

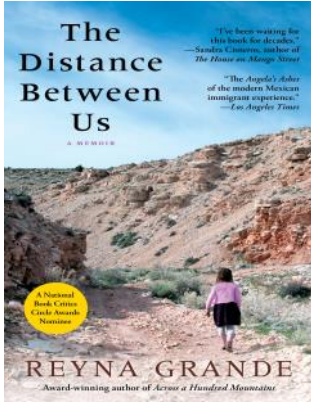


PILGRIM CHURCH



February 2018

From the Pastor...



And Jesus said..., "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." --Luke 9:58

We all come from somewhere else. We are all on the way to somewhere else, too. In a way, "home" is always temporary. I've been thinking a lot about this human truth lately. What does it mean to be on a journey in this life?

A journey of faith, as we continually refine what we believe and how those beliefs shape our hopes for life as a child of God? A journey of aging, as relationships mature and change, life moves ahead, even ends. A journey: as we and others move from one place to

another, sometimes joyfully, sometimes reluctantly, saying hello, saying goodbye. A journey for some that's fraught with peril, danger even. Like a refugee fleeing war or poverty or an undocumented migrant crossing a border, seeking refuge and a new life, a new home, maybe risking it all.

Each Lent our church comes together to read a book: to talk about it, pray about it, think about, incorporate its themes into worship and invite that work to inform our Christian faith. In Lent 2018, our book is compelling, relevant and captures with raw intimacy one of the great questions facing our nation and community: that of immigration. Coming "here" from "somewhere else". Being on a journey. Leaving one home. Hoping for a new home.

"The Distance Between Us" is an inspirational memoir by award winning Mexican-American author Reyna Grande. Grande's story takes her from an impoverished childhood in Mexico, to living in the United States as a young undocumented immigrant, and finally, life as a U.S. citizen and best selling writer. The book captures the experience of crossing borders to seek a better life and the struggle to keep one family together in the midst of that journey. Our program will explore the intersection of immigration and faith.

How is our faith journey not just about arrival but also movement? What is life like for our neighbors who came here from somewhere else? We'll explore our own immigrant roots as pilgrims and people who trace ancestry to a distant place. We'll seek to be thoughtful, faithful and compassionate in our discussions, inviting all points of view, and asking Jesus' compelling question: "Who is my neighbor?"

The book is appropriate for 8th graders and up. Adopt it for your book group. Read it with a friend or your family. I'll be preaching about and leading classes after church and Wednesday mornings with a few more special events offered too. Look for a postcard mailing with all the details. The Bible is filled with stories of folks on the move, people and communities, traveling from one place to another, one home to another, from ancient Israel to Jesus, and later the itinerant disciples. They journeyed with God. Let's do the same this Lent.

See you on the road! Pastor John

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Call to the Annual Meeting, pg. 2*
- *Family Promise Thank you note, pg. 3*
- *Stewardship Campaign, pg. 4*
- *2018 New Church Directory, pg. 4*
- *Ash Wednesday Soc., pg. 5*
- *Lent 2018, pg. 5*
- *Save the Date, pg. 5*
- *Boy Scouts, pg. 5*
- *Souper Bowl of Caring, pg. 6*
- *Hands to Work, Hearts to God, pg. 9*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MODERATOR'S MSG.	2
DEACON'S CORNER	3
CHRISTIAN ED	6
MSYG & SHYG	7
MISSIONS	8

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

BY ANDY MEYER MODERATOR

As we head deep into the winter of 2018, this is the season that starts to try our patience. The chill starts to dig a little deeper, many of our friends and loved ones are letting us know they have the flu or lingering colds. It just sometimes feels hard to get warm. Doesn't it seem as though we celebrated Christmas a long time ago?

One of my favorite passages of *The Christmas Carol* is when Dickens writes of the newly converted Scrooge, "...and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge."

I like the idea of "keeping Christmas."

There is a famous passage on the subject written by Henry Van Dyke. Here is part of it.

"Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you....to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life....to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness... to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough... to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you.... Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone."

Here's to every one of us keeping Christmas, exactly in the manner described above, not just today, nor just through the winter, but the whole year long.

May God bless you all -

Andy Meyer
Moderator



Annual Meeting

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Pilgrim Church members are called to our Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 4, 2018, immediately following the worship service. Items to be discussed include adoption of the 2018 operating budget, nomination and election of officers and committee members, and any other business proper to come before the body.

Sincerely: Marilyn Marlette, Church Clerk

DEACONS' CORNER...

BY ERIC DRAGSBAEK

Signing Off

When I tell people from outside our church that I am a Deacon at Pilgrim, many times they ask me "what does a Deacon do?" I've never really had a smooth answer for them. I usually let them know what we do – prepare the sanctuary for worship, greet people as they arrive and hand out the bulletins, run the elevator, ring the bell, record the service, take the collection, say a prayer, and clean up the sanctuary after the service. But just describing what we do does not capture the spirit of being a Deacon.

During my time as a Deacon, I have felt more a part of Pilgrim than ever before – even though I had been an active member of Pilgrim Church for over 20 years at that point. The best way that I can describe it to those in our community is that in a small way the Deacons try to follow the example of Jesus to lead by serving. We are helping care for the flock. To welcome the newcomer, to assist those who need help, to quietly make sure that the service goes smoothly (those who attend regularly know that we don't always succeed – but we are trying!)

Another Deacon responsibility is to serve at funerals that are held at Pilgrim Church. When we serve at funerals, we are serving people during their time of need. And at those times we are the face of Pilgrim Church to the many people coming through our doors for the first time. For me, the opportunity to serve at funerals is a humbling and moving experience, and allows us to show people the support and caring of the Pilgrim community.

I have been so fortunate to serve as a Deacon for the past six years. But as of the Congregational meeting, the first Sunday of February, my second three year term is up and I will be rolling off of the Deacons (for at least a year). The reason for this is that when Pastor John came to Pilgrim he recommended that term limits be put in place for the Deacons. I think that change has contributed to making the Deacons stronger, as there are constantly new Deacons, and with them new ideas, rolling in. If it were not for term limits, I may never have had the opportunity to serve as a Deacon.

So now there will be a few new Deacons starting their terms this month. Give them a warm welcome when you see them!

Grateful for the opportunity to serve,

Eric Dragsbaek



A nice thank-you note from Family Promise:

Dear Rev. John Hudson,

On behalf of Family Promise Metrowest and the people we serve, I want to thank Pilgrim Church for the generous gift and for all you do for Family Promise. We are so grateful! While Family Promise has grown over the years, we continue to rely solely on private funding, therefore your donation is truly appreciated.

This has been especially exciting for our organization as we purchased a new Day Center that will be home for our families and staff in the new year. The building will provide families the space and dignity they deserve while also allowing us to expand programming to serve more families. Your gift will support the programming and growth that is needed to support our expansion.

Please share my gratitude with your congregation and remind them as the new year begins, their gift is truly appreciated by all of us at Family Promise. Our congregations are the foundation of all we have accomplished and a reminder that as a community we can make a difference in the lives of others and work towards a brighter future for all.

Wishing you a joyful new year filled with peace.

Sue Crossley
Executive Director



2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REFLECTS TREMENDOUS GENEROSITY

