19		

## Sr. High Youth Group

### October Schedule

1st – Church/Parlor

8th – Church/Parlor

11:15 a.m. – Trip to Six Flags

15<sup>th</sup> – Church/Parlor

22<sup>nd</sup> - Church/Parlor

29<sup>th</sup> - Church/Parlor

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Youth Group Parents/Teens, Past and Present,

We cordially invite you to an evening of Pizza and Reflection at Pilgrim Church at 5:00pm on Sunday, November 5. After a pizza dinner (with salad and chocolate chip cookies), we will have an evening reflection like we do on the mission trip. For years this is what your kids have been doing in D.C., Chicago and New York, and we wanted to share it with you. If you had kids on the trip to D.C. this year, come see pictures and hear stories from other teens (or yours for the first time). If you are a member of PGYG now, come join us. If you had kids go on the trip in the past, come share your stories of what the trip did for your teens and meet this year's group. We look forward to seeing you all!

PCYG teens will meet at 4:00pm in the kitchen to bake cookies and set up.

Sarah & Jon

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## Healthy Living Seminars

Healthy Living Seminars continue on October 1 and October 8 after church. On October 1 the session will be hosted by Susan Stone who will be discussing *Energy Medicine, Techniques for Balancing and Energizing*. The topic for the October 8 session will be hosted by Michele Landes. This session will be on *Essential Oils and Awakening Your Meridians*. 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](mailto:musicmom.landes@gmail.com).

# Deacons' Corner

## *After the Flood*

An earthquake in Mexico. Hurricanes decimating Florida, Texas, the Virgin Islands and most recently Puerto Rico. Disasters driving families from their homes, leaving lives overturned and inside out in the rubble.

It seems like an inappropriate time to gripe about small potatoes like a flooded basement.

But that's what we came home to last week. After a 12-hour day, I walked in the door, barely got my tie off, wanting nothing more than to get something frozen and easy into the oven, went to the basement to get a bottle of wine, and discovered...water. At some point during the day, the side tank to our water boiler had sprung a leak and started spraying a high-pressure jet against our back wall, pouring onto the floor while simultaneously creating a sprinkler system arcing water up and over everything on one side of the basement. Imagine one of your kids standing in the corner with the sink sprayer, just cutting loose for about four hours. It was that.

With the help of two friends and a 12-gallon wet-vac, we managed to clean up the water (which is still drying with the help of about 20 industrial fans), and figure out what was salvageable and what was a total loss. In the end, we sent a full 8ft long trailer to the dump, full of stuff we couldn't save.

But here's the thing. I'm not actually griping because our house is still standing. No one's hurt. No one's sick. No one got killed. Stuff is just stuff. And if I went through that entire trailer, piece by piece, the only thing that stings a little is some artwork from Sarah's early years.

And that trailer, by the way? It showed up at our house that day after the flood, driven by Sarah's best friend's dad, and loaded with plastic shipping pallets that he tracked down on Craigslist, picked up in Worcester, and gave to us so we could make sure that none of our "stuff" is still on the floor in the event that we have another flood. Taking stock of everything we had to throw away, there was nothing on that trailer that's worth more than knowing we've got friends like that who have our backs when things turn ugly.

In that spirit, in this time of unprecedented disasters around the world, let's give some careful thought to how we can have others' backs. Remember that in most of the areas impacted, they don't need "stuff" or volunteers who will consume the resources the people who live there so desperately need for themselves. What they do need are funds, contributed to the people and groups who know how to put them to use most effectively.

If you're looking for ways to help, email Jon at [jwortmann@pilgrimchurch.us](mailto:jwortmann@pilgrimchurch.us) and he'll connect you with our Outreach team who can advise you on how best to make a difference.

Stephen Coldwell

## Why Sunday School is for Grown-Ups

I know all the reasons why you don't want to teach Sunday School. I've seen the horror strike your face when you see an enthusiastic Christian Ed member with a clipboard marching toward you on Rally Sunday. I do understand the yearning to collapse into the simplicity of our elegant sanctuary and allow the music and words to wash over your soul, to just BE for a heavenly pocket of time without anyone yanking on your sleeve or whining about the injustices that emerge from sibling rivalry. I have three kids and they all play sports; coaches alert us about changes in practice schedules hours before, driving shenanigans and carpools get changed over and over via text, somebody always loses a water bottle and is thirsty. My kitchen can resemble a war zone when I leave the house on Sunday morning, a pile of dirty dishes on the counter and Legos scattered on the floor. I get it - why would you leave one chaotic mess to pursue your faith with the chaotic mess of someone else's children, especially when the very grown-up peace of the sanctuary is just steps away, when you can hear the grown-up music and hymns in the distance while you mind their children?! Those of you who are grandparents and/or empty nesters tell me that you are "done" with children, and although I am not there in life experience, I can almost imagine why you may feel that way. Some of you are concerned about your lack of biblical training. Others tell me that you are inexperienced with children. Many of you are craving spiritual inspiration and are honest about your need to receive the Good News - that's fantastic.

