

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL — UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478

617/484-1542

office@paysonpark.org www.paysonpark.org

FEBRUARY 2017

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*We believe God is calling us to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ
and to bear witness to the Gospel through worship and service, empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

“God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.

And so, we won’t be afraid!

Let the earth tremble and the mountains tumble into the deepest sea.” Psalm 46:1-2

When I first saw the crenellations at the top of the tower of Payson Park Church, I thought the building looked like a castle, a parapet ready for the defense of our congregation. May the structure of our building always remind us that God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble. We won’t be afraid.

Twelve merlons adorn our church tower. Merlons are the upright walls between the gaps, or crenels. Echoing our twelve merlons pointing up to the heavens, I give you Twelve Points of Hope.

Twelve Points of Hope

Strong Interim Pastor

Pastor Tom has served PPC well for over two years, a pastor in times of need, leading the community through CrossRoads. Part of the wonderful legacy Pastor Tom has given us is the Men’s Breakfast and 10 am Bible Studies, living and breathing groups gathered around the Word of God, caring for each other.

Outstanding Search and Call committee

I am grateful for the very first PPC people I met, those on the Search and Call Committee, Herb Philpott, Wendy Gulley, Holly Bloomfield, Ann Alves, and Brian Cornwall. I knew that if these five passionate and faith-filled people were representative of Payson Park (and they are!), our future is full of hope.

Talented Staff

Our part-time Ministerial Associate, the Rev. Bill Ragan, leads a much beloved monthly book study. I appreciate his obvious talent and experience in covering for me in the pulpit and on pastoral calls.

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

Our Administrative Coordinator Cindy Lou Benson has been invaluable in guiding me through so many aspects of what is expected in our faith community. As our Christian Education Director, Cindy Lou's love of our Sunday School children is shown in her steady guidance of all things CE, always eager to learn and share more.

I am grateful for the talented musical leadership provided us by our Music Director Megan Henderson and our Youth Music Director Molly Jo Rivelli. Megan brings exuberance and life to our worship and to our adult choir, and Molly Jo gives joy in all presentations of music by our youth.

Our talented staff gives us hope for the future.

Dedicated Lay Leadership

I am grateful for our dedicated lay leadership, Moderator and Treasurer Al Gledhill, Deacon co-chairs Nancy Fergus and Holly Bloomfield, all the committee chairs and all those who serve on committees and make things happen. While we don't have a lot of substitutes to call upon in the middle of the game, our committees are extraordinary in getting things done. Our lay leadership gives us hope for the future.

Responsive and Caring Parsonage Team

I am grateful to Terry Ray, clerk of the works, the guy who makes it all happen in preparing the parsonage, and to master painter Doug Ertelt, and to John Lasker and Al Gledhill. You have uncovered much to do in the maintenance of this property, and are serving the congregation well. Both Patricia and I are so very grateful for all your hard work and look forward to moving in! Your thorough stewardship reflects well upon this congregation, giving us hope for the future.

Active youth group

While many area congregations bemoan their lack of children and youth, we have both! Though small in numbers, our teen youth group is alive and active, and is seeking more opportunities to serve and make a difference. Our youth group, with passionate adult leaders such as Brian Cornwall and Cindy Lou Benson, give us hope for the future.

Loving and caring Sunday School teachers

Our Sunday School is alive and blessed by God. I am grateful for our Sunday School teachers and support staff, providing a loving presence for our children, showing them God's love. Our Sunday School gives us hope for the future.

19 Christmas Carolers

This sounds like an extended carol, the 19 Days of Christmas. We had 19 carolers travel on December 18th, bringing Christmas cheer to our home bound. With a piano at every stop! The strength of our carolers gives us hope for the future.

27 youth and children in Christmas Pageant

We have a powerful tradition, one that has touched our families through the years, since twenty-seven youth and children gladly participated in bringing alive God's Word through this year's pageant. Our Christmas pageant participation gives us hope for the future.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

New Bylaws for a New Century

I am grateful to Mark Clark and his Bylaws Team of Ann Alves, Herb Philpott, and Lorraine Clifford, bravely taking on the updating and rewriting of our Bylaws, to aid our church governance. This investment in and nurturing of our governance gives us hope for the future.

