

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

MARCH 2021

## "Healing"

March 7: Jesus Heals  
an Immigrant

March 14: Chaos &  
Creation

March 21: Man Born  
Blind

March 28: Palm Sunday





We are into the second week of the season of Lent. Now some folks believe that Lent is a time to give up things you enjoy - like chocolate, or meat as an act of contrition. Though we observe Ash Wednesday in our church most years, this year we didn't offer the imposition of ashes because in the United Church of Christ we don't believe that it is safe to meet in person. But sadly, too, after a year of pandemic restrictions, its almost as if we have been living through a kind of Lenten experience for 12 months.

So this year I want to offer another way to look at Lent. It comes from my friend and colleague, Rev. Eileen Morris who serves at the Slatersville Rhode Island UCC Church. She says Lent is a time to Learn and Explore New Things. When you see Lent less as time for self-denial and more as a time to expand your view spiritually it changes Lent from a time of penitence to a time of exploration.



Let's reframe Lent as a period of **awakening - of learning new things and stretching our wings.** Let's focus instead on thinking carefully about the world we want to return to and the world we want to create when this pandemic is all over. Let's spend this six weeks on a journey of imagination and think creatively about how to carve out a new world informed by where we've been and what we've been through, a world informed by all God has taught us on this journey for the last year.

### *Rev. Susan*

P.S. Check out "The Black Church" on PBS. It aired in February but you still might be able to find it on PBS Passport. It's worth watching.

## Easter Week:



**April 1, Maundy Thursday, 5:00 p.m**  
**Service of Communion on the Lawn**  
with Prayers for Healing our nation  
and for each other.  
Led by Rev. Susan Cartmell &  
Peggy O'Connor



**April 4, Easter Sunday, 10:00 a.m**  
**Service on the Lawn (weather permitting)**  
Celebrate the Resurrection in person.  
Led by Revs. Cartmell, O'Connor,  
and Ed Farrell-Starbuck  
(Both services will also air live online.)

# March Sermons - "Healing"



This Season of Lent is different from any other Lent in my lifetime. In some ways it has been one continuous Lent since the lent in 2020 when we began to shelter and social distance. Our preaching and worship theme for Lent will be Healing. Our services will focus on how we heal as a people and as a nation. What do we need to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually? Our faith has a lot to teach us about healing and this is a moment when we need to read the healing stories in our Bible and find the lessons there for our lives today.

**Sunday, March 7 - Mark 7:24-30**

**"Jesus Heals an Immigrant"**

There is a famous story about Jesus healing the daughter of a Greek woman who is an immigrant Israel. When you read this story it is hard to tell who the hero really is - Jesus or the immigrant. The Bible has a lot to tell us about how we treat those on our borders and why it matters.



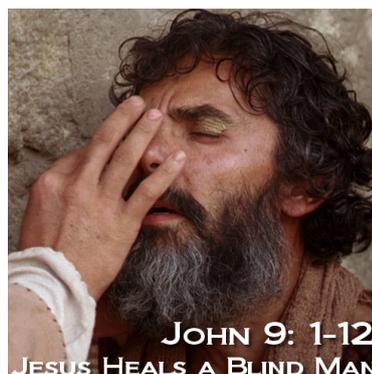
**Sunday, March 14 - Mark 5:21-43 "Chaos & Creation"**

In the chaos of the crowd a woman reaches for his robe and something amazing happens to her. In the chaos of the crowd a desperate woman has faith. This story reminds us that the hardest times are also often times of creativity and new life. How is God setting the table for new miracles in the chaos we experience today?

**Sunday, March 21 - John 9:1-12**

**"Man Born Blind"**

In this story Christ's disciples ask him about why people like this man suffer, and Jesus explains the meaning of suffering. We don't earn it, or bring it on, but suffering is a part of life that has meaning. Here in this pandemic at the end of Lent we will try to hear what Christ is saying to us.



