

## Pilgrim's Progress June 1, 2016 – Vol. 57 No. 6



As the summer approaches, there is a lot going on at Pilgrim Church in June!

- On **Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>** we will enjoy Music Sunday/Children's Sunday and an Ice Cream Social after our worship service.
- On **Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>** I will lead the final All Church Education class on the United Church of Christ before worship and we'll recognize those Pilgrims who are graduating.
- On **Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>** we will say thank you and farewell to our Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries Lisa Hulbert. Lisa has been with us for two years and has been a wonderful addition to our church staff. We will miss her, but wish her the best as she returns to lead the children and youth of her home church—Christ Congregational Church UCC in Brockton.
- On **Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>** I will bid you farewell for a little while as I leave for Sabbatical later that week (fly to Israel on Thursday June 30.)

And since many of you have asked about my specific Sabbatical plans, here they are!

- **June 30-July 30—Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, Israel**  
Tantur has developed programs to serve those seeking to deepen their understanding of the land and its history, religions, culture, people, and their own faith.  
While studying at Tantur, we will go on field trips to Galilee, Bethlehem, Qumran, Masada, Hebron, the West Bank, and explore so much more!
- **August and September—Spending time in Wadsworth, Ohio and Pasco, Washington with my family**
- **September 27-October 1—Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas (as part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative of the UCC)**  
Church of the Resurrection brings together clergy, church staff, and volunteers who share a passion for renewing churches.

It will be an exciting three months away, and a wonderful combination of professional development in Israel and quality time with my family. Thankfully, our congregation will be in loving and capable hands as Rev. Jill Olds will be with you!

Wishing you all healthy and happy summers and look forward to all these wonderful worship services in June!

Grace and Peace,

*Lauren*

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## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Dear Pilgrims,

We wanted to let you know about what's happening with our church school in light of Lisa Hulbert's announcement that she will be leaving us in June. A search committee has been formed to help find our next Director of Youth and Christian Education. We are thankful that Mike Clark (Chair), Elena Zorn, Beth Kurth, and Lisa Boehm are leading this effort with assistance from Rev. Lauren. Rev. Jill (who has a lot of experience in this area) will serve as a sounding board and will assist the committee as needed from July-September. We appreciate all of the feedback from Church School families and have relayed that information to the Search Committee to help guide their selection process.

That feedback is also being used by Lisa and Beth Kurth to plan for next year. As our outgoing Director, Lisa has been working with Beth to ensure that we will have our Church School programming up and running in the fall. Lisa has been helping with curriculum, the CE calendar, and teacher recruiting. Please note that Beth will serve as our Interim Director until our Search Committee feels that we have found the best fit for our congregation. When Rev. Lauren returns in October, she will continue to meet with our youth—some of whom were just confirmed in May.

We would ask for your patience and your prayers as it may take time to fill this vital staff position. Please help spread the word, and if you know of someone who may be interested in serving in this capacity, please encourage them to apply!

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## CHURCH COUNCIL CHANGES

There are some changes in our Pilgrim Church lay leadership to announce. Jeanne DeSanto has stepped down as our Moderator and has moved on from Pilgrim. Personally and on behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to thank Jeanne for all that she has done, and for the many ways she and Mike contributed to our community during their time with us. I wish Mike, Jeanne, and their family all the best on their journeys of faith.

Our former Moderator, Suzanne Abair, has agreed to serve as our Interim Moderator from June-September and will be available to help Rev. Jill Olds with the sabbatical coverage for our congregation. Ed Bond has become our 14<sup>th</sup> Council member and we're grateful for his leadership. In the fall, Church Council will elect a new Moderator to fill the role from October-April, pending congregational approval.

Blessings,  
Lauren

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## SUMMER WORSHIP AND SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Summer Worship begins on July 3 and will end on September 4. The worship service begins at 9:30 and is held in air-conditioned Pilgrim Hall. Summer Worship is a fun way to stay connected with fellow Pilgrims and hear about our faith journeys by listening to our lay preachers in a more casual service. Hope to see many of you there this summer!



