



Happy Advent! I hope that you find peace and love in this season and rest in the midst of your holiday preparations. I am thrilled to tell you about a new worship opportunity this month in the form of a **Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service (Monday December 24th 7-8 PM)** and answer some questions you may have.

Why have a second service?

Some of you adore the Intergenerational Christmas pageant. To you, this is what Christmas at Pilgrim Church is all about. Others are not such big fans and would like to experience something different. Adding a second service seems like a no-brainer to me. For those who love the Pageant, it will be the same as always. For those who want something new and different, you'll have it!

What will the Candlelight Communion Service be like, is it kid friendly?

It will be a more contemplative service. Lessons, Carols, Candlelight, and Communion—but the children and youth of our church are *always* welcome at any service, this one is no exception to our radical hospitality.

But our Christmas tradition will change! This is mass chaos!

We are setting up Christmas Eve to be an evening of fellowship, peace, and love. **The Pageant service will be held from 5-6 PM, from 6-7 PM there will be a time of fellowship (picture a mini coffee hour with Christmas cookies), and from 7-8 PM we will hold our Candlelight Communion Service.** You and/or your family are invited to be here the entire time! After all, these will be two very different Christmas Eve services with fellowship in between. Just want to go to the Pageant? Great. Stay for cookies and then head home. Just want to go to the Candlelight Communion Service? Fabulous. Come a little early for cookies and then worship with us at 7. Want to attend both? Wonderful! You can spend the evening with your Pilgrim family and be home by shortly after 8, what could be better? If you would rather not come to the new Candlelight Communion Service, you don't have to. I hope all will be respectful, kind, and positive as we try something new as a congregation.

Finally, Communion on Christmas Eve?

Yes! Communion on Christmas Eve is a time-honored tradition in the Christian faith. Don't take my word for it, here's what some worship experts have to say, "The candlelight service and the Christmas Eve Holy Communion have special appeal to Christians because of the environment of the night solemnity, the lights shining in the darkness, and the glorious range of music associated with the biblical themes."¹

I would like the chance to offer our Sacrament of Communion on two of the most holy days in our tradition—Christmas and Easter. Communion on Christmas Eve is a chance for us to gather around Christ's table and experience a profound sense of community. Finally, having experienced the sacredness of Communion on Christmas Eve with previous churches I have been privileged to attend and serve, I am excited to offer this worship experience here at Pilgrim.

I hope that I have answered some of your initial questions about this new **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**. Any others? Don't hesitate to ask me. As I said before, I am thrilled about this new service in the life of our church. I wish you all joy, peace, and love this Advent and Christmas Season.

Lauren

¹ Holy L. Hickman, Don. E. Saliers, Laurence Hull Stookey, and James F. White, *The New Handbook of the Christian Year: Based on the Revised Common Lectionary*, 69-70.



- Sunday, Dec. 2 - 10:30** **First Sunday of Advent**
Service on the theme of Hope,
Communion
- Sunday, Dec. 9 – 10:30** **Mitten Tree Sunday**
Service on the theme of Peace.
Please bring mittens for
East End Families.
- Sunday, Dec. 16 – 10:30** **Intergenerational Sunday**
Service on the theme of Joy.
Children are invited to stay in
worship. Handbell Choir.
- Friday, December 21** **Longest Night**
7:00 pm Organ Concert A peaceful, contemplative service
7:30 pm Worship Service on the longest night of the year.
- Sunday, Dec. 23 - 10:30** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Service on the theme of Love.
- Monday, December 24** **Christmas Eve**
5:00-6:00 pm Intergenerational Christmas
Pageant
6:00 – 7:00 pm Coffee hour with Christmas
cookies
7:00 – 8:00 pm Candlelight Communion Christmas
Eve Service
- Sunday, Dec. 30 - 10:30** **Hymn Sing**
Come request and sing your
favorite hymns!
No Sunday School.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



The Greening of Pilgrim Church will take place on Saturday, December 1st 9:30 – 10:30am. Please come and help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. All help is greatly appreciated!



