



The Pilgrimage Herald

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

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

Winter 2020

From Our Pastor

We began our New Year with two worship services. One celebrated Epiphany with the giving of “Star Gifts,” each of us receiving a simple paper star with a word on it: Honesty, Gratitude, Responsibility, Peace. There were many words, all picked out of the offering plate as an act of receiving. We will live with that word seeing what it has to say to us on our journey.

The second service was focused on Christ’s baptism –Jesus being baptized by John in the River Jordan. We were encouraged to think about our own baptisms and the identity conferred on us all: Child of God, Disciple of Christ, Member of the Church. The children placed water on their heads as we gathered around the font. Later, some of our grown-up members did this as well.

Recently I heard about a practice in Puerto Rico related to Jesus baptism Day. It comes from Maren Tirabassi, from her blog Gifts in Open Hands. I think it speaks well to the spiritual journey.

In Puerto Rico, the old baptizer’s saints day is the greatest of celebrations. On Fiesta de San Juan Bautista, people gather at the beaches and at midnight the walk backward into the ocean and let themselves fall. This is my image of faith: become real in the waters, trusting in the hope of rebirth.

In the wake of earthquake upon earthquake upon earthquake upon hurricane, let all the world pause at the courage, the sacrament of falling into loving arms, and reach out our hands to become part of the holy web. I hope in this New Year we will ponder our baptisms, imagining ourselves falling backward into the ocean, trusting in God who makes all things new.

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Pastor Helen

PS. In sharing this, it brings me joy that our congregation will once again be going on a Mission Trip before Easter – this time to Puerto Rico. Speak to Richard Rinker or Steve Connolly if you are interested, and look for the article in this Herald.

Emmaline’s 16th Birthday! Come join the celebration!

On Monday January 27th Emmaline Lyttle will be turning 16. She is our young church member who has been having lots of health challenges due to Stephen’s-Johnson syndrome, something she contracted when she was only 13. Life is a challenge for Emma and her family.

We’ve planned a party on her actual birthday in our JRC Great Room, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The party will be a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share. Deacons will offer rides, so speak to deacon co-chair Jim Hammond if you have that need. The confirmation class is getting involved in

helping to make this happen. Interested in helping? Contact Susan Cotta. Save the date and do join us – we want to show Emma our love and support!

Confirmation Class Update

It was great to see our confirmands helping with the Tree Lighting Open House and also with the readings for the Hanging of the Greens Service in December. Student-mentor pairs lit the Advent wreath in worship each Sunday during Advent.

January's activity included a gathering for faith sharing on January 5th, a trip to the mosque on January 12th and upcoming, a dinner gathering at Pastor Helen's home on January 26th (5-7 pm)

In February we meet on Feb 2 and 9 after church. We will have an evening gathering on Sunday February 23rd from 5-7 pm.

Confirmands will be encouraged to attend at least one of the Lenten Soup suppers, possibly as a joint activity with their mentor.

Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

We still have room for anyone who wants to give hope to some of those who were devastated by two category 4 and 5 Hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico in September of 2017 (Irma & Maria). We presently have 10 people who have expressed an interest in making the trip to Puerto Rico in early spring, but we can still use all the help we can get.

Dates: We have picked March 28-April 4 as the dates for the trip because of the mild weather, cheaper airfares and it would not interfere with the activities around Easter.

Cost: The UCC and your Mission Committee will be picking up much of the costs for the trip (food, materials, tools and transportation) so you will primarily be responsible for the airfare, a \$15/day room donation and some incidentals. Current airfares for that time period are now running about \$475, so your total expenses for the trip should be about \$600-\$700.

Housing: The UCC has the use of a newly renovated church camp building about 45 minutes from San Juan that has A/C, clean water and several rooms that can hold up to 25. We will be making our own breakfasts, lunches and some dinners at the house. We can also eat out if the group desires. The UCC representatives on site will be coordinating our work projects.

The Project: The prime focus of the UCC project at this time is to get as many roofs fixed as possible before the rainy season starts in June. There are still hundreds of homes that have tarps on their roof for over two years. The roofs are flat one-story concrete or steel roofs that need cleaning and sealing. Due to the heat, the workday will from about 7:30am to 1:00 pm, so you will have plenty of time to go sightseeing and get in some beach time.