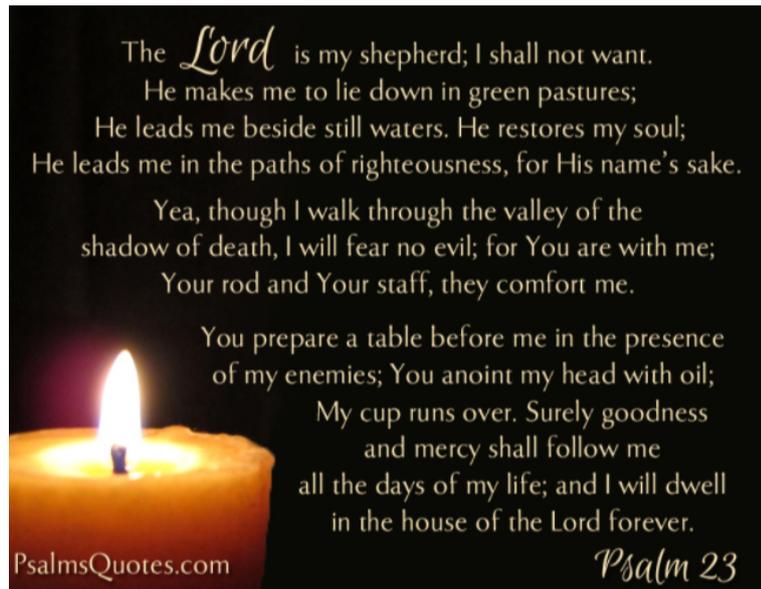
**Sunday, March 28 - Mark 14:1-9**

**"Palm Sunday"**

We all make sacrifices in our lives. Sometimes we wonder what we've done, what it cost us, or why we did it. At the end of Christ's life a woman anoints Jesus with costly oil. She sacrifices the oil for him and Jesus defends her sacrifice. The story asks us to consider what makes a sacrifice worthy.

## Evening prayer services will continue at 6 pm on Wednesdays throughout the Lent.

Our Theme in March will continue to be the **23rd Psalm**. Every week we will look at another line of the psalm and open it up for our understanding. We invite you to join us.



(pcchp.org, Facebook, YouTube)

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This March, Rev. Susan will be leading two workshops at the **Super Saturday** program for the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.

On March 13, Revs. Susan and Peggy will lead the "**The Post Pandemic Church**" -- a workshop on how much we've learned from the pandemic and how to lead churches as we move into a new normal.

On March 20 Rev. Susan and Rev. Scott Spencer (Cranston, RI) will lead a workshop on "**Preaching in the Pandemic.**" Based on the workshops they led in Rhode Island this winter, this workshop will lead a clergy discussion about how preaching has changed and how to preach more creatively in this moment in history.

Read more about Super Saturday at <https://www.sneucc.org>.

# Staying involved. . .

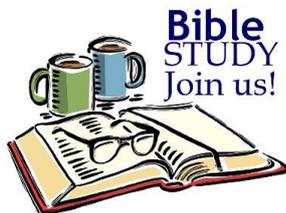
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**ZOOM** with Rev. Susan and fellow Pilgrims after Sunday worship service. Zoom in at 10:45 am, but don't let technical difficulties stop you. (Call Rev. Susan to join in or to get instructions, 781-635-6104.) This is a great chance to catch up, share concerns, and re-connect.

## "THE ROAD WE MAKE" PART TWO -- Sundays at 4 PM.

Based on Brian McLaren's book "We Make the Road by Walking," Revs. Peggy O'Connor and Ed Farrell-Starbuck will continue their ZOOM discussion group. Call Val @ 203-464-4470 or email [office@pcchp.org](mailto:office@pcchp.org) to sign up.



## DOUG WHEELER'S EVER POPULAR BIBLE STUDY GROUP - - Ongoing thru winter on Tuesdays at 9 AM.

Open to everyone, the group is now completing their study of *Exodus*. 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.



## LISTEN TO REV SUSAN'S PODCAST "THE GOAL"

. . . featuring inspirational thoughts  
from Rev. Susan  
([www.pcchp.org](http://www.pcchp.org), Facebook, and YouTube)

**VOLUNTEER** to drive someone to a vaccine appointment. (Contact Val at office @[pcchp.org](mailto:pcchp.org))



# Getting to Know our Staff

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## Marcia Witherell, Bookkeeper



A perfect fit for Pilgrim, Marcia is a computer programmer who loves working with numbers. As a department head at Kripalu in Lenox, for 12 years she was responsible for balancing the books and accounts receivable. When she moved to the Cape she became the Treasurer/Bookkeeper for First Church in Harwich and was also employed at the Yarmouth Town Hall working in the Clerk's & Collector's offices. Thinking she had finally retired in 2019, she was asked if she would be interested in coming to Pilgrim. The rest is history, and we are delighted to have her with us.



In addition to serving the Pilgrim, Marcia raises golden retrievers and was recently the proud "grandparent" of seven sisters!

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## Introducing our new Technology Advisor/Tech Deacon



### TECH NEWS . . .

Since we have been creating online services we have relied on a number of volunteers and some paid staff to put together music, video and pictures in a coordinated way. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped in this process with its steep learning curve.

Camera techs have included : Matt Scinto, Ann Tucker, Becky Sullivan and Denice Keating. Our music tech person was Peggy O'Connor. Debbie Larsson offered tech advice on equipment at every turn in the path.

