

Pilgrim's Progress

June 5, 2019 - Vol. 60 No. 6



Dear Pilgrim folks,

There's so much to celebrate in June. The unending rains have taken a hiatus to allow for some wonderful sunny days. (Preaching convincingly about hope and resurrection while watching rain pour down outside the sanctuary windows week after week was a bit of a challenge!)

This past week our children and youth took us back to the Garden of Eden for a thoughtful reflection on Eve and Adam's relationship with God--how it changed with the eating of the apple, and yet how it also stayed the same. The prayers, music, and words all pointed us to a God of love and patient presence.

We also celebrated all the Pilgrim adults who worked with the kids this year--24 people in all which is an amazing number. The "superlatives" for each adult were touching and funny. But they also spoke to a deeper truth. Pilgrim's youth and kids know that adults at Pilgrim love them and want to spend time with them. They see adults who want to know them and who value them. What a wonderful gift.

This week we recognize folks in the congregation who are graduating as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church. I think about the generations who have come and gone and passed the church on from person to person, from community to community. The church has looked different in each age: hiding in catacombs, meeting in small house church groups, standing in cathedrals listening to the service in Latin, big tent revivals, small dedicated groups of folks protesting injustice and so much more. Pilgrim, along with all other churches in this particular historical moment, is in the midst of figuring out what church will look like for us as cultural shifts change the religious and social landscape.

Later this month the choir celebrates the year with a special piece of music by Faure, sung in French no less! The choir is another thing to celebrate. We've welcomed new choir members this year and welcomed back others. We've welcomed a new choir director in an old/known soloist.

The Adult Bible Study is also celebrating in June with a potluck lunch. The membership has grown over the year with twelve folks having come at one point or another and a

gathering of 8 or 9 each week. We wrestled with the theological themes of the Bible as a whole. We dove deep into the question of whether one can ever be outside God's grace and what about those members of society who commit evil acts. We looked at the definition of the soul. We didn't find many answers but we have some excellent continuing questions.

Finally, we will mark the end of the program year and move into the more casual (and cooler) Sundays in Pilgrim Hall for summer.

I invite you to consider what you've seen to celebrate at Pilgrim this past year. What do you see now that reflects the love of God as lived out in a community of faith. I see so much to celebrate and hope you do as well.

Peace,
Karen



Summer Worship at Pilgrim

The days are getting longer as the calendar flies by and soon it will be July when worship moves into the cooler Pilgrim Hall. Summer is also when Pilgrim members and friends share stories about their faith, beliefs, or the journey of their life during lay-led worship. This is a long tradition at Pilgrim and one that is very meaningful to many Pilgrim folks. However, it does need Pilgrims to offer to share their thoughts. It doesn't have to be a sermon. It doesn't have to be that long. You don't have to do it by yourself if you can get someone else to do it with you. We also need folks willing to be liturgists, and to put out the cookies and drinks each week. Please consider what you might offer this summer as we prepare for the months of July and August. Let Susan Carabbio, Diane Blair or Karen Gale know, or sign up on the Pink Sheet in worship.



Church Office Hours

A reminder that the Church Office will be open on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 1:30 beginning on June 25. Regular office hours resume on Tuesday, September 3.



A shout out of thanks from Council members and others to hard-working Pilgrims



- Thank you to Susan Carabbio for painting and sprucing up the accessible bathroom and to Mike Stevens for helping with the removal and reassembly of the bathroom hardware.
- Thank you for Dave McClave for managing the peak rental season of May.
- Heartfelt thanks to all Pilgrims who worked with our children and youth this year as we experimented with a new way of doing Children's Church.
- Thank you to Lisa and Jeff Boehm for updating the front lawn sign each week.



June 9: Pentecost/Graduate Recognition/Strengthen the Church Offering: We will celebrate Pentecost - the birthday of the church so wear red! We will also be recognizing our graduates during the service, as well as collecting the offering for the UCC's Strengthen the Church Campaign.



