
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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

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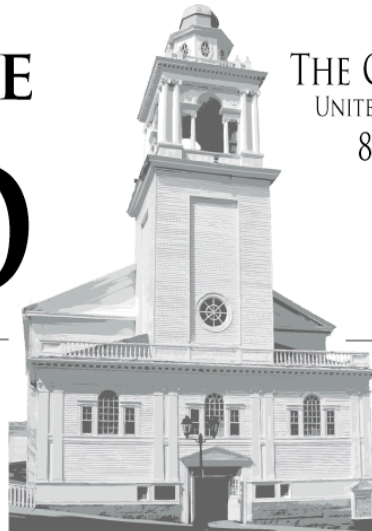


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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

October 5, 2008

Dear Friends,

On the way home the other day I was listening to WBUR on the radio. The host of whatever show was interviewing two theologians. I heard very little of the program, but the subject was one which intrigued me. It was about how greed had caused a major rupture in the American economy. That's all I really know about the program and therefore, I won't be presumptuous enough to dwell upon the observations of the theologians.

The subject of greed, however, is one about which we speak and take seriously far too infrequently. We focus upon greed only when its effects are reflected in crisis situations. That's where we are now in America and the ramifications of greed have global implications. In times of great stress many turn to those of us who represent faith and our usual unheeded railings against the negative and destructive connotations of truth like greed. So long as we enjoy great prosperity, so long as we prioritize excess, the culture around us isn't very much interested in theological rantings about avarice.

The truth is that we are all parties to wanting more than we need. The ancients called this cupidity. The Bible speaks of coveting what others have when what others have is what we also want. That is envy, a manifestation of sin which leads individuals and nations toward an encounter with ruin. I think that is why in times of economic crisis we almost intuitively turn to sources like the Bible and theologians who know this to be the case with our humanity all along.

I am as caught up in the current global crisis as anyone is. I listen to almost anyone who thinks they can solve our problems and keep us from economic collapse. I am aware, too, that we all suffer from greed's ravages and cannot simply blame those who play it out on a large stage like Wall Street.

Maybe this is a time to reconsider our priorities. Sometimes when we feel threatened we are strangely enabled to consider the positive aspects of repentance. It is a time when we can learn anew to care for others and to gain an appreciation for those things in life which really matter. Maybe we can relearn that life is a pure gift and that we should savor every minute of it. It is a time, too, to direct our gaze toward spiritual values and to realize that life is far more than the number of toys we have, toys we often want because others have them.

Sometimes it takes the "shaking of the foundations" in order for us to rediscover that secure foundations are spiritual as our faith proclaims. We can never buy what only God can give.

Love,

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

O N O U R C A L E N D A R

Oct. 5: Morning worship 10:00am, Rev. Gary L. Marks preaching. Our annual Neighbors in Need Offering will be received. The Cherub Choir and Junior Choir rehearse.

Oct. 6: Monday Meals of Hospitality in Allerton Hall, 11am-1pm.

Oct. 7: Rev. Marks will be in the church office, 9:30am. The Missions Committee will meet at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Oct. 8: Rev. Marks will be in the church office at 9:30am. The first Wednesday Evening Prayer Service will be in the sanctuary at 7:00pm (see notes). Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Coming Events:

Oct. 15: New Wednesday Bible Study will meet at 10:00am in The Robinson Center Conference Room. Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00pm.

Oct. 17: Wedding rehearsal in the sanctuary, 6:30pm.

Oct. 18: Wedding in the sanctuary, 4:00pm.

Oct. 19: The Ministry Team will meet in the JRC following morning worship.

Oct. 25: Harvest Fair and Luncheon

Oct. 26: CROP Walk

C H U R C H R E C O R D

Hospitalized: Violet Johnson-Jordan Hospital.

Recuperating at home following hospitalization, Nancy Scheid. Correction: Last week it was reported that Billie Fry was hospitalized. It was Dottie Fry who was in the hospital. Dottie is now recovering at home. We apologize for the mistake.

In Sympathy: We have recently learned of the death of Charlotte (Chi) Armstrong in Florida. Our sympathies are extended to her family. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Our sympathies are extended to Sarah Barnicle whose father died last week.

