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PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE HEART OF FAITH

This Lenten season Pilgrims are reading Marcus Borg's book, The Heart of Christianity: How we Can be Passionate Believers Today. It's been fun to hear your stories—one couple, out of two different faith traditions, are reading it together and finding clarity about where their traditions agree and how they are different. Another member of Pilgrim has a small family "book club" and they are reading the book together on Wednesdays at lunchtime. A small group of Pilgrims meets at 8:45 on Sundays and two larger groups meet at 11:20 each Sunday. I've made it my own discipline to draw sermon material from the weekly assignments. We think there are about 40 copies of the book circulating among us!

In this book, Borg contrasts Christian faith as it has been popularly understood with an emerging understanding. In many places, this emerging understanding is called "progressive Christianity." Progressive Christianity is not a denomination, but a movement among Christians who find the Sacred in teachings of Jesus and Biblical traditions, but who seek a faith more open and less dogmatic than some earlier expressions of Christianity. Borg not only looks at differences in understanding Christianity, but identifies bridges that link the earlier and the emerging faith perspectives.

At the heart of Christianity, as I understand it, is the conviction that God is a God of transformation. To the oppressed, God offers deliverance (the Exodus story.) To the exiled, God offers the chance to come home (the story of exile in the Old Testament and the prodigal son in the New.) God finds the lost (like a Good Shepherd), heals the sick (lots of Biblical stories), and forgives the guilty (again, ample stories). And to those whose lives are wrapped up in their own insecurities and need for acquisitions, God offers a new way of living. The power by which God works such transformations is the power of love. Justice, says Borg, is love in the social dimension.

Good Friday and Easter, the cross and the tomb, whether understood literally or metaphorically or somehow a little of each, are the ultimate religious expressions of this sacred, transformative power. Death does not have the last word. The apostle Paul put it this way, "Even the power of death cannot separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus." (Romans 8).

Good Friday and Easter—the defeat of that which seems to be in control and the grace of new life (or opportunity or health or welcome or liberation or salvation or . . .) isn't just an annual church observance. It happens every day, and often more than once a day, in each of our hearts. It's the love that overlooks a wrong, the helping hand at just the right time, the refusal to hold a grudge, the starting over and making amends, the standing up against systemic injustice, taking risks on behalf of another—those are all "easter moments." Their cumulative force transforms hearts and lives and can make changes in our world.

Easter blessings to you and yours in the midst of this Lenten season. Charlotte Frantz

REGIONAL UCC EVENT SUNDAY

The Minnesota Conference has a new Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Shari Prestemon. She comes to us from Biloxi, Mississippi where she served as Executive Director of Back Bay Mission. She is eager to meet congregations all over the state and the Conference is providing regional gatherings to help introduce her.

This Sunday, Pilgrim will host a lunch for members of UCC congregations in the Arrowhead region. We will have our usual Sunday morning schedule, including coffee hour and 2nd hour Faith Discussion Groups. Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall from 12:00-12:30 and a program will begin about 12:40. Welcome those who may be coming from Peace UCC or Protestant Church of Morgan Park or maybe even from further away! Stick around after coffee hour and help welcome Shari. The program promises to be interactive—she wants to get to know us. We will finish about 2:00.

**CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK
WITH CHUM CHURCH**

April 13 4:30 p.m at Peace UCC

We have the privilege of leading CHUM Church on Palm Sunday, April 13. If you'd like to contribute music, participate in reading, or otherwise assist this faith community in a 40 minutes service, talk with Charlotte Frantz or Julie Drake.

MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MONTH

The Social Justice Ministry will be collecting donations of beverages the last weekend of March: tea, coffee, Koolaid, hot chocolate mix, etc.

During the month of March, all contributions of food and cash will be proportionately matched by the Greater Minnesota Council of Churches. For more information, contact Meg Kearns at (218) 727-2391. To make an online contribution, go to www.chumduluth.org.



MINISTRY CARE COMMITTEE

Three members of Pilgrim meet quarterly with Charlotte to reflect on her ministry here at Pilgrim. They use the "Six S's" to review a past event, season, or facet of ministry or to brainstorm about upcoming opportunities. The Six S's are: Successes, Surprises, Sadnesses, Satisfactions, Solutions, and Struggles. If you would like to give input to this committee, for example, by sharing a recent satisfaction or surprise, contact one of us: Julie Johnson, 724-4014 or raspber809@aol.com.; Carol Bacig, 724-6584 or cbacig@gmail.com; or Andy Nielsen, 260-0853 or Nielsen@esko.k12.mn.us. The committee's next meeting will be April 3.

