
THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

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THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:00pm

Easter-April 4, 2010

Dear Friends:

Easter! Oh how I love the Day of Resurrection! It is the day which created our faith. It is the event which overcame the horrors of Good Friday and gave to us a vision of life and hope which not even the powers of death, violence and destruction can kill. It is the day of grace and reprieve, a day of flowers and joy after all our winters of discontent and gloom. Easter is that exalted event which shuns skeptic attempts to deny it or reasoned attempts to justify it and give it rational credibility.

Easter is a phenomenon of the spirit. It is God's act of grace toward a world which seems ever to militate against its unique hope. Its power is realized when in singing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" we know in the deepest recesses of our soul what it means to feel that something eternal and life-alteringly powerful is astir within us. It is the event which interrupts the ways of the routinely accepted with a divine intrusion of hope which can fill us, even if for but a brief interlude, with a sublime sense that goodness puts all the forces of evil into full retreat. It gives a glimpse of what God wants the world to be no matter what the world is. It is a breath of eternity breathing joy into our spirits no matter what else pervasively describes our lives.

I shall always savor Easter as one of your pastors at The Church of the Pilgrimage. I love starting Resurrection Day on Cole's Hill at sunrise. We arrive while it is still dark, just as the first Easter women did, and while there the sun comes up and with it the Son of God comes up. Services at our beautiful church are always arrayed with the sight and scent of Easter lilies, the organ soars with majestic music of hope, the choir resembles the tones of the angels of heaven, the Word is proclaimed that we should not be looking for the dead among the living. Sweet "Alleluias" keep evil in check for a while and give joyous testimony to the triumph of God's Word, for now, with such power that we know that one day God's way will prevail.

Easter is a pure gift. It is peace amid war, wholeness amid brokenness, joy amid tears of sorrow, grace amid all things which lack it. It is a sliver of sunshine stealing into all our dark places allowing us enough light to make tentative steps away from our dusky dwelling places in a journey toward the ultimate light.

I love sharing Easter with you! I have been blessed to do so for a very long time. The grandeur of Easter, though, is that it is universal and spans all the times, conditions and places of life. It is locally universal, but every locality is swept up into the great heartthrob of God's grace so that all people are resplendent with the grace of God's divine light.

I hope to celebrate Easter with you this year especially as we are held in the loving embrace of God's pure light.

Love,

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The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC is an Open and Affirming Church

Moderator – Allen Hoyt; Treasurer – Verna-Ross Hoyt; Clerk – Lois Post; Collector – Tom Mudgett;
Music Director – Kelley DePasqua; Organist – Michael Eaton; Office Manager – Shellie Souza;
World Mission Emphasis – Heifer Project International; Church Building Telephone – 508-747-1341

On Our Calendar

Apr 4-Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service on Cole's Hill 6:0am (across from Plymouth Rock). Two services in the sanctuary: 9am and 11am. There is no Coffee Hour following either service this morning.

Apr 5-Easter Monday: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am. Monday Meals of Hospitality at 11am in Allerton Hall.

Apr 6: Gary will be in the church office at 9:30am.

Apr 7: Gary will be in the office at 9:30am. Missions Committee Meeting at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm.

Apr 8: Gary will be in the office at 9:30am. Christian Education Committee Meeting at the home of the Healy's. Membership and Evangelism Meeting at 7pm in the JRC Conference Room.

Apr 9: Gary will be in the office at 9:30am. The Guild will meet at 1pm in Allerton Hall.

Apr 10: The Plymouth Antiquarian Society/Backroads of the South Shore will be in Allerton Hall for a history symposium "Summer Folk: The Story of Tourism on the South Shore."

Coming Events:

Apr 11: Communion will be part of the morning worship service. Cherub Choir will rehearse following worship. Introduction to the Bible Class, JRC Conference Room, 11:30-12:30. Yom Ha Shoah Service at Beth Jacob Community Center at 7:30pm. This is Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Apr 13: Shellie Souza will not be in the office. She will be attending a church administrators seminar at our Framingham Conference Center.

Apr 25: The Church Council will meet in the JRC at 11am.

N O T E S

There will not be an issue of *The Pilgrimage Herald* for April 11, 2010. The staff is taking a break after a very active Lent/Holy Week.

On April 9 at 1:00pm member of the **Guild** will meet in Allerton Hall for a program entitled "Our Synagogue Neighbors" presented by Karen Goldstein. Please join us if you can.

We thank **Gina Basler** and her son **Michael Cappola** for being our worship leaders on Palm Sunday. We thank **Hannah Woodbury** for her children's message.

The **Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast** was delightful. It was a well-attended service (about 100 people) and there was a wonderful sense of being a church family gathered around sacrament and sumptuous food. Gary thanks Al Hoyt for sharing with him the Communion Service and for the many people who provided such a delicious breakfast. There can't possibly be Hot Cross Buns better than the ones Jenny Healy makes! It was a memorable Palm Sunday, indeed. The Confirmation Class was great in serving the Communion and the

meal that followed. We thank them. They are a nice group of young people. The service in the sanctuary was well attended, the music was terrific.