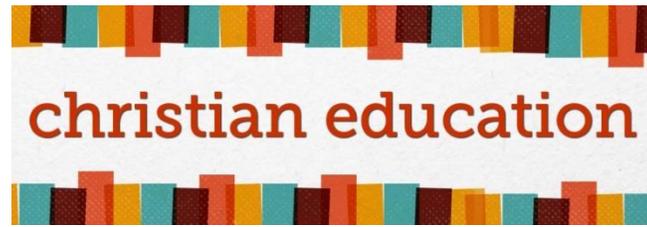
June 16: Special Music Sunday: The choir will sing Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine in French. Max welcomes anyone to come to rehearsals and sing this amazing piece with the choir.



June 16: Field Day: Pray for good weather so we all can celebrate the joy of play on the front lawn.

June 30: Hymn Sing: Jim Munkres will once again be providing the music for another Pilgrim spring hymn sing. Jim will take requests from the red and black hymnals so come prepared to request your favorite hymn. Worship will be in the sanctuary at 10:30.





Dear Pilgrims,

I am still so full of joy following Children's Sunday. As we wrap up a banner year at Pilgrim, I am looking back on all that we have accomplished together. For me, Children's Sunday was a symbol of all that I know Pilgrim Congregational Church to be. Here is what I celebrate, in no particular order:

- Pilgrim people value all voices, no matter the age, and because of that youth representation is strong, we have Julia on the Search Committee and Taylor helping us shape and pilot what it means to have a youth member on council;
- Just like Pilgrim people value all voices, no matter the age, Pilgrim also values the youngest people in our midst, that is why we had so many educational ministries volunteers to celebrate: **Bob Beckwith, Jeff Boehm, Lisa Boehm, Ed Bond, Kim Bond, Deborah Burger, Son-Mey Chiu, Sandy Gardiner, Beth Kurth, Mary Mackie, Susan Moffitt, Claire Moir, Don Moir, Kevin Morrison, Lesley Morrison, Barbara Munkres, Dave McClave, David Nuss, Mary K. Reaske, Marge Saradjian, Alexis Stevens, Duncan Todd, Sadhna Vora, and Elena Zorn;**
- This year, our Junior Youth Group met once a month for fellowship in addition to their thoughtful and engaging learning on Sunday mornings, this included a lock-in during Advent and another the night before Children's Sunday where they decorated the church and prepared for Children's Sunday;
- Did you notice that the kids handed out apples and snakes to each volunteer? That was on point for our theme of Eve's perspective of her own experience in the biblical story. It was their idea to celebrate each volunteer with a superlative, I was touched by this because it showed the relational impact of each adult in the lives of younger Pilgrims!

I could go on. There is so much more to celebrate and, before we really finish out our year, do not forget that we will enjoy more celebrations on June 16th. That's our field day! Don't forget to make time to play!

Peace,
Devín

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Christmas Pageant Steering Committee

As we prepare for the upcoming church year, please consider being part of a new Christmas Pageant Steering Committee. The first meeting will take place on **Sunday, September 15th, 2019 at 11:45**. We will meet for a short 45 minutes with light lunch to discern pageant organization - who would like to be in charge of what as well as write out a road map and plan for the Pageant. Please see the pink sheet to sign up for this meeting or express your interest in being a part of this very special committee. Please note: signing up for the Pageant Steering Committee doesn't obligate you to this Committee year after year. We hope you will give it a try for the upcoming Pageant. All are welcome!

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Notes from Dot



As we head into the summer, I've been reflecting on the many ways music has enhanced liturgies at Pilgrim Congregational Church. From children to seniors, singers to drummers to ringers, numerous people have adorned our music.

Beyond the traditional congregational organ and piano hymns, we branched out and tried some less familiar musical styles. We sang songs like "Woke Up This Morning" acapella, accompanied only by our clapping hands and others such as "What a Wonderful World" supported by audio recordings. While we mostly sang in English, more than once we sang in other languages. "Malo! Malo! Thanks be to God" featured more than 5 different languages in one song!

