



# PILGRIM CHURCH



June 2019

## From the Pastor...



*"X"See what large letters I use as I write to you in my own hand." --Galatians 6:11*

*"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." --Toni Morrison XXXX." -- XXX*

I believe that each of us, every last child of God, is made by God with certain talents and gifts that makes each of us unique. An activity or work or a vocation or hobby or calling or craft or an art or pastime or sport that is central to who we are. And when we do this thing, it brings us joy. Makes us whole. It glorifies God, it thanks God, in the doing.

It may be parenting or being an entrepreneur. Knitting or cycling, singing or playing a sport, fishing or gardening or whatever. But whatever it is, "it" is central to our lives – we could not imagine being who we are without it. What is the gift God gave to you that makes you feel alive? That comes to you naturally? What do you really, really, really love to do?

For me that one thing is writing. Since the moment in college when I typed out my very first column for the editorial page, I knew I could write and so I have spent the better part of my life writing. Sermons and articles, newspaper columns and my blog, eulogies and tributes. The blessing is that ministry, more than many other professions – it calls for good writing.

Every six years Pilgrim Church grants me a three-month sabbatical, an intentional time to step away from the day to day work of ministry and take time to be renewed. To rest. To refill my spiritual well. To work with God and have the time and space to think about and pray about the important work, God's work, we do together as pastor and people, as Pilgrim Church.

This summer I will be away on sabbatical, from late June to late August. I will be doing many things: riding my bike and doing a family wedding and going to classes and spending precious time with the folks who love me and whom I love.

Most of all I will be writing, working on finishing the first draft, and beginning to revise, a book about 12 step spirituality and recovery and what these things might teach us as people of faith, about being human and serving God. The author Annie Dillard wrote that the average books takes ten years to write from start to finish! I'm hoping to beat that average.

So, you give me the gift of time: to do that which I absolutely love and feel called to do by God. To write. I will miss you. I will pray for you. And, God willing, I will return at the end of summer ready again, to continue our mutual ministry. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU!

Peace,

Pastor John

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Meet our new church members pg. 3
- Music Education, pg. 4
- Golf Tournament pg. 5
- Giving Table . pg. 5
- Family Promise is Coming pg. 7
- Our busy youth! pg. 9



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
MODERATOR'S MSG.	2
HOSPITALITY	7
CHRISTIAN ED	8
SYG AND JYG	9
SUMMER HOURS	11
CALENDAR	12

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## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

By ANDY MEYER, MODERATOR

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I play a game I enjoy very much with friends every Saturday and occasionally during a weeknight if we can arrange it. The game is called Ultimate; it's played with a Frisbee - the only actual piece of equipment needed to play. Maybe you are familiar with the sport. If not, I can describe it best as a cross between soccer, since it's played on a soccer field, and football, because the object is to pass into an end-zone instead of some goal.

The exercise is fantastic, and there is plenty of strategy to the game as well. So it provides both physical and mental challenges to all players. Another amazing aspect to the game is that many different age groups and skills levels can all play the game - together. It's quite a thing to see a 60 year old compete competitively against a 19 year old - and it happens!

One of the toughest situations in the game occurs when a team has the disc very close to the goal line. There can be a lot of people in a very tight space. The thrower only has 10 seconds in which to take some action, and that goes by very quickly. The temptation is often to try to force a throw or to try something risky in order to score. If the risky move fails, the disc drops, the other team takes possession, and everyone feels terrible.

There is a simple, *humble* solution to this situation, but it takes self-control. The answer is to look for a short, easy backward pass. It's a simple "give and go" play. And it works almost every time it's tried. It creates space, resets the clock, and gives the new thrower several new, easier angles.

We played a game the other night, and I came away thinking about the "give and go." It seems almost a perfect metaphor for service and thinking of others.

When we, in life, humble ourselves, and think of others, we almost always benefit personally. Maybe we come to realize that, in helping others, we are grateful for the blessings we enjoy. Perhaps we come to appreciate how giving to others, provides us with the opportunity to stop thinking about ourselves for a little while. How nice is that! Finally, it proves that when we stop focusing on just ourselves the world is a little better place to live.

Like the "give and go" pass in Ultimate, the practice of service to others requires humility, self-control, and dedication to something bigger than ourselves. It works every time it's tried.

May God bless you all -  
Have a wonderful summer



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?

That Pastor John, Andy Meyer our church Moderator and a member of our finance team meet 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. ([Click for Parish Board Meeting Minutes](#)) Please be sure to thank our committee members and church leadership for their time and dedication to our wonderful church community.

