

# THE MESSENGER

## PAYSON PARK CHURCH

Congregational - United Church of Christ

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## MAY 2018

What a glorious Easter at Payson Park Church this year!

- Delightful Easter hats.
- The sanctuary decorated beautifully with flowers.
- April Fool's Children Message.
- Children's and youth choirs sang with great hope.
- Smashed egg on Pastor Eric's head.
- Trumpet announcing the resurrection.
- We sang the familiar hymns of faith, Christ the Lord is Risen Today, and more.
- Molly Jo sang an amazing "Alleluia" by Mozart.
- Pastor Eric got to tell his favorite April Fool's jokes about faith.
- Megan and our adult choir gave us glorious music of joy.
- With full choirs, plus people from the congregation, and trumpet and organ, we sang with gusto the Hallelujah Chorus, from The Messiah by Handel.
- Afterwards we held our Easter Egg hunt, welcoming in many from outside our community.

Speak with anyone who was there, and they'll say, "What a glorious Easter at Payson Park Church this year!"

Last weekend we held a council retreat at a sister UCC church in Andover. On a beautiful, but cool, spring day, we gathered in the upper room of their beautiful chapel to begin the day. Throughout the morning we prayed together, did a Bible study together, and broke bread (actually bagels) together. We met in small groups, talked and brainstormed, and met back again in our group of 12 disciples.

Prompted by our assigned reading for the day, we focused on one question. This question was posed by the pastor and people of a congregation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who turned around their declining church. From a hand of children, and few young adults, they now have hundreds. From the fastest dying church in the city, they blossomed to over a thousand members.

Here is the question. Here is the all important question to make the focus and center of our life together:

What will it take to reach the next generation?

By the end of the day, our church council was excited. We were coming together in our hope and vision. We will be meeting more frequently over the next six weeks, just to focus on this question.

Dare I say, our council experienced a second Easter this Spring? The promise of new life?

Speak with anyone who was there, and they'll say,

"What a great council retreat! What a great question for us to focus on!"

What will it take to reach the next generation?

*Peace, Pastor Eric*

# May Worship Leaders

The acolyte from God's Garden this month is Katie

	Deacon on Duty:	Reader:	Fellowship Hour:	Flowers given by:	Ushers:
6 <i>Church World Service, Blanket Drive</i>	Holly, Lorraine, Marty & Pat. Holly DOD	Al G.	Stephen E., Barbara & Holly	Janet David in memory of Thomas & Marion Serino	Susan, Cynthia, Jolin & Yi Dong
13 <i>Day of Confirmation &amp; Mother's Day Blanket Drive</i>	Patricia W.	Tommy McC.	Christian Education Committee	Bruce & Holly Bloomfield in memory of Holly's Mom Eileen and Bruce's Mom, Elsie. Cindy Lou Benson in honor of the	Ed & Pam
20	Pat C.	Rachel S.	Bill, Kay, Susan & Jane	Linda Jones in memory of Guy & Ruth Jones Merry & Terry Ray in memory of Merry's parents, Rev. & Mrs. J. Walter Sillen and Terry's parents, Mr. & Mrs. S. Bruce Ray	Jing & Marilyn
27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	Priscilla E.	Young adult	Herb		Jing

Our very own member Rev. Linda Knight, retired UCC minister, will preach and bring us the Good News on May 20th.

Rev. Bill Ragan will preach on May 27th, and will lead TLC – Theology, Literature, and Coffee, on May 13th.

## Worship Attendance

Worship recharges us with God's Love.

March 30, Good Friday 63

April 1 6:30 am, Easter 25

April 1 10:30 am, Easter 152

April 8 72                      April 15 73

April 22 64                      April 29 TBD

## Do You Need to Reach the Pastor?

The Reverend Eric Wefald, can be reached through the church office, 617/484-1542 or by email at [pastoreric@paysonpark.org](mailto:pastoreric@paysonpark.org).

The Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate, can be reached on his cell phone, 484/860-4108 or by email at [minassoc@paysonpark.org](mailto:minassoc@paysonpark.org)





**Easter Day  
April Fools  
2018**





# What's Happening at PPC

## **Day of Confirmation, Sunday, May 13**

Jack Giles

Carolyn Gulley

Jack Hayes

Audrey Hayes

Maya Rodriguez-Clark

Ben Sseruwagi

Elijah Sseruwagi

Julia Wallace

We have been witnessing our faith to our young people this past year in confirmation. We learned about the 10 commandments, served the homeless at CityReach, worked with our mentors at Seafarers' Friend, and read aloud to our deacons our personal statements of faith. Thank you to our Adult Mentors - Hank, Cynthia, Cindy Lou, Lorraine, Marty, Herb, Wendy, Merry. We invite the whole congregation to witness the Day of Confirmation. Thanks be to God!