FLOWERS-The flowers are in loving memory of the Savery, Bregoli-Holman and Reggiani Families given by Helen and Jack Laine.

GREETERS-Rudy and Meredith Dorneman.

NOTES-If you are interested in becoming a member of The Church of the Pilgrimage, please contact the church office or speak to Rev. Marks. Rev. Marks offer a **New Member Class** when several people have indicated an interest in membership.

Gary is planning to teach a **Bible Study Class** on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. The first meeting will be on October 15th in The John Robinson Center Conference Room. If you are able to attend these studies, please do so.

The next **Guild Meeting** is October 10th at 1:00pm in Allerton Hall. Barbara Peavey will speak about her trip to Norway and Sweden.

The Advisory Board has appointed a **Bylaw Review Committee**. This Committee will be working over the next few months to consider changes to our current Bylaws. An important part of this review process will be to gather suggestions and recommendations from various Boards and Committees, as well as Members of The Church of the Pilgrimage. The Committee will also be reviewing bylaws of other churches. Members are encouraged to contact members of the Committee to provide input (preferably in writing) to this important process. The Committee members are: Marna Blomberg, Christina Borel, Al Hoyt, Don Jennings, and Doug Post.

The **Advisory Board** would like to compile a list of individuals who would be willing to serve as ushers on an occasional Sunday morning. You need not be a member of the church to help out in this capacity. We will be adding a fifth usher on Sundays to assist people using the side door and your willingness to help out would be greatly appreciated!!! Please see any member of the Advisory Board after church or give one of us a call if you can help. Thanks in advance!! Linn Peterson

Women's Fellowship: On Thursday (Not Monday!) October 9th from 7 to 9 pm at the parsonage we are planning to gather to rethink who we are, what we do and how we do it. We would love for any and all women of the church to be a part of that discussion. What are you looking for from such a group? What should our focus be? How can we meet the needs of women in our faith community? Come, break bread with us and be a part of our journey. If you are interested (no commitment necessary), please let Kathy Marks or Jenny Healy, know so we can plan accordingly.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Last Sunday, because of the rain, the Corn Maze flooded at Sauchuk Farm. So we have **rescheduled** the Corn Maze & Hay Ride Adventure for **this Sunday, October 5th**! Be sure to pack a lunch and bring \$9.00. (Scholarships are available-do not let cost keep you from coming and having a great time with us!)The hayride and maze last about 2-3 hours, so plan on being gone from 11:30-3:00pm. Parents, your child will need a signed permission slip in order to go. Our regular October meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th from 9:00am-12:00pm. We will be doing an outdoor service project at the home of a Plymouth neighbor in need. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmands and Mentors—Rev. Heather has emailed you discussion questions for the movie Contact. Each Confirmand should get together with her Mentor to watch and discuss this movie by the end of October. Confirmands, remember that our next meeting is Sunday, October 26th from 11:30-1:00p.m. We'll be traveling to an outdoor location, so be sure to wear warm comfortable clothes and good walking shoes.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP OVERVIEW

Building on the fantastic success of this past summer's senior high mission trip, we are working hard at planning some AWESOME activities that include mini-mission projects, movies, and maybe even visiting another church like the one we attended in North Carolina. This year we will meet once a month and we'll be joining with the senior high youth group from Second Church in Manomet. Mark your calendars now for our kick-off meeting: **Sunday, October 19th from 5-7p.m.** in the Youth Room in the John Robinson Center. We warmly invite all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders to join us, and bring a friend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

This year's theme for our Sunday School Offering is "**Feed My Sheep**", taken from Jesus' commandment to the apostle Peter (John 21:15-17). Jesus tells Peter that if he loves Jesus, he will feed Jesus' sheep. Many working families in Plymouth are truly struggling to have enough money to pay for food. We want to teach our children that 1.) Jesus wants us to do something about this, 2.) We can help, and 3.) We help because we love Jesus and this is a way for us to show that love. If your children come with you when you go grocery shopping, invite each of them to pick out a healthy non-perishable item that they can bring for their Sunday morning offering. This is a wonderful way to teach the spiritual practice of sharing. This offering will go to the Plymouth Food Warehouse which in turn supports numerous food banks throughout Plymouth as well as neighboring communities.