The committee was formed by the Church Council a year ago in response to a long standing request that Pilgrim include a pastoral relations committee in its structure. Over the past year, the committee read material about such committees and interviewed other congregations about their work. The name, "Ministry Care" indicates our intention to provide encouragement for the ministry of Pilgrim and its called minister.

"In the torrent of words that drown our culture, have we forgotten how to listen?"
- Robert MacNeil, in his autobiography, Wordstruck
—www.instituteforcivility.org

**PILGRIM ENERGY RETROFIT
UPDATE - APRIL**

The good news first. We received our first electricity bill since the replacement of 300+ light bulbs inside the church, and the results are what we had hoped! Despite the very cold conditions, we ended up with savings about 760 kWh for the month over the average of the same time period in 2012 and 2013. This is right on track to deliver the 5-year payback on investment we are expecting from lighting changes. Combined with effective water conservation that eliminated 3000 gallons of usage last month, we saved about \$100 for the month, but we expect increased savings in \$ and energy as we frozenly stumble into Spring!

And the bad. Our gas usage in cold, cold January was over 15% higher than any other month over the past 2 years, and our gas bill was even higher than that would suggest, as the per unit cost of gas went up 22% in a month! Despite the church weatherization efforts that have been effective in increasing our comfort level in targeted rooms *and* reducing the energy used for heating there, we expect very high gas usage and costs over the next 2 billing cycles due to the continuing cold weather and even higher gas prices.

2nd Hour, April 27th, Pilgrim Energy Retrofit Review

Learn more about what we have done to reduce our energy costs since last fall, the results we've seen, and the projects we are reviewing for 2014 and beyond. We'll also briefly discuss solar power options for Pilgrim, as there have been many questions surrounding the topic. Please remember to bring your thinking caps and questions, as we need and value your input!

Thanks again to all for your support and interest in this continuing effort to green our church and help our bottom line!

THINK SPRING!

Looking to add a little green in your life?
NATIVE TREES/SHRUBS & FLOWER BULBS
are still for sale in Salter Hall following worship.

For more info on trees/shrubs go to: <http://www.southstlouisswcd.org/treeshrub.html>

To peruse flower varieties available go to: <http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/products>

Proceeds will benefit Pilgrim's new food waste pickup program.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:45 am Faith Discussion Group

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

“To the Kingdom Born”

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am 2nd Hour-Faith Discussion Groups

12:00 pm UCC Meal

Childcare available 8:45-12:30 pm

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:45 am Faith Discussion Group

10:00 am Worship, Holy Communion and

Sunday School

Service Music by the UMD Concert Chorale

“Transformed Hearts”

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am 2nd Hour-Faith Discussion Groups

Childcare available 8:45-12:30 pm

April 13

Palm Sunday

8:45 am Faith Discussion Group

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

Palms, Psalms and Jesus’ Passion

11:20 am 2nd Hour-Faith Discussion Groups

Childcare available 8:45-12:30 pm

April 18

Good Friday

Joint service with Glen Avon and Peace UCC at

Peace at 7:00 pm

April 20

Easter

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am Continental Breakfast

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Charlotte Frantz

Childcare available 8:45-11:30 am

April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am 2nd Hours

Pilgrim Energy Retrofit Review

Hands Free CPR

Childcare available 8:45-12:30 pm

**PALMS AND PSALMS AND
JESUS’ PASSION**

Passion Sunday, April 13th

The Pilgrim Choir along with Jeremy Craycraft, percussion, Janelle Lemire, Harp, and Rachael Kresha, organ will be presenting Leonard Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms* as the focus of our worship on Passion Sunday. We will begin the service with Palm Sunday readings and hymns and then let Bertstein’s *Chichester Psalms* carry us through the events of Holy Week. Invite someone to come with you for this passion Sunday worship.

**SEDER PASSOVER CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, APRIL 17 AT 6:00 PM**

This is a more formal meal than many of our congregational gatherings—please make your reservations on or before April 13. Steve Cushing will be cooking. Jesus was in Jerusalem celebrating Passover with his disciples—later on that evening he was arrested. Pass-over is the remembrance of the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt and is a part of our faith heritage. Begin your Easter weekend here on Thursday, April 17. Reservations required.

**ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE APRIL 18TH**

It has become our tradition to observe Good Friday with Glen Avon Presbyterian Church and Peace United Church of Christ. A combined choir will sing and we will watch the shadows fall as we ponder the symbols of Jesus’ suffering and death. This year’s service is at Peace, at 7:00 pm.

