



April 2019

## From the Pastor...



"....and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts...."

--Romans 5

Have you seen hope lately? In your own life? In the life of your loved ones? In the life of our world?

I can't imagine living in a place that does not have four definite, clear seasons as does New England and our part of God's creation. There is summer, a season that if it were a song might be loud and brassy and bold and hot, like a favorite jazz riff. There is the slow and quiet pulling in of autumn, as the earth sheds its leaves and green shoots, like a melancholy torch song, as we all hunker down for winter. Winter: a deep and dark symphony, dramatic, profound, all bass.

But then there is spring. Spring! Nothing at all like the other seasons. If spring were a song it might be a bright love song perhaps, a soaring melody ending with the highest of note, a song of celebration. That's why I so love spring. Why I so love this season of Lent leading to Easter. And why every year at this time, in the days just before the last of the muddy snow is melted, just before the first crocus pushes through the soil, just before the trees explode with buds and the air warms up and the sun stays around later and later, I need to look. Hard. Faithfully. Tenaciously.

For spring. For hope.

Hope: the feeling and trust that things will get better somehow if we keep on moving ahead and working hard and most important believe. Hope: the faith that God is working through all things for the good, even if we can't see it right now. Hope: the spirit that keeps us keeping on, especially when we might want to give up or wave the while flag.

I imagine Jesus' disciples must have been looking for hope on the first Easter morning long, long ago. It had been a terrible week. Sure it started in triumph on Palm Sunday when everyone cheered. But then their friend and teacher Jesus angered the authorities and Rome and then there was a tearful good bye on Thursday, an awful trial on Friday and suddenly he was gone. Yes, he told them he would return but they struggled to understand and hope.

So their job was to look for hope as they made their way to the tomb. See it before it was even there. That's hope. As we move into these last days of Lent as God's people, look for hope; for Jesus as he walks through Holy Week. And then on Easter morning?

Hope just might surprise us.

In hope, Pastor John

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PILGRIM CHURCH NEWSLETTER

### Moderator's Message

By Andy Meyer, Moderator

The Peace of Holy Week

As we enter into Holy Week this April, we are fortunate to have a chance, once again, to walk with Christ and deepen our faith. It is a time to possibly pinpoint what, exactly, it is that makes us Christians. It can reinvigorate our faith, and give us the necessary time to quietly consider our faith-based lives within a crazy, modern world. As I've become older, I have become deeply appreciative, grateful even, for the events of Holy Week.

It begins with Palm Sunday, a chance to follow Jesus as he triumphantly rides into town. It is a joyous celebration. In years past the congregation has travelled to our sister church in Boston for Maundy Thursday, or enjoyed a quiet service here.

Good Friday provides a powerfully moving opportunity to feel the pain and agony of the crucifixion. The service ends in darkness as the cross is removed from the sanctuary, draped in black, and placed in the front yard of our church. The Good Friday service, to me, is the photographic negative of the Sunday morning service. In a world that is all dark, a world in which all that we previously believed has been altered, we can keep vigil on Saturday in the sanctuary to just sit quietly, hope, pray, and just wait to see what happens.

At 6 am on Sunday morning - in what is almost always a gloriously beautiful morning, we gather by a bonfire at the side the pond, and celebrate the risen Christ, feeling the true joy of Easter. Later services are filled with bells, music, and packed pews; a community joining together to celebrate the risen Christ, the empty tomb, the resurrection, the reconciliation of our sins, and the life ever-lasting.

Take part in some or all. Individually the services are moving; taken together they can be reaffirming, and deeply affecting. Holy week is a very special chance to deepen our faith, and feel the specialness of Christianity.

I wish every member of the congregation a special, moving Holy Week. May God bless you all.

Andy Meyer Moderator

## Your Parish Board

Did you know that every third Tuesday of the month, representatives from each of our church committees and ministries come together, along with our church leadership, Pastor John, Andy Meyer our church Moderator and a member of our finance team to discuss the business and growth and happenings of Pilgrim Church? Any and all members of the congregation are welcome to attend as well. The minutes of these meetings may be found here. <u>(Click for Parish Board Meeting Minutes)</u> Please be sure to thank our committee members and church leadership for their time and dedication to our wonderful church community.