Puerto Rico is a US territory, so you do not need a passport to travel and they use the US dollar for currency.

The people of Puerto Rico who we will be helping will truly see your help as a miracle. The idea that a group of people from a church in Plymouth, traveled 2000 miles to help them in their hour of need truly sends the message that God has not forgotten them.

Contact Richard Rinker 774-404-7539 or rmrinker@comcast.net

Lent, Soup Suppers and Easter – Save the Dates

Wednesday, February 26th/Ash Wednesday – 7 to 7:30pm

A simple service of Scripture readings, prayers, and the imposition of ashes for those who find that meaningful. A way to mark the beginning of Lent.

Wednesday, March 4th/ First Lenten Soup Supper – 6 to 7:30pm

Program focus: *Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?*

Wednesday, March 18th/Second Lenten Soup Supper - 6 to 7:30pm

Program Focus: *Why is there Violence in our World and how Do Christians respond?*

Wednesday, April 1st/Third Lenten Soup Supper - 6 to 7:30pm

Program Focus: *Why are we a church?*

Sunday, April 5/Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Breakfast begins at 8am worship to follow

Sunday, April 12/Easter Sunday, 3 services (details to follow in March Herald)

Lenten Daily Readings Booklet

“For the Beauty of the Earth” is a booklet of daily readings published by Chalice Press (Disciples of Christ) The deacons plan to order this and will be taking orders through February 16th. The cost is four dollars.

Each week of *For the Beauty of the Earth* focuses on a different aspect of the splendor of nature, how God nurtures our spirit through creation, and how we must protect our precious home.

Sign up through the church office and also on Sundays. A great way to prepare your spirit for Lent and also for Earth Day (to be celebrated the Sunday after Easter, April 19th)

From Our Director of Christian Ed-Jenny Healy

Mid-winter is a perfect time to gear up for blanket making, a labor of love for children in need. Again this year in February, the Sunday School will be making blankets for Project Linus (more info here: <https://www.projectlinus.org>), and we would love the support of the whole congregation. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Donate a yard or two of new fleece.
2. Offer to prep blankets (jenny can supply simple directions, no sewing necessary, just cutting)
3. Make a blanket on your own to add to our collection (knit, sew, quilt, tied fleece, all sizes). We have lots of material at your disposal; find jenny and she can show you what we have.
4. Join us during coffee hour on Feb. 16 to make fleece blankets with our kids (they can show you how!)

In recent years, much of our congregation has participated on some level with this project, and we hope to inspire that again this year! Thank you for your help! jenny

Coming up:

Jan 19- MLK Day of Service in Sunday School: children will participate in preparing the meal for our Monday Meal guests. See Friday Food for Thought for more details.

Jan 20- Teens are invited to help serve the meal to our Monday guests. See jenny if you can help.

Feb. 19- Youth group trip to CommonArt in Boston. Keep an eye out in your inbox for more details.

A Learning Opportunity

“Our inner child is the gateway to our higher self.” Robert Burney

From the book Codependence: The Dance of the Wounded Souls -A Cosmic Perspective of Codependence and the Human Condition.

This book has been one of my greatest tools in my freedom from the bondage of self. It allowed me to face, heal, and let go of what blocks me from God and my purpose.

The spiritual path has no destination. I find with this spiritual book I can pick it up and it will relate to my current experiences.

Currently I am ready to focus on my relationships with my children.

I'm looking forward to diving in deep with you for new experiences as I share my past experiences.

Erin Pylant, a friend of our church, is offering a 12-14 week class beginning in February. Erin is offering this class from 3:30-5pm on Tuesdays but is open to alternate times. There is no charge but you'll need to buy a book. We may also have someone to mind your children in the nursery for a small fee if there is a need. If you are interested, please call or text Erin at 508-728-3034.

Food Drive

7-9-7: Seven hundred ninety -even pounds!! This is the amount of food that our church donated on November 24th after our food drive. What a magnificent contribution! Once again, the congregation of The Church of the Pilgrimage rose to the occasion by donating the highest amount ever. The Mission Team and Youth Group helped to get all the items delivered...thank you to all who participated that day. The food will go a long way helping adults and children in need.

More and more people throughout our community are making trade-offs between paying for food and paying for other necessities like heat for their homes.

The Food Distribution Center (part of South Shore Community Action Council of Plymouth) was formed in 2002 with the goal of getting more nutritious food to more hungry people in the most cost-effective way. It not only serves as the hub for safely collecting and storing food aid, but also as the nexus point for distributing this food aid throughout the town of Plymouth & Plymouth County. Over 6,000 food insecure people are served each month.

The Church of the Pilgrimage has made yearly donations to the Food Distribution Center as part of the budget of the Missions & Outreach Committee.

Deacon's Notes – Susan Cotta and Jim Hammond

By the time you receive your Herald 12th night will have passed and the tree, wreaths, candles, etc. will have been returned to their respective storage areas.

Written Prayer Requests – Please do not hesitate to leave a written prayer or celebration request in the prayer box on Sunday mornings along with your name. This will save time so that Rev. Helen will not have to repeat verbal requests during celebrations and concerns and the Deacons can send a note and/or Rev. Helen can get in touch.

Ash Wednesday is February 25th, there will be curbside ashes in the morning with an evening service in the Sanctuary.

There will be three Lenten soup suppers, March 4th, March 18th and April 1st, save the dates, further information will be provided for specific topics.

During November and December there is a lot going on at the Church, thus the need for a lot of announcements. If your function, etc. is already in the bulletin please consider if it is really necessary to make a verbal announcement, one Sunday announcements took 14 minutes !!!

Prayer Chain Requests - If you have a prayer request please email pilgrimageprayers@gmail.com or let Pastor Helen, Susan or Jim know. If you would like to be part of this "mini-ministry" please send your request to the same email address. We will add your name and you will receive a confirmation email back.

We continue to seek volunteers from the congregation to help support our Ministry of meals, Visitation Committee and Prayer Chain. Please do not hesitate to contact a Deacon or the church office if you or anyone you know would benefit from any of these "mini-ministries" sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

Please contact Rev. Helen or the church office with any concerns or needs. If you cannot reach them please contact Susan at 508-746-9186, email lscotta716@gmail.com or Jim at cell 774-283-5008, HF 508-224-7958, email james.gonfishin@gmail.com.

January and February Flowers

January 5-The flowers are given in appreciation of our Church Family.

January 12-The flowers are given in loving memory of Kellyanne Sears. Given by her grandmother, Dottie Foley and her parents, Julie & Trace Sears.

January 19-The flowers are given in loving memory of Richard Kelley. Given by his wife, Ada Kelley and their daughter, Cassandra Kelley.

January 26-The flowers are given by Karen Coggins and Jim Hammond in memory of loved ones.

February 2-The flowers are in loving memory of Harold & Dorothy Strassel, Roy & Doretta Seese and Harold Tissot. Given by the family.

February 9-The flowers or in loving memory of Tom Hyslop. Given by Alice and their daughters, Bonnie and Sarah.

There are openings for pulpit flowers on February 16 and February 23. Please call Judy Mitchell at 508-746-3959 if you wish to honor or memorialize someone with beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary.

Notes

From Jean Lenk: *"Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34*

This new commandment of Jesus is a foundation of the Church universal, and over the past several months, you have demonstrated to me the depths and lengths to which your love extends throughout our beloved Church of the Pilgrimage.

I have been overwhelmed by all the get well (and Christmas) cards, your phone calls and visits, the delicious meals, and your prayers and words of love as I have recovered from two major lung surgeries. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your tangible acts of love that have helped to speed along my recuperation.

I look forward to seeing you early in the New Year! In the meantime, let us join in being a conduit of Christ's healing love to one another and the world.

With love a gratitude, Jean Lenk

In a note from the Traer family: *Dear Friends of The Church of the Pilgrimage, We are so glad that you have welcomed our parents into you community. Your hospitality and support mean a great deal to us as we say goodbye to our beloved father. With warmest regards, James F. Traer's daughters-Mary, Anne & Jeanne*

Pastoral Notes

Pastor Helen officiated at the baptism of Chloe Jay Rhodes, granddaughter of Karen Coggins, on Sunday, December 15th.

