



This Sunday (May 11) is **Confirmation Sunday**--an important and exciting day in the life of our church.

So what exactly is Confirmation anyway? A person is incorporated into the church universal through the Sacrament of Baptism. When we baptize an infant or a young child, parents (and/or other trusted adults) assume responsibilities for the Christian nurture of the baptized child. The congregation (that's us!) assumes responsibilities to provide a supportive Christian community where the child may grow in Christian faith and understanding.

As a child who was baptized in infancy approaches adulthood, the local church (that's us!) offers the opportunity to learn the Christian faith more in-depth and gives these young men and women the chance to make a public witness to those baptismal vows once taken on their behalves. Confirmation is the day that we *affirm* our baptisms and *confirm* our desire to be adult members of the Church!¹

On Sunday, there will be seven students who will be confirmed--Grace, Paige, Jeffrey, Allie, Lydia, Isabel, and Mark. These students have been working hard since September, meeting twice a month and sometimes even more to go through the UCC's *Affirming Faith* curriculum. They have visited another local church and a synagogue and attended worship with us at Pilgrim (obviously!) to reflect on how communities of faith worship God. The confirmands volunteered at Bristol Lodge and Pilgrim Church in Dorchester to serve those in need. They lit an Advent Candle and helped to lead Pilgrim's Ash Wednesday service. Grace, Paige, Jeffrey, Allie, Lydia, Isabel, and Mark read the Gospel of Luke (and were quizzed on its contents!) and wrote a "What Do I Believe?" paper to explore what they think about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the Christian Life. Finally, they attended an Opening Retreat at the parsonage and Closing Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center just this past weekend--where they finished the *Affirming Faith* workbook and made Confirmation Stoles to depict where they are on their faith journeys using meaningful Christian symbols.

To say that Dana and I are proud of these confirmands seems like an understatement, but we are *incredibly* proud of them! This extraordinary group of young men and women have been such a pleasure to journey with these past nine months. They are insightful, kind, and funny. They have asked good questions and explored complicated religious subjects with curious minds and open hearts. Honestly, Confirmation remains one of my very favorite aspects of ministry, thanks in large part to wonderful groups of young adults like these young Pilgrims. We *all* will be blessed to see them in action on May 11.

I hope to see you in church THIS SUNDAY--Confirmation Sunday!

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

¹ "Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism" in the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*, 145-146.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Carol Chytil asks for prayers for her mom, Sue Whitney, as she transitions to her new living situation and for the whole family who has been affected.
- Deborah Burger asks for prayers of celebration and joy on the recent wedding of Emily Carlisle to Gordon Barnes. Emily is the daughter of Deborah and Todd Burger and the sister of Olivia Burger, Meredith Doucette, and Jessica Kaufman

WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for the following friends this week:

- Jessica and Nathan Kaufman and their children Chloe and Zachary
- Martha Kimball
- Alan and Julia Kirby and their children David, Jane, and Ted



- Sunday, May 11 – Confirmation Sunday**
- Sunday, May 18 – Children’s Sunday**
- Sunday, June 1 – Special Music Sunday**
- Sunday, June 8 - Graduation Sunday**

DEADLINE FOR PILGRIM’S PROGRESS

Please note that the deadline for the June issue of Pilgrim’s Progress will be May 23. Thank you!

**ADULT EDUCATION BOOK STUDY--
LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK**

Come join us on **Thursday May 29 at 10 AM** to discuss Barbara Brown Taylor’s latest book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Barbara Brown Taylor is an Episcopal priest, *New York Times* bestselling author, and the Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont College.

Learning to Walk in the Dark explores ways to find spirituality in those times when we don’t have all the answers. Taylor has become uncomfortable with associating all that is good with light and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. In this book, she “asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us ‘in the dark.’ . . . Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God’s presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.” We’ll meet to discuss this wonderful book in the sun room—10 AM May 29.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE
UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sun, May 18th: Children's Sunday!! Your children will ALL be involved in this service, so please make every effort to attend!

Sun, June 15th: Final week of church school; fun get-together planned!

Feel free to check out Jill's weekly Church School blog at:

<http://pilgrimchurchschoolblog.wordpress.com/>



Check Out OUR
BLOG



SUMMER PREACHERS NEEDED!

It's almost that time of year again! Before too long, we will begin looking for summer preachers. If you are interested or would like more information, please be in touch with Carol Chytil at: carol.chytil@gmail.com.

