



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 LXXXVII No. 5

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-3:30pm

May 2018

From Our Pastor

Recently on a day off my husband and I drove to Ellisville State Park, to walk to the beach and maybe see some seals.

We made the usual walk down the hill, waiting for the water's edge to slowly appear. When it did, we nearly gasped. From this past winter's storms, a huge amount of sand had been thrown up onto the marshland behind the beach. Where there had once been grasses, now dunes. A changed landscape.

It felt so fitting to life. When someone near and dear to us dies, our landscape changes. As many of you know, my father died a few days after Easter. It was pretty clear the end was coming, and Holy Week took on a new meaning for me as we worked our way to that day when we say "He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"

After my mother died, I kept thinking of things I wanted to tell her for our next phone conversation. Oh yeah....I'd remember. I was surprised how long that went on. My father, on the other hand, never stayed on the phone very long. "Wait a minute, I'll get your mother" he'd say. So what I think of with him is four o'clock. That was the time in the last year that I usually headed from work or whatever I was doing to have some time with him before dinner. These days four o'clock feels decidedly weird.

What I want to express is how much your loving kindness has helped with this changed landscape. The notes and cards – my goodness, you kept Hallmark in business! Your understanding that I needed a few days off before returning to work was much appreciated. Your listening so intently to the sermon where I recently shared some of the experience meant a lot to me too. The Wednesday bible study has been a place to go deeper and share our stories. I am receiving kindnesses day by day.

Someone in our Bible study often asks, "How do people without faith get through the tough times?" I find myself wondering that too. I believe it is not *doctrinal* faith, a particular belief per se, that helps us so much. It is being held in *loving community*, that sense of being accepted just as

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, the 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on May 6, 2018, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To receive Reports of all Boards, Committees and Officers.
2. The election of Officers, Board and Committee Members.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post

Clerk

you are that I find so helpful. "Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." It is also *hope*, hope grounded not in our own strength, but in God's enduring love. "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we shall see face to face. For now, these three remain: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love." (I Cor 13) My faith leads me to affirm that love never dies. People do. We can entrust our loved ones to God's eternal love. And in so doing, discover this love will indeed carry us as well.

I have had a deep and rich experience of this, and you are a big part of that.

Thank you!

Helen



From Your Missions Committee

***May is Heifer Month at the Church of the Pilgrimage
Sponsored by The Missions and Outreach Committee***

Since 1973, our church has supported the mission of Heifer International to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth through gifts of farm animals and training and by "Passing on the Gift."

During Coffee Hour each week pledge and resource tables will be available. Special Mother's Day Honor Cards, buttons, stickers, books and Ark Calendars and banks.

Sunday, April 29 - Honor your Mother or get a card for a friend by making a pledge to Heifer International. We have new Mother's Day Cards available!

Sunday, May 6 - Heifer Month Begins. Families will receive Ark Calendars and Banks. It is a busy Sunday so you can pledge and shop before and after the service. Don't forget your Mother's Day Card.

Special Guest: Kate Sheehan, Heifer Community Engagement Manager, Presentation of 2017 Ark Plaque.

Sunday, May 13 - Mother's Day - Heifer Children's Story - Our good friend Rachel Brown from Medfield will lead stories and games during Church School.

Sunday, May 20 - It's Chicken Sunday. Two hens will visit the Church School and be guests at the display and pledge tables. A very special Children's Story.

Sunday, May 27 - Memorial Day Sunday - Heifer Theme for the Day "Passing on the Gift" Final Pledge Day.

Providence Experience ~ August 11-14th

There is still time to join the youth and adults making their way to Providence Rhode Island for the "Providence Experience". Speak to Jenny Healy or Jim Hammond if you have any questions. This trip is open to youth starting grade eight in the fall up to graduating seniors. It will involve learning about urban issues, some hands-on work experiences, reflection and fun. We stay at a campground, but in a lodge setting.

May 20th Pentecost -- Honoring Our High School Seniors

We will be asking our high school seniors to be present in worship on May 20th to be recognized, blessed, and given a gift from our church. They are:



Jack Canducci
Michaela Coombs
Justin Trask
Michael Cappola
Matt Anderson
Monty Gray
Carter Scally

From our Director of Christian Education, Jenny Healy



Psalm 96:11-12

11 *Let the heavens rejoice,
let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound,
and all that is in it.*

12 *Let the fields be jubilant,
and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.*

These are the words with which we kicked off our first Outdoor Sunday School EVER- an adventure down to the Town Brook. And though week two we were forced indoors by the horrid uncooperative weather, week three looks promising from here (waterfront clean up) with a grand finale making land art at Plymouth Beach on the 29th.

That first week outdoors was exactly what I needed-the psalm, the water, communion and remembering our baptisms, the poetry both of the paper and the moment. Time outside, purposely making space for God. Sometimes our own thoughts and worries can crowd that space. But when I am immersed in The Great Outdoors, surrounded by these amazing kids and these amazing adults, I cannot help but feel God's presence in my heart and in my very bones.

But let me go back just a minute-Easter! What a wonderful pageant! So many angels! So many cherubs! So many involved all around! Thank you to my stage crew as well the parents without whose support none of these great things would be happening!

Coming up in May we are excited to be host to Rachel Brown from Heifer who will come and do Sunday School/Heifer activities with the kids and hopefully we'll have some live animals at the end of the month. See insert for more info on Heifer month.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Do you have a high school senior who will be graduating this year? Please notify Helen or Jenny as we are honoring them on May 20, and they will be receiving a small gift from the church. Hope you can make it!

TEACHERS MEETING: Sunday May 6 at 8:45. Be sure to be there! We'll be putting the final touches on Celebration Sunday!

Men's Bible Study

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 8th, 7pm-8:30pm at the Cotta residence, 3 Fuller Way, Plymouth. We will be discussing Matthew Chapter 10. All men are welcome. Please contact Jim Hammond, 774-283-5008 or james.gonfishin@gmail.com for further information.

Deacon's Notes

With Spring here, May is a month of transition. We leave the cold behind (hopefully) and look forward to the new life that the warmth of each new day provides us.

It is the same within the church. We have left the solemnity of Lent and Holy Week behind us and experienced the new beginnings and joy of Easter morning and Eastertide.

During the annual meeting on May 6th, we will say good-bye to valued members of our Boards and Committees and welcome new members to them who bring fresh ideas and energy to the life to the church.

The Board of Deacons will be saying "goodbye" to many dedicated members this year. We will miss Mark Coombs, Elizabeth Hughes-Campbell, Diana Budge, Linda Kegel and Nancy Medeiros. These folks have worked tirelessly to ensure that our life together as a church family has grown in faith and love.

The Deacons would like to thank those members of the congregation who have expressed an interest in participating in one of the many areas of service we sponsor. Please speak to any Deacon or the church office if you are interested in joining our Mini-Ministries of Visitation, Meals or Prayer.

The Pilgrim Bell Ringers will be starting rehearsals soon for Music Appreciation Sunday in June. If you have ever wanted to try ringing handbells, now is the perfect opportunity. There is no commitment to join, just come and have a good time trying something new.

Rehearsals are generally on Wednesday nights at 6:45pm. If you are interested in joining or just want to find out more information ask Michael Eaton at church on some Sunday or email him at roche34@comcast.net.

The Church of the Pilgrimage 2018 Golf Open

Save the date, June 16th @ Squirrel Run Golf Club. Gather your teams, sign up to volunteer during coffee hour on May 13th, 20th, 27th. This is a morning event, 9am shotgun start with a delicious lunch and an auction at the conclusion with our own auctioneer extraordinaire, Ed Pawlowski. Closest to the pin, 50/50 raffle, chip it in the collection plate contest, putting contest and more!

Guild News

The Guild has been working for years to create a timely and enjoyable space for advancing our charities. Our membership is lagging, and we haven't been successful in attracting new leadership.

We need to gather together, discuss, ponder, and decide how we can go forward. At the present time Guild is the longest surviving group in our church. Some members see an option for change. Others want to adapt and continue.

Think about this, for we will vote whether to stay or to leave Guild at the May 11th meeting.

Please attend this very important meeting. We will also have the opportunity to sign up for our June 8 spring banquet at this time.

Confirmation Class Update

Last month, members of the confirmation class assisted with Communion at our Palm Sunday breakfast, and interviewed a church member to learn more about their life and faith. Please note: The meeting first scheduled for May 6th has been moved to April 29th after worship. In May, we meet following worship on the 20th to reflect upon the Spirit's work in the church and in the world. Confirmands will also be asked to play a part in the worship service that day.

New Church Directory

Ellie Reinhardt and Debby Porter will be heading up the directory committee. The committee is exploring ways to produce a picture of you for the directory. We decided not to use a professional studio or publication committee like we did the last time. We will provide you with more information when we formalize the picture part of the process. In the meantime, please stop by the information table during coffee hour for the next few months and check your contact information the office has on file. You may choose to add information, modify or change information that you want to go in the directory. We hope to have this directory available January 2019. It is our hope to include as many of you who attend our church.

Moment of Gratitude-Michaela Coombs

[Here is a short excerpt from Michaela Coombs very thoughtful Moment of Gratitude. You can find the complete version of her remarks on our website. Thanks, Michaela, for sharing your lovely gratitude with all of us!]

Hello my name is Michaela

I was asked to speak today and what did I say, "Of course!"
I wouldn't want to disappoint...

