



In worship this month I'll continue the sermon series on World Religions. So far, we've heard about Hinduism and Buddhism. Next up will be:

- Judaism on November 3
- Christianity on November 10
- Islam on November 17
- Interfaith Understandings on November 24

Now I'm not trying to throw myself a pity party (well, maybe just a little one), but this sermon series has been hard! It's hard to summarize a World Religion in 15 minutes, and to go back to notes and resources and condense what took weeks or even a semester to learn. Moreover, it's difficult to know what to highlight, let alone briefly address the shadowy side of every faith. But I appreciate the challenge, and it's been heartening to have conversations with many of you who are taking this topic seriously and want to learn more.

It's also been interesting to hear questions about similarities among religions. To do World Religions justice (and drawing on the way I was taught), it's best to first let each faith stand on its own. It's helpful to learn what makes Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam unique and important in their own right. Step two (which I will attempt to do on November 24th) is to shed some light on similarities we have in common. Actually, it's not too difficult to see similarities already. Hinduism and Buddhism share some basic beliefs and spiritual practices and since Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all Abrahamic faiths, we share some basic beliefs and spiritual practices too. I don't want to get too far ahead, but the Abrahamic Faiths all share stories about Biblical figures like Abraham, Moses, Noah, and on and on—and Jesus is even a respected prophet in the Qur'an! It's perhaps harder to compare the Eastern Religions with the Abrahamic Faiths and find the similarities, but they certainly exist. We'll get there.

In the end, I've found that when I open myself to various expressions of the Divine, I often contemplate why Christianity speaks to my own heart. What is it about Christianity that I love and how does my religion help me make meaning in my life and in the world? I encourage you to contemplate these questions as we continue to explore other faiths in November.

To help us along the way, we can use the great example of Benyamin Cohen who wrote *My Jesus Year: A Rabbi's Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith*. By the end of his journey, he finds that his year among Christians makes him a more devout and faithful Jew. Cohen writes, "I learned that people of faith have more similarities than differences. I learned that the first step is always the hardest. The many lessons I've learned over the past year have already started to help me become a more serious Jew, someone who looks to religion not as a burden, but as a source of hope."¹ My goal is that we can see all religions in a new light—as unique and significant sources of hope in an often uncertain world. See you in church.

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

¹ Benyamin Cohen, *My Jesus Year: A Rabbi's Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith*, 246.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

UCC GENERAL SYNOD 29—NOVEMBER 17

On **Sunday November 17 immediately following worship**, Sylvia Ferrell-Jones and Lauren Lorincz will discuss our United Church of Christ's General Synod 29, held in Long Beach, California in July. We will explain what General Synod is in the first place and how our United Church of Christ functions in our various settings (Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting, including General Synod.)

The majority of our session will be spent sharing the various Resolutions passed at General Synod 29—one of them quite historic. Please see the Huffington Post's coverage of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/02/fossil-fuel-divestment-ucc_n_3535729.html Our presentation will be approximately one hour and we'll meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Grab your coffee and a snack and come hear all about Synod on the 17th!

REZA ASLAN'S *ZEALOT*—DECEMBER 4

Come join us on **December 4th at 10 AM** to discuss Reza Aslan's bestselling and somewhat controversial book *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*. As we begin the season of Advent and contemplate the child soon to be born into our midst, we will spend the morning considering the man he became and the lingering questions about his life and times.

We know the images of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the Great Jewish Teacher, the Challenging Prophet, the Bringer of Peace and Justice, but Jesus the Zealot Rebel? This is Aslan's central thesis as he presents him as a passionate Jew in the "age of zealotry—a fervent nationalism that made resistance to Roman occupation a sacred duty incumbent on all Jews."²

² Reza Aslan, *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, front cover.

It would be ideal if we all come having read the book (or at least skimmed it!) We'll meet in the sun room—10 AM December 4th. Hope to see you there!



IMPORTANT CHURCH SCHOOL DATES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3rd – Communion Sunday, children meet downstairs in our gathering space before worship. Children in grades preK-5 go to Sunday school classrooms. Our theme this morning will be "Zacchaeus." During communion, children in grades 2 and above join in the sanctuary. Nursery care is provided.

Sunday, November 10th – Children begin in the sanctuary. Church school classes for children in grades preK-5 meet after the "Time with the Children." Our theme this morning will be "The Sadducees' Question." Nursery care is provided.

Sunday, November 17th - Children begin in the sanctuary. Church school classes for children in grades preK-5 meet after the "Time with the Children." Our theme this morning will be "God's Love is Forever." Nursery care is provided.

