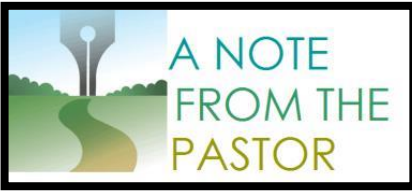


Pilgrim's Progress October 4, 2016 – Vol. 57 No. 8



Over the next few months I will be using my pastor's report to share theological reflections from my Sabbatical trip to the Holy Land. The experience profoundly changed my life. My hope is that these reflections will help us all contemplate our Christian faiths as we live into God's unique calls in our own lives. Thanks be to God!

Mark 1:9-11 (NRSV)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Frederic pulled me aside as our group was walking the streets of Jerusalem. "In three days we will be going to the Jordan River. Would you consider doing some sort of water ritual for our group there? Maybe you can work with Lawrence? I thought it may be nice to have a Catholic and a Protestant, a man and a woman to help us remember Christ's baptism and our own baptisms?"

Lawrence (a Jesuit priest living in London) and I planned our ritual relying on the United Church of Christ "Renewal of Baptism" liturgy. And then we stood in the muddy waters of the Jordan River--Israel on one side and Jordan on the other, armed guards patrolling the border between these two countries.

In the midst of this juxtaposition, God was present. The air, the water, the sun beating down on us, the groups gathered for baptisms and baptismal remembrances, all somehow felt holy--touched by God. We blessed the flowing waters and blessed the children of God who stood before us: "Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen."

As each person came forward to be blessed we prayed the words, "Remember your baptism and be thankful." Though in the end, we don't *have* to stand in the Jordan River to remember our baptisms, and to thank God every day that we are God's beloved. What would happen if we remembered this every day?

Grace and Peace,

Lauren





BIBLE STUDY RESUMES!

We will be resuming Bible Study on **Tuesday, October 11 at 10:30 am** in the sunroom. As always, all are welcome! You can join in at any time, and you don't need Bible knowledge; you can jump in anytime! We would love to have you.

NOTES FROM DEVIN

Children's Church and Connect Program Notes

Hello, Pilgrims!

After starting on August 1st, I have really enjoyed getting to know those of you I have already had the opportunity to meet. I am very much looking forward to meeting those I have not yet met. It should go without saying that I am really looking forward to a great year. This year, the educational ministries will be mission focused. While thinking about how we can be the church, Educational Ministries and Mission will be partnering together. As this partnership unfolds, be on lookout for more information. Together, we will discern what that means for us, our children, our youth, and this church! Again, if we have not yet met but you would like to, let me know.

You can always e-mail me at education@pilgrimcongregational.org. I look forward to hearing from you and a great year at Pilgrim!

Blessings, Devin

A few notes for the year:

- I will be holding open office hours on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 at Starbucks in Lexington (60 Bedford Street). This is a time I have open for parents to address their concerns, children to visit me with their parents, and for anybody who has questions about the educational ministries of Pilgrim. If this time does not work for you, I will always be available for an appointment. Just e-mail me!
- This year, I want to shift our culture from thinking about our Sunday School programs towards a Children's Church model (K-2nd, 3rd-4th). While yes, they will still be learning and growing together, it is important to me that they do not see church as school. Children's Church is where we will join together to not only do church but be church through the stories of our bible. The children will be dismissed for Children's Church after worship has begun following the time for children (except on Communion Sundays where they will begin in Children's Church).
- Our Connect Program (5th-8th) will meet on Sunday during worship. They will be dismissed for their programming at the same time as Children's Church after the time for children in worship. Their programming will include bible study, community building exercises, group activities (for example, helping with coffee hour), and mission work together with the Senior Youth as appropriate. They will learn to make connections between what they read in the bible with how they experience church and what it means to be church.
- Every month, Children's Church and the Connect Program will join together for Community Day. This will take place on Communion Sunday.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP CORNER

To the Youth (and their parents):

On **October 16th from 6:00-7:30**, we will be having a fellowship night with pizza, discussion and games. There will be more information on this later but I wanted to let you know so that you would be able to mark your calendars! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you, what activities you would like to do together as a group, and what you want out of church as well as what you want to do for the church. We can set a few dates for future fellowship nights, too. If you are able to join, please let me know by e-mail.

