



FROM OUR MODERATOR

A BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS

A few days ago I was watching American Idol when one of the contestants sang "Like a bridge over troubled waters." It was wonderful...but it reminded me of a wonderful past that became rough. If you have lived on this earth for a long period of time, most likely you have had a down and out period, and maybe more than one.

For me the first was a lifetime ago. It was a wonderful time. I met my husband in high school...yes we were high school sweethearts. We dated through college and waited to marry until after I graduated. I worked as an educational television producer at the University of Michigan and a year later he joined Chrysler Corporation. We saved to buy a house in the country that needed (lots of) work. Then after five years it was time for a baby. My friends called ours an ideal marriage.

There were family birthday celebrations, wonderfully decorated holidays and friends over for dinner or a party. He started to climb the corporate ladder and my job started to phase out, just at the right time. I had wanted to either have a second child or pursue a long time dream of being a lawyer. To my surprise both happened. I was accepted to the University of Michigan's Law School one month, and found I was pregnant the next. Well, we would have to make it work, like we always did.

So I went to law school. Jennifer was 3 ½ and Michael was 5 months. I treated Law school like a job. I got the children up and ready in the morning and took them to day care. I would run to classes, go to study group, then picked up the kids, went home, cooked dinner and had family time until bedtime. I was determined that the ideal marriage would not be disturbed.

One month into my last year of Law school he left. There I was weary, feeling small, with tears in my eyes and pain was all around. I stopped going to law school.

A few weeks later, I received a call from the Dean of students. She had just found out what had happened. She told me I wasn't the first person to have this happen and I would not be the last. "Just come back to school," she said, "there will be a counselor and a lawyer waiting for you." It did not solve all my problems but it became my bridge over troubled waters.

I went back to Law school, but I had missed a lot and finals were coming. It would take an inconceivable effort to catch up. Then one day one of my first year study group friends came up to me and handed me the group study book for my classes. The study book, written by members of a good study group like the one I was once a part of, would be guarded like a national secret and never given outside the group. How

did I deserve such a treasure? My friend reminded me that at the time of our first Christmas break she did not have the \$20 to take the train home and I gave it to her. I had forgotten and it seems I also forgot to have faith.

When I first came to Pilgrim, it was the ideal Church. The sanctuary was charming and calming. The organist was wonderful, and even played my most favorite hymn. The people were welcoming and good hearted. And then, there was Judy. When I first came to Pilgrim Judy Brain had been the minister here for about 10 years and was clearly loved by the Congregation. When I told people I was attending Pilgrim Church the response almost always would be what a lucky church to have Judy Brain as minister.

Then came the day when Judy decided to retire. The idea of going forward without Judy was hard to grasp but we were determined to keep the Church just as it had been. Nevertheless many people started to worry. Knowing two years in advance that Judy was leaving had been difficult. The waters were troubled.

When Sally came it wasn't unreasonable for us to want someone to calm the waters. Much like the story of Jesus and the disciples during a storm told in the gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke. Jesus calmed the waters, but was disappointed in the disciples failure to have faith. Sally did not become Judy, but she reminded us of our faith grounded in the greatest study book ever written and instead became a bridge. She brought to us the gifts of an experienced minister, a counselor and a teacher. Sally became part of the everyday workings of the Church. She went to committee meetings, prayer groups and Church Council. She helped us look at ourselves and supported us as we found our way to embrace the future.

So it is now our time to welcome a new settled pastor as did the church almost 20 years ago. I am told by members of the church who were very involved with the Search Committee and the Church Council that there were concerns when Judy was called to be settled Pastor. Some were concerned about calling a woman as the minister. Others were concerned that she had never been a senior pastor. But the Congregation had faith in the Search Committee and over the years the Church was blessed with Judy's leadership.

We have their history to learn from. Now eleven of our members representing the different sexes, races, ages, religious backgrounds, marital orientations, and economical status of the Congregation have unanimously selected Lauren Lorincz as our minister. As for me, I have faith in those eleven people and look forward to the upcoming years and a new ministry.

