

Pilgrim's Progress

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Pilgrim Congregational Church - UCC, 55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420-1899



FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; . . . Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. Isaiah 65:17-18

Dear Friends,

As you read this, we are halfway through Lent. Easter arrives late this year, when we assume spring will be fully underway (this week's snow notwithstanding). In the northern hemisphere, the coming of spring offers rich parallels to the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Easter is a time of hope and rebirth. We are reminded that the barrenness of winter in our lives is replaced with new life and growth. After the suffering of the crucifixion comes resurrection and joy. You might say this is also somewhat symbolic of Pilgrim Church's experience in the last few years.

Although you experienced autumn and winter in the departure of your pastor and commencement of an interim period, it was not exactly a barren time in the life of Pilgrim. Much was going on beneath the surface in preparation for a new season. You threw yourselves into the interim work with gusto, preparing the foundation for a thorough search and for a new pastor. Winter in New England can be like that -- a time when not much appears to be happening. But appearances can be deceiving. The longer days and warmth of the sun as we pass the vernal equinox help the ground to thaw and the mud to dry. Eventually, the grass will begin to revive and food stored within bulbs will convert to energy to push new life to the surface.

That new life for you will begin in mid-May with the arrival of Lauren Lorincz, your new pastor. You and I need to prepare for this new season. Our time together is coming to an end. These final weeks are bittersweet for me as I contemplate life without each of you and all of you together. I cannot tell you how much our mutual ministry has meant to me and how much I will miss being your pastor. This brings me to a difficult but important subject. After May 1, I will no longer be the pastor of Pilgrim Church. The ethics of ordained ministry require that I no longer relate to you in a pastoral capacity. There are times when living up to this may not be easy. The restriction may seem harsh, but there is good reason for it. It will be easier for you to embrace the future and bond with your new pastor if you are not trying to bring your interim pastor along with you, which means that our frequent communication by telephone and email will come to an end on May 1st. Be assured that this does not mean that I will not continue to care about you and your families and to hold you in prayer.

For me there will undoubtedly be a period of withdrawal, but I rejoice in knowing how rich are the possibilities which lie before us all. You and I are on the threshold of a new future. I believe that God has wonderful things in store for you as you embrace that future, and new blessings for me as well as I move into retirement. Easter will truly be a time of celebration of new life and new beginnings for us this year. May God's blessing abide with you.

Peace and love to each one of you,
Sally



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 17th	Palm/Passion Sunday
Thursday, April 21	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7:30
Friday, April 22	Good Friday Music and readings in the sanctuary 12 - 1:30
Sunday, April 24th	Easter



Minister of Education

Occasionally, an ordinary event in our childhood clings to our memory more than others do. Time and again I think about a late summer day when I was about to go into the third grade. Because none of us had attended preschool or Kindergarten, my mother wanted to be sure my little brother and sister were somewhat ready for entry into the first grade the following week. My mother asked me to take my siblings out onto the deck and “play school.” This was not exactly my idea, but when given the assignment I fell into the role easily. Proud of my new identity as teacher, I remember gathering supplies and escorting my two eager students to the deck.

We are all teachers in one sense or another. Some of us find opportunities while others might be called to it. The Educational Ministries team has set in motion the annual task of planning the teaching ministry for the 2011-12 church school year. While many veteran teachers and assistants ask to be on a teaching team, others are like I was on that “back-to-school” sort of day. It may not be their idea, but they take to the role like pros

when asked to share their faith and love of God. I enjoy stopping by the classrooms and seeing what they are up to. I see older students reading the Bible, expressing their faith through art, or doing Bible activity sheets. I watch as small children sit in a circle on the floor, sing songs and ask questions about the books held before them. I see youth engaged in conversation and toddlers playing with each other in the nursery.

In the last few years, we have been fortunate to have most all 21 teaching assignments filled in early Spring. This is such a wonderful way to begin the year because it leaves us to explore other creative ideas with our time. In recent years, teaching teams have been supporting each other when one of them has to be away. This enables more volunteers to make the commitment to teach. Our children are in such great hands; thank a teacher when you get the chance. And if you would like to join us, please let me know right away because there are only a few teaching spots left!