If you would like to **provide flowers** in memory or in honor of a loved one **for our April 25th worship service**, please call the church office (508-746-3026).

Interested in learning new spiritual practices? Wishing you had time to deepen your understanding of how you already live your faith in your everyday life? Unsure of what spiritual practices are? Just looking for something to do? Jessica Hague will be leading a small group in a 5-week study on Spiritual Practices that will be held after Church beginning April 11. We'll learn, discuss, practice, and reflect on those activities that allow us to "create openings in our lives where the grace, mercy, and presence of God may be made known to us" (Craig Dykstra). All are welcome, but Jess asks you note the following:

- To allow time for the group to grow in relationship to one another as well as learn about spiritual practices, Jess is asking participants to commit to at least 4 of the 5 sessions.
- To allow space for all to be heard (listening is a spiritual practice), there will be a limit in the group size. If there is extensive interest, more groups will be formed!

If you are interested, please contact Jess ASAP in person at Church, via e-mail at jessica.hague@gmail.com, or by calling her at 508-728-1760. Guest lecturers may include **Jenny Healy**, so if you've always wanted to know what makes her bread so special, contact Jess today!

Boards and Committees

Your Nominating Committee is in the process of finding people to participate on the Church's boards and committees. As you probably know, the Church functions by the participation of our members on these boards and committees. While its important to work to our Church it is also rewarding and can be enjoyable.

If a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to consider joining a board or committee, please consider it favorably. If you have questions on what a committee does, we will put you in contact with someone who is familiar. If you are interested in another committee than the one you may be asked to join, please let us know. If you have an interest in any of our boards or committees and you haven't been asked, don't be shy, let us know if your interest.

The Nominating Committee: Rosa Cook, Sue Miller, Pat Mudgett, Ray Quinn, Amy Simpson and Steve Triffletti

A Note from Gary:

Recently we received a general letter concerning the activities in the life of Beatrice Biira. Beatrice has a long connection with Heifer Project and, of course, with Rosalee and Paul Sinn. She is a wonderful and energetic young woman. She graduated from Connecticut College and entered The Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock, Arkansas. Now she is about to graduate from the Clinton School. I congratulate Beatrice for her many achievements. She is among the people I admire most for her truly outstanding contributions to making the world a better place than it was. Her letter is long so I won't duplicate it here. It is posted on the bulletin board by the Allerton Hall Ramp door (or I am sure Rosalee would be happy to make it available to you). For now I congratulate Beatrice on her personal achievements, and I thank God for her ongoing good wishes.

While I'm on the subject of recognizing people who are involved in good works for good causes, I am humbled by the members of our church who are engaged in many laudable volunteer undertakings. Several members of our congregation work with Habitat for Humanity and Heifer International beyond the efforts recognized in our church. A number of people give their time to Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless, or to The Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse in efforts to shelter the homeless or make food available to those who otherwise would go hungry. Other give time to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, Score for the Cure Soccer Tournament, Best Buddies Bike-a-Thon, and other such organizations. We have people who volunteer as hospice and hospital workers. The list could go on and I apologize if I've overlooked ways in which you may be involved in other humanitarian activities. You all have my admiration and respect.



ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 16th. In order to have the Annual Report Booklets ready 2 weeks prior to Annual Meeting reports must be submitted on or before Tuesday, April 13th. Thank you in advance.

Monday Meals Update

- It's hard to believe, but during the months of January, February and the first 3 weeks of March we served over 800 meals, including second helpings and bagged lunches.
- We have 424 visitors
- We seem to be holding our costs down between 2 and 3 dollars a meal. This is pretty amazing when you consider that coffee and snacks are provided before the meal, and the meal always includes hot home-cooked meat, vegetables, potatoes, rolls, salad, and dessert. The takeaway bagged lunches are very much appreciated by our guests as well.

We thank you once again for your support in this very important outreach project. Your donations to the Missions Committee have helped to relieve the financial burden on some of our hard working volunteers. Although we are slated for just one more month of meals for this season we welcome any cooking, serving, or financial support you would like to offer. If you're in the area between 10:30 and 1:00 on a Monday, stop by and say hello. *Blessings from your Monday Meals Crew*

Community Observance of Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day 2010) Sunday, April 11, 7:30pm Beth Jacob Community Center

An interfaith observance commemorating the destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis and giving recognition to the significance of the Holocaust for people of all faiths.

Special Guest: Ruth Oppenheim, who was in Germany on the infamous night of Kristallnacht and whose family suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazis, will speak on the importance for us all of remembering the Holocaust.

*Preceding our Community Center observance, at 6:30pm we meet briefly at the Holocaust Memorial Monument, in Beth Jacob Cemetery. This event is taking place in cooperation with the Plymouth-area Interfaith Clergy Association, the Town of Plymouth's "No Place for Hate" Committee, and the Plymouth Public Schools. All are welcome!

Easter Services

Sunday, April 4th

Community Sunrise
Service, 6am @ Cole's
Hill (across from the
Rock)

Easter Worship
Service at 9am,
Sanctuary

Easter Worship
Service at 11am,
Sanctuary



THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE
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SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 AM
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