Marjory German



Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

How wonderful it is for me to arrive in Lexington just in time for the Easter season. We often think of Easter as only one Sunday, and it's typically such a celebration after the reflection, quiet, and somber nature of Lent, it's no wonder. Alleluia! But Easter is actually a season in the church year, just like Lent or Advent. It's appropriate to denote the Sundays of this season as the Second Sunday of Easter, the Third Sunday of Easter, and so on. The Sundays immediately following Easter are a continuation of the joy and glory and hope and wonder and awe of *Easter*. And the season actually lasts for fifty days—stretching from Easter Day itself to Pentecost. So I feel blessed to arrive in time to celebrate the Easter Season with all of you, especially since this is a time of resurrection and new life.

Pilgrim Church has obviously experienced some transitions over these last few years, and transitions are never easy, especially with such stability and a beloved minister like Judy in your not-too-distant past. But Sally has done a fantastic job walking you through the interim period. She has led you with wisdom and compassion and has prepared the way for a new minister to enter your community. And I am honored and thrilled to be that new minister! Honestly, what a poignant and miraculous time for a new minister to enter the life of a church. Can I get another Alleluia?

And just as Easter is not just a day, but a season in the church year, I view my introduction into the Pilgrim Church community as a season too. In other words, this will be a marathon, not a sprint! I look forward to getting to know all of you better and learning about you and Pilgrim's traditions. I look forward to events and wonderful programs that allow us to grow as people and as a faith community. And I look forward to worshipping with all of you in this Season of Easter and beyond. I truly feel that we have a very bright future together. Alleluia and Amen!

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

Lauren Lorincz's Ordination

Lauren Lorincz, our new pastor, was ordained on Sunday, April 10 in Wadsworth, Ohio at a joyous service in the UCC church in which she grew up. Prior to Pilgrim's March 6 meeting approving Lauren as our next minister, the Ohio Conference of the UCC had given Lauren their "Approval for Ordination, Pending a Call." With Pilgrim's call in hand, Lauren spent the following weeks organizing her ordination. She was very pleased to have five ministers present representing her full life with the church. In attendance were the minister who baptized her, the minister who confirmed her, her current minister, and ministers who mentored her in Akron, Ohio and Wellesley. Lauren says that she was especially moved by the laying on of hands.

Pilgrim Church sent flowers to the service as an expression of the joy we have in welcoming her as our next minister. In response, Lauren sent the following message she wished to be shared with everyone at Pilgrim:

"Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers that were delivered for my ordination. It was such a nice surprise to have a tangible sign that you all were with me this past Sunday. And I'm not too proud to admit that I got a bit teary because of your thoughtful gesture! The ordination went incredibly well and I feel so blessed and excited to be with you all soon. Thanks again. Grace and Peace, Lauren"



Minister of Education

In the Beginning, God Created.....

Right about when I was in the fifth grade, I discovered cryptograms. I had been turned on to puzzles earlier with seek-a-words and crosswords, but these cryptograms really got me hooked. I loved figuring out or solving the puzzle for the phrase I got at the end. It was a nice reward beyond the satisfaction of merely completing the puzzle.

Young children love to solve mysteries, puzzles, and problems. This may be one of the reasons why they are always asking us questions. Unfortunately, we don't always have the answers or if we do, we sometimes lack the ability to explain it at a level they can really understand. If the children are in a group and at various ages, the difficulty multiplies!

As adults, we discover that faith is developed through our life experiences. We learn from what we experience at different stages of our lives. For children who are looking for concrete answers regarding their budding faith, this can be a challenge to adults who know there are no easy answers. What we do know is that we can provide some of the experiences children need to build up their faith and love of God.

In June, we will try something new. In lieu of classes, we will have a multi-age, experiential program built upon the creation story. Stations will provide children of all ages an opportunity to explore, experience and most importantly- ask questions. The children will also be offered guided questions which will help them to connect God with the natural world as they experience it.