Thank you to our winter teaching teams: Barbara Yates, Lisa O'Brien and the huge crew of assistants in preschool; Shelley Moeller and Chris Velis in K/1; Jennifer Velis in 2/3; Kathy LoBuglio in 4/5; and Julia Kirby with our Youth! Please help me welcome Mary Mackie and Kate McGondel in preschool; Yolanda Taylor in K/1; Jeff Boehm in 2/3; Julia Kirby in 4/5; and Dana Ellis and Marjory German with our youth for the Spring term!



Pilgrim Progressive Dinner

Save the Date of **Sunday, May 22nd starting at 5:30** for an evening of good food and good conversation with good friends from Pilgrim.

Progressive Dinner does not refer to the political persuasion of the attendees. The dinner progresses throughout the evening in 3 different homes. The entire group meets at one home for appetizers. From

there, we break into smaller groups for dinner at various host homes. Finally, the group meets for dessert and coffee at another home. The goal of the evening is to be able to spend some time with friends in a relaxed setting and to get to know folks a little better.

Bob and Sheryl Mason have generously offered to host appetizers at their house to start the evening. We would love to find another congregant to host dessert for the group. We also need folks who are willing to host dinner for between 6 and 10 people.

If you can join us, please email Kat MacDonald at katmacdonald@verizon.net and let her know whether you will be a host or a guest. If you are willing to host, we need to know how many folks you can comfortably accommodate or whether you would be willing to host the dessert portion of the evening.

We hope to continue in the established tradition of some very fun Progressive Dinners.

Dave McClave, Anne Nuss and
Kat MacDonald



STEWARDSHIP BREAKFAST


Come join us **April 10th** for a Stewardship Breakfast from **9:00 am to 10:00 am** in recognition of all those that pledged for the stewardship drive this year. All are welcome. Enjoy a warm breakfast and hot coffee, homemade at Pilgrim!

Thank you again, from the Stewardship committee,
Kim Bond, Julia Kirby, David Nuss, Joe Carabbio
and Peter Saradjian



Youth Group Schedule

April 3 rd	May 29 th
April 17 th	June 12 th
May 1 st	June 26 th
May 15 th	



REMINDER: The next deadline
for the May issue of Pilgrim's
Progress will be **Monday, April
22nd**.



NEWS FROM PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

The Carbon Fast at Pilgrim Church

The first Sunday Sidebar took place on March 20 with 10 people in lively discussion after the worship service. Two things were really notable: the sharing of ideas and information about various ways to save energy, and the support that we felt as we talked about climate change. One group member said she no longer feels that she's working to solve the climate crisis all by herself. Others agreed: It is good that this is a community effort. This is one reason the United Church of Christ decided to sponsor the Carbon Fast: so that this could become not just a private effort by individuals, but a community effort, which is more effective and possibly more enjoyable. At the discussion we felt encouraged to do more by the commitment of others.

There are two more opportunities to attend a Sunday Sidebar: April 3, and April 17. Meanwhile the Carbon Fast suggestions are available each week on Enotes, the Pilgrim website (www.pilgrimcongregational.org) and in each Sunday's worship bulletin.



THE INTERFAITH GARDEN

Here are some notes from **Amy Swanson's Garden blog**:

In spite of snow on March 21, the first workday took place on March 22. Four workers came to help Carla on that raw day--representing First Parish, Islamic Center of Wayland, Hancock, and First Baptist.

The garden looks barren, but Carla showed us the Austrian sweet pea that came up after the last harvest. It will be rototilled back into the soil, adding good nitrogen.

Tasks completed: Cleaned and oiled some of the tools, cleared the asparagus beds, and sprayed the blueberry bushes with mineral oil to ward off the winter moths. Tomorrow the garden gets rototilled and perhaps on Saturday we will be ready to spread composted manure. The scarecrow's clothes are newly washed and he is ready to ward off pests.

Interested in working at the garden? Pilgrim's first date is Saturday, April 2, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. We have 3 volunteers signed up and there is room for more. Sign up at 781 862-2271 or barbjim.munkres@verizon.net.



HERE ARE A FEW HELPFUL WEBSITES:

For finding good nature and environmental programs for your children:

Massachusetts Audubon Society

www.massaudubon.org

For finding accurate info about pollution, climate change and other ecological issues:

Union of Concerned Scientists www.ucsusa.org

Food, pesticides, product safety, water quality:

The Environmental Working Group

www.ewg.org/home

Recycling, composting and hazardous Waste:

Lexington Department of Public Works

www.ci.lexington.ma.us/dpw

(or [www.ci."yourtown".ma/us/dpw](http://www.ci.))

