

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

April 2016



As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. Luke 24.29-31

The story of Cleopas and his companion meeting the risen Christ on the road to their home in the small village of Emmaus is my favorite Easter story. It is late morning, perhaps, on the first Easter. Two disciples are walking home, grieving and dejected, crushed by the traumatic events of the past few days. And they are met on the road by the risen Christ; although they are kept from recognizing. Through the course of their walk together, he relates to them the long history of their faith, and his place within it. When they finally reach home, it is growing dark and they invite him to spend the evening. In that foundational act of hospitality, of sharing bread together, they recognize Jesus.

Because this is an Easter story, it generally comes at a time when spring is very much in the air. There are buds on the trees, the weather is turning warmer, the days seem longer. And because it is an Easter story, it is a story of resurrection, of new life springing up in surprising places. It is also a great "road" story; and like all "road" stories, it invites us to see things a little differently, to shift our perspective a little and take fresh stock of old certainties; and it reminds us that our view of the world and our place in it is never the final word. That word belongs to something beyond us.

Like all good gospel stories, the Emmaus Road encounter gives us permission to see our lives and the life of our community in a different way. Like those disciples, our lives are often journeys

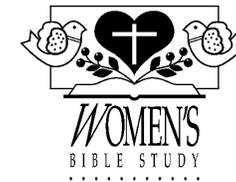
burdened by questions, hopes, disappointment and grief over opportunities lost, over change we cannot seem to control. And like them, we have this remarkable promise of all those things overturned by the presence of a God who constantly seeks to reclaim life from death.

Easter reminds us that God never allows life to lay dormant forever; and rebirth and resurrection are not merely the eternal hope we share, but the present reality that God ensures in our lives and in the life of the world.

Acknowledging the Risen Christ in our midst is not merely the answer to our shared yearning for immortality; but our affirmation that the God of the Risen Christ is a God that breathes new life into every moment of our lives, that resurrects life from all the smaller deaths that afflict us ... and that empowers an Easter faith that always assumes the possibility of life in all places.

May you know this Easter season the presence of the Risen Christ, who reveals to us all the resurrecting faith of our God.

Peace, *Todd*



Spring Women's Bible Study

Ladies, come join us for a nine-week study on the book of James. We will be following a dynamic video series by Beth Moore, called "Mercy Triumphs." We will meet on Thursday mornings in the parlor from 10-11:30 AM, [beginning March 31st](#). Please plan to join us for a time of study, prayer and fellowship and bring a friend! Workbooks are \$15. If you are interested, please email Kathleen Ruel at katruel@hotmail.com. We would also like to provide childcare so our young moms can join us, too. If you would like to help out with childcare, please let me know!



Koinonia – Fellowship, Study & Prayer

Koinonia will meet this month on Monday, April 11 at 2:00 PM at the home of Helen Barrow. If you have questions or need directions, please contact Helen.



FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL

Fair Trade News

Fair Trade sales will be taking a hiatus this month. We know that you will be broken hearted by this news but we will return with lots of fair trade goodies on Sunday, May 15th. We're looking forward to seeing you then.

Judy and Jeff



Spring Schedule

Middle School Youth Group/Confirmation/High School Youth Group

- April 3** Three 45 11 AM-Noon
Middle School youth group 4-5 PM
Confirmation 5-6 PM
Youth mission trip meeting for parents and youth 6-7 PM
- May 1** **Confirmation service 10 AM**
Middle School youth group 4-5 PM
High School youth group 6-7 PM
- May 28** NOLA '17 car wash fundraiser 9 AM-2 PM



New Member Sunday

On Sunday, May 8 we will welcome new members to our congregation. Please watch your Sunday worship bulletins for more information. If you are interested in membership or have any questions, please call the church office (781-934-6591 ext. 100 or 101).

Duxbury Senior Center Social Day Program

The Duxbury Senior Center's Social Day Program for persons with Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease offers a structured, fun day supervised by qualified staff, as well as nutritious meals, exercise and much needed respite for caregivers. The program is available in a two or three day option at \$50.00 per day. Contact Caren Harrison at 781-934-5774 ext. 5732 or email: carenharrison@duxburycoa.com for more information.



PARISH POST



Prayers of Healing

Mike Tenney – Lee Bishop – Norma George – Chris Blake –
Bruce Tenney – Tom Holland

Prayers of Comfort & Solace

For the family and friends of Gismonde Silvestrone, Molly Schaeffer's father.

For the family and friends of Haroldine MacLennan, Bill MacLennan's mother.



Happy Birthday wishes this month to:

Roger White – April 8	Jonathan Washburn – April 12
Elaine Guilfoyle – April 13	Sarah McQuarrie – April 13
Todd Vetter – April 14	Rose Brewer – April 15
Jill Bostder – April 23	Sue Mangione – April 24
Alex Kania – April 28	Anne White – April 28
Jamie Draper – April 28	

Our *warmest* wishes for a very happy birthday! Do you have a name to add? Email Terri Clark at tlclark@pilgrimchurchofduxbury.org or call 781-934-6591 ext. 100. We'd love to include you.



If anyone has not yet received the new, updated print directory, there are still copies available in the church office. Feel free to stop by and pick one up!