



PILGRIM
Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST 

Pilgrim's Progress October 4, 2017 - Vol. 58 No. 8

A NOTE FROM KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim folks,

I've been reflecting on the unusual cluster of holidays we are marking this October. This coming weekend we mark Columbus Day which is now called Indigenous Peoples Day in many communities. The tension between these two vibrates still: our history in this nation as we saw it for centuries-- Manifest Destiny and the primacy of Western values--and the quite recent recognition of the earlier history of First Nations peoples who lived here before colonists and treasure seekers arrived.

How do we hold these two histories together and understand the collision of cultures, the legacy of war and genocide and the responsibility we have to future generations to "get it right" in our telling our nation's story? History is a tricky thing. We understand that history is usually written by the winners. But as Christians we tell a different story, a story of those on the margins, the underclass, the ones Jesus hung out with. How do we speak of indigenous people in our telling of history to our children, and in looking at the celebrations happening this weekend?

Later in the month in the church calendar we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Martin Luther's act of "ecclesiastical disobedience" changed the face of Christianity forever. Luther never wanted to split the church. He just wanted reforms in the church. But by nailing his complaints to the cathedral door he cracked the church apart and we Protestants have been splintering and splitting ever since. So is our 500th anniversary a celebration of speaking up about our faith or is it an acknowledgement of all the changes that have happened including the forming of our own UCC tradition? Or is it a reminder of the saying that "God has yet more truth and light to break forth from God's holy Word."

Finally, we celebrate Halloween, a time for imaginations running free, trying on new identities if just for one night, and a major indulgence in candy. Halloween was historically considered a time of year when the barrier between earth and the beyond, the afterlife, was thin. It was a time when the Spirit and the spirits of those we loved and lost came close to us. Then as the new day dawned, we celebrated All Saints' Day and remembered and honored those people. Who are you remembering this year?

I wish you an interesting and reflective October. Think about the histories you have inherited from your family, your community, our nation and Pilgrim church. Consider what you celebrate and why. And, of course, put aside some time to enjoy the celebrations.

For God is present in our deliberation and our openness to new ideas. And God is present in our joy and our celebration.

Happy Indigenous Peoples Reformation Halloween!

Peace,

Karen





WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY--NEW DAY, NEW TIME, NEW PASTOR!

This fall I am really looking forward to launching the weekday Bible Study. This drop in group will meet on Wednesdays, a departure from the usual Tuesday time. For all who are interested, we will meet at 12 noon at church for a look at scripture and how it speaks to us. We will start on October 4th. All folks are welcome whether you know a ton about the Bible or nothing at all. No prerequisites! I look forward to spending time with you and thinking about what God has to say to us. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Karen

CELEBRATING SYLVIA FERRELL-JONES

The Feminist Affair, a benefit event sponsored by Boston area National Organization for Women, will honor Pilgrim member Sylvia Ferrell-Jones with the Wonder Woman Award. The event will be held on **October 5th from 6-9pm** at District Hall in Boston. This is a great honor and a fitting tribute to Sylvia, her dedication to women, and her work with the YW of Boston. If you can't attend, drop her a note of congratulations. More information about the event and tickets can be found here:

www.eventbrite.com/e/the-feminist-affair-tickets-37000319953?aff=Ellie

PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- We ask for prayers for all of those affected by the Las Vegas shooting; for those killed and injured, their friends and families, and for all those whose lives will never be the same.
- Prayers for all of our Pilgrim members and friends who need our thoughts, love, and support for whatever reason.
- Continued prayers for all those still suffering the effects of the recent deadly hurricanes, earthquakes and other forces of nature as they try to endure, move forward, and rebuild their lives

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



Please note that the office will be closed on Monday, October 9 in observance of Columbus Day.

