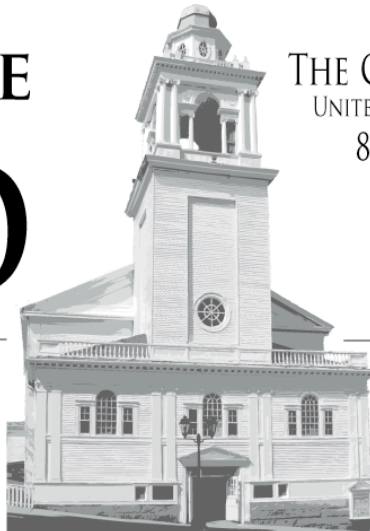


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# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE REVEREND GARY L. MARKS,  
SENIOR PASTOR  
gmarks@8townsquare.org

THE REVEREND HEATHER A. MOODY,  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
hmoody@8townsquare.org



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,  
MASSACHUSETTS 02360

[www.8townsquare.org](http://www.8townsquare.org)



CHURCH OFFICE

PHONE: 508-746-3026

FAX: 508-746-4362

[office@8townsquare.org](mailto:office@8townsquare.org)

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March 23, 2008

Dear Friends,

The Resurrection of Jesus is the central event of the Christian faith. No matter how that phenomenon is interpreted it stands at the center of every Christian creed or confession of faith. It is a spring event, of course, and therefore has absorbed many ancient or “pagan” traditions into the Easter accounts found in the Bible. There are no chocolate bunnies, colored eggs etc. found in the Bible, but because Easter was dated to coincide with the renewal of life and the annual cycle of nature many non-biblical elements became associated with the triumph of Jesus over the powers of death and darkness. I have never minded some of the accumulated extra-biblical aspects of Easter, I confess, though I’ve always found chocolate crosses to be really objectionable!

I have long wondered however, where the tradition began regarding Easter lilies as symbolic of the Resurrection. So, I did a little Google research. I assumed that the lily was deemed an Easter flower because it is pure white and fragrant. The white flower does, I found, symbolize the spiritual values of Easter: purity, life and renewal. The flower’s trumpet shape is a reminder of the heralding of Jesus, returning triumphantly over death to Jerusalem.

I didn’t know that nearly all the 15 million Easter Lily bulbs grown in America are produced by just ten farms along the California-Oregon border. The bulbs are harvested in the fall and then shipped to greenhouses in Michigan, California, Pennsylvania and Ohio where they are planted in time to bloom at Easter. Since Easter is a “moveable” holiday the timing of the lilies to produce blooms for Easter day is not an easy achievement!

One legend of the Easter Lily I found interesting is that the lily grew in the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas is said to have betrayed Jesus. Some biblical texts include these words: “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.” (Luke 22:44). The legend is that white lilies miraculously sprung up from the ground where drops of Jesus’ sweat and tears fell during his last hours before his crucifixion.

I find a certain charm in this legend of which I’ve so recently become aware. It suggests that the power of the Resurrection reaches all of us in our anguish and agony and fixes our spirits upon the sweet blossom of hope.

When you see the array of lilies on Easter Day in our beautiful sanctuary, perhaps you will recall that light in a dark world is ours’ as the gift of God’s grace. We need images, stories and legends of hope to prompt our spirits to rise with Christ above the powers of greed, violence, injustice and discord. Easter is a time of rejoicing for the hope which spares the human spirit from despair and opens us to dreams of hope and renewal. The Easter Lily trumpets that deep longing within us which is eternal hope. Happy Resurrection Day!

Love,

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Clerk – Lois Post; Moderator – Steven Triffletti; Treasurer – Elizabeth Hughes; Collector – Debra Richters and Nate Davis;  
Office Administrator-Shellie Souza; Sexton-Tony Nightingale;  
World Mission Emphasis-Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone-508-747-1341

**ON OUR CALENDAR**

**Mar 23-Easter Sunday:** Easter Sunrise Service, 6:00am on Cole's Hill (near the Massasoit statue). Two Services at The Church of the Pilgrimage: 9:00am and 11:00am.

**Mar 24:** Monday Meals of Hospitality, 11am, Allerton Hall.

**Mar 25:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. The Budget Committee will meet in the Conference Room in The Robinson Center at 7:00pm.

**Mar 26:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office, 9:30am. Choir Practice at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. There will not be a Wednesday Evening Prayer Service. The regular services will resume on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

**Mar 27:** Rev. Moody will be in the office at 9:30am

**Mar 28:** Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. Rev. Moody will be in the church office, 9:30am.

*Coming Events-*

Mar 30: The first in a series of three New Member Classes will be held in the Conference Room in the Rev. John Robinson Center from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Apr 2: Wednesday Evening Prayer Service in the sanctuary from 7:00pm-7:30pm.

Apr 6: New Member Class in the John Robinson Center in the Conference Room, 11:30am-12:30pm.

**CHURCH RECORD**

**Hospitalized:** Mary Clark was recently hospitalized. Cliff Sampson continues his recuperation at The Golden Living Center.

**NOTES-**

If you know of any **pastoral concerns** of which the pastor's should be aware, please call the office or speak to one of the ministers.

The Membership and Evangelism Committee would like to ask and encourage everyone to wear their nametags to coffee hour. There will be baskets to drop the nametags in if you are unable to return them to the board. Thank you for your cooperation.

There will be no issue of The Pilgrimage Herald for the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>. This will give a break to the ministers and our office administrator Shellie Souza.

