



# The Pilgrim

## From the Pastor's Pen

The Rev. Nathaniel Craddock

Happy Lent! We're in the thick of it now, and we're coming up on the halfway point of our journey alongside Jesus through the wilderness of the desert unto Jerusalem, the final showdown with Death, and resurrection on the other side. If you were here with us on the evening of Ash Wednesday, you heard me speak of the great devotion with which the early Church remembered and celebrated the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection—and the great devotion with which those same days are remembered even now in many places around the world. For Christians throughout the centuries, the solemn and joyful celebration of Holy Week and Easter are the highlight of the year—instead of Christmas, as we would normally expect.

That's because there is a **tremendous** motion that happens throughout the drama of Holy Week, which we can only begin to perceive and allow to transform us as we show up to the whole Holy Week cycle year in and year out. The mystery and majesty are simply too big to be contained to one or two services, and it takes *time* to let these celebrations sink into our bones. That's why it's so important to come to Church for as many of the services as we can, not simply to pick one and say, "okay, I'll come to that one" while ignoring the rest of the remembrance and celebration. Allow me to walk us through the events of the week:

Traditionally in the Church there were services over a special three-day period, called the Easter Triduum or the "Great Three Days," and there were celebrations on Maundy (or Holy) Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the eve of Easter. However, we all know that the complexities of modern life make it hard for us to work our

schedules around these observations, so we have **three** special services during the week to take us on this Great Easter Journey: **Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Easter Sunday.**

**On Palm Sunday at 10:30am**, which we also call Passion Sunday, we welcome Jesus in humble majesty as our *kyrios*, our Lord, our Savior, singing "hosanna" and waving palm branches at the beginning of the service, yet during the same service, our songs of "hosanna" become shouts of "Crucify him!" when we realize that Jesus is not the violent conqueror we imagined, and he becomes the scapegoat for all of our fear and anger and hurt. We remember our own waffling in contrast to Jesus' steadfast love and fidelity. As we depart on Passion Sunday, we will exchange our palms of praise for crosses of sorrow, and we will sing, "I it was denied thee; I crucified thee."

**On Holy Thursday at 6:30pm**, we will remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples, the institution of Holy Communion, and his lonely and sorrowful journey from the table to the garden, the garden to the cross, and the cross to the tomb. We'll begin in the Fellowship Hall with a sumptuous banquet of Mediterranean fare, remembering that Jesus was rooted in a real place and real time, and it was in that real place and time that he gave us the gift of Holy Communion and a new **covenant**, a new promise to be with us—and with that new covenant, a new commandment: that we love one another.

We'll celebrate Holy Communion before going on a walking procession to the Garden, where we remember Jesus' abandonment and betrayal by his friends, then to the Narthex, where we'll remember Jesus' mock trial and sentencing by the mob, and then to the Sanctuary, where we will remember Jesus' crucifixion and burial. I'll sing in the darkness: "today he who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon the tree." We will leave flowers at the cross and depart in silence and darkness.

**On Good Friday**, at 6:30pm, our Prayer Vigil will start. I'll begin with a short devotional, and then the vigil will begin: we will keep watch in shifts, taking turns and praying for the world as we remember the slain Christ's Sabbath in the grave, completing his work by freeing all the dead from the tomb.

**On Easter Sunday at 10:30pm**, we will lift our voices to sing "alleluia" once again as Jesus bursts from the tomb, trampling down Death by his own death, and raising all of us who were dead along with him. "There is no longer any need to fear Death, for the death of our Savior has set us free!" We'll join together in Holy Communion as we again remember the whole drama of Christ's victory and celebrate the promise of new life with our kids afterwards in an Easter Egg Hunt.

Let me reiterate: it's so crucial to experience the **whole** sweep of Holy Week in order to let the majesty and mystery of our faith sink into our bones. This is **why we are here**. So I encourage all of you to make every effort to participate as much as possible in these services and remember that as God was faithful in raising Christ from the dead, so God will be faithful in keeping God's promise to us of new life!

