

March

Minister's Missive

by Rev. Heather Hennessey

My greatest pleasure this past week has been visiting three members of our congregation in person. Having received both of my Covid vaccinations, and following mask and distance protocols, I was able to sit, face to face, with three wonderful women. I heard their stories, shared their sorrows, and joined them in prayer. It was such a gift after a year of separation. Next week, I hope to visit two more. The pandemic is finally beginning to loosen its grip on our lives.

Our Inquiry Classes have been another source of delight for me. Over zoom, I've been joined by Sheri Curtis, Linda Robathan, Gary and Angela French, Lauralyn DuBois and Karen Foss. The latter is already a member at Pilgrim, but she wanted to learn more about our denomination and our congregation. Sheri has been our pianist for years, but has never joined a church. She thinks the time may now have arrived to make that commitment. Lauralyn is transferring her membership from the Petaluma UCC, and Linda, Gary and Angela are in the first stages of exploring our congregation. It's been an absolute pleasure to get to know them all.

As winter turns to spring, my thoughts have turned to celebrating Easter. On Sunday, April 4, I plan to offer two Easter services at Pilgrim Church. The first will be a sunrise service and the second will be a 10:00 a.m. service. Both will be held outside. Plan to dress warmly,

wear a mask, and sit apart from those outside your family, yet be able to see and hear each other as we worship together. Our audio-visual specialist, Daniel Hill, is working to create the sound amplification we'll need, and the ability to live stream the service to those choosing to remain at home. I'm excited by these possibilities and grateful to all who are working with me to make these services possible.

Speaking of gratitude, it's time to say thank you and farewell to Elizabeth Cifu Shuster as she leaves Pilgrim's employ as our Office Manager. Planning to enjoy a return to full-time motherhood at home, and looking forward to pursuing her artistic talents, Elizabeth's last day in the church office will be March 14th. Please take the time to express your appreciation for her many gifts to Pilgrim.

Our Search Committee is receiving resumes for our position of senior pastor. As you read about their work later in this newsletter, remember to pray for all involved. The right candidate is out there, so let's pray them into place.

Honored to be in ministry with you,
 Rev. Heather Hennessey
 Bridge Pastor

Connecting

First of all, kudos to Mary Forbes for involving Pilgrims with soles4souls.org in an effort to redistribute shoes to those who need them. Thank you, Mary!

March Connecting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Contact Participating Pilgrims</u>
9	4 – 5 pm	SEACM Board	Pam Crowe
10	12-1:30 pm	Shasta Interfaith	Heather Hennessey
11	5 – 7 pm	Shasta Equal Justice Coalition (SEJC) *	Lori McNeill, Rachel Hatch
19	8-9:30 am	HOPE Van	Glenn Hoxie
25	5 – 7 pm	Shasta Equal Justice Coalition (SEJC) *	Lori McNeill, Rachel Hatch
One day		Adopt-a-Block	Pam Crowe, Nancy Milton, Karen Foss
28	All Day	Cesar Chavez Day - Stay Tuned	

* SEJC Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83983136636?pwd=VGJlZ1dQVmFlbWtXczRyc3Y4T0pSZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 8313 6636

Passcode: 814752

One tap mobile +16699009128,,83983136636# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US

The virtual Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada UCC Conference is March 13, 2021.

Pilgrim has 3 votes at the Conference Business Meeting. Pilgrim Vice Moderator. Vice Moderator Sara Hoxie and two appointed delegates will represent us. They will be considering the future of Camp Cazadero, an amazing camp for our youth, a retreat for Congregations and a space for an environmental school for Northern California students. Pilgrim will be participating and you can join in and learn more here.

For the past 75 years Camp Cazadero has been a place where youth and congregations from throughout California come together to experience hospitality, community and spiritual growth in a beautiful coastal Redwoods environment. The challenges of maintaining a facility as large as Cazadero have existed in the Conference for many decades.

For several months there has been a dedicated group working on the Financial Feasibility of Camp Cazadero. This team believes that the best way for Camp Cazadero to serve the mission of the NCNC UCC is to move forward with developing Camp Cazadero into a financially viable organization consisting of a collection of ministries.

There is more ministry that can be done at Camp Cazadero and a more promising future for its development and use than its sale, which has been considered. We remain hopeful that the Conference will see the value of investing in Cazadero as an opportunity for continuing this unique ministry so that Cazadero serve as the vehicle through which we deliver important spiritual teachings and inspire leaders to contribute to a better world.