PILGRIM CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Get ready for the All Church Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 1st at 5:00 pm!** Come join us for appetizers and dessert, Christmas caroling and a magic show. There will be a special visit from Santa himself as well! We look forward to seeing you!

Submitted by Susan Carabbio



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA!

Poinsettias will decorate the church on two Sundays, December 16 and December 23. If you wish to order a poinsettia plant, fill in the form in the back of this issue or in the narthex and send it to the church office by **Monday, December 10** with a check made payable to Pilgrim Congregational Church. Poinsettias are **\$8.00** per plant for a 6 ½" pot.

THANK YOU

We wish to extend our appreciation to Lauren, David, Diane, the Care Committee and the rest of the Pilgrim Community for all your time and efforts in helping our family with the Celebration of Dick's Life. We appreciate all the support you have offered us for the past 6 months and grateful to be part of such a caring congregation.

With love from the Kimball and Collins families



The annual Christmas Pageant preparations are underway. Currently, most roles have been filled but there is always room for more participation! Sign-ups will be received until December 2nd. Please see

either Sara Carabbio or Eric Sherlock if you are interested in participating in this year's pageant. This year there will be four rehearsals. Each rehearsal will be held immediately after coffee hour in the sanctuary. Rehearsals will run anywhere from 30-45 minutes. The dress rehearsal will be on December 23rd and will be an hour and a half. Below is each Sunday's rehearsal schedule:

December 2nd - Full cast

December 9th - Narrators, Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Shepherd's Angel, Innkeepers

December 16th - Angels, Sheep and Shepherds

December 23rd - Full cast: Dress Rehearsal

If you have any questions please see Eric or Sara. Thank you.



On December 16th, The Fellowship and Care Committees will be co-hosting a cookie swap for members of the church! This swap is open to anyone who would like to participate. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share and exchange with other bakers in the church, please email Susan at s.carabbio@comcast.net or speak with her at church. We are asking that participants bake 2 dozen cookies, and be sure to have copies of your secret recipe available to share!



The office will be closed from Tuesday, December 25th - Wednesday, January 2nd. Lauren will be away from December 26th - January 2nd.

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published January 4th. Please send all submissions to Carol (carol.chytil@gmail.com) and Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by December 28th.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

With winter on its way, I wanted to remind you of our Inclement Weather Plan. When the weather outside is **really** frightful, I consult our Moderator, Suzanne Abair, as to whether to have worship or cancel. A decision will be made by 9 am. If Suzanne and I opt to cancel our worship service, I will change the church voice mail to indicate that we are closed, send out a church-wide e-mail, and notify local TV stations. It's my hope that through these various means of communication, the message will get out to our Pilgrim community that we will not be having church that day. Hopefully this won't be an issue, but we do have a system in place just in case! **Lauren**



PLEASE REMEMBER!

Pilgrim is a Nut-Free Church. What does this mean? Well, recently there have been a few occasions where nut products have been found within the building at Pilgrim Church. These products cannot come into the building as a number of our Pilgrim Nursery as well as Pilgrim Church School students have nut allergies. Some of these students have an airborne allergy, meaning that the very scent of any type of nut could cause an allergic reaction. In order to keep all people safe that enter Pilgrim Church nut products are not allowed in any part of the building. Thank you for your attention of this sensitive but serious matter!



Wow, where has the time gone? It is already December, and the Pilgrim Church School has been abundantly busy. On November 25th we wrapped up our first of three sessions with the Spark curriculum. On September 9th we embarked on a journey through the Old Testament of the Bible. We read about the creation of the world; we met characters like Abraham and Sarah, Noah and Moses, Ruth and Naomi; we witnessed the Hebrews escape the control and authority of Pharaoh; we remembered the destruction of a city, and we celebrated the reward of a Promised Land.

Beginning on December 2nd we will continue on our Spark curriculum journey. During the four Sundays in Advent we will read and listen to the stories of people waiting and expecting the birth of Jesus. Throughout Epiphany and heading into Lent, we will then follow the footsteps of Jesus as he builds his ministry and the Kingdom of God on earth. Get ready because we are about to kick this journeying into high-speed.

