

## Pilgrim's Progress

March 7, 2019 - Vol. 60 No. 3



Dear Folks,

Lent is here. Lent is a season in the church calendar that runs from Ash Wednesday up to Easter Sunday. It traditionally marks the 40 days (minus Sundays) that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a time to reconsider where our lives are headed, where we make room for God, and think about changes we might want to make to how we are living. Lent can be a powerful time. It can renew us as we take time out to find God in the midst of our daily lives. I offer you the following Lenten calendar, a spiritual practice for each week to engage your faith life through Lent. Put it on your fridge or mirror or as a reminder on your phone.

### **Week One: Prayer** (3/10-3/16)

Set aside 10 minutes every day to pray. It can be early morning, lunch time, before bed. Remember the many kinds of prayer: thanksgiving, petitions, intercessory (prayers for others), adoration (worship). How do you experience God when you are praying?

### **Week Two: Fasting** (3/17-3/23)

Consider an "entertainment fast." Turn off the television, radio, tablet, phone when not using for calls, Alexa and other electronics for a week. How do these things get in the way of faith or connection to others? What might God be saying to you in the silence?

### **Week Three: Compassion** (3/24-3/30)

Part of our faith walk is how we reach out to others, especially the "least of these." How can you express compassion? Go to the grocery store and shop expressly for the food pantry instead of yourself or family. Write a card to someone you know who is having a hard time or is unable to come to church. How might having a compassionate heart change your everyday life?

### **Week Four: Forgiveness** (3/31-4/6)

We all have people in our lives we need to forgive. Take time this week to write a letter to a person you need/want to forgive. They may be living or not. You may or may not want to or be able to send the letter. Where do you feel God in the process of forgiveness?



**Week Five: Renewal (4/7-4/13)**

Take a walk each day this week even if it is short. Notice any signs of renewal? What changes day to day? Consider clipping a branch of forsythia and putting it in a vase or bringing home a pot of bulbs from the store. What is God renewing in your life? Deliver a second pot of bulbs or bunch of flowers to a friend or neighbor.

**Week Six: Patience (4/14-4/20)**

Spend the week practicing patience. Let others cut you off in traffic. Choose the longest line at the store and use the time for prayer for those in line ahead of you. Imagine the seeds of spring patiently waiting to sprout. Breathe. Breathe. How do you see God being patient with you, with the world? How are you patient with yourself, the world?

May your time with God throughout the Lenten season bring a measure of peace to your soul.

Blessings,  
*Karen*



**Looking Ahead to Lent-Easter**

Lent is an important season of reflection, repentance and spiritual renewal. We engage with Lent in many different ways and I'll share more about that next month. For now, here is an abbreviated look at what is coming up in Lent.

Sunday April 14, 10:30 am: Palm-Passion Sunday--we welcome Jesus with palms and journey with him through the ups and downs of Holy Week leading to Good Friday

Thursday April 18, 6:30 pm: Early Christian Meal—Pilgrims will gather to eat an Early Christian meal together, featuring foods common to the Middle East of the time.

Thursday April 18, 7:30 pm: Maundy Thursday--this Tenebrae service traces Jesus' last meal with his disciples, his long night of trials and suffering and his last commandments to his disciples. The service ends in darkness yet with a flame of hope.

Sunday April 21, 10:30am: Easter Sunday--we celebrate resurrection and the victory of love over hate, and life over death. An Easter egg hunt happens on the front lawn!



## Adult Bible Study: Tattoos on the Heart

This week the group discussed grace and dis-grace as outlined in Chapter 2 in the book.

One of our biggest challenges was defining "grace." How do you define grace? Can human beings fall out of God's grace or get outside God's grace? What is the difference between grace shown by God and grace shown by people? Is grace a "state of being"? Is grace dependent on our actions?

What feelings arise when we think of dis-grace? What is the difference between dis-grace and disgrace?

