

Shine



As we near the holiday of Epiphany, and as we wrap up the great Christmas season, the word on my mind is Shine. To shine does not mean simply to be bright. Shining depends, I think, on an inner joy and beauty. That which shines offers direction and orientation to others. Here's a Mary Oliver poem that seems just right for the season:

"When I am among the Trees"

---by Mary Oliver, in Thirst

When I am among the trees,  
especially the willows and the honey locust,  
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,  
they give off such hints of gladness.  
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,  
in which I have goodness, and discernment,  
and never hurry through the world  
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, "Stay awhile."  
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,  
"and you too have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled  
with light, and to shine."

May you shine in 2020.  
-Pastor Reebee

## Announcing Our New Director of Educational Ministries!

The Educational Ministries Team and our Ad Hoc Interview Committee is very pleased to announce that **Sarah Fuller** will join our staff as our Director of Educational Ministries on January 5. Sarah brings a range of experiences in Christian Education from paid and volunteer positions in multiple UCC churches as experience with children in multiple educational settings. She is a dancer and brings visual arts, music, and creativity with her to this role. We feel blessed to have her join our staff.

Please note that Sarah will spend January transitioning from another position, so she will only be working Sundays in January. She will ramp up to her half time position with us in February.

Please (and this is for everyone, not just families) wear your nametags regularly as Sarah gets to know our community.

A huge word of thanks goes out to our Interview Committee who spent so much time reviewing applications, interviewing, and prayerfully discerning. Thank you team!

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### 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 January 5 and February 9. Several more will be offered through the year. Supper will be provided - just bring a readiness for fellowship and good conversation!

Sign up here:

January 5: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094AA9A722A1FB6-small>

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

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### Pastor Reebee's Schedule in January

In the third week of January I will be taking a mental health support training on January 21, and leading Boundary Training for UCC Clergy January 22 and 23. That week I'll be hard to catch - but please email me or call my cell if there's something you need and I'll do my best to be timely in my response.

In the fourth week of January, my Monday schedule will change for the semester. Since I am teaching a class Monday afternoons, I am likely to work from home in the morning and then head to HDS. I will be in the office Tuesday-Thursday most weeks, and available by email and cell.

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**Church Office Closed**

Please note that Diane will be out of the office on vacation from Monday, January 13 and returning to the office on Tuesday, January 21.

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**Youth Group Going Bowling!**

On January 12 in the late afternoon our youth group is going bowling! Please RSVP to Pastor Reebee to join her and Nick Zorn on a bowling and pizza adventure to Davis Square!

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**Church Council Meeting**

Just a reminder that the next Church Council meeting will be held on January 21 at 7:30 pm.

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**Bible Study Continues January 7!**

Bible Study is held Tuesday mornings at 10:30. We will look at the next couple of chapters of Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*. We will meet January 7, 14 and 28, but **will not meet on January 21**. Please join us - everyone is welcome!

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**Active Bystander Training**

LexPride is hosting an Active Bystander session in Pilgrim Hall on January 19, 2020 at 2:30 pm. This is best suited for ages 12 and Up. Pastor Reebee and Zac Girash will be attending and youth are especially encouraged to attend with their parents. You can find more information [HERE](#).

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**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Please note that there will be events held throughout the community on Monday, January 20, 2020 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. You can find more information on these [HERE](#).

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**Directory update**

Please note that we will be updating the directory in early January. If you have any information that you think needs to be updated, please send it to Diane. Thank you!

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## Fridge Cleaned

Please be aware that we will be cleaning out the fridge in the kitchenette in Pilgrim Hall after the beginning of the January. If you have anything that you think belongs to you, please take it or it will be tossed. Thank you!



As you know, LexRAP has many wonderful opportunities to get involved and make a difference. Please go to their website at [www.lexrap.org](http://www.lexrap.org) to check out the many possibilities. Thank you.

## AmazonSmile

Hey Pilgrims:

Did you know that if you shop on Amazon (and who doesn't these days?!?) you can help Pilgrim earn through the AmazonSmile program? All you have to do is log in through AmazonSmile ([HERE](#)) and Amazon will donate .5% of eligible purchases to Pilgrim. When you are purchasing items, it will indicate if it is eligible for inclusion in the Amazon Smile program. If it is, great! If not, no worries. You don't have to do anything other than shop as you normally would.

Here is some information about the program:

### ***How does AmazonSmile work?***

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

### ***Is there any cost to charitable organizations or to customers?***

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Thank you for considering shopping through AmazonSmile!

## 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

#### Persistent Trouble, Persistent Hope

By: John Nelson  
December 21, 2019

*Herod stands for any emperor or president, any senator or congressperson, any elected or appointed official who will use power to resist the insurgency of love and grace.*

Continue reading [HERE](#)