



## Pilgrim's Progress November 9, 2017 – Vol. 58 No. 9

### A NOTE FROM KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim folks,

November can be a bittersweet month. In November we take time in worship to mark All Saints' Day when we remember those who have died and both the impact of their life and their loss on us. In November we honor our veterans on Veteran's Day. We remember those we lost to war and reflect on our service members in harm's way who protect this country and others around the world.

In November we lose the light--the hours of daylight fast slipping away into an earlier and earlier dusk. The harvest is in and the cold starts to creep over the sills and into our homes and chilly morning commutes. The changing seasons at this time of year bring about higher rates of depression and feelings of loss. It can also be a time when we anticipate family gatherings, some of us with great joy and some of us with dread. November can be a difficult month.

And yet, underneath these somber November events lies a thread of gratitude that ties them together. We are grateful to saints who envisioned a world so much bigger and better than what we see. We are grateful for personal saints, people in our lives who love us and push us to grow and change. We are grateful to veterans who sacrifice themselves and time with their families, and work to bring about lasting peace in the midst of war and chaos.

We are grateful for the harvest. Even as we move away from an agricultural understanding of the world, we still eat. We still benefit every day from the farmers and growers and workers who plant and tend and harvest our food. We are thankful.

For even as we look with clear-eyed dismay at the damage to our environment, the rise of racial hate crimes, and the gun violence, we can be grateful.

- Grateful for Pilgrim church, a place to come and connect to God and the message of Jesus as steady waypoints for our daily lives.
- Grateful to live in a country that may be wrestling with enormous problems, but is doing so within a framework of freedom of speech, a free press and democratic elections.
- Grateful that even as the daylight fades and the cold reaches our doorstep, the Light, the coming of Christ breaking into our world, is just around the corner.

With gratitude to you all for your faith-filled lives,

*Karen*



**LEXINGTON INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 7:30-9:00PM  
GRACE CHAPEL, 59 WORTHEN ROAD**

Join faith leaders from Lexington's diverse religious community for the Lexington Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Take time away from prepping your home for visitors or dreading the Christmas shopping barrage to gather with others in Lexington to thank God for all that we have received and all that blesses our lives. In times of division it seems even more important to come together across faith traditions to express our unity and respect for one another.



**LET'S HAVE LUNCH--NOV. 12TH**

Join in after worship on Nov. 12th for another celebratory luncheon hosted by Vitality. We will gather to eat together, learn more about each other with another of Karen's slightly off the wall activities, and celebrate a successful start to the new program year.

**ADVENT AT PILGRIM**

**Greening the Church--Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am Coffee and Donuts provided!**

Come prepare the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. Put up the tree, hang the greens, have a cup of coffee and help make Pilgrim a beautiful place to celebrate the holy season of Advent.

**Pilgrim Church Christmas Party--Dec. 17th**

What do you get when you add a bunch of Pilgrims, great food, and a roster of carols--a great Christmas party! Come celebrate Christmas (a bit early) with the congregation. We will eat, sing and be merry. The lunch will be held downstairs in Fellowship Hall right after worship on Dec. 17th.



**Service of the Longest Night--Dec. 21st**

A contemplative service for those struggling with the holiday season and in need of a place to reflect on the promise of "God with us" during what can be a difficult time.



**Advent-Christmas Worship**

Dec. 3-First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 10-Second Sunday in Advent

Dec. 17-Third Sunday in Advent with a special music presentation by Pilgrim's Choir

Dec. 24-Fourth Sunday in Advent--A family friendly, intergenerational service

Dec. 24-Christmas Eve, 4pm--Celebrating the birth of Christ with a pageant and candlelight service followed by a time for cookies and conversation in Pilgrim Hall

Dec. 31-Christmas Hymn Sing--A family friendly service with carols sung by request from the congregation. A joyful way to sing out the "old" year and get ready for the new.



### CONSECRATION SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 12, 2017

We will be consecrating our pledges on **Sunday, November 12**. If you have not mailed yours in yet, please bring it to church with you. As always, thank you for your generosity as we continue to support Pilgrim Church and all that it represents for each of us.

