



# Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
June 2019

## July's Progress Deadline is Saturday, June 15.

Please e-mail submissions to  
[parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org)  
or place in her mailbox in the church office.  
Many thanks.

our faith community because we love and treasure it. To many of us it is family and so we will all work together to save it. All we have to do is pray and believe! God will show us the way.

--Bill Dugan

## OUR STAFF

**Minister of Music**

Denis Brunelle

**Treasurer**

Laurie Linden

**Financial Secretary**

Cindy Cote

**Parish Assistant**

Laurie Connors

## **OPPORTUNITIES LOST WHEN WE SKIP CHURCH**

I read an article about the **Opportunities Lost When We Skip Church**. It got me thinking about the situation we are in here at Pilgrim. We've had discussions about why have people stopped coming and why people have left. Instead of asking why they are not here, maybe we should let them know what they could be missing out on by skipping church. We ALL have very busy lives, work schedules, school schedules, sports schedules, etc. For some people Sundays are their only day off, and sleeping in or lounging with a second cup of coffee seems the way to go. Truth be told, I've had those thoughts from time to time, but then I realize that there is something missing for me come the rest of the week.

### **1 Opportunity for Corporate Worship**

Coming together to praise God no matter what our individual circumstances are is a beautiful thing. We all are one with God at this time and we may be loud, mellow, tearful, or exuberant, but we are a community with God.

### **2 Opportunity to Give**

Every week we have the opportunity to consciously give financially to our church. This is an extension of faith that we already practice. We are sowing seeds into the church body, much like what Christ has done for us.

## **PILGRIM CHURCH IS NOT CLOSING OR MERGING: A FAITH COMMUNITY IN RENEWAL**

Yes, Pilgrim Lutheran Church is on the move. The consensus at the congregation meeting is that we cannot stand still nor can we remain in the decades of yesteryear. It was agreed that we will all chart the new course together for the future. This will be accomplished by reaching out to our communities and discovering their needs. It will provide us with a new mission and bring us a rebirth and renewal.

Well over 65 people turned out for the meeting, and after hours of discussion it was decided to vote. The vote was to simply write either "try" or "done" on an index card. The overwhelming majority wrote "try" and only three votes were cast for "done".

In hours of discussion and the sharing of stories it was decided that we will not close or merge and will only do so if we have no other alternative. We are not going to give up

### **3 Opportunity for Fellowship**

Humans are wired for fellowship. Take the word fellowship and break it apart and you have we as fellows in a ship working together, supporting one another and encouraging each other. And we can continue this fellowship after service at coffee hour.

### **4 Opportunity for Growth**

The person who is sharing God's word with us on Sunday morning has spent time preparing this for us. We have the opportunity to partake of their message and build a foundation with God's word and to take it home and study it some more.

### **5 Opportunity to Meet Each Other's Needs**

When I am tempted to stay home, but instead put myself together, God seems to always make it worth my while. Conversations with fellow members or someone new can find us lifting one another up from the burdens of life. One word to someone is all it takes sometimes to put a smile on their face and a spring in their step. God's grace is at work in each and every one of us.

### **6 Opportunity to Love**

We share the sign of peace with either a handshake or a hug. It's a way to let one another know we are glad that you are here and you are loved. Our children learn about God's love in Sunday School and also when they participate in Sunday Worship. It is important to continue the foundation of love for them by bringing them on Sunday mornings.

### **7 Opportunity to Come Out of Our Comfort Zone**

It takes many people to run a church. We **ALL** have various gifts and talents to share when we serve our church body. Sometimes we don't even know that we possess them. And when you share your gifts freely, so many more opportunities seem to open up. You may think you don't make a difference on Sunday mornings, or you won't be missed, but you're the one missing out! Come and share in LOVE, FELLOWSHIP, GROWTH and GIVING! And truth be told, YOU WILL BE MISSED!

--Laurie Linden

## **THE 2019 DIANE FISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

THE RECIPIENT TO BE INTRODUCED  
and A RECEPTION immediately FOLLOWING  
On SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 9:30 a.m. Service

The name of the 2019 Diane Fish Memorial Scholarship recipient will be announced on June 2 during the 9:30 a.m. Church Service. Immediately after the Service, join us in the Christian Life Center for coffee and a reception to honor this outstanding recipient. CLUE: This person plays three instruments and works wearing roller skates. If you think you know this person...SHHH, we want to keep it a surprise until the formal announcement on June 2.



**Do you grow an abundant flower garden, during the summer and fall?** Do you love arranging flowers? We need you! **The Altar Guild** needs help forming a flower ministry, a new way of looking at our altar florals! Please contact Pam Himebaugh if you can help. 935-3544. Thank You!

## **GRADUATION?**



If you or someone in your family has graduated this year, please let us know. We would like to share the good news with other members of our Pilgrim family. Send your information to the church office at [parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org) or Many thanks and Congratulations to all 2019 graduates!

