



PILGRIM CHURCH



March 2018

From the Pastor...



"And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, [Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome]...went to the tomb."

--Mark 16:2

If you've ever been awake at the time of very early morning just before dawn...

Just before the sun comes up...

Just before the day begins and the house wakes up and the world starts anew...

Just before the birds begin to sing and life seems to begin again...

Maybe you woke up because you could not sleep because something was worrying you and so you are up. Maybe you woke up because the baby needed to be fed or the dog scratched at the bedroom door or the drip, drip, drip of the kitchen faucet was so loud. Maybe you woke up because your to-do list crashed into your slumber.

You are awake. That time can feel lonely. As if you are the only person in all the world. Even as if hope is kind of hard to find in this weird in between time, in between night and day, evening and morning, sleep and awakening.

Now imagine you are awake but it is 2,000 years ago and it is two days since your best friend and teacher, Jesus, was taken, put on trial by the state and religious authorities for speaking of love and radical welcome for all and God's care for each and every person on the earth. And so now you and some friends, just before dawn, just as pale pink light dances on the horizon, are going to the place where he is buried.

To mourn. To pray. To carry out sacred rituals.

But even as you walk to that place you still have a glimmer of hope, because Jesus said he would come back, he would live again. He would return, that even death could not stop him or his message or God's love.

And so you hope. You see the light even before it shows up. You believe in him, even before you see him. You trust that God will come through, even though right now that is not so clear or evident.

You hope.

At Easter, as Christians, we hope. We awaken before dawn and trust in the sunrise and the Son Rise. We see a dark world sometimes filled with violence and despair and yet we also envision a world filled with peace and joy. We have courage and keep on walking because we are not alone, we have each other and the one who never dies, walks right there with us too. Even, especially just before the sun comes up.

Imagine that. Come. The Son is coming soon. Holy Week. Easter. The journey beckons. From twilight to sunlight. From fear to hope. From shadows to sunshine. I'm ready for that trip. I pray you are too.

Peace, Pastor John

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MARCH 4th THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ADVOCACY SUNDAY

BY CAROLE MARPLE

If we take time to think about it, all of us care about the issue of family homelessness. On Sunday, March 4, we will have the opportunity at Coffee Hour to sign* cards or letters to our legislators about pending bills and budget items related to this tragic problem.

Educational materials will be available beforehand so people will have the information needed to make informed comments. Our local Senators and Representatives are sensitive to expressions of concern from their constituents.

This kind of advocacy is a way to make your views known. This kind of advocacy is a chance to make a difference.

As Christians we are charged to minister to each other. On Sunday, March 4th, we are urged to minister by letting lawmakers know how we feel.

If you care, let your voice be heard.

*Remember to bring your own address labels to help speed the process.

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE

BY JIM CAMPBELL

As presented and voted at the Special Congregational Meeting on October 15, 2017 this project encompasses a new self-operated commercial elevator, a platform lift for access to the back hall from the sanctuary and improved drainage on the south side of the building including the elevator area. Thanks to generous responses from Church families this capital project is fully funded with a budget of \$375,000.

We are pleased to report that the design phase of our project remains on the original schedule and within budget. **As we reported at our Church's recent annual meeting we are delighted to have received all five of the waivers that** we had requested from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. As a result the granite ramp at the front entrance to the Church does not have to be modified nor does the access leading past the choir loft to the back hall have to be widened to meet current ADA Code. During February our architect completed a preliminary drawing package for construction bidding which we have now reviewed and requested small changes. Our only surprise on the project to date is that the Sherborn Historic District Committee (HDC) has challenged our initial design for the elevator housing and associated machine room. They see the footprint for the combined structure as being too large an appendage to our historic building. We are exploring design options and plan to meet with the HDC in March to seek their approval.

To keep the project on schedule our architect plans to complete the drawing package for construction bidding by early March. We, along with our architect, plan to meet with four preselected General Contractors (GC) prior to submission of their bids, which we hope to receive in April. Our goal remains to have the construction phase awarded before June 1st. As mentioned at the annual meeting we have been alerted that the construction phase will be at least 6 months with elevator access to the Sanctuary unavailable during that entire period. As a result we will be looking for a GC that has experience in delivering a quality product in the shortest amount of time.

Doug Peterson and Jim Campbell
Project Managers for Pilgrim Church



DEACONS' CORNER...

BY BETSY RIGBY

Of my many favorite parts of the Easter celebration at Pilgrim Church, my very favorite is the deacon's tradition of decorating the sanctuary with flowers. While many symbols of Easter that represent fertility, new life, and rebirth have been secularized (think Easter eggs and Easter bunnies), flowers still have a religious connotation.

