



Pilgrim's Progress April 4, 2017 – Vol. 58 No. 4

When I was in high school, the musical RENT was all the rage. "Seasons of Love" was one of the most moving songs in the musical, asking the question: "how do you measure a year?"

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes

How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife

In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes, how do you measure a year in the life?

How about love?

As I'm writing this last Pastor's Report, I have 27 days left at Pilgrim Church. In the midst of the packing, arrangements being made, and the upcoming move, I've been contemplating how I can adequately measure my ministry here among you. I keep a Pastoral Records Book, so I could measure my ministry by noting the following: 14 Baptisms, 18 Confirmands received as full members of the Church, 5 Weddings, 19 Memorial Services/Funerals and Committals, 226 sermons (230 by April 30th!) performed while serving as your pastor. These acts of ministry could help me measure my time in Lexington. But I think I'll stick with the sentiment expressed in RENT by measuring my ministry in love if you will! After all, how can numbers ever adequately capture what those moments in someone's life meant for me blessing people on behalf of the Church? Or for the couple married or someone honoring the life of a loved one or witnessing a baptism or confirmation or being inspired by a sermon? In the end, I'm incredibly grateful to all of you who supported me, encouraged me, and helped me grow as I began my ministry among you at 25 right out of Seminary. I am excited about the future and feel well-prepared to serve the next congregation on my own journey--thanks in large part to the experiences at Pilgrim. Thank you.

Saying goodbye isn't easy, though I know that God is with you and that God is with me in these times of transition. That's where the comfort lies. The United Church of Christ has rules concerning pastoral boundaries of the departing pastor that I will be observing for the good of all. Beginning on May 1 for instance, I will no longer be connected with any Pilgrims on Facebook and will be observing the following to the best of my ability:

*It is the expectation that "[u]pon departure, [a] pastor will not return to serve the congregation nor serve members of the congregation in a pastoral capacity. For a minimum of one year up to three years, a minister will observe a no-contact boundary with congregants and will teach congregants to observe the same. This enables the past minister to fulfill the ministerial code of ethics, in support of the congregation's relationship-building with a new minister."*¹

Looking forward to celebrating one last Holy Week with all of you before I leave. Hope to see you in church!

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

¹ From A Brief Dictionary of Pastoral Positions, developed by the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team with judicatory staff, 12/2014.

INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT FAITH CLIMATE ACTION WEEK SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY APRIL 23

Join us on Sunday April 23 as we participate in Interfaith Power and Light's Faith Climate Action Week. This is an annual campaign for climate healing and action in its eighth year. (And this will be the fourth time Pilgrim Church has participated in this important campaign.)

Faith Climate Action Week has reached over 2 million people with more than 5,000 climate and earth stewardship sermons and talks nationwide across many faith traditions. As people of faith, it's important to make our voices heard on climate change. We as Christians do believe that we have a moral obligation to protect future generations. Rev. Lauren will be preaching on climate change and our worship service will be environmentally-themed, including hymns and prayers that celebrate God's good creation.

During coffee hour, anyone who chooses will have the opportunity to fill out postcards to be sent to our representatives encouraging them to protect our environment. Hope to see you on in worship on April 23rd!



Trift Glacier in the Swiss Alps in 2011



Trift Glacier in 2015

CLIMATE BLESSING

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities. . .

so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

Amen.

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICE – FINAL SERVICE TONIGHT at 7 pm!

Vespers is the sunset evening prayer service and is celebrated by Christians throughout the world. Sometimes called “keeping the daily offices” or “observing the divine hours,” fixed-hour prayer (alongside honoring the Sabbath and celebrating Communion) is among the oldest and most authentic forms of Christian spiritual practice we have in our tradition. Come to pray, hear beautiful organ pieces, and receive Communion in our candlelit sanctuary. All are welcome, and that means you. Tonight marks the final Lenten Vespers Service. The service begins at 7 pm. We hope to see you there.



UPCOMING LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday April 9th Palm Sunday—10:30 AM. Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem with folks waving palms and crying, "*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (John 12:13) This intergenerational service begins as we process into the sanctuary waving our palms to begin Palm Sunday.

Thursday April 13th Maundy Thursday—7:30 PM. Maundy Thursday marks the night Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment, "*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*" (John 13:34) The Last Supper took place on Maundy Thursday and ends with the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Communion will be served.)