PILGRIM STANDS AGAINST RACISM

On Sunday, May 4, Pilgrim Church participated in YW Boston's Annual Stand Against Racism for the second consecutive year. Stand Against Racism is a national, annual event designed to acknowledge that racism still exists and that we must all work together to achieve racial equity. This year, Pilgrim was one of 257 registered organizations taking a stand in the Greater Boston area, making Boston's the largest Stand in the nation.

Pilgrims gathered after worship to view and discuss a film titled, Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible. Persons in the film illustrated and described ways in which white privilege, while seemingly invisible, is both beneficial to some and harmful to others. Thanks are due to Kat MacDonald for organizing the event, to Steve Van Evera for leading the discussion, and to all Pilgrims who participated and elected to grapple with these issues.

Sylvia Ferrell-Jones

We are pleased to announce that our son, Timothy S. Breton, will receive his Ph.D. in Biology, from the University of New Hampshire on May 17.

Cynthia and Daniel Breton



PILGRIM CHURCH PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Save the Date of **Sunday, May 18 starting at 5:30** for an evening of good food and good conversation with good friends from Pilgrim.

For first timers, the dinner progresses throughout the evening in 3 different homes. The entire group meets at one home for appetizers. From there, we break into smaller groups for dinner at various host homes. Finally, the group meets for dessert and coffee at another home. The goal of the evening is to be able to spend some time with friends in a relaxed setting and to get to know folks a little better.

We are looking for someone to host appetizers at their house. You would be asked to provide plates and forks as well as soft drinks. Participants supply the appetizers. Jim and Barbara Munkres have generously offered to host dessert again at their house. We also need folks who are willing to host dinner for between 6 and 10 people. If you do not host, you are asked to provide either an appetizer or a dessert.

If you can join us, please email Kat MacDonald at katmacdonald@verizon.net and let her know whether you will be a host or a guest. If you are willing to host, we need to know how many folks you can comfortably accommodate.

We hope to continue in the established tradition of some very fun Progressive Dinners.

Submitted by Anne Nuss and Kat MacDonald



May



UPDATE ON THE HEATING SYSTEM

On behalf of the Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee, I am pleased to report that we have signed a contract with Kirkland and Shaw to install our new heating system. The work will start mid June and is scheduled to be completed by the time our nursery school teachers return on August 25th. This new heating system applies to the original structure of the Church, not the Pilgrim Hall addition.

Many of you have used Kirkland and Shaw for your homes and they have been maintaining Pilgrim's bathrooms and kitchens for many years. We have been very pleased by their responsiveness and the quality of the work they have done. We have every expectation that their good work will continue this summer. The contracted price is \$143,000.

Many thanks to those of you who have made pledges for this new heating system. A total of \$63,800 was pledged and so far about \$60,000 has been collected. The balance will be paid from Memorial funds and from our Reserve account. It is not too late to contribute!

So why are we doing this project? Right now the heating system for the body of the Church has six forced hot air furnaces which struggle to provide sufficient heat on the coldest days. These heat the Sanctuary, the Narthex, Fellowship Hall on the lower level, and the office areas. I suspect that most of you have never visited the furnace room, which is located near the double door entryway to Pilgrim Nursery School. Believe me, it would do a Frankenstein movie proud with its six massive creaky furnaces and various mysterious sheet metal artifacts left over from the original 1960 heating system!. The furnaces are vintage about 1991 and began their life at Pilgrim rated as 80% efficient.

However, various contractors have advised us that the efficiency is probably closer to 60% now which represents a big waste of natural gas.

Our new heating system will be a mix of forced hot water through radiators and forced hot air delivered via ducts. There will be wall-mounted nice-looking panel radiators in the Sanctuary that will run on both sides under the windows and two shorter units in the choir loft. Taken together, our worship space should have even heat with minimal noise. No need any more to turn off the heat at 10.45 am on Sundays so we can hear Lauren's sermon!

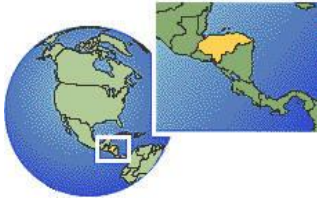
Fellowship Hall, plus Leslie's and Jill's offices and the downstairs vestibule, will also have radiators. But these will be similar to household baseboard units - this being a more economical choice as well as more child proof. The front part of the Church will continue to have forced hot air heating using the existing ducts but with, of course, new furnaces rated as 93% efficient. In case you are wondering, converting the front of the Church to forced hot water heating would be incredibly expensive as pipes would have to snake inside the walls, some of which are solid concrete.