Looking forward, on December 16th the children will be invited to remain in worship for an Advent Intergenerational Worship Service. We have been diligently preparing a Children's Anthem that we are all excited to share! We hope that you come and join us as we listen, remember and celebrate the joy of Mary.

Submitted by Eric Sherlock
Minister of Christian Education



On **October 20th** the Junior High youth had a game night at Pilgrim church to celebrate Halloween! Decked out in their finest Halloween costumes the night began with dinner and then a costume contest. Afterwards the

youth played some fun games and concluded the night with a spooky Halloween movie! Thanks to all who came out and had fun with us!



Winning costumes were the S'more and campfire!
Fiona McClave and her friend April



The Group shot! ☺



We salute you!! An improv game in action!

In **November** the Youth helped out at Bristol Lodge for a third time and it was a great success. Six youth in total participated and were able to serve a warm meal to those in need. Overall it was a great opportunity for the youth to help out in their local community.

In **December**, the youth will be serving at City Mission Society's Christmas Shop sorting toys and clothing that will be distributed to families of need over the holiday season. This event will take place on **Saturday, December 8th from 12:30 - 3:30 pm** and lunch will be served at the Church! For more information please contact Dana Ellis at Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com.

Submitted by Dana Ellis
Director of Youth Ministry



NOVEMBER COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

The following is a summary of our November Council meeting:

Treasurer's Report – Our Treasurer, Dave McClave, prepares monthly financial reports for both our Finance and Administration Committee and Church Council. At each Council meeting, members have an opportunity to ask our Treasurer questions regarding these reports and any other financial matters affecting Pilgrim.

Stewardship Report – David Nuss, the Chair of our Stewardship Committee, provided an update on this year's Stewardship Campaign.

Christmas Party – Acting upon a request from the Fellowship Committee, Council approved serving wine at this year's Christmas Party.

Coffee Hour – Council discussed our new program of inviting members and friends to host Coffee Hour on a specified date. Acting upon a request from the Fellowship Committee, Council approved a back-up plan for those times when the scheduled members/friends are unable to host.

Sale of Investment Shares – Acting upon a request from our Treasurer, Council approved the sale of certain investment shares held by the Equipping the Saints Fund to ensure sufficient liquidity for the Fund.

Guidelines for Political Activity– Council approved the following guidelines regarding political activity at Pilgrim: Church-wide requests for signing petitions or letter writing of a political nature directed at an individual politician or a particular political party are not permitted. All other church-wide requests for signing petitions or letter writing of a political nature require the prior approval of Council.

Implementing the Vision – As its last order of business, Council discussed the feedback received at the Implementing the Vision program and how to best utilize that information as we plan for the upcoming year.

Submitted by Suzanne Abair
Pilgrim Church Moderator



SPOTLIGHT ON....

Membership
Committee

The **Membership Committee** - What do we do?
How do we function?

I think many shy away from joining this Committee because they think they will be asked to go out and find new people to join Pilgrim Church. Nothing could be further from the truth. However, did you know, in all the church studies on growth over the years, **the most effective way to grow a church** is to ask a friend to join you for a church event? We, on the Membership Committee, hope you will **all** do this.

So just what do we do? The best definition can be found right in the Pilgrim Church booklet entitled, **WHO WE ARE**. It states, "The Membership Committee emphasizes hospitality. Committee members are gracious to all—Pilgrim's Welcome Statement reflects that commitment! The Committee also tries to identify people who are not active and find ways to draw them into the life of the congregation, as well as find ways for Pilgrim to reach out into the community."

How are we reaching out into the community? We send a letter to people who purchase a house in Lexington. The letter warmly welcomes them to the community and tells them about Pilgrim Church. We are working with the Pilgrim Technology Committee to make sure that our church website is friendly, informative, up to date,

and truly represents our church. This is vital since today's church shoppers often begin by surfing the web for area churches.

We want to coordinate and oversee the development of a church brochure. We envision this brochure to be an extension of our website. A professional brochure would be a valuable tool to use as a handout for new people on Sunday morning, or as a handout at our special events, like the pumpkin sale.

