From the Pastor...

".....hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts....--Romans 5:4-5

"....hope comes not from circumstances or the acquisition of things but from the simple accumulation of active experience, from gritting the teeth and checking the items off the list, one by one, even though it’s painful and you’re afraid.” — Caroline Knapp, Drinking: A Love Story

We are always in recovery, we are always seeking renewal. Those are the themes of our Lenten season, as we move as Christians into forty days of prayer and thought and reflection and trust and hope that God always, ALWAYS, walks with us and gets us through to the other side. To new life. To resurrection.

Recovery: to come back from a situation or event or life happening that somehow has hurt or changed us or challenges our place in this world, as a child of God, as a human. Like recovering from an addiction: the theme of our all-church Lenten read, the memoir "Drinking: A Love Story", by Caroline Knapp. Knapp eloquently and heartbreakingly and tenderly tells her story, as a successful and seemingly happy young woman who secretly struggles with her increasing dependence upon alcohol and then, finally, finds the courage and strength to go cold sober, to recover. Recovery is not just about a substance: it can be about coming back from any life trauma—a death, a big change (i.e. loss of job, kids move away, divorce, aging), a challenge to your faith in God. Recovery means we somehow summon the will and the faith and the hope to carry on and to move through. As Christians we depend upon our faith to recover. A faith that walks with us down into the valley, or into the desert, as the spirit does with Jesus for his 40 days of Lent. That’s the hard part about recovery. We can’t avoid walking through the tougher things, facing into that which we must somehow overcome with our God. Thank God we’ve got each other in community to be with one another. To recover.

And, in hope, to find renewal. Renewal means we can and will come through the valley and are now different people. Scarred, yes. Changed, absolutely. But new people—transformed by the love and grace of God and by our journey through those hard places. Like Knapp’s journey through the depths of her alcoholism to a new place of being in recovery from alcoholism.

From the cross to the empty tomb to resurrection. Recovery to renewal.

Join us this Lent as we take that road, together, as a Lenten people, a Good Friday people and most important, as an Easter people. I will be preaching upon these themes in worship on Sundays March 17, 24, 31 and April 7th. I will lead discussion classes on the book and themes after church those days, from 11:30 to 12:30 and on Wednesdays in Lent too, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 9:30 to 11 am, at church.

The journey has begun. See you on the road to recovery and renewal.

Peace, Pastor John
Our two little terriers (Pebbles and Bam Bam) enjoy being outside, and they especially enjoy being walked in the woods near our house. Since I am the primary dog walker in our family, that gives me a minimum of two opportunities per day to do so. That's a lot of dog walking.

I try to take advantage of the time, but frankly, it's just a dog walk, and as such, it's difficult to make any more of it than that.

I did make a rather interesting discovery last week, however.

I found that I most often walk with my head down, looking at the ground. And while I am looking down, my thoughts most often turn to things that worry me. It's the usual stuff...work, family, bills, friends...etc. Last week I found myself in full muddle by the time I reached the end of the block with them. So I stopped. And I looked up.

The sky was clear, the stars were bright, and I suddenly and joyfully realized that my stupid problems are, after all, rather small compared to the size of the universe. I found the notion comforting. For it reminded me that having something so graceful, elegant and as organized as are the stars above us, argues eloquently that there exists something far greater than ourselves. For me it is a loving God that created this and blesses us to live in this world.

And God, as I understand the concept, travels with us, watches over us, and stands ready to take over when we cannot travel any longer or haul our burdens any further.

God blesses us with the unique gift of His grace.

