

From the Pastor



In May of 2014 there was an amazing time lapse video taken of an Amish Barn Raising. With almost 2 million views, you could say that the video has done pretty well! If you go to **YouTube** and type in **Ohio Amish Barn Raising May 13, 2014** you'll see this process in all its glory. For three minutes and thirty seconds, you see dozens of Amish men working diligently and precisely on building a new barn for a neighbor. In the Amish community, this happens quite often especially since Old Order Amish are adamant about restricting the use of technology, including heavy machinery

often needed by the rest of us to build a structure as large as a barn! This process has worked for the Amish for generations and one gets the sense that the times are not a changing as far as they are concerned! What an amazing commentary on our modern world though that a neighbor who is an "Englishman" (as the Amish would say) was able to film this remarkable process for the rest of us to watch and enjoy.

What's fascinating about the Barn Raising tradition is that people gather to help a neighbor build and there's the expectation that if all these folks gathered to help build your barn, you will be sure to show up and help at the next Barn Raising for another person in need. It's a community building endeavor as much as it's an engineering feat or an example of hard work or anything else. Sometimes there are Barn Raisings when there's been a fire or a tornado or other natural disaster destroyed a barn. And it's in those moments that the community gathering to quite literally help rebuild a family's livelihood takes on another level of poignancy.

Which brings me to our Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC version of an Amish Barn Raising--our annual **Pumpkin Patch!** This year we won't be building a crazy structure of pumpkins on the front lawn or anything like that, don't worry. But we will need the community to gather together to help one another and our church do something remarkable. The Pumpkin Patch isn't exactly easy work--from unloading the pumpkins on **Saturday October 11** to selling the pumpkins during the week and weekends to rolling the pumpkins to be sure they are still in good shape to telling your friends and neighbors to get some pumpkins from us, it takes a community coming together to make this work.

We had a Baptism this past Sunday and I pointed out that it takes a congregation to baptize a baby in the Christian faith. This is something that I truly believe and it's easy to see when we have a baptism at our church. Even our Holy Water comes from all of us! It also takes a congregation to offer a worship service, to do mission and justice work, to teach our children, youth, and adults, to learn, to grow, to care, to serve--I could go on and on! This Fall provides a wonderful opportunity for us to once again come together as a congregation, as a community of Christians, to do something remarkable. Hope to see you there!

See you in church~

Lauren



JOYS AND CONCERNS

- We pray for Calem McDavitt baptized last Sunday
- Johan, a patient from Honduras, recovering from surgery
- Patrick Gill and his family in Winchester
- Prayers asked for Dr. Sacra recovering from Ebola.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE

We will be having a Blessing of the Animals service on **Saturday, October 4 at 11 am.** Join us for this brief service on the church front lawn as we welcome and bless companion animals that bring so much joy into our lives.

For safety, please bring dogs on a leash, cats in a carrier or on a leash, and keep other animals appropriately within your control. We look forward to seeing you and your pets!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING OF THE UCC--OCTOBER 5

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. The 2014 theme

for NIN is "Imagining Another World Where Literacy is No Longer a Concern" and connects to the "Reading Changes Lives" justice advocacy initiative of the UCC.

We will receive the NIN offering on October 5, 2014 as part of our World Communion Sunday observance.



ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING FOR THE FALL 2014

-Weekly Bible Study (September 2014-June 2015)—Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

- **Daniel and Genesis**

-Six Week Kerygma Class on the Beatitudes
Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life

John C. Purdy

- The Poor in Spirit—October 1 at 11 AM
- The Mourners and the Meek—October 8 at 11 AM
- The Merciful—October 15 at 11 AM
- The Pure in Heart—October 22 at 11 AM
- The Peacemakers—October 29 at 11 AM
- The Prophets of Righteousness—November 5 at 11 AM

-Book Study—Wednesday December 10 at 7 PM

- *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*
Martin B. Copenhaver

-Book Study—Thursday February 5 at 7 PM

- *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*
Anne Lamott

-Book Study—Thursday May 7 at 11 AM

- *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*
Bart D. Ehrman



Rev. Lauren has been accepted into a leadership program in the United Church of Christ! The Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) is a program with the United Church of Christ Pension Boards and is a ten year commitment and opportunity for Lauren to learn, grow, and bring her new knowledge back to Pilgrim! She is part of a cohort of fifteen colleagues (the NGLI Class of 2025) who are ordained UCC ministers in their 20s and 30s serving in churches throughout the United States. Lauren is the only minister from Massachusetts in her class. The program is intended to provide advanced training for select ministers to help hone gifts and skills in order to become transformational leaders and will include training in: Family Systems Theory, Adaptive Leadership, Personal Leadership Styles, Communication Systems, Team Building, and Natural Church Development.

The first four years of the program will be more direct programming and the remaining six years will be working on an independent project. Thus far, there are 75 UCC ministers in their 20s and 30s throughout the nation who are part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative--the Class of 2021-the Class of 2025. Lauren participated in Orientation at the Church House in Cleveland in August and will be spending a week with her NGLI Class learning Family Systems Theory in January. Congratulations!

FROM LISA HULBERT:

Off to a great Start!

The Christian Education program and youth programs here at Pilgrim Congregational Church are off to a great start. The Sunday School rooms are filled with children flaunting big smiles and great questions. Our teachers are doing an amazing job using the Spark curriculum to encourage our children to ask questions and find the answers in Jesus' teachings. If you think your calling may be in the classroom please see me to fill out an interest card, and we will find the right place for you.

