



The Pilgrimage Herald

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The Church of the Pilgrimage
Congregational-UCC
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Rev. Gary L. Marks
Pastor Emeritus

Volume LXXXVI No. 3 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm March 2017

From Our Pastor

Maybe you've noticed that our scripture readings in worship this year are coming primarily from Luke's gospel. Maybe you've noticed that some of the readings are longer, often two distinct stories paired together. I have been working off a different lectionary known as the "narrative lectionary."

So Lent begins in a new way. Rather than beginning with the story of Jesus in the wilderness (the temptation story) we will begin with the story of the Good Samaritan and the story of Mary and Martha. Part of me says really? No devil encouraging Jesus to be a Super Hero, showing off his power? No Jesus saying three times no? I wonder, weeks in advance, how these other suggested stories will help us start off a season of repentance and reflection.

Despite my questioning, I do know that when a preacher has preached the same lectionary texts year after year, a little changing it up is good.

The thing I like about the narrative lectionary is its focus on story – Jesus'. story and our story as the people of God.

Recently a small group gathered in my home for a book discussion. We talked about what Taylor Branch had to share about Dr. King and civil rights, but first we began with where we fit into the story. What did we remember about the fifties and sixties? How were the events described in the book presented to us by media, by our families, and by our faith community? One person in attendance had actively marched and been involved, sometimes to his church's dismay. We eagerly listened to each other, and other people's sharing of their lived experience made the book come alive.

If you look at the article in this newsletter about Lenten offerings, you will see that each engages on the level of personal story. For one gathering, we'll reflect on spirituality for those for whom caregiving is a part of their story. For another, we'll consider one man's story of life as a black man, including his response to recent current events. For the third gathering, we'll hear parts of the story of a church member who has been in a cancer journey for the past four years.

As we focus on the stories of Jesus we grow in our faith and understanding. As we share our own stories, we grow in our faith and our sense of community. And it is all good!

Helen

Ash Wednesday – March 1st

A short service will be held *Wednesday morning* from 7-7:30am to serve the needs of our working people. There will also be "drive by" ashes available from 7:30-8:30am and also from 4:30-5:30pm. Lenten daily devotional booklets will be made available at this service, and again on March 5th, the first Sunday of Lent.

Deacon's Notes

The season of Lent is upon us and the church has many activities and services planned which we hope will offer something for everyone regardless of where you are on your own faith journey.

The Deacons spend time at every meeting reviewing and evaluating each of our “mini-ministries” Although these ministries are alive and well, we know that, with a little more commitment from the congregation, they can surpass their current levels of success and truly become church wide ministries.

For many folks, Lent is a period of time when “giving up” something is an important part of their Lenten experience. Perhaps “giving of” yourself and a few minutes of your time throughout the entire year would be a wonderful extension of Christ’s ministry.

Two of our mini-ministries, in particular, would blossom and greatly benefit from your added support. The Ministry of Meals and the Visitation Ministry are both dependent on the “giving to others” attitude for which our church is known.

Those involved in the Visitation Ministry try to visit our church family members who cannot physically get to our services on a regular basis. This ministry is usually a once a month commitment of time and those who participate often feel that they are the ones receiving a blessing.

The Ministry of Meals can involve your entire family. Simply prepare a little extra at mealtime or involve your children in a cookie baking session. These gifts of love and sustenance can be delivered fresh or they can be frozen and dropped off at the church office to be offered during someone’s time of need.

Please let any Deacon or the church office know if you are interested in joining one of our mini-ministries and thanks for taking the time to reflect on your commitment to God and God’s work done here at the Church of the Pilgrimage.

On Sunday, March 26th and Sunday, April 2nd , we will be taking names for our Palm Sunday Breakfast to be held at 8am on April 9th in Allerton Hall. The breakfast is free and will include a service of Communion.

Other Lenten offerings include:

- Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, March 1 Service in sanctuary from 7-7:30am “Drive by Ashes” in Town Square from 7:30-8:30am and 4:30-5:30pm.
- March 15 – Wednesday, 5:45 –7:30pm Simple supper and informal worship service In Allerton Hall with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Rosemary McKay.
- March 22– Wednesday, 5:45 – 7:30pm Simple supper and informal worship service with a book discussion.
- April 5 – Wednesday, 5:45 - 7:30pm Simple supper and informal worship service in Allerton Hall with a book discussion led by Rev. Jean Lenk.
- April 9 – 8am Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast in Allerton Hall.
- April 13- 7pm Maundy Thursday Service with Communion in sanctuary
- April 14– Good Friday – The sanctuary will be open from 12 - 3:00pm for personal reflection and prayer.
- April 16– EASTER SUNDAY – 3 services
 - Sunrise Service on Cole’s Hill
 - Family-oriented pageant service in the sanctuary
 - Traditional Easter Service in the sanctuary – 11am

Trustees Announce Special Event Chairs!