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## Easter Flowers

The lovely lilies and spring bulbs that the Deacons decorate our sanctuary with each Easter are generously provided by members and friends of Pilgrim Church. These flowers are given in honor or memory of loved ones, or as an expression of Easter joy. If you would like to participate please complete the form below and send it along with a check for the total amount to the church office no <u>later than Sunday</u>, <u>April 14th</u>. You may have your plants distributed to those in need or pick them up after the 11am Easter service. Questions? Please contact:Sue Anderson at 508-655-9775 or andersail@aol.com

Checks should be made out and sent to Pilgrim Church, with "Easter Flowers "in the memo, and dropped off at the church office or mailed to Pilgrim Church PO Box 322, Sherborn, MA 01770



l wish to Provide	Number of Each	Cost of Each	Total Cost	I Would like them given to someone	l will Pick them Up
Lily Plants		\$20	\$		
Spring Bulb plants		\$15	\$		



I would like the bulletin message to read:

Name: \_

(print as you wish to appear in the Easter bulletin)



## Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 18th, Bethel Church Boston: 7 pm Join us as we partner with our sister church to remember Jesus' seven sorrowful moments. Carpool from Pilgrim Church at 6 pm or meet us there



Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, April 18th, 7:30 pm, Pilgrim Church

A quiet commemoration of the Last Supper, with communion, readings and music; led by Pastor John Lilly and the Deacons

Good Friday Service, Friday, April 19th, 7:30 pm

A time to hear the Passion Story and then enter into it: musically, visually, prayerfully

Prayer Vigil: Holy Saturday, April 20th, evening

Come and pray in quiet and reflection

#### Easter Sunday, April 21st

6:00 am Easter Sunrise Service at Farm Pond led by the youth and young adults
9 am Easter Service, church, featuring the Pilgrim Band and choirs
(All-Church Coffee Hour between the two services hosted by the Confirmation Class)
11 am Easter Service, featuring bell and voice choirs

PILGRIMCHURCH NEWSLETTER

## A Special Note of Thanks

Dear Pilgrim Church Family, Thank you so much for all you have done for us. Your generosity has overwhelmed us with joy. Our mom loved you all so much and you have taken such great care of her over the years. We love you all so much,

The Muri Family

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Pilgrim Church Newsletter

## DEACONS' CORNER...

By Sue Anderson

#### Resurrection - Hope

Hope. It's absolutely essential to life. That is all the more important when we face overwhelming times of hopelessness, moments when it seems the world is against us and when it seems we have no control over what is happening to us. That's what Mary Magdalene was experiencing as she approaches the tomb on Easter morning, shedding tears of hopelessness, despair and frustration. Jesus had healed her and more importantly, He had shown her how to have peace with God. He had made so many promises, said so many good things and performed so many miracles. But now he was dead and all the things of that died with him. Hope was lost. She wasn't alone. The disciples had given up everything: home, family, job and possessions. They watched as the crowds flocked to Jesus. They listened as He taught. They watched in awe at his miracles and healings. They heard his claims that God was His Father, that He was one with God and that He had come to usher in God's kingdom on Earth. And as He was crucified, they still held out hope He would be delivered. But then it happened. Scripture tells us that with a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last breath and, with Him, their hope died too.

Have you been there? That moment when the world seems like a very cruel place – a place of broken promises, unsuspecting diagnosis, unfulfilled dreams, unthinkable betrayal or lies, and devastating disappointments. When it seems, we have absolutely no control over what's happening. And without warning, we find ourselves wrapped in hopelessness and despair. How can we face such situations and overcome them? As with Mary and the disciples, our only hope is our faith in Jesus and the power of the resurrection. Only one thing can bring hope to a hopeless situation. Only one thing can bring joy where there is only sadness. Only one thing can give you optimism when it seems that you're defeated. And that's the power of the resurrection! He is risen! And the same power which raised Jesus from the dead is available to you in your life and the circumstances you face. The hope that God offers is something to build on, it's an anchor keeping us from drifting; it is the rock on which we stand, and a Truth that cannot be moved or shaken. It is our faith in the resurrection of Christ, which took a cross and a tomb, the very symbols of death, despair and hopelessness and turned it forever into a symbol of life and hope, in all circumstances we face! Hope allows us to see and experience what others may not.. Rejoice in the Resurrection!

#### HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD

It's time to open those fresh new calendar pages and look to see when you might be able to help fill in the Sunday Service sign-up openings. We need lay leaders, coffee hour hosts and flower donors from March thru the 2nd week of June.

You can sign up anytime online by clicking <u>HERE</u> to get to our HTWHTG schedule. Or you can simply call the office (508) 655-1667 or email Janet <u>DCM@PilgrimSherborn.org</u> and we will be happy to help you!



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PILGRIM CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Will You Join Us in Membership this Spring?