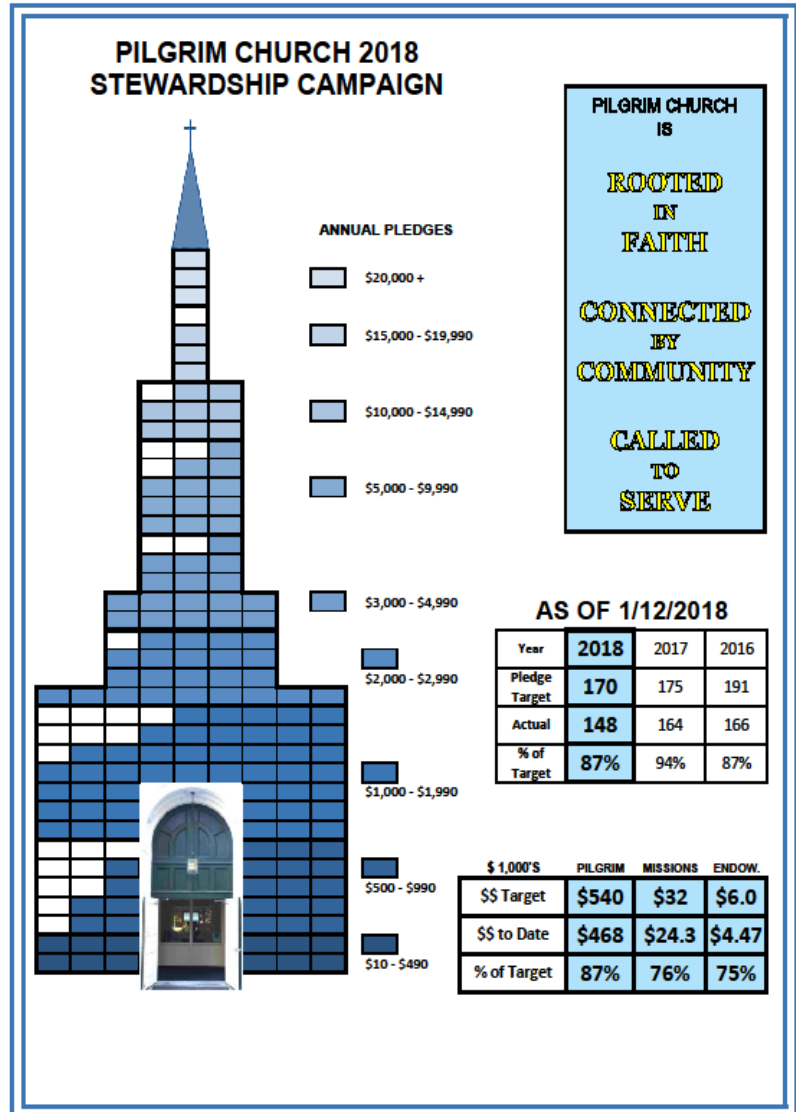
With the 2018 Stewardship Campaign officially concluded, the Stewardship Committee wishes to express its deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this year's Campaign. Supported by the generosity of 153 pledges totaling \$503,874 and one-time gifts of \$8,750 the Parish Board was able to recommend a balanced budget for the coming year.

By the numbers, the pledges and one-time gifts for the Operating Budget totaled \$478,768, \$29,289 for Missions, and \$4,467 to be added to the church endowment. There were ten new pledges adding \$11,260, ninety-one pledges with increases totaling \$26,017, and 39 pledges remained unchanged. Ten pledges were decreased from the previous year. The net increase in pledges for the Stewardship Campaign for 2018 was \$28,439.

As paraphrased in our *Welcoming Statement - An Open Table*, "every member and friend of this congregation is invited to participate fully in all the sacraments, rites, privileges and responsibilities of our shared life at Pilgrim Church." Our deepest thanks to everyone who makes possible the vibrant life of Pilgrim Church we so highly value. Together we build and support Pilgrim Church as shown on the final chart as of the date of this report, January 22, 2018.

Stewardship Committee,

Kevin Flynn, Kitty Sturgis, Peter Liffiton, Steve Solomon



2018 NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY



UPDATE



The office would like to print a new Church Directory and would like to have correct information for everyone.

If you have not been receiving the weekly EWord or monthly Newsletter then we likely don't have a correct email address for you. Please let the office know of any changes to your address, phone number or email address at admin@pilgrimsherborn.org.