Also, just a reminder that the Church Office will be open on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 1:30 in July and August. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday September 6.

**FINAL ALL CHURCH EDUCATION CLASS: JUNE 12 AT 9:30 AM**

Our last All Church Education Class for this program year will be **Sunday June 12 from 9:30 to 10:15.** We'll focus on summarizing and reflecting upon this year's themes (UCC history, God's extravagant welcome, we belong to Christ, Covenant, Baptism and Communion, Working for a Just and Loving World, and Listening for our Still-Speaking God). Rev. Lauren will hand out a document of main themes from each lesson. Though if anyone would like to read over what we explored this year, she will be happy to email you directly!



**GRADUATES RECOGNIZED IN WORSHIP ON JUNE 12**

Pilgrim Church would like to honor and recognize those among us who are graduating this year! If you and your family would like to be included, please write a short paragraph that I can read aloud to acknowledge each graduate during worship (by June 8.) Let us know a bit about their high school experiences and future plans. Look forward to celebrating our young people on June 12! ~Lauren

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 160 ACCIDENT**

A few weeks ago, we prayed for the family of Michael Arena following his tragic drowning accident while away on a Boy Scout rafting trip in Maine. To help the family in this terribly difficult time, a trust fund has been established for the sons of Michael and Kristine Arena, following Michael's death. Here is the information should you personally wish to donate:

Arena Family Children's Trust  
c/o Marble Harbor Investment Counsel, LLC  
Paul Davis  
101 Federal Street Suite 2505  
Boston, MA 02110

**PILGRIM JOYS AND CONCERNS**

- Prayers needed for Emily Collins and Suzanne Giles (Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord) as they will be traveling to Honduras from June 1 – 11.
- Beth Kurth asked for prayers for her friend Casey who lost both her father and uncle; for Nancy whose brother is struggling with heroin addiction; and for Justin (a friend of Beth's father) who is suffering from a mental illness and refusing medication.
- Jeff Boehm asked for prayers of celebration as he and Lisa celebrated 22 years of marriage.
- Kim Bond asked for prayers of celebration as Thompson just graduated from UVM.
- Diane Blair asked for prayers as family friend Barbara Ficcardi passed away on Saturday.

**FROM LISA HULBERT**

Dear Pilgrims,

I wanted to take a moment to share with you that I will be leaving Pilgrim at the end of this program year. My last Sunday will be **June 19, 2016**. As many of you know, I began my Christian Education work about seven years ago at my beloved home church in Brockton, MA. I have recently been asked to return to my home church to continue building their Christian education program that is near and dear to my heart.

Pilgrim Congregational Church of Lexington has blessed me with so many gifts, including this incredible Pilgrim family. I have learned so much from all of you and most of all, I have learned countless lessons from the children.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity and support over my last two years here, and I look forward to spending my remaining time preparing Pilgrim for its next adventure.

Blessings,

Lisa Hulbert

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**A NOTE FROM DAN SCHMIDT**

Please join us this **Sunday, June 5** as we will have a joint Children and Music Sunday! In addition to all the great work the children have done in putting the service together, you'll hear from our bell group and our choir! The bell group will provide a nice rendition of Jacob's Ladder, while the choir will be singing pieces from the Lexington Choral Festival. Additional choral pieces include the Rutter Requiem and The Lord Bless You And Keep You. The excitement of the service will be supported with uplifting hymns that our very own Kevin Morrison will accompany on Trumpet.

I hope you can make it to this wonderful service and be sure to stay for the Ice cream after!

Thanks.  
Dan Schmidt



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



## SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR ZAMBIA!

Ruth Litchfield will be traveling with Communities Without Borders (CWB) again this summer, Pilgrim's seventh trip to support orphans and vulnerable children in communities outside Lusaka, the capitol of Zambia.

Many of you who have traveled with us and supported our mission there will remember stories of Nina in Ng'Ombe as well as all the work we did there and in Mandevu through Mrs. Teresa Banda including electricity, new latrine, new exterior fencing/wall to say nothing of the teaching done by travelers of the past and participation in their graduation ceremonies. Pilgrim has a great deal to be proud of in both of these communities. You have all helped hundreds of children through these years.