Sunday, November 24th - Children begin in the sanctuary. Church school classes for children in grades preK-5 meet after the "Time with the Children." Our theme this morning is "Christ the King." Nursery care is provided. Please note that there will be Christmas Pageant costume fittings immediately after church downstairs in the church school area. If you or your child would like to participate in the pageant, please plan on being fitted!

Submitted by Eric Sherlock



PILGRIM CHURCH YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

The Halloween Game Night was a great success and lots of fun!! The youth spent the night playing games, watching movies, decorating the youth room for the fun house and overall it was a really great time had by all!



This November, in the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, the youth group will be placing special emphasis on service and the importance serving others can have in our lives. The Youth Group (and the confirmation class!) will be going to Bristol Lodge soup kitchen to volunteer and make dinner on the **Thursday, November 14** and will also be making sandwiches for the Outdoor church in Cambridge on **Sunday, November 17th**. Additionally the youth will be doing activities and lessons in Youth Group this month to foster conversation about the importance of helping others and how we all have the power to help those in need and create positive change in the world around us! Pictures to follow in December Pilgrim's Progress!

A NOTE FROM DAVID MISLIN



Dear Pilgrims,

Many thanks for all the kindness and generosity that you showed me on my last Sunday as your minister of music. I was deeply touched by the many ways you found to celebrate our ten years together, including the children's song and laying on of hands, the generous gifts from the congregation and the choir, and the lovely reception after the worship service. The entire morning offered a profound reminder of how much a part of the Pilgrim community I have become over the past decade. Although I will no longer see you all every week, I will carry fond memories -- and tangible reminders -- of Pilgrim with me. Please do stay in touch!

With gratitude,

David



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

2 Corinthians 9:11

“Generosity” is the theme for this year's annual Stewardship pledge drive, which began on Sunday, October 27th. The generous giving from all of us allows the good work of Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC to be accomplished within our church community, our local community, and the communities served by our Missions programs. Support for this work is provided by our Minister, our Music Director, our Christian Education Director, our Youth Director, our Church Secretary, and our Sextons in addition to all who serve on committees and participate in the myriad of activities our church offers. Our giving also allows us to maintain our beautiful building and grounds and provide a comfortable place for others who visit from outside our church community. The worship services on the last Sunday in October and the first three Sundays in November will include testimonials from some of our members about stewardship and what Pilgrim means to them. Our fellow Pilgrims will reflect on how our church enables them to praise God from whom all blessings flow and how giving to our church with generous hearts truly does enrich their lives.

Each of us on the Stewardship Committee sees pledging as a responsibility and an opportunity to contribute to the ministries at Pilgrim that allow us

to cheerfully give to ensure a positive church experience. We hope all of you share that view.

During the last week of October you will have received a letter and information on the budget from the Stewardship Committee along with a pledge form. We are respectfully requesting that everyone prayerfully consider increasing their pledge for 2014 by 5% in order to balance the budget.

We are asking that all who are able bring their pledge envelopes to church on **Sunday, November 17th**, so that the pledges can be consecrated. If you aren't able to attend church that day, please mail your pledge to the church or email your pledge in time for it to be included in the consecration. After the service, we will be celebrating Consecration Sunday during coffee hour.

Please keep an open mind and heart to that with which you will be presented over these four weeks.

The Stewardship Committee



TEDDY BEAR AND SANTA CLAUS SALE

On **Sunday, December 1** and **Sunday, December 8** immediately following services, there will be a sale of teddy bears and Santa Claus items. This is the accumulation of over 40 years of collecting by Eleanor Smith. All proceeds will go the Care fund.



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC SEARCH UPDATE

I am very pleased to announce that Barbara Owen will be our interim Music Director, starting on November 10th through to Christmas. Barbara holds a degree in music from Westminster Choir College, specializing in organ and from Boston University in musicology. She served for many years at a church on the North Shore. We are excited that she will be with us this Advent and Christmas season while we continue our search for a permanent Director of Music.

Lesley Morrison
Music Director Search Committee Chair



LOST: CHOIR MUSIC!

Look one, look all!! Please check around your homes - near the piano, near the shower, in your car - wherever you might have been practicing that special Anthem for church!! We are trying to find lost copies of music and put our collection in order. No late fees charged!! Please return any choir music you might have, no matter from how many years ago, to the desk in the music office. Thank you!