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the oversight and management of all of the church's expenses. The trustees are also responsible for the oversight of all the revenue sources that support the annual budget. This includes the stewardship campaign, rental income, investment income and the three "special events" that the Church of the Pilgrimage hosts each year: Time and Talent Auction, Harvest Fair and this year we're bringing back the Golf Outing. Each of these Special Events requires a chairperson or co-chairpersons who, in turn, recruit sub committees and other volunteers that make their event a successful reality. I'm very pleased to be able to announce the following chairs for our 2017 Special Events:

- Time and Talent Auction - Ed Pawlowski has agreed to return as our auctioneer extraordinaire. Ed has been our mainstay for several years but will need some assistance and he may be contacting you soon! This is a fun event with food. The date is May 20th.... I can hear Ed now: "Who'll give me 10, do I hear 25, how 'bout 100 - I have 100 going once, going twice, sold! to Pastor Helen!"
- Golf Outing - The church has held several golf outings in the past but was cancelled for lack of participation a few years ago. David "no bogeys for me" Baier has stepped up to lead the golf outing in 2017. David is an avid golfer who will be putting his magic touch to this event. We are also fortunate to announce the following golfers who have agreed to assist: Jim "hole in one" Hammond Dennis "almost par" Albers and Jim "just call me Ace" Jamieson. This will be a co-ed event with a date (probably in June) to be announced very soon.
- Harvest Fair - As most of you know, both Laura and Kara are taking a well-earned rest after many successful years of steering our annual Harvest Fair. We can't thank them enough. But, as in all things Church of the Pilgrimage, we have two very talented people who agreed to take the reins for 2017 - Susie Passmore and Jane Dolan. Susie and Jane agreed to co-chair in mid-February so they are beginning to develop some plans and ideas and will be contacting many of you over the next few months. A tentative date being considered is Saturday, November 4th. Thank you Susie and Jane!

Don Reinhardt, Board of Trustees Chairperson

From Jenny Healy, Director of Christian Ed

I had my first encounter with someone who was HIV positive when I was in college. She was a newborn baby at UMass Medical, recently abandoned by a drug addicted mother. One had only to touch her to get her to stop crying; she spent a lot of time in that bassinet. When I arrived for my shift, I picked her up and carried her with me the whole time I was there. It was hard to put her down. I wondered sometimes how safe it was to hold her, what if her diaper leaked or she spit up, would I become HIV positive? Little was known about HIV at the time. But I pushed those thoughts aside with a prayer for protection. I couldn't not hold her.

I thought of that baby when I read the story in Matthew recently where Jesus places his hand on the head of a leper. Little was known about leprosy, but out of fear, no one touched a leper. How could Jesus? How could He not?

And I thought of the power of a loving human touch, how transformative it can be. I thought about what it means to a sick child to be wrapped in a blanket handmade by strangers, stitched or tied

with love. I thought about the comfort it can bring (the stories on the Facebook page are the best testimony to that).

None of us is Jesus. We cannot cure any of these sick children, but when we infuse these blankets with our love and the love of God, we can hope to bring a measure of comfort when they wrap themselves in that fleece or flannel.

Thank you to all who participated in this ministry-children and adults-touching the lives of struggling children with Jesus' transformative love.

peace. jenny

March 5 Blanket Sunday: children will present the blankets for a blessing then go downstairs for Sunday School, returning to the sanctuary to celebrate communion with their families.

March 19 Easter Pageant sign-ups will go up in Allerton Hall

March 12 Coffee & Conversation

P.S. I'm headed to California mid-month to visit my best friend from college who recently lost her mom and to visit with my daughter at college-can't wait!

From Ellie Reinhardt, your Membership & Evangelism Chair

Newcomers' Gatherings

Newcomers' Gatherings are offered several times a year for frequent visitors and guests who would like to find out more about our church and get to know us better. Seventeen folks attended our last Newcomers' Gathering on Sunday, January 29th! A second Newcomers' Gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, March 11th 9:00 - 10:30** in the JRC. Pastor Helen and others will be there with coffee, bagels, conversation and sharing. If you are ready to join the church or would like to know more, please come to this gathering.

New members are invited to join the church on **Sunday, April 30th**.

Invitation to Small Group Dinners

Throughout church history, small groups have enabled Christians to connect and deepen their relationships with each other. Small group dinners focus on building friendships by meeting together with 8 to 10 people for conversation and shared experiences. This Spring, please sign up for an opportunity to connect and deepen your journey by meeting with a small group of fellow church members for dinner. We invite every COPT member and visitor to participate in one of our Food for Thought Dinners.

