

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

### A NOTE FROM REV. KAREN GALE

Dear Pilgrim Folks,

“It takes love to hold on when you want to let go. It takes love to let go when you want to hold on.”  
— Kate McGahan

I found this quote recently and thought immediately how well it speaks to the Interim Time.

As I began my work with you all back in late summer, many of you told me that you are here at Pilgrim, and have stayed here at Pilgrim, because you love for the church and the people here. You love God and want to serve Jesus here. You love the kids and the elders and the in-betweeners here. And you love the openness to questioning one's faith in the midst of welcoming all people that you find at Pilgrim.

“It takes love to hold on when you want to let go.”

Yes, this is true. You all have held on and hung in there at Pilgrim as we reckoned with the conflict that happened here and the hurts that were felt and the relationships that needed rebuilding. You all held on and together we have worked on what it means to serve God in this place.

Your showing up for worship faithfully each week, or as often as you could, rebuilt the Pilgrim community. Over time worship has become ever more joyful and thoughtful. We have reached for new things: learning a few spirituals, acting out the Holy Week drama on Palm Sunday, having our kids become more and more a part of worship.

Through worship, in Coffee Hour conversation, in Team meetings and Transition Team events, and in welcoming new people, the Pilgrim congregation has re-formed and rebuilt trust and hope. There is love here. Love for God, love for one another. From that essential foundation, we are standing together looking toward the future.

“It takes love to let go when you want to hold on.”

Yes, this is also true. In the Interim Time we have been questioning what we do as a congregation and why we do it. We look at how we are organized and how shifts in culture and society affect us. We open our eyes and ears to the community and ask how we fit in here. We let go to "how we always did it" and even beloved traditions in order to make room for new things and new ways of being.

This is hard work. And it is happening at Pilgrim. One meaningful change I have seen here lately is the openness to inviting social justice and advocacy groups to meet here. We offer our space and our beautiful building to those who need it. The Lexington Says Enough group organized here before the Gun Violence marches. Another group that seeks to keep in place the current Massachusetts protections for transgender folks also was welcomed to use Pilgrim's space.

In these ways Pilgrim creates community with others in Lexington. We offer hospitality. We offer one of our best resources, our space, and our openness to those who need space to work for justice and wholeness. It is mission in a new way.

(Continued)

There are many things we are in the midst of looking at. We are thinking about how we elect Council, and how we invite youth into leadership. We are looking at how things get done around church and how we can invite new people into that work. We are re-imagining Children's Church and youth group. All of this is happening as the Transition Team finishes up the Local Church profile and we nominate a Search Team.

We continue to walk together in the Interim Time. We continue to build on the love that is here and open ourselves to the new ways God is calling us forward. Thank you for your faithfulness. I look forward to all that is to come.

Peace,

*Karen*



### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH – MAY 6TH**

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a less traditional Children's Church experience engaging the children and youth in a discussion about their church and future pastor. This conversation will be led by members of the transition team and is quite a critical piece of the survey process in which the entire congregation will soon participate. This is part of the excellent work that the transition team is doing as they hope to engage Pilgrims of all ages. This survey process, which will ultimately lead to the shaping a church profile, will play a huge role for the Search Committee as Pilgrim enters into the search for a new minister. This is not a Sunday to be missed and children and not-yet-confirmed youth are all invited.

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### **A NOTE FROM ANNE GRADY – FOLLEN CHURCH**

“Dear Members of the Pilgrim Congregational Church, First of all, thank you so much for cosponsoring the Forum, ‘Gun Violence— Action, Truth and Reconciliation,’ on April 8 at Temple Emunah. We greatly appreciate your support. Here is a link to the LexMedia video of the event: <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html>. One of the goals of the Forum was to promote participation in the Mother’s Day Walk for Peace.”

~ Anne Grady, Chair, Follen Church Gun Violence Prevention Group

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### **CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTHA WOOD!**

Congratulations to Martha Wood for receiving the Minute Man Cane award at the recent Patriot’s Day ceremonies. It recognizes her many years of community service, and is well deserved. (Her picture, along with those of other recipients of awards, appears on the cover of the recent issue of Lexington’s Colonial Times magazine.)

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA GARDINER!

Lisa, a veteran science educator, works at The UCAR Center for Science Education in Boulder, CO.

She has recently published Tales from an Uncertain World - What Other Assorted Disasters Can Teach us About Climate Change.

The book has gentle humor about a very serious situation as it looks at how human beings cope with disaster. A copy has been placed on the Environmental Book Shelf by the front door of the church. Borrow, but please return.

Lisa is the daughter of Sandy and Derek Gardiner.

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### A NOTE FROM RUTH LITCHFIELD

Dear Friends,

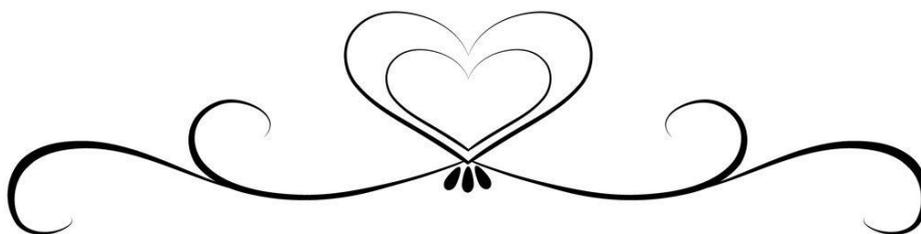
I am so very sad to share this news of our dear Nina in Zambia, however, I know many of you have followed her with great pride as you should have for all you have done for her.

I just received word from her this week that thieves broke into her home this last year and got away with everything of value to include cash, TV, laptop, phones and building materials for her new school. She wrote she was hesitant to share this for fear I would be angry and I immediately replied that I was relieved to know she and her family were well and safe. Our correspondence continued as she wrote that she believes things happen for reasons and she thanks 'him' in good times and bad while thanking God for her safety and that of her family and dear husband. She continued to share the severe cholera outbreak this year and how schools, churches, etc. were closed and that now they are making up the school days there as we are here with our snow this winter.

Through all this, she still is so very hopeful, thankful and prays for us. She is one truly amazing young lady as she continues to work with the children you have known through time without any pay and is one of the best teachers they have as her students skip a grade when entering the Government Schools after leaving Ng'Ombe's Community School.

I have received one donation for her that I will be sending to her later this month through a traveler to Zambia, but simply wanted you all to know and ask that you pray for her, her family and the safety of all.

Bless you all for your care and continued support,  
Ruth Litchfield



## INTERFAITH GARDEN

It is easy and fun and rewarding to grow veggies for those who are needy! Carla Fortmann, who spoke at Pilgrim on Sunday, April 29, is very good at explaining what is happening in the garden, and what needs to be done at each session. If you would like to join Pilgrim's crew, email Barbara at [barbjim.munkres@gmail.com](mailto:barbjim.munkres@gmail.com).

Here are our next dates:

**Saturday, May 19 from 8:30 to 10 am.** Coworkers will be from Follen and Hancock churches.  
**Tuesday, June 12 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.** Coworkers will be Temple Isaiah.

You might meet a friend from one of these congregations!



## 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](mailto: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

### Choosing Justice

By: Marchaé Grair

April 4, 2018

When a person oppressed by the evil of racism proclaims "Black Lives Matter," you have two choices—you can validate their pain or you can condemn them for speaking it.....

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.