

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



Volume 1, Issue 2

PILGRIM CHURCH A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATION

April 1st, 2020

The Season of Non-Ordinary Time

By Pastor Paul Eknes-Tucker

Those of you who have been around Pilgrim for the last several months have heard me mention that the times in which we are living have not been normal. I hammered that message for a while because it is important that we not get lulled by the advent of “fake news”, tribalism and alternative facts as our new reality. If we don't resist them, they will become normal.

Then COVID-19 came along. The world became a completely different kind of “not normal”. When ordinary things like worship, eating out, sporting events and gathering with friends were outlawed, we had to become creative in how to thrive in our new reality. That is why I came up with the new liturgical season of **Non-Ordinary Time**. Although we have technically been in the season of Lent with Easter right on our doorstep, it is important that we continue our resistance to normalizing what is happening in our world. So, each Sunday, as we gather for worship on-line instead of in person, we are marking these events as Sundays in **Non-Ordinary Time**. This year, perhaps more so than any previous year, we will mark the coming of Easter's new life not with

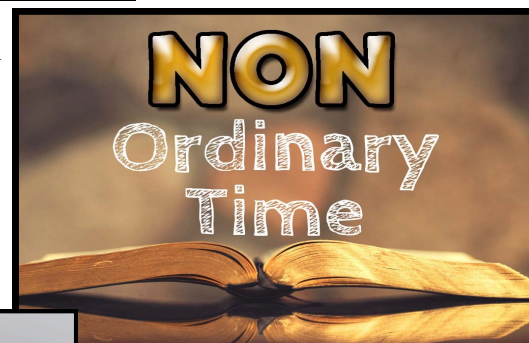
a **Palm Sunday Parade** around Lakeview, not gathered in a sanctuary with the aroma of Easter Lilies, and not sharing the hugs and smiles of each other. We will gather in our homes around screens flickering how **Non-Ordinary** our lives have become.



Here's the thing; *this can be one of the shadows that light reveals*. When confronted with a challenge, Pilgrim has risen to the task, finding gifts we never knew we needed. I believe it will be one of the most remarkable outcomes of living in **Non-Ordinary Time**. If you have worshipped with us on-line the last few Sundays then you have seen how God has opened a new and wonderful way to be community.

TOGETHER WE CAN
FACE ANY
CHALLENGES AS
DEEP AS THE OCEAN
AND AS HIGH AS THE
SKY.

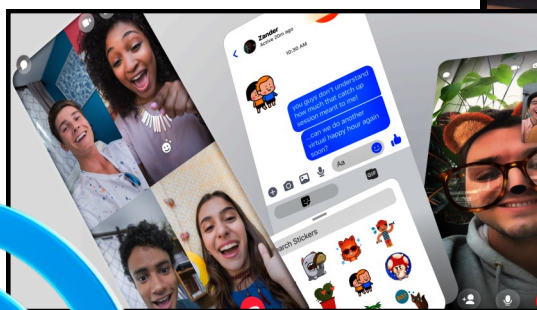
We have discovered that challenges bring new possibilities. Yes, we are exiled from each other for a season. When faced with challenges, Grace offers opportunities for new gifts. I can't imagine facing any **Non-Ordinary Time** without a community like Pilgrim, our friends in Covenant Community Church and



all the life that is brought together at the United Church Center.

So, I look forward to worshipping with you this coming Sunday on all the platforms that technology provides. And I look to the promise that **Non-Ordinary Time** will one day come to a close so that we, once again, can share presence in person. But until that time, I am grateful to be on this **Non-Ordinary** journey with all of you.

*We have
discovered
that challenges
bring
New
Possibilities!*



Through the gifts of John Williams, our worship service is now available to the world in a way we never dreamed could be so visually amazing. This is just one of the gifts that **Non-Ordinary Time** brings. We are also learning creative ways to care for each other through phone calls or texts.

To EVERY Thing There
Is A SEASON, And A Time To
EVERY PURPOSE
Under The HEAVEN.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

AND LO, A CHILD WAS BORN!