We don't want you to miss out on any important happenings or announcements from Pilgrim Church!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 14, 7:30pm



A time for reflection, prayer, healing and hope
 A time to mark the beginning of Lent
 A time to worship with our sisters and brothers
 from Bethel AME
 A time to go with Jesus into the desert
 Please join us.

Lent 2018

"The Distance Between Us"

The Intersection of Immigration and Faith

Join our All Church Lenten Journey!

Sunday Sermon Series at Pilgrim Church:

February 25, March 4, 11, 18

Group Classes at Pilgrim Church: Sundays:

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

February 25, March 4, 11, 18

First floor Room 5 classroom

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.- 11 a.m,

February 28, March 3, 14, 21

Second Floor Room 10 classroom

"Faith on Tap" Book Wrap-Up and Social, Heritage Sherborn: Tuesday, March 27th, 7 p.m., featuring local immigrants in a panel discussion. Share some community time at the Heritage.

Come for some or all of the events. Invite friends; share it in a book group. The book is appropriate for 8th graders and up. Copies available at the church for a \$10 suggested donation.

Save the Date!

All-Church Event:

Say Goodbye to Winter!

Saturday, March 17th - 6pm - 9pm

The Hospitality Ministry invites everyone to come together for a fun evening celebrating the end of (hopefully!) winter.

Join us for dinner (yep! a night off from cooking) followed by a huge game of the popular Left-Center-Right dice game that is easy and exciting for all to play!

Mark your calendars now - **Saturday, March 17th, 6:00pm – 9:00pm.**

All ages are welcome and feel free to bring a friend, grandchild, confirmand... you get the idea.

Look for sign-ups in Fellowship Hall or call the church office by March 12th, to let us know you'll be joining us.

SHERBORN BOY SCOUTS TROOP 1

The Scouts met at St. Theresa Church for the two weeks while Family Promise guests were at Pilgrim Church. They finished working on First Aid and began Family Life merit badge. Last weekend they survived tenting, cooking and being outside in the cold winter weather all weekend! Well done, guys!

Calendar

Tue. 2/6 ~ District Roundtable: 7 p.m., Masonic Hall, 657 Washington St., Holliston

Mon. 2/12 ~ Troop Committee, 7:30 p.m., Pilgrim Church

Tue. 2/20 ~ No meeting - Winter Recess/School

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

Fellowship Hall, Pilgrim Church

Scoutmaster: Steve Scrimshaw, 508-655-2311

Chair: Jeff Waldron, 508-653-4399

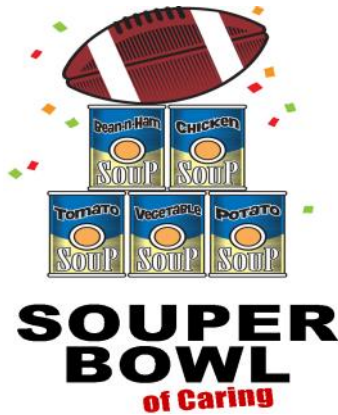
Chartered Organization/Parish Board Rep.:

Charlie Williams, 508-395-9049



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BY COREY LINCOLN AND JANE RAITHEL



The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 4. We are accepting donations of canned goods on that day to be donated to A Place to Turn, as well as cash donations. The confirmation class will also be serving a simple soup lunch for a freewill donation. Last year, Pilgrim Church participated along with countless other churches and organizations across America in this drive to raise awareness of hunger in our country. Before you enjoy the Super Bowl, Sunday night February 4, help others in our area to enjoy a warm meal.

MEET OUR 2018 CONFIRMATION CLASS!

Kai Abbett

Madeline Bloecher

Willie Bowen

Kelsey Carlson

Charlotte Buehler

Curtis Bowman

Lauren Geary

Abigail Crane

Jack Potter

Luke Theberge

Zoe Schwartz

Kyra Hacker



YOUTH MINISTRY

BY DIANE ANDERSON

Senior High Youth Group

The Senior High Youth Group handed in their Work Camp applications this month! So far we have 14 youth group members applying for our trip to New York City where we will be serving in food pantries and homeless shelters. We will also have the opportunity to worship at the cathedral of St. John the Divine, which is the 5th largest cathedral in the world!

At our most recent meeting, we gathered at my (Diane's) house for a pizza dinner and game night. We played a new, laugh-out-loud card game with a wacky name – Exploding Kittens. We had such fun that we decided this game will be coming with us on the work camp trip! We also took time to make a blessing blanket for our beloved advisor, Kathy Somerville, who had knee replacement surgery. We are delighted that Kathy's surgery went well and we continue to hold her in our prayers as she heals.

Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group had a very special trip this month to the Salvation Army in Framingham. We went to their new location on Wednesday, January 24th to serve meals to those who are in need of a warm meal. It was a blessing to get to know the other volunteers and the guests. Over 130 meals were served that night! At each MSYG meeting everyone receives a "love note" to add to the love note jar they made at the beginning of the year. The love note for the day of our trip to the Salvation Army was from the theologian, Henri Nouwen ~ "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say a word of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear fruits, here in the world and in the life to come." We hope that the little bit of love we sowed at the Salvation Army helped in some small way to bear fruit!





MISSIONS



"NEW SALVATION ARMY DINNER"--A WORK IN PROGRESS"!!

BY DAN MARPLE

The NEW Salvation Army Dinner program officially kicked off on January 8. It is still very much a "work in progress".

The new program is a combination of the old Salvation Army "Miracle Kitchen" & United Way Café programs. Hot dinners will now be served Monday through Friday from 5:00-7:00 PM at the "Pearl Street Café at Park" located at 46 Park Street in Framingham. The café has tables of ten (10) & can seat 120 people at a time.

Under the new "combined" program, all meals will now be prepared on site daily by a full time chef. Rather than preparing the food for meals as was done in the past, volunteer organizations like Pilgrim Church will now be asked to provide the manpower to serve the dinners "restaurant style" to guests. MANY THANKS to the twenty-one (21) volunteers from the Pilgrim Church congregation and MSYG members & supervisors who participated in our first dinner at the new location last Wednesday (1/24)!

In addition to providing manpower to serve dinner once per quarter, Pilgrim Church volunteers are also encouraged to provide needed, non-perishable pantry items. A list of most "needed" items is available at the Pilgrim Church office. Items may be dropped off anytime in Framingham at the Salvation Army, 59 Howard Street or the Pearl Street Café at Park, 46 Park Street. In addition, once a quarter, pantry items will be delivered from church on the night we are serving dinner (our next dinner date is 4/25/18).

Dan Marple & Jacque Lewis (Co-Leaders)



HEART AND HANDS MINISTRY

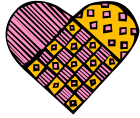
BY BARBARA AMBOS



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 make no-sew fleece blankets. Chemo or preemie hats and scarves are also appreciated. Simple directions, yarn, information and *even needles* are available during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall following our Sunday worship.

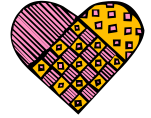
If you are not a crafter, consider supporting this ministry by sponsoring the purchase of donated new blankets with a cash donation. Our dedication is on Mother's Day, May 13th this year. there's still time to start and finish a project and we are already sending baby hats to Emerson Hospital.

Won't you please help? Questions? Contact Barbara Ambos b_ambos@comcast.net



HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD

Sunday Worship Service Opportunities ~ PART TWO!



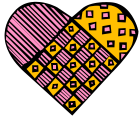
Here at Pilgrim Church everyone is invited and encouraged to play a part in making our Worship Services welcoming and meaningful each and every Sunday morning. Whether you are new to the church (as we all once were) or have been here "forever," we welcome your participation. And whether you are the individual contributor type, like to work with a friend, or prefer to get your whole family involved – we need your help!