Our denomination: United Church of Christ, on

Earthcare:

www.ucc.org/earthcare

THE BE-ATTITUDES

Blessed are those who use low-energy light bulbs for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.

Blessed are those who travel by train,

for their lives are on God's track.

Blessed are those who choose a car with low fuel consumption, for they are in God's fast lane.

Blessed are those who insulate their homes, for theirs is the warmth of God's love.

Blessed are you when you put yourselves out to use energy from renewable sources, for you have kindled the flame of the future.

John Polhill in Eggs and Ashes



**RACE TO NOWHERE
IS COMING TO LEXINGTON**

Race to Nowhere (PG-13), the acclaimed film about the epidemic of unhealthy academic stress among students across America, is coming to Lexington.

There will be two screenings, both at Cary Hall, 1605 Mass Ave. Show times are April 28, 7-9:00 p.m., and April 29, 10 a.m. to noon. Doors open 30 minutes before show time. General admission is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Admission is free to the first 300 students, \$5.00 per student thereafter. To ensure a seat, advance registration is strongly recommended. For tickets and advance registration, visit

www.racetonowhere.com/screenings.

A community conversation about the film will take place Thursday, May 5, 7- 8:30 p.m., at Temple Emunah, 9 Piper Road, Lexington. This event is free-of-charge and open to all who have seen the film. Students are especially welcome. Refreshments will be served.

These special screenings of Race to Nowhere and follow-up community discussions are sponsored by the Lexington schools' PTAs/PTOs and the Phyllis

Klein Thorpe Memorial Fund of Temple Emunah. Supporting organizations include Lexington Public Schools; Lexington High School student groups: Peer Leaders, SMAD, and SADD; the Collaborative to Reduce Student Stress; the Student Health Advisory Council; and Lexington's Department of Human Services.

For more information, contact BJ Rudman at 781-863-2091, or Nancy Shepard at 781-674-9296, or visit <http://lhs.lexingtonma.org/Stress/>



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

It has been ten years since Tom and I joined fellow Pilgrims on our first trip to Honduras. Since then, we have joined numerous others from our congregation, as well as others from St. Brigids and Sacred Heart. We have also accompanied volunteers from other towns, and other states. My oldest son visited Flores recently, and shares his experience below.

“Last Thursday I traveled to Honduras alone for the first time. It definitely was a new experience as I learned more about Flores on this trip than the three previous trips combined. While there are so many stories I can share, the one I feel is most important for others to hear is what I have learned about Ana Hernandez and the enormous impact she has.

Ana's entire life is the definition of 'paying it forward.' When she was a child, her family was one of the poorest in all of Flores and as she describes it they were "very humble." Ana and the rest of her family were fortunate enough to meet an American woman named Margaret. Margaret changed Ana's life as she insisted on her being dedicated to school and provided financial assistance so that she could learn English. Following in the path of Margaret, Ana has been helping others ever since.

As a single Mom, Ana is successfully raising her son Wesley on her own, while doing work literally all day, every day for others in her community. This is by no means an exaggeration as in a given day I saw Ana be a tutor, translator, networker, project manager, mentor, accountant, medical consultant, and so much more. Ana receives calls or visits to her house constantly from people looking for help. In many cases she is the one having to make the hard decision if this is a person who can help or not.

The more I talked with Ana and watched her in action, the more I learned how smart a woman she is. A little over a year ago, Ana became the first female mayor of Flores and was able to stand toe to toe with all the men in the town. She finds the right balance of being friendly and strong to get things done. Ana is so trustworthy that she was the first mayor that was not accused of stealing money when she left office.

It seemed to me that the entire town knows Ana. As we would walk down the street everyone we passed would say hi to her and she would be able to explain to me who each person was. Ana also takes no credit for the work she does.

There are countless more examples I could give of Ana changing the lives of others in her community. She was a gracious host on my trip and definitely is a reason why I would like to go back as soon as possible”





ANNOUNCING THE PILGRIM TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Pilgrim has an IT (Information Technology) Department! The newly-formed **Technology Committee** is a one-stop shop for help with any church-related technical need. If a church computer is on the fritz, or you need help publishing something to the web site, or you want to create an email address for

my_project@pilgrimcongregational.org, the Technology Committee can help. We can also help you bring new technology to Pilgrim. If you have an idea for technology you think would benefit Pilgrim, let us know. We can help with planning and implementation, and help ensure any new hardware or software works well with existing systems.