I have resolved to look up more frequently during the dog's walks. When I can. Sometimes we humans absolutely have to look down, especially if we don't want anything nasty on our shoes. But having learned this lesson once during one of a countless number of times I have walked through those woods, I promise to not forget it ever again. May God bless you all. - Andy Meyer, Moderator

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**HOLY WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY**  
Worship Service 10am  
April 14

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
Joint Service at Bethel AME  7:30pm  
Traditional Service at Pilgrim Church  7:30pm  
with Rev. John Lily  
April 18

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
“Eyewitness”  7:30pm  
April 19

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
Easter Vigil in the Sanctuary - look for sign ups to sit vigil for 30 minutes from 5p—midnight  
April 20

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
6am - Sunrise Service at Farm Pond  
9am - Family Service  
Coffee hour between Services hosted by the Confirmation Class. All are welcome to attend  
11am - Traditional Service with Chancel and Bell Choirs
Thank you God for our co-worker, our friend, and our trusted and loving servant of Jesus Christ

Rest In Peace Jose Muri
February 16, 1959 — February 17, 2019
Pilgrim Church Administrator: 2004-2019

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

--Matthew 25:23
DEACONS’ CORNER...

By Jim Hartman

During the February school vacation week our family went on vacation to Costa Rica. What an amazing trip to see another part of the world. That trip alone and the experiences we had with locals, the beauty of the rainforest, and the warmth of the beach gave me many ideas to write about for this month’s newsletter. But as I was thinking about what’s ahead in our church calendar, I thought about my book. I love vacation and the opportunity to read. From plane rides and beach chairs to rising early before the family is awake to sitting on a porch, reading is an amazing gift.

I open the book at the beginning, page 1, and read those first words and start my journey into another world. The author leads me down a path full of twists and turns and I just can’t put it down. Soon I arrive at the middle and by now I truly understand the characters, the plot, and even start to guess where it might end. Then (sometimes even sadly) the book begins come to the end and the plot is complete. On March 6, we as Christians begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. This is the most important time of the church year in our faith life together. This is the beginning of the story. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday with the opportunity to begin a 6-week period of reflection, repentance, prayer and truly just thinking about the sacrifice made for us. There is a simple service on the evening of Ash Wednesday, shared with members of Bethel AME, where we begin the process. Following Ash Wednesday, God will be taking us on a journey into Jesus’ world full of twists and turns that include Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then the closing chapter of Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Just like a book, for me it’s important to start Lent right at the beginning by attending Ash Wednesday services. The opportunity to say no to other commitments for one night and say, this is more important. I want to start the journey on page one. Not in the middle or right at the end. The Deacons are very excited to be hosting special services for Pilgrim Church during Lent (service times and dates in this newsletter) and we hope to see you at the start and throughout the journey. May God bless our Easter journey together and individually.

HANDS TO WORK, HEARTS TO GOD

It’s time to open those fresh new calendar pages and look to see when you might be able to help fill in the Sunday Service sign-up openings. We need lay leaders, coffee hour hosts and flower donors from March thru the 2nd week of June.

You can sign up anytime online by clicking HERE to get to our HTWHTG schedule. Or you can simply call the office (508) 655-1667 or email Janet DCM@PilgrimSherborn.org and we will be happy to help you!
What is Lent?

The season of Lent is the time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter. (Sundays are not included in the count.) The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. Lent lasts forty days because Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days of fasting, meditation and reflection before beginning his ministry. We are encouraged to use this time for spiritual growth.

Will you join us?

FORTY DAYS OF FAITH

At the heart of our Christian faith is the hope for Recovery and Renewal. No matter where we find ourselves in life, no matter what challenges we may face, God is always at work within us, moving us towards new life and new beginnings. During Lent we will reflect on this theme. Join us at some or all of our Lenten offerings.

MARCH 5 6:00-7:30PM

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**

Share in the tradition! Join us for a delicious dinner of pancakes and sausage before we enter into Lent, followed by a few simple games. They’ll be plenty for everyone, so please come join us in Fellowship Hall! Fun for all ages — all are welcome!

MARCH 6

**Ash Wednesday Service** 7:30PM

A time for reflection, prayer, healing and hope. A time to mark the beginning of Lent. A time to go with Jesus into the desert. A time to spend special time in worship with our sisters and brothers from Bethel AME, right here at Pilgrim.