Singers led us in psalms this year from the somber Lenten Psalm 63 "Be With Me Lord" (when I am in trouble) to the joyful Easter settings of Psalm 118 "This is the Day" and "This Day Was Made by the Lord" - and others in between. They also lent their talents to offertory selections from the reflective (Deep River, The Secret of Christmas) to the stirring (Every Time I Feel the Spirit, City Called Heaven) to the downright silly (The Last One).

Many choir members added voices to communion music, enabling us to sing multi-part music such as Taste and See and Take and Eat This Bread. The choir at large did an amazing job, learning new music weekly and singing virtually every Sunday from September through June!

Children and youth contributed greatly to the music program, leading us in song, ringing hand bell accompaniments to songs and anthems, and singing anthems including "I've Got Peace Like a River" and "Jesus Loves Me."

Lest they be overlooked, instruments and instrumentalists bolstered selections with the trumpet soaring on Easter hymns, the violin soaring harmony transforming the ordinary into the special and the children's joyful Palm Sunday drumming.

Thank you for a wonderful, music-filled year.

Dot

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A Note from Max

The choir at Pilgrim has performed a different piece of music every Sunday, with only a few exceptions, since the beginning of the year. We have sung in a variety of languages, styles, and genres, and our membership has grown significantly. We have welcomed both new and old members alike, and we are, of course, always welcoming new members.

As we seek to grow more next year, we hope to include even more diverse repertoire from musicians of all backgrounds. Our goal is to promote inclusivity and the idea that really anyone, yes even you, can sing. Music is the universal language, and our goal at Pilgrim is to speak to everyone. We hope to continue to bring in talented musicians from the community, as well as our young talent we have in the church. Our children's choir is growing and is made up of a very talented group of young musicians. We hope to continue to combine the adult and children's choir for fun pieces, and this year saw some great success using that model.

The choir is full of people who love music and love to sing. As we continue to grow next year, please consider stopping by for a rehearsal or two - there is no commitment, but of course we have our regulars who hold down the choir every week, and I cannot thank them enough for their contribution to the music program. I had a great time in my first year as choir director, and I'm looking forward to building on that success next year. Thank you, everyone, for this opportunity!

Sincerely yours,

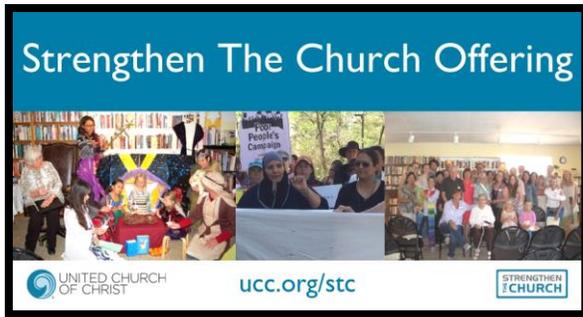
Max Evrard

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Pilgrim Nursery School Has Openings!

Know anyone looking for an excellent preschool program? Well look no further because Pilgrim Nursery School currently has openings for the 2019 - 2020 school year. PNS has been around for 51 years providing the highest quality preschool experience around. They have programs for 3 year olds, 4-5 years old, early morning, lunch and afternoon programs as well.

For more information please call the Director, Leslie Beatrice, 781-861-8853 or email her at leslieholmes@verizon.net . To visit their website, click [HERE](#).



Strengthen the Church Offering - June 9, 2019

On Sunday, June 9 we will be receiving the UCC's Strengthen the Church Offering, shared by the Massachusetts and National UCC, and designed to help us build the future of the Church. This year, all of the funds from this offering that remain in the Massachusetts Conference (50% of the first \$15,000 and 90% of every dollar beyond) will support its ministries with children and youth.