Anyone in the congregation who would like to participate as a station leader may offer a simple one morning commitment or come for all three! I have introduced the youth to the program briefly in April, but will talk to them in depth about their leadership role in this program during some of their May classes.

An outline of the June Creation Program is as follows:

June 5th- In the Beginning- God created the heavens and the earth. Stations will be introduced. Station 1) dirt, plants, rocks; 2) beach sand, water, seaweed 3) volcano

June 12th- God created creatures of all kinds- The following items will be added to stations: Station 1) jungle and forest animals, insects, birds, and other creatures; 2) shells and water animals 3) dinosaurs.

June 19th- God created people- The following items will be added to stations: Station 1) farm animals, people, blocks for buildings, vehicles; 2) boats [station 3 will be removed]

Each morning will begin with a short meeting to introduce the scripture and connect it with what we will experience that day. Children will have opportunities to create and will be encouraged to extend the experience as they move into the following week. Each morning the children will have something to take home to remind them of what they learned.

This is an extended program based on something we did a few years ago. It was hard to tell who had more fun, the adults or the children. For that reason, I want to offer you the opportunity to participate. In addition to your ideas and creative talents, we will need a few families to assist in the set-up and break down of the stations particularly on the last day. We also need a few families to bring in needed items such as dirt, sand and plants. And for the fun part, we could use some station leaders on Sunday mornings! Please email me at daadams3@comcast.net or call 781-944-8180 if you would like to get involved!

Blessings,
Debra

ANNOUNCING THE 2011-2012 CHURCH COUNCIL

I am very pleased to announce the following members who have been elected to serve two-year terms on Church Council:

Newly Elected Council Members:

Suzanne Abair
Jeff Boehm
Beth Kurth
Lesley Morrison
David Nuss

Re-elected Council Members:

Ed Bond
Steve Van Evera

These Council members will join those continuing on council and serving the second year of their terms:

Joe Carabbio
Susan Carabbio
Marjory German
Will Hopkins
Mary Mackie
Peter Saradjian
Duncan Todd

On behalf of my fellow Pilgrims I would like to both congratulate those elected and express heartfelt thanks for all those who will be serving their fellow congregants as Council members in the coming year!

Let me also take this opportunity to thank those members of the Council who will not be returning for 2011-2012: **Bob Beckwith, Jane Breiby, Dick Edmiston, Christine Emery and Julia Kirby.** We are grateful for your service.

Please join me in welcoming your new council who were installed during the worship service on April 10th.

Marjory German
Moderator



BRING NEW WHITE SOCKS!!

Please bring **new white socks** for the homeless on **MAY 1st and MAY 8th.**

On May 8th we will be giving these socks to Rev. Jed Mannis of the Outdoor Church. We will also be giving him a check from Mission funds. Jed works year round usually out-of-doors, no matter what the weather, for the spiritual and practical aid of the homes of Cambridge and the surrounding areas.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING DONATIONS

Pilgrim Church congregants responded generously again this year to the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering, with **\$1,229.10** in donations. Of special note was the **\$37.10** collected by the children of the church school. With funds from its Discretionary Account, the Mission Committee extended the total donation to **\$2,000.00** providing hope and relief in more than eighty countries, including this year rehabilitation work in Japan. <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/>.





LOCK IN

**APRIL EVENTS FOR
PILGRIM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP!**

April was a busy month for the Youth at Pilgrim Church! First we had our Lock-In on Saturday, April 2nd until Sunday, April 3rd, which included games, activities, movies, spiritual reflection and concluded with the youth leading the coffee hour that Sunday! Overall it was a great time had by all but we could not have done it without the help and support of our volunteers and the many donations we received. A special thanks to Dave McClave, Peter Saradjian, Elizabeth Chen, Dick Edmiston, and Kat McDonald for all they contributed to the event to make it a great success!

Then we concluded our very busy month with a service project at the Boston Convention Center! On Saturday, April 16th, the youth went to the convention center to help Project Bread pack snack bags for the Walk for Hunger. After filling many bags with various snacks and goodies for the participants of The Walk For Hunger occurring on May 1st, we got lunch at Flour Bakery and Cafe. Thank you to Sharon Lawler and Lisa Boehm for driving and chaperoning the event!

Pilgrim Youth Fellowship meets every other week down in the Youth room with the next meeting on Sunday, May 1st, from 4PM to 6PM. All youth, 6th grade through 9th grade, are encouraged to attend! If you have any questions please email Dana Ellis at Pilgrimyouthmin@gmail.com.



WE LOVE SNACK BAGS!



MORE CHIPS PLEASE!

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| May 1 st | June 12 th |
| May 15 th | June 26 th |
| May 29 th | |

Youth group meetings are from 4-6 pm unless otherwise specified.



PARSONAGE TOUR

The new parsonage will be open for tours this **Saturday, April 30, from 2 to 4 p.m.** 26 Douglas Road, Lexington.



MAKE YOUR VOICE MATTER – TO REDUCE FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Attend a free advocacy skills workshop, led by Miriam Stein, advocacy consultant, and learn successful, easy to use strategies to reduce family homelessness and advocate for other issues you care about. In a supportive atmosphere, practice key advocacy skills for communicating your views to your elected representatives in person, by phone or by letter. The workshop is sponsored by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness. The workshop will be held at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden (Rt. 126), Concord, on Tuesday, May 3, from 6:15 to 9:15 PM. A light supper will be served. To sign up, call or email Carl Miller 978-369-3755, normancmiller@comcast.net.



Pilgrim Progressive Dinner

We need to hear from you if you are planning to attend the upcoming Progressive Dinner! Please join us on Sunday, May 22nd starting at 5:30 for an evening of good food and good conversation with good friends from Pilgrim.

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. Jim and Barbara Munkres have been equally generous by inviting us to their home for dessert and coffee. We have several people who are willing to host dinner. Now, we need to hear from folks who are interested in joining the group for a night of fun. If you do not host, we ask that you bring either an appetizer or a dessert.

If you can join us, RSVP to Kat MacDonald at katmacdonald@verizon.net. Please RSVP by Sunday, May 15th at the very latest.

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

Dave McClave, Anne Nuss and
Kat MacDonald

REMINDER: The next deadline for Pilgrim's Progress will be **Wednesday, May 25th** for the June issue. Thank you!



SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR N'GOMBE

Dear Friends,

Pilgrim is returning to Zambia to once again to teach the children in N'gombe and begin our Partnership with Mondavo. We will also be teaching teachers of the Community Schools (K-1st Grades) and to help in ways not yet even determined. We, Tom Murphy, and Ruth Litchfield leave June 28th and return July 14th and it takes us a full two days to make the trip. Through your generosity we were able to take and leave a good deal last summer and now we are asking for your support once again.

Additionally please know that we have boxed over 50 boxes of books to be sent to Zambia for these schools. Also, we will of course be taking all the dolls made by the knitters to the orphans. A **HUGE thank you** to all who have helped and especially to **Eleanor Smith**.

We are looking for your help for we are able to take things directly to the teachers and children. We have put a donation box at the front door along with a listing of suggested needs. Please do not feel pushed, however, we promise your donations will make the trip with us to these communities. We will need to collect these things before the end of June 13th, for we leave on the 28th. Our thanks to Equipping The Saints and each of you.
Tom Murphy and Ruth L.

Please look through our list below and if you can, feel free to contribute and we promise to get these things to the schools:

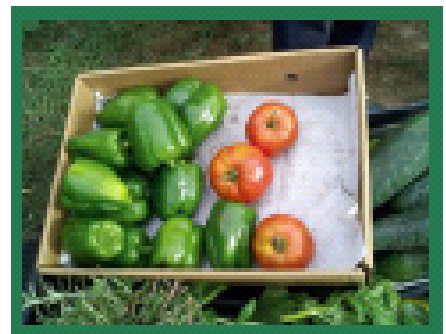
Pencils and pencil sharpeners (individual)
crayons - new small boxes or gently used
chalk
packets of paper
Alphabet books



THE INTERFAITH GARDEN

Pilgrim's next scheduled date at the Garden is **Tuesday, May 3, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**. Adults, youth, and children are all welcome to volunteer at barbjim.munkres@verizon.net or 782 862-2271. Two slots are taken, we need two more volunteers.