After almost a year the process of recording services has been streamlined and our main Tech Deacon is **Becky Sullivan** who has a paid position as Technical Advisor for Worship. Becky was one of the founding members of the Tech Deacons Roundtable for church technicians in the Southern New England conference of the UCC. They meet bi-weekly and share resources. With our new equipment she has an office above the chancel where she puts our services together using iMovie. Becky put together the blooper reel so many of you enjoyed so much. We are so grateful to her for her stewardship of this important work.

# Loving and Using Your Bible...

In loving memory of Nicki Palmer

## Test yourself:

What was Paul's name before he became Paul? What experience initiated the change?

John 10:2-4



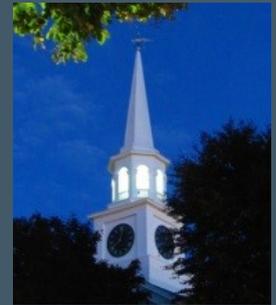
## More to the Story:

Name another Biblical person whose name changed. How many can you name?

# Happy Birthday!



- March 02: Mary Lou Duquette-Maitland
- March 11: Kathy Munday
- March 19: Mary Beth Bryant
- March 20: Ashley Hunt
- March 31: Susan Mills



## Steeple Lighting

### March 4

This date marks the 10th anniversary of when my heart broke with the passing of my dear friend **Sue Cole**. She was an amazing daughter, mother and friend to many. Not a day goes by without someone thinking about her. We all feel her presence as we can hear her say, "it's all about the love." She touched so many lives and will be forever loved and forever missed.



With love, Derry Winch

## Music Notes

JUST A REMINDER THAT FRED'S SACRED PIANO CD and SACRED PIANO CHRISTMAS CD ARE BOTH STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AS A FUND RAISER FOR PCC @ \$20.00 EACH.

Order at [pcchp.org](http://pcchp.org) or call Val at 203-464-4470.

HAPPY LISTENING,  
Fred

## Thank You for your pledge!



2021 Stewardship Committee  
Harold Gabriel, Jody MacLeod, Louise Moline

### March 13 - March 20

In memory of **David Derby**, with love.  
Missing you...  
Mom, Linda, Joan, & Sue

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](mailto: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: 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/>

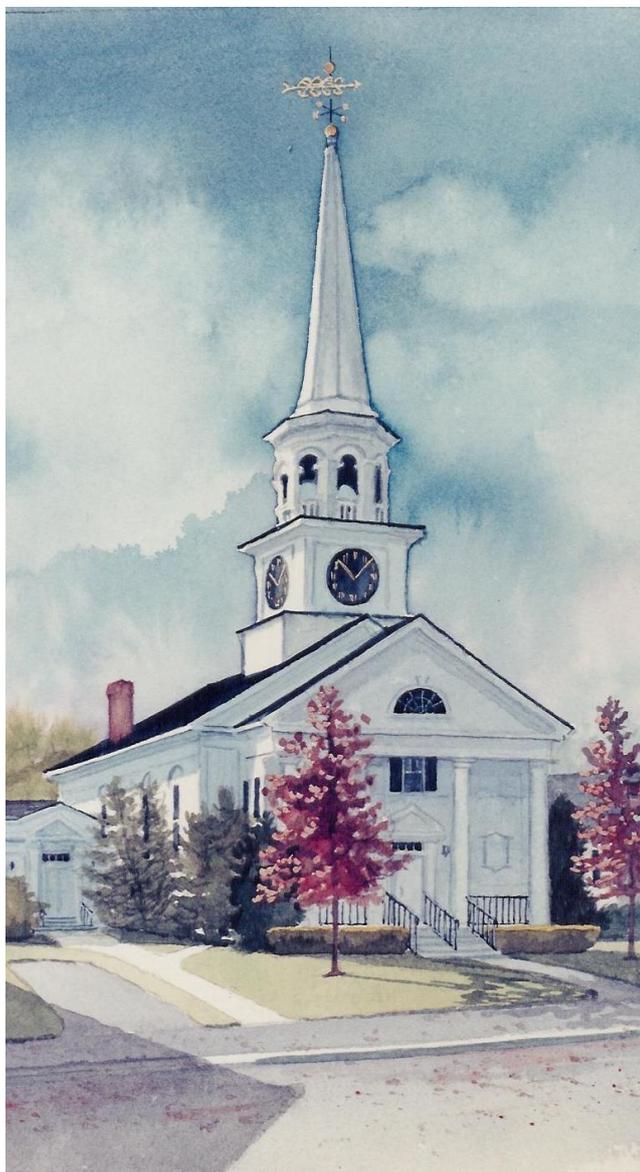
**BEST BETS & CapeCodOnline:** David Roth worship service. Watch for other events!

**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](http://pcchp.org)

## **Pilgrim Congregational Church**

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