Boyle tells story after story of gang members finding themselves inside God's grace for the first time. He believes the grace is always there just unrecognized. What do you think?

What does it mean to be called by name? Or, as Boyle relates, "called by the name your mom calls you when she's not mad at you"

We talked about one metaphor that Homeboy Industries is like an "on-ramp" from dis-grace to grace. What do you think?

We didn't get too far into compassion so we will pick that up when we meet again on March 26th. We will also read Chapter 4 for that week.

Blessings,  
*Karen*

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### Karen's Vacation: Preaching and Pastoral Care Coverage

Karen will be on vacation for two weeks starting March 11-March 24. She will be back in the office on March 25. Preaching for those two Sundays will be Douglas Vooy's. Douglas went to seminary with Devin and now serves in chaplaincy with Chaplains on the Way, a local outreach with homeless folks in the Metro-Boston area. Douglas will also be available for pastoral care if any emergency comes up while Karen is away. Be sure to offer him the trademark warm Pilgrim welcome!



Douglas Vooy's

## Christian Education News

Dear Pilgrims and Friends,

Lent is a time in which we embark on a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the course of the next several weeks. This year, the Lenten focus for Children's Church will be on the Saints. Each week, we will learn about a different, new, and popular Saint. Our proposed schedule will include a variety of Saints, here is our schedule:

March 10th: St. Ignatius of Loyola (Patron Saint of Retreats)

March 17th: St. Catherine of Bologna (Patron Saint of the Arts)

March 24th: St. Benedict Joseph Labre (Patron Saint of the Homeless)

March 31st: St. Francis of Assisi (Patron Saint of the Environment and Animals)

April 7th: St. Martha (Patron Saint of Cooks)

This schedule is flexible but these saints are not. If you are interested in being a part of the lesson for any of these saints but cannot do the proposed date, please let me know! I am looking for people who have a deep connection (knowingly or unknowingly) to these Saints. Do you cook? Do you enjoy retreats? Do you enjoy meditation? We've already got someone on board for St. Francis of Assisi. This will be quite fun!

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have an Intergenerational Service for Palm Sunday. On Easter Sunday, both Children's Church and the Junior Youth will join together to make our semi-traditional Resurrection Rolls for coffee hour.

Peace,

*Devín*

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### Adult Education Program

On March 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00, the Third Sunday Adult Education program will have a special Lenten focus on the Psalms. Specifically, we will focus on Psalm 51. Unlike many of the praise psalms we focus on throughout the year, this psalm is particularly difficult. It focuses on the messy, broken ways in which we live into our humanity. We will explore the parts of the psalm that troubles us, we will find the ways that the psalm comforts us. Ultimately, we will be reminded of who we are, whose we are, and find out what it means to live into our own worthiness.

*Devín*

### Search Committee Update (Feb 26, 2019)

The Pilgrim Search Committee (comprised of Susan Moffitt, Bob Beckwith, Susan Carabbio, David McClave, Lesley Morrison, Nick Zorn, Julia Clark and Ed Bond) continues to move forward.

The Committee is now receiving and reviewing candidate profiles as they come in. The process to 'call' a settled pastor is not a search with a 'specific deadline', but we are encouraged by the profiles we have received to date. We appreciate your ongoing support and also welcome your thoughts and prayers as we advance in our discernment process.

Thank you,  
Pilgrim Search Committee

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### Pilgrims Step Up for Dignity Matters



Many thanks to all who contributed items to the Dignity Matters collection. In just one week - only one week - 73 feminine hygiene products or underwear were collected! Sammy and I just dropped off bags and bags of items at our Lexington Neighborhood Brigade liaison's house who will get the items to Dignity Matters. It is a great feeling to know that these supplies will go to women and girls who are homeless or otherwise in need, helping them to stay healthy, regain self-confidence, and live with basic dignity. Once, again, my sincere thanks for responding to this call with such enthusiasm.