All tulips symbolize passion, belief and love, but white and purple tulips have special meaning. White tulips represent forgiveness while purple tulips represent royalty, both important aspects of the Christian Easter celebration. Hyacinth flowers represent peace of mind.

But perhaps no flower is more associated with Easter than the lily. The bulb of these flowers buried in the ground represents the tomb of Jesus and the glorious white trumpet-like fragrant flowers symbolize His life after death. The snowy white color stands for the purity of the Divine Savior and the joy of the resurrection while the trumpet shape signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth and new life. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus alludes to the beauty of the flowers, reminding his listeners that King Solomon, with all of his riches, was not dressed as beautifully as the lilies of the field.

There are a number of legends to explain the origin of the Easter lily.

- **Eve's Tears:** According to legend, the first lilies appeared when Eve shed tears of repentance upon being cast out of the Garden of Eden.
- **The Sweat of Christ:** Other legends claim that lilies sprang forth when Christ shed drops of sweat upon the earth during the crucifixion,
- **Mary's Tomb:** Another legend proclaims that when visitors returned to Mary's tomb after her death all that was found was a bed of lilies as Mary had been taken directly to heaven.

Whatever your favorite, whatever your meaning, the deacons hope you enjoy Pilgrim's tradition of flowers.



LENT EVENTS 2018

Join us as we read *The Distance Between Us*, and inspirational memoir by award winning Mexican-American author Reyna Grande.

Book Discussion Class schedule:

Sunday Mornings after church, March 4, 11 & 18: 11:15 to 12:15

Wednesday Mornings at church, March 7, 14, & 21: 9:30 to 11 am

"Faith on Tap" Book Wrap-Up and Social at the Heritage, Sherborn, Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Featuring a panel discussion on immigration from a local perspective. Share some community time at the Heritage of Sherborn.

Come for some or all of the events. Invite friends; share it in a book group. Copies available at the church for a \$10 suggested donation.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT PILGRIM CHURCH

Palm Sunday
March 25, 10am Worship

Maundy Thursday Service
March 29, 7:30 pm: offered by the Deacons with communion and Pastor Diane Anderson, preaching

Bethel AME Holy Thursday Service
March 29, 7pm, with Pastor John Hudson participating, carpool from Pilgrim Church, 6pm

Good Friday Service
Friday, March 30, 7:30pm

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil
March 31, 6pm to 10pm, in the sanctuary
half hour increments

Easter Sunday!
April 1

6:15am Easter Sunrise Service at Farm Pond.
Led by Pilgrim Church youth and young adults with music, bonfire and sunrise

9am Easter Service
with the Pilgrim Band

11am Easter Service
with Bell and Chancel Choirs



THANK YOU TO OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS



Special thanks and appreciation to all the Pilgrim Church and friend volunteers who helped make our Family Promise guest stay comfortable and welcoming! You served as greeters, dinner cooks, breakfast cooks, overnight hosts, kid friends, and shoppers; as well as meeting the supply van, setting up and taking down bedrooms, and preparing clean laundry. We could not do it without our many volunteers, and we are so thankful for each and every one of you! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

Our next Family Promise hosting will take place June 24 – July 1. We look forward to working with you again!

Eagle Court of Honor

March 18, 1:00pm

Boy Scout Troop 1, Sherborn, MA cordially invites you to an Eagle Court of Honor for



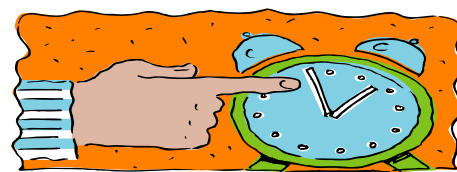
Teddy Davidson
David Kennan
Charles Whittlesey



on March 18 at 1:00pm
at Pilgrim Church.
A reception will follow.

Daylight Savings Begins on March 11.

Please set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night, March 10.



SET YOUR CLOCKS
Ahead!

LENTEN PRAYER AND VESPER SERVICE



Presented by the 2018 Confirmation Class
March 11, 7:00 pm

Come and support our confirmation class as these young women and men lead a service of worship centered on prayer and the journey through Lent. Featuring music by the Pilgrim Band and video and imagery, the service is perfect for all ages. Come and support our young people!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

BY JANET WALSH, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES



Mark the dates - our spring 2018 New Member class will be Thursday, May 3, and New Member affirmation Sunday will be May 20. 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. All are welcome! 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. All are welcome! dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org or (508) 655-1667

Service Opportunities: Have you ever served as a *Greeter* or *Usher* for a Sunday service? These are two easy ways to help out as your schedule allows, and an important time to provide a welcome to our Sunday visitors. Your smiling face is all you need to bring. We would love your help to welcome folks to service this spring!

