

Pilgrim's Progress January 3, 2017 – Vol. 57 No. 11

*And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.
(Rainer Maria Rilke)*

Welcome to 2017! It was wonderful to be in worship on the first day of the year with many of you as we celebrated Epiphany a little early and considered what our journeys of faith could be like in this year ahead. We may have our own traditions around the New Year—what we do on New Year's Eve, special foods to eat for good luck on New Year's Day, or resolutions that are important to us. Though to be together as a church community and take Communion as the Body of Christ on January 1 was a wonderful way to ring in the New Year!

Now we may or may not have decided to take on a New Year's resolution this year. Sometimes they seem to only last for the month of January anyway! And sometimes they seem to be (unfortunately) the same year after year. Many times they can feel a little self-centered if we're honest about it. It's all about **me** and **me** being a smarter, thinner, cooler, better **me**. Sometimes focusing on ourselves really is necessary. But what if our resolutions *also* focused on others, on making the world a cooler, better world in 2017 and beyond?

To this end, here are some example resolutions (borrowed from Christina Villa, who is on the staff of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland.) Here's what she proposes are some ways we as individuals can contribute to the common good this year:

- Faithfully call or visit the person you always put off calling or visiting
- Get involved in local politics
- [Adopt](#) a shelter animal
- Donate food and clothing when it ISN'T the holidays
- [Volunteer](#)
- Leave bigger tips
- Drive a smaller car
- Follow international news
- Join the choir
- Start fewer sentences with "I"
- Refill the ice cube tray, replace the toilet paper roll, and don't take up two parking spaces

I'm sure there are many more resolutions that you can think of and I encourage you to do so in the days and weeks ahead. Let's start 2017 off right by not just by focusing on **me, me, me**, but by also finding ways to contribute to the common good of all.

Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,

Lauren

PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Betty Bradshaw expressed her thanks for a Christmas tree from Pilgrim arriving at her home in Lowell.
- Sylvia Ferrell-Jones expressed her thanks for the prayers, cards, and support from Pilgrim as she continues chemotherapy treatment.
- Carolyn Beckwith is now home and healing, and we continue to pray for her in this new year.
- Elizabeth Chen and Dick Edmiston celebrated their 10th Wedding Anniversary. (Married at Pilgrim on 12/31/06)

A NOTE FROM SYLVIA FERRELL-JONES

Thank you to the many Pilgrims who have inquired about my health, sent cards, and supported me with prayer. I am deeply appreciative of all my Pilgrim family has done for me during my now 3-year cancer journey. I am currently in the midst of chemotherapy treatments again, so need to be careful to avoid viruses and bacterial illnesses. When I am in church, I plan to avoid shaking hands or hugging (my favorite). I'll also refrain from attending coffee hour.

I look forward to worshipping with you as often as I am able.

Sylvia



DE-GREENING OF THE CHURCH!

Come join in the fun and fellowship of bringing down and storing the Christmas decorations after another wonderful Holiday season. We will start pulling down the greens around 9:00 on **Saturday, January 7** packing them away until next year and should be done around 11:00. Coffee will be provided!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP GATHERING SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 6 PM.

There will be a High School Youth Group gathering on Sunday, January 8th at 6 pm. We will make plans for the next few months, eat pizza (or whatever else might interest you), have fun, and catch up.

Please mark your calendars and let me know if there is something you like other than pizza. Also, let me know if April vacation is a good time to go on a mission trip. If so, we need to start planning for that.

devin.shmueli@pilgrimcongregational.org.

Peace,
Devin



RETIREMENT INVESTMENT STRATEGIES WITH JIM WOOD
Wednesday, January 11 from 7:30 - 9:00 pm

You've worked hard for years. But how can you be sure that you will be able to enjoy the comforts of life when it comes time to retire? Are you doing enough with retirement planning now for your future? Is your money growing at the right rate? Have you saved enough to take into account the effects of inflation on your lifestyle, our increased longevity, the uncertainties of the economy and financial markets, and taxes? Join Jim to better understand how to determine where you are and where you want to be in order to retire with financial confidence and peace of mind. Jim Wood is a Pilgrim Church Member and long term resident of Lexington, Massachusetts with interest in Town Governance (25 year Town Meeting member) and with a dedication to improving our environment, is currently a member of the Lexington Tree Committee. For more information or to rsvp, please contact Jim. jamescwoodjr@rcn.com

*Please note that any information and/or advice, either expressed or implied, in any member-sponsored event is solely that of the instructor.

ALTAR FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE

A new year begins, and there are quite a few open dates available for altar flowers. If you would like to give them, get in touch with Beth Kurth or Diane Blair and get your name on the list! They are a great bargain at \$40 for a beautiful bouquet that you can take home after the service.

LITURGISTS, GREETERS, AND COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED TOO!

Thank you so much to those who participate in our service every week. As we head into 2017 we need to fill the calendar once again. Please use [this link](#) to sign up to be a liturgist, greeter, or to host coffee hour.

Without all of you, our friendly welcome at the door, beautiful scripture readings during Worship and a delicious cup of coffee afterwards would never happen. Thank you for all you do to keep Pilgrim Church the special place that it is.



