



Pilgrim's Progress

August 2018



Here we go!

After a long Search Process for you as members of Pilgrim Church and my own discernment for a new Call, what a wonderful opportunity we are now facing together!

I would like to thank all of you for a wonderful Reception and Candidating Weekend in June. Maureen and I felt welcomed and appreciated and we are looking forward to many years of good ministry together with all of you in Duxbury.

The first question that usually comes up as new beginnings approach is; WHAT DO WE DO FIRST? For me, I choose to take the path of least resistance and get to know you (and invite you to do the same) as we discover what we share in common with our love of God and then the Spirit will lead us to discover new ways of serving in Christ's name together. You, as the congregation, and I, your new Pastor, have chosen each other to continue on a spiritual journey. Uniting with the mission of Christ, we will learn to form a relationship that will enable us to be open to where God leads us.

This "church thing" will be a collaborative effort, I promise you. If it is one lesson I have learned in 20 years of Ordained Ministry is that I am not and will not be a success as the "one" who makes all the decisions on our path to community and service. My door is always open for you to come in and talk, suggest, offer comments and concerns as well as joys and celebrations. We will develop a relationship with JOY! God has blessed us with the time to discover our talents to relevant in our world!

I want to thank everyone for such a warm welcome into the Pilgrim Church of Duxbury UCC and the hours given to readying the parsonage. My appreciation to the hours of service by the Search Committee and to their thoroughness of making the transition smooth is immeasurable. On July 9th, Rev. Peggy generously welcomed me to sit down and talk about her experiences with you during the Interim time. I expressed my

profound thanks to her for her guidance and ministry to you during this time of discernment. I also had the opportunity to speak a little bit with your staff members, Angelique, Melissa, and Katherine. We are all looking forward to a great relationship!

In the Ferguson household, 2018 will be remembered as a year of great change; a new Call, a new (and first) Grandchild, Madelyn Jeanne, a wedding (Andrew and Amy) in July, and a move back to the South Shore. God is good! And we are blessed! Let's devote the first part of our ministry together to get to know one another, share our ideas and thoughts of how we can be good Christians and how we can share the good news of the Gospel with all who are seeking what we have found!

Please plan to attend our very busy first Sunday Worship on September 9th! (Rally Sunday, Backpack Blessings, Baptisms and First Sermon!)
Here we go!

RB

As Message from Our Minister of Visitation ~ Rev. John Brink

In Ecclesiastes 3, the first verse is a familiar one: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven."

We are in a season of change here at Pilgrim Church. We are unified in our call for Reverend Bill Ferguson to come to lead us in our beloved church life and family. Changes come about, and sometimes they are abrupt and difficult. Our call to Reverend Bill is a change of God-inspired choice where we are all joined together in our decision and celebration.

One of our first welcoming connections with Rev. Bill might be to ask him, "How can I help you?" We will listen to Rev. Bill as he joins our community, gets to know us and helps us discern how to move forward. He'll listen to us as we share our stories of what it means to be church here at Pilgrim and what we dream for the future.

We will all continue to listen to the Word of God, still speaking, as we move forward in the next chapter of our beloved Pilgrim Church.

Rev. Bill, we welcome you as our leader and guide in our walk with Jesus Christ. Welcome home.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. John

Harvest Homecoming

Pleased to announce that we will be once again hosting our **Harvest Homecoming** this fall. Details to follow. If anyone is interested in helping plan this event, please text or call Heather Edwards at 508-333-2250. Thank you!



A Message from Christian Education

Happy Sunny Days, Pilgrim families!

Although it's quiet here in the office this summer, my mind is buzzing with ideas for the fall. I know everyone is so excited for the arrival of Reverend Bill – or "RB" as he told the kids to call him. We anticipate that Bill's new energy will bring even more families into Pilgrim in September. More families mean more kids which means FULL church school classes! Which will be FANTASTIC!!

While sometimes it is great for me to teach a multi-age "one room schoolhouse" church school class, there is also a depth and richness that comes from targeted, age-specific lessons. This can only happen, however, if there are enough volunteers to cover the 3 classes – grades K-2, grades 3-5 and a Middle School class. In late August, there will be a Sign-up Genius link for being a church school volunteer teacher during the school year. Please look at it closely and consider sharing your time with our children.

In particular – consider this...

One successful model we've used in the past is having one or two dedicated teachers for the year for our Middle School kids. This age group – full of angst, wonder, vulnerability and joy – benefit greatly from the stability of having the same couple of adults sharing God's lessons and love over the course of the year. We have a new fun and engaging curriculum designed specifically for Middle School age students. Lesson plans (and snacks!) are provided.

If you are interested in committing to teaching these wonderful kids this year – and/or "job sharing" this role with someone else – please let me know.

Together, we can all help our kids grow in God's faith, hope and love.