<https://ncncc.org/annual-gathering-2020/march-special-meeting-registration/>

For more information go to <https://ncncc.org/annual-gathering/>

and click on Stewardship of Camp Caz. Also check the Agenda for the day, which includes a Conference Worship Service.

Link here to attend virtually:

<https://ncncucc.org/annual-gathering-2020/march-special-meeting-registration/>

Sue Crandell and Pam Crowe
Connecting CoCo's

Learning

During Lent we are looking forward to our guest ministers' special sermons and Kaarin's special words for our children.

We would recommend as always, but maybe especially during Lent, our wonderful UCC "Still Speaking Writers Group" Daily Devotionals available by email.

Our Book Study group will be reading and discussing "Active Hope" by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. This group meets via Zoom on Thursdays at 3pm. All are welcome at any time but an especially good time to join would be March 4th when we begin this new book. Call/mail the office or Pam Crowe for the zoom invitation.

Our youth group is tentatively planning a "Campfire Evening" on March 5th. Stay tuned (or contact Glenn Hoxie) for details.

Another reminder for spring...our church library is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 10am - 4pm. Come browse and take a book home. Happy Spring learning!

Scott Hepburn & Paula Kahler
Pilgrim Learning CoCos

Landscape

Thank you to all the bark spreading helpers who donated their Saturday morning!



Joys & Concerns

Joys:

We welcomed to the guest pulpit Michael Ellard for 3 weeks in February who provided challenging sermons. One Sunday he even shared his vocal talent with us by simultaneously singing 4 parts together of the hymn, "If You Love Me". Thank you, Michael, for sharing your time, talent and wise words with us.

Hats off to Vivi-Anne Thompson for being such a dedicated Mom and Grandma. She has spent most of January and February in Southern California caring for her young granddaughters while their parents are working. She checks in often for the Zoom Coffee Hours to share her experiences with us.

Here's a toast to Tara and Warren Swanson as they celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on Feb. 19th.

We felt blessed on Feb. 7th to hear Pedro Betancourt sing "Wind Beneath my Wings", especially for Peggie Linville who is recovering from heart surgery. Pedro's wife, Elizabeth, joined him singing hymns later in the service. We are grateful to you both for sharing your talents with us.

Thanks for technology, especially for Zoom for the annual meeting for Pilgrim Church. We had a quorum and were able to approve plans for the coming year.

Our children are so fortunate to have Kaarin Brooke share "Words of wisdom" during every Sunday worship time. Adults always learn something too, as with FLY ("First Love Yourself")...we all need to FLY!!

Sheri, our pianist, accompanied Donna Nelson, and her daughter, Karina Lapp, and Mary Forbes as they sang hymns for a couple Sundays in February. It is good to see members of our choir participating on Sunday mornings.

It seems that vaccines have been the recent theme of conversations during the coffee hours recently..."Where can you get the vaccine?", "Who has had the shots?", "What are the side effects?"...The Joy is that the vaccines are available.

Did you know that Larry Solberg has been writing down the blessings which we give one another at the end of Coffee Hour? He told us he is making a "word cloud". Now everyone is curious what that might be. Stay tuned!

Who hauled 10 yards of wet bark for landscaping at the church? Heather Hennessey had several helpers: Chris McNeil; Kit Harvey; Andrea and Amielle Gibbons-Egolf; and Lucia, Kara and Tyler Rainsford. Thanks to all of you for helping to make our property look so good!

What a joy to hear a repeat virtual performance of the UCC Choir sing for us on the first Sunday of Lent. Rev. Michael Ellard put the group of several singers together singing, "Great is Thy Thankfulness". Some familiar faces in the choir were Michael Ellard, Jim Carr, Donna Nelson, Nancy Milton, Megan Owens, and Pam Crowe.

Kit Harvey, our resident eagle resource person, reports that the eagle pair have 2 eggs in the nest which is high in a tree over Turtle Bay. There is a webcam with which people may view the eagles and the nest. Check it out: reddingeaglecam.com

Our thanks to Tara Swanson who arranges for the candle lighters and liturgists for our Sunday morning worship services. And of course, big thanks to all those who graciously volunteer.

Concerns

Family services were led by Heather Hennessey at the Veteran's Cemetery for Wayne Davis, Barbara Davis' husband and Nancy Hill's father at the end of January. It continues to be a difficult time for the family to cope with Wayne's death.

Prayers and get well wishes go out to our former minister, Ann Muir, in Milwaukie, Oregon. In mid February she was rushed to the hospital having had a heart attack at home. The doctors were able to insert 2 stents, and she is now at home recovering.

