



Pilgrim's Progress *September 2018*



ral·ly; 'ralē

1. (of troops) come together again in order to continue fighting after a defeat or dispersion.
2. bring together (forces) again in order to continue fighting.
3. To assemble in a mass meeting.
4. bring or come together in order to support a person or cause or for concerted action.
5. To recover or cause to recover in health, spirits, or poise.
6. a quick or marked recovery after a reverse or a period of weakness.

Of all the definitions from Google Search, which one would you choose to define our first "official" Worship service together on September 9th, as our Sunday School kids reconvene, and we start our time together as Pastor and Congregation? (*I hope you don't choose #2; if you do, we need to talk!*)

I suppose on some level we can find thread of the purpose of Rally Sunday in each definition. The church is coming together for another church year/Sunday School year after completing a Search for a Pastor. We do assemble for "mass" meetings, and we certainly look to our worship to recover and lift our spirits in prayer, song and Word.

For me, personally, Rally Sundays have always been special. To see the kids arrive and share during the Time For All Ages during Worship lifts me as they answer my questions with nothing but honesty and curiosity. I wish sometimes adults would do the same thing, trusting that what is shared is heard with love and in our conversations, we find the peace and love of God in that conversation. In fact, that is my motivation during Sermons; that what I share with you is honest and non-judgmental, and whatever God has prepared me to say and for you to hear is worthy of continued conversation.

Let's Rally! Come and share your time, your talents and your treasures with us! Invite your friends! I am so excited to be coming to a church who has decided that the Open and Affirming Discussion is one that is worthy to have, that values our children and Young Adult Ministry, that has a heart for Mission and serving in Christ's name. WE HAVE SO MUCH TO DO!

Let's start by introducing each other, like runners at the start of a Road Race!

Isaiah 40:31; *"those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Peace,
RB

THANK YOU!

Maureen and I cannot thank you enough for such a wonderful welcome to this church and to Duxbury! From meals showing up at the house, flowers, Gift Baskets and calls to ask if we needed anything, each was a gift of welcome that is so appreciated! We slowly unpack, get the Parsonage in order and "nest" with your continued support and prayers! It is good to be "home"!

Bill and Maureen

A Message from our Visitation Minister ~ Rev. John Brink

I am offering my prayers of thanks and joy for the time I am able to spend with you, our friends, who may be home bound or in a special care-center.

Visits can vary as the days can be difficult for our family and friends in care, and sometimes folks are wonderfully engaged and eager to chat and tell me some life stories.

I am deeply, spiritually touched in these gentle times of connection. I know Jesus is with us, as we speak, pray and often times, share Communion.

There is not much more we can do to be at Peace in these special moments of connection. I am so often touched by the simple moments that lift us up in light and gentle love.

Please let me know if there is someone you know who might benefit from a visit.

Blessings to you all,
Rev. John



The Christian Education committee is thrilled to provide the children of Pilgrim Church with a line-up of activities, events and a fresh church school direction! With Reverend Bill Ferguson at the helm and a seasoned CE Director Angelique Kania running the show, there's no doubt our children will look forward to entering Pilgrim's doors on a regular basis.

Look out for Angelique's newsletters for information on monthly/quarterly events broken out into age groups (3Four5, Middle School and High School). From movie nights, to bowling to outdoor adventures, our children will make memories within the Pilgrim Church committee. Also keep an eye out for Angelique's Sign-Up Genius for teaching a morning of church school. The children love spending time with a variety of adults during this peaceful time. We make it creative, fun and not a lot of work!

The CE committee strives to grow our community of children year over year, building lasting relationships with each other, our community and our beautiful church.

*Warmly,
Luci Scott and Katie Kane*

A Message from our Christian Education Director, Angelique Kania

Happy Back to School, Pilgrim families!

It is so exciting to begin the church school year with our Rally Day on Sunday, September 9th and to welcome Reverend Bill Ferguson - or "RB" as the kids say - on his first Sunday with us! Bring your backpacks to be blessed during church and a blanket to sit on for our family picnic on the front lawn after church! CE will be providing all the food, drinks, and lawn games and the kids will be helping our CE members set up and serve. After all, we serve God by serving others!

Church school classes will begin the following Sunday for which we need teachers!!! Serve God, serve the children and VOLUNTEER TO TEACH!!

www.signupgenius.com/go/409054daeab2aa20-church1

It's going to be a fun and meaningful year for our youth groups! We will have some gatherings during which we will be doing activities that help and serve others, and other gatherings for bonding and fun! Here are our upcoming plans...