So when you sum up what the Membership Committee does, we nurture those who already come to Pilgrim and develop creative marketing for those who have not yet discovered us.

Currently our Committee consists of the following members: Bob Beckwith, Mary Mackie, and Kevin Morrison. We sure would love to have others join us! We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30. Here's an opportunity to get your creative juices flowing and exemplify your true Pilgrim spirit by interacting with those you may not currently know. For further information or questions, contact me at rebeckwith@verizon.net or call me at 781-275-7537.

Submitted by Bob Beckwith
Membership Committee Chairman



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Our annual Stewardship drive concluded on November 18th. As of Sunday, November 25th, the total amount pledged toward our goal of \$200,000 is \$164,713 from 58 pledge units.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates the generosity of those who have given and requests that those who have not yet pledged please bring or mail in their pledges to help the Church make its goal before the New Year begins.

Submitted by David Nuss
Stewardship Committee Chairman

WOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING PILGRIM'S NEXT COLLECTOR?

I have been your Collector since 2003 and I would like to recruit and train my replacement. The duties of the Collector:

All incoming money is passed through the Collector. This would include pledges, cash donated as part of the offering, mission collections and a multitude of other items such as: payment for pumpkins and altar flowers, silent auction proceeds, the barbeque, etc.

The accounting function, done weekly, is to take these diverse donations and payments and update the records of each donor. This works pretty smoothly using a simple database program on a PC. It takes me about 10 minutes to do for a summer service and about an hour and a half at Easter - with most Sundays being about an hour.

The final step is to take the money to Pilgrim's bank and let the Treasurer (Dave McClave) know the details.

Individual pledges are confidential and the Collector and the Pastor are the only two individuals with access to this information. Therefore the Collector has a secondary function of assisting with the annual stewardship campaign.

I think that the two most important qualities for a Collector are discretion (with respect to the individual pledge information) and attention to detail. If you are interested please contact me at derek.gardiner.02420@gmail.com. We can have a chat and I can explain more and answer your questions.

Submitted by Derek Gardiner, Collector

MISSION MOMENT

During the holidays there are a variety of ways to give to the community at Pilgrim. Please look for the bulletin insert to see this year's opportunities.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FUND – Now Accepting Applications!

We would like to introduce you to the new committee for the Equipping the Saints (ETS) Fund – Michael Scott Morton - Chair, Lisa Boehm, and Susan Fagerstrom. Additionally, we would like to ensure that all are familiar with this fund and how to apply for a grant.

The ETS fund was established several years ago by a generous donor to support efforts by our congregation for hands on mission projects or initiatives that expand our open and affirming ministries. Grants are available to any member of the congregation who has a suitable project in mind and the will and community support to carry it out.

Application guidelines are available on Pilgrim's website (go to <http://www.pilgrimcongregational.org/about-pilgrim/committees>, scroll down and Equipping the Saints is near the bottom). The ETS committee would like to receive applications for consideration twice each year with a deadline of December 1st and June 1st. Given that December 1st is upon us, we will allow applications to be received this year as late as December 31st. Please email applications to the ETS committee members: Michael Scott Morton, Chairman (mssm@mit.edu), Lisa Boehm (lisapboehm@gmail.com), Susan Fagerstrom (smf30@comcast.net)

Its creator wanted the fund to be spent down to zero, so we are down to our last couple of years. In the last few years we would like to extend the ETS fund's reach to include as many of the Pilgrim community as possible. We are limited to spending per year a total of \$25,000 of the fund with a maximum of \$10,000 per project. Please email us if you have any questions.

We look forward to receiving applications for 2013!

Submitted by Lisa Boehm
ETS Committee



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Earlier this week, we arrived home after spending 12 days in Flores, Honduras. As we celebrate Thanksgiving weekend, we are reminded once again how thankful we are for all of you, and for your support of our work in Honduras.