The heart of a forced hot water heating system is the boilers, and we will have a redundant pair in the furnace room. The boilers are rated as being 95% efficient so there will be significant savings in the amount of gas we use and in addition, the six pumps used to force the hot water around the system will use a lot less electricity than the four air-blowing furnaces that they are replacing.

In summary, the goal of this project is to provide quiet, even, reliable heat in our major spaces (the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall) and to consume a lot less energy in the process. This will be Pilgrim's contribution to saving the planet this year.

Submitted by Derek Gardiner, for F&A

Please Note: I have a 2013 Aaron's edition book on American Colleges if anyone would like it. Perhaps a high school junior or senior may find this helpful. Please contact Susan Carabbio at s.carabbio@comcast.net if you are interested. Thank you!



HONDURAS HAPPENINGS



UPGRADING YOUR COMPUTER?

If you have a laptop in working condition, please consider donating it to the people in Flores, Honduras. Tax receipts are available. Please contact Emily Collins: emily@esperanzahftc.com. Thank you!



LAST CHANCE!! COME VISIT THE BOOK SALE

Please come check out all of the great things we have at our annual Pilgrim Church Book Sale!

The proceeds this year will be used to fund a playground and a new roof for the medical clinic in the Town of Flores, Honduras.

Our dates for the Book Sale this year is this **Saturday, May 10 from 9 to 4.**

If you have any questions please contact Sandy at Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com.



PILGRIM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP Lenten Discussions

We are thankful to Marty Saradjian for leading our Lenten Climate Change Discussion on April 6. Marty spoke from his experiences in teaching International Environmental Law at Boston University. His class is a little like a smaller version of the United Nations, with students from all over the world. Marty began by sharing an article about a recent decision which allowed BP to apply for drilling permits just four years after its disastrous blowout and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. His students from abroad were appalled, considering how many laws were ignored by the BP company, and how serious the contamination still is. While not condoning the government action, Marty reminded us that oil (a petrochemical) is not only needed for heating and transportation, it is a raw material needed to make thousands of products from air conditioners to crayons, aspirin to anesthetics, shampoo to antiseptics. With this knowledge, solutions to climate change become more complex. In our discussion, it was suggested that we should be saving oil for these other purposes and using sustainable methods for sources of heating, cooling, and transportation.

Another story became vivid when Marty described students from India upset about the Union Carbide disaster in 1984, when poisonous methyl isocyanate leaked from a plant in Bhopal, India. Two thousand people were killed immediately. The local authorities, hoping to save more people, came to the company managers to find out what the antidote to the chemical is. There is no antidote, they were told. As many as 15,000 people died in the aftermath of this tragedy. How could these

things happen, we wondered? It turns out that US corporations are not bound by US environmental and safety laws when they operate on foreign soil.

Global dumping has not endeared our country to other nations either. We are shipping our toxic garbage, including batteries with lead, to other nations. Why do these countries accept it? Some of the international trade laws require them to take our garbage. Marty spoke of the key to this type of injustice: in the early days of business schools, the philosophy was "to make a decent profit decently". Gradually, the philosophy became less socially responsible; businesses were encouraged primarily to make money, with no extra spending on workers or the community.

But Marty is hopeful that attitudes are changing: for example, the new dean of Harvard Business School is a specialist in ethics. Nitin Nohria, who received the PhD at MIT's Sloan School, has called for a rigorous code of ethics for business leaders.

Also, Benefit Corporations, are a new trend in business. A B Corporation is designed for companies that want to consider society or the environment in addition to their profit making. In this new type of business model public benefit is intentional. In 2010 Maryland was the first state to adopt legislation allowing Benefit Corporations, and Massachusetts has now passed similar legislation.

We ended on another positive note: foreign students highly praise the United States when there's a serious tragedy anywhere in the world and the US sends the military and other agencies to help out.

These themes stand out from our environmental discussions: There is a need for a much more effective way to curb greenhouse gases...probably a carbon tax. Unified and effective leadership is necessary for the environmental movement. Individuals and businesses must protect the earth rather than exploit it. All of us must consider our actions with climate change in mind.

