



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

June 2018

Sunday School 10am  
Worship 11am

### CHURCH STAFF

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



### 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 and Pride

Central Alabama Pride kicks off in high gear June 9-10. Pilgrim will be out and proud in the Pride Parade on June 9th. The parade begins at 7th Avenue S and 32nd Street. You can park in Pilgrim's parking lot for this event. Registration begins at 4PM at the corner of 7th/32nd. Make sure you have registered by 7PM to be part of the parade. There is no cost for Pilgrim folks to participate since Pilgrim is a sponsor for Pride weekend. Find the church banner on 32nd Street where the line-up happens. Pastor Paul is organizing our participation in the parade, so wear your Pilgrim shirt and be ready to stir the crowd as we march in solidarity with our LGBTQA friends. Parade begins at 8PM.

The next day, June 10th after worship, Pilgrim has a booth at Sloss Park to join people from across the state who celebrate LGBTQ Pride. Susan Levine is organizing our booth staffing so let her know if you can take a shift.

Pride is one of our most important outreach opportunities of the year. These are folks who need to know that Pilgrim is a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for them.

The community that is called Pilgrim has been blessing Birmingham for 115 years (and we don't look a day over 60!). I am so grateful to be part of such an historic and profound witness to God's faithfulness. I hope you are as well.

Blessings!  
Pastor Paul

# Movie Thursday

At Pilgrim Church Art Gallery

Featuring

The Princess Bride

Thursday, June 7, 2018  
7:00 PM

Popcorn and Beer will be provided as well as other snacks.

Pilgrim Gallery, Pilgrim Church, 2817 6th Avenue South (Lakeview) 35233



## June 2018 Calendar

Sunday, June 3: 10 AM Sunday school | 11 AM Worship with Communion *\*Please bring non-perishable dry and canned goods for the GBM pantry.*

Friday, June 8: 6 PM - Cook supper at the Firehouse Shelter. If you can help cook or serve, contact John Williams at [john0670@bellsouth.net](mailto:john0670@bellsouth.net)

Sunday, June 10: 10 AM Sunday school | 11 AM Worship |

Father's Day Sunday, June 17: 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, June 24: 10 AM Sunday school | 11 AM Worship |

## June Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> - Lou Tucker

7<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah Byrd

8<sup>th</sup> - Amanda

Lavender

17<sup>th</sup> - John Williams

17<sup>th</sup> - Tony McGuire

24<sup>th</sup> - John Owen

30<sup>th</sup> - Ethel Owen

30<sup>th</sup> - Donna Milton



## Lectons for June 2018

**June 3:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 or  
Deuteronomy 5:12-15 • Psalms 81:1-10  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
Mark 2:23-3:6

**June 10:** 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20  
Psalms 138 or  
Genesis 3:8-15 • Psalms 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

**June 17:** 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
Psalms 20 or  
Ezekiel 17:22-24 • Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17 or  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
Mark 4:26-34

**June 24:** 1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23),  
32-49  
Psalms 9:9-20 or  
Job 38:1-11 • Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

## June Anniversaries

12<sup>th</sup> - Aaron and Kista Hamilton

20<sup>th</sup> - Marsha Sturdevant and Troy Goss

## Sanctuary

*“Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.”  
John Thompson & Randy Scruggs, “Sanctuary,” 1982*

We sang this hymn in worship recently. According to some of the younger folks, it was a favorite camp song when they were kids. It got me thinking about the whole concept of sanctuary, and what it would mean to be one. First of all, let me say once again that I am in no way fit to be a sanctuary—I am not pure and holy or tried and true. I have every human flaw there is to have. But don't we all?

Sanctuary means “refuge or safe place.” We are hearing today about sanctuary cities; ones that will not assist in the rounding up and deportation of people in the country without documentation. These cities can't truly protect undocumented people, but they can refuse to help with ousting them. In older times, and in a few cases now, churches and other houses of worship did protect people. They provided shelter, and could not be invaded even by police. Sometimes, Pilgrim shelters people who have been forced from their homes by fire or storm. In 2011, we provided a safe place for volunteer workers after tornadoes destroyed swaths of the state, and we gave them whatever provisions we could muster. And, of course, the area of the church that holds the altar and the cross, where worship, rites, and sacraments take place is called the sanctuary. It is considered holy ground.

But what does it mean for a person to be a sanctuary? It means, I think, to be trustworthy. To be kind and accepting of people as they are, wherever they are on their life's journey. We live in intensely judgmental times; we are intolerant of people who look or live differently from us. We not only judge them as unworthy, we condemn them. Anyone who refuses to engage in such hateful behavior stands out in a crowd. That person becomes a safe harbor in tumultuous seas. Others can go to them and know they will not be rejected, regardless of their human foibles and transgressions. Jesus was a sanctuary when he said, “Whoever is without sin, let him cast the first stone.” Most of us can not aspire to be like Jesus, but I like to think we can become safe for each other. At least, we can work on it as part of our spiritual path. Today, let's practice being sanctuary for someone else and see how it feels.

In the Spirit,  
Jane



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## June 2018

*"God is Still Speaking"*



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