During our trip, we had the opportunity to deliver the school supplies, footwear, dental and medical supplies, and over the counter medications which you have provided us in the past several months. Their gratitude for a new pencil or a tube of toothpaste was just amazing. There was one family with three children who we provided with shoes...as we passed by their home later in the week, the children ran to the edge of the road...smiled, and proudly showed off their new prized possessions! Your gifts were spread throughout the village and beyond.

Your interest and encouragement helps motivate us to assist the oppressed folks in Honduras in obtaining an education, accessing medical treatment, and procuring clean water.

Truly, your support is making a significant impact for many. If you are interested in traveling with us to Honduras in 2013, please contact us at: emily@esperanzahftc.com.

Submitted by Tom and Emily Collins





**COMMUNITIES
WITHOUT BORDERS**
Making hope happen, one child at a time

ZAMBIA CWB SUMMER 2013 TRIP

Communities Without Borders (CWB), our partner for mission activities in Zambia, has announced two travel opportunities to Lusaka Zambia this summer, Trip 1 from 27 Jun – 11 Jul, and Trip 2 from 11 Jul – 25 Jul. The goals of the trip are to: 1) make friends and build relationships with our communities in Zambia (NG'ombe and Mandevu), 2) make an impact on our partner community in the areas of health, education and economic wellbeing, 3) understand more about the Zambian culture, history, people and how AIDS has impacted the population, 4) bear witness to what you experience and make a covenant of how you would like to continue support for CWB upon return.

The cost of the trip is expected to be between \$3700 - \$4000 and will include airfare, lodging, in-country travel, food, and a contribution to CWB for wider work in Zambia. Contact Tom Murphy (who is a trip co-leader) or Ruth (Litchfield) Hickox for more information.

Submitted by Tom Murphy

BOOK STORAGE SPACE NEEDED!

Got storage space?? If so, Ruth Hickox has over 50 boxes of books for Zambia in her garage that have to be out in the next few weeks. Is there anyone who has room or perhaps access to a warehouse or storage? It is tax deductible. If you can help, please contact Ruth at: ruthhickox@gmail.com. Thank you.

PUMPKIN



FINAL PUMPKIN TALLY

Pilgrim's Second Annual Pumpkin Patch was a great success. We had over 50 volunteers unloading the truck of 1100 pumpkins, and started selling those pumpkins as they were coming off the truck to people passing by! Our overall sales this year were fantastic, we had a grand total of \$10318.99 in sales, and the church raised \$3683. This doubled what we made last year!! This is a great opportunity for Pilgrim to get involved in the community, and between the ads in the Lexington Minuteman and the Colonial Times, we definitely got the word out. We are now known as the "Pumpkin Church".

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who made this such a great success. We really appreciate everyone's support.

Submitted by Susan Carabbio

STOCK UP ON CHOCOLATE BARS - CHRISTMAS IS COMING

It's that time of year to purchase Equal Exchange chocolate candy bars in the Sun Room after worship December 2nd. These are perfect for your kids' Christmas stockings, small gifts for friends, or just to satisfy your own sweet tooth cravings! Also, remember that when buy Equal Exchange products, you are helping to support the farmers who grow the cocoa beans by using environmentally sustainable farming practices. Buy some treats for others and yourself!

Submitted by Martha Kimball
Mission Committee



ALTAR FLOWERS

Each Sunday an individual/s or family provides a flower arrangement for the altar at Pilgrim Church. Donors sign up for a date and decide on the words which will be printed in the bulletin. Contact Ruth Hickox Litchfield at ruthhickox@gmail.com or 781-862-9565 if you are interested.

The following dates are available:

January 2013	13, 27
February 2013	10, 17 (Lent 1), 24 (Lent 2)
March 2013	9 (Lent 3), 24 (Palm Sunday)
April 2013	7, 21, 28



Thank you to the approximately 50 people who attended our Implementing the Vision luncheon on Sunday, November 4th. Nearly all who attended contributed to a lively, spirited discussion and provided very informative feedback. Council will be looking at ways to utilize this information as we set priorities for the coming year and will also be sharing this information with the relevant committees to assist them in planning their future programs, activities and events.

Submitted by Suzanne Abair
Pilgrim Church Moderator

ATTN: KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!