RECENT SERMONS

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

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION--THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Talking about and planning for Pilgrim's Christmas pageant brings up different feelings and perspectives among our diverse Pilgrim members. We have different ideas about what Christmas means at Pilgrim and how we celebrate it in worship. Staff members need to start planning for Advent and Christmas soon. Therefore, we will hold a congregational conversation about the pageant on **October 15th after worship**. All people are invited. It will be a facilitated time of understanding Pilgrim's past traditions, listening to one another, and discerning together how to celebrate the birth of the Christ child this year. The meeting will last about one hour, with a second time to be scheduled if needed.

TRANSITION TIME BULLETIN BOARDS

Have questions about the Interim time or what an Interim Pastor does? Check out the Transition Time Bulletin Boards in the Narthex. You'll find information about this transition time, what to expect in the months ahead and what work the congregation is embarking on to get ready to welcome a new pastor. More information will be added as Pilgrim moves forward in this process.

MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE UCC SUPER SATURDAY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Ever wonder what it is like to worship with 700 UCC'ers? It is AWE-some. Join Karen, Devin, and others from Pilgrim leadership at Super Saturday, October 21st, a day of fellowship, worship, workshops and inspiring speakers. It is the largest UCC gathering aside from General Synod, the national UCC meeting. Learn more at macucc.org or talk to Karen or Devin.

HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL INVITATION!

Hello All,

I hope this email finds you well! I wanted to cordially invite each of you to the first Handbell Choir rehearsal of the year on **Sunday, October 8th from 12:00 to 12:30!** Whether you are a handbell veteran, a rookie, tall or small, I hope that I might see you there!



If you have family members or friends that may have not received this email, please let them know that all are welcome to join! (No prior musical experience required!)

An announcement was made during church and there will sign-up sheets for people write down their name and email if they are interested in learning more about the Handbell Choir at Pilgrim! More information about when we will be rehearsing, performing, etc. will be provided on October 8th.

If you are interested in joining or remaining on the handbell choir roster but cannot attend the first rehearsal on October 8th, please send me an email and I will share rehearsal dates and more information when I have them completed! I hope to see you there!

All the best,

Sean - sean.watland@pilgrimcongregational.org



THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

We are very excited to let you know that the pumpkins will be delivered on **Saturday October 7th at 10:00 am!** We are doing things a little differently this year. We will not be unloading a truck, but taking pumpkins out of large cardboard containers (on pallets) that have been placed on the driveway, and placing them in front of the church. We have approximately 1000 pumpkins coming, and would welcome help from all! This event will be rain or shine, and coffee & donuts will be served. We look forward to seeing you there. Signups will be available for the Pumpkin Patch hours online ([HERE](#)) as well as on a sign-up sheet at church. Hours this year will be Monday through Friday 12:00-6:00, Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 12-6. Thank you for your support!

A TRIP TO THE ORCHARD!

Let's go apple-picking, go on a hay-ride, and enjoy the best cider donuts Massachusetts has to offer.*

Who: All Pilgrims and Friends Welcome
When: October 22nd, 2017 from 12:00 to 2:00
Where: Shelburne Farms at [106 West Acton Road](#) in Stow, MA, 01775
Why? To enjoy fun, fellowship, and fall festivities as a church.

More information to follow. If you imagine that you will need financial assistance, be in touch with Devin (devin.shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org) or Karen (pastor@pilgrimcongregational.org).



ADULT EDUCATION SERIES - SAVE THE DATES!

Despite her conversion from Orthodox Judaism to Christianity, Lauren Winner finds that her life is still shaped by the spiritual essences of Judaism- rich traditions and religious practices that she can't leave behind. In *Mudhouse Sabbath*, Winner illuminates eleven spiritual practices that can transform the way we view the world, and God. Whether discussing her own prayer life, the spirituality of candle-lighting, or the differences between the Jewish Sabbath and a Sunday spent at the Mudhouse, her favorite coffee shop, Winner writes with appealing honesty and rare insight.

Devin Shmueli, our Director of Christian Education, will explore five different spiritual practices, customs, and traditions identified in the book. We will engage them hands on, discuss how they feel for us, learn more about their use in Jewish life and understand how we might use them in Christian life. We might even discover how they influence our Christian practices, traditions, and customs today. Exploring the following themes, we will meet on **Wednesdays in October from 7:00-8:30** on:

October 4, 2017: Sabbath and Prayer

October 11, 2017: Hospitality

October 18, 2017: Aging

October 25, 2017: Mourning

You can join us for one, two, three, or all four sessions. We will have a few of the Study Editions available to borrow but recommend you visit Amazon and search for *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline - Study Edition*. If you have any questions or you are interested in joining for this educational offering, please call the office or e-mail Devin at Devin.Shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org.

SON-MEY CHIU IS EXHIBITING WORK AT GALLERY BLINK

Our member Son-Mey has work in the current show called WORDplay which is at GALLERYblink at [1936 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington](#) from September 29 through October 22, 2017. It is open every day from 11 am through 5pm.

Do attend the celebration of this show on Friday, October 6, from 5 to 8 pm!

NEWS FROM LEX EAT TOGETHER

If you know a high school student who would like to volunteer to set up (3pm 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!

**CROP WALK TEAM:
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL - LEXINGTON**

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 22, 2017. Funds from the 37th 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!



Contact us at themoirs2@gmail.com

Details for walking:

Date: **Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Location: First Parish in Concord, [20 Lexington Rd](#) in Concord Center, Concord, MA

Registration begins at 1:30 pm with music by the Concord Carlisle HS Pep Band

Walk begins at 2:15 pm. 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.

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



UCC Stillspeaking Daily Devotional

Humble

By: Emily C. Heath

October 1, 2017

True humility is not about putting yourself down, but rather about realizing that the people who surround you are no less special than you.

Continue reading [HERE](#)

NOTES FROM THE VITALITY COMMITTEE



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 bringing 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!



A CALL FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Each week, a member of the congregation donates the altar flowers for Sunday's church service. Many people choose a date to give the flowers that is, for them, a special time of celebration or remembrance. Our church secretary, Diane Blair, keeps the list of donors and makes the arrangements with Wilson Farms for the delivery of the flowers.

You can let Diane know if you would like to give the flowers and what date you prefer (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org). Alternatively, you can speak to Beth Kurth at coffee hour or email her hughzhoney@gmail.com and she will pass the information along to Diane.

Usually, the donors take the flowers home after the service. Alternatively, the flowers can be left to be delivered to a homebound friend.

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.

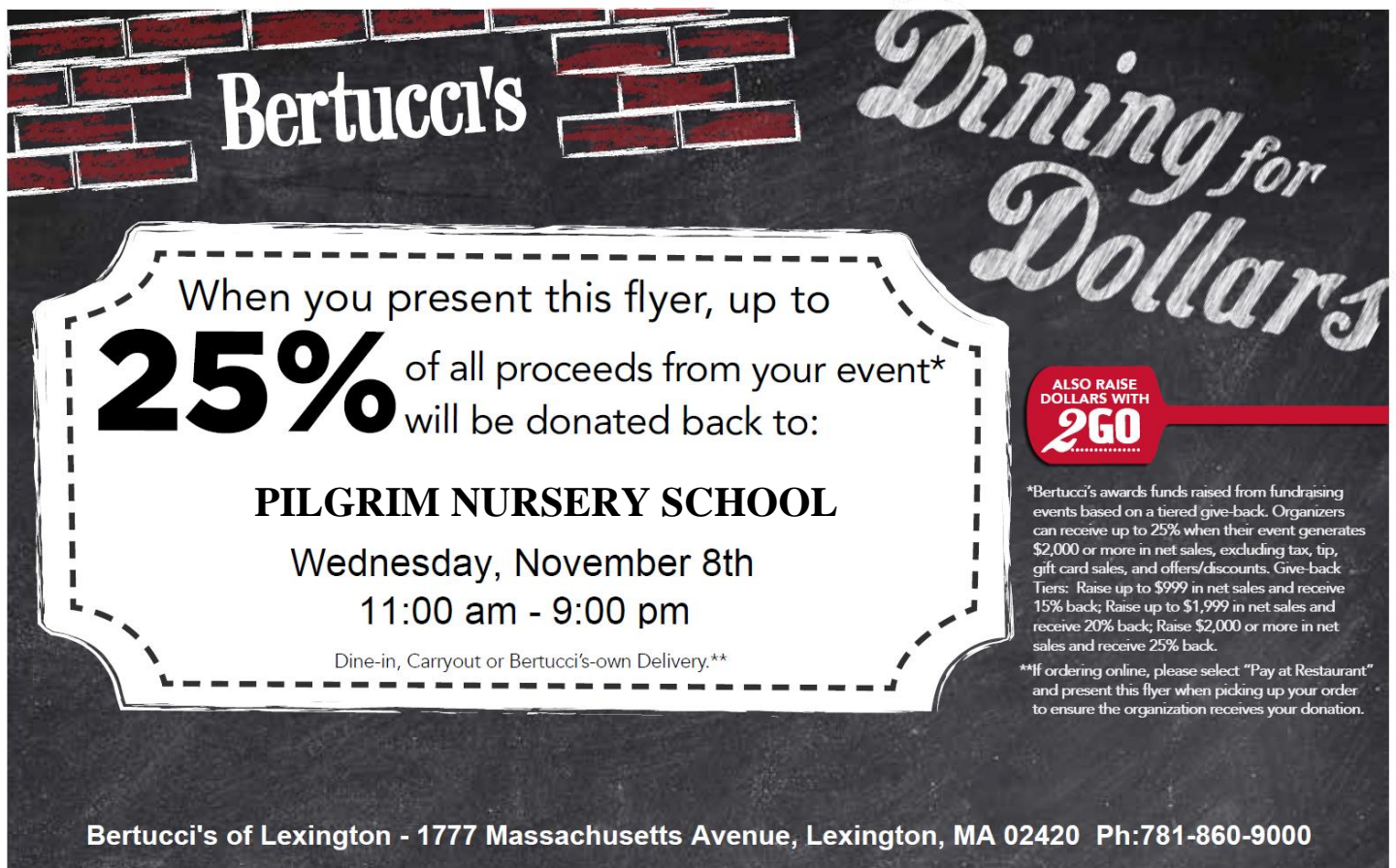
HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE

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!



Bertucci's

Dining for Dollars

When you present this flyer, up to
25% of all proceeds from your event* will be donated back to:

PILGRIM NURSERY SCHOOL

Wednesday, November 8th
11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Dine-in, Carryout or Bertucci's-own Delivery.**

ALSO RAISE DOLLARS WITH 2GO

*Bertucci's awards funds raised from fundraising events based on a tiered give-back. Organizers can receive up to 25% when their event generates \$2,000 or more in net sales, excluding tax, tip, gift card sales, and offers/discounts. Give-back Tiers: Raise up to \$999 in net sales and receive 15% back; Raise up to \$1,999 in net sales and receive 20% back; Raise \$2,000 or more in net sales and receive 25% back.

**If ordering online, please select "Pay at Restaurant" and present this flyer when picking up your order to ensure the organization receives your donation.

Bertucci's of Lexington - 1777 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420 Ph:781-860-9000



Bertucci's

Dining for Dollars

When you present this flyer, up to
25% of all proceeds from your event* will be donated back to:

PILGRIM NURSERY SCHOOL

Wednesday, November 8th
11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Dine-in, Carryout or Bertucci's-own Delivery.**

ALSO RAISE DOLLARS WITH 2GO

*Bertucci's awards funds raised from fundraising events based on a tiered give-back. Organizers can receive up to 25% when their event generates \$2,000 or more in net sales, excluding tax, tip, gift card sales, and offers/discounts. Give-back Tiers: Raise up to \$999 in net sales and receive 15% back; Raise up to \$1,999 in net sales and receive 20% back; Raise \$2,000 or more in net sales and receive 25% back.

**If ordering online, please select "Pay at Restaurant" and present this flyer when picking up your order to ensure the organization receives your donation.

Bertucci's of Lexington - 1777 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420 Ph:781-860-9000