Friday April 14th Good Friday Stations of the Cross —12:00 PM. Jesus' journey to the cross, from the time of his arrest and trial to his crucifixion, are the events that help us observe Good Friday. Good Friday is also the day that the Church intercedes for the world, knowing that sin and death never have the final say in God's story. "*Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.*" (Luke 23:43)

LEXINGTON INTERFAITH GARDEN NEWS

There is a balm in Gilead, and there is a garden in Lexington, that many folks find is a balm to the spirit. It is in Lexington center behind a farmhouse opposite the Battle Green. There is a barn, and near the barn is the garden which was tended by Carla Fortmann for 30 years to provide food for her family. Now the garden is tended by an interfaith group of people; this is the eighth year of the Interfaith Garden, sponsored by the Interfaith Clergy Association of Lexington.

Each congregation has a liaison who signs up people who want to work at the garden on a Tuesday afternoon (4:30 pm to 6:00 pm) or a Saturday morning from 9 am to 10:30 am. As the plants grow and produce vegetables, the start time on Saturday is earlier so that the veggies can be harvested and wheeled over to the Lexington Food Pantry at Church of our Redeemer, where they are available for people in need.

The work at the garden was delayed this year by the big storm in mid-March, but will start soon. We already have 5 dates assigned to Pilgrim between now and July. So, if you are interested in working at the Garden, contact Pilgrim's liaison Barbara Munkres, at barbjim.munkres@gmail.com (note the change of address from last year). You can learn more about the Garden at its website: www.interfaithgarden.org.



CHURCH-WIDE BIBLE READING PROJECT

Each week, I have had copies of the Children's StoryBook Bible available for you to take home and borrow with a sheet that includes discussion questions and activities to consider during the week as time allows for you and yours. April will be our final month of this Church-wide Bible Reading Project. As we think about the Easter story and learn more about the stories that are a part of Holy Week, too, we will have so much to think about. We do not often get to think about the events of Holy Week through a child's eyes! Of course, many of us have not gotten to the basics of these important faith stories and this is an opportunity to do so. If you have any questions, please e-mail devin.shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org!

This week, we will read all about the story of Palm Sunday when Jesus enters Jerusalem. We learn that Jesus rode on a donkey into town and many people began waving palms, lining the streets to welcome him and his disciples. We will think about what it would have been like to be different characters in the story. The story we will be reading appears in several places in Christian Testament: Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-14, Luke 19:28-40, and John 12:12-15. In the Spark StoryBible, the story can be found on pages 454-459.

Wondering Questions for All

Why do you think Jesus rode into Jerusalem? Why do you think this story was important? (Extra Challenge: There is a lot to research on the web; a good place to start would be resources like www.textweek.com.)

How do you think the disciples felt? What about the person in the neighboring town who was asked by the disciples for Jesus to borrow a donkey? Do you think they knew this person? Why? How do you think the people experiencing the parade felt? How would you feel experiencing this parade? If you saw Jesus, what would you do?

This Week's Challenge

During coffee hour or throughout the week, reach out to another church member or family and talk about any parade experiences you might have. Share a story of a parade and talk about why it is important. Why do we have parades? What sort of parades do we have? Are they just meant to be fun?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We are in need of three volunteers for Children's Church starting Sunday, April 2nd. Please, let Devin know if you are willing to join Children's Church for the months of April, May, and June (until the 25th). Each week, you will receive a session plan by Thursday evening and Devin will be available to work through any questions you might have about it. You will never be responsible for supplies, everything will be provided for you. If you are interested in being a blessing for our youngest pilgrim's education, let Devin know by e-mailing him at devin.shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org.



PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Steve Van Evera/Rogers Family – we pray for safe travels as loved ones go home following Beth's service.
- Lisa Boehm asked for prayers for her high school classmate Dave who recently passed away
- Mona asked for prayers of healing for Alope who has high levels of lead in the blood.

LITURGISTS, GREETERS, AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

Thank you so much to those who participate in our service every week. As we continue through our church year, we continue to need to fill open dates. Please use [this link](#) to sign up to be a liturgist, greeter, or to host coffee hour.



Without all of you, our friendly welcome at the door, beautiful scripture readings during Worship and a delicious cup of coffee afterwards would never happen. Thank you for all you do to keep Pilgrim Church the special place that it is.



PILGRIM CHURCH 2017 BOOK SALE

For many, many years a couple from this church has been going to the village of Flores, Honduras about 3 times a year. Their mission has been to improve the health and the lives of the people of Flores. First they funded this with their own money. Soon this church found ways to help them. Later, they started a yearly Book Sale to raise money. I knew that I probably would not be traveling to Flores, Honduras. But I could help them by running the Book Sale! The proceeds will be donated to the charitable organization that this couple set up. That 501c charitable organization is called Esperanza - Hope For The Children (Esperanza means Hope). The website is <https://esperanzahftc.com>.