We need you! As winter approaches it is the perfect time to pick up some yarn and cozy up to a fun and meaningful project. We are looking for folks to knit or crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets. We could meet as a small group or you could knit/crochet on your own. We have some yarn and can get more. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out and offering comfort to your fellow Pilgrims. Thank you! For more info, please contact Beth Kurth at: hughzhoney@gmail.com or 781-820-7635



COFFEE HOUR 2012-2013

One of the things that sets our church apart is that every Sunday we have people who, at the request of the Fellowship Committee, host coffee hour -providing hospitality and refreshments for our members and friends. However, over time, the same folks have ended up hosting coffee hours several times a year, bearing an unfair share of the responsibility. This fall, at the request of Church Council, we'll begin a new practice at Pilgrim Church for coffee hour with the goal of each family hosting just once during the year.

How will this work? The Fellowship Committee has created a schedule whereby two families, couples or individuals will be paired together and invited to host coffee hour on a specified date. Procedures will be in place to accommodate changes to the schedule. If everyone hosts just once a year, no one will have to host twice! And remember, hosting coffee hour does not mean you have to provide elaborate refreshments – it's about the fellowship, not the desserts.

On page 10 you will find the schedule for coffee hour hosting. If you have any questions, please reach out to Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 2012 - 2013

Dec. 2	Communion & Week 1 of Advent	Costello	Cowan
Dec. 9	Week 2 of Advent	Dayton	DeSanto
Dec. 16	Week 3 of Advent	Dinsmore	Fagerstrom/Johnston
Dec. 23	Week 4 of Advent	Collins	Kimball
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve		
Dec. 30	Hymn Sing		
Jan. 6	Communion	Bennett	Johnston (Fred)
Jan. 13		Kirby	Kurth
Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day	Labbe/Clarke	Lawler
Jan. 27		Carabbio	LoBuglio/Royer
Feb. 3	Communion	Logan	Mahiou/Ramacciotti
Feb. 10		Mason	McClave/Shore
Feb. 13	Ash Wednesday	McKinney	Mitchell
Feb. 17	Feb School Vaca begins & 1st Week of Lent	Moeller	Moffitt/Clark
Feb. 24	Feb School Vaca ends & 2nd Week of Lent	Moir	Morrison
Mar. 3	Communion & 3rd Week of Lent	Munkres	Murphy
Mar. 10	4th Week of Lent	Nuss	O'Brien
Mar. 17	5th Week of Lent	Porter	Reaske
Mar. 24	Palm Sunday	Rogers/VanEvera	Saradjian
Mar. 31	Easter	Greene	Vega
Apr. 7	Communion	Smith (Eleanor)	Snipe
Apr. 14	April School Vaca begins	Stevens	Sym
Apr. 21	April School Vaca ends	Velis	Williams
Apr. 28		Pilgrim Nursery School	
May. 5	Communion	Wood	Hutson
May. 12	Mother's Day	Taylor	Velis
May. 19		Williams	Wood
May. 26	Memorial Day	Yates	Babson
Jun. 2	Communion	Schwartz	Smith (Burton)
Jun. 9	LHS Graduation	Ruth Litchfield	
Jun. 16	Father's Day	Mission Committee	
Jun.23		Religious Ed	

December 2012

October 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2012

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 25 10:30am Worship/Baptism	26 7:00pm Council Mtg.	27 11:00am Bible Study	28	29 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30	Dec 1 9:30am Greening of the Church 5:00pm Pilgrim Christmas Party
2 10:30am Worship/Communion/Baptism	3 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	4 11:00am Bible Study	5	6 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 12:00pm Rental Party (Pilgrim Hall) 12:30pm City Mission Soc. Christmas Shop Sorting (Jr. & Sr. High Youth
9 10:30am Worship	10 9:30am Staff Mtg. 7:30pm F&A Mtg.	11 11:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Ed. Min. Mtg.	12 12:00pm Lauren's New Clergy Group	13 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 10:30am Intergenerational Worship 4:00pm Jr. High YG Holiday Party 6:30pm Sr. High YG Holiday	17 10:00am Care Mtg. 11:00am Youth Support Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg.	18 11:00am Bible Study	19	20 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 10:30am Worship	24 5:00pm Intergenerational Christmas Pageant 7:00pm Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed	26	27	28	29
30 10:30am Worship/Hymn Sing	31 Office Closed	Jan 1, 13	2 Office Reopens	3 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5