Have you considered joining Pilgrim Church? You may have been attending for a while and would like to make a deeper commitment to our church community, or you may be new to our congregation and ready to jump in. Our spring 2019 New Member class will be on Thursday evening, May 9th at 7:30pm at the parsonage, all who are interested are welcome to attend. Please contact Janet Walsh, Director of Congregational Ministries, if you would like more information on becoming

a member of Pilgrim Church, or have any questions about the class dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org or (508) 655-1667



#### Miracle on Main FUNdraiser

This past Advent, on a Sunday afternoon, over 140 Pilgrim Church members and friends came together for the 4th Annual "Miracle on 25 South Main" food packaging event. People ages 3-85 measured, poured and boxed meals for 3 hours. Together we created 40,000 meals for people in need! Those meals have been donated to *My Brother's Keeper*, in Stoughton, *A Place to Turn* food pantry in Natick,

and other groups in need. Deliveries were made possible by several Pilgrim Church members and 2019 confirmands and mentors.

Overwhelming feedback has indicated that Pilgrim members would like to continue this annual Advent tradition of giving next December. In order for us to plan for our 5th "Miracle" we needed to fundraise this spring to fund the meals.

In May, we will be running a FUNdraiser to raise money to support our annual Miracle on 25 S. Main Street advent event in 2019! For this FUNdraiser we are going to hold an auction and are looking for some exciting donations to make this auction special. Do you have a summer place you might like to offer for a week or weekend? Are you an artist, or builder of things? Do you have a specialty service that other folks might like to bid on? Do you like creating themed baskets full of fun things? Let us know!

Look for more information on this FUNfilled FUNdraiser coming in the May newsletter, bulletins, e-Word and on the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall.

In the meantime, if you have an experience, tickets, a vacation home, or some other special item you would like to donate please contact our DCM, Janet Walsh or Pastor John to let us know by April 15th, or sooner! <u>dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org</u> <u>astorjohn@pilgrimsherborn.org</u>

We are so very grateful for those who have supported this program in the past, and for those whose donations allow us to once again partner with Matthew Martin and End Hunger New England.



Thank you, thank you for what you have done! Mark your calendars for December 8th, 2019 - Miracle on 25 S. Main Street!

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## 14th Annual Advocacy Sunday April 28, 2019



## Some horrifying facts...

As of January 2018, **3,624 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**—and/or pregnant women—were homeless in Massachusetts. (U.S. Dep't. of Housing & Urban Development) This amounts to roughly 13,000 individuals, 60% of whom are children. (The Boston Foundation) There are tens of thousands of students of all ages experiencing homelessness who are enrolled in Massachusetts public schools. Thousands more have already dropped out. (Mass Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education )

LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS THE PRIMARY REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS in Massachusetts (Mass. Coalition for the Homeless), with a shortage of 158,769 affordable rental homes for extremely low-income families. (CHAPA Nov. 2017)

**POVERTY** contributes heavily to homelessness. The economy has severely impacted very low-income households in Massachusetts. There are an estimated **700,000 plus people in Massachusetts living in households that fell below the poverty threshold** (\$25,100 for a family of four). (US Dept of Health & Human Services)

The average family entering the State's shelter system is headed by a woman about 30 years old with 1-2 children. 56% are white, 40% are Hispanic and 37% are African American. (The Boston Foundation)

The length of stay in family shelters is increasing to about 12 months state-wide, with longer stays in Boston.

On Advocacy Sunday, Pilgrim Church members and friends are asked to sign postcards to legislators advocating budget line items for homelessness prevention programs, services for those already homeless, and passage of legislation to address issues vital to our homeless population. House bill 1288 and Senate Bill 775 would increase the number of housing units created reduce barriers to housing production, and set goals for the production of housing affordable to the lower income households.

https://www.mahomeless.org/advocacy/present-policy-campaigns

PLEASE heed this call to advocate for the most vulnerable among us.

## Don't forget your return address labels!

## Christian Education

By Angle Johnson, Dijrector of Children and Family Ministries



#### Learn By Heart

In the spring we make a special effort to help our church school students learn a Bible verse by heart. Please encourage your child to work on this at home. Use

it as a family table grace or good-night prayer. When he/she feels confident, it's a low-key gentle recitation with their Sunday school teacher or Angie. Those who learn it will be recognized by their classmates right away and then by the whole congregation on Youth Sunday in June. Here are the verses:

#### Grades One/Two: The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, They will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen (traditional version used at Pilgrim Church)

Grades Three/Four: The Great Commandment "You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

(New Revised Standard Version)

Grades Five/Six: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil:

For you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies:

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

(New Revised Standard Version)



