



Pastor's Note

On January 22 I had the opportunity to learn about the resources of the Central Middlesex Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). One of the most important phrases I heard in that training was this one: "Mental Illness is not a choice, but hope is a choice." The work of NAMI is to help communities understand that Mental Illness affects everyone, to destigmatize mental illness and to normalize the process of seeking treatment. NAMI resources individuals and their families, friends, and communities. We are blessed to have such rich resources available to us here in Massachusetts. Did you know, there are Peer support groups available to you? There are family support groups available for those who love someone experiencing mental illness. There are referral services and information programs as well. I came away from this training with an amazing binder of resources, and a deep appreciation for the stories and lessons shared. You are welcome to check out the binder in my office. And, please visit <http://namicentralmiddlesex.org/> to learn more online.

If you or a loved one are facing a challenge related to mental illness, we want you to feel loved, supported, and seen here at Pilgrim Church.

-Pastor Reebee



Call to Annual Meeting

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends. Pursuant to our Bylaws, Article VII, Paragraph 2, you are invited to a Congregational Meeting of the Church on **Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:45 am** following the Service.

Agenda:

- 1) Congregational approval of minutes of prior meetings.
- 2) Presentation of written committee reports, distributed in advance of this meeting.
- 3) Presentation and adoption of the fiscal budget for 2020.
- 4) Any other pertinent matters that may arise.
- 5) Remembering losses in the community, remarks, and a prayer by the pastor.

Everyone is invited to attend; only members may vote. Child care will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Stevens
Clerk

Dinners at the Girash Home

Pastor Reebee and her family will be hosting an occasional series of small group dinners at their home in upcoming months. The next two are scheduled for February 9 and March 15. The dinner on March 15 will take place at the home of Mary and Peter Mackie. Several more will be offered through the year. Supper will be provided - just bring a readiness for fellowship and good conversation!

Sign up here:

February 9: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aa9a722a1fb6-small1>

Lent, Easter and Spring Save the Dates

Here are some dates you might want to put on your calendar now!

February 23 Transfiguration Sunday Worship – Thank you for your feedback on the pink sheets about this date. See below for the post-Easter date of Holy Hilarity Sunday.

February 23 Mardi Gras Sunday evening worship (5pm) and pancake supper (6pm) at Hancock Church, Pastor Reebee preaching

Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday Worship, Pilgrim Hall, 7:30pm (Choir will practice in the sanctuary 6:00-7:00.)

March 1 - The First Sunday of Lent. Intergenerational Worship focused on our theme for Lent, WILDERNESS.

March 1 Lexington Interfaith Choral Festival, 3pm at Temple Isaiah. (10 Pilgrims are signed up to sing – you can join them!)

March 8 Worship

March 15 Worship, Youth Fellowship, and Small Group Dinner

March 22 Worship, Movie Night – Intergenerational event with Pilgrim Nursery School, Neighbors invited!

March 29 Worship

April 5 Palm Sunday Worship!

Holy Week – Worship at Pilgrim on Maundy Thursday at 7:30pm

April 12 Easter

April 19 Holy Hilarity Sunday, Intergenerational Worship



Creativity and Creation Retreat Possibility:

We are in the early stages of imagining an intergenerational retreat Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. If you and/or any members of your household have any interest in this, please speak to Deborah Burger or Pastor Reebee. More details to follow.

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Notes from Sarah Jane:

Thank you all for your warm welcome into this Pilgrim Church family! Everyone I've met is so kind and helpful; I'm so grateful that this month of transition went as smoothly as possible! I'm so excited to dive into this month and bring our children and youth new projects, lessons, and events. Please take note that I will be in my office on Tuesdays and Sundays starting February 2. This will be the best time to reach me; however I will check my email periodically throughout the week. My email address is sarah.fuller@pilgrimcongregational.org.

A great thanks to all who volunteer for Sunday School! We are currently looking to fill some slots in February, as well as upcoming months. New teachers are always welcome-- No prior teaching experience necessary! Come share your passion for God with the next generation of church leaders. Sign up on Sign-Up Genius, or on the board outside of Pilgrim Hall.

Our next youth group meeting will be on February 9 at the church. We will be playing games, and planning upcoming meetings and events. All youth are encouraged to attend. Adult Volunteers: Please contact me if you would like to help out this, or any future Youth Group events!

Looking for summer camps? All youth grades 4-12 are encouraged to attend "This is Our Prayer" summer camps at the Silver Lake conference center in Sharon, CT. Silver lake offers several camp sessions and themes from June 28-August 15. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other UCC youth, and share in some great outdoor fun! For more information, check out <https://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp>, or ask me for a brochure!