Peace, Angelique

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Plymouth Area Coalition ~ For the Homeless

Volunteer Opportunities:

Food Pantry – Assisting Food Pantry Coordinator, stocking shelves, and client support.

Thrift Store – Assist with inventory and sales

Children's Holiday Fund October–December ~ Assist with coordination of gift program (sort gifts, fill wish lists, etc.)

For further information, please contact Casey at 781-582-2010 or email cbrait@plymouthareacoalition.

Volunteer Applications are in the Church Office Hallway.

Mass. Conference votes to unite with Connecticut, Rhode Island

At the 219th annual meeting of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ held in Springfield June 15 and 16, members of the conference overwhelmingly supported a proposal to create a new tri-state conference.

Each of the three conferences voted separately to form a new conference that will ultimately result in some consolidations between the three. For legal purposes, however, the three will not disband, but instead, will be overseen by a fourth, tri-state conference that will have its own set of directors, drawn from each of the conferences.

When the proposal was initially proposed last year, it was described as something that was necessary to help reduce expenses at a time when there are fewer UCC churches needing service.

This year, however, the “Together as One” theme was highlighted to emphasize that a three-state conference will be able to speak with one, greater voice, than three smaller ones. Conference leaders called the decision an “historic” vote.

I, as the sole member of Pilgrim Church’s Denominational Affairs Committee, voted along with the vast majority of Massachusetts delegates to authorize the creation of the new conference. The exact name of the organization is yet to be determined.

Also, at annual meeting, the Rev. Jim Antal, who has served as conference minister and president of the Massachusetts Conference since 2006, was recognized for his years of service and, in a sometimes-emotional ceremony, was officially released from his duties. He has been temporarily replaced as Transitional Conference president by the Rev. Don Remick, of Hanover.

Delegates of the conference also voted overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution that will identify the Massachusetts Conference as an “immigrant-welcoming” entity.

In explaining the need for such a vote, proponents wrote, that the resolution “is in keeping with the commitment of the United Church of Christ to provide an extravagant welcome to all of God’s children. As negative stereotyping of immigrants increases, becoming an ‘immigrant welcoming’ church provides a critical witness rooted in Biblical and theological principles the United Church of Christ deeply values.”

The conference also held a hearing on another resolution that will be voted on at next year’s annual meeting, calling for a conference-wide response to bullying.

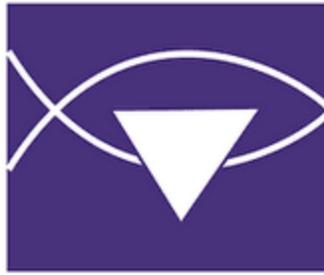
-- Dwight Shepard, Denominational Affairs Committee



WEBSITE Information

Did you know that you can view all the Pilgrim’s Progress Newsletters on our website? Go to our website - www.uccdubury.com, from the home page, simply click on the “News and Events” tab then select Pilgrim’s Progress Newsletter tab.

Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ

Rev. Ken Landall to be featured at next ONA presentation ~ Sunday, September 23

Former Pilgrim Church Senior Minister Ken Landall will be paying a visit to the church in September as part of its open and affirming study process.

Rev. Landall, who served from 1989 to 2006, will be returning to Duxbury to tell us what it is like for him to be the father of a transgender man.

When he was senior minister here, Rev. Landall never felt comfortable making public statements about his then-daughter's sexuality. While a few people knew, most of the congregation did not. Thanks, in part, to the United Church of Christ's open and affirming process, he now feels comfortable talking freely about his family's situation and will be part of a panel discussion speaking with us in the Vestry following the regular Sunday morning worship service on Sept. 23.

Rev. Landall's appearance will be the fourth in a series of discussions the ONA team has sponsored since the beginning of the year. Since last fall, the ONA team has been trying to gauge whether the congregation is ready to vote on becoming open and affirming.

The team, in consultation with the Church Council, believes the church is ready to vote. So, at the team's request, the Council agreed in June to schedule a special church meeting for Sun., Oct. 14 immediately following that morning's worship service.

At this special meeting, congregants will be asked, "Should Pilgrim Church be known as an Open and Affirming congregation?" Parishioners will be able to vote "aye," "nay" or "abstain." To become open and affirming, however, both the Council and team agree that a positive vote should be overwhelming. If a clear majority of parishioners want the church to be open and affirming, the team will draft a statement for the Council's review that makes it clear that we welcome people of any race, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, physical or mental ability, or sexual orientation in the full life and service of our church. If the vote is close, or negative, we will not move forward. We do not sense that the vote will be close or negative.

We hope as many people as possible will come to Rev. Landall's discussion and that anyone with any questions will feel free to ask questions either at that session, or to contact any member of the team, prior to the Oct. 14 vote.

