

Pilgrim's Progress April 5, 2018 - Vol. 59 No. 4

A NOTE FROM REV. KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim folks,

Christ is risen! Hallelujah.

Easter season is here. We traveled through the introspective, contemplative season of repentance, of Lent. We've emerged into the light, the hope, the renewal of Easter. I do feel a renewing spirit at Pilgrim. I wonder if you do, too? It was visible to me throughout Holy Week with the great participation of folks helping with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. It was visible in the hope-filled sanctuary on Easter morning where we welcomed newcomers, traveling family members and regular Pilgrims alike. It is visible in the many different volunteers helping with church school, the hosting of #Lexingtonsaysenough and the welcoming of folks from Open Table Dinner Ministry this coming Sunday. We see gradual resurrection around us.

This is also part of the Interim process. As we do the hard work of:

- looking at ourselves and our ways of being
- questioning what we do and how we do it
- seeking to become a more healthy community of faith

We see things bloom in our midst. There is always further to go and more work to do, but we can see hope return and new ministry ideas and efforts spring forth. We can see where the Interim time is leading us. We strive to become the loving, healthy, resilient and mission-oriented faith community that offers hope and change to our neighbors near and far. We work to heal our past fractures and lean into new practices so that a settled pastor can come partner with a community working to follow Jesus in how we treat one another and how we reach out to the hurting.

We have a busy spring ahead of us. We will mark Earth Day with an earth-action activity and postcard writing campaign. We will celebrate Children's Sunday on Pentecost where our youngest lead us in worship and give us new ways of seeing the Holy. We have four confirmation students who will share with us their journey of faith across these past months. We celebrate Music Appreciation and Graduation. There are so many joyous occasions coming up. There are so many ways to thank God for what is happening at Pilgrim.

In this Easter season, be on the lookout for signs of resurrection that you see at Pilgrim. Take a moment to notice in worship. Take time to look around at Coffee Hour at the intergenerational conversations going on. Look around and see a person you may not have seen in a while or that has newly become part of our community of faith. Then, take time to thank God for all the Pilgrim brings to your life and all the ways Pilgrim touches others' lives. Then, mindful that Jesus is always calling us forward, consider what might be next. What is next for Pilgrim in its journey of healing and wholeness? What is next for you in your faith exploration? Who else might we invite to share our life here together--is there anyone you know who might need a community of faith to be by their side as they travel through life? Why not invite them here? Resurrection, like ice cream, is best when shared.

Blessings to you all this Eastertide

Peace,

Karen



Here's What's Happening!

STAFF VACATIONS

Karen will be out of the office on vacation for two weeks from April 12th to the 26th. Pilgrim will welcome two different preachers to our pulpit, one on April 15 and the other on April 22 (see Devin's article on pg. 3 introducing these folks). Please make sure to give them a warm welcome and listen with open ears as the message of the day is delivered in new ways by new voices.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Diane Blair, Pilgrim's Office Administrator, will be out of the office April 16-20. Any items for the April 22 bulletin need to be sent to her by Thursday April 12.

MUSIC STAFF

Sean Watland and Dot Bowe will be gone on April 15. We are grateful to have Jim Munkres offering his musical gifts in worship that day.

DIRECTORY UPDATE



This Sunday the directory pages will once again be available in Pilgrim Hall for corrections and/or additions. Please check to see that the office has your correct information. Thanks!

PUT IN YOUR PIN!



The Transition Team has created a pin map to help gather information about where Pilgrim folks live. Please add you/your family to the map that is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The pins are color coded by how long you have attended Pilgrim and the map includes Lexington and all the surrounding communities. The information we get from the map will help us shape the profile for the Search process and makes for an interesting visual map of our community. Please encourage visitors and newcomers to add their pins as well. One pin per family unit please.

THANK YOU TO PILGRIM

Pilgrim received a letter recently from the YW thanking the congregation for its donation to the Sylvia Ferrell-Jones Fund. The letter also noted how important Pilgrim was to Sylvia and was thankful for the memorial service held to honor her life.

HOLY WEEK APPRECIATION

Thank you to all the folks who came together to help with Holy Week: readers, on the spot greeters, coffee hour contributors, Maundy Thursday cooks, table movers, egg hiders, Easter treat deliverers, singers and bellringers, clean-uppers, and more.

PILGRIM GUEST PASTOR BIOS

On April 15 we welcome Rev. Megan Snell. Rev. Snell serves as Co-Pastor of Open Table Dinner Church, a new UCC/MCC church in Cambridge, MA. She teaches courses in church renewal and revitalization through the Center for Progressive Renewal. Megan is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and is ordained in the United Church of Christ. In her free time, Megan loves hiking, reading, and spending time with her family and three dogs.



Rev. Megan Snell



Nathan Kohlmeier

Guest preaching on April 22 will be Nathan Kohlmeier. Nathan is the son of an Episcopal priest and a former Roman Catholic deacon. After changing his major multiple times, he graduated with a Bachelor's of Theology in 2016 and is pursuing ordination in the Episcopal Church. His passion lies in the "emerging" and "alternative" church movements and is empowered by the stories of the Prophets and the social teachings of Christ. Nathan resides in Falmouth, MA with his husband David Kohlmeier (a Unitarian Universalist minister) and their daughter, Ramona.

OPEN TABLE DINNER CHURCH

On Sunday, April 8th, Co-Pastors Megan Snell, Mel Pace, and ministry intern Nancy Wichmann will be joining us in worship to share a Mission Moment. Together, they will share a bit about the church community they created two years ago called Open Table Dinner Church. Earlier this year, our Mission Team chose to donate to them to help them meet their goal for a matching grant. Up to \$10,000, every dollar donated was tripled by the grant from the United Church of Christ.