Middle School Youth Group (MSYG)

Friday, September 21, 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Youth Room
Pizza and "The Greatest Showman" movie night!

3Four5 Youth Group

Friday, September 14, 6:00 – 8:00pm, Youth Room
Pizza and "COCO" movie night!

High School Youth Group (HSYG)

Plans are in the works!

It's a joy to work with the new CE committee. Together, we are planning a year of creating bonds and having fun with each other while growing and sharing in God's love. We hope you can be a part of it all.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend and see you on Rally Sunday!

Peace,
Angelique

Church Council sets Oct. 14 as date for ONA vote

On Sunday, Aug. 12, Church Council chair Drew Thawley announced that the Council has set Sun., Oct. 14 as the date of a special meeting to allow the church to vote on whether it wants Pilgrim Church of Duxbury to be known as an Open and Affirming congregation. Here is what he said:

Since 1844, Pilgrim Church has been evolving to meet the needs of its congregants and the Duxbury community based on the word of God.

Today, on behalf of the Church Council, I am pleased to share news of an opportunity for us to evolve once again, and to do so in a way that will allow each of us to continue to grow in faith, and in our ability to love one another with open heart, and open mind.

More than a year ago, an Open and Affirming Committee was established to explore the idea of becoming officially a UCC Open and Affirming church.

After much discernment, the committee came to the Council with a request to call for a congregational vote. The request was that the Church Council embrace the committee's call to action to become officially Open and Affirming and to select a date for a congregational vote. After thoughtful discussion, the Council voted unanimously to support the committee's call, and are therefore announcing today that a congregational vote will take place on Oct. 14 following our normal service.

If the congregation so votes, please know that this is not the end of our ONA journey. In fact, in some ways it will be a beginning. If the vote be successful, we will then start to craft our ONA statement, we will consider how we want to represent this decision to the outside world, and we will take a good look at ourselves with the intent of removing barriers that might keep good people out of our congregation.

If you are not yet resolved in your support of this decision, I would encourage you to give thought to how this may be an opportunity for you to open your hearts and mind, and to grow your understanding of others. In doing so, we will all attempt to live in Jesus' image.

As your Council chair, it is my hope and expectation that we will embrace this opportunity, and to think in new and creative ways about how we can allow Christ to be alive within all of us.

Please make note of the Oct. 14 date. Thank you.

- Drew Thawley, Church Council Chair



Questions and answers about the upcoming
Open and Affirming vote

On Oct. 14, Pilgrim Church of Duxbury will hold a special meeting to decide if it wants to be known as an "Open and Affirming" congregation. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers that may help you with this vote.

Q: What does ONA mean? **A:** ONA stands for Open and Affirming, an initiative of the United Church of Christ, in which member churches spell out, in no uncertain terms, that everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the full life of the church.

Q: Pilgrim Church of Duxbury is a welcoming church. We say, "all are welcome." What could be more clear? **A:** Many churches say on their front signs, "All are welcome." But at some Christian churches this means, people are welcome as long as they look and act like the rest of the congregation. Some churches say anyone can attend their church, but they cannot be served communion, become full members or serve on various boards and committees if they are homosexual or transgender. We want everyone who attends Pilgrim Church to know that they are welcome, no matter who they love.

Q: Why are we singling out one group for special consideration? **A:** We are not singling out one group. If the church votes to be known as an Open and Affirming congregation, the ONA team, in concert with the Church Council, will draft a statement that makes it clear that everyone is welcome here, and include language like this: "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."

Q: I don't get it. In 2014, the church voted to allow our pastors to officiate at gay weddings in our sanctuary. Doesn't that mean we are already Open and Affirming?

A: No, it does not. Gay marriages are just one part of the Open and Affirming process. To be Open and Affirming, we must explicitly state and demonstrate that we welcome, and not just tolerate, the participation of everyone into the life of Pilgrim Church. When we draft an ONA statement, we must live that statement.

Q: Why are we talking about giving special privileges to LGBTQ people? **A:** We are *not* talking about giving special privileges to gay people. We are talking about giving *equal* privileges to them. Many gay people have experienced significant levels of discrimination at some churches. In some churches, they are expelled. In others, they can attend church, but are shunned or ignored. In many congregations, they are welcome only if they keep their sexual relationships private.

Q: What does the Bible say about homosexuality? **A:** The Bible says very little about homosexuality. The passages that exist refer to rape, pederasty, temple prostitution or are unclear in their meaning. There is no passage that condemns committed, loving, same-sex relationships, which were unknown to the Biblical writers.

Q: Does this mean we have to fly a rainbow flag in front of our church? **A:** Not necessarily. We may, or may not choose to do that, but we need to have some clear sort of statement right out front making it known to anyone who wants to walk through our front door that we are an Open and Affirming congregation. There is talk about getting a new sign for Pilgrim Church after Rev. Ferguson joins us. This would be a perfect opportunity for us to have a sign that contains the words, "An Open and Affirming congregation." Some churches have small rainbow logos they use on their signs. Although the logo may be small, the colors will make it stand out. The Church Council will decide what to do.

Q: Where does the Church Council stand on this issue? **A:** Pilgrim Church's Church Council stands solidly behind the ONA process. In fact, the Council has called a special congregational meeting for Sunday, Oct. 14 for the church to vote on becoming an Open and Affirming congregation.

Q: Where does our new minister stand on this topic? **A:** This is Rev. Ferguson's response: "I believe that the greatest sign of a healthy church in our society is the unconditional welcome of all people. When the welcome to our faith includes every child of God, every race, age, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, with any mental and/or physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and political and theological backgrounds, the church is a healthy and affirming force for good. If the welcome of the church is not extended to all, it is extended to none."

Q: How will the issue be decided? **A:** On Sunday, Oct. 14, a special congregational meeting will be held immediately following that morning's worship service. At that meeting, voters 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, a positive vote should be overwhelming. If a clear majority of parishioners want the church to be open and affirming, the team will draft an Open and Affirming statement. If the vote is close, or negative, we will not move forward at this time.

Q: If we vote to become Open and Affirming, what will change? **A:** The first thing that will happen is that the ONA Team will draft an ONA statement for the Council's review, possible revision and ultimate approval. Next, the ONA team itself will disband, but likely be replaced by another team to help ensure that the church really is open and affirming. An announcement will be sent out to local media so that everyone knows Pilgrim Church of Duxbury is welcoming to everyone, and hopefully, this will result in our attracting new members. To grow our church, we should be aware that many young families today are seeking inclusive congregations and will not join a church unless it is Open and Affirming. The Council will decide what changes should be made in the front of the church, and the words "An Open and Affirming congregation" will appear on all forms of printed church communication.

Q: What church leaders are supporting this initiative? **A:** In addition to our new senior pastor, William Ferguson, past interim Senior Minister Peggy O'Connor and visitation minister John Brink, members of the Church Council and ONA team support this process. 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. And, of course, many, many members of Pilgrim Church are in favor of this important change.

Koinonia

On **Monday, September 10th**, Koinonia will celebrate our annual gathering on the beach. Come to the beach at the end of Josselyn Ave at 6:00pm. The walkway has been rebuilt and is safe to use. If it rains, the meeting will be at Sandy's house.

Don't forget to use insect repellent and bring a beach chair, plus some refreshment to share and your joys and concerns. For any questions, contact Elaine Guilfoyle.

Toby Mac & Ryan Stevenson Concert ~ Join the Fun!

Betsey and Greg Hunter are organizing an adult fellowship evening. Toby Mac and Ryan Stevenson will be performing in concert Saturday November 10th at 7:00 pm at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence RI.

Information on the artists may be found at <http://tobymac.com/tour/> or <https://www.ryanstevensonmusic.com/tour/>

Toby Mac and Ryan Stevenson may be heard regularly on Christian Radio station KLOVE 95.5.

Our thoughts are to leave Duxbury around 4:00 pm have dinner in Providence and then attend the concert. Depending on the group we could meet at the church and carpool.

We would like to order tickets by the end of September so please let us know as soon as possible. Tickets are approximately \$50.00, we will try to get a group discount.



PINE STREET INN

Friday, September 28th is the next available time to help with serving at Pine Street Inn in Boston. Pine Street Inn is a homeless shelter. We have primarily worked on the men's side. I am proud to say Pilgrim Church has been involved with this for so many years I can't even remember how many. What we do is arrive at Pine Street Inn by 4:45. We help the staff by placing food on plates and hand the plate to the guest as he arrives at the pickup point. Serving begins immediately at 5 and ends promptly at 6. Often, we stay a little after that to help clear tables and wipe them down. Generally, you are free to leave by 6:15 or 6:30. Often times people will stay downtown and go to dinner at one of the restaurants nearby. It makes a really nice night out and gives a great opportunity to help someone in need. If you, your family or your friends might be interested, please contact me. Pine Street would prefer young people be high school age although some exceptions have been made. I would like to have about 7 persons per session. So far for September I have 2. I will be waiting to hear from you. The two persons I have signed up said they would be willing to take people with them. My email is sandybondlow@gmail.com and phone number is 781-934-0616.