This year the book sale will be held on only ONE Saturday and ONE Sunday after church. Those dates are **Saturday, May 6 from 9am to 4pm, and after church on Sunday, May 7**. Also, there may be a poetry reading.

Now what I am asking you to do is find books and DVDs that are in good condition which you can donate to Pilgrim. Please note that dvds are very welcome, but we cannot use textbooks. Please put them in a bag labeled Book Sale and leave them in the coatroom. Please continue to read e-notes as I will have information asking for specific help later on. Thank you for anything you can do.

Sandy Gardiner

[Click here](#) to access Pilgrim Church's Calendar.



SAVE THE DATE!
LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE!

I propose that we go as a group to see **The Graduate** at the Arlington Friends of the Drama on afternoon of **Sunday, May 21 at 4 pm.** We would meet in Lexington and then carpool because parking can be difficult.

You would deliver a check for \$22 per seat to me by Monday, April 24th. I will purchase a block of seats. The cost is \$20 plus a handling fee for the group. (The seats are non-refundable.)

Questions? Email Sandy Gardiner at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.

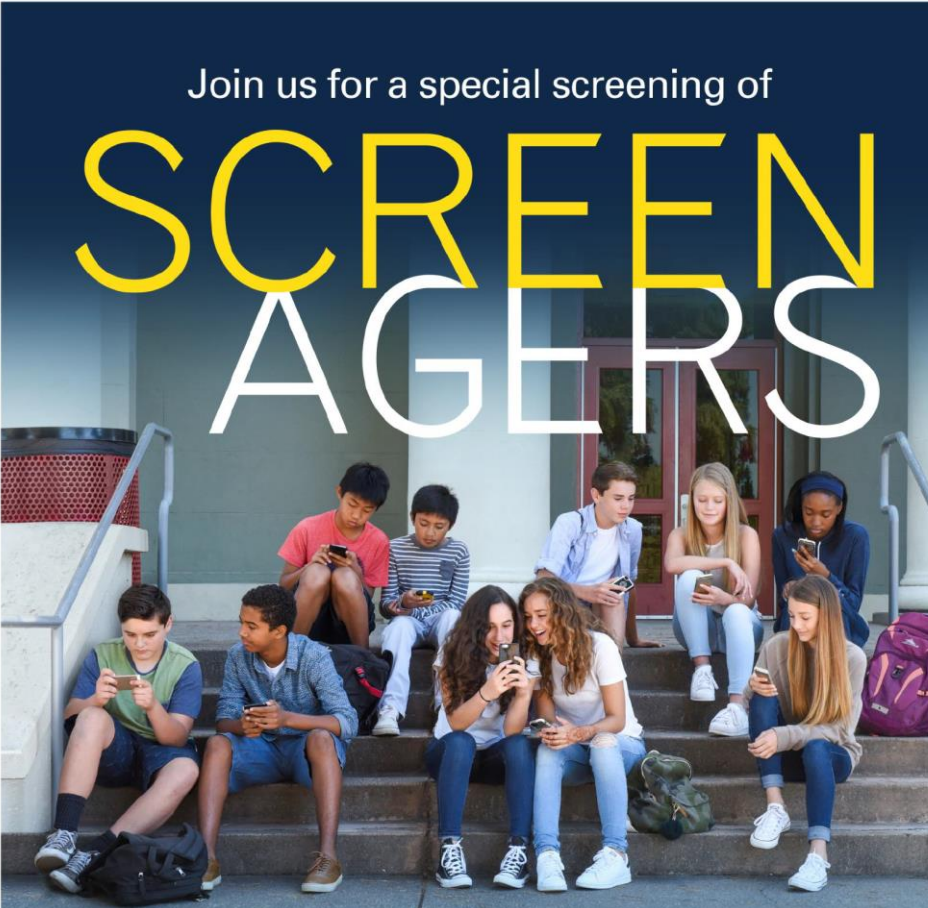
Please take note of all the important upcoming community events that we are highlighting.

“IF ONLY” PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Thursday, April 6 from 6:30 - 9 pm
Cary Hall - 1605 Mass Ave., Lexington
Featuring Special Guest James Wahlberg
Film Screening and Panel Discussion

This is a **FREE** event open to everyone. Panel will include a person in recovery, a parent, a medical provider, as well as school and police representatives. There will be time for Q&A at the end. Also view the “Hidden in Plain Sight” mockup of a teen bedroom featuring drug concealment items marketed to youth.

