



PILGRIM CHURCH



November 2018

From the Pastor...



*"Don't look for shortcuts to God." --
Matthew 7, The Message*

*"We choose to go to the moon....in this decade
and do the other things, not because they are
easy, but because they are hard...because that
challenge is one that we are willing to accept.."
--John F. Kennedy, 1962*

If the Christian faith were easy, I wonder if more folks would practice it as a way of life. There. I said it. A not so popular truth: that faith is hard: to do faith, to live faith. To pray regularly and not just when you are backed against a wall, but as a consistent way to stay connected to God. Too often I forget to call upon God until things fall apart.

Faith is hard. To forgive the seemingly unforgiveable, to give up your right to be right when it comes to relationships; to instead value holy reconciliation above all else. To carve time out of our incredibly busy and complicated and over scheduled lives and claim Sabbath--on a Sunday, a weekend, blessed time to rest and appreciate the gifts of God.

Faith is hard. To belong to a community like Pilgrim Church where we are conservative and liberal, so old and so young, gay and straight, local and newcomer, former Catholic and lifelong Congregationalist, some sure about this guy named Jesus and some not sure about who he was and is. We are a community that actually names diversity as a reflection of God's diverse intentions for Creation. How do we all get along?

Faith is hard. To not itch every scratch or feed every appetite when it arises and instead to try and live a life of moderation, thoughtfulness, spiritual and emotional and physical balance. To see the acquiring of things as not so important and the cultivation of human connections as much more important. Faith is hard. To try and teach our kids that no, you can't do that, even though every one else is. Instead we hope to do the right thing, not just the expedient thing or the popular thing or the easy thing.

Faith is hard. What if that is how we try and do our faith? Practice the Jesus-way because it is a challenge, because it pushes us to go deeper as children of God, because it tests our mettle and makes us grow up into the folks God makes us to be. Imagine what our world would be like if our leaders challenged us, like Kennedy did, to do the hard things in life and not just take the easy way out, a softer way?

Faith is hard. Thank God. I wonder: if it were easy, would it really be faith? What do you think? Is faith hard? Let me know.

Peace, Pastor John

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

BY ANDY MEYER, MODERATOR

I have spent a good deal of my life watching, playing, and generally enjoying sports. I think the thing I appreciate most about a sporting event is that, generally, I have no idea what is going to happen. Who will win? Who will make a great play? The experience of watching something in suspense, without being able to predict the outcome, is just something I find harder and harder to do in the fast-past, social-media, internet world in which we live.

Now, I do need to clarify something. While I enjoy watching sports very much, I am more and more disinclined to lionize the athletes themselves. Sorry to say, but I have seen too many examples of athletes behaving badly, on-field and off-field. I'm afraid I have become cynical. I mostly just choose to enjoy the game itself and mostly not think about what the players do after the game is over.

Recently, however, I have to admit a team of individuals is starting to win me over. As I write this the Boston Red Sox are up one game to nothing over the LA Dodgers in the World Series. And this team, I believe, might be something special.

What makes them so? The clutch defense? All the hits they have had with two outs? The number of games they have won? Well, yes. But there is something more. They're *HUMBLE*. They seem genuinely and truly humble. When left fielder Andrew Benintendi (who went 4 for 4 in his debut World Series) he said, "We had a good game plan. And we stuck to it." The manager actually uses the word humble to describe their hitting and pitching philosophies.

It all reminds me so much of a recent sermon by Pastor John, in which he extolled the virtues of being humble and kind. As he said "Humility is about authenticity.....humility reminds us that no one...has all the answers. So too when we are humble and kind to ourselves, life is just better."

I am making no predictions here. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be talking about another duck boat parade through Boston, and about an extraordinary group of young baseball players that have captured this regions' imagination. But even if things do not turn out that way, I will never forget these extraordinary, *humble*, men and the way they played this year.

May God bless you all

Andy Meyer
Moderator

SACRED SPACES TOUR—NOVEMBER 4

BY STEVE SOLOMON



The Sacred Arts Ministry will offer another in its series of visits to sacred spaces on Sunday, November 4 right after coffee hour. We will visit Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley for a tour with Rabbi Joel Sisenwine and then have lunch in Wellesley at Paparazzi.

Temple Beth Elohim was completed in 2010. See photos and learn more about the congregation and the building at www.tbewellesley.org.

There is no charge for the tour and transportation will be provided to and from the church (or to your home if needed).

Sign up by emailing Steve Solomon (slsolomon2@gmail.com) or see Steve at coffee hour.



SAVE THE DATE! MIRACLE ON 25 S. MAIN STREET

BY NAN THEBERGE



Food insecurity affects nearly 400,000 households in Massachusetts. These are families that, at some point during the week, don't know where their next meal is coming from. Pilgrim Church wants to help. On December 9 from 11:30-1:30, Pilgrim is hosting the 4th Annual Miracle on 25 South Main Street. This is a church-wide food-packaging event that has (for the past three years) brought together more than 140 volunteers on a single day.

Filled with the spirit of the holidays, church members and community friends work together to create meals from bulk ingredients. At just 25 cents per serving, one dollar can feed a family of 4. According to Pastor John, "I am excited to join with Pilgrim church members for the 4th year to pack meals that will go directly to kids and families in our neighboring towns. Not only are we strengthening our community, but we are strengthening each other in the process."

Ten people around one station can pack 1,600 meals in 1 hour. With your help, we are aiming to package and

donate 30,000 meals this December. For the past three years, the majority of the expense of this wonderful event has been generously underwritten through an anonymous donation to Pilgrim Church. Additional fundraising by the Middle School Youth Group and member donations on-site have allowed us reach the goals we achieved in 2016 and 2017. Fundraising for this year's event began in May and will take place again in November and December. Information and sign-ups will be available in church and online.

Last year meals were donated to My Brother's Keeper, in Stoughton, A Place to Turn in Natick, and hurricane relief groups in Puerto Rico. Deliveries were made possible by several 2018 confirmands and mentors.

Miracle on 25 South Main Street is done in partnership with End Hunger New England, a division of The Outreach Program.

Don't miss it. It's a wonderful day of goodwill, community and purposeful work for our neighbors in need.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM TOM AND SUSAN HUNT

Dear Pilgrim Congregation:

When Pastor John asked me to join him in this worship service, I talked it over with Susan. We both agreed that we wanted the service to be one which expressed our deepest thanks for all the blessings God and the people of Pilgrim Church have given us over these many years.

Pastor John, David Tiedman, our superb choir, and the entire congregation provided exactly what we hoped to express. David's playing the Bach fugue in the prelude, Pastor John's opening reflections followed by his compelling reading of the scripture, the opening hymn with full organ, choir, and congregational participation, the unison reading of the Prayer of General Thanksgiving in which the congregation recited most meaningfully, the uplifting and joyful offertory anthem, the majestic and tear producing soprano descant in the final hymn – "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" – and the magnificent Bruhns G Major Fugue postlude provided a sure and certain affirmation of the Holy Spirit's powerful presence throughout the worship experience. For all of this, Susan and I offer our deepest thanks, our "humble and hearty thanks."

I want to offer very special thanks to you, Jose' Muri, for your devotion to our congregation and for your professional expertise in your role as Office Administrator. Your work and presence--devout and dedicated beyond measure, is a ministry for all of us. Personally, you have helped me in countless ways and for that I am deeply grateful.

The gift of the photograph of the rainbow arching over the church's spire will soon hang prominently in our Maine home. Thank you.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.
Tom and Susan



Pilgrim Church Staff Notes....

(an occasional series about the folks who serve God and the members and friends at Pilgrim Church...)

Introducing Our New Director of Children and Family Ministries!

Angie Johnson has recently begun her new ministry among our children and young families here at church. Angie is married to Scott and has three children; Anna Scott (11th grade), Wade (8th grade) and Nash (4th grade). Angie grew up in Bluefield, West Virginia, went to the University of Georgia and then on to law school. She practiced for a time as prosecutor in the Atlanta District Attorney’s office. While living in Atlanta the Johnsons were very active members in their Episcopal Church, where Angie served a stint as Interim Director of Christian Education. The Johnsons moved here in 2014.

Why did you feel called to this work?

I really like kids; like being with them; seeing how they think and what they do. Sometimes they are smarter than us adults! I have always felt called to teaching and education and love having the chance to do this: to make a lasting memory for a child, help shape them as they grow up.

Why is faith an important part of the life of children?

With everything happening in our world and coming their way--social climate, pressure to succeed--kids need something bigger than themselves to hold onto – to have faith in and trust that things will work out. Faith can give kids courage to do the right thing, and believe that even when life does not feel okay, there is something out there to determine that it will be okay, that we can make a difference for the good in the world

What’s the most important lesson of Jesus’ life?

Patience. Everything that he had to do and tried to accomplish: there was always an obstacle. He teaches us to be patient; to trust that in the end with God it will work out. Jesus is patient with us because we are not always on the right track.

Why church?

Church is an important part of family life. In prioritizing all our activities--sports, school, etc. – it’s one thing that we can all do together, in a community of folks seeking the same thing as us. Faith. And worship, service, and fellowship. I know for my own family that Pilgrim Church feels like a safe place and is our second family.



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP AND JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP HALLOWEEN PARTY!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC BROOKS



DEACONS' CORNER...

BY RAE DEARBORN

What does the month of November make you think about? For some it might be the Red Sox in a pennant race, or the Patriots on another epic run. For others it might be casting a ballot or Daylight Saving Time ending. For me, it's Veteran's Day and cool, brisk weather; but mostly November makes me think about my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Although the First Thanksgiving occurred in 1621 between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags, it was not until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a National Holiday.

As I said, Thanksgiving is by far my favorite holiday... undeniably so for the turkey, the stuffing, the fire roaring in the fireplace, but also because it is a time to enjoy family and friends, and to reflect on the many blessings bestowed upon me. No pressure of finding the perfect gift while attempting to stay within the ubiquitous budget. Just good ol' fashioned togetherness and thankfulness.

Now I hate to admit it, but I have on occasion fallen into the complaining rut... about my job, about my commute, about grocery shopping... you name it! However, Thanksgiving serves as a much-needed reminder that I have a lot to be thankful for... I mean *A LOT!!* That being said, one day out of the year is not nearly enough to remind me of all that I am thankful for. This is one of the many reasons I enjoy being a part of Pilgrim Church, as it too reminds me that I have so much to be grateful for in this life: both of my parents are still alive and well; I have two beautiful, healthy children and a loving, supportive husband. Not to mention, my family and I have enough to eat and a roof over our heads.

As I sit in the pew on a Sunday morning, I am reminded that God is always there for me, no matter what mistakes I may have made, and for that I am extremely thankful. This knowledge helps me to be a better person, to remember to be appreciative for all that I have in life, and to be grateful for God's unconditional love.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving!

MAKING CONNECTIONS

BY JANET WALSH, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Would you enjoy being more involved, share community, make a difference? There are so many great opportunities and we are always looking for folks who would like to jump in and go deeper at Pilgrim Church and in the wider community. Committees and small groups at Pilgrim Church have a wide range of talent and experience; from Hospitality or Missions work to becoming a deacon, to joining the choir or just helping with a one-time event - all are welcome! Do you have technical experience you'd like to share, do you like to fix things, or are you good with numbers? Reach out and let us know! If you have interest or want to know more about our committees or small groups and ministries, please contact Janet Walsh, dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org or call the church office. We begin forming our yearly committees by January. Let us know if you are interested!



Please
remember to turn your clocks back
one hour on Saturday night,
November 3.



*Your Stewardship Campaign mailing is arriving next week.
Please look it over and plan to pledge.
Stewardship Sunday is November 18th.*

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE

This is the seventh in a series of reports on the status of the capital project that encompasses a commercial elevator for the sanctuary, an inclined platform lift from the sanctuary to the education wing and improved drainage for the south side of the sanctuary.

October saw the installation of the elevator hydraulics and cab by Otis. With the completion of the carpentry for the Fellowship Hall entry as well as that in the Sanctuary we now have a working elevator that would be ready to use except for one major exception - the installation of an elevator alarm system. The photos show the new elevator entries - completed except for the call panels. Apparently no one, not the architect, the general contractor, the electrician nor our Town's inspectors understood the current Mass code requirements for an elevator alarm system. By contacting the State inspector of elevators all parties now have an understanding of what is required, but as of this writing we are still sorting out who will install the appropriate smoke detectors and make the interconnections to our existing central alarm panel. Unfortunately, the alarm monitoring and maintenance company the Church has employed for over 15 years claims they are too busy to address the issue until January, so we are in the process of contracting with another alarm company who has agreed to make the connections much sooner.

The other activity we hoped to have completed in October was the installation of the other major component of the accessibility project, the inclined platform lift for the back hall. However, we are still awaiting the delivery of the lift mechanism, now scheduled to arrive from the manufacturer Garaventa Inc. in early November.

The major remaining activities in the construction schedule are 1) Installation and testing of the elevator alarm system followed by State certification testing of the elevator 2) Installation of the inclined platform lift. There is still an outside chance we will have use of the elevator by the end of November.

Regarding actual cost of the project, in October the GC invoiced another \$70K which included his costs as well as the on-site installation cost for the elevator. To date the money expended totals \$296K out of our overall budget of \$375K, so at present we continue to track within the project budget.

Doug Peterson and Jim Campbell
Project Managers for Pilgrim Church



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

will be November 4 during our regular 10am service. This is the day that those choosing to affirm membership with Pilgrim Church are welcomed by the congregation. If you would like to know more about what it means to be a member of Pilgrim Church, or would like to join on November 4, please reach out to Janet Walsh, dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org.



THANK YOU

to the many, many Pilgrim Church members and friends who came in to have their portraits taken for our brand new photo directory. Look for the photo directories in the new year! If you were unable to have your picture taken but would like to have one included please reach out to Janet Walsh for assistance, dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org or (508) 655-1667.



ON BECOMING AN OPEN AN AFFIRMING CHURCH A PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT

“We are already open. Why should we become an ONA Congregation?”

Many faith traditions do not extend an open welcome to members of the LGBTQ community. A move by our congregation to become ONA will offer an extravagant and supportive welcome to these groups of people in the LGBTQ community and beyond.

- A. Young people, teens and tweens, who are questioning their sexuality or gender identity. They can be comforted knowing that the congregation has thought about this issue enough to covenant with them in the church community and support them in their journey. This will be true regardless of changes in leadership or long term trends.
- B. Their parents, who will know that they will never need to make a choice between a church that they love and their children. It will be ingrained into our church DNA to be supportive and welcoming of them and their children.
- C. Members of the LGBTQ community, who are Christian believers, who may not have felt welcome or been excluded from other faith communities.
- D. Straight members of our congregation and seekers who visit our website with thoughts of evaluating our church for membership. Being ONA makes a powerful statement that we fulfill our Christian mission in Jesus' image by being open and welcoming to all members of the community.

We want to hear from you! We will begin this process with individual or small group discussions and communications. We want to hear your concerns, your supportive feedback, or any other communication that you feel is relevant to this discernment. Our group is committed to approaching these conversations with an open spirit of appreciative listening. Our group is composed of the following members:

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Frank Villa | labplans@verizon.net | 508-740-8806 |
| Pastor Diane | pilgrimshyg@gmail.com | 339-222-7977 |
| Ruth Stewart | zeedeestew@aol.com | 508-653-8698 |
| Lynn Jameson | lynnjameson@verizon.net | 598-655-6264 |
| Katie Scott | kscott@wellesley.edu | 508-651-1768 |
| Kirk Dragsbaek | kirkhd00@gmail.com | 508-397-5375 |
| Beth Villa | bethvilla1@verizon.net | 508-429-6351 |
| Judy Cranshaw | judycranshaw@gmail.com | 508-359-2161 |

SALVATION ARMY/PEARL STREET CAFE Thanks for serving!



Thank you all very much for your help & support of our new program at the *Pearl Street Cafe on Park*. It's been going great with the changes since last January, and we appreciate all our Pilgrim Church folks who continue to step up and serve the wider community. Thank you for committing your time to this Ministry! If you would like to learn more about this quarterly service please contact Kirsten Flynn (kjflynn2001@yahoo.com) or Betsy Rigby (brigby@verizon.net). Our next Pilgrim Church Salvation Army/Pearl Street Cafe Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

A “GOD MOMENT” IN NEW YORK CITY

BY ERIC BROOKS

It was Day 3 of last spring's Senior Youth Group Workcamp trip serving our homeless and hungry brothers and sisters in the five Boroughs of New York City. I was blessed to be there with Diane Anderson, two other adults, and fourteen of the Pilgrim Church Youth Group teens. My daily work-team included Pastor Diane and four of those teens, and we had already done some meaningful and fulfilling work at a Presbyterian Church in Mid-Town Manhattan and a Soup Kitchen in Brooklyn. But so far, something was missing for me in all of it. I had been hoping for a deeper spiritual connection to the work and those we were serving there. I was hoping for a genuine “God Moment”. The Urban Dictionary defines them this way: “When one experiences a moment where God's real plan/presence/love is revealed.” I bet you have experienced them in various ways, probably many times. Blazingly beautiful sunrises and sunsets, majestic snow-capped mountains, lush green summer pastures, spectacular star filled nights, maybe even the Northern Lights. Times when you're so filled with gratitude for what you've seen or felt, that you just want to shout “Thank you Lord that was amazing!” For me, being open to recognizing and receiving them is the key and I've been blessed to have experienced many of these types of God Moments during my life.

So, what was I hoping for in my Workcamp God Moment? Well, I had a couple of ideas of what it might look, or feel like. The first was that something would take place that would make me realize “Yeah, this, unquestionably, is why God placed me here, now, on this trip!” To use some “churchy” words, a revelation or an epiphany. The other possibility I thought of might be a little harder to imagine - or not, depending where you are on your faith journey. And that is that I would feel that I had had an actual encounter with Jesus - actually been face to face with him - in the form of one of the homeless people I would meet that week. Unmistakably one of them, yes, but also just as unmistakably Him - Jesus. Possibly my God Moment would be a combination of these? Anyway, I remained hopeful that it would indeed happen.

And it did!

It came in the form of a woman wearing a dirty dark gray hooded sweatshirt over maybe 2 or 3 other layers of clothing. She wore tattered jeans with more rips in them than you could count. And trust me, these were not the fashionable pre-ripped type jeans that people pay ridiculous amounts of money for in boutiques. These rips were from being worn - a lot! Her black, dreadlocked hair, some of it tinted purple, streamed out from beneath a purple bandana. After grabbing some hot soup from the “NYC Relief Bus” (my team's designated work site this day), she sat down on the chilly concrete at the base of a wrought iron fence. As she opened the hardcover book she arrived with, I wondered if I should attempt to engage her in conversation. Did she prefer her personal space or would she be open to talking? I had already learned first-hand that not everyone in her situation is comfortable talking to a complete stranger! But following the example set for me by the SYG teens over the previous couple of days (THEY never hesitated) I took a chance. And for the next, probably 45 minutes, at the edge of a park in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, I was riveted, as she shared many, many intimate details of her life of 36 years.

Her name is Abigail, “spelled just like in the bible” she said. These days she lives in a shelter in Brooklyn. During the day she moves around the city finding free food where she can and reading books (she loves reading). Most nights she finds other homeless friends to drink with. She admits to smoking a lot of marijuana too. “Fake Marijuana - like K2” which she doesn't like, but “it's really cheap”. Abigail told me that she had been a user of Crack Cocaine and even Heroin but that Jesus and God had helped her stop. Unfortunately, she hasn't had the same success kicking her alcohol addiction even though she says “I hate the taste of it”. The night before we met, she had been out late drinking, missed her curfew at the shelter, and eventually passed out in a public restroom. Waking up in unfamiliar places is not a foreign thing to Abigail and again, she gives all of the credit to God that she has never been sexually assaulted in these situations. She wasn't so lucky as a child. An uncle molested her when she was just 4 years old. Growing up, Abigail suffered from a lack of self-esteem and experienced bullying in school. Her mother dismissively told her she could handle it and just needed to be tougher. She was a track star at her high school but having no positive role models when she needed them most, she started getting involved with drinking and other risky behaviors. As an adult, she continued making bad choices. Eventually, I attempted some words of encouragement - telling her that if she had the strength to stop using crack and heroin, I was confident that she could stop drinking too. I told her how impressed I was that she had survived so much.

(continued on page 9)

A "GOD MOMENT" IN NEW YORK CITY

(continued from page 8)

How impressed I was with her obvious intelligence and her unfailing faith. We hugged – for a long time actually – and I told her that she is beautiful and that she is loved and that I hoped that she would get help to stop drinking because she has so much potential. That I would pray for her. But mostly, she talked and I listened. Abigail does have a boyfriend, however he is currently incarcerated for selling drugs. She told me that too often when she engages in conversation with other homeless men, they assume that she must be open to allowing them to take other liberties with her. Understandably, she keeps to herself for the most part. And so I felt uniquely blessed that she felt safe, comfortable even, sharing so much with me and seemed in no hurry at all to end our time together.

But, as it came time for my work team and me to depart, I thanked her for taking the time to tell me her story (and for giving me a real sense of what homelessness looks like). As we started to walk toward the corner where we would part ways, Abigail told me that she had originally planned to hang around Penn Station that day as she and other homeless people often do. But that at the last minute she had decided to go to Chelsea. She credited our time together with making her feel really happy, so much so that she said she really had no desire to drink that night. WOW! I told her that I couldn't ask for a better outcome from our chance meeting than that. It was quite chilly on that April day but I was feeling incredibly warm on the inside! As Abigail turned north on 9th Avenue with a very noticeable spring in her step, and we headed east on 28th Street, she turned one last time, waved and with a great big smile, shouted "Bye!, God Bless!" And that's when it hit me. Something in her face, in that remarkable smile said "Well? Did you catch it!?" "Did you see me!?" "Did you hear me!?" And suddenly I knew, this had been my face to face with Jesus, revealed to me through this flawed and vulnerable yet remarkably resilient homeless woman. A woman every bit as deserving of God's unconditional love as me, or you, or anyone....My God Moment! Oh, and by the way, if you were wondering about the book Abigail carried with her that day? The book was by the author Linwood Barclay. The title? "No Safe House". Amen.



Eric Brooks (ewbrooks59@gmail.com)

SHERBORN BOY SCOUTS TROOP 1

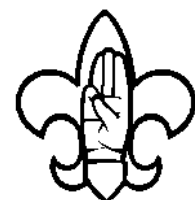
BY RON JANTZEN

In October, the Troop had a Court of Honor on October 23. Nine rank advancements and 25 merit badges were awarded. At our October 30 troop meeting we carved pumpkins outside and had a Halloween celebration. In November the troop will be preparing wreaths for sale by gluing on pinecones, and attaching berries and bows. They will also be testing their marketing and selling skills for the annual Christmas wreath and Hanukkah candle – the troops only fundraiser. The troop is planning two campouts, one locally in Sherborn and the other a zipline adventure and campout in New Hampshire.

Calendar

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|------|-------|---|
| Tue. | 11/6 | Metacomet District Roundtable, 7 p.m., Wheelock Elem. School., 17 Elm, Medfield |
| Mon. | 11/12 | Troop Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Pilgrim Church |
| | TBA | Weekend camping – Sherborn |
| | TBA | Zip Line and camping - NH |

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BY COREY LINCOLN AND JANE RAITHEL

Third Grade Bible Sunday, November 18

Pilgrim Church, through its Memorial and Endowment Bible Fund, has traditionally given a study Bible to all third graders on Bible Sunday, which will be celebrated this year on November 18. This year's gift is the *Spark Bible*, New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), published by Augsburg Fortress. The NRSV is the same as our pew Bibles and the lectern Bible. It is the modern version of the Revised Standard Bible, which many of us remember from our childhoods, and incorporates newer archaeological finds and current linguistic scholarship. The *Spark Bible* scatters helpful sidebars throughout the text that offer more information about people and places, highlight key verses worth memorizing, and point out how Biblical teaching might apply to our own lives. It also contains colorful maps, illustrations and a timeline.

If you're a third-grade parent, please take some time to sit down and browse through your child's new Bible together. If you're an interested friend, ask the nearest third grader to show you his/her new *Spark Bible*. And we ask everyone to consider a gift to Memorial and Endowment's Bible Fund to continue this long-standing commitment to passing our faith to the next generation.



ANGEL TREE IS COMING!

BY JANE RAITHEL



For the past twenty years, Pilgrim Church has participated in the seasonal Angel Tree program for Metrowest families who are struggling to celebrate Christmas with their children. Our church has spread its wings and found over one hundred and fifty angels in our congregation willing to "adopt" those in need on our list. Each child has an information sheet listing the age, gender, clothing size, and special requests. You may become an angel by selecting a child and then purchasing items on the wish list for the person listed on the ornament. The Angel Tree will appear in Fellowship Hall on November 11 and your **unwrapped** gifts, securely labeled (child's name and number), should be returned to Pilgrim Church no later than Sunday, December 2.

Confirmation Orientation

will be held for all 8th grade students and their families on November 4 from 11:30-12:15 in the Sanctuary.

THANK YOU TO...

... Session Two Church School Teachers: Lindsey Hancock, Stacey Melanson, Kelly Adduci, Kate Marion, Kate and Ben Molloy, and Kristen Flynn.

YOUTH MINISTRY

BY REV. DIANE ANDERSON

Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group members have been very busy with their big work camp fundraiser, the Giant Yard Sale. This year we tried something new and combined the church fair and the yard sale which made for a very lively day at 25 S. Main St.! Even though the weather failed to cooperate on Fair day, the event was a big success!

SYG would like to extend big THANK YOUs to everyone who contributed to the Church Fair/Yard Sale by either volunteering their time, contributing items or shopping. A very special thank you goes out to all of the members of the Church Fair Committee for putting so much time and effort into creating a wonderful event. SYG is also extremely grateful for the truck that the Niit family supplied so that all of the yard sale leftovers could be taken away! There were so many helping hands involved - It really does take a Village (or perhaps a faith community!) to hold a fair/yard sale.



Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group recently had a fun-filled evening planning for "Red Cup Sunday" which is the Sunday when all of the red solo cups are given out after worship so folks from the congregation can collect quarters for the Miracle on 25 S. Main St. Food Packaging Event. JYG members came up with all kinds of Red Cup games to play during coffee hour as a way of promoting the Red Cup project. We hope you will join us for a bunch of Red Cup fun and games during coffee hour on Sunday, November 18th!



missions_{ministries}



BY EVE SMITH AND CINDY MAGUIRE

As the church kicks-off the 2019 Stewardship campaign this November we would like to explain how directed missions giving works. During the Stewardship campaign, church members have the opportunity to contribute to Missions on their pledge cards. A portion of your Mission contribution goes to Pilgrim Church's support of the UCC and their World Wide Missions. The other portion of your missions pledge goes directly to the various local and national non-profits that the Mission Ministry stewards distribute in December of each year on behalf of Pilgrim Church. Hopefully you have been learning about the various non-profits we as a congregation support during the Mission Moments we have been doing on Sundays as well as from the information on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to speak with any of the Mission Ministry stewards should you have any questions, thoughts or ideas.

**Spotlight
On
Giving**

CITY MISSION
— A good 200 years of good —

City Mission is the oldest multi-service agency in New England and the second oldest in the United States. Founded by members and clergy leaders of Old South Church UCC and Park Street Church in response to the hardships facing Boston residents, it has served the educational, economic, and social needs of impoverished area residents since 1816. Since its inception, City Mission has acted as the conscience of the community, often pioneering key social programs that later became separate nonprofit agencies that attracted broad community support. Educational programs have always been a strong focus of City Mission's work. Today, they combat family homelessness and poverty through a multi-level approach. We provide direct services and learning experiences that are designed to empower participants. We work for program participants by empowering them to improve their lives.



PINE STREET INN service opportunity is on Friday, November 16 at 3:30 pm. We are looking for 8 volunteers to help serve dinner. To sign-up, please contact Sarah O'Connell at sajwight@gmail.com or 508-545-1544.

THE ANGEL TREE—purchase Christmas gifts for children of families in need. Choose your child(ren) at Coffee Hour Sunday November 11 and November 18 and return your gifts by December 2.

MIRACLE ON 25 S. MAIN STREET Sunday, December 9. An all-church event where we package meals for the hungry. Please see page 3 for more information.

November 2018

| November 2018 | | | | | | | December 2018 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Oct 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Nov 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 10:00am Sunday 11:30am Confirmation 11:30am Sacred Acts 5:00am J/G 6:45pm SVG | 7:30pm Scout Troop Committee Mtg. | 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 | 12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Ansel Tree 10:00am Sunday Worship 6:45pm SVG | 8:45am Caring Committee 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Deacon's | 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting | 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting | 12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 3:30pm Pine Street Inn | J/G-Brighton Food Pantry 9:00am Girl Scouts |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 3rd Grade Bibles Stewardship Dedication 10:00am Sunday Worship 6:45pm SVG | 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Parish Board Mtg. | 8:00pm AA Meeting | 8:00pm AA Meeting | Therapeutic Day | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | Dec 1 |
| 10:00am Sunday Worship 5:00am J/G 6:45pm SVG | 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting | 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting | 12:00pm Senior Cafe 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir | | |

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www.ucc.org

For Pastor John's column in the DS Press:
www.townonline.com/dover/news/lifestyle

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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.