LOOKING AHEAD....Rev. Heather will be on retreat October 7th - 12th.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH NEWS-----

Overnights of Hospitality Volunteer Training: We will soon be starting our 5th season for the Overnights of Hospitality program. We are looking forward to working with those of you who have volunteered in the past to be hosts (chaperones) and/or meal providers.

As the site coordinators begin to set up their schedules, we need to know who is available for volunteering. So, please let us know if you are or are not still willing to participate. Also, let us know if you are a host and/or meal volunteer and when you are available.

There will be a training for new volunteers this Sunday, October 5th in Allerton Hall at the Church of the Pilgrimage, Town Square, beginning at 7pm. Experienced volunteers, of course, are also invited to attend. In fact, bring your friends! We encourage anyone who is interested in cooking, serving or hosting to contact Sarah Barnicle at 508-747-5531. Our first week of hosting will be Sunday, November 2 through the morning of November 9. All dates are open for meal makers and hosts.

We need YOU! During coffee hour this Sunday, October 5th, we will be signing up cooks, servers, and overnight hosts for the first week of hosting our homeless guests in need. (Nov 2 through Nov 9). If you won't be able to cook, serve, or stay overnight with us, donations of paper goods are always appreciated (paper napkins, strong plastic silverware, paper cups, paper plates).

Neighbors in Need: This week we will be receiving the Neighbors in Need offering, which supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Food Collection: We are doing very well regarding food collections for the Plymouth Food Warehouse this year. Keep up the great work! We're always very proud to announce that our sizeable donations come from The Church of the Pilgrimage. To all children attending church school: Please remember to bring a can or a box of food for the hungry! Paper goods are also always accepted. Please leave your donations in the red bins in the foyer.

You've Been Waiting, It's Here...Cropwalk 2008!

At 39 years of age, the CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk is one of the oldest Community charity walks in the world. Created and sponsored by the Church World Service, a ministry of 35 interfaith Denominations providing self-help, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in 80 countries, CROP walk funds provide tools, from seeds to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, to empower the hungry to help themselves. And, up to 25% of the funds raised go to help fight poverty in our own Community.

The 2008 Plymouth CROP Walk occurs Sunday, October 26 at 12:30pm beginning at Zion Lutheran Church, across from the Cordage in North Plymouth. The Walk occurs along 2 possible routes through Plymouth, a 3½ or a 6-mile loop, chosen by the walkers depending on their stamina.

Last year The Church of the Pilgrimage was #5 out of 8 participating Plymouth Churches in raising contributions for CROP Walk. We all like to compete; Win for Good. Let's have a Friendly Competition. Let's increase our efforts this year to show the other Churches how seriously we view World Hunger by increasing our contributions this year. We could place #4 or even #3 with a little effort.

Please contribute generously by being a Walker for CROP Walk 2008 or giving to a Walker to combat Hunger. See Gordon Campbell at grampas@comcast.net or Doug Hagen at dhag777@comcast.net or 508-746-6392, or visit our table after Sunday Services to sign-up to help. Thank you all so very much for your kind generosity.

A Day With Martha Grace Reese
Saturday, November 15, 2008
9:00am-3:00pm, United Congregational Church
6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA

Who: Martha Grace Reese completed a 4-year Lily Study of Evangelism in Mainline Protestant Churches, and her remarkable book, Unbinding the Gospel, focuses on how congregations can reclaim the lost art of evangelism.

Why: Learn how to help your congregation share their faith and invite others to church.

What: Learn a proven system of practical steps of faith sharing, prayer, worship and planning that will energize your congregation into new life.

How: To be eligible for this workshop, **a pastor and a team of at least five lay people** must read and do the exercises in Unbinding the Gospel. There will be follow-up coaching of teams after this event.

To get started: Contact the church office. Purchase Unbinding the Gospel at Amazon.com.

*Sponsored by the Commission for Evangelism and
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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