This summer Ruth will be traveling with CWB June 28<sup>th</sup> and returning on July 15<sup>th</sup>. She will be working and representing Pilgrim at the Garden Community and at a new school through CWB, Living Hope which is walking distance from our Guesthouse. She will be working/teaching in the schools and perhaps will be involved in teacher workshops while there. When the other travelers go south to Livingston Falls, she will happily stay back to have extra time with the Ng'Ombe and Mandevu communities of the past that they have worked with and supported so strongly. Ruth has been in touch with Nina on Ng'Ombe, and has learned that she has not been paid this entire school year. The Mission Committee has kindly committed funds to support her work there *and* Ruth will bring stories to you all upon her return. She will also spend time at Mandevu as well and Simon Kapeuta Middle School, also walking distance from the Guesthouse.

We will be collecting the following supplies through **Sunday, June 5:**

Pencils  
White Chalk  
Crayons  
Small composition notebooks/paper  
Small manipulatives



### THE TOAST TO FILL THE BBCF!

Bond-Bardes College Fund  
**Friday, June 10th, 7-11pm**  
Knights of Columbus 177 Bedford Street, Lexington Ma

We are planning a gathering of friends to toast John Bardes and to raise money for John Henry, Cary and Kerna's college funds. There will be food, cash bar, auction items, pictures, music and stories. (Please send musical requests ahead of time)

Please spend the evening or an hour in support of friends. \$20 entrance, and all proceeds go to the school fund.

RSVP by May 27<sup>th</sup> to Tina McBride at: [tina\\_mcbride2@hotmail.com](mailto:tina_mcbride2@hotmail.com)

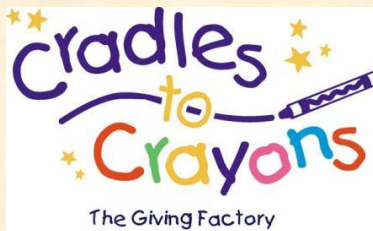
Please forward this email to anyone you know that loves a member of the Bond-Bardes Family, John, Cindy, John Henry, Cary or Kerna.



**Pilgrim Nursery School** will be holding their Annual Silent Auction this week, so please, feel free to go downstairs and bid anytime! All money raised goes right back into the school for things like Enrichment Programs, new materials for the classrooms, new playground equipment, etc.

There are some terrific items including Red Sox Tickets, Tommy Bahama Beach Chairs, Family Membership to Mass. Audubon, lots of Gift Cards to local restaurants & shops and more!!!

Bidding starts today and ends PROMPTLY at 10:30am on Friday, June 3rd. Thank you for your support!

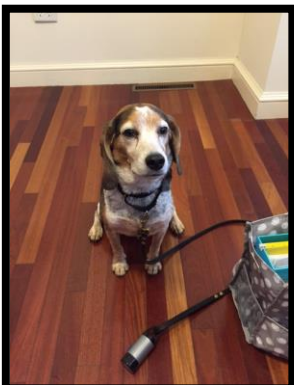


### **HELP US STUFF-A-TRUCK THIS SATURDAY JUNE 4!**

Clean out your closets and drop off your gently used children's clothing, shoes, and books to donate to Cradles to Crayons! This event will coincide with the placement of new bins in the St. Brigid parking lot- come and check out our newest way to collect quality donations in Lexington!

St. Brigid Stuff-a-Truck  
Drop off your donations on Saturday, June 4, 10:00am to 2:00pm  
St. Brigids Parking Lot  
2001 Mass Ave, Lexington MA

### **DEEP THOUGHTS BY BENJI...**



Hello Pilgrims! You might not know me, I'm Benji. My person is Lisa Hulbert. Sometimes she brings me into the office, where I sleep happily in a comfy chair. I just wanted to say goodbye to all of you, and I will certainly miss you and the nice grass at Pilgrim Church. Have a great summer all!

Love, Benji