4TH ANNUAL MLK DAY OF SERVICE
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

The Town of Lexington will hold its 24th commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with its 4th Annual MLK Day of Service by committing our community to taking part in assisting those less fortunate. Our objective is to engage and mobilize young people and adults to participate in events and activities to serve others, united in philanthropy under the auspices of the Town Celebrations Committee. *Our target this year is to serve 2,000+ people through 400+ volunteers. To sign up and volunteer, please visit lexingtonmlk.org.*

(Continued)

Annual MLK Day of Service Program and Activities

9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Chapel – Lexington Interfaith Clergy Association (LICA) and Lexington Human Rights Council sponsor Panel Discussion and Community Dialogue on Race.

11 a.m. – Unity Walk from the Lexington Battle Green to Cary Hall. Come and join our community in this fun and symbolic show of unity and solidarity in the name of equality and social justice.

11:30 a.m. at Cary Hall Musical Performances – Brief and uplifting performances by Lexington literary performer Regie O'Hare Gibson and Special Needs Arts Program (SNAP) Sing Along Chorus.

Volunteer activities throughout Lexington and Waltham YMCA

Lunch with Seniors, 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Countryside, Vynebrooke, and Greeley Villages. Two volunteers (or a family) at each village will set up, serve, clean up lunch, and join in conversation with residents about life in Lexington in the light of Martin Luther King's legacy.

YMCA Community Day and Free Clothes Boutique Donations, 1-3:30 p.m. at Waltham YMCA, 725 Lexington St, Waltham. Program of activities for children and adults (games, sports, reading, Zumba, story time, swimming, etc.) including lunch. We are also seeking and accepting donations of gently used clothes and shoes for all ages to add to our complementary Free Clothes Boutique. Underprivileged families residing in Waltham and other communities' hotels and shelters are invited to participate.

Charitable Donation Drop-offs, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Grace Chapel, 59 Worthen Road, Lexington. Donate non-perishable food items for the Lexington Food Pantry; new toys for Birthday Wishes; books, DVDs, CDs, video games and other media for *More Than Words*; gently-worn kids clothing (winter layers for kids preferred), well-preserved used toys for *Cradles to Crayons*, and monetary donations to keep our Day of Service impactful and vibrant. **Note:** For Cradles to Crayons ONLY, used toys can also be dropped off at the Lexington Police Department at 1575 Mass. Ave., Lexington.

Card-Making activity, 1-4 p.m. at Lexington Montessori School, 130 Pleasant Street, Lexington. Hands-on crafts activity to create greeting cards for underserved populations such as Veterans, hospitalized children, and handicapped adults. On-site performances by *Music Makes Me Happy Chorus*, *Orchestra Marhaba* and other local musicians.

Serving Seniors and **New!** Birthday Goody Bag Stuffing at Waltham Crossing, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 126 Smith St. Waltham. Serve the senior residents of this community and join them in making birthday goody bags for homeless children in a family-friendly environment with on-site musical performances by *Music Makes Me Happy Chorus*

NEW! Scarf-Making activity, 12:00-3 p.m. at Cary Hall. Family-friendly scarf-making and winter wear creations for the needy.

NEW! Sand for Seniors activities, Time and Place to be determined. Help our senior citizens be safe during the winter season by delivering buckets of Sand for Seniors for winter driveways and walkways.

Stay tuned and check lexingtonmlk.org as more activities and updates become available for us to enjoy a day of community service!



MEET SOME KIDS FROM SHRINER'S HOSPITAL!

Emily Collins just happened to be at Shriner's when Xmas gifts were delivered by Santa. She reports that the kids were thrilled with the gifts from Pilgrim. Below are some of the photos that she took on her cell phone:



The little girl in the wheel chair is Keyla age 12. Some of you may remember her when she lived with the Collins family ten years ago. She like so many others were in the Boston area to get medical treatment and she stayed with Tom and Emily. Now she is being treated for injuries she received when she recently fell out of a pick-up truck.

Speaking of trucks, the yellow dump truck that the little boy is unwrapping came from someone at Pilgrim.



And lastly, this is a new little guy is named "Freddy" He came a few months ago with some type of severe skin infection...He is over 3 years old but wears size 18-24 month old clothes because he is severely malnourished. Once he got to Shriners Hospital it was discovered that he has a serious heart problem. He will have open heart surgery next month at Mass General. Thank you to all Pilgrims who have helped so many in the past, and to those who have participated in our Giving Tree!

Submitted by Sandy Gardiner

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

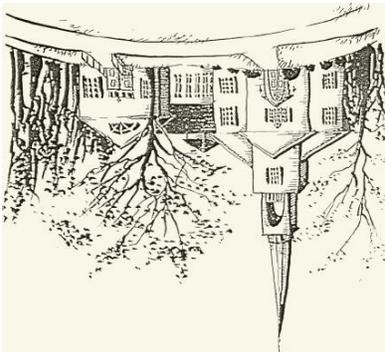
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 Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
 55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420
 Telephone: (781) 862-0357

email: admin@pilgrimcongregational.org
www.pilgrimcongregational.org

Sunday Worship and Church School - 10:30am
 Choir Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30pm

Rev. Lauren Lorincz, Pastor
 Daniel Schmidt, Director of Music
 Devin Shmueli, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries
 Diane Blair, Church Secretary
 Diane Murphy, Nursery Care Provider
 Dan Conley, Church Sexton
 Leslie Beatrice, Director of Pilgrim Nursery School

JANUARY 3, 2017



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 Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
 55 Coolidge Avenue, Lexington, MA 02420-1899

