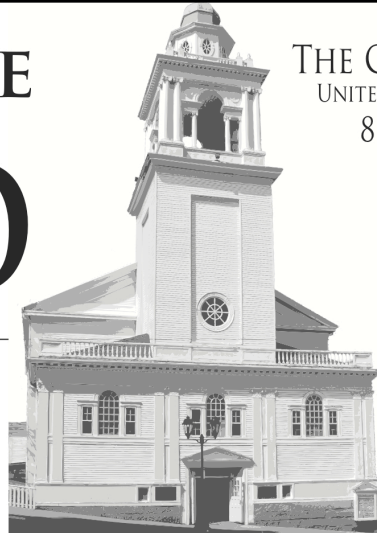


# THE PILGRIMAGE HERALD

THE CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL  
8 TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH,  
MASSACHUSETTS 02360  
www.8townsquare.org



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## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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Volume LXXXI, No. 22

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

May 29, 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

From time to time parishioners have asked me to help them create prayers for public worship services and/or for their own private use. Often my response has been to share with them an old guide for praying, called ACTS, which I discovered many years ago. ACTS is an acronym for four basic types of prayer to God. One can think of each of those types of prayer as a response to a question, as follows:

**ADORATION:** What do I want to praise God for?

**CONFESSION:** What do I want to confess to God?

**THANKSGIVING:** What do I want to thank God for?

**SUPPLICATION:** How do I want God to help me/us and/or other people?

Prayers of supplication which seek God's help for others are also known as intercessory prayers.

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Here is a simple, prayer I wrote for public worship. This prayer includes all of the above types of prayer.

**Opening Address:** Eternal God, we come to you in these moments seeking your presence.

**Adoration:** We praise you for your goodness and for your great love for us which your son Jesus showed us so clearly.

**Confession:** We confess, O God, that all too often in our lives we have not turned to you in prayer. Too often we have not trusted in your providence in our lives.

**Thanksgiving:** Yet, O God, in our heart of hearts we know that we really have so much to be thankful for. We have received so many blessings from you. We thank you that you have given us the breath of life, loved ones to brighten and stimulate our lives, and, even in difficult times, your peace which passes all understanding.

**Supplication:** O God, help us to develop a better perspective on our lives that we may never overlook or take for granted the many blessings you have given us. Strengthen our trust in your providence for our lives.

**Supplication:** And help all people who are suffering in the current economic climate to  
(Intercessory) realize that no matter how dark and difficult life's valleys seem, there is nothing which can ever separate them from your love and caring.

**Ending:** We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

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(continued on page 2)

*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

(continued from page 1)

Here are some things to remember. As Jesus taught us, when we pray it is more important that our prayers are heart-felt than eloquent. Simple prayers which are sincere and direct are often the best.

In our prayers we should avoid making demands on God. Rather, our prayers to God should be made in a true spirit of humility which recognizes God's majesty and awesome power. We should avoid prayers which are very selfish and show little care for others. Also, in public worship we should avoid praying to people, instead of to God.

Yours in Christ's Service,



#### Flowers

The flowers on the Communion table are in loving memory of her husband, Douglas Grey. Given by Shirley Grey and family.

Last week the flowers on the right side were given in loving memory of Mrs. Elsie Raymond. Given by Charlotte Cavicchi and Robert Raymond.

#### On Our Calendar

**May 29:** Morning Worship at 10:00am, Rev. Dr. Doug Showalter preaching. The Junior Choir and the Cherub Choir will rehearse together in preparation for Children's Sunday.

**May 30:** The Church Office will be closed today in observance of Memorial Day.

**May 31:** The Stewardship Committee will meet at 7pm in the Marks Conference Room.

**June 1:** The Missions Committee will meet at 7:00pm at the home of Paul and Rosalee Sinn. The Choir will rehearse at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

**June 2:** The Christian Education Committee will meet at 7:00pm in the Marks Conference Room.

**June 3:** There will be a meeting of the Columbarium Committee in the Marks Conference Room at 10:00am.

#### Save the Date

Sunday, June 19 is Children's Sunday this year. Sunday school teachers are gearing the children up for this end of year celebration. Don't miss it!

#### Confirmation 2012

Calling all 7<sup>th</sup> graders! If you are going into the eighth grade this fall and/or are turning fourteen during the next school year, the Confirmation program wants you! Please contact the Church Office 508-746-3026 or Al Hoyt at 508-224-9507 or email [aphoyt@verizon.net](mailto:aphoyt@verizon.net).

#### Appointments by the Moderator

In accordance with the bylaws, the Moderator has appointed the following to vacancies:

Deborah Porter and Ed Pawlowski to the Board of Trustees, both terms ending in 2012.

David Moreland to the Nominating Committee, term ending 2014.

John Peterson to the Missions and Outreach Committee, term ending 2014.

Barbara Peavey to the Membership and Evangelism Committee, term ending 2013.

#### Calling All Youth Instrumentalists

We will continue our tradition of having our youth instrumentalist provide the music for the Prelude on Children's Sunday, June 19. Students who would like to play should contact Kelley DePasqua ([kdepasqua@msn.com](mailto:kdepasqua@msn.com) or speak with her at church) to sign-up. All students (including high school aged players who have been playing their instruments for at least a year and who have something appropriate to play for a church service are invited to play. The piece should be brief and could include a piano accompaniment. Students will be selected on a first come, first scheduled basis, as there is only time for about 5 players.