Prayers for Lauralyn DuBois' daughter, Charlene Castle, who is now recovering from Covid. Charlene lives in Washington, D.C. and works for a non-profit organization which helps homeless people find homes. Lauralyn is new to our coffee hours, having moved to Cottonwood recently.

Miki Forell's daughter, Dora Swanson, has finally had a diagnosis. Although it is a serious one of Multiple Myeloma, it is treatable. Miki deeply appreciates our prayers as Dora closes down her thriving accountancy business and begins her long and challenging treatment.

We continue to wish Peggine Linville good recovery from her heart surgery. She is at home now with family helping to care for her.

Mary Hammer is at Marquis Acute Care Rehab and expresses great appreciation for the prayers and cards while she recovers from back surgery.

Mary Forbes' son-in-law, Ron Draper, has been diagnosed with Covid. Prayers are needed for him, his wife, Kathy and for Mary in hopes of a speedy recovery.

The following "home-bound" Pilgrims need and appreciate our prayers and cards: Paul Frye (also at Marquis Assisted Living), Deanie Coon (lives with her daughter, Margaret) and Claudine Cupples (at St. Lorenz Assisted Living)

Submitted by Barbara Cross

Pastor Search Committee Update

Your Pastor Search Committee is working diligently to find Pilgrim a new Settled Pastor. While the early months of the year are normally slow times for search teams, according to our Conference office this year is especially slow. That said we have received several promising profiles and have started interviews. The team is meeting weekly now to make sure we are progressing as quickly and faithfully as possible. While the search process is necessarily confidential in nature, we want to hear any concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact anyone on the committee, and we will be happy to share what we can. The members of the committee are Kaarin Brooke, Diane Campbell, Pam Crowe, Sue Crandell, Andrea Gibbens, Kit Harvey, Sara Hoxie, Rob Lightfoot, Chris McNeill, and Tara Swanson.

Financial Secretary's Report

Description	Budget	Projected Income 1 Month	Actual Income 1 Month	Income Variance 1 Month
Pledges	126,932	10,578	28,871	18,293
Loose Plate	9,000	750	65	-685
Sub-Total	135,932	11,328	28,936	17,608
Building Use	5,200	433	0	-433
Other				
Lot Rent	*5,100	0	0	0
TOTAL	146,232	11,761	28,936	17,175

*Other Income: \$5,100 for the Parking Lot Rental is paid to Pilgrim each October.

The income for the January Pledges, Loose Plate & Building Use was \$28,936. Included in this total are Pre-Paid pledges for year 2021 received in 2020 totaling \$10,100 which makes the income number for January appear inflated. It's necessary that the Pre-Paid pledge contributions be added to the January pledge total in order to capture the true pledge giving for 2021. Income from Pledges and Loose Plate, Building Use, & Other was \$28,936, compared to our projected 1-month income of \$11,761, shows a positive variance of \$17,175. This positive variance is the result of adding the Pre-Paid Pledges of \$10,100 received in late 2020 to the January income total.

Some members elected to contribute the total amount of their 2021 Pledge commitment in January which is greatly appreciated. A huge thank you to all the members that completed their 2020 Pledge Commitment in full and to those members that actually made contributions which exceeded their 2020 commitment.

Submitted by Robert Cross, Financial Secretary

Building & Finance Report

Two outside projects have drawn our attention in February. First, a portion of the deck in the area more or less behind the kitchen has been removed as many of the deck boards and underlying support beams have rotted out in the many years they have been in place. At the moment the area is taped and boarded off. With the able assistance of general contractor Nick Andersen, who has done other work at the church and for many members of Pilgrim, the damaged portions of the deck will be repaired and restained.

Attention has also been drawn to four large cottonwood trees on the church property, three of which, we are told by a tree expert, are dead and should be taken down. A fourth tree, which still has some living tissue, can be pruned, removing all the dead material.

Those two projects have been the major areas of concern.

A No Parking/No Trespassing sign has been placed near the upper entrance. A second No Parking will be put up near the "island" in the upper parking lot.

John Crowe and Bill Justice

A Shoe Drive?

Now's the time to make room in your closet. Soles4Souls provides relief during disasters, fights poverty by helping people start small businesses, helps the planet so shoes don't end up in a landfill, and aims to empower women. The shoes are sent to communities in the US as well as to 127 countries. Soles4Souls is asking for gently used shoes of all types. You can call or text Lana Gransfors at 530.945.6416, and she can pick up your shoes or give you directions to a delivery spot. www.soles4souls.org

Contact Mary Forbes if you have any questions: marforb@aol.com or (530) 241-8357