In addition to the beginning of Sunday school our newly structured youth groups have also begun. Our Pre-confirmation group is made up of students in 7th through 9th grade. These students are looking forward to a year of faith exploration through classroom teachings, mission work and fellowship events. Our post confirmation group which is currently made up of 11th grade students will be working alongside Rev. Lauren and me to develop a program that involves discussion, mission and fellowship. It is important for these students to keep a great connection as they battle the hallways of high school and prepare for the college search. Such a transitional time often results in a pause in the faith journey. We are looking forward to strengthening this group and helping to build upon the foundation they have from years of Sunday school and confirmation class.

Aside from Sunday morning programming we have exciting events planned for the year. The first upcoming event is the community wide **Spooktacular**. On **October 24th** Pilgrim Congregational Church will be hosting a Halloween themed evening of crafts, snacks and games for children of all ages. You are welcome to wear your costumes and bring your friends any time between 5:30 and 7:30PM. It will be a great family event on a Friday evening.

If you have any questions in regards to any Christian education programs please contact me via email @ education@pilgrimcongregational.org or through the church office 781-862-0357.

Lisa Hulbert
Director of Christian Ed and Youth Ministries





ASSISTANT TREASURER NEEDED!

We are looking for an assistant treasurer to work with the treasurer on payroll and to provide a second set of eyes to review the financial accounts. Prior experience in the financial world would be nice, but not necessary. Sense of humor a real plus. If interested, please contact the treasurer, David McClave (dramcl@hotmail.com) or the moderator, Suzanne Abair (suzanneabair@verizon.net). Thank you.



One week ago today, seven year old **Johan** arrived in Boston for follow-up surgery at Shriners Hospital. Johan was born with a lymphatic malformation affecting his chest and left arm. Treatment for his condition does not exist within country so that enabled him to travel to the U.S. for medical care.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS



Please consider donating pencils, pens, markers, crayons, erasers, and scissors for the children of Flores, Honduras. **We are**

also collecting black school shoes. There are many children who cannot attend school because families can't afford these items.



We are collecting boys clothing (size 10-12, and 4) for two patients from Honduras who will be living with us. Please

drop off donations in the coat room. Thank you for your continued support.

Tom and Emily Collins

His first clinic appointment was on Wednesday and he was admitted to the hospital early Friday morning. A world renowned surgeon spent six and half hours with him in the OR, and was extremely satisfied with the results. He accomplished so much during the operation, Johan won't need another one scheduled next month. Johan was discharged the following day and is at home recovering nicely.

We're thankful to the Equipping the Saints Committee for their financial support, and the entire congregation for your prayers. Looking forward to Johan meeting you all this Sunday.

Tom and Emily

To access the calendar for Pilgrim Church, please click [here](#). Thank you!





PUMPKIN UNLOADING!

We hope you are planning on joining us to help out unloading the truck of pumpkins we will have arriving on **Saturday, October 11th (time tbd)**. Many hands make light work!

Happy Birthday!



*Altar
Flowers*



A **HUGE** thank you to everyone who has signed up for altar flowers! We are all set through the end of the year, which is wonderful. Please let me know if you have a date in 2015 that you are interested in. thank you again for your efforts, they are greatly appreciated!

Ruth Litchfield ruthhickox@gmail.com

**DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS**

Please note that the deadline for the November issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be October 24. Thank you!



SPOOKTACULAR!!!!

Save the date for our community-wide, Halloween-themed evening on **October 24th 5:30 – 7:30**. There will be crafts, snacks, and games. Wear costumes and bring your friends! See you then.



SAVE THE DATE!
Concord CROP Walk
Sunday, October 19, 2014
First Parish in Concord



Walker and Banner Contest registration begins at 1:30 p.m.

Concord-Carlisle High School Pep Band plays from 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Walk steps off at 2:15 p.m.

After the Walk:

Refreshments in the Parish Hall

Yankee Stompers Dixieland Jazz Band

Art Contest

For additional information, visit Church World Service/CROP at: www.cwsglobal.org or our local Walk at www.concordcrop.org.

Updated Coffee Hour Schedule 2014 – 2015

2014 – 2015		Hosts	Hosts
Sept. 7	Communion	Carabbio	
Sept. 14	Church BBQ	None	
Sept. 21		Mackie	
Sept. 28		Bennett	Bond
October 5	Communion/Family Sunday	Brieby	Abair/Macdonald
October 12	Special Music Sunday	Youth	
October 19		Chiu	Cherry-Brown
October 26		Church School	
November 2	Communion/All Saints Day	Burger	Todd/Carothers
November 9		Chen/Edmiston	Kurth
November 16		Chytil	Clark/Moffitt
November 23		Johnston/Fagerstrom	Council
November 30		Clarke	Dayton
December 7	Communion/Advent I	Gardiner	German
December 14		Fellowship	
December 21		F. Johnston	Ferrell-Jones
December 28	Hymn Sing	The Munkresses	
January 4	Communion	Greene	Vega
January 11		Hopkins	Huston
January 18		Mission	
January 25		Kimball	Collins
February 1	Communion	Labbe/Clark	Lawler
February 8		Birthday Sunday	Lisa H
February 15		LoBuglio/Royer	
February 22		Mason	McClave/Shore
March 1	Communion	Carabbio	Mitchell
March 8		Moir	Morrison
March 15		Munkres	Murphy
March 22		Nuss	O'Brien
March 29		Porter	Ramacciotti-Mahiou
April 5	Communion	Reaske	Rogers
April 12		Roy	Council
April 19		Saradjian	Carabbio
April 26		Velis	Schwartz