You can reach the Technology Committee by sending email to:

technology@pilgrimcongregational.org

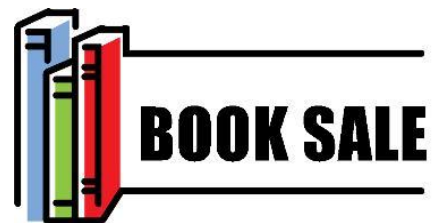
The Technology Committee was created by, and reports to, the Finance and Administration Committee, taking on responsibilities historically under F&A's purview – maintaining and supporting Pilgrim's IT infrastructure, and planning for future technology needs. At least one member of the Technology Committee must also be a member of F&A.

The decision to create a new committee was motivated by several factors:

- A desire to provide Pilgrims with a single, well-publicized, and easily-accessible technical support resource. Until now, the only option for a Pilgrim with a technical need has been to ask around in hopes of finding the right person to help.

- The need to cross-train administrators for the various systems we maintain. Pilgrim cannot afford to have systems that only one person knows how to run. By spreading knowledge and expertise, we can provide better service to users, avoid roadblocks due to the unavailability of a single person, and lighten the load on all administrators.
- A belief that Pilgrim is best served by taking a holistic approach to planning, management, and support for all our systems. Today, each system is managed in relative isolation by a different individual or group. There is little high-level planning and coordination across systems, not for lack of vision or dedication on the part of those involved, but for lack of an organization to support it.

Founding members of the committee are Will Hopkins, Peter Saradjian, Joe Carabbio, and Milan Chytil. We would welcome additional members, so do get in touch if you'd like to join us. Volunteers with a technical background, willing to pitch in and help maintain and develop our systems, are especially welcome.



This year the Book Sale will be on **Sunday, April 3rd**, and **Sunday April 10th**, with a day to welcome the community to our church for the Book Sale on **Saturday, April 9th from 9 - 2 pm**.

Please come and tell all your friends to also! Any questions, please e-mail sandra.gardiner@verizon.net.



NEWS FROM N'GOMBE

Calling all knitters and friends of the children in Zambia!

1. Knitters, here is an opportunity to knit small dolls for us to take to orphans in Zambia this coming summer. I will have patterns and samples for you to view this week after church. They are truly easy to knit and are so treasured by the children.
2. Non-knitters, you will have the opportunity to purchase dolls to be given to the orphans in Zambia. A tag (The doll is a gift from _____ with love.) will be attached that includes your name and any message you would like to send. We will then take these dolls to Zambia this summer and distribute them for you. You have no idea of how these simple toys touch the children's hearts and how they hold on to them. Many of them truly have nothing, so to have their own doll is amazing.

There will be a table in the Sun Room after service for anyone who would like to stop by for more information. Please join us in supporting these dear children.

Blessings to all, Tom & Ruth



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday, April 3rd will be the collection date of **One Great Hour of Sharing** donations, one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ's "Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)". OGH is the offering that truly illustrates how we make the love of Christ real through mission activities here in the United States and around the world. The UCC works with international partners to provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives. It provides hope to people in more than 80 countries.

During the past year much of the action has focused on response to natural disasters: earthquakes in Haiti and Pakistan. In Japan, in addition to the 9.0 earthquake, much destruction was caused by the tsunami and explosions which continue at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Already a \$25,000 One Great Hour of Sharing grant has been rushed to Church World Service, one of the UCC's partners in providing emergency relief.

Please let us remember all the people of the world who are suffering and in great need of our help as we respond with our donations.



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EQUAL EXCHANGE SALE

Many **Equal Exchange** items will be on sale in the Sun Room after worship on Palm Sunday, April 17th. In addition to several kinds of coffee and tea, there will be other items available as treats for your spouse, your kids, your friends – and why not yourself? These will include a rich variety of chocolate bars, packs of almonds and dried cranberries.

The Interfaith Program at Equal Exchange, in partnership with ten different faith groups, maintains a strong commitment to furthering both Fair Trade and environmental justice. This provides Pilgrim with a chance to continue supporting these programs while helping to insure that the small-scale farmers who grow the products receive a fair wage.

