

Pilgrim's Progress

May 8, 2019 - Vol. 60 No. 5



Dear Pilgrim folks,

Easter day has come and gone with much joy. But Easter is not just one day. It is a season: seven weeks of worship and of stories of resurrection appearances. The Easter season is about looking for and meeting with the risen Jesus. We are challenged to wrestle with resurrection and to seek Jesus' face in the world around us. "Jesus spotting," perhaps.

One summer I went on a whale watching trip off of Cape Cod. As we set off, we all kept our eyes peeled for whales. I had thought we would round the tip of the cape and the whales would be splashing and carrying on. All the documentaries I had watched on PBS showed whales frolicking, raising up for a huge breach and crashing down, showering huge waves of salt water. I was excited.

We rounded the last piece of land and were out in the ocean. No splashing. No breaching. The guide instead told us to look for small signs. Tips of fins poking out. It is hard to see gray fins in blue-gray water. Or there might be small disturbances below the surface of the water. It is hard to see "unusual" ripples when bouncing up and down on ocean swells. Or, we might see the most hopeful sign, a blow, the exhalation of air made when a whale came up and breathed. In fact, our guide said, the humpback whale, what we were most likely to see, had an exhalation that looked like a heart before dissipating in the breeze.

After some time of careful watching on the part of our guides and worrying on my part that we would not see anything, we did spot a pair of whales. And another group later on. The day ended happily despite its much more subdued nature.

I think that Easter is much the same way. We come on the day of Easter with joy and triumph and music. It is a celebration and we rejoice in an empty tomb and the promises of resurrection. But the Easter season is a much more subdued affair. In this season we are looking to see Jesus. But Jesus will not be as my imagined whales, obvious and loud and splashy. No, the signs are more subtle. The ripples of a heart thawing with forgiveness. The sighing thank you from some stranger we gave a ride to in the rain. A smile from a child that we pass on the street on some sunny day when

we realize that today, and maybe just for today, we don't feel depression bearing down on us.

Resurrection.

May Jesus find you as you seek him in the days ahead. May resurrection follow you, and you in turn, offer it to others.

Peace,
Karen



Spring arrives through the Pastor's office window

Many Thanks

- Beth and Lily Kurth for cleaning up the kitchen and the mail room
- The cooks, cleaner-uppers, and helpers for the Early Christian Dinner
- all those who did readings for the Palm-Passion and Maundy Thursday services
- The Moffit-Clark clan for the Easter brunch Coffee Hour
- Mary Mackie for bringing cake to the last Council meeting

Search Team Update

The Search Team has moved into the interview phase of the search. They are talking in person with candidates and gathering more information. Please continue to keep these folks in prayer as they do this important work.





June 2: Children's Sunday: our children and youth will lead worship in this favorite annual service. We will be guided by the children as we explore Eve's perspective from the story of Adam and Eve. Themes chosen by the younger group is not lying like the snake or listening to or doing bad things even though God loves us no matter what we do. The older group really is focused on the fact that women's voices in the bible are never given a chance to be heard. They have been studying their voices all year and want to share their wisdom with the adults through liturgy and ritual. Ice Cream Social afterwards in Coffee Hour!



June 9: Pentecost: The birthday of the church. Wear red!



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



June 23: 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.



Adult Christian Education

The adult study group is looking at the theology and biblical expression of the concept of the "soul." Where is our soul located? Where was it before we were born? What does the Bible say about the soul? What has changed in our thinking about the soul across Christian history? It is a good, chewy topic with a lot of questions and not too many definitive answers. All are welcome. We meet Tuesdays at 10:30 in the Sun Room.

Christian Education News

Dear Pilgrims,

As we prepare to wrap up another church year, the children and youth will spend the next month planning for and thinking about Children's Sunday. This year, we will celebrate Children's Sunday on June 2nd when they will lead worship, share the wisdom gained this year, honor the adults who have taught them, and our Junior Youth will receive a gift for their participation.

Throughout the year, the Junior Youth have studied the biblical stories from women's perspectives. They have learned from Eve, Sarah, Rachel, Leah, Miriam, Ruth, Hannah, Rahab, Mary, and others. For Children's Sunday, with the help of the younger children, they want to guide you through liturgy and ritual focusing on Eve's perspective from the story of Adam and Eve. This is an exciting opportunity for them to highlight one of the many women they studied. They believe it is important for the adults to understand the perspectives of women, a perspective they think many adults may not have ever learned or explored. The younger children will help them as they prepare for and lead worship that day as well as design bulletin covers.

Oh! This will also be our Sundaes Sunday which will be a delightful, cool treat as we get ready for the heat of the summer months.

Peace,
Devín



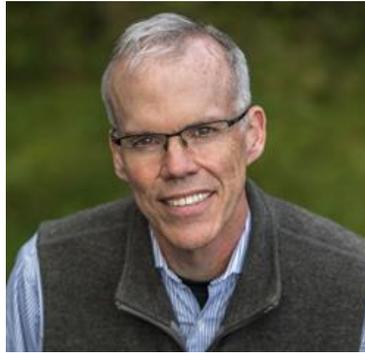
Notes from Dot



Rehearsals for children and youth to prepare for the **June 2** service will be offered following services on May 12 and 19. The first 15 minutes of these rehearsals will be accessible to all. More active choristers will be dismissed at this point while those with longer attention spans are invited to stay for further rehearsing and brainstorming about ways to be involved in the music.

A helper of high school age or above would be most appreciated on May 12.





Climate Lecture with Bill McKibben

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 in attending, please let Diane know. Cost is \$10.

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Call for Altar Flowers

Thanks to everyone who has given the altar flowers for the Sunday services this year. They add a great deal to our worship service.

There are a few remaining dates through the end of the church year. The cost is a very reasonable \$40, and you may take the flowers home with you after the service. You can call Diane to let her know, or simply sign up on the list that is on the round table in the Sun Room. Thank you.

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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

Kayaking in the Cold

By: Lilian Daniel

May 8, 2019

The river wants to flow where it wants to flow. God's grace and mercy are like that. Grace wants to go where it wants to go. Mercy wants to flow widely.

Continue reading [HERE](#)