

Pilgrim's Progress April 5, 2015 – Vol. 57 No. 4



**FROM THE
PASTOR**

One of my favorite Easter stories is *The Road to Emmaus* found in Luke 24—the story right after the empty tomb/resurrection story we heard on Easter Sunday. On the same day as all of those more well-known events, two of the disciples head over to Emmaus (a seven mile walk from Jerusalem) and on the way, they talk about everything that just happened. One can imagine them speaking about whether or not they actually trust the women's account that they saw the stone rolled away from the tomb, didn't find Jesus' body inside, and had a vision of angels in dazzling clothes who stood beside them. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." Did the disciples believe this account? And what were they supposed to do now that Jesus had died anyway—go back to their homes and their old lives or what, exactly?

So they're walking and talking and all of a sudden Jesus himself comes near and begins to walk with them to Emmaus. Somehow they don't recognize that it's even him! Jesus asks them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" And they just stand still, looking sad before the conversation continues.

As they finally come near Emmaus, Jesus walks ahead of them as if he's about to continue on his way. But the two disciples urge him to stay put because it's already evening. Jesus sits with them at the table, takes bread, blesses and breaks it, and gives it to them. All of a sudden, the eyes of the disciples are opened and they recognize him! Though before they can reach out to him or ask him about what just happened or what's next, Jesus vanishes from their sight.

The Road to Emmaus has always been one of my favorite stories because it poignantly shows how blind we can be sometimes to the presence of God in our lives and the persistence of a God who meets us right where we are (no matter where that happens to be.) It's lovely to see an image of Jesus walking right beside the confused and heartbroken disciples and then sitting down to the table to share a meal with them. It's in the act of hospitality (breaking bread and giving it to them) that their eyes are opened and they see Jesus, knowing that Jesus was right there beside them the whole time and they didn't even realize it! Whether it happened exactly like this or not, it's a true story of how God works in our lives.

In the end, Holy Week has come and gone. We've put away the Easter tulips and trumpets and settled into Eastertide at Pilgrim Church. Though Easter is a season (the Great 50 Days of Eastertide), so our Alleluias still linger in the air. And thankfully the persistence of God remains all year long, the persistence of a God who breaks through to us however and whenever God can. Maybe it's up to us to be open to how God shows up, especially in unexpected moments.

See you in church,
Lauren

April
2016 

INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT FAITH CLIMATE ACTION WEEK SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY APRIL 24

Join us on Sunday April 24 as we participate in Interfaith Power and Light's Faith Climate Action Week. This is an annual campaign for climate healing and action in its seventh year. (And this will be the third time Pilgrim Church has participated in this important campaign.)

Faith Climate Action Week has reached over 2 million people with more than 5,000 climate and earth stewardship sermons and talks nationwide across many faith traditions. As people of faith, it's important to make our voices heard on climate change. That we as Christians believe we have a moral obligation to protect future generations. Rev. Lauren will be preaching on climate change and our worship service will be environmentally-themed, including hymns and prayers that celebrate God's good creation.

During coffee hour, anyone who chooses will have the opportunity to fill out postcards to be sent to our Massachusetts Senators asking them to support President Obama's budget request of \$750 million for the Green Climate Fund.

There's also an opportunity on Friday April 22 to join people of faith in a prayer for climate healing at noon. No matter where we are or what we're doing, we can take a moment to say a personal prayer for climate healing (found below.)

Hope to see you on April 24!

CLIMATE BLESSING

We Hold the Earth

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities. . .

so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.

May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life.

Amen.

PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Son-Mey asked for prayers of celebration for the birth of her grandson Theodore Heaton. Theodore was born on Easter Sunday and will now share a birthday with Son-Mey.
- Lesley and Kevin Morrison asked for prayers for Mairi's school community as they cope with the death of a second-grade student

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of our Bylaws, you are invited to a Congregational Meeting of the Church on **Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 11:45AM** following the service.

