

Children's Church and Connect Program Notes
From Devin Shmueli

Hello, Pilgrims!

After starting on August 1st, I have really enjoyed getting to know those of you I have already had the opportunity to meet. I am very much looking forward to meeting those I have not yet met. It should go without saying that I am really looking forward to a great year. This year, the educational ministries will be mission focused. While thinking about how we can be the church, Educational Ministries and Mission will be partnering together. As this partnership unfolds, be on lookout for more information. Together, we will discern what that means for us, our children, our youth, and this church! Again, if we have not yet met but you would like to, let me know.

You can always e-mail me at education@pilgrimcongregational.org. I look forward to hearing from you and a great year at Pilgrim!

Blessings, Devin

A few notes for the year:

- I will be holding open office hours on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 at Starbucks in Lexington (60 Bedford Street). This is a time I have open for parents to address their concerns, children to visit me with their parents, and for anybody who has questions about the educational ministries of Pilgrim. If this time does not work for you, I will always be available for an appointment. Just e-mail me!
- This year, I want to shift our culture from thinking about our Sunday School programs towards a Children's Church model (K-2nd, 3rd-4th). While yes, they will still be learning and growing together, it is important to me that they do not see church as school. Children's Church is where we will join together to not only do church but be church through the stories of our bible. The children will be dismissed for Children's Church after worship has begun following the time for children (except on Communion Sundays where they will begin in Children's Church).
- Our Connect Program (5th-8th) will meet on Sunday during worship. They will be dismissed for their programming at the same time as Children's Church after the time for children in worship. Their programming will include bible study, community building exercises, group activities (for example, helping with coffee hour), and mission work together with the Senior Youth as appropriate. They will learn to make connections between what they read in the bible with how they experience church and what it means to be church.
- Every month, Children's Church and the Connect Program will join together for Community Day. This will take place on Communion Sunday. This past Sunday, we regrouped after a summer away to get to know one another and create name tags for the year. We learned what it meant when Jesus told us that we are light and salt of the earth. We then created our name tags for the year, which reflected the fact that we are each light and salt of the earth!

Upcoming Schedule

	September 11 th (Community Day)	September 18 th	September 25 th	October 2 nd
Children's Church (K-2 nd)	We are Salt and Light: Create a Name Tag using Light-themed stickers or Salt	Abraham: Discussion about Covenants	Abraham and Sarah: Learning about Promises	World Communion Sunday: Create a Communion Banner
Children's Church (3 rd and 4 th)	We are Salt and Light: Create a Name Tag using Salt	Abraham: Discussion about Covenants	Abraham and Sarah: Learning about Promises	World Communion Sunday: Create a Communion Banner
Connect Program (5 th -8 th)	We are Salt and Light: Create a Name Tag using Salt	Team Building Activities, Create a Covenant for the Program Year	What does it mean to be created in God's Image? ... and other questions about Creation!	World Communion Sunday: Create a Communion Banner

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP CORNER

To the Youth (and their parents):

On October 16th from 6:00-7:30, we will be having a fellowship night with pizza, discussion and games. There will be more information on this later but I wanted to let you know so that you would be able to mark your calendars! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you, what activities you would like to do together as a group, and what you want out of church as well as what you want to do for the church. We can set a few dates for future fellowship nights, too. If you are able to join, please let me know by e-mail.

This year, I am planning to have office hours where you all can join me for coffee in Lexington. These office hours will be when you can help me think about upcoming plans or consider new activities for youth group. It is also a time for you to address your concerns about God, life, school, relationships, or whatever else might be important to you. It is your time when I am here for you. They will be just for people in youth group. During our first fellowship night, we can decide together what day, time, and location would be best.

If you would like to be in touch with me before we get together on the 16th, I welcome an appointment with you. Feel free to e-mail me at devin.shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Peace,
Devin

PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- -Prayers for the families of the victims of 9/11
- -Prayers for Susan Carabbio's uncle, John Allen, whose wife recently passed away
- -Celebratory prayer for Fiona McClave's 16th birthday

SIGN UP TO TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to teach church school for the 2016-2017 church year. We have three trimesters, fall, winter and spring; as well as three age groups, early Elementary, upper elementary & Middle school. There is also an option to add your name to a substitute teacher list or an assistant teacher list. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Kurth: hughzhoney@gmail.com

Follow this link to the sign-up form: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4ba8a829aafe3-pilgrim>

A NOTE FROM DAN SCHMIDT



MUSIC REHEARSALS RESUME! Thursday evening choir rehearsals have resumed on **Thursdays at 7:30 pm** in the climate controlled Pilgrim Hall. Sunday morning choir and bell rehearsals resume this morning. **Choir practice is from 9:30-10:00 am** in the sanctuary and bells will practice from **10:00-10:20 am** in the balcony. No musical experience needed nor are there age requirements. All are welcome!

PUMPKIN PATCH PLANNING MEETING

Please note that there will be a meeting regarding the Pumpkin Patch this **Sunday, September 18 following worship**. Anyone interested in helping organize this fun event is welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net. The pumpkins arrive on **Saturday, October 8 at 1:00 pm**, so please save the date! As always, we need many hands to make unloading quick and easy. It is really a lot of fun, so please plan on helping that afternoon.



A CALL FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Each week, a member of the congregation donates the altar flowers for Sunday's church service. Many people choose a date to give the flowers that is, for them, a special time of celebration or remembrance. Our church secretary, Diane Blair, keeps the list of donors and makes the arrangements with Wilson Farms for the delivery of the flowers.

You can let Diane admin@pilgrimcongregational.org know if you would like to give the flowers and what date you prefer. Alternatively, you can speak to Beth Kurth at coffee hour or email her hughzhoney@gmail.com and she will pass the information along to Diane.

Usually, the donors take the flowers home after the service. Alternatively, the flowers can be left to be delivered to a Pilgrim friend by the Care Committee.

The cost of the flowers is a very reasonable \$40; to pay for them, make a check out to Pilgrim Church with "altar flowers" on the memo line, and either put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Giving flowers is a wonderful way to contribute to the beauty of our church service.

A NOTE FROM THE VITALITY COMMITTEE

Dear Pilgrims,

Welcome Back from your Summer adventures!

The Vitality Committee has been busy at work planning some fun fellowship events for the Fall! We are excited to get to see all of you again and eager to come together with our Pilgrim family.

What's happening you may ask?

- **Wednesday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.** Sandy Gardiner will host a book discussion on Ta-Nehisi's book Between The World and Me. This promises to be a lively and important discussion on racism in America. Questions? Contact Sandy at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com .
- **Friday, September 23rd at 7:00p.m.**, we will have our annual Movie on the Lawn night. This year's feature film is Zootopia! Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for free popcorn, hot chocolate and cider!
- **Sunday, September 25th at 2:00** The Pilgrim Purls and Knitwits will meet at the home of Eleanor Smith for a relaxing afternoon of fellowship and knitting for charities. You don't have to be an expert knitter to attend. In fact, you don't have to knit at all! Let us know that you're coming (hughzhoney@gmail.com) and we'll bring the supplies and know-how to get you started.
- **Saturday, October 8th** in conjunction with the Pumpkin Truck unloading, we will host a pot-luck BBQ and welcome Rev. Lauren home. Come hoist a pumpkin and have a hot dog!
- **Saturday, October 15th at 6:30**, the return of Pilgrim's Progressive Dinner! Some People are cooking and sharing their homes. Others will be asked to bring items and help out. Thank you to Sandy Gardiner and Gracia Dayton for organizing! Contact Sandy at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com for more details.

As much as we are looking forward to these events we need your help to make them a success for all to enjoy!

How can you help?

- We need volunteers to help with set up, serving and clean-up at Movie night.
- We need volunteers to help with setup, serving and clean-up at the BBQ and Pumpkin Party
- We need volunteers to cook and provide items for the Progressive Dinner
(Please watch for Sign-Up genius links coming soon to sign up for slots!)

And as always, we need folks to sign up to host Coffee Hour, be Greeters, donate Altar Flowers and be Liturgists! You can sign up for Greeting, Liturgist and Coffee Hour duties here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084babaa2daaff2-liturgists>

Sign up for donating Altar Flowers with Beth Kurth at hughzhoney@gmail.com or Diane Blair at admin@pilgrimcongregational.org .

Most of all, we need YOU to come have fun with us!

YOU are the key to a vital Pilgrim community!

In this day and age of strained political tensions and upheavals at home and abroad, our Pilgrim Family offers us a place to put all that behind and come together in heartfelt fellowship, in prayer and community. We hope that you will partake in Vitality sponsored events and share your ideas and talents with us and with our congregation.

Questions? Ideas? Contact me at hughzhoney@gmail.com or 781-820-7635.

And please folks, wear your nametags!! :-)

In Peace and Gratitude,
Beth Kurth

NEED A NAME TAG?



Do you need a name tag? Perhaps yours is lost or mangled or you are new and do not have one. If so, please let Beth Kurth (hughzhoney@gmail.com) or Diane (admin@pilgrimcongregational.org) know, and they will be sure that you have one. It is so nice to be able to put a name with a face, especially to visitors and new friends.

THANK YOU TO ADRIANA RAMACCIOTTI

While many of us were away this summer, our own Adriana Ramacciotti was tirelessly working in our Sanctuary to complete Phase II of the re-design project that began last summer with the beautiful transformation of our Narthex.

“As both an architect and interior designer, there is nothing I enjoy more than working with what I’m given but then finding ways to add, rearrange and edit so that the end result is a space that looks, feels and functions in a fresh, new way” Adriana explained. “The stained carpeting in the sanctuary didn’t transmit the right message to renters, visitors, guests and – just as importantly – those of us who are here worshipping together every Sunday”. Pews were moved, the old rug was removed and the new carpet tile was laid all in a matter of weeks.

Pilgrim is fortunate to have access to Adriana’s expertise. In addition to her commercial and church design work, Adriana finds inspiration in transforming residential spaces and supports the “Aging in Place” movement where experts like Adriana re-design senior homes to make them safer, more functional and better able to meet the changing needs as people age. “People think that they have to leave their homes as they age. This just isn’t true. In many cases, we can re-design their home into a beautiful space that safely meets their current needs and keeps them in their homes if that’s where they’d like to stay”.

Please take the time this fall to thank Adriana for all of her great work, and if you’re interested in learning more about Adriana's business, visit:

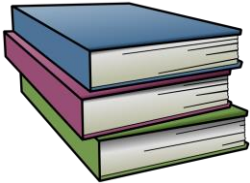
www.adrianainteriors.com.



BOOK DISCUSSION – BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME

We will be discussing the book *Between The World and Me* on **Wednesday, September 21 at 7 pm** at Pilgrim Church. Get your book now! Please feel free to invite anyone who might be interested. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Gardiner at sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.

A NOTE FROM STEVE VAN EVERA



Here are the names of five of the Jesus Seminar books I mentioned in my **August 21** Sunday service homily at Pilgrim, and a quick note on each. They are all easy reads, beautifully written. Copies of all are at Pilgrim in the library downstairs for easy reference.

Marcus J. Borg, Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time (1994) especially chapter 3, “Jesus, Compassion, and Politics.”

Borg argues here that Jesus’s central message was **a call to act with compassion, and to reject Jewish purity laws that excluded many from the circle of God’s love.**

Implication: Jesus rejected the anti-gay teaching of Leviticus and other harsh purity rules.

Marcus J. Borg,

Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teaching and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary (2006), a summary of Borg’s lifetime work on Jesus and the original Jesus movement.

Covered here: the history of the Jesus life, ministry and movement; the ethics and purpose of his movement; and the context of Roman oppression that it addressed. Misconceptions and mistranslations are corrected. E.g., “have mercy” is better translated as “have compassion” (pp. 175-78)—a broader call. Repentance is not about admitting wrongdoing, but rather seeing the world anew—to “go beyond the mind that you have” (p. 219).

The Kingdom of Heaven is here on earth, not in heaven. It is a world of justice and compassion. We are to help bring it about, not just wait for God to make it (pp. 251-60). A fabulous book.

Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, The Last Week (2006).

Why did Jesus take the journey to Jerusalem that ended with his crucifixion? What was he trying to accomplish? Find out here. In part a corrective to Mel Gibson’s dubious film *Passion of the Christ* (2004).

Marcus J. Borg, Reading the Bible Again for the First Time (2001).

A terrific book-by-book introduction to the Bible—its authors, why they wrote, what they were trying to say.

Marcus J. Borg, Speaking Christian (2011).

Covered here: mistranslations and misunderstandings of Christian scripture that have invaded Christian understanding over time. Many mistranslations have had the effect of diluting Jesus’s calls to take compassionate action and do justice, while elevating concerns with expiating sin. Borg writes to recover original meanings.

HONDURAS HAPPENINGS



We will be returning to Honduras next week for the dedication of the well in the barrio of Mira Flores. On September 1, 2015 two brothers, Hector and Cesar (12 and 8) from this neighborhood were killed crossing the highway which runs through Flores, on their way to school. This same neighborhood has no access to "potable" water and people have to cross the highway every day for this basic necessity. Tom and I were determined to give this community clean water so that others didn't have to risk their own lives, and to honor Hector and Cesar. The dedication of the well will take place on Saturday, September 24th.

Our next project will be working with the Allison Cancer Center in Comayagua. This center provides free consultations (general medicine, psychology, and nutrition) to patients before and after chemotherapy treatment. They also offer spiritual services, clinical exams, imaging, radiology and dentistry. We have received over \$20,000 worth of medicine, medical and dental supplies and will be giving the majority of the supplies

to this center and the remaining to the Centro de Salud (Health Center) in Flores.

Certainly we'll be thinking of the Pilgrim community during the well dedication and working at the cancer center. Just as Hector and Cesar motivated us to build the well, our many friends both at Pilgrim and beyond who are battling cancer will be inspiring us to make a difference for patients in Honduras.

Thank you for your spiritual and financial support.

Tom & Emily Collins



PRAYERS FOR MRS. TERESA BANDA

As some of you may know, Mrs. Teresa Banda recently passed away very unexpectedly. Pilgrim has worked with her and her community in Zambia since 2010. In 2013, Pilgrim made a new latrine possible for the community to keep the school open, a new exterior wall, a new front gate with no jagged metal, and connected the electricity. In addition, Pilgrim provided the ladies with a popcorn maker and a peanut butter machine. Pilgrim's Mission Committee provided funds for Mrs. Teresa to support the children in the Mandevu community continuing education this summer.

Please keep Mrs. Teresa and her family in your prayers.

Blessings,
Ruth Litchfield



NEWS FROM THE INTERFAITH GARDEN

Deborah and Todd Burger took photos on August 20 when they volunteered at the Garden. Workers from First Parish UU and the Chinese Bible Church were also scheduled for that day. Saturday is the major day for harvesting. Fresh vegetables (and a few flowers) are placed in big carts. A short walk with the carts takes the food to Church of Our Redeemer on Meriam Street where the food is placed with other donations for those in need.

Pilgrim is scheduled for only two more volunteer days this year: **Saturday, September 24, 8:00 - 9:30;** and **Saturday, October, 1, 8:00 - 9:30.** If you would like to help out, contact Barbara at barbjim.munkres@verizon.net to sign up.



To access the calendar for Pilgrim Church, please click [here](#). Thank you.



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 23
7:00 PM

Front Lawn — Pilgrim Church
55 Coolidge Ave., Lexington

Free and open to the public

SHOWING:
Zootopia

Free popcorn
and beverages

Bring a blanket
or a chair.

HOSTED BY
PILGRIM
Congregational Church