

Pilgrim's Progress March 7, 2018 - Vol. 59 No. 3

A NOTE FROM REV. KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim folks,

Here we are in the middle of Lent. We've been wrestling with challenging issues in Sunday worship: Forgiveness, Racism, Temptation. We struggle to become the community of faith that Jesus calls us to be. We work towards loving one another across our differences and our flaws. We work to address conflict and disagreement in a respectful way. We work to clear out the things we are holding on to, the clutter in our soul, the detritus of past hurts and wrongs. We try to see each other with new eyes, the eyes of Christ. And we work to better understand our community and our neighbors who are hurting and could use our help as a church grounded in this place and time.

Lent is a lot of work. Hard work. But the freedom we can find and the restored relationships we can build are worth it.

Walter Brueggemann is a theologian and biblical scholar whose direct, sometimes uncomfortable observations cut to the heart of the matter. He writes:

"I imagine Lent for you and for me as:

a great departure from the greedy, anxious anti-neighborliness of our economy,

a great departure from our exclusionary politics that fears the other,

a great departure from self-indulgent consumerism that devours creation.

And then an arrival in a new neighborhood, because it is a gift to be simple, it is a gift to be free; it is a gift to come down where we ought to be."

Pilgrim is working on its "new neighborhood" in the season of Lent and this Interim time. We each are asked to look at how we love one another as neighbors, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. We are looking at our immediate Lexington neighborhood and surrounding communities. What is happening out there that we can become more aware of? Who are our neighbors? And how is God calling to us as we move through this process. How is God asking us to live as renewed neighbors in this new neighborhood also known as the kingdom of God?

The good news about Lent is that it ends. We finally reach Easter and resurrection. The promise of new life is reaffirmed. Jesus returns to us again resurrected and whole and ready to lead us forward. Let us as Pilgrim church dig deep in Lent so that we are ready for the new neighborhood that is coming and becoming in our midst.

Peace,

Karen



HOLY WEEK AT PILGRIM

PALM-PASSION SUNDAY

On March 25th the congregation will celebrate Palm-Passion Sunday. Through scripture, music, and dramatic readings we will follow the course of Jesus' tumultuous last week. There will be a palm waving procession and terrific special music by Pilgrim's choir. We end the service on a more somber note as we think about what is to come on Good Friday and wait for Easter. The service will be intergenerational so we will worship together with Pilgrims of all ages. There will still be nursery care for our youngest ones.

EARLY CHRISTIAN DINNER: THURSDAY MARCH 29 AT 6:30PM

This year on Maundy Thursday Pilgrim will have an Early Christian Dinner at 6:30pm before the 7:30 Maundy Thursday service. This meal will feature traditional Middle Eastern foods, Middle Eastern music and candlelight to simulate the kind of celebratory meal Jesus would have had with his disciples on his last night. There will be vegetarian and gluten free choices. It will be a fun event. It is family friendly. It is a way to get to know some other Pilgrim members and friends. At the close of the meal we will transition to the more contemplative Maundy Thursday service in the Sanctuary.

We need a head count. Please sign up on the Pink Sheet or by calling or emailing Diane in the church office. Karen and Devin are organizing the event. They need some helpers. Please sign up to help if you can. There will be a free will offering to cover costs.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE: THURSDAY MARCH 29 AT 7:30PM

The word "Maundy" means commandment or order. It comes from Jesus' words to his disciples at the Last Supper: love one another as I have loved you. The Maundy Thursday service is a reflection on Jesus' last words, his last night spent with the disciples and the end to his ministry as he is arrested in Jerusalem. We reflect on what it means to be true to the path of love, inclusion and justice. We listen as Jesus is abandoned and think about our own times of falling short. We understand the metaphors of shadows and light as a window into our own world at this time. The service will include music from the Pilgrim Choir, communion, and the ritual of Tenebrae which means extinguishing the light. This is Karen's favorite service of the year for its very human struggle with choices and consequences and the chance to spend time in literal darkness while thinking about the Christian path. Please consider attending. Karen needs readers to sit in for the 12 disciples so if you can help by doing a reading that night, please sign up on the Pink Sheet or let Diane know via email or phone.

GOOD FRIDAY

Pilgrim will not hold a Good Friday service this year. There are several Good Friday services in Lexington to which Pilgrim folks are welcome to attend but many churches have not finalized the times for the services. More information will be upcoming in e-notes for those interested.

EASTER SUNDAY

Come sing Hallelujah with Pilgrim folks and celebrate Christ's resurrection. Come be together with Pilgrim friends, family and visitors for joyful music and a message of hope. We will celebrate communion that day as it is the first Sunday of the month. It may be April Fool's Day but we are not fooled into thinking Jesus' ministry and message died with him. Come be the body of Christ, the family of faith, on this important Sunday.



“THIS I BELIEVE” LENTEN SERIES

Karen will lead a 4-week study exploring what we believe as Christians, as UCC members, and as inheritors of the ancient creeds. We will also look at the book “This I Believe” from the more recent NPR series that invited people to write down their beliefs. The series will conclude with an invitation to write our own “This I Believe” statement. The remaining sessions are **Weds. 14, and 21 from 7-8:30pm., plus one make up session.**



Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 10th!!**

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE!