EASTER SUNDAY

Come at 9:00 on Easter Sunday for a continental breakfast in Salter Hall and worship at 10:00. Thank you, Jim and Teresa Peterson and family for your hospitality on Easter!

PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST

Pilgrim’s regular broadcasts on Channel 7 are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 am. repeated at 8:30-9:30 pm.

April 2 and 3 “Moments” by the Rev. Charlotte Frantz from March 2, 2014

April 9 and 10 “Christianity Coming of Age” by the Rev. Charlotte Frantz from March 9 2014

April 16 and 17 Passion Sunday 2013

April 23 and 24 Palm Sunday from April 13, 2014

**UMD CONCERT CHORALE
Sunday, April 6th**

On Sunday, April 6, UMD’s Concert Chorale will share in our worship and provide our service music and anthems. They are conducted by Dr. Tina Thielen Gaffey. Thank you, Bret and Rachael, for inviting them to be with us.

THANK YOU S

Dear Pastor Frantz,
On behalf of the neighbors we serve at CHUM, thank you for your gift of CFL and florescent light bulbs in February.

Mary Schmitz, Development Director (Many of the CLF bulbs that were replaced with LED's still had useable life in them—and were donated to CHUM for use in offices and transitional housing units.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEED

Month of April:

Youngest group (4yrs - 1st grade) - easy curriculum to follow including gathering time, story time and activity/craft.

Month of May:

Oldest Group (4th grade - 7th grade) - there is a user friendly curriculum or you can find another area of focus if you desire. Another idea, is to use this time and this group to work on prop creation/ decoration for the May musical. We can collaborate with Rachael to work on this project.

Please contact Mary Anderson at manders1@css.edu.

BIOHAZARD KITS AVAILABLE

Pilgrim has purchased 2 biohazard kits. These kits are to be used in the event of a bodily fluid spill. The Center for Disease Control has recommended that all bodily fluids be treated as a potentially infectious material. These kits contain the basics to contain and clean up a spill while protecting the environment and the person doing the cleanup.

One kit is located in the **closet next to the girls bathroom on the upper floor.**

The second kit is in the **closet to the right of the office on the main level.** Neither of these closets are locked.

Please inform the office if one of the kits has been used. There should also be an incident report filled out and returned to the office.

JOYFUL NOISE:

Just a reminder that our last class will be Thursday, April 3rd from 6:00-7:00 pm for the spring semester. Thank you to our 5-10 year olds for a wonderful season of music making! Joyful Noise classes will resume in the fall on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. Registration materials will be available in September.

PARISH PERSONALS

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR APRIL FOR THE "ARE WE THERE YET" MUSICAL

Speaking parts only:

Thursday, April 10th, 6:00-7:15 pm,

Friday, April 11th, 6:00-7:15 pm,

Thursday, April 24th, 6:00-7:00 pm,

Friday, April 25th, 6:00-7:00 pm Speaking Parts only

Sunday, April 27th, 9:00-9:45 am

The chorus and speaking parts will be rehearsing every Sunday (except for Easter Sunday) from 11:00-11:20 am after worship on Sunday mornings either in the chapel or the sanctuary

(Please note we will not be rehearsing during Holy Week.)

Rachael Kresha

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group has chosen the following books for the upcoming months:

28-April Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman
Facilitator-Karen

19-May Painted Drum by Louise Erdrich
Facilitator-Kitty

We meet in the Parlor at 6:30. Contact Joan Setterlund .728-4986 or jsetterlund@msn.com for further information.

NEWS FROM UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who supported the CROP Walk! "We walk, because they walk", or ski, sled, snowshoe, as some do in Northern Minnesota! CROP Hunger Walks are organized all over the United States and are ecumenical, interfaith, multi-cultural events. United Campus Ministry teamed up with a student group called SERVE, and UMD's Office of Civic Engagement to put on this year's CROP Hunger Walk. UMD's Bagley Nature Area provided beautiful groomed ski and walking trails through the woods and the weather even warmed up for us! Community members, local congregations, and students all came together to raise awareness of hunger issues. It also gave us the opportunity to make connections and build relationships between campus life and community life. All money raised went to support the worldwide ministry of Church World Service and Duluth's own local food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens.

Looking ahead to Monday, April 7th! Everyone is invited to attend our interfaith event "Changing the Frame: Seeing Through Religious Stereotypes". Students and community members are invited to come to the Kirby Ballroom at 6:00 p.m. for free food and an interactive forum challenging us all to be aware of how we may stereotype people because of the way they look or the faith they practice. Hope to see you there!