Please remember that every time you purchase Equal Exchange products you'll also be helping to support Pilgrim's coffee hour as well as all the other times when coffee and tea are served at our church.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Pilgrim is going to be hopping this summer. **Sal Jones** will be leasing space from us to hold a youth theatre workshop over several weeks, as he did last summer, beginning on June 27. Get in touch with Sal if you are interested. And The Children's Technology Workshop will have two one-week programs in August, called **icamp**, "a creative technology workshop for kids." You can check it out at www.icampMA.com or call Allyson Palmer at (617) 395-7527. Allyson says that they will offer a 5% discount to Pilgrim children.





An Invitation to our Pastors and Lay Leaders

Imagine What's Possible with 3,500 of your UCC friends in Tampa, Florida! Come to the Twenty-eighth General Synod, July 1-5.

Here are some important things that you and your congregation should know as we approach our time together in Tampa.

Suncoast Saturday: Saturday, July 2, will be a day full of inspirational speakers and workshops, as we "imagine what's possible" for the UCC and our local churches. We will begin the morning with a keynote address by Leonard Pitts Jr., the Pulitzer-prize winning syndicated columnist, interspersed with music by Nuttin' But Stringz, a finalist and crowd favorite from America's Got Talent. The rest of the day will feature diverse and dynamic inspirational speakers and workshops to help you "imagine what's possible" in worship and spirituality, technology, justice, finance, leadership, health and wellness, youth, and the arts. Speakers will provide practical applications to help inspire possibilities-focused ideas for your congregation. Here's the [complete lineup](#) for you to review and share with others.

'Imagine What's Possible' Contest: Tell us your story! What has your church imagined and then made possible? Your pastor and a key lay leader can win an expense-paid trip to Synod. But even more importantly, your stories will be showcased during Saturday evening's Imagine What's Possible Music Celebration, providing inspiration to all in attendance. Your work and ministry in Kansas, for example, can inspire the ministry in New York, or in Ohio or in Wisconsin. So join in the fun: [tell your story](#) before March 11 so we can help ministry grow and flourish in exciting ways.

Your Church, Better: Do you have ideas that might be helpful and invigorating for other churches to hear? Sign up to offer your very own "Your Church, Better" mini-workshop in the Synod exhibitor area. Share your wisdom with others, such as "10 ways to have a more effective youth group?" or "15 ways to keep your history alive" or maybe "10 ways to promote life-long learning." What does your church or ministry do well that you can share with others? [Applications](#) are due on March 15.

For a fuller picture of the Twenty-eighth General Synod, including information on how to register and get housing, go to ucc.org/synod.

See you in Tampa, where together we will celebrate how "imagining what's possible" is the first step to making it so.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Edith A. Guffey'.

Edith Guffey
Associate General Minister
Administrator of the Twenty-eighth General Synod

<h1>April 2011</h1>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6:30 p Youth Group - Lock In
3 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Comm union 11:45 a Sunday Sidebar - Carbon Fast Discussion 12:00 p Book Sale	4 7:00 p Organizational Mtg. Council (Newly Elected and Returning Members	5 11:00 a Bible Study	6 7:30 p Worship Mtg.	7 7:00 p Lex. Hist. Soc. (Sanctuary) 7:30 p Collaborative to Reduce Student Stress Mtg.	8	9 9:00 a Book Sale (Public)
10 Fellowship Breakfast 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship - Inst. of Council/Elect of Officer @ Cong. Mtg. (Tent.) 12:00 p Book Sale	11 7:30 p F&A Mtg.	12 11:00 a Bible Study	13 1:00 p Staff Mtg. 7:30 p Membership Mtg,	14 4:00 p Pilgrim Serves Bristol Lodge 7:00 p Lex. Hist. Soc. (Sanctuary)	15	16
17 Palm Sunday 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship 11:45 a Sunday Sidebar - Carbon Fast Discussion 4:00 p Youth Group 6:00 p Lex. Hist. ▼	18 Patriot's Day - Office Closed	19 11:00 a Bible Study	20 10:00 a Care Mtg. 7:00 p Council Organizational Mtg. (Tentative) 7:30 p Maundy Thursday Rehearsal	21 Maundy Thursday 7:30 p Tenebrae Service	22 Good Friday 12:00 - 1:30	23
24 Easter 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship	25 <u>Deadline for PP Articles</u> 7:00 p Council Mtg. 7:00 p PNS Committee Mtg.	26 11:00 a Bible Study	27	28	29	30