



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



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PILGRIM CHURCH A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATION

March 1st, 2021

A YEAR IN THE LIFE...

By Pastor Paul Eknes-Tucker

How is it possible that it has been a year of not having in-person worship on Sunday morning, not being able to hug one's friends, not being able to go to a restaurant without a mask, not knowing if a slight cough might mean COVID? Can you believe we have survived it? Not everyone has. Over 500,000 of our neighbors, family, friends, co-workers and complete strangers are no longer with us. Vaccines exist but they are still not available to most of us. Some of us have received the vaccine and we are grateful they were able to get it. Luckily, things are improving. Vaccines will eventually be available to all of us, but not yet.

What I am grateful for is that not only have we survived, we are learning to thrive. A year ago we didn't know we could do worship on-line and actually do it well. We didn't know we would find creative financial solutions that seemed impossible when everything shut down. We found giftedness within our congregation we



didn't know we would need, but God's grace provided. I would never have thought to pray for such experiences that would reveal so many surprises, and I don't believe the pandemic has been a good thing by any stretch of the imagination. Yet, out of the chaos, God brings goodness, and for that I am grateful.

525,600 minutes is how the Broadway Show "Rent" says a year in the life is sometimes measured. The people of Pilgrim know that it is so much more. I am grateful for all of you that have shared the last year... in worship, in laughter, in masks, in loss, in



cups of coffee, but mostly in sharing the love.

Thank you for taking this journey together.

HE COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

By Reverend Pamela Canzater

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*
Psalm 27:1 NRSV

I sat across from the renowned Cleveland Clinic specialist, leader of the team of doctors who had journeyed with me on a two-year quest; seeking a diagnostic answer for my worsening, unrelenting physical pain. All had begun with a routine visit for a runny nose, but the MRI ordered by my physician in Ravenna, Ohio yielded irrefutable scans of three cerebral aneurysms. That scan, done in 2007 multiplied out to more testing, with the final diagnosis that I'd been born with Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, causing multiple aneurysms throughout my body. Say what now?

What Now?

I recall my husband brushed aside the look of worry on the doctors face with, "Well, yeah, I've never heard of this Vascular EDS, but at least it's not Cancer, so you can treat her and Pamela will be fine. Right?"

Doc blinked his eyes, shaking his head while saying, "Vascular EDS is the lethal form of this genetic disease. There is no cure. At most, all treatment is experimental, so our aim is to make Rev. Canzater Cheny feel comfortable during the time she has left. We are declaring her medically disabled, and she must stop working immediately."

This response caused my husband to drop my hand in disbelief, worried, I knew about who would take care of him, a transplant recipient if I was declared too sick to work as a full-time Senior Minister/wife/mother/bread-winner. I heard all of this discussion in a sound vacuum, another part of my brain grasping through shock while listening to my darling doctor... The life expectancy for VEDS is 45 or so, Pamela, you're 54, we really can't figure out how it is you're still alive."

"Obviously I'm alive because God has more work for me to do." Then I laughed. Joyously, with no rancor or bitterness, finding my way out of the shock of life again. I absolutely believed then, as I believe now, **God has work for each of us to do while we dwell together on earth.**

I quoted Psalm 27 because these words have been my mainstay most of my life, especially in times of need and knock down despair. Just as during the labor and delivery of each of my children (who, by the way are

considered miracles by the medical community, as VEDS mothers rarely conceive, or survive giving birth - Who knew?). Their cadence called forth the survival Spirit in my heart and soul. These are the words I share with a world devastated by the COVID plague, for God ignites the Holy Spirit to lift us up in a manner unlike any other.

This is my sixty-fifth year on earth, twenty years beyond the life

PSALM 27:1

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT
AND MY SALVATION;
WHOM SHALL I FEAR?
THE LORD IS THE STRENGTH
OF MY LIFE;
OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

expectancy my medical team leader could not figure out for me. But because I read, and sang this psalm as a teenager attending Corona Congregational Church, UCC Queens, NYC I've held them, and shared them, my life long.

**I believe that I shall see the
goodness of the Lord in the land
of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart
take courage; wait for the Lord!**
Psalms 27:13 & 14

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HOW TO GIVE A CAT A PILL...

By Tammy and Jennifer

For those of you who have ever owned a cat, owns a cat or loves someone who does, will find the humor in this. We have been cat owners and this list is VERY TRUE and is hilarious! ENJOY!



- (1) Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cats mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand, as cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- (2) Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- (3) Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
- (4) Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
- (5) Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden
- (6) Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cats throat vigorously
- (7) Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
- (8) Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from underneath the arm pit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
- (9) Check label to make sure pill is not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take away the taste. Apply Band-Aid to spouses forearms and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap
- (10) Retrieve cat from neighbors shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
- (11) Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard doors back on their hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom
- (12) Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap
- (13) Tie cats front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining room table, Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.
- (14) Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while Dr. stitches fingers and fore arm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.
- (15) Arrange for SPCA to collect cat and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

HOW TO GIVE DOG A PILL;

- (1) Wrap it in bacon

A TOUGH WORKOUT

Submitted By Tammy and Jennifer

“I FEEL like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got doctor’s permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over.”

A LITTLE COLOR TRIVIA:

Colors and what they represented was and is very important in biblical times and in the Bible. See if you can answer these simple trivia questions.

What was the very first color mentioned in the Bible? (Genesis 1:30)

What color is sin? (Isaiah 1:18)

According to Psalms, after being washed by God, what color does the sinner become? (Psalm 51:7)

What color was the cloth draped over the Ark of the Covenant? (Numbers 4:6)

What color cloth did Lydia sell? (Acts 16:14)

According to Isaiah, what color does the Lord wear? (Isaiah 63:2)

What color is Coriander seed? (Exodus 16:31)

What color did Job’s face turn while he was weeping? (Job 16:16)

A virtuous woman’s clothing is silk and what color? (Proverbs 31:22)

Orange is not mentioned in the Bible, however, “Amber” is mentioned three times in Ezekiel.

“DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT DARKNESS; ONLY LIGHT CAN DO THAT. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE; ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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When asked this riddle, **80%** of kindergarten kids got the answer, compared to **17%** of Stanford University seniors.

What is greater than God,
More evil than the devil,
The poor have it,
The rich need it,
And if you eat it, you'll die?

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?



PILGRIM BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH



- Steve Lavender ~ March 2nd
- DJ Raymond ~ March 2nd
- Caleb Holloway March 4th
- Susan Levine ~ March 4th
- Jim Austin ~ March 8th
- Norton Owen ~ March 10th
- Becky McDaniel ~ March 19th
- Robert Young ~ March 26th



PILGRIM ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Pastor Paul & Bill Eknes-Tucker
March 1st

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