Peace and all good,  
Pr Nate

### **HOLY THURSDAY RSVPs**

We invite everyone to come to our Holy Thursday feast at 6:30PM on March 29<sup>th</sup> and to bring a friend or five! We would ask that everyone who plans to attend RSVP to the office (or on the clipboard in worship, which will be passed around this month) no later than the Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> so that we can prepare enough food to share.

## **In the Interim:**

I want to thank everyone who has continued to show up and participate in our monthly Interim Focus Group! We are continuing to have excellent dialogue about the needs and the future of our congregation. The following themes are coming to the fore of our conversation as being important components of our emerging identity:

- Children and youth (discipleship, nurture)
- Faith formation (discipleship)
- Social witness (outreach)
- Hospitality & community connections ("evangelism")

I wonder what it might look like for us to discern and adopt a 2020 "vision" that articulates and encompasses these needs and **sets our intentions** for making manifest that which God is calling us to become. What might it mean for us to be a congregation that God is calling to practice **welcome, nurture, and sharing** as the main parts of "what we do?" What makes us uniquely gifted in that? What new dreams is the Spirit stirring within us? Please continue to join in these focus group conversations as we chart our course for the future! — Pr Nate

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the interest of keeping our time on Sunday morning focused on worship and the beauty of holiness, and in an effort to keep the service length a bit more manageable, the Board of Lay Life & Work has made the decision to let Pastor Nate leave off sharing announcements in great detail. That means it's important to do two things: **one**, read the bulletin and take it with you for all the weekly announcements, and **two**, ensure that everything is communicated well among boards and committees. Pr Nate will still make any pressing major announcements that impact everyone, but otherwise, it's on all of us to keep up-to-date with goings-on in the Church by reading the bulletin and newsletter. Thank you!

### ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to make our services as hospitable as possible for people with all different manner of needs, Church Council has approved the following adjustments—some of which may be uncomfortable for us, but we appreciate your patience with them as we live out Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbor and welcome everyone to the table.

1. We will be hiring an ASL interpreter for our Easter Sunday worship service and reserving some pew space for individuals who need an interpreter in order to access our service by seeing the interpreter.
2. We will be ensuring that our hearing assistance devices are cleaned, charged up, and fully functioning in advance of Easter.
3. We will be making some seating changes in the Sanctuary to accommodate people who need accessible seating for wheelchairs or mobility aids. This will take the form of removing some pews.
4. We will be making sure that the accessible restroom in the Sacristy is clean, well-lit, and indicated by appropriate signage.

These are just four simple, low-cost improvements that can be made in order to improve access to our facility & services, and we also know that we need to make a couple of bigger facility improvements (such as an elevator) in order to bring our facility up to ADA standards, which will be an investment of time, energy, and finances. To plan for this, Council has authorized the formation of an *ad hoc* Accessibility Committee to comprise one member from each Board, one or two congregation members, along with Pastor Nate, to explore these projects. Please be on the lookout for more information on our Accessibility Improvements, which are an overall part of our emerging strategic plan for the next 150 years—and again, we appreciate your patience!

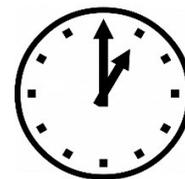
### SERVICE TIME CHANGE

**Beginning March 11<sup>th</sup> and lasting through May 27<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday morning worship service will begin at 10:30AM.** As an added bonus, we’ll also resume our old practice of sharing coffee, juice, and donuts before service each week as an opportunity to connect with one another! This is a trial basis and the change may either continue through the summer or we may revert to 10:00am. Please contact Debbie Heintz, our Council President, with any questions or concerns.

### LEADERSHIP RETREAT

**On Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00AM to 1:00PM,** all of our elected leadership will be gathering for a retreat day of fun, feasting, team-building, discernment, and prayer as we focus our energies on carrying out the work of the Church and connect with the call God has placed on our lives. **If you are serving on a board or committee in any fashion, it’s important for you to attend this event! Thank you!**

Lenten Meal Schedule	
Wed. March 7	Council
Wed. March 14	Christian Nurture
Wed. March 21	Board of Governors/ Mission & Outreach



### Time change

Don’t forget to “spring” your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, remember that the time of Sunday service goes to 10:30am on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Preschool News

We are absolutely loving this warm weather! We are enjoying outside play and the warm sunshine is just what the doctor orders.

