

Pilgrim Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
Harwich Port, Massachusetts



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Holy Humor Sunday
Sunday, April 14, 2024

Our Mission Statement:

We welcome ALL
to share the teachings of Jesus Christ,
to care for one another,
to serve others with compassion and love.

Welcome to our Worship Service

An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand if you are able.

Prelude “See How Great a Flame Aspires” Jason Krug

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace

We acknowledge one another with a nod, wave, or “Peace be with you.”

Chimes

*Call to Worship

One: Sing a new song!

All: A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth.

One: Sing praise to our still-laughing Easter God,

All: who has rolled away the bindings of yesterday!

One: Immerse our anxiety and despair in the fountain of new birth.

All: We place our visions and hopes on the table of wine and wheat,

One: for God has taken ordinary things,

All: and made them extraordinary!

Sing a new song!

Lighting the Christ and Peace Candles

***Participatory Hymn** “Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord!”

Opening Prayer

All: **Holy God, as you have taken what we call absurdity and turned it into possibility; as you have coaxed us to sing springtime alleluias where once there was a gray down; as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit into an undreamed-of tomorrow; we praise you for this and all days! Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this Eastertide day. Amen.**

Prayer Response

(Sung by Choir)

Call to Prayer

One: None of us likes to look foolish, but which is sillier? Chasing after the world and all its gaudy trinkets which flatter our souls, or being a “fool for Christ,” imitating him in service to others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let’s admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day, as we pray together:

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: You know better than we do, Amused God,

All: what important people we believe we are.

One: Believing we have to be serious all the time,

All: we miss out on the joy of your creation.

One: Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,

All: we skip the picnic offered in paradise.

One: Clinging to the despair which is our friend,

All: we ignore Jesus who can bring us home to your heart.

One: Forgive us, Heart of Joy,

All: and make us open to the startling and upside-down ways in which you work.

One: Fill us with Easter's laughter;

All: fill us with your healing joy;

One: fill us with the love poured into us

All: through Jesus Christ.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed: the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that joy is now given to us.

All: Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with oil of gladness. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Choir Anthem Selections from "West Side Story" Leonard Bernstein

Scripture Lessons Luke 24:36b-48 (New Testament Page 91)

Sermon "Can I Get a Witness?" Rev. Amie Stuart Giguere

***Tune from Hymn #451** (substituting these words):

Give to Us Laughter

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.

Laughter can banish so much of our strife!

Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.

Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

**Give to us laughter as a sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.**

**Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joy of your promise among us increase.**

(Hymn text written by Walter Farquharson)

Call to Offering

Offertory “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” arr.: Anthony Giamanco

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastoral Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

***Tune from Hymn #12 (substituting these words):**

When We Are Tempted

When we are tempted in our pride

**To dizzy heights of sin,
beneath our feed, O Lord, provide
a ripe banana skin,
and when we yearn at someone's head
to let a brickbat fly,
give us the grace to use instead
a well-aimed custard pie...**

**When cherished institutions stand
before your throne of grace,
with good intentions in each and
and egg on every face,
teach us to query grand designs
with laughter born of tears,
for deep in earth's jam-buffy mines
your rainbow still appears.**

(Hymn text written by Elizabeth Cosnett in her collection *Hymns for Everyday Saints*.)

***Benediction**

**All: Grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor.
Please give me the gift of faith,
to be renewed and shared with others each day.
Teach me to live this moment only,
looking neither to the past with regret,
nor to the future with apprehension.
Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer.**

**One: Go in laughter, go in grace
Keep the Lord in your heart
And a smile on your face! Amen.**

Postlude “Joy to the World” (all sing together)

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The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are both from *Still Laughing God: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter*, posted on the United Church of Christ’s *Worship Ways* website.

The Call to Prayer, Prayer of Transformation and New Life and Assurance of God’s Grace were written by Thom Shuman, on his excellent *Lectionary Liturgies* blog.

Pilgrim Congregational Church

533 Route 28, P.O. Box 247, Harwich Port, MA 02645

(508) 432-1668 • office@pcchp.org • www.pcchp.org

The church office is open Monday – Friday, 9am-2pm.

For an appointment, please email Rev. Amie at revamie@pcchp.org.

To receive our weekly church email, please contact the church office.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Minister: Rev. Amie Stuart Giguere

Director of Music: Dr. Matthew Scinto

Worship Leader: Carolee Wentworth

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Ann and Emma Brown and Dona Webber

The flowers that adorn the altar are given by Phyllis Cushlanis

“in loving memory and celebration for the life of my son,

Ron Cushlanis. It ended too soon. Love, Mom.”

The steeple will be lit on April 14 in loving memory of Bruce Wellnitz on his birthday, given by his family; and it will be lit on April 15 by John and Jennifer Geurtsen in honor of their grandchild, Emma.

This Week at Pilgrim Church:

Monday, April 15	The office is closed.
Tuesday, April 16	10am Izzy's Team No Afterschool Gym 5pm Choir
Wednesday, April 17	9:30am Awe Walk 1pm Joyful Prayer
Thursday, April 18	11am Coffee w/ Rev. Amie 6pm Bell Choir
Friday, April 19	Newsletter Deadline 11am Knitting
Saturday, April 20	5:30pm Big Band Fundraiser

Deacons' Meeting: 2nd Tuesday at 10am

Trustees' Meeting: 2nd Tuesday at 3:30pm

Church Council Meeting: 3rd Thursday at 3:30pm – THIS WEEK

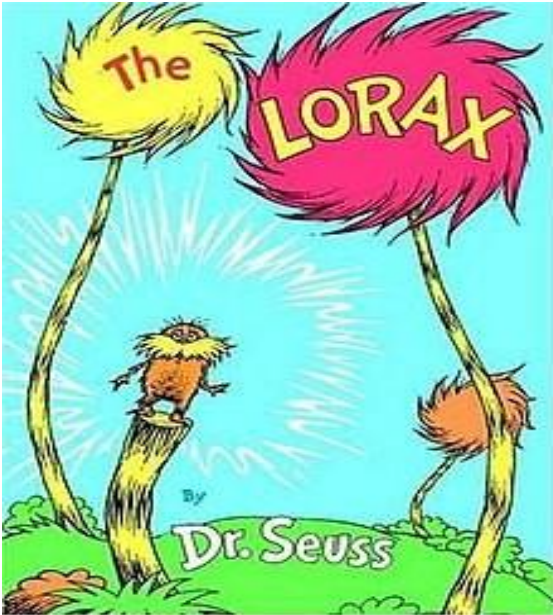
Missions and Outreach Meeting: 3rd Sunday at 9am

Please join us for Fellowship Hour following today's worship service.

Earth Day at Pilgrim Congregational Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Earth Day Service at 10am:



We will have an Earth Day-centered worship service during which the after-school kids will present a dramatic reading of Dr. Seuss' book *The Lorax* which emphasizes sustainability and protecting the environment. This story teaches us to treat the planet with kindness and stand up and speak up for others. If there are other children who would like to participate, we'd like to encourage them to do so!

Grand Opening of Lucie's Cupboard at 11:15am:



Immediately following worship service, we will host the grand opening of Lucie's Cupboard, our new community outreach cupboard that will provide items of need to those in need, such as warm clothing items in the colder months and light clothing items in the warmer months, as well as year-round non-perishable food items and "Kindness" projects created by the Afterschool program kids. And come meet the young lady behind this wonderful program—Lucie!