



# Pilgrims' Progress



The Monthly News of the People of Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Warwick, Rhode Island  
August 2016

**September's Progress Deadline:  
Monday, August 15th**

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

*The Progress deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.*

Dear Friends,

Have you had a chance to spend some time on the grounds of our church lately? There are a few things there that I hope you will notice.

First of all is our memorial garden. Many thanks to Bubba and Valerie Parmenter in making this a reality. Bubba used his masonry skills to make a professional site to remember friends and families connected with our congregation. As you will notice, there are still a number of blank bricks if you would like to memorialize someone. Please speak with me if you are interested in this.

The other item to notice is the bench by the butterfly garden around the flag. There is now a plaque on the bench which reads:

*Refurnished Friendship Bench  
Thanks for Everything  
WBCJC  
2016*

WBCJC is the West Bay Community Jewish Center. One of their members did substantial work in repairing the bench and making it more solid. The West Bay Community Jewish Center is the group who

hold their High Holiday services and several *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvahs* here at Pilgrim Church. The labyrinth still is used by folks from various places in our community and around the state.

So, why do we have these things? Quite simply, they are there as an invitation to our community to share in our life together. They are witnesses that we welcome the community to our place and hope that they can find some solace or spiritual connection by stopping to pause and pray or think, or by taking a small pilgrimage in our labyrinth.

We have these things because the church of Jesus must always be, in the world, although not really of the world (borrowing an image from the Gospel of John 17:15). The mission of Jesus was to announce that God's reign was underway. While we might think of this as common language, we do not understand how radically subversive that would have sounded to people of Jesus' time when the reign of Rome was the power in control.

What all this means is that as the followers of Jesus we are called to walk in ways in which the world does not walk. We are the people called to radical hospitality (welcoming all, not just friends or those like us), forgiveness as a way of life (it really is the only path to peace), and service to those others consider undeserving of it. In such things we seek to embody the compassion Jesus showed to the world around him.

A friend of mine, a fellow pastor serving in Michigan, posted a picture on Facebook of a banner he saw in Seattle. It is what I might call a job description for the church and for individual Christians:

*BE THE CHURCH*

Pastoral Acts

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*

*Forgive often. Reject racism.*

*Fight for the powerless.*

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

I think that says it all. We seek to do this also in this place where God has placed Pilgrim Lutheran Church. We are in the world to be blessings for others.

Now, no one can do any of this alone. We need one another in community, in worship, and service. So we gather every week to be reminded that we do not belong simply to ourselves, but we were bought with a price, the cross of Jesus. It is a challenge and an honor, a gift of love and call to new life by being Jesus' people. Let's always seek to do it together.

In hope,



*Baptism:*

- *Jayden Michael Jarvis*

*Marriages:*

- *Alexandra Murphy & Daniel Chappell*
- *Michael Thomas Gouvin and Carmela Lynn Turano*

*Funeral:*

- *Bernice Bailey*

**Hospitalized or Needing a Pastoral Visit?**

Please have a family member call us at 401-739-2937 to speak to Pastor Kohl or to leave information with the office or on the church's voicemail. Be sure to leave your name, the name of the person who needs a visit, which hospital and room number, if possible, and a contact telephone number.



**Choir Rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m.** New singers are always welcome. Please speak to Denis Brunelle, Minister of Music, or contact the church office should you have any questions.

The next **Congregation Council meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m.

**We need your help!** We're looking for volunteers to serve as Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Ushers, and Greeters. If you are able to help with these important ministries, please sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board outside the office or contact the office at 739-2937.



There are still many dates available for **flower dedications** for 2016. Simply fill out an envelope with the information and the suggested donation of \$30. The envelopes can be found in the pews and in the Narthex on the small table or you may request one by calling the church office at (401) 739-2937. Thank you for supporting the Altar Guild.

The kids in Confirmation will be taking part in the **Synod Youth Gathering** in September. It will be held at Camp Calumet. The cost per attendee is \$78 for room and board for the weekend. The kids will be doing some fund raising projects both here at Pilgrim and at St. Paul. Please support them. If you would like to provide scholarship for them, please speak with Pastor Kohl or Tammy McLaughlin.