Open Table Dinner Church is an emerging ministry of the Metropolitan Community Churches and the United Church of Christ. The church gathers together to eat dinner, celebrate communion, swap stories, read scripture, reflect, pray, and sing. This is how they worship together in order to encourage and empower each person to seek justice in the world through activism.

After worship, they will meet with us for a Q&A to share more about their story, their ministry, and give us an opportunity to learn from them. You may visit them online at www.opentabledinnerchurch.org and like them on Facebook by finding them at www.facebook.com/OpenTableDinnerChurch.



MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES!

ARE HANDBELLS YOUR THING?

If you have always wanted to participate in the handbell choir, here's your chance. Please be in touch with Sean (sean.watland@pilgrimcongregational.org) and let him know that you are interested. All are welcome – beginners through experts!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

If your child(ren) are interested in joining the Children's Choir, please be in touch with Dot. All voices up to 8th grade are welcome!



LEXINGTON CHORAL FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, APRIL 29 AT 3PM.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Lexington Choral Festival, it will be held at St. Brigid's, 2001 Mass Ave., in Lexington. For more info, or to participate, please let Sean know. sean.watland@pilgrimcongregational.org.

#LEXINGTONSAYSENOUGH - Sunday, April 8 – Temple Emunah



The mission ministry of Pilgrim Church has agreed to co-sponsor the Follen Church gun violence prevention and healing forum on **Sunday, April 8 from 3 - 4:30pm at Temple Emunah – 9 Piper Rd., Lexington.**

The LHS group (#LexingtonSaysEnough) promoting safe schools, is a co-sponsor of the program. Existing gun safety laws will be presented along with the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (<http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org>).

There will be four panelists: Emily Weinberg, founder of the LHS student group, Attorney General Maura Healey, Chaplain Clementina Chery, President of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, and Rev. Claire Feingold Thornyn, minister of the Follen Church (moderator). Each panelist will speak for 10 minutes, followed by a period for questions.

[Information for those attending the Forum on April 8 at Temple Emunah, 9 Piper Rd., Lexington, 3:00-4:30 pm: We expect a crowd, so consider carpooling. There are 180 parking spaces in the main lot at the Temple (at the end of Piper Rd.). Handicapped parking is to the right of the building. Overflow parking needs to be either on Waltham St., or Concord Road where people can walk to the back right end of April Lane (Minuteman Condos) and take a short path to the Temple. There is no parking on Piper Road. There will be a traffic control officer at the beginning of Piper Rd. The doors of the Temple will open at 2:00 pm. Bags may be inspected; it is suggested that you limit what you carry. Please don't bring any food. Temple Emunah is a Kosher facility. Questions: Contact Anne Grady at gvp@follen.org.]

COMMUNITIES WITHOUT BORDERS UPCOMING CONCERTS THIS WEEKEND



There will be two fantastic all-Mozart concerts this weekend to benefit Communities Without Borders:

Saturday, April 7, 8 pm at First Church in Cambridge – 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA and Sunday, April 8, 3 pm at First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton – 1326 Washington St., Newton. Tickets: Adults \$30, Students \$15. All proceeds benefit Communities Without Borders.

We thank all the musicians for donating their time and considerable talents, and we thank both churches for donating their space. Ticket holders are invited to a talk by the musicians one hour prior to the concert. For more info, click [HERE](#).

FAITH CLIMATE ACTION DAY, APRIL 29TH

This year for Faith Climate Action Day Pilgrim will focus on the Lexington Interfaith Garden which began its 9th year last Saturday, shortly after the last snow had melted. Carla Fortmann will visit Pilgrim and share her photos and enthusiasm for this all volunteer project which is supported by 12 or more faith communities in Lexington. As Head Gardener, Carla teaches us how organic gardening results in healthy food for the Lexington Food Pantry. We learn how organic methods preserve and enhance the soil. And we learn not to step on the asparagus shoots.

We will also have time for the post card writing: encouraging our Senators to work toward 100% renewable energy by 2050.

LEXRAP COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION MONDAY APRIL 9, 2018 FROM 7-8 AT CARY LIBRARY

LexRAP is a Lexington-based volunteer organization helping refugees to setting in the Unites States and to become productive and well-adjusted members of our community. The mission of LexRAP is to support and to assist refugees and asylum seekers to integrate into American society.



LexRAP will be hosting a community information session that will provide an overview of the organization, what they do, and how you can help. This event is open to the public. Public Information Session to let you know who they are and what are their goals. Pilgrim Church gives modest financial support to LexRAP. For more info, click [HERE](#).

Thank You!
Sandy Gardiner



SUMMER CAMP FOR REFUGEE KIDS

If you have been thinking about donating to LexRAP and have been wondering “What would my money be used for?”...

We have found that getting refugee children into summer camp every summer is transformative. Their English improves dramatically, their social skills jump, and they just have a great time.

We have had great success getting town recreation departments to offer scholarships but we often need to share the cost with the town. Donating to LexRAP will help us meet these needs. We have children in Arlington, Concord, Carlisle, and Lexington all needing to be in camp this summer.

Write a check to LexRAP. Indicate on the check that it is in response to our appeal for *SUMMER CAMP FUNDS*. Mail your check to:

LexRAP
P.O.Box 244
Lexington, MA 02420

Thank You!
Sandy Gardiner

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)! 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, an average of 64 guests per week, and there have been 800 lbs. of fresh produce served!

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



UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

All There is to Say

By: Emily Heath

April 3, 2018

On Easter Monday the big celebration is over....*Continue reading* [HERE](#)

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



RECENT SERMONS

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