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#### PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- We continue to pray for all of those impacted by the unimaginable horror in Sutherland Springs, TX. Those killed and injured, and their friends and families, and for all those whose lives have been changed forever.
- Prayers for our Pilgrim members and friends who need our thoughts, love, and support for whatever is on their hearts and minds.

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



Please note that the office will be closed on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans Day.

#### RECENT SERMONS

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



## LEXINGTON UNITES FOR PUERTO RICO

Hancock Church, in partnership with the Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association, is leading a Lexington-wide drive to fill a 40' shipping container with relief supplies for the people of Puerto Rico, and to gather monetary donations to purchase generators, bottled water, water cisterns and water filters. Hancock Church will underwrite the cost of packing and shipping the container to Puerto Rico. Donations can be dropped off until **November 10** at Hancock Church. The items needed are:

### Items Needed

#### Nourishment

- Boxed milk
- Canned goods

#### Summer Clothing

- Size: infant to adult



#### Household Items

- Wipes with bleach
- D batteries
- LED flashlights
- Sheets
- Towels
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Air mattresses

#### Personal Hygiene

- Diapers, size: infant to adult
- Baby wipes
- Sanitary pads
- Disposable medical gloves
- First aid kits
- Liquid & bar soaps
- Hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent

Please click [HERE](#) for another link for Massachusetts containing more information and resources on how to help.



Dear Pilgrims:

Every year we at Pilgrim Church help the people at East End House in Cambridge to have a joyful Thanksgiving. This year we will need those food and cash contributions this coming **Sunday Nov. 12!** Thanksgiving is early this year!

Please put your food donations in the wooden box in the coat room. The needed items are:

Boxes of Stuffing Mix  
Jars of Gravy  
Box of Mashed Potato Mix  
Baby Food

Non-Perishable desserts in boxes and cans  
Canned fruits and Vegetables  
Can of Cranberry Sauce  
Baby Formula

If you prefer to give cash The Mission Committee will use that money to buy \$10 gift cards to Market Basket to help people buy their turkeys. Please put your cash contribution clearly marked as being for East End House in the offering plate on Sunday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> during the service. You may also mail your donation to the church.

Thank you for your generosity!  
Sandy Gardiner



## NEWS FROM LEXINGTON INTERFAITH GARDEN

Interfaith Garden wrap-up, by Amy Swanson, a Garden Coordinator

“At the end of every Interfaith Garden season there is an opportunity to review the numbers. Tracking how much we grew and which crops thrived is an easy metric to gather. It is a concrete measure of success that people can relate to. The big number this year was 1,600 pounds. But the other intent {for the garden} was to build community and have some fun in the process. So, another metric we can track relative to that is to find out how many volunteers answered the call for help and how much help did they provide.

This year we got a late start due to weather, not getting to work until April 4<sup>th</sup> about 3 weeks later than usual. The season was only 29 weeks vs the average of 32 weeks. We scheduled 46 volunteer days and a wonderful group of 175 caring people answered the call and filled 468 volunteer slots! An interesting side note is that over the eight years, more than 800 individuals have stopped by the Garden and done at least one shift. We have many volunteers who have been involved from the beginning, others who only work once, but we are thankful to all, because whether you work once or a dozen times, you have contributed to the Garden's success.

And how could this ever be without the leadership of Carla Fortmann? She has shared her space, profound gardening knowledge and countless hours directing our activities. She is a Garden Angel. Thank you, Carla.”

And many thanks to Pilgrim's volunteers this year: Deborah Burger, Ruth Hickox Litchfield, Mary Mackie, Son-Mey Chiu, Christina Sym, and Barbara Munkres.



Pilgrim's Mary Mackie and Carla Fortmann



### 2017 CROP WALK UPDATE

A huge thank you to all who contributed and supported the 37th Annual Concord CROP Walk this year. Over \$40,000 was raised in total by the 2017 Concord CROP Walk, and Team Pilgrim came in sixth out of 21 teams by contributing \$1,200 this year! Nice job Pilgrims! Nine local food pantries and community suppers are supported by the Concord CROP Walk, and Church World Services also supports efforts to reduce hunger and provide disaster relief nationally and internationally.



### YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE... REFUGEE EXPERIENCE THROUGH MUSIC, WORDS AND DANCE

**Saturday, November 11th from 7-9 pm at Cary Memorial Hall -  
1874 Mass Ave, Lexington**

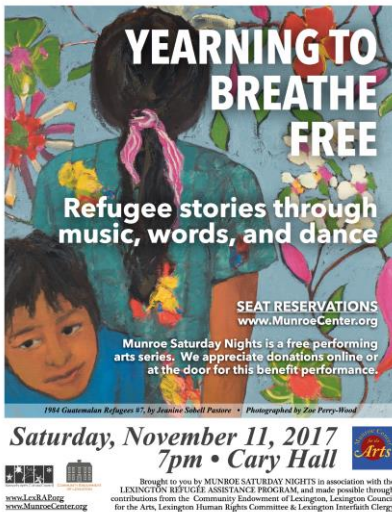
Go to: <http://www.munroecenter.org/msn-refugee-event.html> to get your tickets NOW!

On Saturday, November 11 in downtown Lexington from 7 to 9 pm at Cary Hall on Mass Ave., there will be a wonderful event titled:

“Yearning to Breathe Free”. This is an evening filled with storytelling, poetry, dance, and music to raise awareness and educate about refugee issues. It will be presented by the Munroe Center for the Arts in Lexington. The title “Yearning to Breathe Free” is from the poem *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus which is associated with the Statue of Liberty. “Give me your tired, your poor....Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..”

Writers and dancers and musicians have listened to the stories from our refugee friends and have created the evening of performance. It promises to be moving and beautiful. Admission is free but when you register for the event, there is a donation button and donations will be accepted at the event. Munroe is sharing the net with LexRAP (Lexington Refugee Assistance program). To make your reservations go to: <http://www.munroecenter.org/reserve-your-seat.html>. An exquisite quilt (62x77) has been made and donated for a raffle to benefit LexRAP.


Please plan to attend and spread the word - post the above message and the picture below on listservs and in newsletters!



## 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](mailto: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!



UCC Stillspeaking Daily Devotional

Old and New  
By: Mary Luti  
November 9, 2017

Wallace Nutting (1861-1941) was a Congregational minister, entrepreneur, and antiquarian. Appalled by the shoddiness of machine-made things, he championed old things made by hand.

Continue reading [HERE](#)

## NOTES FROM THE VITALITY COMMITTEE

### SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12!

The Vitality Committee is hosting a luncheon next Sunday immediately following worship and we hope you will be staying to join in on the fun. Please be in touch with Beth Kurth if you would like to help out or to RSVP. [hughzhoney@gmail.com](mailto:hughzhoney@gmail.com).



### PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS!

Please wear name tags to make it easier for Karen, Sean, Dot, and any new folks to get to know us all. If you need a new name tag, please let Beth or Diane know! Thank you.

### PILGRIM IS NUT FREE

Please remember that Pilgrim is a **NUT FREE** space. Please refrain from bring anything with any nuts for Coffee Hour, Events or activities! Thank you!

Additionally, as a new feature at Coffee Hour, a platter of goodies will be placed on a table for our elder members and coffee/beverages will be brought to you so you don't have to navigate around the kiddos!



## HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE

If the resonant acoustics of our sanctuary sometimes make it difficult for you to understand the spoken word, cheer up—help is available. We now have some new and improved individual hearing devices that work wonderfully well. Each consists of a little wireless receiver that is tuned to our sound system, with a cord and an ear plug. The sound is adjustable according to personal preference. You can find them in a basket on the name tag table in the narthex.



If you borrow one for use during the service, please be sure to return it at the end of the service, and to **TURN IT OFF**. (Otherwise, the battery runs out quickly.)

Happy listening!