## DEACONS' CORNER...

BY DONNA HOSMER

1+1+1=1

June 16th is Trinity Sunday, a day to celebrate our understanding of God as three persons, yet one being. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, distinct from each other, but also one and the same.

Now if God created man and woman in His image, He must be as much Mother as Father, so is that 4 in 1? Also, if Jesus was His Son, then He must be younger than God, and so couldn't be one and the same. This is what was going through my mind at age 15 during religious knowledge class at Newbridge College in Ireland.

When I arrived at that Catholic boarding school in Ireland I was quickly immersed in it's own trinity: Religion, Education, Rugby. I learned the 'Our Father' the 'Hail Mary', and the 'Glory Be', and developed a strong relationship with God. That is until about 4 years later when Father Flanagan tried to explain the Holy Trinity. He lost me. God lost me. At 15 it just made no sense.

Little did I know this same conflict took place between followers of Arius (a Lybian priest) and those of Athanasius (an Egyptian bishop). It was the main topic of discussion at the [First Council of Nicaea](#) in 325 (in modern day Turkey). I understand it is also what lead a few brave souls to march back down the hill in Sherborn and re-open Pilgrim Church not so many years ago.

## *Welcome New Members*

Welcome new members

The Versaw Family

Grey, Aimee,

Ashleigh ~grade 10

Alex grade 8

Max in Kindergarten.



## A Music Editorial



Recently I was clearing and cleaning out my office desk in preparation for getting a different one (we are switching desks around – kind of a musical chairs. We’re hopeful everyone will end up with a desk...). In the process I checked out a folder that had ‘historical’ things in it. Amongst the treasures was a Chancel Choir list from February 1993 – 26 years ago. The list contained 29 names. Of those 29, nine I know of have died. Of that list, four are still active in the choir. The rest have moved away (some moved before they died).

Pilgrim Church always has been a somewhat transient church. Certainly, in the years I’ve been here there has been a lot of coming and going; people get transferred into the area by their company, they join a church for a few years and then they are transferred out to another

part of the country. It’s the nature of this church –has been for a long while and probably always will be.

So, what does that do to our Chancel Choir membership? Our present choir list contains 15 members; basically, half of what it was 26 years ago. Our church membership has stayed pretty much the same – in the 350 to 400 range – yet, the choir has dropped by half. These 15 are very loyal; if they are in town, they are at rehearsal and the Sunday service. But, it has gotten to the point that if anyone is going to be gone for a Sunday, their section suffers unduly because there are so few in it. For a church of Pilgrim’s size, it is not unreasonable to expect eight to ten percent of the congregation to be active in the choir. We were slightly under 10 percent 26 years ago; we’re not anywhere near that now.

While it’s very gratifying to hear comments like “the choir sounded wonderful today”; “I loved the anthem you did today”, etc., **unless things improve soon, there will be no choir.** Aging has taken several members out in recent years; they just can’t do it anymore. And, as mentioned above, others have moved away or died. Very few of the present members are under the age of 65.

When a new music director is hired, s/he is given a list of responsibilities for the position – a job description. It can include directing the various choirs, playing the organ/piano for services, maintaining the music libraries, keeping instruments in proper working order, presenting ‘special’ music periodically with orchestra, etc. What doesn’t happen and needs to, is that the prospective candidate must hand the congregation a ‘job description’. If you, the congregation, want ‘special’ music, weekly anthems, etc., **YOU need to provide the personnel to do this.** It doesn’t happen automatically – it takes a commitment from members of the congregation. No Fairy Godmother is going to do it for you.

Is it a commitment? Of course it is. Anything worth having/doing usually involves a commitment, there’s no getting around it. What’s the time like, spent in rehearsals and singing at services? **Ask the choir members.** While I try to make rehearsals ‘fun’ and meaningful, you’ll have to ask those who are there what they think. The point is, *there are any number of people in the pews* who could very easily give up the pleasures of Thursday night television, come to rehearsal and interact with a very special bunch of people. Many of you sang in high school and college choruses and glee clubs, so you’ve had experience. **You’re needed – NOW.**

(Rehearsals resume on September 5<sup>th</sup> – put it on your calendar so you won’t forget.)