Carol Chytil
Chair of Worship & Music Committee



FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

Hard to believe that we are into the fall season! We hope everyone enjoyed the September BBQ, and we are gearing up for a fun year with many events for all ages. I would like to encourage anyone that would like to be involved in Fellowship to let me know. We are always looking for volunteers to help with one or many events. Any time you are able to give is very much appreciated! The upcoming events will be here before you know it. Please save the dates, as these events are for everyone at church. Everyone is welcome!

- November- share a pie recipe exchange, after worship. Date to be announced!
- December 7- Pilgrim Church Christmas Party starting at 5:00 pm!
- January 19- Chili Cook Off Luncheon!
- March 16- Men's Breakfast, the men of Pilgrim will be cooking breakfast!

We will send out an updated list in January of more events planned for the spring.

Sincerely,
Susan Carabbio

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS DEADLINE

The next issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be published December 1st. Please send all submissions to Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) by November 22nd. Thank you.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Two weeks from now we will be in Flores, Honduras. As the time draws closer, we are actively soliciting donations from others including medications, school supplies, clothing and footwear.

I cannot adequately express the feeling I receive from other people's generosity. Individuals and organizations who abundantly give to others in need, despite the fact they will never be able to personally meet them. Perhaps they are following the advice of John Bunyan who once said, "you have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

One recent Friday afternoon the UPS truck arrived to our home. It's always fun to see the truck pull into the driveway with a delivery but this drop off was huge. Several large boxes containing over \$31,000 of free medication arrived from Brother's Brother Foundation. It was as though Christmas had arrived early and excitedly I unpacked everything to reduce the extra packaging and minimize the weight in our luggage. My thoughts rushed back and forth between this wonderful organization who has supported Esperanza (and countless other nonprofits) over the years, and our Honduran neighbors and local health center that will benefit from their gifts.

Many members and friends of Pilgrim have faithfully contributed to our annual collection of back to school supplies. One family in particular, the DeSantos Family, has truly gone "above and beyond" with their support. Once again, that energizing feeling returned as I thought "there are so many caring people in this world." I look forward to seeing the children's faces as they open up a brand new box of crayons or colored pencils. Not only will they treasure their new school supplies, they will also be reminded that people living far away from them, care.

To each and every one who has shared your own generosity, we thank you all.

Tom and Emily Collins



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP INTERFAITH GARDEN

At 8:30 am on Saturday, October 26, with the temperature at 32 degrees, the Interfaith Garden had its last session for 2013! After the last veggies had been harvested, the plants were pulled and piled into the compost bin. They will decompose over the winter and be rototilled into the soil next spring. In spite of the frost Friday night, more than 18 lbs of produce was taken to the Food Pantry. This year's total did not quite match last year's record crop of 1,637 lbs. but came very close. This is surprising considering the late start, the heavy rains early in the season, and the dry conditions later. The total of the four years of donations to the Pantry comes to over 5,000 lbs., or 2 1/2 tons! This is quite an amazing amount for an all-volunteer workforce. Many thanks to **Derek and Sandy Gardiner, Mary Mackie, Christina Sym, Kat and Jacob MacDonald, Suzanne Abair, and Dana Ellis**, who represented Pilgrim Church working at the garden during this season.



Do you recognize the folks in the photo? **Suzanne and Jacob** are about to deliver one of the carts of veggies to the Lexington Food Pantry at Church of our Redeemer on October 12th.

**Pilgrim Nursery School
Flatbread Night Fundraiser**



Please join PNS on **Tuesday, November 12th** at the **Flatbread Restaurant** in Bedford for a yummy dinner and a great cause!!

Stop in anytime **between 5-9pm** and for every Flatbread purchased PNS will receive a percentage! This fundraiser allows the nursery school to have monthly Enrichment Programs for the children who attend PNS.

We hope to see you there!!

**DISAPPEARING CIVIL RIGHTS –
THE RISE OF JIM CROW 2.0 – FEATURING
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM BARBER II -
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 7 PM AT
ANDOVER NEWTON**

The Rev. Dr. William Barber, the initiator and guiding force behind North Carolina's "Moral Mondays" movement, will be the featured guest for a night of music, fellowship, and lively conversation next month at Andover Newton. The [Rev. Dr. William Barber II](http://www.ants.edu/calendar/event/barber-jim-crow-2), president of the North Carolina branch of the NAACP and pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro, N.C., will speak on **Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. in Wilson Chapel**. Admission is \$10. For more information, please go to: <http://www.ants.edu/calendar/event/barber-jim-crow-2>.