We are in the midst of our recruitment for Sunday school teachers for next year. We are changing You Can Teach things up a bit and are moving to

a rotation model. How does a rotation model work you ask? A lot of people say it is like Vacation Bible School. You have various groups of children moving through several workshops or stations. Instead of moving through them over the course of a day like in VBS, the kids have one station for each Sunday and they rotate each week. We currently use the Spark curriculum and we are fortunate that the curriculum has a rotational model as well. They offer as many as 8 different workshops and we will do 4 stations. We may choose to do art, cooking, science, music, bible games, theater, or community ministry where we give back. We are planning to have four sections and ideally would love to have 2 teachers per section. Please think about giving your time and talents. It is an exciting time and I cannot wait to have fun teaching and learning with the Pilgrim kids next year. Please look for the sign up table after church in fellowship hall. You only have to learn one lesson and will teach it to all the various age groups as the Sundays move on. Come join the fun!!!



Join Us for some EASTER FUN

WHAT: The Easter Story and Easter Egg Hunt

WHEN: Friday, April 12, 2019 at 4:00pm

WHERE: Pilgrim Church, 25 South Main Street

Please join us for the telling of the Easter story by Pastor John and an exciting Easter egg hunt! Bring your own basket and grab your friends, grand-parents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, and siblings and enjoy a story and some fun.

This event is open to the community and is appropriate for children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger.



Thank you to .... OUR SESSION 4 TEACHERS:

Thank you to the Session 4 teachers: Dale Kohl, Andrew and Rae Dearborn, Kate and James Potter, Abby and Bill Churney. We appreciate you taking the time to make a difference in a child's life and teaching at Pilgrim!

#### PILGRIM CHURCH NEWSLETTER



#### Senior Youth Group

In preparation for the upcoming Work Camp trip to Puerto Rico, the Senior Youth group watched a fascinating Frontline documentary about the effects of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico. The documentary also explored various factors that had put the island in a vulnerable financial situation leading up to the hurricane. These factors exacerbating the situation. It was an eye opening account of all the dynamics that contributed to the devastating situation in PR!

SYG also attended the beautiful St. Patrick's Day worship service that was lead by the Confirmands. We look forward to welcoming all of this year's Confirmands into SYG next year!!



At our most recent meeting we prepared for hosting coffee hour by creating a Puerto Rico trivia quiz for church members to take and by baking chocolate chip cookies to

share with the congregation. We hope that church members will visit our Work Camp table during coffee hour to take the trivia quiz (You can win a prize!) and to learn more about our

trip. Work Campers will be selling stock certificates as a way of raising money for the trip - We appreciate all who support Work Camp in this way!



#### Junior Youth Group

This past month the Junior Youth Group attended the special storyteller event sponsored by The Powell Fund for the Creative Word. They had fun acting out various Aesop fables and practicing ways to tell engaging stories. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the importance of stories in our lives - particularly the Bible stories that guide us as people of faith!

JYG also made Easter baskets and delivered them to members of our church community who could use a bit of cheer this season. In addition to jelly beans and a chocolate rabbit, each basket contained a card with an Easter blessing, a red "You are Loved" heart, and a few Easter riddles to provide a bit of levity....

Q. Why shouldn't you tickle an Easter egg? A. Because it might crack up!

Q. Why was the Easter bunny so grumpy? A. Because he was having a bad hare day!



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# missionsministries



## Michael Lisnow Respite Center

Entering their 20th year, The Michael Lisnow Respite Center is a place that provides emotional and physical support for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Located in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the Center serves hundreds of families. We can not do this without the generous support of many, and the inspiration given to us by the life and memory of Michael Carter Lisnow.

START PLANTING YOUR VEGETABLES It's time to get ready for our Abundant Table. . For several summers now the Moore Family has collected the surplus of vegetables from our gardens and brought them to a Place to Turn food pantry in Natick

Spring has sprung and it is time for us to get planting! More information to follow as the season progresses.

Everyone deserves an abundant, healthy table!





The Hearts and Hands Mother's Day ministry is underway for the Baby Blanket/Sweater project. Knit, crochet, sew a baby quilt, youth sweaters or hats or scarves or making no-sew fleece blankets. Baby hats (grapefruit-

ands

sized) and Chemo hats or scarves are also appreciated. Simple directions, yarn, information, and even needles are available during coffee time in Fellowship Hall following our Sunday worship. Our dedication of these **created gifts will be Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th.** Cash donations are also welcomed.

Won't you please help? Questions? Contact Barbara Ambos (b\_ambos@comcast.net) or Chuckie Blaney (chuckieblaney@alumnae.mtholyoke.edu).