ASH WEDNESDAY

ASHES-TO-GO, DUNKIN’ DONUTS 6AM-8AM

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30AM

MARCH 17, 24, 31 & APRIL 7 10:00AM

**Sunday Sermon Series**

Pastor John will speak about themes from our shared Lenten read and theme, Recovery & Renewal.

MARCH 17 7:00PM

**Lenten Vespers**

Led by our confirmation class, join us for a night of spirited music and prayers from the heart.

MARCH 17, 24, 31 & APRIL 7

**All-Church Lenten Book**

‘Drinking: A Love Story’ by Caroline Knapp

This poignant and personal story tells of Knapp’s struggle with alcoholism and her courageous work to get and stay clean and sober and in recovery. It is a beautiful memoir: heartfelt, inspiring and true. Copies available in the church office.

APRIL 9 7:30PM

**Faith on Tap at The Heritage of Sherborn**

We will wrap up our book discussion with a cozy gathering at a local restaurant. Join us!

APRIL 12 4:00PM

**Easter Story and Craft**

Come hear the Story of Easter, a fun gathering for children and families. Enjoy the storytelling, egg hunt & craft. Canned good donations go to a Place to Turn.

**Book Discussion Groups:**

MARCH 13, 20, 27 & APRIL 3 9:30AM

Wednesday mornings — in Fellowship Hall. Join us as we think about recovery and renewal in the lives of those we love and our lives too. Come if you’ve read the book or just to participate.

MARCH 17, 24, 31 & APRIL 7 11:30AM Sundays after service.
THE Powell Fund for the Creative Word PRESENTS
Stories from the Neighbors with Nora Dooley
Sunday, March 10, 2019

10 am — Special Performance during the church service

“Stories from the Neighbors” explores story, identity and diversity. The performance is appropriate for all ages. Families with K-6 age children are particularly encouraged to attend together. There will be no Sunday School.

Complimentary Lunch and Workshop with Nora 11:30 — 1pm
All are invited to stay after the service for lunch followed by a participatory workshop conducted by Nora Dooley called, “Finding and Creating Family and Neighborhood Stories”. The workshop will include storytelling games, and exercises using Aesop's Fables to find the moral of the story. We would appreciate knowing how many are attending the workshop. Please call the church (508-655-1667) or sign up at church coffee hour by Friday, March 8th.

Norah Dooley is a critically acclaimed children's author and educator who performs in schools, libraries, festivals and conferences. She teaches people of all ages the value of their stories and how to tell them. She was a featured performer for massmouth.org’s “Stories from the Stage” on WGBH’s World Channel. For the past 20 summers she has told stories to thousands of young children through ReadBoston.org. She is the founder of the curriculum based high school storytelling program, StoriesLive.org, and a co-founder of massmouth.org and the Boston Story Slam series. Nora teaches storytelling at Lesley University’s graduate school of Education.

“The Powell Fund for the Creative Word” was founded in 2009 to honor the Reverend Kenneth Powell who was senior pastor of Pilgrim Church from 1979 to 2007.

Oberammergau Passion Play In 2020 — Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany

Pilgrim Church will be sponsoring a trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play in May of 2020, coordinated by Music Director, David Tiedman. This world-famous play is presented every 10 years in the town of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany. The tour group will see the play on Sunday, May 17. The group will leave Boston on or about May 13 and fly direct to Munich. Five to six days will be spent in the Munich area, seeing not only the play, but the city of Munich itself, as well as surrounding sites like King Ludwig’s castle, the Wieskirche – one of the last and most opulent of the Baroque churches – and Berchtesgaden, in addition to others. Then the tour will continue with a train ride over the Alps to the city of Padua in northeast Italy, right next to Venice. Several days will be spent there, with a day in Venice, a day-trip through the wine country of the area, as well as a visit to Verona and Lake Garda. The group will return to Boston, flying out of Milan on or about May 25th. In all the trip will be 13 to 14 days in length. Final details are being arranged and a full itinerary, price, etc., will be forthcoming later this Spring. Land-only prices will be available for those who want to use frequent flyer miles, and trip extensions beyond the return date can be arranged. For now, put the dates on your calendar — you won’t want to miss this trip.