Submitted by Barbara Munkres



INTERFAITH GARDEN BLESSING AND CELEBRATION

There will be a blessing of the Interfaith Garden on **Sunday, May 18 at 2 pm**. The garden is located at 5 Harrington Rd, in Lexington. There will be a garden blessings offering, crafts, refreshments and more. For more info, please [click here](#).



MASSACHUSETTS
INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

Deciding on Divestment from Fossil Fuels: From Congregations to Kitchen Tables May 14 from 7-9 PM at Hancock Church

From religious congregations to kitchen tables nationwide, people of faith are discussing divestment. The driving question: Should we divest from the fossil fuel industry?

Forum participants:

- Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Minister and President of the Mass. Conference of the UCC
- Chuck Collins, Senior Scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies
- Cindy Davidson, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth Board Member
- Leslie Samuelrich, Green Century Funds

The panel will address these questions:

- What are the moral and financial reasons to divest from coal, oil and natural gas investments?
- Is fossil fuel divestment an effective strategy to address climate change?
- What are the financial implications of divestment?
- What should institutions and individuals consider when considering divestment?
- How can investment in renewables be a wise choice that will lead to a clean energy future?

For more info, [Click Here](#).

UCC FILES LANDMARK LAWSUIT IN NC TO PROTECT CLERGY RIGHTS

The General Synod of the UCC recently filed a lawsuit against Officials in the State of North Carolina, arguing that the state's marriage laws violate the First Amendment rights of clergy and the principle of "free exercise of religion."

In what is believed to be the first-ever lawsuit by a national Christian denomination challenging a state's marriage laws, the United Church of Christ hosted a press conference this morning at one of its local North Carolina churches shortly after filing the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Charlotte, N.C.

The State of North Carolina makes it a misdemeanor crime for clergy to officiate a marriage ceremony without determining whether the couple involved has a valid marriage license from the State. For those United Church of Christ clergy interested in conducting a religious marriage ceremony for same-gender couples, these clergy could be subjected to up to 120 days of jail and/or probation and community service if found guilty, since North Carolina marriage laws define and regulate marriage as being between only a man and a woman. As lead plaintiff in this lawsuit, the United Church of Christ asserts that these laws are unconstitutional and violate a minister's First Amendment rights.

Amendment One and other marriage laws in North Carolina are the only laws in the country that not only limit a domestic legal union to a covenant between a man and woman, but also make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for a minister to perform a marriage ceremony for a couple that hasn't obtained a license. The UCC believes that this prohibition and penalties also apply to a minister performing a religious ceremony not intended to result in a legal marriage.

This limitation on rights of ministers and others is in conflict with the UCC General Synod's "Equal Marriage Rights for All" resolution adopted in 2005. This resolution affirms "equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender and declares that government should not interfere with couples regardless of gender who choose to marry and

share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of legally recognized marriage."

For more information:

<http://www.ucc.org/ido/>



May 2014

April 2014							May 2014							June 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 27 10:30am Worship 11:30am Handbell Rehearsal 11:45am Congregational Meeting	28 7:00pm Council Mtg.	29 11:00am Bible Study	30 Set up Book Sale	May 1 Set up Book Sale 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 Set up Book Sale	3 Confirmation Retreat - Craigville 9:00am Book Sale 4:00pm Lex. Chamber Music Classes
4 Confirmation Retreat - Craigville Book Sale 10:30am Worship 11:30am Handbell Rehearsal	5 Lexington Pops Practice 7:30pm Mission Mtg.	6 11:00am Bible Study	7 9:00am Staff Mtg.	8 Lexington Pops Practice 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 Book Sale 4:00pm Lex. Chamber Music Classes
11 Book Sale Breakdown 10:30am Worship/Confirmation/Baptism 11:30am Handbell Rehearsal	12 7:30pm F&A Mtg.	13 11:00am Bible Study 11:00am Bible Study	14 7:00pm Divestment Fossil Fuels Forum - Hancock Church	15 7:00pm Lexington Pops Practice 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 5:45pm GBAAYSO Studio Workshop
18 10:30am Worship/Children's Sunday 11:30am Handbell Rehearsal 5:30pm Progressive Dinner	19 10:00am Care Mtg. 7:00pm Council Mtg.	20 11:00am Bible Study	21 7:30pm Membership Mtg.	22 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 10:30am Worship 5:45pm GBAAYSO Studio Workshop	26	27 11:00am Bible Study	28	29 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Ed. Min Mtg. (sun room)	30	31 5:45pm GBAAYSO Studio Workshop