This event is sponsored by: Lexington Human Services Department, Lexington Police Department, LHS SADD Club, LHS Prevention Program, School Health Advisory Council Substance Use Task Force, Lexington Fire Department, Lexington Health Department, Central Middlesex Police Partnership. For more information contact Kristie Demirev at kdemirev@lexingtonma.gov or 781 698 4843.







Join us for a special screening of

SCREENAGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

HOSTED BY: The Phyllis Klein Thrope Memorial program of Temple Emunah,
in partnership with Lexington High School and the Lexington Coalition for Youth

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 / 6:30 – 8:30 PM
WHERE: TEMPLE EMUNAH, 9 PIPER ROAD, LEXINGTON MA
TICKETS: FREE EVENT! Please RSVP at this website: <https://goo.gl/d4Injb>

 screenagersmovie.com   

*Addressing climate change is the biggest challenge of our time.
Come together in community to learn and be inspired
to take action on behalf of our common home.*



Free Film Screening

With Evan Seitz of UUMass Action and others

Saturday, April 15, 2017

10:00 am - noon

Doors open at 9:45 am

The Venue Theater

1799 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA

*Sponsored by First Parish Arlington, First Parish Bedford,
First Parish Concord, First Parish Lexington and Follen Church*



Presents

Who Will Sing for LENA?

*by Janice Lisieli
featuring Jessica Washington.
Directed and produced by Sal Jones
Susan Harrington, co producer*

**April 27, 28, 29
7:30 pm
April 30 2:00 pm**



Lena Baker was an African American maid in Cuthbert, Georgia who was convicted of capital murder of her white employer, Ernest Knight. She was executed by the state of Georgia in 1945. Baker was the only woman in Georgia to be executed by electrocution.

Tickets \$27.00

For more information
call Sal Jones
781-910-8114

To purchase tickets visit
web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/970866
Tickets also available through Bostix.org
Box Office Phone: 617-923-8487

**Mosesian Center for the Arts | 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown MA
(formally Arsenal Center for the Arts)**



The poster features a vibrant background of a temple with people throwing colored powder. The word 'HOLI' is written in large, stylized letters, with the 'O' containing a globe. Below it, 'Festival of Colors' is written in a bold, red font. A red circular badge in the top right corner states '\$5 entry includes a packet of color'. A yellow banner across the middle reads 'Multinational. Music. Yoga. Henna. Veg Fest. Fun.' Below this is a collage of images: people throwing powder, hands painted with various national flags, a bowl of food, a group of people in a yoga pose, and a group of people in a yoga pose. The bottom section is a dark purple gradient with white and yellow text providing event details.

HOLI Festival of Colors®

\$5 entry includes a packet of color

Multinational. Music. Yoga. Henna. Veg Fest. Fun.

Sat. May 13 at Hastings Park, Lexington, MA
12pm - 3pm

Entry fee: \$5 online (\$8 at gate). Includes one packet of color. Kids under 5 free
Featuring vegetarian specialties from American, Mexican and Indian cuisines at reasonable prices

Color Throwings Every Half Hour. [No Outside Colors Allowed](#)

For More Info & Online Registration: <https://www.facebook.com/FestivalofColorsMA>

Organized by Bhakti Center of Lexington. PHONE: (781) 215-3566
In association with Indian Americans of Lexington and Sewa Intl.

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

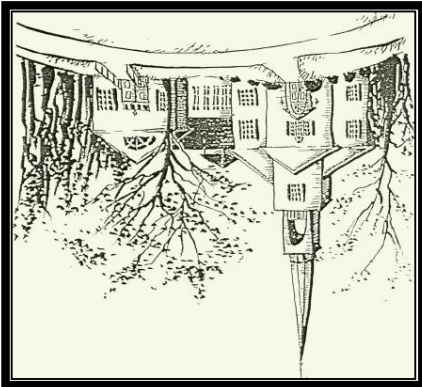
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55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420
Telephone: (781) 862-0357

email: admin@pilgrimcongregational.org
www.pilgrimcongregational.org

Sunday Worship and Church School - 10:30am
Choir Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30pm

Rev. Lauren Lorincz, Pastor
Daniel Schmidt, Director of Music
Devin Shmueli, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries
Diane Blair, Church Secretary
Dan Conley, Church Sexton
Leslie Beatrice, Director of Pilgrim Nursery School



PILGRIM
Congregational Church
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
55 Coolidge Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420-1899