If you would like to try out this simple way to serve, feel free to sign up on our schedule at [SignUpGenius](https://www.signupgenius.com), or contact the church office at (508) 655-1667 or dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org.



Come Join the Fun and Help Raise Funds ~
for Family Promise Metrowest and the families we serve.

Bring the Whole Family ~

Music, children's crafts, face painting, and much more!

Natick Community Senior Center (117 E. Central St.)
April 8, 2017

Registration at 8:00 am.

Warm-ups begin at 8:45 am.

Walk Begins at 9:00 am.

Follow this link to register individually or as a team: <http://walk.familypromisemetrowest.org>

If you are unable to walk on April 7th, you can still participate by being a virtual walker on the day of the Walkathon.

Every person makes a difference to our families.

Christian Education

BY JANE RAITHEL, CO-DIRECTOR

WILL YOU TEACH OUR YOUTH?



This year we had first-timers and experienced hands, high school kids, empty nesters, grandparents, and parents, all teaching church school at Pilgrim Church. No doubt each had a unique reason for teaching but what they all had in common was the gumption to say, "Yes, I will teach." Next year, you too can be part of this wonderful group. Just...Sign up to teach a session of church school. All sessions are six teaching Sundays. All classes have six or fewer students most Sundays. All curricula are teacher-friendly. All supplies are ready to go. All we need is you! Sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, March 11, 18 and 27.

OGHS BANKS HEADING TO YOUR HOUSE

One Great Hour of Sharing offering banks will be given to all church school students on Sunday, March 4, along with a flyer that explains OGHS and makes daily suggestions for how each family might fill the bank. Students are asked to return the banks the following Sunday, March 11, and place them on the altar during *Children's Time*.

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing (a UCC special collection) has drawn Christians together to address the plight of refugees, provide disaster relief and bring development assistance to those in need around the world. The accompanying flyer tells a little story about the work of OGHS for each day of the week between March 4 and 11, and makes suggestions related to the stories. Please be on the lookout for an OGHS bank heading to your house on March 4.



Thank you to...

...Session Three Church School Teachers: Meredith Borden, Reed Risinger, Caroline Beaudet, Emily Flynn, Angie Johnson, Anna Scott Johnson, Carol Ann Oliver, Kirk Dragsbaek and Church School Friend, Chuckie Blaney.



YOUTH MINISTRY

BY DIANE ANDERSON

Senior High Youth Group

On February 4th SHYG members attended the Sunday morning worship service and then went for a delicious brunch at a local diner called Budabings. We decided Budabings has the best milk shakes around!!

SHYG joined with the Middle School Youth Group on Sunday, February 11th to make Valentines for members of our church family who could use a little TLC.

We are now preparing for our Work Camp trip in April!! The Work Camp advisors (Kathy Somerville, Lisa Larsen, Kirk Dragsbaek and Eric Brooks) had a planning meeting on February 19th and the Work Campers will meet for their Work Camp workshop on February 25th. **This year's trip is to New York City** where we will be serving those who are homeless and hungry. We will be working at soup kitchens and homeless shelters. We also plan to worship at St. John the Divine, which is one of the largest cathedrals in the country!



Middle School Youth Group

On February 5th MSYG members made lots and lots of red cut-out hearts and wrote, "You are loved" on them. They then placed all of the hearts in the hymnals and Bibles in the sanctuary. We hope that when you attend worship and find those little red hearts, you will be reminded that no matter who you are or what you have done, you are deeply loved by God – unconditionally! Please feel free to take the hearts home with you – MSYG will make more! We also had some wonderful entertainment that evening. Michael Flynn performed card tricks for us – **we couldn't figure out how he did his magic!!**

On February 11th MSYG had a wonderful evening with the members of SHYG. They all made Valentine cards for church friends and members who were in need of a loving note.





MISSIONS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

March 11

Pilgrim Church will join many UCC congregations and other denominations across the nation to support this year's One Great Hour of Sharing on March 11. One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. In the OGHS brochure, Pilgrim Church is listed as one of the top 100 churches for giving.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

All gifts to *One Great Hour of Sharing* are tax deductible and 100% of designated gifts go the requested area of response. Non-designated funds are also encouraged because they allow *One Great Hour of Sharing* to address future hidden and forgotten emergencies around the world. **Please give generously...your offering of money** will be transformed into an offering of hope. Please make checks payable to Pilgrim Church; envelopes will be provided for use on Sunday, March 11.



HEARTS 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 making no-sew fleece blankets. Chemo or preemie hats and scarves are also appreciated. Simple directions, yarn, information and *even needles* are available during coffee time 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; we are already sending baby hats to Emerson Hospital.

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

DID YOU KNOW EVERY SUMMER PASTOR JOHN LEADS A WEEKLONG SUMMER CAMP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH!?



This year the camp will be held from July 15-21, at the Silver Lake Conference Center in Connecticut and is open to youth in the 7th and 8th grade.

Our theme is "THE EDGE"--Jesus was about the "edge": inviting those on the edge of society, asking us to get to the edge and then cross over. We will explore our personal edges, in both body and spirit. We'll hike, bike, and canoe (some offsite) plus enjoy all the fun of Silver Lake. Discover where the edges of experience meet the center of faith. No experience required; bikes will be rentals.

Interested? Talk to Pastor John or visit <http://silverlake.ctucc.org>. Full and partial scholarships from the church also available.



SHERBORN BOY SCOUTS TROOP 1

BY RON JANTZEN



A Greenbar (Patrol Leaders' Planning Meeting) Meeting was just held to formulate plans for the spring semester. Among activities being considered are rock climbing at Rumney Ledges (NH), sea kayaking (Maine coast), Fly Fishing school (Cape Cod), indoor rock climbing gym, and day trip to Purgatory Chasm (Sutton, MA). They will **march in the Memorial Day Parade to which all are invited. This summer a "crew" will travel to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM, July 7-19 and the troop will go to summer camp at Yawgoog, in RI, August 12 -19.** New Boy Scouts will be welcomed in a cross over from Pack 10 Cub scouts later this spring.

Congratulations to Teddy Davidson, David Kennan and Charles Whittlesey, who have earned their Eagle Badge and will be recognized with the Eagle Scout award on March 18.

Calendar:

- Tue. 3/6 District Roundtable: 7 p.m., Masonic Hall, 657 Washington St., Holliston
- Mon. 3/12 Troop Committee, 7:30 p.m., Pilgrim Church
- Sun. 3/18 1 p.m. Eagle Court of Honor, Pilgrim Church

Troop Meetings: Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
 Fellowship Hall, PC
 Scoutmaster: Steve Scrimshaw, 508-655-2311
 Chair: Jeff Waldron, 508-653-4399
 Pilgrim Church Rep.: Charlie Williams, 508-395-9049



Easter Flowers

The lovely flowers which decorate our sanctuary each Easter are generously offered by members and friends of Pilgrim Church. The Deacons invite you to participate by choosing a potted plant of lilies or a variety of spring bulbs. Below, kindly specify the number of plants desired, whether you wish them as an honor to family/friends, as a memorial to loved ones, or as an expression of Easter joy.

Flowers may be picked up after the 11:00 am Easter worship service on April 1..

Please order by Sunday, March 25

Questions? 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, at PO Box 322, Sherborn, MA 01770

I wish to reserve _____ lilies at \$20.00 each.

I wish plants to be distributed

I wish to reserve _____ spring bulbs at \$15.00 each.

I will pick up plants after the service

Total _____ (payable to Pilgrim Church)

I would like the bulletin message to read:

Name: _____
 print as you wish to appear in the Easter bulletin)

March 2018

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

April 2018						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
Advocacy Sunday 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm SHYG	3:30pm Girl Scouts 5:00pm Jr. Handbells	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Bible Study 1:30pm Lifetime Learning Class 8:00pm AA Meeting	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	6:00pm Say Goodbye to Winter! Dinner and Game Night
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00am Worship 11:30am Deacons Mtg. 11:30am Lenten Book 6:30pm SHYG 7:00pm Lenten Prayer	5:00pm Jr. Handbells 5:30pm MSYG 7:30pm Scout Troop Committee Mtg.	8:45am Caring Committee 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9:30am Bible Study 1:30pm Lifetime Learning Class 8:00pm AA Meeting	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	6:00pm Say Goodbye to Winter! Dinner and Game Night
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Worship 11:30am Lenten Book 1:00pm Eagle Court of 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm SHYG	5:00pm Jr. Handbells	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Parish Board Mtg.	9:30am Bible Study 1:30pm Lifetime Learning Class 8:00pm AA Meeting	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	1:00pm Girl Scouts
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Palm Sunday 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm SHYG	5:00pm Jr. Handbells 5:30pm MSYG	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Lenten Book Discussion at the Heritage	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	Maundy Thursday 12:00pm Senior Cafe 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	Good Friday 7:30pm Good Friday Service	6:00pm Holy Saturday

PILGRIM CHURCH

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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

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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.