

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



Volume 1, Issue 7

PILGRIM CHURCH A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATION

September 2nd, 2020

VOTE! VOTE!

By Pastor Paul Eknes-Tucker

I know that you expect deep spiritual insight and theological musings when you sit down to read the monthly newsletter from Pilgrim. You won't be disappointed with this issue. The headline to my article might appear to not have the theological bend that you think common for a spiritual newsletter, but that would be inaccurate. One of the most important ways we live out our faith is in how we translate that faith into our civic and communal life. **Voting** is one of the most important because our values determine our vote. **I will never tell you who you should vote for.**

If you have interest, I will be glad to tell you who I plan to

Help make the
WORLD
a better place



vote for and why, but your decision how to vote is yours and it is part of our sacred duty to help make our world a better place.

This year's national election offers some **stark differences** between the *values of the candidates*

and the *values of the party to which they belong. I hope you will carefully and prayerfully consider both as you cast your ballot.*

This year also holds some unique challenges for the physical action of voting. With Covid-19 so prevalent in Alabama, you might have some concerns about physically going to your polling place. If you do vote in person, remember to **wear your mask, stay as far from others as possible and use hand sanitizer** before and after voting.

If you would prefer to vote absentee, the process for

Jefferson County is below. Other counties will have their own process but it may be similar. Anyone can vote absentee if you are concerned about health problems when voting in person. **Simply call the Jefferson County office at 205-325-5313 and request an absentee ballot.** You will be asked

questions about your name and address and reason for voting absentee. Then a ballot will be mailed to your home. Fill it out and mail it back in. The earlier you do this, the less problems you will face on deadlines.



Being a Christian calls us to make our world a better place for all of us. We care about our city and state. We care about our nation. Care enough to put that care into action.

Vote. Vote. Vote.



PRAYER...

By Teresa Moran

I was with friends the other day and someone said we should pray before eating. That's a good thing. My brother-in-law prays before every meal regardless of where he's eating. It always starts with "*Our Father who art in Heaven...*" I have gotten used to doing that with him in public but admit some discomfort with praying outside the closet.

Leading public prayer is a fairly new thing in my life. Having grown up in a male-dominated church it wasn't an option. Women could only offer prayers aloud in the company of other women or with children. When I first was able to hear my female friends lead the congregation in prayer we all found out what we had been missing. I joined in that liberating activity. I usually preferred to write my prayers in advance but I got pretty okay with *off-the-cuff* prayer after a while.

But, the other day, when my friend said we should pray, I started to volunteer then had this thought of "*I don't know what to say.*" Of course, I can say thank you for the food and when I do say that I truly mean it. I am grateful for food and especially for clean water but beyond that, *have I lost the gift?* My attention span has shortened as my years have lengthened. But, I wonder, is that cause or effect? Maybe my neglect of prayer has led to my loss of attention span. *What is prayer if not focus and quiet and breathing.*

So, where to start to revive my praying gene? I could start with the prayer attributed to Jesus in the N.T... "*Our God, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy dominion*

come..." Wait, so we've *changed kingdom to dominion* to make it gender neutral but God is still in Heaven? *Thy?* Still, daily bread, forgiveness, Heaven on earth, those are all still good things...



We no longer ask God to fix things. That means prayer is now more about change in ourselves and communion with other humans. Prayer may not '*change things*' the way the bumper sticker seemed to indicate but it certainly can change me. It can help me focus on breathing and awareness of my place in



Thank
you

the multitudes. Alone, in my closet, the flowery-ness of the words doesn't matter. *I don't have to impress an audience.* I certainly cannot impress God. But, I do need to remember to do it.

That's my challenge.

I still always think of something Anne Lamott wrote. She once said her best prayers were, "*Help me. Help me. Help me!*" And "*Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!*" I think she later added "*Wow!*" Amen.

THE
LORD'S
PRAYER

LEARNING HOW TO PRAY

NEW SPECIAL CONTEST

STAINED GLASS BY RON VANDER SCHAAF

**REV. RON VANDER SCHAAF
IS AUCTIONING ANOTHER PIECE OF
STAINED GLASS HE CREATED.
GUESS THE NUMBER OF TRIANGLES
AND YOU WIN!**



**GOOD LUCK
EVERYONE!**

**(IF YOU ARE CLOSEST
TO THE
ACTUAL NUMBER)**

**SEND YOUR
GUESS TO**

peknestucker@gmail.com

**Or call the church office
at 205-731-0999**

BY SEPTEMBER 30TH!