West Suburban Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth

The Mission Committee voted to become a Faith Partner of WAGLY – West Suburban Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth. This group is headed by Jack Lewis, a UCC minister, and meets each Monday from 7:00-8:30 at the UU Society of Wellesley Hills. One of WAGLY's programs is Umbrella, which is a supportive social group for transgender and gender variant high school students that meets the third Thursday of each month.

As a Faith Partner, Pilgrim has committed to do the following for at least a one year period:

- Contribute \$200 as an annual support fee
- Publicize the organization and its events to our congregation
- Provide food or food gift cards to defray the cost of refreshments for one fellowship meeting this year
- Publicize the need for adult volunteers at WAGLY

Dr. Katherine Stone Kaufmann, a volunteer with WAGLY, shared a Mission Moment with our congregation on October 27th.



ALTAR FLOWERS – 2013-2014

Each Sunday an individual/s or family provides a flower arrangement for the altar at Pilgrim Church. These are often given to commemorate a special occasion, in memory of someone special, honor of relatives, a celebration; truly it is your choice. Donors simply sign up for a date and decide on the commemorative words which will be printed in the bulletin. The rest is taken care of. Here's how it works.

Contact me (Ruth Litchfield) to determine which Sunday you would like to provide the flowers or sign up during Coffee Hour at church. The first sign up will be 'Reunion Sunday', September 8th during coffee hour... and periodically throughout the year until the calendar is filled.

Wilson Farms of Lexington will make the arrangements and deliver them to the church. The cost is \$45 (\$35 plus \$10.00 delivery). You will pay Pilgrim directly by placing your check for \$45 in Susan Carabbio's mailbox and then Dave McClave will pay Wilson's directly each month. This will save each of you the tax you would be charged if you were to pay Wilson's directly ... every penny counts these days!

If you have something special in mind in terms of flowers, you may contact Mark Messier, head of "Cut Flowers" individually and speak to him or to Nancy May, Mark's assistant directly with your personal wishes. They will be happy to work with you.

Wilson Farms
781-862-3900 ext 223
Mark Messier - Head of cut flowers
Nancy May - Mark's assistant

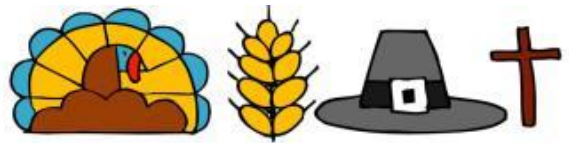
After the service is over, you can either take the flowers with you or leave them for the Care Committee to distribute. Please tell Ruth in advance if you are taking or leaving the flowers on your Sunday.

Please think about a date, see what will work best for you and contact me. Thank you all for taking the time to consider this very generous contribution to Pilgrim this coming year.

Ruth Hickox Litchfield
781-862-9565 or ruthhickox@gmail.com.



Greeters needed! Please contact Mary Mackie at marymackie1@verizon.net if you are interested in greeting. Thank you!



Thanksgiving

COFFEE HOUR FOR 2013 - 2014

Please see the schedule for the 2013 – 2014 Church year below. Everyone will be notified of their date and their co-hosts by the Fellowship Committee. Procedures will be in place to accommodate changes to the schedule. Remember, hosting coffee hour does not mean you have to provide elaborate refreshments – it's about the fellowship, not the desserts. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net. Thank you!

November 3	Communion/All Saints Day	Burger	Todd/Carothers
November 10		Chen/Edmiston	Chiu
November 17		Chytil	Clark/Moffitt
November 24	Thanksgiving Sunday	Clarke	Kurth
December 1	Communion/Advent I	Costello	Dayton
December 8	Advent II	DeSanto	Dinsmore
December 15	Advent III	Johnston/Fagerstrom	Ferrell-Jones
December 22	Advent IV	Gardiner	German
December 29	Hymn Sing		
January 5	Communion	Greene	Vega
January 12		Hopkins	Huston
January 19		Johnston	Kirby
January 26		Kimball	Collins
February 2	Communion	Labbe/Clark	Lawler
February 9	Carabbio		
February 16		LoBuglio/Royer	Logan
February 23		Mason	McClave/Shore
March 2	Communion	Carabbio	Mitchell
March 9		Moir	Morrison
March 16		Munkres	Murphy
March 23		Nuss	O'Brien
March 30		Porter	Ramacciotti-Mahiou
April 6	Communion	Reaske	Rogers
April 13	Palm Sunday	Roy	Council
April 20	Easter	Saradjian	Carabbio
April 27		Velis	Schwartz
May 4	Communion	Snipe	Council
May 11	Mother's Day	Council	
May 18		Stevens	Taylor
May 25	Memorial Day Weekend	Pilgrim Nursery School	
June 1	Communion	Fellowship	
June 8		Mission	
June 15	Father's Day	Council	
June 22			
June 29			