This year, I am planning to have office hours where you all can join me for coffee in Lexington. These office hours will be when you can help me think about upcoming plans or consider new activities for youth group. It is also a time for you to address your concerns about God, life, school, relationships, or whatever else might be important to you. It is your time when I am here for you. They will be just for people in youth group. During our first fellowship night, we can decide together what day, time, and location would be best.

If you would like to be in touch with me before we get together on the 16th, I welcome an appointment with you. Feel free to e-mail me at devin.shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Peace,
Devin

SIGN UP TO TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to teach church school for the 2016-2017 church year. We have three trimesters, fall, winter and spring; as well as three age groups, early Elementary, upper elementary & Middle school. There is also an option to add your name to a substitute teacher list or an assistant teacher list. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Kurth: hughzhoney@gmail.com



A NOTE FROM DAN SCHMIDT

MUSIC REHEARSALS RESUME! Thursday evening choir rehearsals have resumed on **Thursdays at 7:30 pm** in the climate controlled Pilgrim Hall. Sunday morning choir and bell rehearsals resume this morning. **Choir practice is from 9:30-10:00 am** in the sanctuary and bells will practice from **10:00-10:20 am** in the balcony. No musical experience needed nor are there age requirements. All are welcome!



A CALL FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please let either Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) or Beth Kurth (hughzhoney@gmail.com) know what date, if you will be taking them or leaving them, and what you would like printed in the bulletin. Usually, the donors take the flowers home after the service. Alternatively, the flowers can be left to be delivered to a Pilgrim friend by the Care Committee.

The cost of the flowers is a very reasonable \$40; to pay for them, make a check out to Pilgrim Church with "altar flowers" on the memo line, and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Giving flowers is a wonderful way to contribute to the beauty of our church service.



The beautiful chrysanthemums gracing our front doors were generously donated by Pat Dooley and her son. Thank you so much!



On **Sunday November 6** we will commemorate **All Saints Day**, a day in the Christian calendar when we acknowledge the loved ones in our lives we have lost over the past year. You are invited to send Diane the name(s) of any friend or family member you have lost over the past year admin@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Lauren will read the names of all these saints of our church during worship on November 6 and we will give thanks and praise for their lives. Please submit names by October 31.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Prayers for First Congregational Church of Berkeley, CA – for the congregation grieving and looking to rebuild from the ashes.
- Bei Hopkins asked for prayers for Kyle and his family. Kyle was a co-worker of Bei's who died of a drug overdose at age 25.
- Prayers for Diane Blair's friend Sheila, who is on hospice care with brain cancer.



PUMPKIN TRUCK ARRIVES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT APPROX. 1:00 PM!!

PUMPKIN PATCH SIGN UPS- OCTOBER 8 – 31

Please join in to help with one of our biggest fundraisers of the year – it's easy! Throughout the month of October we will be selling pumpkins from our front lawn and we cannot do it without you. Please sign up for a shift (or as many as you can do!) and help make Pumpkin Patch 2016 our best year ever! To sign up, click [HERE](#).

WANTED! APPLE PIE FEST BAKERS

Our annual Pilgrim Pumpkin Patch bake sale is **Saturday, October 22 from 11 am-6 pm**. Bakers are needed to make Apple Pies, Apple Crisps, and/or Pumpkin Breads to sell. Recipes are available! Copies of recipes are on the table in the narthex as you enter the church, by contacting Lisa or Jeff Boehm, on our website, or by clicking [HERE](#). Please use this link to sign up or email Lisa or Jeff. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f49aaad2bab9-apple>



Drop off your homemade goodies on October 22 from 10 am-11 am. Questions? Please contact Lisa Boehm lisapboehm@gmail.com or Jeff Boehm jeffsboehm@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping make our annual bake sale a success!