Saturday, April 6, 2019

Natick High School15 West St.Natick, MA 01760

music, crafts, prizes, food and fun! Registration begins at 8:00 am; the walk starts at 8:50 am. Proceeds

https:// familypromisemetrowest.salsalabs.org/10thannualwalktoendhomelessness2/

> Mark Your Calendars! Our next Family Promise Hosting Dates are Sunday, June 30th - Sunday, July 14th

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## SHERBORN BOY SCOUTS TROOP 1

By Ron Janzten



Sherborn Boy Scouts Troop 1

In March several Scouts attended Merit Badge University and completed portions of requirements for learning about topics from experts that they might not have ready access to otherwise. They did overnight tent camping at Snow Hill in Dover mid-month and continued to work on their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

Merit Badge work continues and Personal Management will be started this week.

A Crew Meeting will be held to plan for the summer trip to and Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico.

Calendar

Tue.	4/2	Metacomet District Roundtable, 7 p.m., Medfield Senior Center, 1 Ice House Rd.
		(S. Main to Hospital Road to Harding Street to West Mill Street to Ice House Rd.)
		Information and ideas exchange.

Sat. 4/6 Hike and overnight at Rocky Narrows on the Charles River, Sherborn

Mon. 4/8 Troop Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Pilgrim Church

Thu. 4/11 Cub Scout Pack 10 Blue & Gold Dinner

Troop Meetings: Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Scoutmaster: Steve Scrimshaw, 508-655-2311

Com. Chair: Jeff Waldron, 508-653-4399

Chartered Organization/Parish Board Rep.: Charlie Williams 508-395-9049

A big THANK YOU from Kristen Flynn and Betsy Rigby to all the volunteers who helped serve dinner at the United Way Pearl Street Café Wednesday evening, March 27th including.... Charlie Williams, Dan Marple, Eric Brooks, Rick Stone, Fran, Eve Smith, Ella Dodge, Cindy Maguire, Lexi Maher, Chuckie Blaney, Bridget Browney, Mary, Kay Payne, Roger Payne.

United Way Pearl Street Café? I thought we served at the Salvation Army? Well, we DID, for many, many years. But, the Salvation Army in Framingham left its home of more than 30 years on Concord Street and moved to a new facility on Howard Street. The Miracle Kitchen feeding program launched in 1980, was discontinued with this move. With no food service space at their new location the Salvation Army entered into talks with the United Way of Tri-County about expanding the United Way's Pearl Street Cupboard and Cafe. The goal of the Salvation Army was to make sure that people still got fed. The United Way Pearl Street Café now offers meals five nights a week. Many volunteers who previously worked with the Salvation Army Miracle Kitchen are now donating their time to the United Way Pearl Street Café. That includes us! The Salvation Army still operates its food pantry, which is open by appointment Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please be on the look out for our next opportunity to serve.

Family Promise Volunteers PLEASE TAKE NOTE: - "Cervis" Online Volunteer System

Family Promise Metrowest upgraded to a new online volunteer system called Cervis. They would like anyone who

Volunteers to check in and update their user profile. Please click HERE [link to Cervis Instructions] to see instructions for how to update your profile and sign up for volunteer events. We will still be doing our sign-ups in Fellowship Hall this Spring for our hosting dates summer, June 30th—July 14th. The Cervis system will supplement those efforts for any who wish to sign up directly online. Thanks for taking a moment to check it out, so we will be ready for our next hosting.

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25 South Main St. P.O. Box 322 Sherborn, MA 01770

Phone: 508-655-1667 Fax: 508-655-7997 E-mail: admin@pilgrimsherborn.org

We're on the web www.pilgrimsherborn.org

Massachusetts Conference Website www.macucc.org

United Church of Christ Website www.ucc.org

For Pastor John's column in the DS Press: www.townonline.com/dover/news/lifestyle Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit #1 Sherborn, MA 01770

#### Postmaster: address correction requested

# Pilgrim Church Newsletter

Reverend John F. Hudson, Senior Pastor pastorjohn@pilgrimsherborn.org

Joséfine Muri, Church Administrator admin@pilgrimsherborn.org Janet Walsh, Congregational Ministry dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org

Angle Johnson, Christian Education ce@pilgrimsherborn.org

David Tiedman, Music davetiedman@pilgrimsherborn.org Rev. Diane Anderson, Minister to Youth pilgrimshyg@gmail.com

Dale Blanchard, Assistant Treasurer inance@pilgrimshberborn.org This is a monthly publication. Please submit comments, articles to the church administrator by email or written copy. Submissions will be edited for length and clarity.

Articles for the NEXT issue are due by the 15th of the month.