



In the Ordination process all future UCC ministers have to write Ordination papers that we present and defend at Ordination Interviews or Ecclesiastical Councils. Not quite as bad as the Spanish Inquisition, though we sometimes make this comparison in seminary to commiserate together. It's nerve-wracking to answer questions about your theological beliefs concerning God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, sin, evil, suffering, the sacraments of Baptism and Communion (among other theological topics), and our understanding of UCC history and polity to boot. I'm getting nervous just typing this and I already passed!

In my Ordination paper, my discussion of atonement (my understanding of the cross and how humanity is reconciled with God, the at-one-ment of humanity and God) was purposefully vague. Atonement is my theological Achilles heel and I tried to write enough that I wouldn't get accused of not explaining my theological beliefs at all but also vague enough that I wouldn't have to defend something I just couldn't in good conscience.

During my Ordination Interview, one of the pastors on the committee picked up on my discomfort. He commented that my paper was quite good----except my section on atonement. With a twinkle in his eye, this older pastor asked me to explain my beliefs on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the saving power of the cross. The pastor of my home church was sitting right next to me and I could feel him tense just a bit. My mentor assigned by the Association (also a UCC pastor) looked at me with compassion on the other side. I sat there in the middle of them, took a deep breath, and explained that I struggle with atonement. I said something to the effect that I appreciate the view that Christ's death demonstrates God's love for humanity, that it matters to me that somehow God in Christ desired to be at one with us both in life and death, that in viewing the crucifixion we see just how far God will go to share our common lot. (I made sure to throw that "share our common lot" line in because it's in our UCC Statement of Faith and figured that *had* to earn me a few points anyway!)

The pastor then considered my answer and responded that I had better develop my theological views on the atonement more fully. It's fine that I struggle with atonement, most UCC pastors do, but I need to know where I stand before I lead a congregation through Holy Week. I was internally groaning and thinking of some further comments that would appease him, but my internal wrestling was interrupted by one of the lay women on the committee. With overwhelming kindness she asked, "Haven't we Christians been struggling with what to do with Jesus Christ dying on the cross for a long time? Do we really expect that anyone knows for sure what it means? Do we expect that Lauren has to have all the answers today? Do any of us?"

Her questions broke my interview wide open as we all considered her words. A few years out from that Ordination Interview, I hope to always find a few more meaningful insights as I consider the events of Holy Week and what at-one-ment means. Every year, as we walk through the sacredness of Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, and the overwhelming joy of Easter Sunday, I push myself to dig deeper and discover more insights and inevitably more mystery. I deeply appreciate her words. I know that I don't have to have all the answers, that none of us do.

With her words on my heart, I encourage you to spend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at church—where none of us have all the answers, but where we find meaningful insights side by side.
See you in church.

Lauren

WORSHIP NEWS:



Lenten WORSHIP SERVICES

We have a number of Lenten worship services we'll offer throughout this season. Easter Sunday is always more meaningful if we journey with Jesus and the disciples through Lent and Holy Week, and these services will help us make that spiritual journey.

Wednesday March 6th Vespers Service—7:30 PM. David and Lauren will offer a Lenten Vespers service. Vespers is the sunset evening prayer service in our faith tradition and is celebrated by Christians throughout the world. Come to pray, hear beautiful organ pieces, and receive communion in our candlelit sanctuary.

Wednesday March 20th Vespers Service—7:30 PM. Our second Lenten Vespers service to prepare us for Holy Week.



Sunday March 24th 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) We will process into the sanctuary waving our palms to begin Palm Sunday, and the service will be intergenerational.



Thursday March 28th 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) Maundy Thursday is also the night of the Last Supper and ends with the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Communion will be served.)



Friday March 29th Good Friday—7:30 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)



Holy Week

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

On March 17th we will conclude our winter session of church school. On this Sunday we will finish up our winter curriculum of Spark! Also, this will be the last time we gather as a church school till after Easter on April 7th. Winter session teachers should hand in their materials. On Palm Sunday, March 24th, children are invited to stay in worship where they will share with the congregation their gifts of song and praise. Sunday, March 31st is Easter Sunday. All children and youth are invited to remain in worship with their families and celebrate the good news of Easter. Finally, on Sunday, April 7th, our spring session of church school commences. Spring session teachers should be on the look-out for information that will be coming out shortly. If you have any questions please e-mail me at eric.sherlock@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Submitted by Eric Sherlock
Director of Christian Education



YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who signed up to attend or help out at the Youth Group Spaghetti Luncheon and Fundraiser that was supposed to be held on Sunday, February 10th, but was cancelled due to the blizzard. I just wanted to update all of you and let you know that the Youth Support Committee and I are currently working on a date to reschedule this for, and we should have a solidified date rescheduled sometime in the next few weeks. In the meantime if you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to ask me or anyone on the Youth Support Committee (which includes Lisa and Jeff Boehm, Kat MacDonald, Sharon Lawler, and me) and we'll be happy to fill you in. Thank you so much for your continued support of the youth here at Pilgrim Church!

