

April 2017

Dear Beloved People of God,

We conclude our Lenten **Journey to Jerusalem**, live through Jesus' death, and awaken to new life as we celebrate Resurrection. On April 2 we listen as Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb and ask ourselves, "What has died in us that is being called back into life?" The following Sunday we will hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, hailed as the one who comes in the name of the Lord. And then we move into the last supper, Jesus' betrayal and desertion. We are left wondering how we might be complicit in turning our backs on this one who calls us to love all people. On Good Friday, April 14, we will gather in the Chapel at 7:00 pm as we hear the rest of the story of Jesus' trial and execution. Join us for this journey. It's only possible when we walk together.

The Deacons provide us with the opportunity to sit in **vigil** in the Chapel as we wait at the empty cross. People are being recruited to spend an hour between 8:00 am on Saturday, April 15 and 9:00 am on Sunday, April 16. You may sign up in the back of the sanctuary or through Sign Up Genius.

We celebrate **Resurrection** on Sunday, April 16, with our annual potluck brunch in Fellowship Hall at 9:30. Children's activities will begin at 10:15. And we join in worship for this glorious service in the Sanctuary at 11:00. For those of you who are new to Pilgrim you might like to know that our postlude is the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. All are welcome to join the choir for this grand conclusion!

This year in particular **we need this journey** to Jerusalem to remind ourselves what this one we follow really means to us and how we live our lives. And we need this Resurrection celebration to be reminded of the hope that can fill our hearts.

Join us on this journey.

On Sunday, April 23, Jenny Burney will lead worship. Our guest preacher that day will be Rev. Dr. **Terry Gallagher**, head of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ's Environmental Task Force. You may remember meeting Terry and his wife Sinclair when they joined us for worship on February 26. Terry will also lead the Adult Education class that morning before worship.

A few other activities during April include the **Sanctuary cleaning** on April 8 in the morning. See posters in the church and sign up with Buildings and Grounds if you're able to help.

We will host an **Explorers Class** on Saturday morning, April 29, for anyone interested in learning more about Pilgrim Church and the United Church of Christ, the denomination of which we are a part. See the notice in this issue of the Tidings and let us know by April 23 if you plan to join us.

Community of Congregations Spring Meeting will be held on the evening of April 27 at Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church. Join us as we listen to the stories of faithful women from congregations in our communities. See the flyer on p.17 of this issue of the Tidings.

By the end of May we will all be enjoying **Pilgrim's new website!** We look forward to presenting ourselves to the public in an engaging and informative way. We want everyone to know they are welcome here.

It is a joy to be on this faith journey with you.

Blessings,

Sally

Rev. Sally Iberg
Senior Pastor