



Pilgrim's Progress

May 2018

A Message from our Interim Senior Minister

As we approach and then enter May we will still be celebrating Easter by journeying with the disciples as they become increasingly aware that Jesus is really with them and that his ministry is no more finished than he is. And I will be on my own journey in Ireland and Scotland, being exposed to new sights and sounds and people and foods and smells and sounds. We will visit ancient sites and learn of the history of the Vikings and the early Christians who lived and died in these countries. And like the disciples there will be moments of wonder and awe and times of confusion and even sometimes of doubt. Of course, with the name O'Connor, this is also a trip to see where my father's family came from. Everyone tells me it is beautiful. Some have said I will feel at home. who knows?

This is the thrill and joy of travel. To discover new places and people and with luck in the process, discover who you are as well.

This is also the thrill and joy of our faith. It gives us the opportunity to learn new things and gain deeper understanding of our faith while also opening us up to new possibilities for ourselves...the possibility to become more generous, caring, patient, inclusive, welcoming, affirming and loving. My response to this is the same as my response to the elements of Communion, Thanks be to God!

I will return from my trip late on May 9th/early on May 10 depending on whether we are on time or not. I will look forward to seeing you all on Mother's Day.

Peace and Blessings,
Peggy

A Message from our Visitation Minister

I feel it is safe to say, "Spring is Here." We all welcome the longer days, warm sun and gentle breezes. We are blessed to feel the warmth of God's Love on a walk as we take in the gentle gift of Spring.

We know some of our friends and family are not able to fully enjoy these striking elements of our days.

So might we, when we are enjoying these days, pause and offer a prayer of Joy and Peace for those we know and love who rest in the warmth of God's Love and help them to smile and be at Peace.

May the Warmth and Peace of God's Love and Care, be with you all.

Rev. John

From our Director of Christian Education

Dear Pilgrim Families,

April, though cold and snowy outside, was full of life and joy inside! We celebrated Easter, our children and youth led us in worship and song during our Children's Service, babies and young adults were baptized, families and youth connected and raised over \$1,000 during our Silent Auction fundraiser for our Mission Trip, AND we celebrated God's creation on Earth Day by planting Truffula seeds! See *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss for more information 😊

In May, there are more fabulous events in which we share God's great love and abundance...

Our families have an opportunity to help clean up a "gem" in our community that serves the wider Boston community through a **Day of Service at Camp Wing on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00**. Bring rakes, gloves, and any other outside tools you think you might need. Please email me if you and your family will be attending by Sunday, April 29 because we need to give Camp Wing a headcount.

A highlight of the month will be when twenty-four of our young adults will be confirmed through the power of the Holy Spirit on May 20, Pentecost Sunday. Our last Confirmation class will include a brunch in our Vestry at 10:00 on Saturday, May 19. If you would like to celebrate our youth by donating bagels, donuts, fruit, or juice for our brunch, please let me know. Thank you!

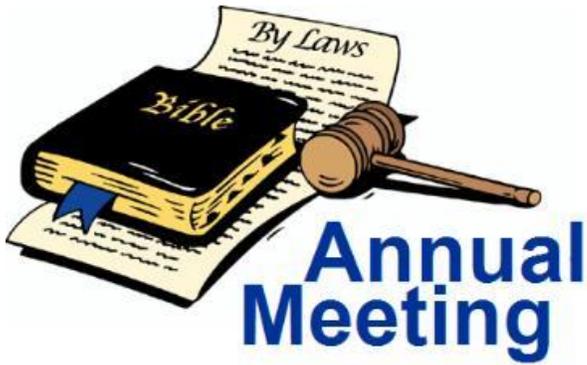
Our Mission Trip plans are exciting! After being commissioned and blessed at the 9:00 service on June 24, twenty-two youth and seven chaperones will be leaving for NYC via Greyhound bus to work with the St. Bernard Project, helping to re-build homes devastated by Hurricane Sandy. We welcome any donations to help defray our costs – getting to and around NYC is expensive! You can make checks payable to "Pilgrim Church of Duxbury" and write "Mission Trip" in the memo line.

AND....

YOU CAN GET YOUR CARS CLEAN AND HELP US RAISE MISSION TRIP FUNDS AT OUR CARWASH ON SATURDAY, MAY 26 FROM 9:00 – NOON! Please come help support our youth and the good work they are doing for this world.

It is a blessing and a privilege to work with the families, children, and youth of Pilgrim Church as we grow in faith together!

Peace,
Angelique



In accordance with Article III, Section E.1 of the By-Laws of Pilgrim Church, the Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 11:30am** following the worship service. The agenda includes a review of annual reports and approval of new committee members/officers. **All are invited and encouraged to attend; members may vote.**

Church Directory Update

We are in the process of updating the church directory. Please make sure we have your up to date information. Let us know if you would like your email and /or cell phone number included with your information.



Koinonia will meet on May 14th at 2:00pm in the Church Vestry.



May

- 1 Lynn DeHart & Elizabeth Barry
- 3 Kay Drake
- 4 Helen Barrow
- 8 Rob Kania
- 11 Carol Warrington
- 13 Geoff DeWolf
- 14 Rod Clark
- 20 Will Trevisan
- 30 Eli Estey



“Did you know that your purchases support projects that help level the playing field for small-scale farmers?

Equal Exchange allocates a portion of sales from over 7,000 participating congregations to the relief, development and human rights organizations that make up their Interfaith Partner groups.”

The United Church of Christ is one of those partners. That means that Equal Exchange donates a portion of our wholesale purchases to the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. In turn the UCC helps to support small farmers and food projects where needed. One such project is in North Carolina. Here’s one way you make a difference with your purchases.

“The UCC Small Farmer Fund contributions supported the Just Food Project at the UCC Franklinton Center at Bricks. A former slave plantation in Whitakers, North Carolina, today, it is a conference, retreat, and educational facility focusing on justice advocacy and leadership development. This project supports a farmers market held at FCAB where local small farmers sell their produce and local residents purchase affordable fresh vegetables and fruits. FCAB is located in eastern North Carolina in an area where many people are in poor health, experience food insecurity, and have poor access to healthy foods.”

Visit the **Fair Trade** table in the Vestry after church on **May 20**. We will be there with coffee, tea, chocolates, olive oil, almonds, and cashews. In purchasing you receive a quality organic product while helping to build sustainable incomes, successful businesses, and thriving communities. It’s a **Win-Win!**

Excerpts above from taken from Equal Exchanges Website, <http://blog.equalexchange.coop/small-farmer-fund-project-updates/>.

See you ‘round the table,
The Fair Trade Ministry Team



Camp Wing

Crossroads for Kids has requested Pilgrim Church's assistance in cleaning up and preparing Camp Wing for their new season.

Both adults and youth (12 years +) of all abilities are invited to participate.

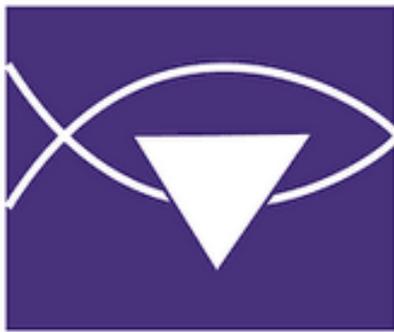
Please meet at Camp Wing on Sunday, May 6th at 1:00 PM and bring gloves, rakes, and /or clippers.

Angelique Kania will be coordinating the youth.

Adult sign up will be managed by Carol Sauer ~ if interested, please contact Carol at carolsauer@gmail.com.

Open and Affirming (ONA)

Two More ONA Sessions Scheduled



United Church of Christ

What is it like to be the parent of a gay child? What challenges do parents face if their child tells them his or her sexual preference is not what the parent expected it to be? How would *you* react if your child came to you with such a message?

As part of Pilgrim Church's open and affirming process, the ONA team has arranged for a discussion panel to be held on Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m. Here, a group of parents of gay or transgender youths will tell you about how they dealt with the news of their child's sexual orientation.

This session is the second of three discussion panels scheduled for this spring in which Pilgrim Church is exploring what it means to be "Open and Affirming." Following these sessions, and a few more in the fall, the congregation will be asked to vote on whether it wants to be known as an Open and Affirming church.

Please prayerfully consider attending the information sessions organized by the ONA team, and feel free to ask questions. On June 12, a group of Biblical scholars will discuss the meanings of certain passages in the Old and New Testaments, and how they seem to send contradictory messages about homosexuality.

Both sessions will be held in the Vestry, begin at 7 p.m., last about 90 minutes and include light refreshments.

If you have any questions about these sessions or other ONA issues, please feel free to speak to any team members or Pastor Peggy O'Connor. The team members are Lynn DeHart, chair, Lynne Hare, Nancy Kolstad, Lucy and Dwight Shepard and Laura Dunn. The committee also has a mailbox in the church office. If you want to send us all a note, Melissa MacDonald can show you where our box is located.

Please help us make Pilgrim Church an even more welcoming place than it already is.

MUSIC News



May continues to be a busy month for the church musicians!

The adult choir will be singing on May 6 for Communion Sunday, on May 20 for Confirmation and on May 27 for the Memorial Day Weekend. New singers are always welcome to come and lift their voices to God in praise!

The Bell Ringers will be playing for Mother's Day. You won't want to miss them. This will be their final presentation until Fall. They will be enjoying some time off. We will also have a special song for the "Moms" sung by our youngest musicians.

Our Confirmation Class will be working on a "special musical presentation" of their own. They will sing "Say It! Sing It!" at their Confirmation on May 20 during the worship service.

Start thinking about sharing your musical talents over the Summer. Watch for the flyers and the sign-up sheet to provide special music in July and August, while the Choir is on Summer break. The music specials will take the place of the Choir or Bell Ringers anthem during the worship service. All are welcome: vocalists, instrumentalists, interpretive dancers (solo, duet, trio, or ensemble). Come and Praise the Lord!

Marcia

Marcia Ritschard-Sell, Interim Choir Director/Organist
(music@uccduxbury.org)



**Save the Date ~ Saturday, May 26th
9:00am - 12:00pm**

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser ~ Car Wash
in the church parking lot



**Wishing all our Moms a
Happy Mother's Day!**



Baccalaureate Service

Baccalaureate Service
Thursday, May 31st at 7:00pm
First Parish Church ~ 842 Tremont Street

The Baccalaureate is an interfaith service sponsored and organized by the Duxbury Interfaith Council with inspirational messages to high school graduates from clergy and council members of various faiths as well as performances and readings from our graduating seniors. This joyous event is intended to celebrate our students' accomplishments and to provide a forum for the students to express their gratitude and appreciation.

All graduating high school seniors residing in Duxbury are welcome to participate. Parents, guests and the entire Duxbury community are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Praise and Prayer List

People listed below need our continual prayers for God's blessing and are not restricted to church members. Names are usually listed for two weeks unless we are notified otherwise.

Prayers of Healing

Sue	Priscilla Wonkka	Joan	Aubrey Cole
Wylie	Helen	Nancy	Lindsey
Emma	Bob	Bob W	Carolyn Houghton
John	Jeannine Ferro	Jason	Walter Baker
Laurie W.	Jill	Barbara Schultz	David Tenney
Jim Grim	Stet Howland	Janice Galka	Teagan
Neil Fields	Bill	Nicholas	Lynn Tenney
Jen Henriques-Forker	Bebe Watson	Ross	Elaine Plakias
Margaret	Brandon	Donald Porteus	Jim Pye
Lynn Saltzman	Norma George	Aine	Jake Nelson
Charles Samson			

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, look with your gracious favor upon all who are ill. Bless all means used for their recovery. Stretch forth your hand, according to your will, and restore them to health and strength, we pray, that they may live to praise you for your goodness and grace, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Prayers of Support and Safety for those serving our country

David Whitney, Jackson Sinnott, Christian Clapp,
Jeff Warrington, Brian Kelley, Andrew Shea

We pray for Christ's peace to rest upon communities in our country and throughout the world, for all those who serve the cause of peace, for members of our armed services, aid workers, volunteers and missionaries. We pray for Christ's mercy to rest upon refugee communities around the world and for our homeless brothers and sisters in America. We pray for all those persecuted for their faith, for our fellow Christians throughout the world, and for members of other faith traditions as well. May the grace of God rest upon them all.

The Healing Prayer Ministry welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer request cards are available in the pews and in the narthex and may be placed in the wooden prayer box or the Sunday offering when complete.