Youth Group SCHEDULE Fall 2013

Dana's Contact Information: Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com

** Youth Group this year will be held every Sunday during Church services. Youth will come downstairs with the Sunday school after time with the children and head to the Youth room. Youth Group this year will be primarily be a mixture of fellowship and spiritual reflection. For weekly lessons we will primarily be using the re:form curriculum from Spark House and we will often follow along with Sunday School lessons or Lauren's Sermon (depending on the topics and relevancy to the youth). Lessons will often utilize multimedia or incorporate a hands-on component (such as a game or craft) to keep the youth actively engaged and reflecting on their spirituality in unique ways.

Thursday, November 14 (November will pay special attention to service and hunger and homelessness)

Bristol Lodge Service Project

Sunday, November 17 During Church - Making sandwiches for
Outdoor Church in Cambridge

Sat. December 14 **Holiday Service Project (Dates and event**
(tentative) **not confirmed yet, either City Mission Society**
 Christmas Shop or Christmas in the City)

Sunday, December 15 4PM to 6PM Youth Christmas Holiday Party!!

Saturday, January 25 JH Fellowship event (either Laser tag or Nashoba
Valley)

Sunday, January 26 Parents meeting immediately following Church
to discuss spring schedule and sign up to
chaperone Spring events

CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE 2013-2014

*****Most classes will be held every other Sunday from 2-4 PM at Pilgrim Church*****

Lauren's Contact Information: lauren.lorincz@gmail.com 781-862-0357 (church)

Dana's Contact Information: pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com

Sunday November 10	2-4 PM—Sessions 8 and 9: God Creates and Seeks and Saves -Begin reading the Gospel of Luke
Thursday November 14	Bristol Lodge Service Project
Sunday November 24	2-4 PM—Session 10: God Loves and Judges
Sunday December 1	2-4 PM—Sessions 11 and 12: Jesus Christ, Human and Divine and Crucified and Resurrected
Sunday December 15	2-4 PM —Session 13: Jesus Christ, Risen Savior -Discussing the Gospel of Luke in class
Sunday January 12	2-4 PM—Sessions 14 and 15: Guided and Bound by the Holy Spirit
Sunday January 26 Christ	2-4 PM—Sessions 16 and 17: The Church, The Body of Christ and Followers of Christ
Sunday February 9	2-4 PM—Session 7: The UCC Statement of Faith -Making our Own Statements of Faith (begin in class)
Sunday February 23	2-4 PM—World Religions—looking at other faith traditions
Wednesday March 5	Help Lauren lead the Ash Wednesday Service to begin Lent
Sunday March 9	2-4 PM—Session 18: Witness and Service
Sunday March 23	2-4 PM—Sessions 20 and 21: Forgiveness and Grace, Justice and Peace
Sunday April 6	2-4 PM—Session 22: Eternal Life
Saturday May 3-Sun. May 4	Confirmation Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center of the UCC -Closing Retreat: The Faith Journey continues! -Finishing up our Statements of Faith, Creating our Confirmation Stoles
Sunday May 11	Confirmation Sunday!

*Some dates still TBD: Volunteer opportunity with City Mission Society and Worship Services at 3 local Houses of Worship to learn about other faith traditions.

November 2013

October 2013							November 2013							December 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
														1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 27 10:30am Worship/Reformation Sunday/Stewardship Moment 2:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm GBAAYSO - Pilgrim Hall	28	29 11:00am Bible Study	30 7:30pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the Labbe-Clark home);	31	Nov 1	2
3 All Saints Sunday 10:30am Worship/Stewardship Moment	4 9:30am Staff Mtg. 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	5 8:00am PRC 11:00am Bible Study	6 7:30pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at The Taylors);	7	8	9
10 10:30am Worship/Stewardship Sunday 2:00pm Confirmation	11 Office Closed	12 11:00am Bible Study	13 7:30pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the DeSanto home);	14 4:00pm Youth Group/Confirmants Serve Bristol Lodge	15	16
17 10:30am Worship 10:30am Youth Group Sandwich Making During Church 11:45am Synod Presentation	18 10:00am Care Mtg. 12:00pm Youth Support 7:00pm Council Mtg.	19 11:00am Bible Study	20 7:30pm Adult Ed Class w/Eric (at the O'Brien home); 7:30pm Membership Mtg.	21	22	23
24 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Confirmation	25	26 11:00am Bible Study	27	28	29	30 9:00am Greening of the Church