On February 1, during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, we begin the process of filling our Sunday Worship Service opportunities for the spring. So please talk to your friends and families, check your calendars, and come sign-up for the slot(s) that best fit your busy schedule! Here are the things we need your help with:

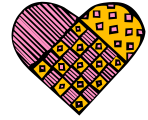
- ♥ Greeter – greets worshippers as they enter the sanctuary before the worship service
 - ♥ Usher – assist deacons with seating worshippers and collecting the offering
 - ♥ Lay Leader – words of welcome, church announcements, reading of Scripture
 - ♥ Coffee Hour Host – prepares coffee and provides optional simple snack
- ♥ Donate Sanctuary Flowers (\$45) – write a message for the church bulletin and order flowers through Debra’s Flowers in Holliston or bring your own.


If you would like to sign up, please contact deacon Paul Maguire at pmmaguire@rcn.com.
Or sign up on Sign-Up Genius at signupgenius.com

Sundays	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leader	Flowers	Coffee Hour Host
February 4	Confirmands	Confirmands	Andy Meyer	The Walsh Family	The Deacons
February 11	Confirmands	Confirmands	SHYG	Kitty Sturgis	Kate Potter
February 18	♥	Rena Bickel	Kim Holland	Rena Bickel	Panny Nichols Nancy Evans Phoebe Yassa
February 25	Confirmands	♥	Peter Liffiton	Carole Marple	Rosemary Sortor Peg & Dwight Robinson
March 4	♥	Confirmands	Sam Hartman	Betty Schlenker Sandy Spadi	Josh & Jim Hartman
March 11	♥	Confirmands	SHYG	Kristy Barnard	The May Family
March 18	Confirmands	Confirmands	Frank Villa	Beth Villa	♥



HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD



Sundays	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leader	Flowers	Coffee Hour Host
March 25 Palm Sunday	Confirmands	Confirmands	Carole Marple	Laurie Young	Chancel Choir
April 1 Easter	Confirmands	Confirmands	Eric Dragsbaek		Confirmation Class
April 8	Confirmands	♥	SHYG	Natalie Barlow	Betty Schlenker Sandy Spadi
April 15	Confirmands	Confirmands	Donna Henry	Eve Smith	♥
April 22	♥	Confirmands	♥	♥	♥
April 29	Confirmands	Confirmands	♥	Jacque Lewis	♥
May 6 Confirmation	♥	♥	Jane Raitel Francisco Stork	Confirmation Class	Hospitality & MSYG
May 13 Mother's Day	♥	♥	SHYG	♥	Men's Group
May 20	♥	♥	Heather Dragsbaek	Carole Marple	♥
May 27	♥	♥	♥	Kitty Sturgis	♥
June 3	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
June 10	Youth	Youth	Youth	Christian Ed	Christian Ed

The ♥ denotes an open slot. Please contact the church office to fill a slot: admin@pilgrimsherborn.org

February 2018

February 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
Annual Meeting Family Promise Souper Bowl of Caring 10:00am Worship 6:30pm SHYG	5:30pm MSYG	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	Family Promise 12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	Family Promise	Family Promise 1:00pm Girl Scouts
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00am Worship 11:30am Practicing Our Faith 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm SHYG	5:30pm MSYG	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Worship 11:30am Practicing Our Faith 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm SHYG	7:30pm Scout Troop Committee Mtg	8:45am Caring Committee 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Deacon's Mtg.	Ash Wednesday 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Svc.	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
February Vacation 10:00am Worship	President's Day	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Parish Board Mtg.	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir		
25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
10:00am Worship 11:30am Lent Book Discussion 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm SHYG	5:30pm MSYG	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Lent Book Discussion 8:00pm AA Meeting			

PILGRIM CHURCH

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

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1
Sherborn, MA
01770

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

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

Corey Lincoln, Jane Raithel
Christian Education
ce@pilgrimsherborn.org

David Tiedman, *Music*
davetiedman@pilgrimsherborn.org

Rev. Diane Anderson, *Minister to Youth*
pilgrimsydg@gmail.com

Dale Blanchard, *Assistant Treasurer*
finance@pilgrimsherborn.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.