The next issue of The Pilgrimage Herald will be April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast was once again a lovely event. There were about 100 people in attendance. The Communion Service was simple and moving. The breakfast was fantastic. We thank the Advisory Board for organizing and overseeing the gathering. A special thanks goes to Jenny Healy and Trace Sears for making the best hot cross buns ever! The Confirmation Class did a great job in serving the Communion. We also thank the Communion Committee for preparing the elements and the Bottomleys and Kathy Marks for setting up and decorating Allerton Hall so tastefully. The whole event was a wonderful church family gathering.

We also thank the hard-working Flower Committee for receiving orders for the Easter Lilies which so enhance the beauty of the sanctuary for our Easter Sunday services. It takes a great deal of care and patience to get the listings correct and the Committee does it well. At this writing 77 plants have been ordered. That's great! Any monies left over after paying for the plants goes into a fund which provides for other seasonal beautifications of the sanctuary.

What a blessing it was on Palm Sunday to hear the Youth and Sanctuary Choirs sing together! We are so fortunate to have the best choirs of a church our size anywhere. Thank you choirs!

The readers of the Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday did a splendid job. Thank you!

Our sympathies and prayers are extended to Judy Fortini whose mother Lois Dunham passed away recently.

The deadline to submit Annual Reports to the church office is Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance.

**PILGRIM ASSOCIATION –ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

Please save the afternoon of Sunday, April 6, for the Pilgrim Association Annual Spring Meeting, which will take place at Old South Union Church in Weymouth. We will begin at 2pm with registration and a time for fellowship. At 2:30pm, the business portion of our meeting will commence, followed by our program. The afternoon will conclude at 4:00pm.

**JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS**

Our next Junior High activity will be in April. We'll meet after church on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. More information to come...

**SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY NEWS**

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:15-11:15am. Come to the beginning of the worship service in the sanctuary before going to the JRC's Youth Room for the day's youth ministry experience.

**Senior High Mission Trip to North Carolina:** For those of you going on the trip, remember to work on selling shares of stock in the trip to friends, family and neighbors. Your goal is to sell at least 10 shares by April 20<sup>th</sup> to people who are not a part of our congregation. We'll invite the congregation to become shareholders during the month of April.

**CONFIRMATION NEWS**

\*\*\*Change of schedule\*\*\* Our next Confirmation meeting will be **Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** from 11:45 to 1:15pm. This meeting will replace the meeting scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, since several people could not attend that meeting. We still have a lot to cover, so be sure to join us on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING**

This year, we are inviting our children to bring a non-perishable food item each week for their offering. This offering will go to the Plymouth Food Warehouse which in turn supports numerous food banks throughout Plymouth as well as neighboring communities. Please see the Mission announcement about items needed.

**MISSIONS & OUTREACH****UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Monday Meals of Hospitality** are a free hot meal at lunch time for those in need. If you would like to prepare a meal, help serve, or assist in any way, please sign-up in Allerton Hall after church or call our coordinator Diane Flood at 508-209-0266.

**The Plymouth Food Warehouse Donations.** The following food basics are needed at the warehouse: canned tuna, chicken, and ham, macaroni & cheese, pasta and sauce, rice, beans, canned vegetables or

fruit, baby food & formula (with current dates), condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly, hearty soups and chili, crackers, cereal, juice, coffee & tea. *Thank you for filling our red bins!*

**Overnights of Hospitality.** *Thanks to all who have volunteered to cook, serve, and host during the winter season 2007-2008.* Without your participation, this service to those local men without homes would not take place. Special thanks go to **Hosts:** Norm Bingham-Maas, Rob Leaver, Ken and Alice Heckman, Chuck Harper, Larry Foster, Gordon Campbell, Bill Converse, Jim Lake, David Such, Bob Colburn, Joyce Ashley, Peter Simpson, and Judy Erikson; as well as **Cooks and Servers:** Barbara Quinn, Nate Moore, Nancy Morse, Ashley and Kim Latosek, Terri Delano and her CCD Class, Kathy Marks and her Interact Group, Susan Miller, Meg Bross, Judy and Austin Donn, Sarah Barnicle, Peter Causton, Shellie Souza and her family, Peter Simpson and his family. Final thanks go to Tony Nightingale, Sr. and Tony Nightingale, Jr. for keeping things clean in both the JRC and Allerton Hall.

**Coming in April.** We'll be putting together *baby kits*, and *emergency clean-up kits* for Church world Services (CWS) this spring. These kits will be distributed nationally and internationally to those in need. More information in the weeks to come. If you'd like to get started putting your own complete kit together, please go to the Website: <http://www.macuss.org/stewardship/cws.htm>. Note that we will be putting together *school kits* in mid-summer for local use in September. For more information, contact Sarah Barnicle at 508-747-5531.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

The New Member Classes beginning on March 30<sup>th</sup> will be lead by Rev. Marks. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Church of the Pilgrimage, please call the church office to indicate that interest. New members will be received into the church on April 27<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday morning worship service.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Come one, come all, all who hear this Heralding cry. A guest from the 18<sup>th</sup> century will be the program for Women's Fellowship, Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Allerton Hall. We would like those interested to join us for Gordon Campbell's presentation of "Manners and Civility in the days of George Washington." Gordon will be in full 18<sup>th</sup> century dress as he instructs us in matters of civility for that day and time. Come and enjoy his presentation. See how far we have strayed from the days of our founding fathers in matters of matters and civility. Bring a friend. Come join us for program, refreshment and fellowship.

Yours truly, Women of The Church of the Pilgrimage

## CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT ~ APRIL 19TH

The last one was so much fun that we had to plan another. Join members of our church family for an intergenerational evening of food, fellowship, and fun and games ranging from backgammon to boggle and jenga to jump rope. All are welcome. Save the date. Detail to follow



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
8 TOWN SQUARE,  
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

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