February ended with school conferences. The families were able to come in and talk with the teacher about their child's progress. It's amazing how the children have grown since September. It's a blessing to observe and be a part of all these first experiences. March will be a very busy month. We are still enrolling new families for the 218/2019 school year. We will also have a Scholastic book fair on the stage the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>. The families always love to come and shop for great books at affordable prices. The Museum Center will be here March 8<sup>th</sup> to have a Dino Dig for our 5's classes. The children and staff always look forward to our St. Patrick's Day parties on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We will go on a scavenger hunt to try to catch the sneaky Leprechaun Mickey O'Malley. He always makes a mess of our school, but in return leaves us a "pot of gold". We will switch from Leprechauns to Easter bunnies quickly, as we have our Easter parties and Parades on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Preschool will be on Spring Break from March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for April news and happenings.

Look for information soon about our LaRosa's Buddy Card fundraiser.

Easter Blessings,  
Chrisy Greene



## Board of Christian Nurture News

### "30 Pieces of Silver" Fundraiser

If you have not yet received a bag for the "30 Pieces of Silver" fundraiser, you can get on in the Narthex or church office. This fundraiser was started a few years ago in remembrance of Judas' betrayal to Jesus. Please fill the bag with 30 pieces of silver - nickels, dimes, quarters, or half dollars. Of course, paper money or checks will also be happily accepted. The bags will be collected during worship on Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Christian Nurture will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt again this year. All children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to participate. The hunt will begin immediately following the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please remember to have kids bring their Easter basket for collecting the eggs.

### Easter Candy Needed

Christian Nurture will need candy to fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring in individually wrapped candy that will fit in a plastic Easter egg. You can leave your candy in the narthex or in the church office. Please have your candy donation in by March 18<sup>th</sup>. (Note: We do not need plastic eggs and we have plenty).

## Easter Flowers/Memorials

Order forms for Easter flowers and memorials will be in the front lobby on Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>. This year we are offering not only the usual daffodils, hyacinths and lilies, but also tulips and geraniums. The cost will be \$11 each. Orders will need to be placed by March 11<sup>th</sup> to ensure Easter delivery.

**March Birthdays:**

Mar 4	Ann Bushle
Mar 5	Gerry Baker
Mar 7	Cameron Etris
Mar 11	Midge Wiedenbein
Mar 12	Marlene West
Mar 16	Kathy Waples
Mar 17	Amie Williams
Mar 18	David Bushle
Mar 22	Kevin Brockhoff
Mar 25	Jean Veith
Mar 30	Jim Esmail

**March Anniversaries:**

Mar 29	10 yrs	Blake & Tricia Shaffer
Mar 31	39 yrs	Catherine & Steven Brockhoff

**March Memorials**

*Joanie Flaig*

Alma Jean Robertson  
Tom & Nancy Matthew  
Val & Arlene Brandt  
Lynn C. Smith  
Judy Wakeman  
D.S. Chatham

*Brenda Greiner*

Norma Mundstock  
Al & Jacqueline Armstrong  
Bobbie Maybrier  
Dianne Greiner  
Lois Ivey  
Karen Fyke

*Jimmy Bundy*

Jim & Donna Bundy

*Ronald Maxstadt Birthday Remembrance*

The Gillen Family

Get the sweetest treats in town  
while supporting  
Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
Vacation Bible School Program

Visit the Fawn Candy Co. from

**March 12<sup>th</sup> thru March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

and 20% of your total purchase will go to  
support Pilgrim Church

*Fawn Candy Co.*



PILGRIM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS...  
YOU MUST BRING THIS FLYER WITH YOU!  
Not valid on gift cards.