Historically, in the 17th century when the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) took place in central Europe, it was one of history’s most devastating conflicts. Poverty and disease were wide-spread and thousands died because of the Bubonic Plague. In the small village of Oberammergau alone there were 80 deaths. During this time of suffering the citizens of Oberammergau made a sacred pledge that every 10 years they would perform a “Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ” if God would protect them from the plague. Legend has it that after the vow was made, there was not even one further case of Bubonic Plague in the village, and those town members that already were afflicted, recovered.

The promise was kept for the first time during Pentecost in 1634, and has been continued ever since. The only exception was in 1940 when World War II forced a cancellation. Only residents of Oberammergau can be in the cast; they spend a year preparing for the event, which is fully staged with music. Performances, numbering about 100, occur from May to October.
Will you Teach our Youth?

This year we had first-timers and experienced hands, high school kids, empty nesters, grandparents, and parents, all teaching church school at Pilgrim Church. No doubt each had a unique reason for teaching but what they all had in common was the gumption to say, “Yes, I will teach.” Next year, you too can be part of this wonderful group. Just sign up to teach a session of church school. All sessions are only six teaching Sundays. This year we are moving to a rotational model. Sign up with a friend or spouse and get ready to be creative. We will have art, projects and some cooking too. All supplies are ready to go. All we need is you.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, March 24, 31 and April 7.

OGHS Banks Heading to Your House

One Great Hour of Sharing offering banks will be given to all church school students on Sunday, March 3, along with a flyer that explains OGHS. There will be daily suggestions for how each family might fill the bank. Students are asked to return the banks the next Sunday, March 10, and place them on the altar during Children’s Time.

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing, a UCC special collection, has drawn Christians together to address the plight of refugees, provide disaster relief and bring development assistance to those in need around the world. The accompanying flyer tells a little story about the work of OGHS for each day of the week between March 4 and 11, and makes suggestions related to the stories. Please be on the lookout for an OGHS bank heading to your house on March 3.

Thank you to …

OUR SESSION 3 TEACHERS:

A big thank you to our Session 3 teachers: Meredith Borden, Reed Risinger, Angie Johnson, Anna Scott Johnson, Aidan May, Brian May, Marianne Bloecher, and Church School Friend Chuckie Blaney. ……….Thank you for a fun day of Sundays!
Senior Youth Group
The Senior Youth Group joined forces with the Junior Youth Group for a Valentine's Day service project. Together the members of both groups made Valentine's Day cards for members of our church community who could use a little tender loving care this winter. It was wonderful to have both groups together for this special project.

Our upcoming SYG meeting is the Work Camp Planning Meeting. We will begin to prepare for our service trip to Puerto Rico. The members will be given "stock certificates" to sell to family, friends and church members. Please consider purchasing a certificate. It will support the Work Camp trip and as a way of saying thank you we will send you a postcard from Puerto Rico!

Junior Youth Group
Members of JYG had a great time making Valentines with SYG. They also had another service meeting in which they learned to knit prayer scarves that will be given to those in need of love and support from our church community. JYG would like to give a big THANK YOU to Marilyn Marlett who taught JYG members how to knit and provided our group with the yarn and knitting needles for this project.

Upcoming WorkCamp Trip!!!
Stay tuned for more details!
We would like to spotlight the many hands-on mission activities that are upcoming in the next few months. There is something for everyone! Where might you serve?