YOUTH GROUP - SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH.

On Sunday, March 10th during church, the Youth Group Sunday School class will be preparing sandwiches for the Outdoor Church in Cambridge. After church we will be delivering the sandwiches to the Outdoor Church at The Cambridge Common Park (located in between Porter and Harvard Square) and attending their afternoon church service. We are looking for any and all youth who will be available that Sunday, during church, to help make sandwiches. Afterwards, youth are also encouraged to help deliver the sandwiches. If you are interested or have any more questions you can talk with Dana during church or email her at pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com.

Submitted by Dana Ellis
Director of Youth Ministry



Plan to attend Sunday worship on March 10 for a special performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* for choir, organ, and cello. This *Requiem* combines elements of the traditional Christian burial liturgy with Psalms 23, 130, and texts from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. The music is alternately somber and uplifting will provide an opportunity for contemplative reflection during Lent.

Submitted by David Mislin
Minister of Music



ADULT EDUCATION

EASTERTIDE ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Do you have children in our church school program that are coming home every Sunday asking big questions about Christianity, but you don't even know where to begin? Are you a teacher in our church school program who finds yourself asking similar questions our children are asking? Do you sit in the pew every Sunday still wondering about God, religion vs. spirituality, or the meaning of the cross? Well, get ready because this Eastertide I will be offering a seven week adult faith formation class that will focus on the big questions of the Christian faith. Questions and conversations will center around seven big topics in Christianity: God, Religion vs. Spirituality, Jesus, Salvation, the Cross, Bible, and Church. Our gathering will be casual; we will watch a video each week that focuses on one of these seven topics. During this time I hope we will have fruitful conversation in a space where all can bring their certainties as well as their skepticism.

Whether this scares or excites, I hope you'll join me as well as explore these profound and complex topics of our tradition. This is a group for both the doubter and the sure. I will be taking sign-ups until Sunday, March 24th. Space is limited. Time and location will be determined after all have signed up.

Submitted by Eric Sherlock
Director of Christian Education

ROOM AT THE TABLE DINNER

The Room at the Table dinner supporting Communities Without Borders will take place on **Saturday, March 9th from 5-8** at Pilgrim Church. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can contact Sharon Lawler at slawler322@aol.com. We will also need help with cooking on Friday, March 8 and with set-up, decorating, and helping with the dinner on Sat., March 9. Thank you!

MISSION NEWS:



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

A BENEFIT FOR FLORES, HONDURAS on Friday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m. Please join Jason Musselman and Becca Laders at Reasons To Be Cheerful Restaurant located at 110 Commonwealth Ave. in West Concord for the opportunity to see life through the eyes of a Honduran child. Last summer Jason and Becca taught photography to 240 students. Their framed work will be displayed (and sold), along with live music, food and drinks. Proceeds from this event will be used to build a library in Flores. To learn more about the event, visit: www.ourjourneyforhope.tumblr.com

Submitted by Emily Collins
Mission Committee



GETTING READY FOR THE BOOK SALE

We are looking forward to the Annual Pilgrims Book Sale. The proceeds this year will be used to fund a small library for the Town of Flores, Honduras. Our dates for the Book Sale this year are:

Sat. May 4th from 9 to 4
Sun. May 5th during coffee hour after church
Sat. May 11th from 9 to 4

If you have items to donate, please bring them in April and put them on the second floor near the elevator. We would be most grateful for donations of: Books in good condition; CDs; DVDs. We welcome both items for children and adults, novels, non-fiction, and reference books. Textbooks are not particularly good for this sale. If you have any questions please contact Sandy at sandyeveritt@yahoo.com

Submitted by Sandy Gardiner
Mission Committee



LETTER FROM RUTH HICKOX LITCHFIELD

As I entered the community of Mandevu on July 17th, 2012, I was immediately greeted by Mrs. Teresa Banda and told I had to meet with the women of the community. Thirty of them arrived, sat on the floor and listed their concerns which I would like to share with you this morning:

1. toilet – 1 urgently needed, this was promised but never delivered
2. electricity – to be connected, has already been installed
3. front gate and wall – about to fall down and gate has dangerously ragged metal by children
4. clarity on uniforms for their children – they make these and sell them as well
5. shoes – those provided are poor and do not fit the children, need big width and children cannot attend school without them
6. food – NGOCC dried up in January 2012. SWAZZ is looking for a new NGO and yet they were asking CWB to help in the meantime
7. graduation – time?
8. machine for peanut butter – they grow, sort and roast the peanuts

This is a daunting list, but I ask for your help with these requests for our Partner Community in Zambia. This past summer after meeting with the ladies of Mandevu, I took this list back to our Pilgrim travelers and asked for their help. The wonderful travelers of 2012, Lisa and Doug McIlrath, Jeff and Chloe Boehm, Lauren, and Tom rose to the occasion and immediately emptied their pockets to provide these hard working ladies with the peanut machine. The Mandevu ladies grow, sort, and roast their own peanuts but until this summer, they had to take them to town and pay for them to be ground into peanut butter. The ladies

were thrilled, I only wish you could have been there to share their joy. Most of all, they felt that we really did care.

Now I would like to ask for your help. A fund has been established with the Boehm's generous \$1,000.00 donation and matched by another. I would like to challenge us as a community to match these funds or contribute to them in anyway you possibly can. We are most interested in the first three items being taking care of for OUR community – toilet, electricity, front gate and wall. We are nearly half way there with these two donations.

Asking for anything is not a strong area of mine. But these hard working ladies are truly the most productive of all I have witnessed during my years in Zambia. There is no question that they will put our contributions to good use and supply their children with their needs. They just need a boost from us.

One memory of this past summer for me, other than meeting with the ladies, was walking to the area behind the school one morning and noticing a wet place on the ground as a little one scurried around the other side of the building, hiding from me. It did not take, even me, long to figure out what had happened, there was simply no toilet she could use. Another memory, all the wonderful faces that peer through the front wall, that is dangerously close to caving in. The front gate has always worried me as I see the little ones scurrying in and out, fortunately missing the jagged metal edges.

I know we can do this, this next \$3,000.00 will change the lives of each child attending the school in OUR partner community, nearly 100 children will benefit from your gifts. These ladies grabbed my heart and the children as well. They even called me their - /moo zon ga wau pa moo tee ma/ = best friend, my heart friend ... it is for them I ask for your help.

Any contribution would be wonderful ... it takes a village as they say. Several asked me after church this morning about making a contribution, please simply write **MANDEVU** on the subject line and

turn it into church. Susan Carabbio and Dave McClave will take care of this.

My deepest thanks to each and every one of you. Bless you.

Submitted by:
Ruth Hickox Litchfield



HEATING SYSTEM UPDATE

Thank you to all for your wonderful response to the recently concluded special fund-raising initiative for the new heating system (which will be installed this summer.) It was very nice to see everyone come together to not only raise the goal of 40-60K, but in fact surpass it! The final tally was \$65,814.13!! This would not have been possible if so many individuals and families had not joined in. In coming months, we will hear more about the plans and exact timetable for this project. Again, a big thank you to one and all.

Submitted by Chris Reaske



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

On Sunday, March 3rd, our congregation will have an opportunity to learn how to reduce energy use in our homes. Mark Sandeen of the Sustainable Lexington Committee will explain the committee's goals, and John Massie, of Next Step Living will describe his company's program of home assessments. By the way, if you are curious about the assessments, Mark has already had his home assessed, as have Peter and Mary Mackie of our own congregation. The assessment is free and available to all in our congregation, no matter what town you live in. Learn more at www.nextstepliving.com/pilgrim.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres
Pilgrim Environmental Group



HOMELESSNESS FORUM

The Adverse Effects of Housing Insecurity on Children's Health, Mental Health and Overall Development, *Ninth Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum*. Sunday, March 3, 2013, 3:00-5:00pm, First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd. Concord, MA. Did you know that the average age of a homeless person is 8 years old? Or that it is state policy to deny teenage boys the right to join their families in shelters? Learn about state programs such as HomeBASE and the Unaccompanied Youth Bill. Keynote speaker: Christina Murphy from The National Center on Family Homelessness. Additional speakers from state government and small group discussions with area legislators will round out this program. The forum, organized by *The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness*, is free and open to all.

SON-MEY CHIU PRESENTS

A power-point presentation of Leonardo da Vinci's narrative masterpiece, "The Last Supper" - which was based on Matthew 26:21-22. Sunday, March 17th following worship – upstairs in the conference room outside Lauren's office. Please feel free to bring your coffee and snack. In this presentation Son-Mey Chiu will examine how da Vinci successful captured the dramatic moment when Jesus announced his betrayal while sharing his last meal with his disciples before his crucifixion and resurrection. (This talk is based on a chapter from Son-Mey's qualifying paper written before her dissertation at Harvard University.)



THE MASS. MEMORIES ROAD SHOW IS COMING TO LEXINGTON!

Saturday, March 16, 2013 (during LexCelebrate!
Incorporation Weekend) 10 AM to 3 PM
Lexington High School

What is MMRS?