By Ron Vander Schaaf



We're not Irish but we got a very nice gift on St. Patrick's day this year. My oldest grandson,

Nathan and his wife Shelley, brought forth my second Great Grandchild. As a Grandpa with four Grandsons and one Great Grandson it was very special that, **Alexandra Ray Williams**, broke that pattern! **All are doing well!!!**

LIFE AT TOWN VILLAGE

By Ron Vander Schaaf

Living with about 2,430 other seniors has required many changes to reduce the impact of COVID 19.

All large group activities have been suspended, even my favorite one: **Bridge**. We are urged to maintain safe distance from others when we leave our apartments. Everyone has their temperature taken when they enter the main door. As **ALL** other entrances are locked down.

Breakfast is continental style. We have to submit lunch and dinner menus by 10 AM and then at the time of our choosing we go to the Dining Room to pick up lunch. Dinner is brought to each of the 240 apartments. Normally on Wednesday the dessert (*my*



favorite of the week) is an ice cream sundae. I tried to be "**normal**", with the result that my "**sundae**" was something between chocolate milk and chocolate pudding. See, there are things to laugh at in the middle of this crisis.

Let GO and Let GOD!

By Tammy Webb

A newly ordained priest was walking with an older, more seasoned priest in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older priest for some advice. The older priest walked up to a rosebush and handed the younger one a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young priest looked in disbelief at the older one and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. But because of his great respect for the older priest, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose while keeping every petal intact.

It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. Noticing the younger priest's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older priest began to recite the following poem...

"It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine."

"The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die."

"If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?"

"So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step of the way."

"The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose."



***In these changing times
with the recent events
unfolding... you may feel
out of control. Just
remember that
sometimes we have to
Let GO and Let GOD
Be there with us as each
moment unfolds!***

Lent Happens, 2020

By Teresa Moran

Every year on Christmas Eve I get a message from my old friend. Each year it is the same message. I don't remember how long I've been getting the message but I anticipate it every Christmas season. I wait for it. I keep the voicemail for years sometimes. The message is a quote from Armistead Maupin's, *Tales of the City*. It starts, **"Christmas. Some years it happens; some years it doesn't..."**

The gist is that for the speaker in the passage it was not a good year. Christmas was not going to happen no matter how much his world tried to force it on him. **It was just not.**

Lent was not a thing for us conservative Protestants growing up. Lent, if we even had heard of it, was something Catholics did. The only Catholic influence in my school was *"fish sticks on Friday"*, for some unknown reason. Probably government surplus.

As an adult when the calendar of the church became part of my practice, I made my first attempts at

observing Lent. It started out as the **"giving up"** brand of Lent. After chocolate, wine, etc. I started trying to find other ways to observe the season.



This year, once again, I was going to stop using bad language. Sounds easy... **but driving in traffic and being a klutz**, who is always bumping an elbow or smashing a finger; it's a pretty hefty challenge.

I was failing at my denial of pleasure once again when we started to hear about **"the virus"**. **Da! Da!** (*Ominous movie sound*). Suddenly, as in some other years when I lost a relationship or someone near me died, life was taking away pleasures left and right during the season of Lent. It was out of anyone's control.

No restaurants...
No weddings...
No funerals...
No parties...
No beach...
No church...
Ouch!!!

Lent was taking over. We were all giving up lots for Lent.

Now, I don't know if it **"counts"** if the sacrifice is **"involuntary"** but, thinking back to the Christmas message about Christmas **"NOT"** happening... this year **Lent** is happening. Suddenly most of the business that limits my time to reflect and be present is not available to me.

Surprisingly, I find I can only use my favorite avoidance, sleeping, just so much. Maybe the problem with meditation and self-examination hasn't been lack of time at all. Maybe I just avoid it.

**This year, we all are sacrificing.
What we do with all the time
on our hands is up to us.**



GRADITUDE and the Science of Happiness

By Viva Medicare Plus

When gratitude fills our hearts and minds, it leaves less room for us to be sad and angry. Scientists say that when we look for ways to be grateful, a shift takes place in our minds and our bodies. Not only do we start thinking less negatively about our lives, but our bodies start producing hormones that make us feel better as well.

