

Pilgrim's Progress June 8, 2018 – Vol. 59 No. 6

A NOTE FROM REV. KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim folks,

As we slide into June, I've been reflecting over the program year and my 10 months serving as your Interim Pastor. You could say I've been holding up the mirror.

It has been a fruitful year. We have done the hard work of looking at Pilgrim's past and the conflict that has been present at times in our history. We had good conversation about the Christmas pageant and practiced having honest dialogue amidst differences and strong feelings. We have thought honestly about why we attend Pilgrim and what the church means to us.

The Transition Team led us to think about our community and to reach out and learn what the needs are in Lexington. At the same time we have opened our doors to groups looking for space to organize around Lexington Pride and Lexington Says Enough speaking out against gun violence. We've thought about what needs the church has that a settled pastor could help with and what skills that person could bring. We've talked about how mental illness has been present in many ways in the church's history and how Pilgrim could engage in the WISE program of the UCC that teaches congregations about how to care for one another in times of mental health crisis.

Over the past months I have seen repair and reconnection happening in the congregation. Trust has returned. Worship attendance has gone up. Members are reaching out to one another in times of need. You have authentically welcomed new people to Pilgrim. People who left during Pilgrim's difficult times in the past couple years may or may not return. But the congregation is building strength around those who are part of Pilgrim now and seeking to learn how to retain that strength in times of stress or challenge in the future. We've learned that conflict is defined as two incompatible ideas. It is inevitable just as change is inevitable. Our choice is how to face conflict and move forward with love.

Worship this year has been joyful and thoughtful. The music program blossomed under Sean's leadership and with Dot's musical gifts. We sang gospel music for Black History month. We sang Psalms during the post Easter season. We prayed different versions of the Lord's Prayer during Lent. Our kids led us in setting the communion table each month, in presenting Christmas around the World in Advent, and with moving maturity during Children's Sunday. Our recent baptism and confirmation service brought the Holy Spirit close to us all.

We've had fun together, too. We played church bingo over a lunch gathering and learned about each other. We learned quirks about our new staff over a welcome lunch. The Christmas party had fun, songs, and luminaria assembly. The Early Christian dinner was a rich time of fellowship. The Pumpkin Patch gave me a great chance to get to know so many of you while you took shifts selling pumpkins.

Thank you for willingness to work together in healing the church. Thank you for sharing your honest feeling with me especially when they were difficult to say and difficult to hear. Thank you for welcoming all the new staff. From them I hear that this is a great place to work as they feel affirmed and appreciated.

Thank you for doing the hard work of envisioning what Pilgrim can be. And for looking to what a settled pastor can bring that will serve the whole, not just our individual wants and desires.

Thank you for welcoming me, for listening to the uncomfortable truths I brought to you, and for seeking to answer my endless questions of "why are things done this way?"

I will be around off and on all summer. I'll be leading worship through June, on the first weekends in July and August, and on some Sundays in between. I'm here if you have pastoral care needs. I'll be in the office with Diane Tuesday mornings and other times. Stop in to say hello. Send an email with your thoughts. We will keep working together paving the way for Pilgrim's future and the time when you welcome a settled pastor to Pilgrim.

Peace,

Karen



CHURCH OFFICE – SUMMER SCHEDULE



The church office will be open throughout July and August on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 1:30, beginning on June 26. On Tuesday, September 4, the office will resume regular hours and be open Monday – Friday from 9:30 -1:30. As always, please call the office if you need anything as the machine will be checked regularly. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Karen Gale at 517-899-4851. As a reminder, summer worship begins on Sunday, July 1 at 9:30 am in lovely air-conditioned Pilgrim Hall. I hope you all have a wonderful summer, and please pop in to say hello on a Tuesday! ~Diane

A NOTE FROM DEVIN SHMUELI

Dear Pilgrims,

I am so excited for the future at Pilgrim, it is very bright! Over the past two years, I have enjoyed the learning and growing with the youngest Pilgrims and deepening my relationships within the church as a whole. As we wind down for summer, I wanted to let you know about the new things that will unfold.

This past month, council approved to move me from a ten month contract to a twelve-month contract. Ultimately, this means that the hours I used to work over my ten month contract will be stretched out over twelve. This will begin on June 15th and I will be around this summer.