### **A Saturday Worship Hour**

Last year the Pilgrim community observed "The Longest Night," four short days before Christmas, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We gathered to remember those for whom the Christmas observances had included sadness and loss.

The worship team has made plans for "The Longest Day" in contrast to the Longest Night. The summer solstice is on June 21<sup>st</sup>, thus on the day following, **Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Pilgrim people and guests are invited to gather for worship at **5 o'clock**.

A simply *communion service* will celebrate the gift of the longest day and shortest night. It is the *midsummer*.

Mark the date on the calendar. And what celebrates the day combined with thanksgiving worship? **Strawberries**, of course. They are at the peak of the season, and on ice cream and shortcake they make all the more of a celebration for summer's gift of the longest day.

If the heavens do not cooperate on that God given day, there will be no need for umbrellas inside.



**The Sunday School Potluck** is on Sunday, June 9, after the 9:30 service. Please join the students and teachers for food, fun, and fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the Youth bulletin board located outside the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **!! INVENTORY SALE !!**

### **Gift Cards**

## **GOING OUT OF BUSINESS**

(Supply limited)

10 cards for \$10.00 each  
*Dunkin', Panera, Starbucks, Wendy's*

Two iTunes cards - \$15.00 each

Nine \$25 cards for  
*Target, Walmart and Stop and Shop*  
A deal at, \$25.00 each

Like \$50.00 gift cards?  
Nine available for *Stop and Shop*  
Deep pocket buyers can choose  
from the TWO - \$100 variety for  
*Stop and Shop*

Sales are final  
and the business closed.  
Pilgrim's Accounts receivable  
\$1,035 healthier

### **Graduations!**



Congratulations to **Shannon Lewis** who just graduated from the University of Rhode Island and **Daniel Medici** who graduated from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill! They are the grandchildren of longtime Pilgrim church member Nancy Lewis and the late Howard Lewis.

Congratulations to **Cathrene Linden** who graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with an Associate's Degree in Business Science. Catie is the daughter of Laurie and Fred Linden and the granddaughter of Muriel and Calvin Linden.

## Fall Festival



It's not too early to start preparing for our annual Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are always looking for new ideas, volunteers, and items for our penny social raffle. If you have ideas to share, please contact Laurie Linden at [lalinden1@gmail.com](mailto:lalinden1@gmail.com). We will begin having our meetings in September.

## Moving Forward Together

Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, a new team of leaders met following worship to plan anticipated conversations moving forward in renewal as the Pilgrim community. These leaders will read Carey Nieuwhof's book, "Lasting Impact," that presents seven powerful conversations "that will help your church grow."

The team is preparing to lead the people of Pilgrim in the conversations:

1. Why are we not growing faster?
2. How do we respond as people attend church less often?
3. Are our leaders healthy...really?
4. What keeps high-capacity leaders from engaging our Mission?
5. Why are young adults walking away from church?
6. What cultural trends are we missing? What are we actually willing to change?

These are serious questions and "Moving Forward Together" will assist Pilgrim to grow in community and service to our Lord Jesus. Anticipate the calendar of dates to participate in conversations.

### Shut-In Communion Visits

If you are unable to attend church services and you'd like to receive communion at home, please contact us at 401-739-2937 or by email at [parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org](mailto:parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org).

A member of the Eucharistic Ministry will contact you to arrange a visit.

**Thank you.** We the Pilgrim Lutheran family wish to thank all the many people who have stepped up to help get us through this time of transition. There are many people working behind the scenes to keep us moving forward. Some people you may know and realize what they're doing. Yet, there are others you may not know nor have any idea what they're doing. Many of us know the people in the food pantry who help collect, sort and distribute the food to the many people in need of it. But, without all the people who are willing to volunteer and who are dedicated to help, none of this would be possible. There's an old saying that many hands make light work. Then why not consider volunteering or giving some time to do a project or provide assistance in our Pilgrim Lutheran family? You just may enjoy it and find it to be very rewarding. Don't be shy -- step right up and seek out someone at coffee hour and ask how may I help our Pilgrim family.

--Bill Dugan

### **Clergy Serving Pilgrim Lutheran Church**

June 2	The Rev. Donald Williams
June 9	The Rev. Ray Mitchell
June 16	The Rev. Dr. Peter Michaelson
June 23	The Rev. Donald Williams
June 30	The Rev. Ray Mitchell
July 7	The Rev. Donald Williams
July 14	The Rev. Ray Mitchell
July 21	The Rev. Dr. Peter Michaelson
July 28	The Rev. Donald Williams
August 4	The Rev. Donald Williams
August 11	The Rev. Ray Mitchell
August 18	The Rev. Donald Williams
August 25	The Rev. Ray Mitchell

### **Altar Flower Dedications**



PLEASE consider supporting the altar flowers. The cost is \$30 and the dedication can be in memory of someone or in honor of a birthday, wedding anniversary or another special accomplishment. Envelopes are available in the narthex. If you have any questions about flower dedication, please contact Pat Frazier at 941-7656.