Here's the deal - I LOVE your children, our children. Our children amaze me. I delight in their questions, the uncensored curiosities, the wiggly bodies that refuse to be tamed. I never tire of their wonder: the light bulb face that comprehends something for the first time or the awe of observing a crawling spider. I don't mind that they ask for thirds of communion and almost always dribble the blood of Christ when we serve in the classrooms. I believe completely and entirely that what happens in the sanctuary on a Sunday

morning is holy, and that holiness is happening in every nook and cranny of our historic New England church, from the cries in the nursery to the questions of the kindergarteners to the sweaty pile of teens crammed in the parlor. Anywhere where we are gathered to work on our faith is a sacred place and God is there.

Pilgrim Church aspires to teach every child that they are loved, lovable, and worthy of God. I believe that one of the most critical ways we can LIVE our Christian faith is to nurture our children's interior lives, be their community, learn from them, and invest our care into the future.

Please, spend one Sunday morning with the children - less than an hour, we provide a lesson plan and all the supplies - and love them. Listen (in some classes, all you do is introduce yourself and the gabbing doesn't stop!). Know that when you volunteer you are indeed making a difference for the children; but even more, if you are open to it, you are making a difference for YOU! You are also a student of faith and there is so much to learn from these young, unfiltered people. Allow the scriptures to speak to you through them, and hear them anew. God speaks through these timeless stories and isn't it amazing that you can be a guide in that conversation? Let go! Laugh a little. Forget about the mess (aside from the incident when a toy was accidentally hurled through a glass window, there hasn't been anything that can't be fixed or cleaned up).

There's more Good News - the kids don't care if you are biblically trained or if you read the scripture before Saturday night. The kids don't care if your house is a mess. They don't care if you fumble or forget something or say the "wrong" thing.

They DO care that you care. We're building the body of Christ together when we deepen our relationships across the generations; if we're serious about being unified as one, than we must love and live that way.

*Blog post by Rev. Julie Cedrone published on our web site on September 22, 2017. See more blog posts at <http://pilgrimchurch.us/pilgrim-blog/>.*



## Contact Information

### Staff

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Director of Sr. High Youth Programs –  
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### Officers

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

Treasurer – Sally Vincentsen (508) 786-9566  
[svincentsen@gmail.com](mailto:svincentsen@gmail.com)

Asst. Treasurer – Randy Dinjian (617) 620-5248  
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[karenkuchnir@yahoo.com](mailto:karenkuchnir@yahoo.com)

### Faith Community Nurse

Sharon Balcom – [pilgrimfcn@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimfcn@gmail.com)

# Upcoming Spires

*Deadline For  
Submission of Articles*

*October 20 (November)*

*November 10 (December)*

## Standing Church Meetings

Church Council	7:30 p.m. – 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	<b>As Scheduled</b>
Christian Education	11:30 a.m. – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month
Diaconate	11:30 a.m. – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month
Fellowship	<b>As Scheduled</b>
IT/AV	8:30 p.m. – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs. of month
Personnel	<b>As Scheduled</b>
Parish Relations	11:30 a.m. – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month
Financial Resources	7:00 p.m. – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month
Music	11:30 a.m. – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month
Outreach	11:30 a.m. – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of month
Stewardship	<b>As Scheduled</b>

## Celebrations & Concerns

### Celebrations

A successful Rally Sunday  
and a great start to the new church year!

### Concerns

Please keep the following people in your  
prayers for healing:

Pam Chilton

Alethia Dechellis

Verrill Edwardsen

Kate Monroe's aunt

The Zchokke family as they mourn the loss of  
Peter's father.

Families with mental health issues.

## Sunday School Registration Forms

For parents with children from age newborn through Sr. High, please be sure to fill out a Sunday School Registration Form <http://pilgrimchurch.us/come-see-us/sunday-school/> at our web site. All information is important but we want to be sure to record any allergies that our children have so we can plan accordingly. Even if you have filled one out before, please do so again. Thank you.

## Dates to Remember

*Sunday, October 1*

Children & Communion

11:30 a.m. – Healthy Living Seminar

*Sundays, October 1 & 15*

11:30 a.m. – Confirmation Class

11:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Mondays, October 2 & 16*

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

*Mondays, October 2, 16, 23 & 30*

9:30 a.m. – Healthy Living Small Group

*Tuesday, October 3*

5:00 p.m. – Our Father's Table

*Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18 & 25*

7:00 p.m. – Meditation Service

*Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31*

9:30 a.m. – Yoga Class

*Monday, October 9*

7:30 p.m. – Council Meeting

*Saturday, October 14*

7:30 p.m. – Steeple Coffeehouse

*Saturday, October 28*

Nashoba Valley Winery Event

*Sunday, October 29*

11:30 a.m. – New Member Meeting