End your day thinking about what went well. ***Try to find 3 examples from this least every day.*** Soon, you will start finding areas of gratitude in unexpected places.

1. What was the best part of my day?

2. What made me smile today?

3. What made me laugh out loud today?

4. Who helped me today?

5. Who was kind to me today?

6. What did I learn today?

7. Was I able to witness an act of kindness today?

8. Was today better than yesterday?

9. Was the weather nice today?

10. What did I eat today?

11. When did I feel love today?

12. What did I accomplish today?

13. What made me feel hopeful today?

14. What did I read or listen to today?

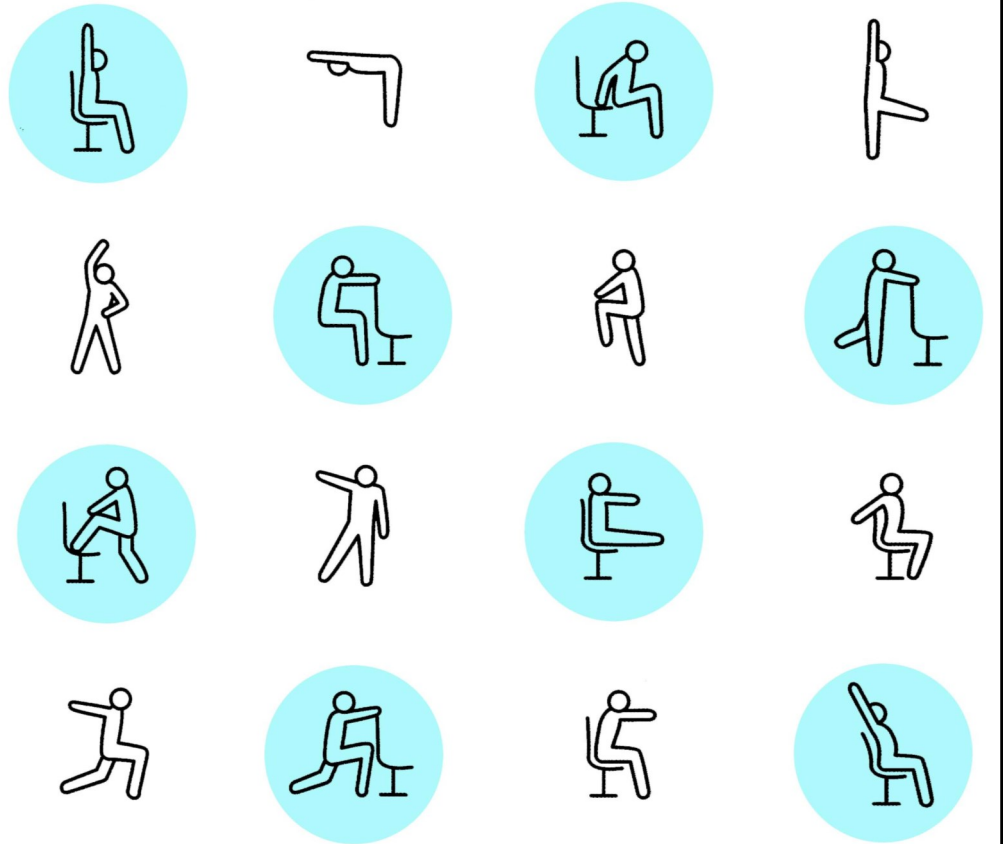
15. When did I feel peace today?

Shelter-In-Place Exercises!

By Viva Medicare Plus

**Here are twelve
SIMPLE
EXERCISES
anyone can do
at HOME
while
SHELTERING-
IN-PLACE!**

**The ONLY
equipment you
will need is a
CHAIR &
YOURSELF!**



**Due to all the rain,
our wisteria is going
crazy this year.
This is only about
halfway open.**

**Jim Taylor and
Teresa Moran**

Empty Tomb Cookies

By Brittany Turco, Infant/Toddler Director

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup Whole Pecans (Shelled), in Plastic Bag
- 1 Tsp. Vinegar
- 3 Egg Whites
- 1 Pinch of Salt
- 1 Cup Sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees—you MUST do it now. Also,

gather a cooking mallet, kitchen mixer, masking tape and Bible.