Our specialties include:

Copper Kettle Fudge ~ Chocolates ~ Truffles ~  
Caramellows ~ Peanut & Coconut Brittle ~ Gift  
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Visit one of our 2 locations:

Retail store and candy kitchen  
4271 Harrison Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211  
513-574-9612

Retail Store in Rookwood Pavilion  
in the clock tower  
2692 Madison Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45208  
513-351-4191

[www.fawncandy.com](http://www.fawncandy.com)

## Clean-up Day

March 24<sup>th</sup> has been tentatively set as the day to clean-up our front landscaping so our building looks nice for Easter. Mark your calendar and watch for more information.

## VBS Volunteers Needed

VBS 2018 will be 5 evenings of energy filled fun. We need lots of volunteers!! If you have volunteered in the past, you know how fun and rewarding this program is. If you have never volunteered, you have no idea what you are missing. We need station leaders, crew leaders and youth helpers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Nancy Matthew 513-280-0399 or Vickie Clark 513-574-8542 or 513-260-6060.

**We kindly ask that you remember our homebound friends in your prayers and with cards.**

Gerry Baker  
Velma Becker  
Robert & Jean Brewsaugh  
Alberta Donahue  
Candy Gabriel  
Bob Girard  
Alberta Grimm  
Jean McClain  
Clara Spreen  
Alma Jean Robertson

## Roof Repairs:

We are sure everyone has noticed that we are having issues with our roof. We want everyone to know that Stewards has been busy securing bids and looking into the financial aspects of roof repair. It's been a long process but we are almost there. Watch for further information on our plan to make Pilgrim dry again.

Church Council



## Greeter Schedule

Mar 4	Jill & Terry Parsons
Mar 11	Lois Ivey & Judy Hoehn
Mar 18	Carolyn Scheidt & Jean Gilbert
Mar 25	Bud Rullmann
April 1	Audrey Angner & Pat Neidhard
April 8	Steven & Chrissy Meyer
April 15	Wendy Hemsink & Jill Parsons
April 22	Carol Smith & Jean Veith
April 29	Sign-up not out yet

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00am Worship 4:00pm PYG 7:00pm Bible Study @ Gilbert's	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm Choir	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous	<b>10</b>
<b>11 DST Begins</b> 10:30am Worship 11:30am Pancake Breakfast 12:00pm Interim Focus Group	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Board of Governors	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm Choir	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts  Pastor Nate on vacation until 3/19	<b>16</b> 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:30am Worship 11:45am Board of Stewards 4:00pm PYG	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Lenten Meal 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:30pm Choir	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous	<b>24</b> Landscape Clean-up Time TBD
<b>25</b> 10:30am Worship <b>Palm Sunday</b> 11:45am Lay Life & Work 11:45am Nurture - fill eggs	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Council	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>29</b> <b>6:30pm Holy Thursday Meal</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 10:00am Overeaters Anonymous 7:00pm Prayer Vigil	<b>31</b> Prayer Vigil until 7:00pm

**Pastoral Care** – In order to better serve our congregation and the community, a new Pastoral Care contact number has been established. If you are in need of Pastoral Assistance and the office is not open, you may call **513-549-1641**. When you call, it will ask for your name and then route your call to either Pastor Nate or a designated in-house care person should Pastor Nate be unavailable. Feel free to distribute the number to anyone who asks and keep it handy should you need care.

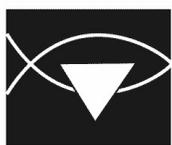
Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
4418 Bridgetown Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45211  
513-574-4208  
www.pilgrim-ucc.org

Monthly Newsletter  
March 2018 Issue

Return Service Requested

The Rev. Nathaniel Craddock  
Interim Pastor

Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ



## Mark Your Calendar!

**UCC Choir Festival**  
**Sunday April 22, 2018**  
**3:00pm**  
**St. Paul UCC**  
**6997 Hamilton Ave.**  
**Cincinnati, OH**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**“Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus”**

VBS 2018 will be Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Registration forms will be in the April newsletter and upcoming bulletins.