#### Pastoral Search Process Update

The Advisory Board continues to make preparations for the pastoral search process, including developing a timeline of events and gathering input from the congregation to help develop our church profile. The Profile is the document that describes our church to potential applicants, much like our resume. It gives a snapshot of the church membership demographics, and also describes our strengths, weaknesses, and our vision for our

ministry moving forward. In order to include input from as many members as possible, the Board will be holding several gatherings in the coming months where you are invited to share, discuss, reflect, dream, and articulate our church's vision for the future. The first event will occur on **Sunday, June 26, 2011** during coffee hour after worship. We hope you can set aside an hour of your time to come and share your ideas with us.

#### Search Committee Appointments

The Search Committee will be an Ad Hoc team appointed by the Advisory Board, and will be expected to be available to meet weekly or as needed beginning in September. To give the team time to get acquainted and ready to work, the Advisory Board intends to appoint the members of the committee at its June 28 meeting. If you are interested in being considered to serve, please make yourself known to a member of the Advisory Board before June 20.

#### The Guild Gives Thanks

Many thanks to all who supported the recent Guild Bake Sale to benefit the refitting of the Robinson Center kitchen. We realized a profit of over \$500 which will be added to the kitchen account.

We also wish to thank the member of our congregation who donated \$200 for the same purpose. Every little bit helps and we will have future events as the year moves along. Watch for the Pastor's Pasta Take Home Dinner fund-raiser which will be coming up in the not to distant future.

Our thanks as well to all those who made our Newfield House Tea a success last week. We appreciated all the wonderful baked goods etc. which were very enthusiastically received. It was a great afternoon. Special thanks to Susan Miller who organized the musical entertainment. The ukulele group was great fun and most of us know the words to most of the songs played. (I think our age is showing.) My personal thanks to Diane Flood. Her enthusiasm and hard work are greatly appreciated. Reverend Dr. Doug and Chris were in attendance and took the opportunity to visit with the members of the church that are currently residents of the Newfield House. All in all, it was a wonderful day.

While our Guild year is winding down, we feel that we have accomplished much and would like to invite all of the women of the church to join in the fun next year. Thank you all again.

Diana Budge, President, Woman's Guild

#### Mass Conference Annual Meeting

212<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Massachusetts Conference &  
Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Campaign Kickoff  
Saturday, June 18, 2011  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts

The theme of this year's Annual meeting: Changing Lives "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation" based on II Corinthians 5:17. This passage encourages our deep commitment to the community of the United Church of Christ: excellence and transformational leadership in the work we do locally and collectively in the name of Jesus Christ.

Once again, this year our meeting will be one day filled with opportunity for talking together, sharing a meal together, doing business and filling our spirits with worship.

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President UCC, will be with us keynoting and leading us in communion. Pastor of Church of Christ in Millis and Stand-Up Comedian the Rev. Jennifer Munroe-Nathans will stoke our spirits with laughter. The band BFJ from West Brookfield, UCC will lead us in song. Our meals together will provide valuable time to take with each other and meet new people. A marketplace will engage the gathering in mission, education and resources for ministry.

Many of you appreciated the opportunity to be together both for business and worship. Once again, this year, we have provided this opportunity. Should you choose to travel a day ahead, the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, is providing a special rate for early reservations.

I look forward to seeing you in Sturbridge on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Grace and peace, Nancy Lawrence, Chair

## Publications Workgroup

The Church is in the process of looking at how to improve the way we communicate with one another. As part of this effort, a Publications Workgroup has been formed to work with our Church Administrator, Shellie Souza, in evaluating and updating our print publications.

The process is just getting underway, but we wanted to share our initial thoughts with you.

The Sunday Bulletin has been expanded to include a calendar and some news. We see this format as being quite useful.

Ten months of the year, we write, print, and mail a weekly newsletter -- the Pilgrimage Herald. A weekly newsletter has been the major mode of communications for many churches over the years. Today we are almost the only church still spending money and time on a weekly newsletter.

At the moment, based on discussions with the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board, a single, monthly Herald is under consideration. The concern about this plan is that there may be some information that needs to be communicated more often than once a month. While the Church website and email provide very economical ways of communication (and all our current and past publications are available on the website), these means are not suitable for all members. Therefore, the following publication plan is under consideration beginning in September:

1. A monthly expanded Pilgrimage Herald, with news, pictures, and reports from Boards and Committees. It would probably include other items, such as a monthly calendar, etc. It would be more like a magazine than the current Herald format.
  2. The Sunday Bulletin would continue in its current expanded format, and would include items that need to be communicated immediately, rather than waiting for the next month's Herald. This would be mailed weekly to shut-ins, to keep them fully informed of the life of the Church.
  3. If it is found that a monthly Herald is not adequate, a second "mini" Herald might be considered for mailing mid-month.
- All publications would continue to be posted and archived to our website: [www.8townsquare.org](http://www.8townsquare.org).  
These plans are still tentative and under development. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact us.

Shellie Souza, Joyce Ashley, Bill Harting, Doug Post, Doug Showalter



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PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10:00 AM  
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



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