

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

MAY 2020

"Gifts of the Pandemic"

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

May 03: The Gift of Satisfaction

May 10: The Gift of Compassion

May 17: The Gift of Time

May 24: The Gift of Justice

May 31: The Gift of Joy

(All followed by ZOOM fellowship)

www.pcchp.org



Waves of Faith

BY REV. DR. SUSAN CARTMELL

Today we watched a video of wild animals walking down the yards in California, of mountain lions in Colorado and of alligators in South Carolina. Lions are lounging on the golf courses in South Africa; walrus are rolling incity plazas in Argentina. There are kangaroos in the empty streets of Adelaide, and elephants are roaming around urban Thailand. It is like someone gave the animals the all clear.



There is something about this experience of sheltering in place - almost the entire world population of 7 billion - that is not like anything else in our lifetimes. We are all scratching our heads. What are we seeing? What are we meant to learn from this moment in history?

There is a lot of talk these days about getting back to normal. It is the debate from the White House and the governor mansions down to local businesses and private citizens. I understand the impulse to try to regain a sense of control over our lives. I understand the cry for normalcy. I share the worry - "How long is this going to last?"

But there are moments everyday when I pause and wonder, as I did when I saw the video of animals loose everywhere. Now, I have no doubt that when traffic starts up again the animals will return to their habitats, but the fact that they are exploring the territory we think of as ours brings us all so much closer together, and reminds us how often we encroach on their world.

I hope that as we make our way toward the new normal that we will go gradually, and that we will incorporate all the new things we are learning about our fellow creatures. I hope that we won't scare the birds away - the ones who are making more music than ever in our yards on these quiet days.

I hope we can institute some permanent changes in the level of air pollution we tolerate after watching the skies clean themselves in just 6 weeks all over the world. I hope we can make a more concerned effort to unite with all the nations on the earth to return to the Paris Accords and address climate change more sincerely, emphatically and finally.

After weeks with time to think about our life patterns I hope we can make new resolutions about the lives we want to create going forward. Do we need to travel quite so much? Can more of us work online? Can we do more business with video conferencing. Will we take cruises or take them as often?

Wouldn't it be amazing if this turned out to be the best spring ever, because it was one of those seasons that isn't not lost on us? I like to think of this as a time of wonder. When the Hebrews spent time in the wilderness the experience of separation and solitude changed them. Years later, they recognized that this was the point, and that God worked through all that adversity for bring them to a much better place.

As you journey on, may you find blessings all around.
Many blessings, Rev. Susan

Come . . .



Gifts of the Pandemic

People of faith are asking faith questions. What do we learn from adversity? What are the gifts of this time? What can we see are blessings in our lives, even now? This series of sermons will focus on the many gifts of this period in human history. Each week, I will look at another gift I see. I hope that this sermon series will encourage you to think in terms of blessings in your life, even now...especially now. If all we do is yearn to go back to "normal", which might not ever be possible after a world-wide experience of social distancing like this, unprecedented in history, if all we do is flip a switch and resume life like nothing happened, then all the lessons of this time, bought at such a cost in human life and economic set back, all those lessons will be lost on us. Rev. Susan

**Sunday services air at 11 a.m. on our website -- www.pcchp.org
and are followed by fellowship hour via ZOOM**



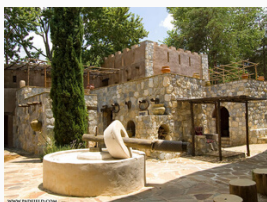
May 3 - The Gift of Satisfaction

What if we learned to be satisfied? What if we learned that so many of the things we thought we NEED are things we just WANT? What if this pandemic taught us to live with less and find a true happiness that God was hoping for us all along. "What if " Scripture: Matthew 5, "The Sermon on the Mount."



May 10 - The Gift of Compassion

There are signs of people helping one another everywhere we look. In the Cape Cod Times today an 87 year old man wanted something from Trader Joe's but he saw a line as he approached the store. He returned to his car when a perfect stranger asked him what he needed. She went in to the store and bought the thing he wanted and paid for it. She would not take anything for it. Something about this experience has been such a leveler. People are finding common bonds and reaching out to help one another in inspiring ways. How does adversity contribute to our compassion?



May 17 - The Gift of Time

For the first time in our lives most of us have oceans of time. This pandemic is giving us so much time that we cannot quite figure out how to fill it. But it is also causing us to question why we think it is so important to be so busy all the time. How did we get to this place where we measure everything in terms of productivity? What does the Bible say about time?



May 24 - The Gift of Justice

The Coronavirus pandemic has hit people in poorer neighborhoods much harder than people in affluent ones. There is lots of evidence that in New York City the virus has proved deadly to many more people of color than white people. The death rates in the Black community far outstretch their
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Come . . .

(continued from page 3)

proportion of the community. We see deadly outbreaks in New Orleans, in Detroit and in Chicago especially among people of color. So the virus is highlighting some of our inequities in terms of healthcare and employment. It is exposing the way that racial inequality can prove deadly in moments like this. We will look to the Bible to see what the lessons of justice there tell us today.



May 31 - The Gift of Joy

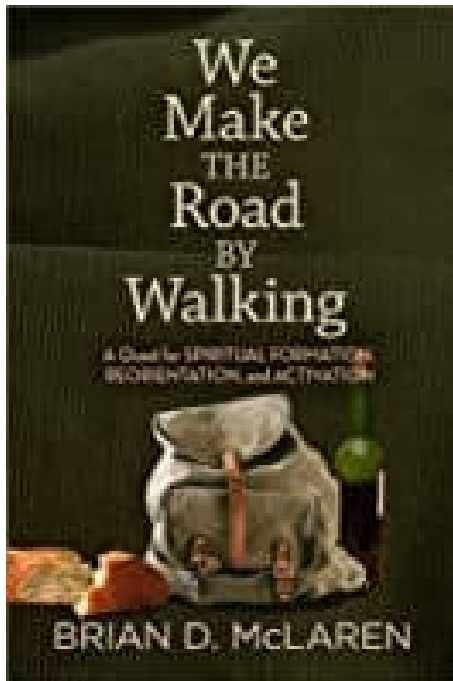
This sermon will examine the surprising moments of joy that so many people are finding even now.

Taize worship will continue to be held on Wednesdays at 6 PM. As with all services, you may attend at the actual time via www.pcchp.org, or view later via Facebook or our website.



Growing Faith in a Pandemic

. . . an online class beginning May 17th



Rev. Peggy, Rev. Ed Farrell Starbuck and Rev. Susan are starting an online class based on the Brian McLaren book ***We Make The Road By Walking***. This critically acclaimed author and book will usher us through an amazing retelling of Bible stories and reintroduce us to our Christian faith. This book study will offer participants the chance to explore their faith and how a “living growing faith” can make a difference in our lives and our world.

- *Could there be a better time to stop and think about how we live our faith today and how we might want to do so tomorrow?*
- *Could there be a better time to invest time in re-imagining what it means to live as agent of God?*

Your co-leaders hope you will agree that this is a great time to join in a faith filled study group.

SPECIFICS:

The first class will be on Sunday, May 17 at 2 PM. We will meet weekly via ZOOM to discuss the readings and to share questions and reactions. The chapters in the book are each 3 to 4 pages long (10-12 minute read). We will read two chapters a week (20-30 minutes of reading). Each member of the group will need their own copy of the book (available in paperback) but **we will provide those who sign up by May 10th with a copy of the introduction and the first chapter, along with discussion questions.** This way you can try the class out without purchasing the book. Each week, at the end of the class, the leaders will provide you with the next week’s assignment and discussion questions.

Finally, the book is divided into 4 parts. We will start with the Introduction and part 1, Alive in the Story of Creation. This will take us 7 weeks. As we traverse those weeks we can and may well make adjustments that work for the group. When we have completed Part 1 we may take a week or two break and then start on Part 2.

In other words: We will make this road by walking.

Grow . . .

BIBLE STUDY WITH DOUG WHEELER

Doug Wheeler's Bible Study Group will Continue via ZOOM videoconferencing, meeting Tuesdays at 9 AM. If anyone wishes to join in, please contact Doug at drwccdm@gmail.com



Loving and Using Your Bible...

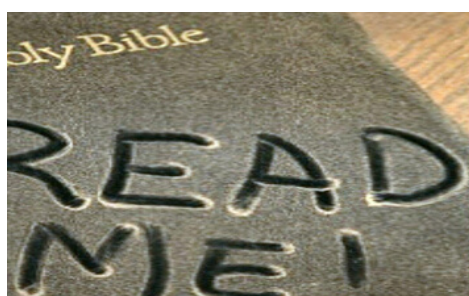
In loving memory of Nicki Palmer

Test yourself:

During Jesus' time, what was kept in the "Most Holy Place" in the temple & who could go in?

Lectio Divina:

Deuteronomy 4:29



More to the Story:

What are the major differences between the gospels of Mark and John?

Serve . . .

Now in its Third Year . . .

Pilgrim's After School Drop in Center

Offering a safe haven for grades K-3, Pilgrim's After School Drop-In Center offers an environment promoting learning, fun, and friendship. The three full-time teachers -- Debbie, Becky, and Tara, with a combined experience of over 50 years working with elementary-aged children, offer homework assistance, snacks, games and a wide variety enrichment activities. As of March 2020, approximately 30 children were enrolled.

Although the program is suspended until Monomoy Public Schools reopen, the staff has been offering online programs, including Bible stories, craft making, and games ---all geared to age appropriate groups at different times. During the summer, Pilgrim offers a "kindness" camp, which runs all day for one week.

To learn more, contact our After School and Christian Education Director, Deb Larsson, at learningfunfriendships@gmail.com, or at 508-395-9207.

Check out their page on our website to hear Bible stories and learn about staff, and learn about exciting renovations to their space! (<https://www.pcchp.org>)





Pilgrim Outreach Districts (PODS)

We have organized Pilgrim Outreach Districts (or PODS) to help us stay connected. Each Pod has 8-10 families and offers a way to stay in touch via Zoom meetings.

How do you get into one?

You will receive an e-mail that invites you to a POD. Then your group leader will show you how to connect and when the first meeting will be.

What is the benefit?

You can connect with other church people and make some new friends among church people you might not sit with on Sundays.

Why now?

During this unprecedented time of social distancing we need one another. We all need to stay connected. Human beings are social animals and so we need to find new ways these days to stay in touch.

What will happen at POD meetings?

You will have a chance to check in and hear from others. You will get announcements from Church and updates on information. You can also pray together, laugh together, support each other.

If you don't hear from a POD leader this week contact the church office at office@pcchp.org

Stewardship Update

ACKNOWLEDGING NICKI PALMER'S BEQUEST



Nicki Palmer, who passed away earlier this year and who during her lifetime consistently and generously gave her time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of her Pilgrim Church family, has made a legacy gift of \$10,000 to the Church. The Church's Gifts and Investment Policy, adopted in 2018, created the Founder's Society to celebrate and recognize gifts like Nicki's. She now joins the Snow/Ellis Circle of the Founder's Society, named for two of the Church's original founding families. Her gift, like theirs, embodies in a tangible way her deep and abiding faith in the ministry of Pilgrim Church and her desire to continue her support for the Church into the future.

CHANGES TO CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER CARES ACT

Hat-tip to Peggy and Susan, who through their association with the Chautauqua Institution, have called attention to a few key provisions of the new CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. This new law is designed to help individuals as well as businesses and nonprofits facing economic uncertainty during the coronavirus pandemic.

1. The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year.
2. The new law allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize.
3. For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as Chautauqua to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.

You can consult your tax or financial advisor for important details of these provisions. Like many of our most precious institutions, Pilgrim Church has special need for your support in this time of suspended normalcy. Please consider whether these temporary additional tax benefits might stimulate additional giving.

RESULTS OF THE 2020 PLEDGE DRIVE

In response to requests last fall from the Stewardship Committee to show our "Faith in the Future" of Pilgrim Church, the Congregation members and friends made 64 pledges for a total of \$145,909, up more than \$5,000 from last year. While the number of pledges was down, the average pledge increased from \$1,850 to \$2,280, and the median pledge from \$1,300 to \$1,560. The Stewardship Committee thanks all who pledged and everyone else who supports our Church with their time, talent, and treasure.

ACKNOWLEDGING CHET BERG'S BEQUEST



Chet Berg, a longtime member of Pilgrim Church who died on January 4th, 2019, has made a legacy gift to the Church of approximately \$8,000. In his will Chet gave the Church 2.5% of his residual estate, and the estate's attorney recently notified Pastor Susan of the bequest. The Church's Gifts and Investment Policy, adopted in 2018, created the Founder's Society to celebrate and recognize gifts like Chet's. joins the Snow/Ellis Circle of the Founder's Society, named for two of the Church's original founding families. His gift, like theirs, embodies in a tangible way his deep and abiding faith in the ministry of Pilgrim Church and his desire to continue his support for the Church into the future.

TAX TIME IS A GOOD TIME TO THINK ABOUT LEGACY GIVING

Two years ago the Trustees adopted, and the Congregation approved, a new Gifts and Investment Policy intended to encourage legacies and other special gifts to our Church.



WHY LEGACY GIVING?

The impetus for special giving – through legacies or extraordinary one-time gifts – is the same that motivates us to provide our regular annual support: God has generously blessed us. Anything we give, in whatever form, is in response to those rich blessings. Legacy giving is giving that allows you to continue your support of Pilgrim Church beyond your lifetime and into the future. It joins you in a long tradition of people who have provided for our Church beyond its present needs.

Pilgrim Church would not exist, certainly not in its present form and potential, if it were not for the forward- looking generosity of all those legacy and special-gift donors who gave in the past. In that sense, all such gifts are legacies, in that they ensure the Church's future fiscal health, essential to the future fulfillment of the Church's mission here in Harwich.

Your individual needs and estate planning goals will determine the type of giving that best suits your circumstances. The Pastor or a member of the Stewardship and Gifts Committee can talk with you in confidence about the various options, and you would act only after thorough discussion with your legal and tax advisors.



Happy Birthday!



May 04: Linda Kidd
 May 07: Betsy Babb
 May 07: Ray Rivard
 May 12: Sally Smith
 May 14: Harold Gabriel
 May 16: Bruce Nightingale
 May 20: Peg Wilder
 May 26: **Fred Drifmeyer**
 May 26: Judith Sadoski
 May 27: Joan Stone
 May 30: Jason Newell
 May 31: Sally Hunt
 May 31: Carol Wiley

Music Notes

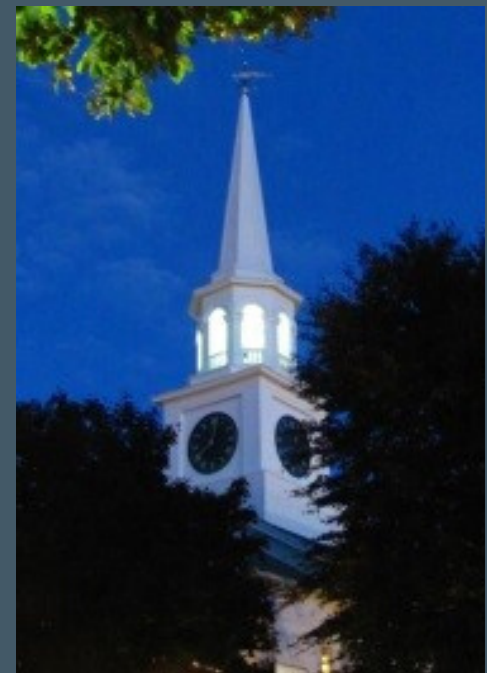
Sacred Organ & Piano
 Sunday, June 28th, 2020, at 3:00 PM.

Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra
 "Toward the Sea", Sunday, August 23rd @ 3:00PM
 (2:15 Pre-Concert talk)

Notes from Pilgrim's Office

Our **congregational meeting**, scheduled for April 26, will be rescheduled. Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be sent via eblast in mid-May. Rev. Susan & Moderator John Guertsen will hold a Zoom meeting after worship on May 31 (wait for date confirmation) to answer your questions about the report and have a conversation about our church as we prepare for the summer months. We hope you will join in!

"**The New Normal Task Force**" will soon begin to study options for Pilgrim going forward, including ways to reopen safely. Members include Rev. Susan, Bud Dey, John Guertsen, Sally Hunt, Susan Langway, Val Petersen, and Barbara Wellnitz



Steeple Lightings

Ann Tucker has lit the steeple for a month - to bring hope to our community and send a message of caring.

Please continue to remember your loved ones by lighting the steeple in their honor.

Contact office@pcchp.org

Pilgrim Church IN THE MEDIA!

Cape Cod Times:

January 19 - **MATTERS OF FAITH: Do we want to live in a world of quid pro quo?**

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20200119/matters-of-faith-do-we-want-to-live-in-world-of-quid-pro-quo>

February 2 - **MATTERS OF FAITH: My way or the highway: Living in a partisan world**

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20200202/matters-of-faith-my-way-or-highway-living-in-partisan-world>

February 17 - **MATTERS OF FAITH: Honesty, integrity bedrock virtues of our Nation**

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20190217/matters-of-faith-honesty-integrity-bedrock-virtues-of-our-nation>

February 27 - **"On the Mark"** Ashes to Go

April 5, 2020 - Churches, Synagogues, Mosques Nonessential? Hardly.

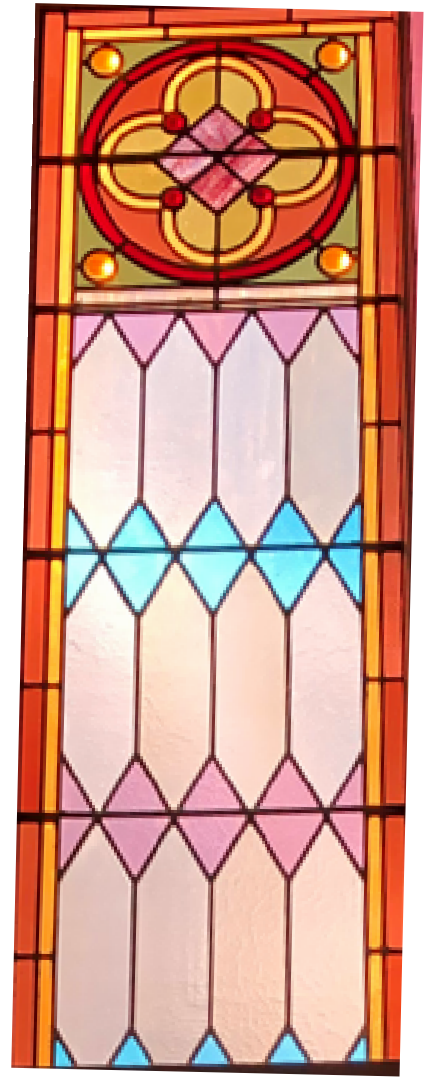
<https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20200405/churches-synagogues-mosques-nonessential-hardly>

May 3 - **MATTERS OF FAITH:**

BEST BETS & CapeCodOnline: David Roth worship service. Watch for other events!

Cape Cod Chronicle: April 23 p. 43 **"Pilgrim Kids Program"** & weekly listings of worship services and sermons; event listings in Almanac.

Arts Council Online Listings: David Roth Worship Service. Watch for other events!



Pilgrim Congregational Church

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