Whether through Christian Educator training, Youth Ministry opportunities, or Church School resources, contributions will help our Conference provide the support necessary for our church and others to have the most robust faith formation ministries possible. Developing leaders for the Church and for the world is as essential to our present vitality as a church as it is to our future. Please give generously! 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?

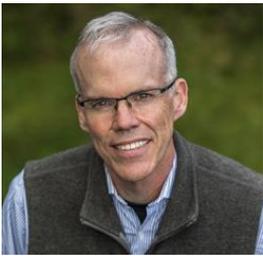
When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation 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!

Climate Lecture with Bill McKibben - THURSDAY, JUNE 6!



As part of our Creation Care work, Barbara Munkres shared this recent article by renowned climate scholar and speaker Bill McKibben. Read it [HERE](#). McKibben is speaking in Lexington on **June 6, 2019 from 7-8:30 pm at First Parish**. We are organizing a Pilgrim group to attend together. If you are interested, please let Diane know. Cost is \$10.



Lexington Interfaith Garden

If you went to Discovery Day on Saturday, May 25th you may have seen this tent with two Garden volunteers at Discovery Day. Many people stopped by to learn about the garden and its connection to the Lexington Food Pantry. The Garden Committee is always looking for new ways to let others know of our presence so close to the center of Lexington.



Here are new dates for Pilgrim for June and July:

Saturday, June 29, 8:00 to 9:30 am Our coworkers will be Chinese Bible Church, 1st Parish UU, and St Nicholas

Tuesday, July 16, 4:30 to 6:00 pm Our coworkers will be 1st Baptist, 1st Parish UU, and Temple Isaiah

Saturday, July 27, 8:00 to 9:30 am Our coworkers will be Lexington Catholic Community, St. Nicholas, Follen Society, and Chinese Bible Church

If you would like to volunteer on one of these dates, please email Barbara at barbjim.munkres@gmail.com.

[HERE](#) is an article from the April Colonial Times Magazine with some interesting history. I especially enjoyed learning that Lexington's Interfaith Garden has seeded three other gardens "worldwide"! Two are in Massachusetts: North Andover and Topsfield, and the third is in AUSTRALIA!

June is World Refugee Month

In the past 35 years, over 3 million refugees have settled in the United States, escaping persecution, conflict, and desperate poverty. Each year, on June 20th and throughout the month of June, we honor the courage of this vulnerable population that has been forced to flee their home countries.

In honor of World Refugee Month Belmont World Film (BWF) will show films which focus on various refugee situations at the West Newton Cinema on the evenings of 3 Mondays: June 10, 17, and 24. Go to <http://www.belmontworldfilm.org> then click on "film calendar" on the left hand side of your screen for more information. If you wish to purchase tickets click on "tickets".

Belmont World Film is a nonprofit corp. which promotes cross-cultural understanding. This program is supported in part by Mass Cultural Council.



LexRAP Meeting - June 18, at 7 pm

Pilgrim is hosting LexRAP's June meeting on **Tuesday June 18th promptly at 7pm** in Pilgrim Hall. Please come at 6:30 and help us set up!

Thank you.

Urgent Need from a Lexington Resident

This past week Pilgrim was contacted by Anthony Serio, Assistant Director of Youth and Family Services for the Town of Lexington. He wrote on behalf of Lexington resident, Sudha Parasuraman regarding a kidney transplant for her daughter Ranjana, LHS graduate, who has been unable to find a living donor match. Mr. Serio shared Ranjana's story which can be seen [HERE](#) through the National Kidney Registry in hopes of spreading awareness of the registry and Ranjana's particular need. Please keep the family in your prayers as well as those who are considering giving the gift of living kidney donation. More information about living donation can be found at the above link.

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!

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



Recent Sermons

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



UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The Greatest Superpower

By: Matt Laney

June 5, 2019

Jesus sent the seventy out two by two, not one by one. That makes friendship the greatest superpower in the universe.

Continue reading [HERE](#)