**Parsonage Open House, June 3** Patricia and Pastor Eric invite the entire congregation over for whipped cream with fresh strawberries, and of course, maple bacon! We had a wonderfully beautiful day for the Open House last year and we're crazy enough to do it again. Come on over right after worship on June 3rd.

**Youth Sunday Worship Service, Sunday, June 10** The annual Youth Sunday Worship Service is a tradition at Payson Park. The service celebrates our year in church school. Please join us for this lively time of worship and invite a friend to church that day!

## **Basketball rematch! June 10th**

On March 25th, in our historic and epic match, Deacons vs. Teens, in our church gym, the Teens were victorious! The Deacons are demanding a rematch. After our Youth Sunday Fellowship Time on June 10th, head on down to the church gym, to see the rematch of this historic challenge. The teens are led by Belmont H.S. varsity star, Ben Sseruwagi, while the Deacons are once again turning to their 5 foot high power forwards, Megan and Patricia.



# Mission Happenings at PPC

## Moment for Mission Sunday, May 6

### Church World Service Mother's Day Blanket Sunday

This Mother's Day, let's blanket the world with love! On May 6 & 13 at fellowship hour, the Mission and Outreach Committee will be collecting donations for Church World Service blankets. In 2017, this interdenominational effort provided 6500 blankets for people in need in the U.S. and around the world, including victims of disasters and others experiencing hard times. A \$10 donation covers the cost of one blanket. In return, you can receive a CWS card, perfect for sending to moms or other loved ones, that acknowledges your gift given in that person's honor. Thanks in advance for sharing some warmth and comfort this Mother's Day!



**Sandwich Making on June 17** Thanks to all those who helped make sandwiches for Bristol Lodge on March 18 after worship. We made 200 sandwiches and they were enthusiastically received that afternoon. We found out that the men's shelter in Waltham particularly appreciates our sandwiches, since they don't have any cooking facilities there. Our next sandwich making session will be on June 17, Father's Day, in Gardner Hall. Honor your father by helping to feed men in need that day!

**Special Offerings Report** The Mission & Outreach Committee extends heartfelt thanks to the congregation for the generous gifts for the special mission offerings in March and April. Our church collected \$515 for One Great Hour of Sharing on March 11, \$194.00 for common cathedral/City Reach at the Good Friday service, and over \$900 for Chaplains on the Way on Easter Sunday. We rejoice to share our blessings with these wonderful global and local ministries!

## Bristol Lodge Food Kitchen May 22, serving Taco Salad

Payson Park Church cooks and serves a meal each month at the food kitchen in Waltham.

Please consider becoming involved with this very worthwhile outreach project.

Date: Tuesday, May 22

Deliver: 3-5 PM; Serve: 5-5:45 PM

Place: Immanuel Methodist Church, 545 Moody St., Waltham Menu: Taco Salad, Rolls

Please sign up via "google doc" or colasker@comcast.net. Speak to Cynthia if you need to be linked to google doc. Thank you for volunteering!



Our Faithful Team serving the hungry on 4-24-18

## A Community in Action, The Active Prayer of Thanksgiving:

**Contributing to our local food pantry** Please bring in new canned goods & dry food items on Sunday, May 6 to continue with the mission project for our two local food pantries in Belmont & Watertown.