## YOUTH SUNDAY ON JUNE 9, 10AM WORSHIP



Youth ministry is one of the most vibrant aspects of church life here at Pilgrim. Nursery care, church school, senior high fellowship, junior deacons, acolytes, junior deacons, middle school youth group, confirmation, senior high work camp, human sexuality education; the list goes on and on. So many rich opportunities for our young ones to **nurture their inner moral compass as God's compassionate people. It happens every week at Pilgrim Church.**

Come celebrate all the givers and gifts of this special ministry on Youth Sunday, June 9, 10am worship. If you are a church school student – come. If you are a fellowship participant – come. If you teach, mentor, chaperone or otherwise serve in any of our youth ministries – **come. Really, if you're a child of any age (one to one hundred!) – just come.**

And afterward come downstairs for strawberry shortcake featuring a special media presentation of the Senior High Youth Group's April 2018 work camp in New York. Not to be missed.



### 12TH ANNUAL PILGRIM CHURCH GOLF DAY!

## Sassamon Trace Golf Club

**Route 27, Natick Sunday, June 9, 2:00pm**

What: Nine holes of fun and fellowship! Scramble format - Everyone tees off, choose the best shot, repeat until in the hole.

Who: For men and women golfers of all skill levels. Singles welcome, we'll pair you up. Youth/teen golfers are welcome to play, too!

When: Sunday, June 9 @ 2:00pm Please arrive at Sassamon by 1:30pm

How Much: Non-members: \$27, includes a cart. Members & non-players: cart \$9 (ages 18-59), \$7 (otherwise). All must ride, 2 only per cart, and one must be a licensed driver.

Have a friend who might be interested in learning more about Pilgrim? This is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with members in a fun engaging way!

To join please let us know as soon as possible so we will know how many groups to plan for.

Send a check by JUNE 7 (or earlier) for the full amount, made out to "PILGRIM CHURCH":

Pilgrim Church

PO Box 322

Sherborn, MA 01770

Please email questions to Janet Walsh at [dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org](mailto:dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org) or Kathleen White in the church office at [admin@pilgrimsherborn.org](mailto:admin@pilgrimsherborn.org), or call (508) 655-1667.

We hope you will join in this afternoon of fellowship fun!

**Sign-Up Today!**





**The Giving Table** Many of us have home gardens and lots of extra vegetables that we won't use... we have a use for them! Bring them to Pilgrim Church on Sundays during the summer (right before/after the 9am service) or on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (9 am to noon). Drop them off in the clearly marked "Veggie Drop-Off" basket in the kitchen. Each week during the growing season, Lael or Avery Moore will pick up your veggie donations and deliver them to A Place to Turn food pantry in Natick, where they quickly go to feed people who need them and who will be ecstatic to receive locally grown produce. Please feel free to call or text Lael or

Avery with any questions at 508-561-9828 (Lael) or 774-721-1135 (Avery). Thanks!

## Family Promise Metrowest

### Weekend Van Driver Job Description

We are looking for a responsible, friendly and mature van driver to transport our families with children in a Natick based shelter. While we need a driver who is experienced, we are also looking for someone who is calm, can multi-task, has a sense of humor and loves children.

Responsibilities include:

- Transport families from the day center to local congregations in 14-passenger van.
- Ensure vehicle is adequately fueled.
- Report maintenance concerns.
- Provide Day Center coverage by answering telephones and covering front desk.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

Drivers must be at least 21 years old, have a good driving record and be willing to complete a background check. Individual should be able to lift at least 20 pounds and climb stairs.

Hours:

Saturday 3-6 pm

This position reports to the Administrative Assistant. Please email your resume and why you would like this position to [staff@familypromisemetrowest.org](mailto:staff@familypromisemetrowest.org) or call 508-318-4820.





# Family Promise is Coming This Summer!

Whether this is your first time or you are a dedicated volunteer, we look forward to your support as we move toward our time as a Host Congregation for the families of Family Promise

## Sunday, June 30th – Sunday, July 14th

We still have several spaces open please click the link below to see where you can help out

Training If you haven't been trained yet, please [click here to see the upcoming training dates.](#)

How to Sign-Up online at: <https://sites.google.com/site/familypromisepilgrimchurch/home>

Questions? Email [JanetPBWalsh@gmail.com](mailto:JanetPBWalsh@gmail.com) & [JenniferRSearle@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferRSearle@gmail.com) with any questions!

Your Pilgrim Church team looks forward to working with you :)

The Hospitality Committee invites everyone to join us for our Annual

Strawberry Festival

Immediately following coffee hour

On Youth Sunday

June 9th



### The Hospitality Committee

*If you would like to be part of the Hospitality Committee (it's a fun one!) please reach out to let us know. Send a note to [dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org](mailto:dcm@pilgrimsherborn.org), or to any member of the committee.*



Save the Date!

Welcome Sunday Picnic

September 8th

# Christian Education

BY ANGIE JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

## Grateful Thanks...

...All of our Sunday school teachers this year. The lives you touch and the difference you make is more than words can describe. Thanks you for your time, dedication and love. You make Pilgrim a home for youth.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS IN 2019-2020 PROGRAM YEAR

Detailed information will be sent to all incoming eighth grade student families in late June about the special programs for their eighth grader on Sunday nights throughout the coming 2019-2020 program year. *Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective* orientation and classes time TBD from September 8 through November 17 at Dover Church. Confirmation orientation and classes will meet at Pilgrim Church 6:00-7:30 on Sundays from January 26 through Confirmation Sunday on May 3. Consistent attendance is an important component of participation. Please mark your calendars now.

### Thank you to ... OUR SESSION 5 TEACHERS:

Session Five church school teachers: Diana Fyler, Virginia Mayo, Caroline Beaudet, Diana Beaudet, Addie Mae Weiss, Eric and Doreen Brooks. Kismet Abbett and Kai Abbett



A Huge Thank You!!

To our church school friend Chuckie Blaney for providing the church school snacks all year! You're the sweetest!



## Still Looking for a Few Teachers

Thank you to all who answered the call to teach church school next year. We still have open spots at this date. This is changing as we are moving to a rotational model so you will learn one subject matter for the whole session and you may do 2 different activities during those weeks. When we have a smaller number of students we may combine into one class of activities.

Session Two, October 27-December 8-Still need 3 Teachers

Session Three, December 15-February 2, (No Church School December 29, January 19 small group)-Still need 4 Teachers

Session Four, February 9-March 29, (No Church School February 16)-Still need 6 teachers. This is a session where attendance may be lighter since many Pilgrim families ski. so we may use only 4 teachers.

Session Five, April 5-June 14 (No Church School April 12, 19; May 25)-Still need 3 teachers.

Please email Angie Johnson at [ce@pilgrimsherborn.org](mailto:ce@pilgrimsherborn.org) to volunteer.

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# YOUTH MINISTRY

BY REV. DIANE ANDERSON

## Senior Youth Group

SYG held its annual Senior Banquet Dinner to honor the graduating seniors. In addition to some humorous gifts, SYG members also offered a laying on of hands blessing to bestow their love and good wishes onto the seniors. We would like to give a big THANK YOU to the parents of the Juniors who prepared a delicious meal for the banquet.

We are now preparing for the SYG Moving Up Night when current SYG members welcome this year's Confirmands into the group. It will be an evening of fun, games and plenty of ice cream!

## Junior Youth Group

JYG hosted coffee hour on Confirmation Sunday as a way of honoring the Confirmands. It was wonderful to be part of such a special day in the life of our church! JYG also ran a Pilgrim Church booth at the Sherborn Library Fair. The weather was lovely and lots of folks visited the booth to pick a blessing stone, get a temporary heart tattoo and make a prayer ribbon. It was good to be out connecting with the community in this way!!

JYG's Year End Party is coming up fast - June 2nd! We will have picnic foods and plenty of games in store!





## Scholarships

BY CAROL MOORE

The Pilgrim Church Service Scholarships will be awarded on June 9th at the Youth Sunday service. Come see these awards presented to outstanding applicants! A special Scholarship Offering will also be held to replenish our funds. This is very important to our ongoing ability to give scholarships. Please consider giving generously to this worthy cause on Youth Sunday or to the church office at any time.



## SHERBORN BOY SCOUTS TROOP 1

In May, Troop 1 Sherborn Boy Scouts highlights included an Eagle Scout ceremony for Nate Sullivan on May 19 at Pilgrim Church. On May 27, fourteen scouts and troop leaders, along with many others in the Sherborn Boy Scout community, participated in the Sherborn Memorial Day parade and dedication. Longtime Sherborn Scouting leader Mike Kickham was the master of ceremonies for the event.

On June 2, Sherborn Boy Scouts held a Court of Honor, with a number of scouts earning merit badges or advancing in rank. On June 11, Sherborn Boy Scouts will hold their final regular troop meeting. At this meeting, a number of Cub Scouts who have earned the Webelo rank (the highest rank in Cub Scouts) will join the meeting. They will participate in activities and be introduced to what Boy Scouts have to offer. On June 15, the troop will have a "bridging event" at Peter's Hill where Webelos will officially Cross Over into Boy Scouts. This will be followed by a Scout prepared dinner and a campout at the site.

In June there will be two or three shakedown hikes and campouts for those ten scouts going on a 12-day trek in the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico. They are leaving July 16 and returning August 1 led by Doug Peterson and Jason Worcester.

For younger Scouts, most will be attending the Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rockville, Rhode Island from August 11 to August 17th.