Peace,
Sarah

Mardi Gras Sunday Evening Worship – February 23 at 5 pm at Hancock

Pastor Reebee will be preaching at Hancock Church's Mardi Gras Sunday evening worship. The service will include some great New Orleans music as well! Worship will be followed by a Pancake Supper to which we are all invited. Hancock would appreciate a sense of how many folks would like to share in this worship and supper. If you are interested in attending, please let Diane or Pastor Reebee know. Thank you.

Hancock Church | Clark Hall
1912 Mass Ave, Lexington
www.hancockchurch.org



FEBRUARY 23 | 5 PM

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION & PANCAKE SUPPER

Join us for a special Evening Worship
service of New Orleans-style jazz with
the River Rock Band & special guests!

LexPride Info

Hi all,

First I want to thank you for being so supportive of LexPride and the LGBTQIA+ community. Looking back of the past couple of years, I know that we couldn't have accomplished nearly as much without your support. We are so grateful to you for hosting #YesOn3 conversations and phonebooks, our annual MLK Day of Service event, our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance commemoration, our monthly parent support group, our training active bystander workshops, and a variety of other events -- and for inviting us to participate in or table at some of your events. You are all wonderful!

Here are some events that might be of interest to your faith communities, or to your leaders or social justice groups. Please share as you see fit.

Thank you!!
Valerie Overton
Co-Chair LexPride

Candidate Forum on Social Justice

February 8, 2:00-4:30pm

Lexington Community Center

Come hear candidates for Select Board, School Committee, and Planning Board answer questions related to social justice in Lexington. Mingle with these candidates and candidates for Town Meeting. Sponsored by LexPride.

Community Discussion on Relationships

February 11, 9:00-10:30am

Lexington Community Center Room 221

Talk about the joys, challenges, and stresses of relationship issues in a warm, welcoming environment. Sponsored by the Lexington Community Coalition Mental Health Committee.

Queer Hang Space for Teens and Young Adults

February 11, 4:30-6:00pm

LYFS (side entrance at First Parish in Lexington)

Enjoy food, games, crafts, activities, and fun with some great people! Explore our Queer Gear clothing, accessories, and makeup. First five arrivals receive gifts. Sponsored by LYFS and LexPride.

Welcome Coffee

February 11, 7:30-8:30pm

Lexington Community Center

Learn about community resources and connect with friendly people. This month's theme is "Schools", and members of the Lexington School Committee will be present. Sponsored by the Lexington Community Coalition.

Support for Parents/Families of LGBTQ+ People

February 13, 7:00-8:30pm

First Parish in Lexington

Talk about the joys, challenges, and practicalities of supporting someone with an LGBTQ+ identity. Sponsored by LexPride and Greater Boston PFLAG.

Screenagers: The Next Chapter

March 4, 6:30-8:30pm

Watch this film about helping young people thrive in our screen- and stress-filled world. Sponsored by Temple Emunah and the Lexington Community Coalition.

Please visit LexPride at <https://www.lexpridema.org/> and The Lexington Community Coalition <https://www.lexhere4you.org/> for more info.

March 1 Ring a Bell?

Dot and Max are planning music for an Intergenerational Service on March 1 and are looking for people interested in ringing one or two handbells. This requires the ability to move your arm & wrist, to count and to be available on March 1 and one rehearsal TBD. Please let Dot or Max know if you are definitely or even possibly interested so that we can prepare the music appropriately.

It's Cold and Flu Season!

Just a reminder that there are extra hand sanitizers in the narthex and sanctuary for folks to use - and it's okay if you prefer an elbow bump rather than a handshake during the Peace. Stay well, Pilgrims!



Hand-in-Hand Dinner - Saturday, February 1

If you want to help with LexRAP's Hand-In-Hand Café on Saturday, Feb. 1st, go to: <http://www.lexrap.org/>. To purchase tickets for the dinner, please click [HERE](#). Or email Sandy Gardiner at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.

Sign Up to Volunteer at Pilgrim!

To sign up to be a liturgist, greeter, coffee hour host or to volunteer with Pilgrim's Children's Church, please click [HERE](#). Thank you!

Recent Sermons

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

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



UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

What Kind of World Did You Wake Up In?

By: John Edgerton
January 29, 2020

More than fear, more than anger, more than hope, more than anything, what I feel is an eerie sense of coming doom. Yet I remain confident that the promises of God are true.

Continue reading [HERE](#)