Read John 19:1-3 ~ Jesus was beaten for our sins; beat the nuts with a cooking mallet; set aside.

Read John 19:28-30 – Jesus drank something like vinegar (gall), sniff the fragrance, dip finger in and taste, too; place the vinegar in a mixing bowl.

Read John 10:10-11 – Egg whites symbolize Jesus' holy, innocent life; add whites to the bowl with the vinegar.

Read Luke 23:27 – the bitter tears of the women; taste a few grains, remember your own sins; add the salt to the bowl.

Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16 –



Sweet salvation! Taste and see; add to the bowl.

Crank up the mixer and let it go while you read from **Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3**; let the mixer go for about 12-15 MINUTES; this needs to be VERY stiff!

Read Matthew 27:57-60 – Fold the nuts into the egg-sugar mixture; this symbolizes the rocks in the garden.

Using a scoop or knife & spoon, drop by spoon into mounds (to resemble a rocky tomb); **put into the oven and turn it OFF!**

Read Matthew 27:65-66 – The tomb is sealed; use two pieces of tape (5-6 inches long) to “seal” the door edges (symbolically).

Read John 16:20 & 22 – Consider these passages, then go to bed!

NEXT MORNING: Read Matthew 28:1-9 – Jesus is risen! Behold, the empty tomb! Unseal the oven door, take out the cookies, break or bite one in half — it should be hollow inside — empty — just like the Tomb!

**He is risen!
He is risen
indeed!
Hallelujah!**



Resurrection Rolls

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Ingredients:

- 1 ~ 10 Oz. Can Refrigerated Crescent Dinner Rolls
- 8 Large Marshmallows
- 1/4 Cup Melted Butter
- 2 Tbsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. White Sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles. In a small bowl, mix together cinnamon and sugar. Dip a marshmallow into melted butter, then roll in sugar mixture. Place marshmallow into the center of a dough triangle. Carefully wrap the dough around the marshmallow. Pinch the seams together tightly to seal in marshmallow as it melts. Place on a baking sheet. Repeat. Bake in a preheated oven until golden brown, about 15 minutes.

What If You Had A Big UNDO Button?

By Jennifer Lyles



I pose the question to you. Do you ever wish that you had a big UNDO button? The other day my wonderful wife and I were just talking and joking around and the question got posed. Do you wish you had a Big UNDO button. I thought about it for a second and I said “No”. Now I am going to tell you why I said this. Because if we did have a Big UNDO button we

would not think before we speak, because it would just be okay to say what we want then, oops, UNDO Button. **Not me!** I tend to think that the things that we think of as mistakes are Beautiful learning lessons. If we did have an UNDO button, we would have nothing to look back on and learn from. Also we would have nothing to teach our children from. We also would not have some of the funniest stories to sit back and laugh at later. There are some that you don't think are funny at the time, but when you look at them later, they make you burst out laughing. So if you ask me if I would want an UNDO button, **Absolutely Not!** These are the things that make us beautifully flawed and also make us human.



For Carry Food Go To:
<https://carryoutal.com/>

Poetry, Recipes, Life Experiences,
Art, or even how Pilgrim has
changed your life...
Please submit ALL entries to
Tammy Webb, Jennifer Lyles or
Pastor Paul at
pilgrimuccbham@bellsouth.net
**We would love to see you
in PRINT!**

Oh! How Great is our God!

By Jim Ball, adapted from the Book of Job, chapters 36-39, NIV.

Oh! How Great is our God!
He's beyond our understanding. He is mighty in power, but despises no one. He is exalted in His justice and great righteousness. His age we cannot fathom. He does great things beyond our apprehension!

Oh! How Great is our God!
He laid out the earth's foundation. Stretching out a measuring line, He marked off its dimensions. He knows on what it's footing rest. It's cornerstone He did set!

Oh! How Great is our God!
He brings forth the constellations in their seasons. He binds the chains of the Seven Sisters. Only He can loosen Orion's belt. The Great Bear and her cubs follow Him out into the night sky!