That said, if you need me during the summer, do not hesitate to reach out. We will continue to have Children's Church through the end of June and Karen Hurley will be available to provide childcare on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. As our education programs are not altogether active during the summer, I will be able to use the time to plan and prepare meaningful lessons and programs. I hope to see you all this summer and look forward to the new church year already!

Peace,
Devin



PILGRIM CHURCH FIELD DAY! SUNDAY, JUNE 10

We hope you are planning on being at church on **Sunday, June 10** as we will be having a fun-filled field day. The kids will leave worship and begin the fun and it will continue after worship. See you then!

GRADUATE RECOGNITION – SUNDAY, JUNE 17

We will be recognizing our graduates during worship on **Sunday, June 17**. If you have not yet submitted your graduate, please email the office as soon as possible. Thank you!



PILGRIM CHURCH END OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON SUNDAY, JUNE 24 FOLLOWING WORSHIP



Don't miss out on our great time of food, fun, and fellowship as we wrap up the church year and celebrate together at our annual luncheon! We will gather following worship on **Sunday, June 24** and share fellowship as we kick off summer at Pilgrim Church.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY FOR SEARCH PROFILE

The Transition Team asks all Pilgrims to fill out a survey designed to help fill out the Local Church Profile that potential pastors will see to learn about our church. This is a very important part of collecting information about the church and the congregation. Please fill out the survey by **June 8**. Each member of a household is invited to fill one out. The survey is available electronically at <https://goo.gl/forms/Jwa0X1Sbuqnf3ibi2>. Thank you for taking the time to provide this very valuable information as we move forward.



LEXINGTON PRIDE CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 3:30-5:30PM

The celebration will take place on the lawn in front of Visitors Center. Community, games, crafts, Abbott's Ice Cream, information, voter registration, and more.

If you are able, we welcome donations to give to Youth On Fire, a drop-in space for homeless LGBTQ+ youth. They need:

- Travel size toiletries
- Gift cards of all kinds
- Canned foods
- Summer weight sleeping bags
- Shoes (large sizes will go to Youth On Fire, small and medium sizes will go to Mack's Soles)





LEXINGTON SAYS#ENOUGH

Lexington says #ENOUGH will hold a rally for gun violence prevention on Lexington's Battle Green on **Sunday, June 10 from 1:00-2:00 pm**. This is an opportunity for the community and students to get together and raise awareness about this issue. The program is designed to be efficient and to bring our community (and neighbors) together through Action Stations including pre-registering or registering to vote, brief speeches and a group photo. Please visit the Lexington says #ENOUGH Facebook page for more information.

Are you passionate about this cause? Do you want to volunteer? Please contact Devesh at:
contact@lexingtonsaysenough.com.
www.lexingtonsaysenough.com

Follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lexingtonsaysenough/>

Twitter: @lexsaysenough

Instagram: lexingtonsaysenough

INTERFAITH GARDEN NEWS

Be sure to check out the Colonial Times article on the Interfaith Garden. It's a wonderful complement to Carla Fortmann's presentation at Pilgrim on Earth Day. The link is [HERE](#).

You can help with two local missions by volunteering at the garden, the Food Pantry and the Interfaith Garden. We move now into the summer season and we have more dates to share with you:

Tuesday, June 12, 4:30 to 6:00 pm	This date is already covered by Son-Mey Chiu and Deborah Burger
Saturday, June 23, 8:00 to 9:30 am	Coworkers are Chinese Bible Church, First Baptist, and Latter Day Saints
Tuesday, July 3, 4:30 to 6:00 pm	Temple Isaiah
Tuesday, July 17, 4:30 to 6:00 pm	Temple Isaiah
Saturday, July 28, 8:00 to 9:30 am	First Baptist, Follen Society, Lexington Catholic Community

To volunteer, contact Barbara at barbjim.munkres@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE MURNAGHAN!



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Things that Can't Separate Us from the Love of God: Part Two

By: Vince Amlin

June 1, 2018

Paul's list of things that can't separate us from the love of God in Christ is pretty exhaustive.

Continue reading [HERE](#)

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



RECENT SERMONS

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