Blessings, Cynthia ucmduluth@gmail.com

DULUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES

At Teatro Zuccone at 7:00 pm

March 31, *A Place at the Table*, a film on hunger in the United States.

April 30, *American Winter*, a film on the impact of the Great Recession.

PILGRIM POINT YOUTH CAMPS

6th-12th graders are invited to attend Pilgrim Point camp together for an unforgettable week of fun and community-building! Adult church leaders attend camp with their youth and serve as the camp staff/counselors for the week.

If you or your youth are interested in attending, contact Charlotte Frantz.

Youth Camp Week 1 | July 20-25, 2014

Youth Camp Week 2 | July 27-Aug 1, 2014

Youth cost: \$300; after May 1st - \$350

Adult Church Leader cost: \$100

SAFE HAVEN BENEFIT

"Still I Rise"

Songs and Stories of Struggle and Strength

April 5, 3 pm Mitchell Auditorium

Featuring the Women's Choirs of St. Scholastica, St. Benedict and University of Northwestern St. Paul.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

March 30-Ushers

Andrew Streitz and Charles Walters

Greeters/Coffee

Del and Bill Johnson

Lay Reader

Tammy Hensley

April 6-Ushers

Carri Hoagland, Jean Jacobson, Tucker

Hanlon and Bob Hensley

Greeters/Coffee

Nan and Sophie Hillmeyer

Lay Reader

Joseph Grant

April 13-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Cindy Grindy

Greeters/Coffee

Mary Olin and Jane Shull

Lay Reader

Martin Grune

April 20-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and John Fochs

Greeters/Coffee

Jim and Teresa Peterson

Lay Reader

Kane Tewes

April 27-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Josie Olson

Greeters/Coffee

Bob and Tammy Hensley

Lay Reader

Don Bjoralt

Please arrive at church between 9:15 and 9:30 to allow enough time to get ready for worship. Thank you!

PILGRIM CHURCH STAFF

Charlotte Frantz, Minister

Mary Sopoci, Business Manager

Jim Brower, Administrative Assistant

Rachael Kresha, Director of Music

Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Music

Kristi Beaver, Childcare Attendant

HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 28-APRIL 24

Sunday, March 30	8:45 am	Faith Discussion Group
	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Faith Discussion Groups
	12:00 pm	UCC Luncheon
Tuesday, April 1	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wednesday, April 2	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 3	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
	6:00 pm	Ministry Care Committee
Sunday, April 6	8:45 am	Faith Discussion Group
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, Holy Communion and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Faith Discussion Groups
Tuesday, April 8		All Ministry Night
Wednesday, April 9	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir
Thursday, April 10	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal
Friday, April 11	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal
Sunday, April 13	8:45 am	Faith Discussion Group
	9:00 am	Confirmation class
	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Faith Discussion Groups
Tuesday, April 15	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wednesday, April 16	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 17	6:00 pm	Seder Meal
Friday, April 18	7:00 pm	Joint Good Friday Worship at Peace UCC
Sunday, April 20	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
	10:00 am	Easter Service
	11:00 am	Coffee
Monday, April 24		Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, April 22	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday, April 23	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
Thursday, April 24	1:00 pm	Newsletter Assembly
	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal

EASTER LILIES

Would you like to buy an **Easter lily**? We're taking orders for lilies that will enhance our worship space on Easter morning. Please use the form below or call the church office. Proceeds from the flowers will support **Kids Against Hunger**. Sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry.

Memorial _____ Honor _____

Flowers given in memory or honor of:



If a Memorial:

Birth _____

Date _____

And/or

Death Date _____

Number of Lily(ies) @ \$20.00 _____

Payment marked "Lilies" \$ _____

_____ I will pick up Easter Sunday.

_____ Please deliver to a home-bound Pilgrim.

Your name _____

Deadline for Ordering is April 14

Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, April 21

pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Office hours are 9-4, Monday through Friday. You can reach us at:
pilgrimdlh@msn.com 218-724-8503
or www.pilgrimduluth.org

Upcoming Events

- March 30** Worship and Sunday School
Faith Discussion Groups
UCC Regional Luncheon
- April 6** Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
UMD Concert Chorale
Faith Discussion Groups
- April 8** All Ministry Night
- April 13** Worship and Sunday School
Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*
Faith Discussion Groups
- April 17** Seder Meal
- April 18** Good Friday joint service at Peace UCC
- April 20** Easter Service with Continental Breakfast
- April 22** Church Council
- April 27** Worship and Sunday School
2nd Hours: Hands Only CPR and Energy Update



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST