



PILGRIM
Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST 

Pilgrim's Progress September 14, 2017 – Vol. 58 No. 7

A NOTE FROM KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim folks,

I took a walk during my lunch the other day. I walked from the church, around the corner onto Revere and ended up at Parker Meadow, a piece of conservation land in Lexington. It is a lovely walk into a piece of nature. But it wasn't what I expected. I imagined a meadow, perhaps the stereotyped, grassy rise with wildflowers and a breeze rippling the grasses.

Parker Meadow instead is a walk, often boardwalk, under shade trees, around stands of tall brush with patchy sun on the ground, and bordering a large pond. It was clear to me that over time this meadow has changed from open grassland, probably forage for livestock at one point, and is in the midst of a transformation to a young woodland and wetland.

Parker Meadow is wonderful. It is just not the meadow of my imagination and it took me a moment to reset. I had to move from anticipation of what I thought I would find to appreciation of what was actually there.

This process of resetting can happen during the interim journey as well. We can tend to come to church anticipating one thing based on our past, or our experiences, or our unfilled wants. We arrive only to be disappointed when that vision is not reality. There aren't as many people in the pews as we remember. Or we are moving in a different direction with our mission money and effort than we used to. Or an old tradition has faded. Or some committees have died off.

Sometimes this can blind us to what is, and leave us unable to appreciate what we find in our particularly community of faith now. What is life giving at Pilgrim right now? What people bring joy to worship and in their service? Where can we see God doing a new thing, a different thing, a reimagined thing? How do we feel uplifted and supported at Pilgrim? How does the church enable us to go out and do God's work?

I invite you in the months ahead into the spiritual practice of resetting. Reset your expectations. Reset your ideas of what is "good ministry" or a "good church" or a "good number of members" and look around at what is present in reality. Where do you see hope and love and light at Pilgrim? I see a lot of it and will keep reflecting it back to you as we journey together in this transition time.

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

- Continued prayers for all those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.
- We ask for prayers for Pilgrim Church as we continue to shift and undergo transitions, and ask that God help guide us in a positive direction.

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



RECENT SERMONS

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



This Quarter, we will be spending September 10th through November 19th with the stories from Genesis to Exodus. We will spend a few weeks on different aspects of one story, engaging in hands on activities that help us to better understand the message of our stories of faith. Our plans for the coming Sundays are as follows:

On the 17th, we will divide up into the age groups and read and discuss the creation story again and watch the video that comes through the Holy Moly and Connect Curricula. Our K-2nd group will get to color in their own creation story books. Our older two groups will join together to read the story straight from their Connect Bible and watch a video to help guide the discussion. As time allows, they will use fabric markers on fabric blocks to create a Creation Quilt.

On the 24th, we will continue our theme of enjoying creation and create leaf coasters. These might make great gifts for Christmas so I do not want to ruin the surprise! While we won't review the creation story on this day, it will be a light day and give us a chance to focus on being the creator's that God created us to be.

On October 1st, we will begin to study Noah's Ark. We will use science and a study of density to make rainbows, discuss the rainbow as a symbol in Noah's Story, and what we think it means in the world today. It is also Communion Sunday, a special one, too. We will be celebrating World Communion Sunday as a church. As a reminder, Children's Church begins downstairs and we will join the adults in worship in a worldly way when that time comes.

Watch out for next month, we will be delving deeper into the Hebrew Bible and explore the stories that lead up to Exodus. Keep an eye out for details, if anything makes you curious do not hesitate to ask.

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



UCC Stillspeaking Daily Devotional

Present Imperfect

By Mary Luti

September 9, 2017

Hypocrisy comes in many varieties. Continue reading [HERE](#)



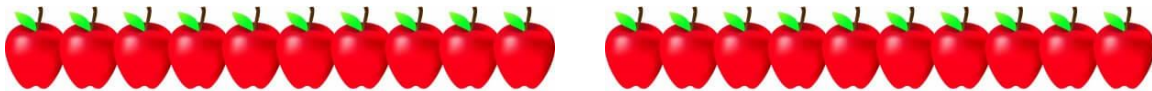
A TRIP TO THE ORCHARD!

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).

*According to a qualitative study conducted by several Andover Newton Students. This does not represent the opinion of Pilgrim Congregational Church or its members.



Dear Pilgrims,

With this new church year, I want to make children's church a safe place for fun, joy, and spiritual growth. That said, I cannot do it alone. Each year, we have some dedicated lead teachers but we need to get in the practice of having an additional person on hand to help in each classroom. This helps us to align with our Safe Church policies, which actually require that we have two adults in each room. Would you be willing to help us out? Together, you will team teach a small class with another person. I will give some guidance around the lesson plans, activities, and supplies.

Would you be willing to join a class for about two months? This year, we will be running on a semi-quarterly basis. The dates are:

September 10 to November 19;
November 26 to January 21;
January 28 to March 18;
March 18 to May 20

Our last few weeks of the church year, our time will be dedicated to Children's Sunday and other end of year festivities including our Second Annual End of Year Field Day.

Will you join us and assist with Children's Church? It will be a great time. Please e-mail me to express your interest and the quarter(s) for which you'd prefer to volunteer. I look forward to hearing from you; your dedication to our youngest Pilgrims is a blessing.

Peace,

Devin Devin.Shmueli@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.



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 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!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 22
7:00 PM**

Front Lawn — Pilgrim Church
55 Coolidge Ave., Lexington

Free and open to the public

**SHOWING:
Sing!**

Free popcorn
and beverages

Bring a blanket
or a chair.

**HOSTED BY
PILGRIM**
Congregational Church

Please plan on joining us for this beloved tradition! Invite anyone and everyone. ☺



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.



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE CONCORD AREA CROP
WALK:**

2017 Concord CROP Walk -
Sunday, October 22, 2017 1:30 pm
at First Parish in Concord. For more
info, visit their website [HERE](#).

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

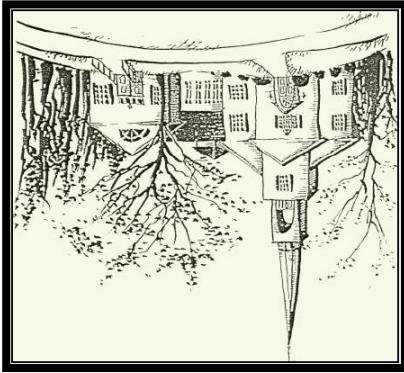
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Sunday Worship and Church School - 10:30am
Summer Worship - 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30pm

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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017



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OF CHRIST
Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
55 Coolidge Avenue
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