PCCP Board Update

August 27th starts the excitement of a new school year for the families, children, and staff at PCCP. With a 9th classroom opening, the school is making the most of its ability to service the community's growing need for nursery school. There are approximately 83 children attending per day with some full time and others attending for just one day or even an afternoon giving tremendous flexibility to parents. The children are under the care and instruction of 24 credentialed teachers and 2 long time administrators, Michelle and Dawn.

2018-2019 marks the school's 19th year as an NAEYC accredited program and it's 22nd school year in operation. To meet accreditation, 80% of the staff must have or be working on a college degree. Of the 24 teachers, 19 have a college degree and 3 are working toward their degree. Michelle, our director, earned her graduate degree and doctorate while leading PCCP. As a result of the team's dedication to accreditation, quality is the daily priority. We think this one of the big reasons that 95% of the families continue with PCCP for the entire 1 – 5 year(s) prior to attending Kindergarten.

PCCP ensures inclusivity: a home-school approach to building community, parent-teacher education, and annual quality-driven goals. The active parent group plans events to help parents network; all new families are invited to join at our kickoff meeting in September. PCCP is hosting a parent workshop about child development in October. We also work hard to invest in our facilities. Michelle and Melissa worked together to replace classroom carpets and air conditioner units this summer. A new carpet for the main hall, staircase, and Church offices will also be installed this week.

On behalf of PCCP and everyone who works together toward the school's excellence, we would like to welcome Reverend Bill to our Pilgrim community! We look forward to introducing you to PCCP and seeing you around campus.

Cheers-

Connie Ennis
Chair, PCCP Board of Directors



Senior Choir:

Senior choir members are back in rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30. Their first Sunday to sing will be September 9, Rally Day. New Members are always welcome. Come join us in welcoming and joining with Rev. Ferguson as he begins his journey of ministry with the Pilgrim Church Family.

Summer Special Music:

Our special music concluded on August 26. I would like to thank all those who participated in adding joy and reflection to our August services. To all who contributed vocally and instrumentally to the 9 services of July and August THANK YOU!!

Junior Choir:

With the beginning of school and its many activities our youth are very busy, so we will not be starting in September.

Bell Choir:

The Bell Choir will resume their music ministry in October.

Update on the Organ:

Many of you have asked about the organ. I wanted to let you know that it continues to be protected from sanding and debris by closing chambers and removing pipes while the painting continues. The second phase of painting begins September 10 after Rally Day. Since this phase will take some time the organ will remain secured. We are hoping to have it back for the October 7, World Communion Sunday service.

Marcia

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

Prayer List Update REMINDER

The Prayer List is currently out of date; therefore, it will have clean slate on **Sunday, September 9th**. 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	Baby Georgia
Chuck Heiser	Jake Nelson		

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, 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.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10a Worship/Baptism	27 1:30p Bookworms	28 7p Women's AA	29 7p Women's AA	30 7p Choir Rehearsal	31 7p Choir Rehearsal	1 12p The Pilgrim panty
2 10a Worship/Communion	3 Labor Day Office Closed	4 12:30p Pilgrim Bridge 7p Women's AA 7p PCCP/Trustee Meeting	5 7p Choir Rehearsal	6 7p Choir Rehearsal	7 7p Choir Rehearsal	8 7p Choir Rehearsal
9 Rally Day & Family Picnic 10a Worship - Rev. Bill Ferguson 11:15a Music Board	10 12:30p Bldg Use 1p Bldg use 2p Kolonia	11 7p Women's AA	12 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p PCCP Board	13 6p 3Fours YG Movie & Pizza Night	14 6p 3Fours YG Movie & Pizza Night	15 6p 3Fours YG Movie & Pizza Night
16 10a Worship	17 7p Women's AA	18 7p Women's AA	19 5:30p PCCP Open House 7p Choir Rehearsal	20 7p MSYG Movie & Pizza Night	21 7p MSYG Movie & Pizza Night	22 7p MSYG Movie & Pizza Night
23 10a Worship 11:30a ONA Discussion	24 1:30p Bookworms	25 7p Women's AA	26 7p Choir Rehearsal	27 7p Choir Rehearsal	28 12p The Pilgrim panty	29 12p The Pilgrim panty
30 10a Worship	1 5p PCCP Parent Workshop	2 12:30p Pilgrim Bridge 7p Women's AA	3 7p Choir Rehearsal	4 7p Choir Rehearsal	5 7p Choir Rehearsal	6 7p Choir Rehearsal