JOIN US FOR THE PILGRIM PROGRESSIVE DINNER SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016 AT 6:00 PM.

Four families from Pilgrim will offer you dinner and hospitality. After the main course at the first home, we will all meet at the final home for dessert. You will be asked to contribute something for the meal. It could be a side-dish and/or a dessert.

Please come!

To sign-up, call or email Sandra Gardiner at 781-862-7198 or Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.



To access the calendar for Pilgrim Church, please click [here](#). Thank you.



CROP WALK TEAM – PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our team is helping to end hunger one step at a time by participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk in Concord, MA on **Sunday, October 23, 2016**. Funds from the 36th CROP Walk for the Hungry support community-based suppers and pantries located locally as well as world-wide hunger and disaster relief and community development through Church World Services (CWS). Please support us by making a donation ... and join us on the Walk if you are able! If you wish to walk with us, see "details for walking" below. If you also wish to recruit donors, obtain "walking papers" from Don or Claire Moir. If you wish to donate, see "details for donating" below.

Details for walking:

Date: Sunday, October 23, 2016

Location: First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd in Concord Center, Concord, MA

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with music by the Concord Carlisle HS Pep Band

Walk begins at 2:15 p.m. The route is 2 loops of 2 ¼ miles each; walk either or both.

Details for donating:

(a) Online – go to: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/concordma/PilgrimLex> or,

(b) By check – make checks payable to CWS/CROP and give them to the walker, or mail them to Don or Claire Moir at 35 South St., Concord, MA 01742.

Church World Service is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. Donations to Church World Service, including donations to CROP Hunger Walks, are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law. The CWS federal identification number is 13-4080201.

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Join us for the Pilgrim Progressive Dinner

Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Four families from Pilgrim will offer you
dinner and hospitality.

After the main course at the first home, we will all meet at
the final home for dessert.

You will be asked to contribute something for the meal.
It could be a side-dish and/or a dessert.

Please come!

To sign-up, call or email Sandra Gardiner at

781-862-7198 or Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Pumpkin Patch



October 9 - 31

Monday to Friday: 11am–6pm

Saturday: 10am–6pm

Sunday: 12pm–6pm

Pilgrim Church: 55 Coolidge Ave, Lexington

Come pick pumpkins in every shape, size, and color – creamy whites, classic orange beauties, mini pumpkins and gourds galore. Perfect for carving or decorating!



PILGRIM
Congregational Church

www.pilgrimcongregational.org

Pilgrim Pumpkin Patch presents:

Apple Pie Festival Saturday, Oct. 22

- **Bakers needed to make Apple Pies, Apple Crisp, and/or Pumpkin Bread to sell!**
- Easy-to-follow recipe provided. For pies, just add your own crust or purchase a ready-made crust
- Drop off homemade goodies on Oct 22 10-11 AM
- Contact the Boehms at lisapboehm@gmail.com or jeffsboehm@gmail.com to sign up!
- THANK YOU!



OCTOBER 4, 2016

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

A publication of

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420
Telephone: (781) 862-0357

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www.pilgrimcongregational.org

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

Rev. Lauren Lorincz, Pastor

Daniel Schmidt, Director of Music

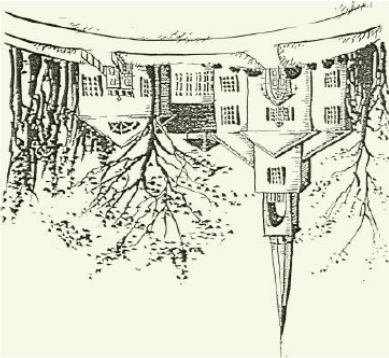
Devin Shmueli, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries

Diane Blair, Church Secretary

Diane Murphy, Nursery Care Provider

Dan Conley, Church Sexton

Leslie Beatrice, Director of Pilgrim Nursery School



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC

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