The Hearts and Hands Mother’s Day ministry is underway for the Baby Blanket/ Sweater project. Knit, crochet, sew a baby quilt, youth sweaters or hats or scarves or making no-sew fleece blankets. Baby hats (grapefruit-sized) and Chemo hats or scarves are also appreciated. Simple directions, yarn, information, and even needles are available during coffee time in Fellowship Hall following our Sunday worship. Our dedication of these created gifts will be Mother’s Day, Sunday May 12th. Cash donations are also welcomed.

Won’t you please help? Questions? Contact Barbara Ambos (b_ambos@comcast.net) or Chuckie Blaney (chuckieblaney@alumnae.mtholyoke.edu).

If we take time to think about it, all of us care about the issue of family homelessness. In April we will be hosting Advocacy Sunday where we will have the opportunity at Coffee Hour to sign cards or letters to our legislators about pending bills and budget items related to this tragic problem.

Educational materials will be available beforehand so people will have the information needed to make informed comments. Our local Senators and Representatives are sensitive to expressions of concern from their constituents.

This kind of advocacy is a way to make your views known. This kind of advocacy is a chance to make a difference.

As Christians we are charged to minister to each other. In April on Advocacy Sunday, we are urged to minister by letting lawmakers know how we feel.

If you care, let your voice be heard. Stay tuned for more information to come!

Pilgrim Church will help host dinner for the Salvation Army, Wednesday, March 27th, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers will set up, serve dinner to the client guests and help with the clean up. We will coordinate carpooling from Pilgrim Church for those interested.

The Salvation Army also welcomes donations of non-perishable pantry items. A list of “most needed” items will be available at the Pilgrim Church office or can be sent to you if requested by email. Items may be dropped off anytime in Framingham at the Salvation Army Pantry at 59 Howard Street, Framingham, or at the Pearl Street Cafe at Park. Donation items will also be delivered from Pilgrim Church on the dinner evening (March 27th).

To VOLUNTEER please contact Betsy Rigby at brigby@verizon.net or Kristen Flynn at kjflynn2001@yahoo.com.

A sign-up sheet will also be available at coffee hour or you may call the church office at (508) 655-1667. There are 14 spots available.
In February, Greg Kennan led scouts working on their Citizenship in the Community merit badge. There was excellent participation and a lively discussion across all scout ranks. The Feb 12 meeting was canceled due to weather and there was no meeting during school vacation week.

In March, many Scouts will attend Merit Badge University during the first two weekends of the month. This is a great opportunity for Scouts to earn both Eagle and Non-Eagle required badges. Also, Scouts will participate in their annual freeze-out overnight camping expedition and Greg will lead a follow-up meeting for scouts continuing to work on their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

David Kapilian

Calendar
Tue. 3/5 Metacomet District Roundtable, 7 p.m., Medfield Senior Center, 1 Ice House Rd.
(S. Main to Hospital Road to Harding Street to West Mill Street to Ice House Rd.) Information and ideas exchange.
Mon. 3/11 Troop Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Pilgrim Church
Troop Meetings: Tuesdays, 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Scoutmaster: Steve Scrimshaw, 508-655-2311
Com. Chair: Jeff Waldron, 508-653-4399
Chartered Organization/Parish Board Rep.: Charlie Williams 508-395-9049

This newsletter was respectfully and lovingly created in honor of Jose.
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<td>Salvation Army Sign-Up</td>
<td>10:30am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>6:00pm Shrove Tuesday pancake supper</td>
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<td>10:30am Sunday Worship</td>
<td>11:00am Book Group - Pastor Diane</td>
<td>6:45pm SVG</td>
<td>10:30am COA Lifetime Learning</td>
<td>7:00pm Scout Troop Committee Mtg</td>
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Pilgrim Church Newsletter

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This is a monthly publication. Please submit articles for the NEXT issue by email or written copy. Submissions will be edited for length and clarity. Articles for the NEXT issue are due by the 15th of the month.

For Pastor John’s column in the DS Press:
www.townonline.com/dover/news/lifestyle

Massachusetts Conference Website
www.macucc.org

United Church of Christ Website
www.ucc.org

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POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED