

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

April 1: Maundy Thursday, 5 p.m.
Service & Communion on the church lawn

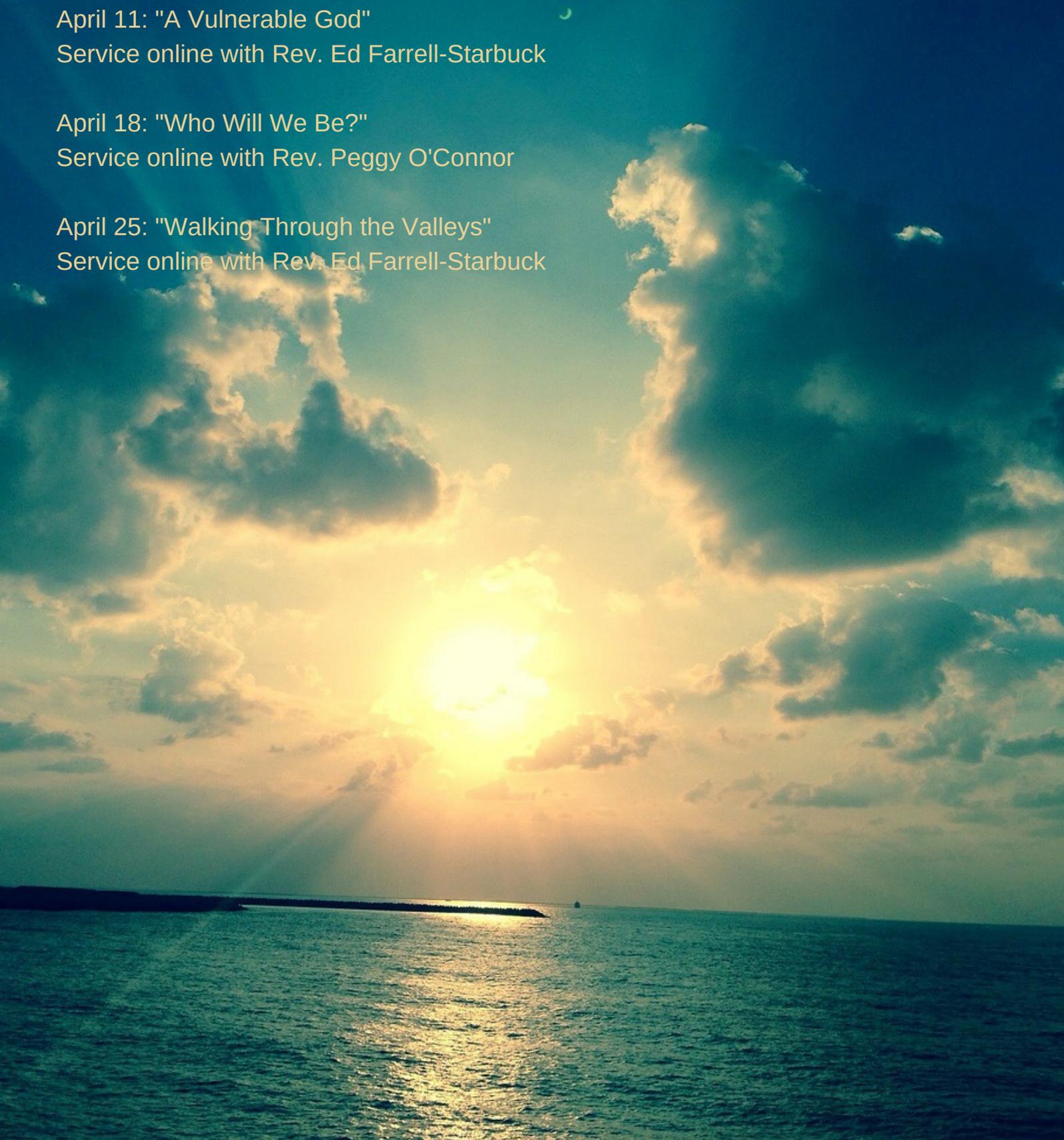
APRIL 2021

April 4 : Easter Sunday, 10 a.m. "Now What?"
Service & Communion on the church lawn

April 11: "A Vulnerable God"
Service online with Rev. Ed Farrell-Starbuck

April 18: "Who Will We Be?"
Service online with Rev. Peggy O'Connor

April 25: "Walking Through the Valleys"
Service online with Rev. Ed Farrell-Starbuck





As we approach Holy Week the church staff is busy preparing for worship on the church lawn.



Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 5 PM

Join us on the lawn or online for a service of Healing and Hope as we pray for the healing of our nation. After a year of national shut-down we will be praying for the many people who have lost loved ones, those we have lost in our congregation, and healing from the spiritual toll of this pandemic. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10 AM

Mark 16: 1-8 - "Now What?"

There's not much suspense to Easter any more. We know what happened to Jesus, but his disciples were so confused on that first Easter that they ran around in confusion. They had more questions than answers. As I look at this time in human history, as we emerge from this frightening time of isolation and fear, we also don't know what to expect. So this Easter story may have a lot to tell us. Join us on the lawn or online. The Sacrament of Communion will be served.



We have all been on a journey throughout this past year. If anyone had told us a year ago how long this shut-down would go on, none of us could have imagined that we'd make it. But somehow step by step we made adjustments. We found our stride. We learned to do what we could do and made peace with the restrictions. We learned the power of prayer. We figured out ways to show compassion and offer hope.

During this year our online groups and classes have thrived. Sixty people participated in PODS and made new friendships. Church leaders maintained the scheduled meetings and learned to do business efficiently online. Almost three quarters of our church families learned to use Zoom - a miracle equal to many of the miracles in the Bible. Folks visited one another to sing hymns on the lawn. People tuned into online worship in numbers, and recommended our services to friends and family near and far. We held a safe After School program and started an online Sunday School. Musicians made CDs to share and sell. We ran five book and yard sales on the church lawn that raised money and spirits.

In short, we thrived in some new and unexpected ways. But throughout this year I must confess that I have worried about all the details and worked as hard as I could to serve you and keep our church community connected. So I really know I need a change of pace. I have asked the Deacons and Church Council to allow me to take some time after Easter to change gears a little and do some long-postponed writing. They have endorsed this plan wholeheartedly. Beginning April 5 I will be taking a writing sabbatical for the rest of April and May.

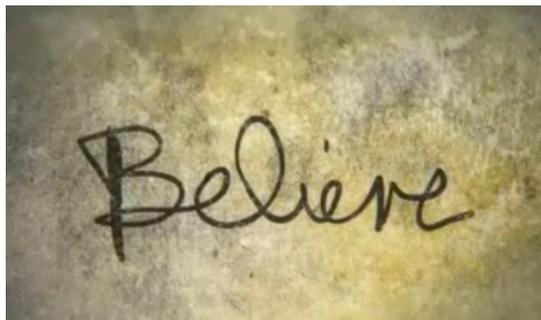
During this time we have asked Rev. Ed Farrell-Starbuck and Rev. Peggy O'Connor to share the leadership of the church. They will alternate preaching and leading worship starting on April 11 through Memorial Day weekend. They will divide the responsibilities of attending staff meetings and POD captains meetings and seeing to pastoral visiting and emergencies. I think everyone will enjoy and appreciate their leadership, their pastoral care and the way they share their faith in worship. As Easter is my last Sunday for a while, I have asked them to share the service with me, both online and on the lawn.

I am very grateful to the Church leaders for the gracious way that they have responded to my request to take my sabbatical time now, and I continue to be impressed by the courage and resilience of the Pilgrim faith community.

Blessings,

Rev. Susan

April Sermons



Sunday, April 11 - "A Vulnerable God" (John 20:19-31), Rev. Farrell-Starbuck

Jesus reveals his own vulnerability to fearful disciples and affirms the strength of our human vulnerabilities.

Sunday, April 18 - "Who Will We Be?"

(1John 3:1-7) Rev. Peggy O'Connor

The passage highlights the tension between now and the future.

What are the disciples to be and do after the crucifixion? How about us?



Sunday, April 25 - "Walking Through the Valleys" (Psalm 23), Rev. Farrell-Starbuck

Some gifts offered by the Good Shepherd on our journeys through valleys of death.

Evening prayer services will continue at 6 pm on Wednesdays.

We invite you to join us.
(pcchp.org, Facebook, YouTube)



ARMS COMMITTEE REPORT



The following is a summary of the ARMS campaign which ended on December 31, 2020.

Total pledges: \$387,972.

Total pledges received: \$376,112.

Deficiency: \$11,860(3%).

Total expenses: \$412,155.

Total pledges received: \$376,112.

Expenses in excess of pledges, therefore, were approximately \$36,000, which will have to be either paid from endowment funds or borrowed and re-paid over time.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Al Eaton, Heidi Nelson, Reverend Susan and Reverend Peggy for all of their hard work and helpful advice during the Campaign. I also want to wholeheartedly congratulate the entire Congregation for stepping up and contributing to an overall very successful Campaign to maintain and honor our beloved and beautiful Church building.

*Bill Crowell,
Chairperson*

Thank You for your Easter Flower Donations!



Robin Bauer, in loving memory of my family

Doris & Tom Berard, in loving memory of Leo & Anne Berard, Tom's parents

Doris & Tom Berard, in loving memory of Arnold & Lillian Fjeldal, Doris' parents

Amy Brady, in loving memory of my Mom, Evelyn Robinson

Bill Crowell, in loving memory of my family

Irene Derby, in loving memory of David Derby

Fred & Alice Drifmeyer, in memory of loved ones

Peggy Flood, in memory of my friend, Ray Hecht

Ross & Bonnie Hall & family, In loving memory of our parents/grandparents, Volta and Dorothy Hall and Frederick and Martha Davis

Karin Larson, in memory of my dearest Bob, who started attending Pilgrim Church at age 11; where we were married; and returned to membership after moving from Vermont & UVM in June, 1999

Jody MacLeod, in loving memory of my mother, Nancy Hatch

Val Petersen, in loving memory of family, friends & pets

Dick & Sally Smith, in loving memory of Michael Smith from his family

Barry & Colleen Springer, for all lives lost in the pandemic

The Wailgums, in memory of loved ones

Rick Walker, in memory of those who lost their lives during this pandemic

Barbara Wellnitz, in loving memory of Bruce Wellnitz from his family

Derry Winch, in memory of my parents, Charlie and Helen Smith

*A special thank you to **Greg Winston** who donated the altar arrangement*

April 22 -- EARTH DAY



Social Justice & Climate Change Committee

Hi everyone!

Seeking Members!

HAPPY SPRING! As you may know, April 22nd is Earth Day, which is a perfect time to resurrect our Social Justice and Climate Change Committee. Although we won't be able to meet in person right away, there is a lot we can do remotely for now.

First thing, of course, is to build a committee. While we had many folks express an interest last year, only a few were able to attend meetings and become active. With only five members, it was difficult to accomplish much, so we hope we can recruit more members. By doing so, we could branch into subgroups and address some of the many pressing environmental issues simultaneously.

Our role as a committee would be to serve as a resource regarding environmental issues -- both in our own church and in the greater community. We would share our enthusiasm and concern through education, advocacy, and welcoming people into our "grassroots" movement. We will start off providing tips, keeping it simple. And as a member of the FCEN group, I will be prepared to share the growing body of information I learn from the Cape Cod Climate Collaborative.



Anyone interested in either joining the group, or helping prepare for Cape Cod's Earth Day services, please contact me at molly.chapman@hotmail.com or 774-207-0627.

Please remember, our earth belongs to future generations. We CAN make a difference!

(Here are just a few of our past suggestions):

- consolidate car trips
- try to avoid use of black plastic
- conserve water whenever you can (especially while brushing teeth)

Happy Earth Day!

Molly Chapman, Pilgrim Church Representative to FCEN (Faith Communities Environmental Network)

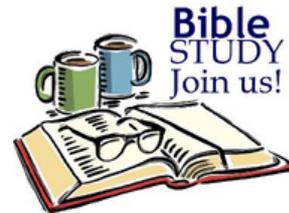
photo credit: Allison Fennelly

Staying involved. . .



ZOOM with Revs. Peggy and Ed along with fellow Pilgrims after Sunday worship service. Zoom in at 10:45 am, but don't let technical difficulties stop you. (Call Val Petersen to join in or to get instructions, 203-464-4470.) This is a great chance to catch up, share concerns, and re-connect.

STUDY! Doug Wheeler's ever popular Bible study group will continue throughout the Spring on Tuesdays at 9 AM. Open to everyone. ZOOM group discussion format. Call Doug at 774-237-0930 for more information.



KNIT AND CHAT via ZOOM --
Every Friday at 11:00 AM
Contact Deb @ 508-395-9207.

SUPPORT Social Justice & Climate Change

Celebrate Earth Day by joining in with Molly Chapman as she forms a committee charged with helping to educate others and advocate for our environment, while also supporting social justice (Read more on page 5.)



SHOP at the next Book & Yard Sale
Memorial Day weekend



Welcome Rev. Ed Farrell Starbuck



Rev. Ed Farrell-Starbuck is certainly not a stranger to Pilgrim. And to our good fortune, we will have the opportunity to get to know him even better while he and Rev. Peggy fill in for Rev. Susan while she is on sabbatical in April and May.

Rev. Starbuck was ordained into the ministry in the Nevada-California Conference in 1978. The son of a Methodist minister who felt the calling from both God and the church to become a pastor, he served as the pastor of three churches out west until 1994, when he moved to Cape Cod to be closer to his wife Cindy's family.

Ed became the interim pastor of the Osterville United Methodist Church in October 1994 after the pastor of that church died. He joined the New England Conference the following year and pastored churches in Rhode Island and Massachusetts until his retirement. When not filling in for other ministers, he happily spends his days fly fishing and kayaking.

He will be serving alongside Rev. Peggy through June 6, when Rev. Susan returns to the pulpit. Be sure to listen to Rev. Ed's sermons. His reputation precedes him as an inspiring and lively preacher!

SCHOLARSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES !

Pilgrim Church is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications from members of our church community for the Pilgrim Congregational Church Scholarship. We welcome applications from graduating high school seniors who are attending college or community college in the fall, those pursuing graduate studies and adult learners who are enrolling in certificate or licensure programs. **The application deadline is May 1, 2021.**

Applications will also be considered on a rolling basis for coursework or continuing education opportunities to enhance a learner's skills or career opportunities.

This year awards will be made from the Christian Education Scholarship Fund, honoring Debra Hemeon, and the Caroline Carlin Hood Fund, through the Pilgrim Congregational Church Women's Fellowship.

Contact the office for more information or to obtain an application (203-464-4470 or office@pcchp.org).

AFTER SCHOOL DROP IN CENTER

When you walk
in.....

You will see the kids at their tables or on the floor playing with toys, coloring & drawing. You might see them sitting 6 feet apart watching a video. You will see them laughing, talking, giggling, discussing.....

Most of the toys and materials in After School have been donated by families and members of the congregation. We love getting new donations!!! If you have toys or art materials that are no longer being used, please consider us.



Sewing classes have begun



Art
gluing hair onto a self
Portrait

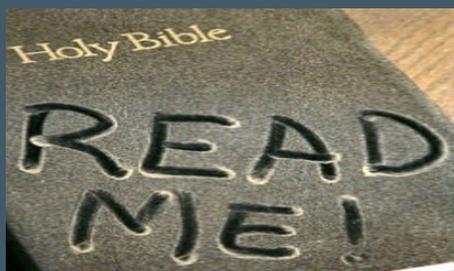


Loving and Using Your Bible...

in loving memory of Nicki Palmer

Test yourself:

In the Book of Ruth, why did Naomi and her family emigrate from Judah?



*Lectio Divina:

Psalm 146: 1, 7-9

More to the Story:

What was gleaning, and why was the practice essential for people like Naomi and Ruth?

BONUS: Consider how Ruth's origin as a Moabite (foreign) may have made her vulnerable to suspicion or scorn among Ruth's neighbors in Bethlehem.

Check your answers:

Ruth 1:1, Deut. 24:19

*WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA?

When I introduced myself as the new author of Nicki Palmer's column, *Loving and Using Your Bible*, I gave a vague (and not entirely accurate) description of the practice of Lectio Divina. I feel as though most of us could benefit from an updated definition to help us in our Biblical devotions.

Traditionally, the practice of Lectio Divina has four parts, but I have noticed that newer sources add a fifth, a step I whole-heartedly approve of, so I am including it.

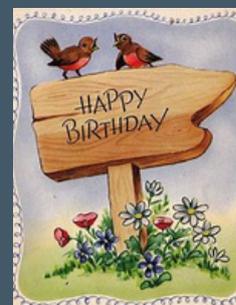
READ (Lectio): Still your spirit, sit in quietude, and read a chosen passage of the Bible.

MEDITATE (Meditatio) Reflect on the words and consider how they may be speaking to your heart right now.

PRAY (Oratio) Respond in prayer, having a conversation with God about what peaked your attention.

CONTEMPLATE (Contemplatio) Sit silently in God's presence, open to any special insight God may impart.

ACT (Imitare) Decide what God would like you to do now that you have had this conversation and commit to a change in your thinking or behavior



April 03 Fred Spencer
April 04 Allin Thompson
April 04 Jen Gould
April 06 Bethany Craig
April 07 Dick Smith
April 07 Bonnie Hall
April 20 Janis Wilson
April 25 Carl Clapp
April 26 Gladwyn Kelley
April 28 Deb Watson
April 30 Al Eaton
April 30 Mike Sekerak



Steeple Lighting

April 4 - 10

"In loving memory
of my beloved husband, Donald C. Nesmith,
from his wife, Frances

April 12

Happy Birthday to Jamie Wellnitz,
with love from Mom

April 14

In loving memory of Bruce Wellnitz on his
birthday,
from his family

April 24

Happy 14th Birthday to Violet Wellnitz,
with love from Gram

April 28

In loving memory of my dear friend Linda
Elliott Roop,
from Barbara Wellnitz

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

Contact Carolee @ 508-430-2594 or Val at office@pcchp.org



Music Notes



The Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra recently performed its 3rd virtual concert at Heritage Garden's Auto Museum. Check out their live performance, "American Refuge," at capecodchamberorchestra.com

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: Year of Wonder**

February 18, 2021 - **"Ash Wednesday services changed on Cape Cod as Lent begins."**

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/news/2021/02/18/covid-19-ash-wednesday-services-changed-cape-cod-lent-begins/6772669002/>

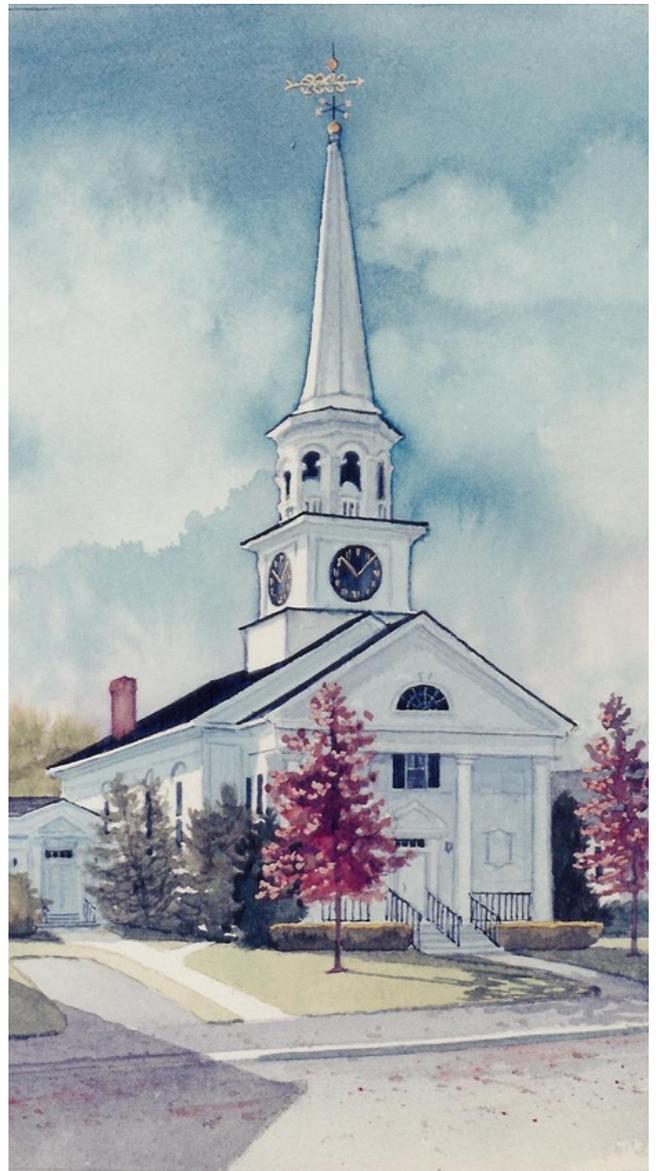
BEST BETS & CapeCodOnline: David Roth worship service. Watch for other events!

Cape Cod Chronicle: April 23 p. 43 "Pilgrim Kids Program"; Nov 5 - "Election Eve Vigil"

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

SPOTLIGHT - So. NE Conference, United Church of Christ: June 9, 2020 "Afterschool Program Goes Online."

"<https://www.sneucc.org/news?topic=15182>



Read the articles through our website pcchp.org

Pilgrim Congregational Church

533 Route 28
PO Box 247
Harwich Port, MA 02646

508-432-1668
office@pcchp.org
www.pcchp.org