Finally, in June, **Scoutmaster Steve Scrimshaw will step down and Sherborn resident, Doug Peterson, will take over** as Troop 1 Scoutmaster. Doug, an Eagle Scout, is a Pilgrim Church member and current Assistant Scoutmaster.

-Steve Scrimshaw, SM

### Calendar

6/5 Wed.	7 p.m. Metacomet District Roundtable	Wheelock Elem. School, 17 Elm Street, Medfield
6/10 Mon.	Troop Committee Meeting	
6/11 Tue.	Final Troop Meeting, Pack 10 Webelos attending	
6/15 Sat.	Peter's Hill Cross Over for New Boy Scouts? Campout	
7/16 - 8/1	Philmont Trek, Cimarron, NM	

## Summer At Pilgrim Church Schedules and Notes

Summer office hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm, beginning June 17<sup>th</sup> and continuing through August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Regular hours resume Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.



From Pastor John: On sabbatical from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>. Time away includes four weeks in Minneapolis, two weeks in Vermont, and two weeks in **North Carolina and Ohio**. I'll take a **writing class at the Vermont College of Fine Arts** in Montpelier and a two day woodworking class in Boston. And I will be writing and working on revising my book; training on my bike in preparation for the Pan Mass Challenge; doing a family wedding and spending lots of time with family and friends.

Sabbatical Pastoral Care coverage will be provided by Pilgrim Church Minister for Youth Diane Anderson and area clergy. Pastor Diane will cover the bulk of my time away.

Summer Worship: 9 am worship begins on June 16<sup>th</sup> and continues through Labor Day weekend. Filling in the pulpit will be Pastor Diane, Tom Hunt, John Lilly and Bob Gray.



The Reverend Tom Hunt: Tom was a chaplain for many years at UMass Medical Center in Worcester, served UCC churches in Massachusetts and is an expert in the field of medical ethics. Until his retirement to Maine last fall with his wife Susan, Tom was a Pilgrim Church member for many years.

Pastor John Lilly: John is a retired Methodist pastor who served several Boston area churches, worked in private industry and now is a pulpit supply preacher **and a personal mentor of Pastor John's**.

The Reverend Bob Gray serves on the staff of our sister church, Bethel AME in Boston, and fill various pastoral roles at the church. He is also a writer and chaplain for the Boston Celtics.

Summer Worship Childcare: The nursery is available for children up to 2nd Grade. All other children are to remain in the sanctuary for our summer worship service.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 26 10:00am Sunday Worship 6-8:45pm SVC	Memorial Day	10:00am Staff Meeting	9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	12:00pm Senior Cafe	31 1:00pm Kathy Hoegam Fellowship Hall	Jun 1 1:00pm Kathy Hoegam Fellowship Hall
2 10:00am Sunday Worship 9:00am JIG - year end picnic 6-8:45pm SVC	3 10:00am Staff Meeting	4 10:00am Staff Meeting	5 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	6 12:00pm Senior Cafe	7 12:00pm Senior Cafe	8 Girl Scouts
9 Youth Sunday 10:00am Sunday Worship 11:00am Deacon Meeting 1:30pm Golf Outing, Sissonson Trace 6-8:45pm SVC	10 7:30am COA - First Responder Application Breakfast 7:30pm Scout Troop Committee Mtg.	11 8:45am Camp Committee 9:00am Book Club 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Deacon's Meeting	12 9:30am Bible Study 8:00pm AA Meeting	13 12:00pm Senior Cafe	14 12:00pm Senior Cafe	15
16 9:00am Summer Worship	17 7:00pm Parish Board Mtg.	18	19 8:00pm AA Meeting	20 12:00pm Senior Cafe	21 12:00pm Senior Cafe	22 Wedding
23 9:00am Summer Worship	24	25	26 5:00pm Salvation Army 8:00pm AA Meeting	27 12:00pm Senior Cafe	28 12:00pm Senior Cafe	29
30 9:00am Summer Worship	Jul 1	2	3 8:00pm AA Meeting	4 12:00pm Senior Cafe	5 12:00pm Senior Cafe	6

All folders are up to date. Connected to: Microsoft Exchange

# PILGRIM CHURCH

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[WWW.PILGRIMSHERBORN.ORG](http://WWW.PILGRIMSHERBORN.ORG)

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Massachusetts Conference Website  
[www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org)

United Church of Christ Website  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

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For Pastor John's column in the DS Press:  
[www.townonline.com/dover/news/lifestyle](http://www.townonline.com/dover/news/lifestyle)

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Pilgrim Church Newsletter

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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.