Youth Group SCHEDULE 2012-2013

Dana's Contact Information: Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com and 631-255-5020 (cell)

Sunday, November 18	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Saturday, December 8	12:30PM – 3:30PM City Mission Society Christmas Shop Sorting (JH & SH combined)
Sunday, December 16	4PM to 6PM JH Holiday Party
Sunday, December 16	6:30PM to 8PM SH Holiday Party
Sunday, January 13	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Sunday, January 13	6PM to 6:30PM SH Mission Trip General Interest Meeting (regular youth group for one hour immediately following)
Sunday, January 13	6:30PM to 7:30PM SH Youth Group
Saturday, January 19	JH & SH Youth Group Nashoba Valley Fellowship
Sunday, January 20	Parents meeting immediately following Church
Sunday, January 27	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Saturday, February 9	JH Bowling Night with <u>Hancock JH Youth</u>
Sunday, February 10	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Sunday, February 10	6PM to 7:30PM SH Youth Group (Prep for Fundraiser)
Sunday, February 17	Valentines Youth Group Sponsored Church Lunch and Auction
Sunday, March 3	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Sunday, March 10	(In the AM at church) JH Making and Delivering Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
Sunday, March 10	6PM to 7:30PM SH Youth Group (prep/discussion for Mission trip)
Sat. thru Sun., March, 16 & 17	JH Lock-In!!!
Sunday, April 7	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Sunday, April 7	Time TBA SH Final meeting (with parents) for Mission Trip
Sunday, April 14 thru 19	Senior High Mission Trip to Washington DC!!!
Sunday, April 21	Church Service - reflections on Mission Trip
Sunday, May 5	Project Bread Walk for Hunger (Church-wide invite!)
Sunday, May 19	4PM to 5:30PM JH Youth Group
Sunday, May 19	Time TBA SH Youth Group (Attend <u>Hancock SH Youth Group!</u>)

***** June Schedule to be Determined by Mid-April*****

** June will conclude with fellowship (SkyZone) for both JH and SH



Pastoral Letter on Racism

On rare occasion, the leaders of our denomination write a pastoral letter to the church. In this case, it comes from the Conference Ministers. It is prompted by the racist comments and behaviors that have been in the news before, during and after the national election. Another Conference Minister said it well: “I believe we are in one of those moments of American culture when it is appropriate to be reminded of what it takes to be the best people God means us to be in America.” The following Mass Conference ACMs and Program Staff join me in endorsing this letter. Please feel free to share this Pastoral Letter with your congregation.

Jim Antal
Susan Dickerman
Jill Graham
Andy Gustafson
Dawn Hammond
Don Remick
Wendy Vanderhart
Tiffany Vail
Peter Wells

November 2012

Dear Covenant Partners,

The United Church of Christ, throughout its history and the shared histories of our predecessor bodies, has shown clear commitments to racial justice and equality. As Conference Ministers we feel compelled to speak out at this moment in time.

Our ancestors in faith led the movement for abolition. They were a voice of reason at the dawn of Reconstruction, when America attempted to rebuild a nation buttressed by white power and privilege. They fought long and hard during the time of Jim Crow to gain new ground in the equality of all races. They fought to end red-lining districts that forced black families into ghettos. And they walked arm in arm with our brothers and sisters of color during the Civil Rights movement.

They were willing to be jailed, persecuted, ridiculed, and even at times martyred for the cause of racial justice and equality.