At the Interfaith Garden, LHS Students will receive Community Service Hours this year. You can go solo or sign up with a friend to walk just 5 minutes to 5 Harrington Road, right across from the Battle Green.





PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Post Script for the Carbon Fast: Many thanks to ALL for your efforts during the Carbon Fast. We certainly had an opportunity to learn a lot, either from reading the tips themselves, or from each other at the Sidebar discussions. Several people wondered about the use of CFLs or compact florescent lightbulbs. There is no doubt that these bulbs can save energy: replacing just one incandescent bulb with a CFL in every home in the US would "prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars". There's an excellent explanation in the fact sheet attachment below.

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, a hazardous substance. They should be taken to Minuteman Hazardous Waste Facility in Lexington or to a similar facility in your area. In recent years The Home Depot has begun to recycle CFLs, and equipment as well. In most stores the recycle container for CFLs is located near the entrance of the store. (And if you have an extra power drill hanging around, you can recycle that, too!) It's best if the bulbs are conveyed in either their original container, a glass jar with a lid, or two plastic bags. If this seems like a lot of trouble remember that the use of CFLs saves enormous amounts of energy and can help us reduce the use of coal fired electric generators which release far more mercury into the atmosphere.

You can learn a lot more from www.energystar.gov. You can also visit your town's DPW website for local details.



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Book Sale Excitement!

We are glad to report that we have earned about \$850 which will be used to help Astrid's neighborhood school.

This school is in a very distressed area of Flores. Tom and Emily will use some of the money to purchase new children's books written in Spanish. When Emily and Tom Collins travel to Flores in June they will bring the books and also discuss with the teachers other ways to best help this school.

To all of you who donated books this year: You brought wonderful books for the sale. Thank you!

To those of you who produced all those yummy treats for us to sell at the Sat. Sale: Thank you! They were much appreciated!! (nearly every one of them were sold before 2pm.)

To those who helped to make people feel welcome at our Sat. sale, thank you!

To those who purchased books: Thank you! And Enjoy! And know that you have contributed to a good cause, as well as finding a bargain for your summer reading!

And to those who sorted, lifted and carried heavy boxes of boxes, I am very, very, very grateful for your help. Without you the good that this sale will do in Honduras would never have happened. Thank you!



**RACE TO NOWHERE
DISCUSSION IN LEXINGTON**

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

There were two screenings held in April. If anyone screened the film and would like to participate in a community conversation about the film, this 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 were 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/>



REMINDER: The next deadline for the June issue of Pilgrim's Progress will be **Wednesday, May 25th.**



LOST:

Church School Pencil Sharpener! Says **Church School** on it. If found, please return.



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>May 2011</h1> | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 1 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/Communion - Sally's Last Day 4:00 p Youth Group | 2 | 3 | 4 7:30 p Worship Mtg. | 5 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Mother's Day 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship | 9 7:30 p F&A Mtg. | 10 | 11 7:30 p Membership Mtg. | 12 4:00 p Pilgrim Serves Bristol Lodge 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship - Lauren's First Sunday 4:00 p Youth Group | 16 7:00 p Council Mtg. | 17 | 18 10:00 a Care Mtg. 1:00 p Staff Mtg. - Tentative 7:00 p Fellowship Mtg. | 19 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship/ Graduates Honored 11:45 a Ice Cream Social 5:30 p Progressive Dinner | 23 | 24 | 25 <u>Deadline for PP Articles</u> | 26 7:30 p Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 28 12:00 p Pilgrim Hall Rented - Party |
| 29 9:15 a Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a Worship 4:00 p Youth Group | 30 Memorial Day - Office Closed | 31 | | | | |