*If you get voicemail, leave your
name, phone number and guess
for the number of triangles.*

**THE WINNER WILL BE
ANNOUNCED OCTOBER
4TH AND IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER!!!**

VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES

OLD PRECINCT:

**New Merkel Center Cahaba Heights
(Precinct 5070)**
4405 Dolly Ridge Road
Birmingham, AL 35243

**Pleasant Grove First Baptist Church
(Precinct 3030)**
724 4th Street
Pleasant Grove, AL 35127

**Center Point Community Center
(Precinct 4160)**
533 Sunhill Road NW
Birmingham, AL 35215

**East Pinson Valley Community Center
(Precinct 4060)**
3000 Jefferson State Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35215

**Bessemer City Hall
(Precinct 2360)**
1800 3rd Avenue North
Bessemer, AL 35020

**Virginia College
(Precinct 2320)**
488 Palisades Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35209

**Shepherd Center East
(Precinct 1260)**
118 84th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35206

**Hillview Fire Station #1
(Precinct 1250)**
751 Heflin Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35214

**Birmingham Fire Station #12
(Precinct 1140)**
6449 1st Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35212



NEW PRECINCT:

**Cahaba Heights Baptist Church
(Precinct 5070)**
3800 Crosshaven Road
Birmingham, AL 35243

**Bethel Baptist Church PG
(Precinct 3035)**
635 9th Way
Pleasant Grove, AL 35127

**Center Point Senior Center
(Precinct 4160)**
335 Polly Reed Road
Birmingham, AL 35127

**Center Point Community Center
(Precinct 4060)**
533 Sunhill Road NW
Birmingham, AL 35215

**Bessemer Recreation Center
(Precinct 2360)**
100 14th Street South
Bessemer, AL 35020

**George Ward Tennis Center
(Precinct 2320)**
331 16th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205

**Robinson Elementary School
(Precinct 1120)**
8400 1st Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35206

**Forestdale Fire Station
(Precinct 1250)**
1485 Forestdale Boulevard
Birmingham, AL 35214

**Woodlawn Public Library
(Precinct 1140)**
5709 1st Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35212

Squash Gratin

Recipe courtesy of Food Network Kitchen

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 Tablespoons Unsalted Butter
- 1 Medium Onion, Chopped
- 1 Tablespoon Chopped Fresh Thyme
- 1 Small Butternut Squash, Peeled & cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 Small Kabocha Squash, Peeled & cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 Cloves Garlic, Minced
- 1/4 Teaspoon Ground Mace
- Kosher Salt & Freshly Ground Pepper
- 1 Cup Chicken or Vegetable Broth
- 1/2 Cup Heavy Cream
- 1/4 Cup Breadcrumbs
- 2 Tablespoons Grated Parmesan Cheese
- 2 Tablespoons Chopped Fresh Parsley
- 1/2 Cup Grated Gruyere Cheese (about 2 ounces)

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion and

thyme and cook, stirring, until the onion softens, about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the butternut and kabocha squash in a large microwave-safe bowl with 1 cup water. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave until the squash is just tender, about 5 minutes. Drain and add the squash to the skillet along with the garlic, mace, 1 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper. Cook, stirring, about 3 minutes. Add the broth and cook until it is mostly absorbed, about 5 more minutes. Stir in the heavy cream and cook until slightly thickened, 2 minutes.

Melt the remaining 1 tablespoon butter in the microwave and toss with the breadcrumbs, Parmesan and parsley; season with salt and



pepper. Sprinkle over the squash, then top with the Gruyere. Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake until golden, about 30 minutes. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

SERVINGS: 6 ~ 8

PREP TIME: 10 Minutes

COOK: 55 min

TOTAL TIME:
1 Hour 5 Minutes

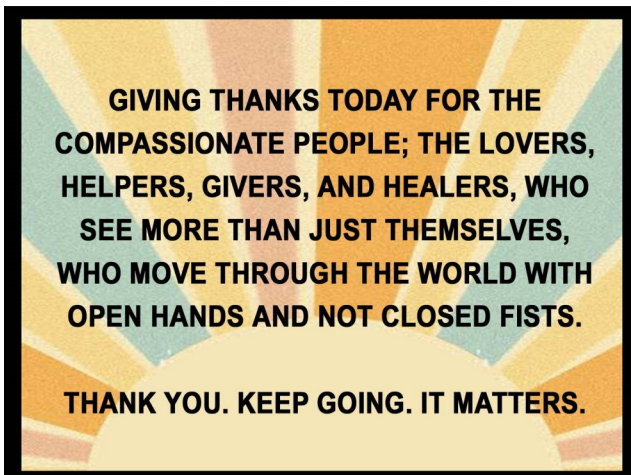
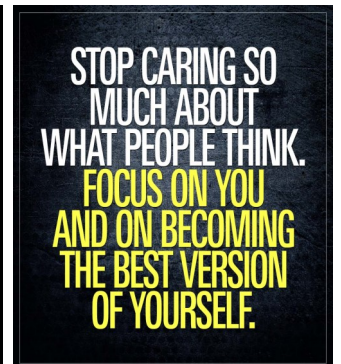


These circles of women around us weave invisible nets of love that carry us when we feel weak & sing with us when we feel strong.

~ SARK
breathe it in



Mandy Hale



GIVING THANKS TODAY FOR THE COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE; THE LOVERS, HELPERS, GIVERS, AND HEALERS, WHO SEE MORE THAN JUST THEMSELVES, WHO MOVE THROUGH THE WORLD WITH OPEN HANDS AND NOT CLOSED FISTS.

THANK YOU. KEEP GOING. IT MATTERS.

PILGRIM BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



Jane Phillips ~ September 4th

Rev. Pamela Canzater ~
September 20th

Elizabeth Cheney ~
September 23rd



PILGRIM ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Kholby & Chaeli Lawson ~
September 7th

**IF WE HAVE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY, WE APOLOGIZE!
PLEASE LET US KNOW & WE WILL GLADLY ADD IT!**