

Pilgrim's Progress

January 9, 2019 - Vol. 60 No. 1



Dear Pilgrim folks,

"Howdy Stranger!"

You may have noticed that we have welcomed a number of new faces at Pilgrim in the past couple months. It feels good to offer a warm Pilgrim welcome to people seeking out a church community, or putting a toe into a church for the first time in a long time. It's been great to have folks come back again and start to become part of our worshiping community. And it was good to host some new people on Christmas Eve who found in our worship that evening the warmth and care of our community and the message of hope and healing that we proclaim.

Some folks who visit us will stay and join us. And some will not as they are drawn to another faith community or aren't quite ready for church to be a part of their lives right now. Regardless, the way we make people feel welcome has reverberations beyond what we see. Our welcome could be the confirmation they need to continue their faith seeking. Or it may help heal an old wound from a previous not-so-welcoming experience. Or it may just remind someone that God indeed loves them, as they are.

Sometimes we New Englanders are not so outgoing, though you all seem to be doing a pretty good job of it. But if you are a bit shy like I am and any non-church social gathering, just a sincere "hello, I'm glad you joined us this morning" is an easy comment to make in passing. It's the truth. We are glad to see people whether for one morning or for future.

So, keep up the good work welcoming folks, introducing them to others, and being the heart of what a loving Christian community looks like. We've worked hard together to think about what Pilgrim means to us personally and as a church in the community. You know what I've been telling you, and perhaps believe it more strongly now yourselves: God has ministry and mission and love for you to do in this place and this time. We are still working on figuring it out but it starts with an open heart. I see a lot of open hearts right now.

Blessings,
Karen



NEWS & NOTES

De-Greening the Church

Pilgrim folks came together after worship in December and put up the wonderful seasonal decorations that bring color and joy this time of year. It was fun to do it all together and the kids helped a lot. We will be keeping those decorations up a little longer this year. Since organizers really liked doing the decorating right after church they would like to "de-decorate" right after church as well (which, let's be honest, isn't quite as much fun but also doesn't take quite as long.) However, with an important presentation from LexRAP after worship this Sunday, we need to wait **until January 20th**. So enjoy the greenery a little while longer and join in helping to put it away later this month.

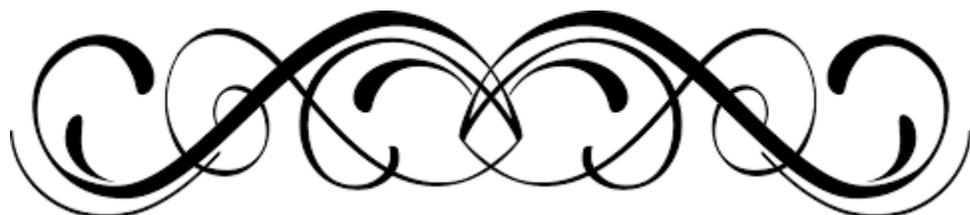
Church Elections

At the end of January Pilgrim Church will begin the process of electing Council Members, the ten elected church members who serve as the leadership body for the church. Council members can serve up to three, two-year terms (total of 6 years) before they must go off Council for a minimum of one year. Council members each serve as Liaison to a particular ministry of the church (seen on the back cover of the worship bulletin most weeks). A person must be a member of the church to serve on Council. A person must also be a member of the church to vote in Council elections.

Different UCC churches elect their leadership in different ways. Pilgrim elections happen this way:

- Ballots are created listing all the members of Pilgrim, and which members are eligible for election/re-election
- Ballots are mailed out to all members of Pilgrim and must be returned by February 15th
- Votes are compiled and the Moderator contacts top vote getters to ask if they are willing to serve or be re-elected to Council.
- Once ten serving members are identified the new Council is recognized and commissioned in worship in time to start serving in April.

If you have any questions about the election process or you are interested in serving on Council you can talk to any Council member, to Susan Carabbio the Moderator, or to Karen.



Pilgrim Church UCC Annual Meeting

The church Annual Meeting will be held on **February 3rd, 2019** after worship and a chance to enjoy a short Coffee Hour. An Annual Meeting is required by the church Bylaws and all Pilgrim members are allowed and encouraged to vote. Pilgrim's Annual Meeting always contains these sections:

- Review and vote on the previous year's Annual Meeting minutes
- Annual Reports from all Committees, staff and others are reviewed (available ahead of time)
- The Annual Budget is discussed and voted on
- A Necrology is read (remembering those members who died in the past year)
- Other important items that need discussion and/or vote.