Oh! How Great is our God!
He commands the lightning, sending it on its way, scattering it all about. Announcing storms with thunder He spreads the clouds across the sky. He, the Father of the rain, tips over heaven's water

jar. Abundant showers fall on mankind, watering wastelands; so that, grass sprouts again. He gives birth to the frost, commanding the snow to fall. He freezes the ocean hard as stone!

Oh! How Great is our God!
He set the limits of the oceans, commanding them to come just so far. He journeys to the springs of the seas and walks in the recesses of the darkest deep!

Oh! How Great is our God!
He gives the ibis wisdom and the rooster understanding when to crow. He sends the prey for the lioness and provides food for the raven's brood. He attends the doe as she gives birth to her fawn. He untied the wild donkey's ropes and let it go free; so now, it laughs at its cousins in the city. He gives the horse its strength and beautiful flowing mane and gives the ostrich the ability to out run the horse and its rider, again and again!

Oh! How Great is our God!
He does not take His eye off the righteous and gives the afflicted their just due. He delivers those who suffer and speaks to them in their hardships. He does not oppress!

*Oh!
How Great is
our God!*

*Oh!
How Mighty is
our God!*

*Let us praise Him
forever!*



HAPPY EASTER

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRACTICE SAFE DISTANCING AND BE SAFE
DURING THE UP-COMING HOLIDAY! YOU ARE ALL IN OUR PRAYERS!!!**

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 260

Matt. 12:41-50

Teachings of Jesus

HYOTPEWSSREHTOM
EFINALDSPEAKAQR
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ARRIVES
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CONDEMN
DISCIPLES
FATHER
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MOTHER
NINEVEH
OUTSIDE
PLACES
POINTING
REPENTED
REPLIED
RETURN
SEEKING
SOLOMON
SPIRITS
STANDING
WANTING

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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**HAPPY
EASTER**

SPRING IS HERE!

By Jim Ball

*Isn't springtime
refreshing?*

I love this time
of year.

Everywhere I go
and everywhere I
look spring bursts
out, bringing new
life with it! A time
when the spring wild flowers burst into bloom
glorifying God. Each tiny, beautiful flower
shouting out the *praises of God*. A carpet of
thousands of small blue, purple, yellow, white
flowers proclaiming, "*Praise to Abba, the One
who loves us ALL, His creation. Our beauty is
His glory!*"

I can just feel God's awesome presence as I
walk thru this variety of the tiniest of blossoms.
Isn't God great? **Yes, He's great!** He makes
springtime so refreshing for us, to brighten our
days, to inspire us! The little flowers are loudly
saying to us, "*Live life and live it more
abundantly!*"

*At least that's what I hear
them saying!*

***Praise God for springtime and praise
God for His Son, Jesus Christ!***

Reading: Genesis 1, Solomon 2:11-13

Just 1 inch tall the tiny Bluets
are awake glorifying God!
Let all creation praise God!

**MONTHLY QUOTE:**

**"The only limit to our
realization of
tomorrow will be our
doubts of today.
Let us move forward
with strong and
active faith."**

Franklin D. Roosevelt



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SUDUKO WORD: **WONDERFUL**

TRIVIA

1. How many rivers were formed from the river that went out of Eden and what were they?
The answer is in Genesis 2:10-14
2. Who witnessed Elijah being taken up to Heaven?
The answer is in 2 Kings 2:11-12
3. Moses died at age 120 and was buried in a valley of Moab. Who buried him?
The answer is in Deuteronomy 34:6
4. How many troops did Sennacherib lose at the siege of Jerusalem?
The answer is in 2 Kings 19:35
(The answers will be printed in the May Issue)

**PILGRIM BIRTHDAYS**

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

BELATED:

Darwin "D.J." Raymond ~ March 2nd
Robert Young ~ March 26th

Teresa Moran ~ April 7th
Ben Lawson ~ April 21st
Mark David Jackson ~ April 22nd

PILGRIM ANNIVERSARIES

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Bob Greene & Carol Schulz
April 20th

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