March Book Discussion

The book to be discussed is *Under Our Skin* by Ben Watson. An expansion of a Facebook post Ben Watson (former New England Patriots player) wrote following the Ferguson verdict, Watson writes a clear, faithful, thought provoking argument for why paying attention to race is important for our wellbeing as a nation today. Those who have read it already are giving it a big thumbs up.

The evening for discussing the book is Wednesday night March 22nd, the second of the Lenten Soup and Supper gatherings. Soup supper from 5:45-6:30pm (okay to arrive late if the 5:45 time start is an issue); program from 6:30-7:30pm.

From Your Missions Committee

Back By Popular Demand (!) the committee is going to sell Beautiful Day granola and Equal Exchange products on a monthly basis on the fourth Sunday of every month. Going forward, you will be able to re-stock your shelves with your favorite flavors while you support an important refugee work program.

On a more serious note, the committee is continuing to consider ways we can help with the mushrooming addiction crisis. Most recently, the media reported that in 2016, 2000 people died in this state from drug overdoses. That means that 2000 families, including parents, siblings, children, spouses and partners, have been impacted by loss. The community of Plymouth, along with many South Shore communities, is now targeting the addiction crises head on, in particular, addressing the stigma of drug addiction. Our church has and will continue to be a small part of that effort.

Women's Retreat at Craigville Conference Center

Walks on the beach, food other people have cooked, good humor, getting to know others better....what's not to like? Our theme is "Walking Together" and we'll explore that with worship, film discussion, and collage making. People who are newer to the congregation are particularly encouraged to join us – it will be a great way to get to know more people.



When? Friday, March 31st to Saturday April 1st. Begins with dinner on Friday, though people can arrive from 4 pm on, and ends 4 pm Saturday.

Where? Craigville Beach, on Cape Cod

How to sign up? A check for \$112 for the full time (3 meals, overnight and linens), \$42 for the day only (includes lunch) We do have some scholarship money to assist, so ask Pastor Helen.

What to bring? Walking shoes, a fun item wrapped for a Spring time "Yankee Swap" (something silly or something sweet, not expensive!) and materials (such as magazines, or a copy of a photo that's been important to you on your journey) for the

collage making time. A pillow if you need a favorite one. An extra blanket if you tend to get cold. (linens are provided) A favorite snack food for Friday evening. A good book for free time in case it rains and there is less beach walking than we'd hope for. An open and willing spirit!

If you are coming and have sleep concerns (such as you snore and would like to sleep with other snorers) please email them to helennablo@8townsquare.org. We are requesting a room chart so we can plan room assignments.

Please note: We need each participant to fill out a registration form so we can communicate with Craigville regarding food issues/allergies and sleep accommodation needs. Registration forms will be available on Sundays (see table on upper vestibule) or through the church office. Other questions? Ask Dawn Durmis, Jane Dolan or Pastor Helen.

Walking Group

The Women's walking group continues to meet once a month on Saturdays, meeting at 9 am at Nelson Park. After a walk of about 45 minutes, we head to Kiskadee Coffee House for warm drinks and further conversation. The next meeting date will be March 18th. All are welcome!

Maine Mission Trip Dinner, March 26 (please note date change)

It's time to get jazzed and organized for our third annual Maine Mission Trip! Pastor Helen is inviting all participants from last year and others interested (the trip is open to rising ninth graders on up) to a dinner at her house, Sunday, March 26th from 5 to 7 pm. We'll take a look at pictures from last year with the slide show Sam Curtin composed, and we'll talk about upcoming fundraising activities. All teens and adults who are interested in taking part are invited.

Newcomers Part Two March 11th

As a follow up on the first gathering, we will gather on Saturday, March 11th from 9:30 to 11 am in the JRC. Coffee and bagels will be served. Time to look at the UCC brief statement of faith, share more about our questions and concerns, and hear from representatives of Mission, Christian Education and Stewardship. We hope any and all who are interested in further exploring church membership will be able to attend this gathering.

Our next time for receiving new members will be two weeks after Easter, *on Sunday, April 30th*.

Women's Guild March Meeting

The next Women's Guild meeting will be held on March 10, 2017 at 12:00 noon (please note earlier meeting start time). Our program will be the Plymouth Weddings from 1621 presented by Donna Curtin, Director of Pilgrim Hall Museum. Donna's presentations are always interesting, informative and humorous. Come and enjoy an entertaining afternoon. All are welcome!

March Flowers

March 5	In loving memory of Cliff & Laura Sampson and Norma & Walter Martin.	Given by Cliff & Catherine Sampson and family.
March 12	In loving memory of my mother, Rose L. MacKay in remembrance of her birthday on March 10 th .	Given by Rosemary MacKay.
March 19	In loving memory of Gordon Armstrong.	From his wife, Bea.
March 26	In loving memory of my parents, Henry & Joyce Hammond, and my late wife's parents, John & Nina Burns.	Given by James Hammond.