We are in the process of updating the church directory. There will be copies in Pilgrim Hall that we would like to have updated by you! Please take a few moments to check over your information and make any necessary corrections. After it is updated, we will have copies available for you. Thank you.

PUT IN YOUR PIN!



The Transition Team has created a pin map to help gather information about where Pilgrim folks live. Please add you/your family to the map that is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The pins are color coded by how long you have attended Pilgrim and the map includes Lexington and all the surrounding communities. The information we get from the map will help us shape the profile for the Search process and makes for an interesting visual map of our community. Please encourage visitors and newcomers to add their pins as well. One pin per family unit please.

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES!



ARE HANDBELLS YOUR THING?

If you have always wanted to participate in the handbell choir, here's your chance. Please be in touch with Sean (sean.watland@pilgrimcongregational.org) and let him know that you are interested. All are welcome – beginners through experts!

LEXINGTON CHORAL FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, APRIL 29 AT 3PM.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Lexington Choral Festival, it will be held at St. Brigid's, 2001 Mass Ave., in Lexington. For more info, or to participate, please let Sean know. sean.watland@pilgrimcongregational.org.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JIM COWAN

A reminder that a memorial service will be held for **Jim Cowan** at Pilgrim Church on **March 17th at 2pm.**

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.

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



UCC STILL SPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Had To

By: Mary Luti
March 3, 2018

Of course he didn't *have to* go through Samaria. Most Jews wouldn't have—it was enemy territory.

Continue reading [HERE](#)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING – SUNDAY, MARCH 11

On Sunday, March 11, we will collect the offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. To watch a video on the important ways your donations help, click [HERE](#).

CHILDREN'S CHOIR!



This Sunday, March 11th, we will begin children's choir. Elena Snow and Max Evrard, our wonderful soloists and section leaders, will be leading the children in song after worship when they are with us during worship. Dot will assist when they are not here. If your child(ren) would like to join, we will meet immediately after worship. All voices up to 8th grade are welcome!

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT

Pilgrim's confirmation class had a service project this past Sunday. They went to the Woburn warehouse for Rise Against Hunger www.riseagainsthunger.org a global organization that works with partner agencies around the world to feed some of the most malnourished people on earth. Rise Against Hunger hosts packaging events where faith communities, service groups, business organizations and others come together and package 10,000 meals in 2 hours. These dried food packages are then shipped to areas of need that this year included disaster survivors in Texas. Pilgrim's group "did the dishes" from several of these packing projects. Our youth washed hundreds of items like measuring cups, funnels, spoons, and plastic bins of all sizes. Then they repackaged the items to be ready for the next packing event. Danielle, the manager of the Woburn warehouse, said the work they did saved her a full day of labor and enabled her to work on other projects like volunteer coordination. In the next few weeks a member of the group will speak about the experience and the work of this important charity.



NEWS FROM LEXEAT TOGETHER

If you know a high school student who would like to volunteer to set up (3 pm to 4:30 pm) or clean up (6:15 pm to 7:30 pm) please send them to (lexeattogether@gmail.com)! It is a fun way to volunteer and earn community service credits as well. Please visit their website at: <http://www.lexeattogether.org>.

So far this year there have been 5,000 meals served, there have been 2,100 volunteer hours given, there have been an average of 64 guests per week, and there have been 800 lbs. of fresh produce served!



Order Your Easter Flowers

Easter tulips, daffodils, and mini daffodils from Wilson Farms will decorate Pilgrim church on Easter Sunday, April 1. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the form below and send it to the church office by **Sunday, March 18**, with a check made payable to Pilgrim Congregational Church. **Tulips, daffodils, and mini-daffodils are \$7.00 per 6" pot. Peace Lilies are \$10.00 per 6" pot.**

Number of plants

_____ Tulip – Assorted Colors @ \$7.00 ea. = _____

_____ Daffodils @ \$7.00 ea. = _____

_____ Mini Daffodils @ \$7.00 ea. = _____

_____ Peace Lilies @\$10.00 ea. = _____

(Spathiphyllum – flowering house plant)

Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

(please print)

Optional: In memory of

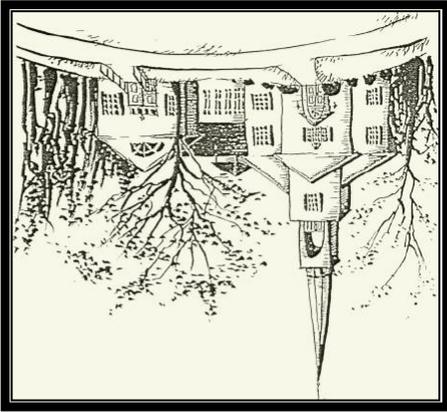
In celebration of, In honor of, etc. (please circle one)

Please check one:

I would like my plant(s) to be delivered after the service to someone who is housebound.

I will take my plant(s) after the service





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



MARCH 7, 2018

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

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Sunday Worship and Church School - 10:30am
Summer Worship - 9:30 am - Pilgrim Hall
Choir Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30pm

Rev. Karen Gale, Interim Pastor
Devin Shmueli, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries
Sean Watland, Director of Music
Dot Bowe, Organist
Diane Blair, Office Administrator
Dan Conley, Church Sexton
Leslie Beatrice, Director of Pilgrim Nursery School