If you have any questions about any of this, please do not hesitate to ask any member of the Church Council or the ONA team. Members of the Council are Drew Thawley, chair; Greg Hunter, Laura Hay, Lois Samuelson, Lynne Devnew and Heidi Hadley. Members of the ONA team are Lynn DeHart, chair, Nancy Kolstad, Lynne Hare, Lucy and Dwight Shepard and Laura Dunn.



**Koinonia will meet Monday,
August 13th 2:00pm in the Youth Room**

From the Deacons

We would like to gratefully thank *our retiring members* Dawn Backlund and Don Dehart for their welcoming and dedicated service as Deacons of Pilgrim Church. They provided guidance to the congregation during many church services and always greeted everyone with a smile! We would like to say hello to *our incoming* Deacons Nancy Kolstad, Mary Breidenthal and Ellen Barrett.

The Deacons would also like to offer a very special thank you and goodbye to Laura Dunn for her strong work as the Adult Christian Education Representative. Her consistent efforts are very much appreciated and valued. She will be missed.

An important note about emergency protocol. *PLEASE NOTE:* The Deacon of the Month is the contact person in case of an emergency. In the event of an emergency *during any Church service or activity*, the Deacon of the Month *should be the only person to call 911*. If multiple people contact 911, the system can become confused and potentially crash.

Church Council

Anyone who worked on a board or committee in the 2017-2018 year and has NOT yet received your official Thank You gift from Council for their service, please come to the church office so we can give it to you. Or call the office, so we can make other arrangements to get it to you. You are so appreciated for your devotion to the work of the church!

United Church of Christ Massachusetts Conference SAVE THE DATE! Super Saturday ~ October 20, 2018

Keefe Regional Technical High School, Framingham

Featuring David Csinos, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax

Please see the link below for information on Super Saturday, October 20, 2018. Registration deadline is Saturday, October 6th. There is a group discount rate, if you are interested in attending, please download the registration form, fill it out, bring/mail the form and registration fee to the church office; Melissa will register the group.

<https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-october-2018-10002682>



Senior Choir:

Rehearsals for the Senior Choir resume on Thursday, August 23, 2018. The choir will be starting their fall season singing on Rally Day, September 9. New members are always welcome. Please consider joining us this year in praising God. We'd love to have you with us!!

Summer Special Music:

I would like to THANK all those who participated in sharing their talents vocally and instrumentally during church services in July. Our Special Music continues for the summer with the following participants in August:

August 5 – Lynne Devnew, Recorder “Simple Gifts”

August 12-Pilgrim Choir “Gals” Ensemble “On Eagle's Wings”

August 19-Lynne Hare, Vocal Solo “Give Me Jesus”

August 26-Priscilla Wonkka/Marcia Ritschard -Sell, Organ/Piano Duet

The organ is still resting from the painting project in the sanctuary. Priscilla and I are hoping it will be together in time for us to play our duet on August 26.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Marcia

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



August Birthdays

- 1 Isaac Estey
- 1 Chatham Morton
- 1 John Morton
- 15 Angela Sinnott
- 15 Jon Trevisan
- 21 Kate Brewer
- 22 Tom Gardner
- 27 Doug Backlund

Prayer List Update

The Prayer List is currently out of date; therefore, it will have clean slate on **Sunday, September 2nd**. As a reminder, when an individual is put on the Prayer List they will remain on it for 4 weeks, if you would like to put them on again, just call the office. If someone needs to remain on the Prayer List indefinitely, just let the office know.



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

Jamie Hughes	Priscilla Wonkka	Joan	Barbie
Ann DeKlerk	Helen	Nancy	Sue
Emma	Bob	Bob W	Carolyn Houghton
John	Aubrey Cole	Jason	Walter Baker
Laurie W.	Jill	Barbara Schultz	David Tenney
Jim Grim	Stet Howland	Janice Galka	Teagan
Bill	Nicholas	Lynn Tenney	Joshua
Jen Henriques-Forker	Bebe Watson	Ross	Susan
Margaret	Brandon	Donald Porteus	Katy Kendall
Lynn Saltzman	Norma George	Aine	Jake Nelson
Charles Samson	Chuck Heiser		

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 comfort and solace to the family and friends of Leo James Kerivan,
father-in-law of Dawn Kerivan.*

Prayers of Support and Safety for those serving our country

David Whitney, Jackson Sinnott, Christian Clapp, Holden 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.

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10a Worship	30	31 7p Women's AA	1 7p Women's AA	2	3	4
5 10a Worship/Communion	6	7 1p Memorial Service 7p Women's AA	8	9	10	11
12 10a Worship 11:15a Music Board	13 12:30p Bldg Use 1p Bldg use 2p Koinonia	14 7p Women's AA	15	16	17	18
19 10a Worship	20 7p Church Council	21 7p Women's AA	22 7p Choir Rehearsal	23	24 12p The Pilgrim pantry	25
26 10a Worship/Baptism	27 1:30p Bookworms	28 7p Women's AA	29 7p Choir Rehearsal	30	31	1