- A state-wide digital history project that travels from town to town. The goal is to visit every community in the Commonwealth.
- A community event that celebrates each person's family history and participation in town life, whether they've lived there for generations or just moved in.
- A part of the Lexington 300th Anniversary Celebration

How can you make Lexington history at MMRS?

- Bring up to three photos that represent you, your family, your community, in recent or past times – as long as they are personally meaningful to you. They can be photographs of celebrations, family gatherings, events, places, or objects that help tell your story.

What can you expect when you come to MMRS?

- Your photos will be scanned and the originals immediately returned to you.
- There will also be a video area where you can tell a brief story about your photos on camera.
- Photographs will be added to the online educational database at the University of Massachusetts Boston at <http://openarchives.umb.edu>.

Learn more about contributing to MMRS:

<http://www.lexington300.org/mass-memories-road-show---march-16-2013.html>

Want to help? Come to our next team meeting, Tues., March 5, 4 PM, Cary Memorial Library, Learning Center **Questions?** Contact MMRS project coordinator Polly Kienle: polly.lex300@gmail.com.

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS DEADLINE

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published April 1st. Please send all submissions to Carol (carol.chytil@gmail.com) and Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by March 22nd. Thank you.

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS AND DINNER

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 22** as we will be having a dinner at Pilgrim featuring a performance by Lexington High School Chorus. Everyone is welcome, but reservations are required. Please email or contact Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net. This will be a fun event with fantastic entertainment!



**REMINDER: SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, MARCH 22 -
LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
CHORUS AND DINNER.**

Worth mentioning again! Please mark your calendars as we will be having a dinner at Pilgrim featuring a performance by Lexington High School Chorus. Everyone is welcome, but reservations are required. Please email or contact Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net. This is a fun event with fantastic entertainment!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE 2013:

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	
Jun. 30		Youth	



Room At The Table

Hosts a benefit dinner
on March 9th, 6 - 8 pm

for Communities Without Borders

educating AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia, providing health care, and nourishing hope for a better future...

Pilgrim
Church
55
Coolidge
Ave
Lexington

Short presentation by CWB founder Dr. Richard Bail, Zambian Food, Crafts for sale, activities for kids, cultural display...



Donations
Equivalent to the
price of a
restaurant meal
suggested.
For more info
call:
781.862.0357



Pilgrim Congregational Church
Junior High Youth Group Fellowship Fun

Spring Lock-In at Pilgrim Church!!!



**Come celebrate the beginning of Spring with food,
friends and fun at Pilgrim Church!**

Saturday, March 16th thru Sunday March 17th

Cost: \$5.00 (recommended cost to cover food and festivities)

Drop off Saturday, March 16th at 6:30PM

Pick up Sunday, March 17th at 12:30 (after coffee hour)

At Pilgrim Church

*Please RSVP at pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com no later than Tuesday,
March 13th, or let Dana know in person you'll be attending before
then. Please note that all attendees will have to have parents sign and
return a permission slip in order to attend. Please bring sleeping bags
and a change of clothes for church attendance on Sunday.

Bring A Friend!!! 😊

March 2013

January 2013

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		

February 2013

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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		

March 2013

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					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
10:30am Worship	7:00pm Council Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study		10:00am Adult Ed Class - David		
7:00pm Adult Ed Class - Lauren				7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30am Worship/Commu nion	7:30pm Mission Mtg.	8:15am PRC Mtg.	7:30pm Vespers Service	10:00am Adult Ed Class - David	Cooking for RATT Dinner	6:00pm RATT Dinner
7:00pm Adult Ed Class - Lauren		11:00am Bible Study		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30am Worship/Music Sunday/Baptism	9:30am Staff Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study	7:30pm Membership Mtg.	10:00am Adult Ed Class - David		6:30pm Jr. High Lock In
11:45am Youth Outdoor Church Sandwiches/Outi ng	11:00am Youth Support Mtg.	7:30pm Ed. Min. Mtg.		7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
7:00pm Adult Ed	7:30pm F&A Mtg.					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
6:30pm Jr. High Lock In	10:00am Care Mtg.	11:00am Bible Study	7:30pm Vespers Service	Dinner Set Up; Pilgrim Hall	6:00pm LHS Choral Dinner/Concert	12:00pm PH Rental
10:30am Worship	7:00pm Council Mtg.			10:00am Adult Ed Class - David		
7:00pm Adult Ed Class - Lauren				7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday		11:00am Bible Study	7:00pm Council Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday	10:00am Adult Ed Class - David	Good Friday	
10:30am Worship				7:30pm Maundy	7:30pm Good Friday Service	
7:00pm Adult Ed Class - Lauren				7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
EASTER	Church Office Closed	11:00am Bible Study		10:00am Adult Ed Class - David		
10:30am Worship				7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		