Pastor Helen officiated at the graveside service of longtime church member Audrey Shuart on Thursday, December 19th.

A Celebration of Life service will be held for church member Tom Barnes on Saturday, January 25th at 11 am, with a collation in Allerton Hall to follow.

A Celebration of Life service for Neil Bottomley will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, January 25th at 3pm.

Late January & February Calendar Events

January 19: Worship, 10am, Rev. Bill McCoy preaching

January 20: Church Office Closed in observance of MLK, Jr. Day

Monday Meals of Hospitality, Breakfast at 8am and Lunch at 11am, Allerton Hall

MLK Jr Breakfast & Unity Celebration, 8am-10:30am, Plymouth South High School

MLK Jr. Service of Celebration, 11am, Bethel AME Church (6 Sever St)

January 22: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpson's home

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30, Sanctuary

January 23: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30-3pm, Living Room

January 25: Memorial Service for Tom Barnes, 11am, collation to follow in Allerton Hall

January 26: Worship, 10am – Annual Budget Meeting to follow

Confirmand Dinner and Meeting at Pastor Helen's (2 Manters Point), 5-7pm

January 27: Monday Meals of Hospitality, Breakfast at 8 am and Lunch at 11am, Allerton Hall

Birthday Party for Emmaline, 5:30-7:30pm, JRC Great Room

Visitation Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room

January 28: Board of Deacons, 7pm, Marks Room

January 29: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpsons home

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

January 30: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30-3pm, Living Room

February 2: Worship with Communion & Love Feast, 10am

Confirmands meet, 11:30am, Marks Room

February 3: Monday Meals of Hospitality, Breakfast 8am and Lunch 11am, Allerton Hall

February 4: Deacon's Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room

February 5: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpson's home
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

February 6: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30-3pm, Living Room

February 9: Worship, 10am
CE Meeting, after worship, JRC
Confirmation Meeting, after worship, JRC

February 10: Monday Meals of Hospitality, Breakfast 8am and Lunch 11am, Allerton Hall

February 11: Church Council Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room

February 12: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpson's home
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

February 13: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30-3pm, Marks Room
Board of Trustees, 7pm, Marks Room

February 14: Happy Valentine's Day

February 16: All Ages Worship, 10am

February 17: Church Office Closed in observance of Presidents' Day
Monday Meals of Hospitality, Breakfast 8am and Lunch 11am, Allerton Hall

February 19: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpson's home
Youth Group Trip to Common Art
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

February 20: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30-3pm, Living Room
Missions Committee Meeting, 7pm, Marks Room
Deadline for the March Herald

February 21: Wedding Rehearsal, 5pm

February 22: Wedding, 3:30pm

February 23: Worship, 10am, Sanctuary
Membership Exploration with Lunch, 11:30am, JRC
Confirmands to Dinner at Pastor Helen's home, 5-7pm, 2 Manters Point

February 24: Monday Meals of Hospitality, Breakfast 8am and Lunch 11am, Allerton Hall

February 26: Bible Study, 10:30am, Amy Simpson's home
Ash Wednesday Service, 7-7:30pm, Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm, Sanctuary

February 27: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1:30-3pm, Living Room



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
8 TOWN SQUARE,
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

Periodical
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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.

NOTICE

In accordance with the Bylaws of The Church of the Pilgrimage, a Business Meeting will be held on January 26, 2020, following the Service of Worship.

The Purpose of the Meeting shall be:

1. To approve, subject to amendment, the May 6, 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.
2. To approve, subject to amendment, the 2020 Budget of the Church.
3. To vote on proposed Bylaw amendment clarifying the process by which a Chair of a Board, Committee, or Delegation may declare a position vacant.
4. To vote on a proposed Bylaw amendment which removes the requirement that only a Deacon previously elected by the COTP may fill a vacant position on the Board of Deacons.
5. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take any action thereto.

All Church Members are urged to attend this important Meeting.

Lois E. Post
Clerk