The purpose of the meeting is to

- 1) Elect the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 church year
- 2) Seek agreement from the congregation to withdraw a sum not to exceed \$11,000 from the quasi-endowment Parsonage Fund. Funds to be used for improvements.
- 3) Any pertinent matters that may arise

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Only members may vote. Childcare will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooks Taylor
Clerk

FROM LISA HULBERT

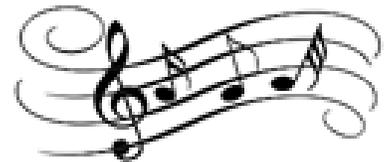
Mark Your Calendars! I will be hosting Church School Teacher training on **April 24th**. We will meet immediately following worship for an hour in the youth room. The objective of teacher training is twofold. This opportunity is designed for all members of the congregation to be part of the visioning process for the Christian Education programs offered here at pilgrim. Additionally, we will use much of this time to explore the curriculum and begin planning for the next program year. This training is designed for both current teachers as well as prospective teachers. Your voice is important and I urge you to join us. Please sign-up for the event by emailing me at education@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Blessings,

Lisa Hulbert
Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

LEXINGTON INTERFAITH CHOIR CONCERT SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AT 3 PM

REMINDER: The interfaith choir concert will take place at St. Brigid on Sunday, April 10 at 3 pm. The final rehearsal will be at 2pm. If you aren't able to participate on the 10th, we hope you'll come enjoy the concert!



Thanks.
Dan Schmidt

To access the calendar for Pilgrim Church, please click [here](#). Thank you.



PILGRIM CHURCH BOOK SALE!

Time to sort your books!

Please take a look at your bookshelf and donate some of your books to Pilgrim for our Annual Book Sale. Donations may be placed in the coat room from now until April 24th. We would be most grateful for donations of: **Books in good condition, CDs, and DVDs.** Items for children & adults are welcome, as well as novels, non-fiction, and cookbooks etc. Please do not donate textbooks, we cannot use them. Any books remaining after the sale will be donated to charitable organizations. The dates for the Book Sale this year are:



Saturday, Apr.30th from 9 to 4
Sunday, May 1st during coffee hour after church
Saturday, May 7th from 9 to 4

If you are available to help set-up and sort for the sale on Friday, April 29th, or if you are available to help on one or both of the 2 Saturdays we are open to the public (April 30th and May 7th) please contact Sandy Gardiner at: sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com. Thank you.

HONDURAS HAPPENINGS

Proceeds from the Pilgrim Church book sale benefit the children in Honduras. With this assistance, they are able to enroll in school. The cost is less than \$100 (uniforms, shoes, books and supplies) per student. One teacher, Roxanna Nunez, (photographed below) has been instrumental in identifying children in need and helping to purchase the appropriate items.



SUGGESTIONS NEEDED!

Astrid Ordonez (11 years) will be returning from Honduras in June to have a check-up at Shriners Hospital and to spend her summer vacation with us. She would like to take lessons in Korean and guitar. If you have any suggestions, please contact me at: emily@esperanzahftc.com. Thank you! ~Emily Collins



RMD and QCD

If either of these acronyms rings a bell with you, read on! An astute parishioner recently pointed out to me that people who are older than 70 ½ and who have a traditional IRA need to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA each year. This distribution is treated as taxable income to the IRA owner. However, if the RMD is made directly to a charity (such as Pilgrim Church!), the distribution is deemed a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and, as such, is not counted as income to the IRA owner. In essence, the donation becomes a 100% deduction, whether the donor itemizes his/her deductions or not.

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in turning your RMD into a QCD.

Thanks.

David McClave, Treasurer

781-861-7466 or dramccl@hotmail.com

HAL AND BARBARA PAGE MEMORIAL



Word has been received of the passing of old-time members Hal and Barbara Page. They were very active in Pilgrim Church affairs; Hal served as Moderator in 1978-80. Although they moved to the Cape a number of years ago, they remained interested in Pilgrim Church matters, and in fact were among the initial sponsors of the Memorial Garden when it was being established. A plaque in their memory has been placed in the Garden.

11th Annual
**Lexington Choral
Festival**

**Sunday, April 10th
At 3:00 p.m.**

Hosted by **St. Brigid Church**
2001 Massachusetts Ave
Lexington MA 02421

Free Admission

**Join us for a spectacular afternoon of choral music
sung by 12 area choirs, with over 200 singers!**

**Lexington United Methodist
Church**

First Baptist Church

First Parish Church

St. Brigid Church

Trinity Covenant Church

Church of Our Redeemer Episcopal

**The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints**

**Hancock United Church
of Christ**

Temple Emunah

Sacred Heart Church

Pilgrim Congregational Church

Chinese Baptist Church

Reception to Follow