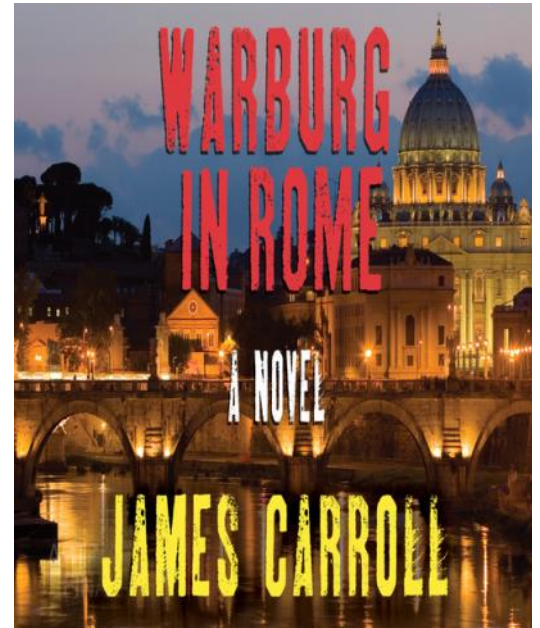


# What Else Is Happening at PPC

## **Theology, Literature & Coffee (TLC) Sunday, May 13 @ 9:00 AM**

On Sunday, May 13, at 9:00 AM, TLC will continue to discuss the novel *Warburg in Rome* by James Carroll, the author of *An American Requiem*. In Carroll's novel, David Warburg, newly minted director of the U.S. War Refugee Board, arrives in Rome at war's end, determined to bring aid to the destitute European Jews streaming into the city. But the city is a labyrinth of desperate fugitives, runaway Nazis, Jewish resisters, and criminal church figures. At the center of the maze, Warburg discovers one of history's great scandals—the Vatican ratline, a clandestine escape route maintained by church officials and providing scores of Nazi war criminals with secret passage to Argentina. James Carroll delivers a stirring novel that reckons powerfully with the postwar complexities of good and evil in the Eternal City.

It is not too late to get your copy and join us on Sunday, May 13, at 9:00 AM, as we come to know one another and our God better by discussing this entertaining, suspenseful, thrilling novel about the church – good and evil, and a dark history coming to light. Come and experience our “Stillspeaking God” at Theology, Literature and Coffee! Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan with any question about this adult education opportunity.



**In Memoriam: Joan B. Blackman** On Friday, March 30, Joan Blackman died peacefully at home. A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 7 to celebrate her rich life of 90 years. As a wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend, Joan's loving personality touched many lives. As we grieve this loss, we give thanks for her faithfulness to God and this church, surrounding Paul, Kathy, Meghan & Jonathan and Melissa and Michael with our ongoing prayers and support. Memorial gifts may be made to the Payson Park Church, Memorial Fund, as requested by the family.

**Make a Joyful Noise!** Hello everyone, and happy spring. The year is moving all too quickly and Youth Sunday will be here before we know it. I hope you enjoyed the music that the youth have been presenting this spring, especially on Easter, and we certainly have more to bring you Youth Sunday, June 10! We are also thrilled to have been adding new members, as well as adding in more difficult music for some of our younger singers. As always, thank you all for your support, and as always, thank you all for your support! *Molly Jo*, Youth Choir Director

**Calling All Graduates** Do you know of a graduate who is commencing this spring or summer and would like to share the information with the church community? Please contact the church office with the good news. [office@paysonpark.org](mailto:office@paysonpark.org)

# May 2018

## TUESDAY, MAY 1

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love Fellowship

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

9:30 AM Belmont Clergy meeting

## THURSDAY, MAY 3

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast

10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

## Friday, May 4

6:00 PM First Friday Youth Group

## SUNDAY, MAY 6 *CWS, Blanket & Food Pantry Drives*

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM T L & C

9:00 AM Nursery Care

9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship & Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (*Stephen E. & friends*)

12:10 PM Missions meeting

## TUESDAY, MAY 8

9:00 AM Drop off food pantry (*Watertown*)

12:00 PM Communities of Practice (*offsite*)

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship

## THURSDAY, MAY 10

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast

10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

## SUNDAY, MAY 13 *Day of Confirmation, CWS Blanket Drive*

*All Youth Choirs singing*

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Nursery Care

10:30 AM Worship & Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship (*Christian Ed. Committee*)

## TUESDAY, MAY 15

10:00 AM Christian Education Committee

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship

## THURSDAY, MAY 17

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast

10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

6:30 PM Diaconate meeting

7:00 PM Belmont Religious Council mtg. (*offsite*)

## SATURDAY, MAY 19

9:00 AM Belmont Town Day

## SUNDAY, MAY 20

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM Nursery Care

9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship & Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (*Bill, Kay, Susan & Jane*)

## TUESDAY, MAY 22

10:00 AM Payson Park Preschool (*tentative*)

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship

5:00 PM Bristol Lodge meal serving

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 *Messenger Deadline*

## THURSDAY, MAY 24

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast

10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

## SUNDAY, MAY 27 *Youth Choir singing*

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM Nursery Care

9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship & Church School

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (*Herb*)

## TUESDAY, MAY 29

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship

## THURSDAY, MAY 31

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast

10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

11:30 AM Messenger Committee



On April 22nd the Rev. June Cooper, executive director of City Mission, Boston, visited us. June shared how City Mission is working to prevent homeless, and educate and lift up people in need. PPC's Mission & Outreach presented June with a check to support the work of City Mission.



## THE MESSENGER

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BELMONT MA 02478-3438

## Vacation Bible School

The Rolling River Rampage

August 20- August 24, 9:00 am to Noon

Help is needed to support our Team Leaders (no experience necessary, you just need to like having fun.)

Where do you see yourself in this ministry as we faithfully serve our community?