Church Record & Notes

"On behalf of the Board of Deacons at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, I would once again like to thank the Missions Committee for the generous donation to our ongoing work. Providing affordable housing to local families is truly God's work in our community and we appreciate your commitment to those in need of decent shelter. May God bless you all. Nancy Morse"

Restoration and Capital Campaign Update by Frank Roberts

As we start to have a few warmer days, it gives us hope that Spring is on its way. That means that our Church Restoration Project will soon restart on the West side, with hopes that we can continue and complete the East side and perhaps add a new entrance Ramp this year.

With a co-operative weather pattern, increased donations to Present Pledges and New Pledges, we believe that by this Fall we will have met our objectives for the Second Year of this project.

As of this week, we have collected over \$677,000 of our presently pledged amount of \$1,043,000. In order to safely finance this years construction objectives, that total must reach \$835,000 by mid-July. With only \$158,000 remaining to insure our progress, the Board of Trustees asks everyone to review the current status of your Capital Campaign Pledge. If you had not committed to the Campaign at the launch of this four-year program, or were not a Member of the Church at that time, we ask you to consider a New Pledge. Pledge forms are available in the Church Office. Questions? Speak to Don Reinhardt, chair of the Capital Campaign.

Relations Between the Plymouth Police Department & the Citizens of Diversity

The Town of Plymouth “No Place for Hate” Committee presents a panel discussion entitled: “Relations Between the Plymouth Police Department & Citizens of Diversity” on Sunday, March 5 from 2-4pm. This event is open to the public and will be held in the Otto Fehlow Room of the Plymouth Public Library. The panel includes: Chief of Police, Michael Botieri; NPFH Committee Members, Vedna Heywood and Lennie DeSouza Smith; PATCH Representative, Patricia Goler. Barbara Ahroni is Moderator for NPFH.

Fellswater: Boston's Celtic Music Ensemble

A **free concert** sponsored by First Congregational Church of Randolph. Admission is one item for the food pantry. Saturday, March 11 – 7pm. Stetson Hall, 6 South St, Randolph, MA 02368.

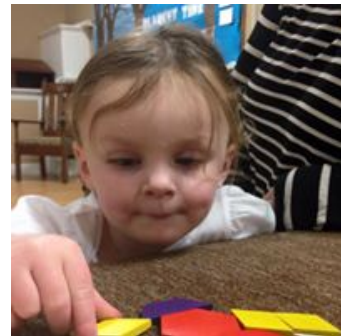
March Calendar Events 2017

- March 1: Ash Wednesday Service, 7-7:30am, Sanctuary.
“Drive By Ashes” 7:30am-8:30am and 4:30-5:30pm.
Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpsons home.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
- March 4: Memorial Service for Terry Craig (sister of Nancy Reed), 10:30am, Sanctuary.
- March 5: Worship w/Communion, 10am, Blanket Sunday!
- March 6: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
Men’s Bible Study, 7pm, Paul Dion’s home.
- March 7: Board of Christian Ed Meeting, 7:15pm, Marks Room.
- March 8: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
- March 9: Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- March 10: Guild, noontime, Allerton Hall.

- March 11: Missions Meeting, 11am, Marks Room.
Newcomers Gathering Part II, 9:30-11am, JRC Great Room.
- March 12: Worship w/ Good Samaritan offering, 10am, Sanctuary.
Youth Coffee & Conversation, after worship, youth room.
- March 13: Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.
Men's Bible Study, 7pm, Paul Dion's home.
- March 14: Church Council Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- March 15: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpsons home.
Lenten Program, 6pm, Allerton Hall.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
- March 16: Nominating Committee Meeting, 8:30am, Steve Triffletti's office.
- March 17: Happy St. Patrick's Day.
- March 18: Walking Group, 9am, Nelson St. Park.
Super Saturday, 8am-3:45pm, Wilbraham, MA.
- March 19: Worship, 10am, Sanctuary.
Youth Group Leaders Meeting, 8:45am, JRC.
Easter Pageant sign-ups during coffee hour.
- March 20: Herald Deadline
Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Marks Room.
- March 21: Membership & Evangelism, 7pm, Marks Room.
- March 22: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpsons home.
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
Lenten Program, 6pm, Allerton Hall.

SAVE THE DATE: Time and Talent Auction and Dinner, May 20, 2017 from 5-9pm.

Game Night Fun (so much fun you won't want to miss the next one)!





THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
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SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM



WE ARE UNITED IN STRIVING TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD, AND TO WALK IN GOD'S WAYS, MADE KNOWN OR TO BE MADE KNOWN TO US.

February was spent making blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides security blankets to kids of all ages who are suffering from chronic or terminal illness, dealing with being removed from their homes, and other dire circumstances. They are meant to bring comfort and a reminder there is someone out there who cares about them. These blankets will be dedicated on Sunday, March 5th.

