



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pilgrim's Progress

pil-grim (pilgrim) n. a person who makes a journey to some sacred place
Whoever you are...wherever you are on life's journey...You are welcome

October 2016

Sunday School 10am
Worship 11am

CHURCH STAFF

Moderator: Teresa Moran
Music Director:
Tim Tipton
Pastor:
Rev. Paul Eknes-Tucker
Minister of Education:
Rev. Bud Precise
Administrative Assistant:
Marilyn Ireland
Custodian:
Katherine Miller



IDENTITY STATEMENT

I AM PILGRIM CHURCH...

I AM an open and loving witness for liberal Christianity in the Birmingham area. I stand with those who seek justice and peace for all people. I AM accepting and inclusive. I embrace all people. I AM a home where people are encouraged: TO seek their own answers, TO explore their spiritual lives.

I AM a follower of Jesus.

Pilgrim Makes Impact on Justice in Jefferson County

As your pastor, there are only a few times when I ask you to make a weeknight gathering a priority. **This is one of them.** Please mark October 27th, 7-9PM for the Faith in Action Alabama District Attorney Forum at Sardis Missionary Baptist Church (1615 4th Court West, Birmingham). All of the congregations in the Birmingham area who are part of Faith in Action Alabama will be bringing their congregations to this event. Our goal is to have 500 people present. Pilgrim has committed to bringing 50 of those 500 people. So I am asking that you invite your family, friends, neighbors and anyone else you can to be there.

Why is this important?

Most people have little understanding about what the District Attorney does but this elected county official has a great deal of power and discretion in setting the policy for sending defendants to alternatives to jail, for incarceration rates and for ending racial bias in sentencing and pleas. Plus, the position of District Attorney has little oversight from anyone else about how their work is done so the District Attorney has a great deal of discretion and latitude in these areas. This key elected official can make a huge difference in whether unrecognized racial bias is affecting our court systems by holding prosecutors to rigorous standards of fairness and justice. Because of the unique power of the District Attorney, Faith in Action Alabama (a statewide coalition of communities of faith who care about mass incarceration and judicial inequalities) is hosting this candidate forum for the District Attorney candidates in the Jefferson County race. This will give all voters in Jefferson County an opportunity to hear the views and ideas of the candidates before casting our votes. We want to impress upon the candidates that

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we care deeply about how fairly our judicial system is run as well as the impact that mass incarceration is having upon poor families and neighborhoods. As your pastor, I am asking you to make this a priority for your family. This forum will be a worship event with rousing music from the host congregation's choir, inspiring preaching plus important information from the candidates about how they can address some of these pressing problems in our county. Help us educate the community on the reality that currently persons of different races committing the same crime get vastly different sentences. This is not the Alabama we want to pass on to our children.

Pilgrim had prided itself on being a liberal and progressive voice in Birmingham. This forum is one opportunity for us to put feet to our values. We need our political leaders to understand that we care deeply about how our neighbors experience the justice system in Jefferson County. I believe Pilgrim can be that leader in what it means to turn out our people to make the world a better place. If you are looking for a way that you can make a substantial difference in the future of Alabama, this may be where we can see some of the most powerful reforms. **This is that important.** Hold this organization of churches and synagogues in your hearts and prayers. Hold the District Attorney candidates in your hearts and prayers. Together we can make Alabama a better place for all of us.

Blessings!
Pastor Paul

October is Stewardship Month

Stewardship Month begins this Sunday, October 2, 2016. All members and friends of Pilgrim will receive cards in the mail to indicate your support for the mission and ministry of Pilgrim. Watch your mailbox.

October 2016 Calendar

Sunday, October 2: 10 AM Sunday school |
11 AM Worship with Communion **Please bring non-perishable dry and canned goods for the GBM pantry.*

Sunday, October 9: 10 AM Sunday school |
11 AM Worship

Friday, October 14: 6 PM - Cook supper at the Firehouse Shelter. If you can help cook or serve, contact John Williams at john0670@bellsouth.net

Sunday, October 16: 10 AM Sunday school |
11 AM Worship with Communion **Please bring individually wrapped snacks, drink pouches and wet wipes for the snack bags for the homeless and assemble snack bags after worship*

Sunday, October 23: 10 AM Sunday school |
11 AM Worship

Sunday, October 30: 10 AM Sunday school |
11 AM Worship

October Birthdays

- 4th – David Precise
- 5th – Rebecca Owen
- 12th – Brock Owen
- 15th – Dominique Cheney
- 16th – Miranda Byrd
- 16th – Jerry Mills
- 25th – Libba Owen



LECTIONS for October 2016

October 2: Lamentations 1:1-16
Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalms 137 or
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 ♦ Psalms 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14 ♦ Luke 14:25-33

October 9: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalms 66:1-12 or 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalms 111 ♦ 2 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 17:11-19

October 16: Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalms 119:97-104 or Genesis 32:22-31
Psalms 121 ♦ 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 23: Joel 2:23-32
Psalms 65 or Sirach 35:12-17 or
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalms 84:1-7 ♦ 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

October 30: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalms 119:137-144 or Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalms 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

October Anniversaries

- 6th – Eric Nelson and Brian Bland
- 13th – Teresa Moran and Jim Taylor
- 18th – Cindy and Elizabeth McMichen

An Autumn Poem

When I must go, dear God, please let it be
A golden autumn day; when red leaves fall,
When purple grapes in shining clusters hang
And bittersweet glows bright against the wall,
When o'er the barren fields and russet meads
Their last farewells the crickets cry.

Let me make my silent journey
When the homing birds fly south across the sky.
When I must go, dear God, please let me go
As silently as autumn rain,
As still as lacy shadows 'neath the willow trees,
As calm as is the moon above the hill.
So let me go—and may there be no grief
When life is done and I must say goodbye.
I'll take my leave with flowers and falling leaf
And lie in peaceful sleep beneath the sky.

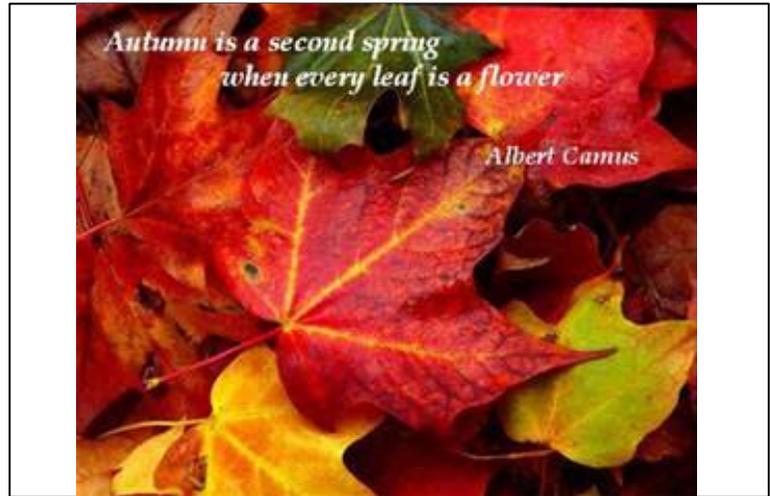
--Anonymous



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"God is Still Speaking"



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