Hello my name is Happy

A bubble of you runs through me but I am bad at showing it outwardly. I love to draw, write poems and play video games. Just some things people may not know but other have seen firsthand. My guitar and singing is what makes me most happy. I will never admit that I'm good at anything because I already KNOW I am good enough for myself.

Hello my name is Grateful

Grateful for the people around me for helping me get my voice. Grateful for this congregation. Grateful that in this place and with all of you I am not judged for my short falls but nurtured to pick myself up and get back on the right track. You my extended family who will always be here for me as I begin my next chapter. I hopefully will be attending college in the fall. That is terrifying for me. For the past few years seniors going off to college have been given a book to carry with them. To get me through being away I will be asking you, my Church Family, to consider singing my book. When times get rough and my coping skills start to go out the window I can go to my book and feel the presence of your love and continued care.

**CPR CLASS
NEW DATE AND REDUCED FEE!**

This class will take place at 9am on Saturday, June 9 in the JRC Great Room (upstairs). It will include adult and infant CPR, AED use and choking. The cost is \$25 and if anyone is in need of certification requiring a CPR card that also be arranged for an additional \$5. This class is being sponsored by the Board of Deacons and led by Samuel Palagi, Paramedic and Firefighter, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator, and American Heart Association instructor. Sign-up during coffee hour or through the church office (508-746-3026).

An Opening for Pulpit Flowers

There is an opening for pulpit flowers on May 20th. Please call Robin Trask at 617-688-5733 if you wish to honor or memorialize someone with beautiful flowers in the sanctuary.

April and May Flowers

- April 1: Easter Lilies
- April 8: In loving memory of Jeanette Holmes and Curtis & Aurissa Holmes. Given by the family.
- April 15: In loving memory of Attorney Phillip S. Cronin. Given by Marjorie "Midge" and their family.
- April 22: In memory of Henry, Mary and Keith Dunlap. Given by Robert & Marylyn Dunlap Colburn.
- April 29: In memory of my parents, Jean and John Bury. Given by Janet Synnott.
- May 6: In loving memory of her son, Gary Courtney. Given by Billie Courtney.
In loving memory of Miss Jane Burns. Given by Putnam & Kathy Burns and family.
- May 13: In loving memory of Geraldine "Gerry" Allen. Given by her family.
- May 20: Open (see note above for pulpit flowers).
- May 27: In loving memory of my parents Marian & James Wheeler and my husband J. William Dolan. Given by Jane Dolan.

Notes

From Alice Hyslop: *"I send my appreciation for the calls, cards, flowers I received during my bout with pneumonia. I am now in good shape and relieved to be able to ease myself back into the swing of things. What a loving and wonderful and loving church this is."*

From Paul and Nancy Scheid: *"Thank you for the Easter lily, the visits and the cards."*

From Billie Courtney: *"Thank you for the Easter Lily."*

From Tom Barnes: *"To Church Family, Many thanks for the Easter lily (6 blossoms). Again thanks and God Bless you all."*

From Al & Verna Hoyt: *"Dear COTP family, Verna and I want to thank you all for the love a support you have all shown us this last year. Especially for the friends who joined us for the installation. It made a special service even more memorable. All our love."*

May Calendar Events 2018

MAY IS HEIFER INTERNATIONAL MONTH!

- May 2 : Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm
- May 5: Memorial Service for Sam Nablo, 2pm, Hancock Church in Lexington
- May 6: Teachers Meeting, 8:45am, JRC
Worship with Communion and new members joining, 10am; Annual Meeting to Follow
- May 7-11: Shellie will be on vacation (limited coverage in the office).
- May 8: Men's Bible Study, 7pm, Cotta Residence (3 Fuller Way-Plymouth)
Church Council, 7pm, Marks Room
Men's Bible Study, 7pm, Cotta's Residence (3 Fuller Way, Plymouth)
- May 9: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm
- May 10: Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room
- May 11: Guild Meeting, 1pm, Allerton Hall
- May 13: Mother's Day-Worship at 10am
- May 14: Board of Christian Ed meeting, 6:30pm, Marks Room
- May 15: Membership & Evangelism Committee Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room
- May 16: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm
- May 17: Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room.
- May 20: Pentecost Sunday-- Worship, 10am
We will be Honoring High School Seniors and Chris Bates will do a moment of gratitude.
Deadline for the June Herald
- May 22: Board of Deacons meeting, 7pm, Marks Room
- May 23: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.
- May 27: Worship at 10am
- May 28: Memorial Day Holiday / Office Closed
- May 30: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary.

Looking Ahead

Newcomer Gathering Part I, June 3

CPR Class, June 9

Celebration Sunday & Newcomers Part II, June 10





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.



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See page 2 of this newsletter for more details on happening during the month.