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There are various things you could do to help the clients of Lex RAP. Contact Naomi Rosenthal to volunteer to help make the Hand in Hand Café a community event to be held at First Parish a success! (Email: [Naomi.rosenthal@verizon.net](mailto:Naomi.rosenthal@verizon.net)).

Contact Ingrid Klimoff to volunteer to help with the Redeemer Pancake Breakfast (a fund raiser) or to help with the Spring Dinner at Hancock Church. (email: [iklimoff@charleshornig.org](mailto:iklimoff@charleshornig.org))

Contact Barbara Freedman to volunteer to help with the monthly Lunch in Lowell at the IINE (International Institute of New England). ([Barbara.a.freedman@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.a.freedman@gmail.com))  
Sandy Gardiner ([Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com](mailto:Sandra.gardiner.02420@gmail.com)) helped with the preparation of food at Barbara Freedman's house on February 26. A different organization is going in March. We will be going again on **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Save the date!

Contact [marianne.boswell@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.boswell@gmail.com) if you are a knitter and would like to knit hats for our 26 children! Thank you!

*Sandy Gardiner*

# Mission News and Announcements

**Mission: Cambodia 2019**  
**Dick Edmiston**

In February Pilgrim members provide funds for ten food bundles to be delivered to needy in Cambodia. This week I received the following THANK YOU and pictures from Janis Lindblom, of Cambodian Cocoon.

My last rice delivery for this trip! Your 10 bags along with a box of noodles, 2 bottles of soy sauce and 2 bottles of fish sauce. Please thank your friends at your church for all their gifts! 😊



Thank you for all your support.  
Dick Edmiston



Travel to Zambia with Communities Without Borders  
**A Service Learning Experience**  
**Introductory Session – March 10 - 2pm**

First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton – 1326 Washington St, West Newton, MA 02465

**Trip Dates: Beginning to middle of July (approximately 2 weeks)**

Registration Deadline: March 29, 2019



**Trip:** Approximately \$3700 total per person based on double room occupancy including airfare.

**Price Includes:**

- Trip Leaders
- Transportation
- Accommodations and lodging
- Meals

**Highlights from our trips:**

- Experience a multi-dimensional itinerary that encompasses active participation
- Build cross-cultural relationships
- Contribute and distribute school supplies to local communities
- Visit community schools and secondary schools
- Immerse yourself with local Zambians in the compounds
- Assist with teaching, projects and interacting with children
- Create memories that will last a lifetime

For more information, contact Robin Kutner at Communities Without Borders,  
[dyerkutn@gmail.com](mailto:dyerkutn@gmail.com)



Come hear  
**Rabbi Claudio Kogan**  
tell us what life is like today at the  
**SOUTHWEST BORDER**



**MARCH 14 at 7:30 pm**  
**At Temple Isaiah**  
55 Lincoln St  
Lexington, MA

RSVPs Requested:  
[SocialAction@TempleIsaiah.net](mailto:SocialAction@TempleIsaiah.net)

***About The Speaker:*** Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan, MD., MBE., MEd is the Director of the Institute for Bioethics and Social Justice at UTRGV/SOM. He is also an ordained rabbi and a Clinical Associate Professor, Medicine Behavior Society School of Medicine. Previously, he served as rabbi for Temple Emanuel in McAllen TX and continues to serve as a chaplain for various law enforcement agencies and hospital systems throughout the area.





## Sign Up to Volunteer at Pilgrim!

To sign up to be a liturgist, greeter, coffee hour host or to volunteer with Pilgrim's Children's Church, please click [HERE](#). Thank you!

Click [HERE](#) to access the Pilgrim Church Calendar.



## Recent Sermons

Please feel free to watch or read recent sermons on our website. [HERE](#) is the link to the most recent sermon.



### UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

#### Partners

By: Mary Luti  
March 4, 2019

*Still, you can't offer Mercy to an enemy every week and not start to mean it, even a little. You can't put Healing in someone's hand for months on end without something rubbing off.*

Continue reading [HERE](#)