At this year's Annual Meeting Karen will lead a presentation and discussion of where we are as church at this point in the Interim Process. It will be an opportunity to take a look at where Pilgrim has been, what we've accomplished together in the last 18 months of the Interim Time, and what the future holds as the Search Team works towards bringing a settled pastor candidate to Pilgrim. Knowing where we've been and where we are going will help as we all work at welcoming a new pastor to Pilgrim. There's a lot to be proud of, a lot of changes to mark, and new growth of all kinds to celebrate. Both Council and Karen hope folks will make attending the Annual Meeting a priority. It will be more fun and informative than you think!

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Notes from the Treasurer

I usually pay my pledge by check every month. Are there other payment options?



Pilgrim offers a variety of ways to donate:

- 1) Check
- 2) Cash
- 3) Automatic withdrawal from your checking account
- 4) Donation of securities (such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds)
- 5) Disbursement of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a retirement account

Options #1 and #2 do not need further explanation, but please contact me if you are interested in learning more about Options #3-#5.

David McClave, Treasurer
dramccl@hotmail.com
781-861-7466



Dear Pilgrims and Friends,

As we enter this new year of 2019, January brings a lot to learn. As we begin to explore Jesus' life, the younger children will be thinking about miracles. In particular, we will explore Jesus' various miracles together. We'll think about turning how Jesus turned water into wine, the miraculous fish harvest experienced by Jesus' disciples, Jesus' feeding of the thousands, and Jesus' walking on water. There is so much to glean from these stories and lots of fun activities in store.

Meanwhile, our Junior Youth will be continuing their pattern of reflecting on the sermon during their second Sunday programming. This has been going really well as they take a week to think about the thoughts Karen shared in her sermon. I encourage folks to follow up with them during coffee hour to hear their immediate thoughts after their time in worship. January also brings a follow-up to our Christmas story when they learn about Mary and Elizabeth as part of their third Sunday Women in the Bible lesson. The book they have been reading is a refreshing source of learning the biblical stories through the perspectives of various women in the bible. During the fourth Sunday, we will join together with the younger kids on a special social justice project (from the comfort of Fellowship Hall).

We have much to look forward to and I am so excited for the activities to come. We've got an exciting month ahead!

Peace,
Devin



Families with children or youth are invited for a special outing on **January 27 at 6:00**. Families are invited to meet at Woburn Bowladrome for bowling and pizza. Woburn Bowladrome is located at 32 Montvale Avenue, Woburn. This will be an exciting night for children, youth, and their families to gather together for fellowship and fun. Each family will be responsible for payment but scholarships are available, just talk to Devin if you need it. RSVP is necessary to reserve a spot by January 21st, e-mail Devin at Devin.Shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org if you plan to come!

A Call for Altar Flowers

As you know, each week a member of the congregation donates the altar flowers for Sunday's church service. Many people choose a date to give the flowers that is, for them, a special time of celebration or remembrance. You can let Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) know if you would like to give the flowers and what date you prefer. Alternatively, you can sign up downstairs in the sunroom, speak to Beth Kurth at coffee hour, or email her at hughzhoney@gmail.com and she will pass the information along to Diane.

You can take the flowers home after the service, or leave them to be delivered to a homebound friend. The cost is a very reasonable \$40; to pay for them, make a check out to Pilgrim Church with "altar flowers" on the memo line, and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Giving flowers is a wonderful way to contribute to the beauty of our church service.

Thank You from Lisa Boehm

Many thanks to all the cast and crew who participated in the Christmas Eve Pageant Service! We appreciate your willingness, time, and effort to put on this meaningful and enjoyable worship service. Kudos to Kim Bond for the beautiful new Magi costume and special thanks to all who helped with pageant and luminary clean up. If you have any comments or suggestions about the pageant service, please contact lisapboehm@gmail.com.



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MLK Day Opportunities

Many communities are inviting people to think of MLK Day differently. Instead of a "day off," we can bring our advocacy, presence and voices to celebrate a "day ON." MLK Day is January 21st this year. Lexington will hold a Day of Service with education, honest discussions about race, and opportunities for service. Check out the schedule here: www.lexingtonmlk.org/

Don't live in Lexington? No problem! Other surrounding communities are also offering ways to engage.