Our own commitments to this movement of equality for all races are now being put to the test. In the days following the re-election of this nation's first black president, there are painful reminders of how pernicious the evils of white power, white privilege, and white supremacy remain in this great land of ours. And now is not the time for those who see with new eyes the fresh face of a richer, more diverse people to be silent. We must also let our practice and behavior reflect our commitment, by constantly examining ourselves lest we fall prey. (2Cor. 13:5)

Like the women and men who in previous times found their courage, their voice, their call to action – so must we now find ours as well. Let us hear again, and be inspired by, the words of the great abolitionist poet James Russell Lowell, who in “The Present Crisis” wrote:

*"New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth."*



Long before white men once again claim by divine right a privileged place at the expense of all others; and long before America loses the forward momentum gained in her great and interminable struggle with racial equality; and realizing that, though momentum has been gained and big steps taken toward racial justice, there is yet more light and truth to break forth in this ongoing struggle for equality: let us in this day renew our commitment to the struggle for racial justice and equality. Let us awaken to the new threats that are emerging in these days to this embrace of equality. Let us not be daunted by the long, hard road – but be invigorated by the gains made, emboldened by the costs paid already by true disciples, and energized by the promise of a vision of Shalom that many of us can see on the horizon of this new day.

We call on all settings of the church to maintain a vigilant voice in this struggle for racial justice and equality. We invite you to engage once again in Sacred Conversations on Race that open new doors for new understandings about race, prejudice, and privilege. We urge you to speak out when voices emerge on the landscape that threatens to turn back the clock and undo the work of those who came before us. We invite our white members, families, and churches to develop new skills as allies in dismantling white privilege and fostering new dimensions of racial justice and equality. We call upon preachers to find their voice and speak out when local and national leaders reclaim the old language of white power and privilege. And we invite us all to be in fervent prayer for that hoped-for day when all “will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

With a new hope for a new day to inspire us, we remain your humble servants in Christ,

Rev. Douglas Anders, Conference Minister, South Central Conference
Rev. James Antal, Conference Minister, Massachusetts Conference
Rev. Walter John Boris, Conference Minister, Central Pacific Conference
Rev. Charles Buck, Conference Minister, Hawaii Conference
Rev. Lynn Bujnak, Conference Minister, Vermont Conference
Rev. Char Burch, Interim Conference Minister, Penn West Conference
Rev. Marja Coons-Torn, Conference Minister, Penn Central Conference
Rev. R. Kent Cormack, Acting Conference Minister, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
Rev. Sheldon Culver, Conference Minister, Illinois South Conference
Rev. Edward Davis, Conference Minister, Southern Conference
Rev. John Deckenback, Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference
Rev. Michael Denton, Conference Minister, Pacific Northwest Conference
Rev. John Dorhauer, Conference Minister, Southwest Conference
Rev. Tim Downs, Conference Minister, Southeast Conference
Rev. Roddy Dunkerson, Conference Minister, Nebraska Conference
Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister, New York Conference
Rev. Phil Hart, Interim Conference Minister, California Nevada Northern Conference
Rev. Campbell Lovett, Conference Minister, Michigan Conference
Rev. David Moyer, Conference Minister, Wisconsin Conference
Rev. Alan Miller, Conference Minister, Penn Northeast Conference
Rev. Bob Molsberry, Conference Minister, Ohio Conference
Rev. David Moyer, Conference Minister, Wisconsin Conference
Rev. Jorge Morales, Conference Minister, Illinois Conference
Rev. Rich Pleva, Conference Minister, Iowa Conference

Rev. Tom Rehling, Conference Minister, Rocky Mountain Conference
Rev. Bill Royster, Sabbatical Conference Minister, South Central Conference
Rev. Wade Schemmel, Conference Minister, Northern Plains Conference
Rev. Karen Smith Sellers, Conference Minister, Minnesota Conference
Rev. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister, Florida Conference
Rev. Marc Stewart, Conference Minister, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
Rev. John Vertigan, Conference Minister, Indiana Kentucky Conference
Rev. Felix Villanueva, Conference Minister, California Nevada Southern Conference
Rev. Jeff Whitman, Conference Minister, Missouri Mid-South Conference
Rev. Charles Wildman, Interim Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference

[Access the MACUCC Race and Justice Task Team web pages here.](#)

By: [Jim Antal](#) On 11/19/2012

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