Winchester:
<https://patch.com/massachusetts/winchester/calendar/event/20190121/474559/martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-remembrance>

Arlington:
<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20697/18>

Bedford: <https://www.thebedfordcitizen.org/event/third-annual-bedford-embraces-diversity-mlk-jr-day-breakfast>



Tom Tsaros from LexRAP will visit Pilgrim this **Sunday, January 13** with a presentation on the work that organization is doing locally to help refugees in Lexington. Pilgrim will be invited to think of other ways we might wish to partner with this important organization.

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“Building Bridges One Meal at A Time”

LexRAP has been spearheading an effort to provide a monthly lunch at the International Institute of New England (IINE). The goal is to provide a healthy meal, give refugees an opportunity to practice their English while connecting with one another.

People are needed to prepare food at a home in Lexington and/or to attend the lunch in Lowell on the following Tuesdays in 2019: Jan. 15th, Feb. 26th, Apr. 23rd, and June 11th. (The months of March and May are being completely covered by another group.) You can also bake a dessert like brownies and deliver them to the home of the organizer of this effort, Barbara Freedman. For more information please email Sandra Gardiner at Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com. You may also contact Barbara Freedman directly at Barbara.a.freedman@gmail.com.

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**Raising White Kids:
Building Skills for Raising Anti-Racist Children**

**Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 7 pm to 9 pm
Temple Isaiah (Social Hall)
55 Lincoln St, Lexington, MA**

Jennifer Harvey's book, *Raising White Kids: Bringing up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, offers guidance and specific strategies for navigating our racially divided world for parents (and other caretakers) of white children. Using this book as a guide, we will practice responses to challenging situations. The facilitator for the discussion is Maria-Veronica Barnes, Director of Diversity Education at Lexington Montessori School. Participants in this facilitated discussion will benefit from reading the book ahead of time, but it's not required. PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS of young children are encouraged to attend. RSVPs are helpful but not necessary - FRR@follen.org. Maria-Veronica Barnes. This event is jointly sponsored by Follen Church and Temple Isaiah.

This event is free and open to the public.

Shorashim—Roots

In Lexington, January 25—26, 2019



The story of *Shorashim* begins in 2014 at a meeting between students of Rabbi Menachem Froman, of blessed memory, and members of the politically-prominent Abu Awwad family. This grew into a series of encounters between Palestinians and Israelis: meetings between families, a women's group, workshops, and a joint response to violence. Sensing the transformative power of this work, they committed to a long-term project and called it Roots. For more details, visit: <https://www.friendsofroots.net/>.

Temple Emunah and Hancock United Church have joined together to welcome Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Shadi Abu Awwad of *Shorashim* to come to Lexington for an engaging and meaningful weekend of learning. There will be multiple opportunities to participate in conversations with our guests, at both Temple Emunah and at Hancock Church. Hear their personal stories and learn about their efforts to build a better future for both their peoples. **Friday evening through Saturday afternoon will be at Temple Emunah. Saturday evening will be at Hancock Church.**

Friday, January 25

5:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat & Evening Services
7:00 PM Dinner at Temple Emunah
8:00 PM Talk by Guest Speakers and Q/A Session,
Cost for dinner is \$20 / Person. Walk-ins at 8:00 PM for talk are welcome and free of charge.

Saturday, January 26

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service, with Guest Speaker
Rabbi Schlesinger to speak at 11:30 AM
12:15 PM *Kiddush* Lunch, free of charge
1:00 PM Text Study with Rabbi Schlesinger
6:30 PM Dinner at Hancock Church, free of charge
7:45 PM Program: A Land For All, Video Presentations on Roots, and Next Steps (www.alandforall.org/en)



To RSVP for events at Temple Emunah, email Jodie Parmer: jparmer@templeemunah.org.
To RSVP for the dinner on Saturday evening at Hancock Church, email Kathryn@hancockchurch.org.



Watch or listen to Jennifer Harvey on YouTube: "Denver Talks" or listen to podcast #34 on "Speak Out" with Tim Wise (start at 20 min).

Sign Up to Volunteer at Pilgrim!

To sign up to be a liturgist, greeter, coffee hour host or to volunteer with Pilgrim's Children's Church, please click [HERE](#). Thank you!

Click [HERE](#) to access the Pilgrim Church Calendar.



Recent Sermons

Please feel free to watch or read recent sermons on our website. [HERE](#) is the link to the most recent sermon.



UCC STILL SPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Too Old to Be Right

By: Quinn Caldwell

January 9, 2019

What would happen if, instead of being so damn smart all the time, we trusted someone once in a while?

Continue reading [HERE](#)