New FaceBook Page for a New Century

Yes! We have launched our very own official Facebook page, our church bulletin to the online world. I am grateful to our FB Team, Herb Philpott, Holly Bloomfield, Wendy Gulley, Sandy Philpott, and Cindy Lou Benson, helping us to tell our story to the wider world, giving us hope for the future.

Beyond Crossroads and Beyond!

I am heartened that you all have agreed to reconvene your Crossroads groups, giving me a chance to hear your stories and your hopes, in our "Beyond Crossroads" home meetings starting in early 2017. I am excited for us to begin finding our new Community Engagement Director. I am hopeful we can send out an adult mission work team to Habitat for Humanity in 2017. Our 2017 plans give us hope for the future.

I have been honored to be your Pastor for my 61 days among you in 2016, following my November 1st beginning. I am honored to lead worship, to preach, to baptize. Honored to teach our Men's Breakfast and Faithful Reflections Bible Studies. Honored to visit the sick and the home bound. Honored to pray with those in need of prayer. Honored to listen to your stories, and get to know you.

God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.
And so, we won't be afraid! We have hope for the future!

Pastor Eric

A GRATEFUL HEART

Dear Payson Park Church,

Thank you so much for your support of my trip to Haiti! I really appreciate your financial support and how willing you are to help me. Getting to go on the trip was an experience of a lifetime and I am very grateful!

Thank you!!

Lizzy Thidemann

WORSHIP INFORMATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

10:30 AM

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Service of Holy Communion & Food Pantry Drive

The Rev. Eric Wefald, preaching

We are grateful to the many members and friends of Payson Park who greet us each Sunday. The acolytes this month are Rosie Fraser and Nicole Michaud. The altar flowers are given by Nancy & Paul Fergus in memory of J. Arthur Stone and Mrs. Andrew Fergus. Altar flowers are also given by Caren Pizzuto and family, Tom, Michael, Rich & Kathy, in memory of Marion Astapoveh. Serving communion are Holly Bloomfield, Nancy Fergus and Merry & Terry Ray. The deacon on duty is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by Emily Dallman, Hank Thidemann, and Cary Morse. Reading scripture is Emily Dallman. Watertown Food Pantry will receive the collection this month. The ushers greeting are Susan Clark & Carl Miller.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:30 AM

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Alleluia & Cherub Choirs singing

The Rev. Bill Ragan, preaching

The altar flowers are given by Irene Richard in memory of Grace Stockbridge. Altar flowers are also given by Janet Coleman in memory of her mom, Babe Finnerty. The deacon on duty and reading scripture is Cynthia Lasker. The fellowship hour is given by Judy Briggs, Stephen Elliott & Brian Cornwall. The ushers greeting are Marilyn Brownlie & Carl Miller.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

10:30 AM

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Eric Wefald, preaching

There are no designated flowers this day. The deacon on duty and reading scripture is Merry Ray. The fellowship hour is given by Barbara Benjamin and Holly Bloomfield. The ushers greeting are Brian Cornwall & Carl Miller.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10:30 AM

Last Sunday after Epiphany, Transfiguration Sunday

Youth Choir singing

The Rev. Eric Wefald, preaching

The altar flowers are given by Rich MacDonald in memory of his mother, Amy. The deacon on duty is Cynthia Lasker. Reading scripture is Nancy Slavinsky. The fellowship hour is given by Susan & Mark Clark, Jing Yu & Matt Clifford. The ushers greeting are Nancy Slavinsky and Carl Miller.



ALTAR FLOWERS:

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Would you like to honor someone in your life? Each Sunday our altar flowers are given in honor or remembrance of those we hold dear. Coordinated by our Administrative Coordinator, this program also offers us a chance to reach out to those in our congregation who cannot attend worship, as the flowers are regularly delivered by our pastor or others to those hospitalized or shut in. If you care to make a donation, please call Cindy Lou in the church office 617/484-1542.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Thank you for being with us in January – in person as well as in spirit! With the winter days here, we came together each week as we were able. The following details our attendance each week:

December 24, Christmas Eve - 148

December 25 - @Plymouth

January 1 - 57

January 8 - 48 (snowy)

January 15 - 71

January 22 - 74

January 29 - TBD

MISSION & OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE:

CITYREACH

On Sunday, February 5, the group will be hosting a SuperBowl Sub Sandwich Sale for the fund raiser to donate socks to CityReach. We hope everyone can “purchase” a submarine sandwich that day. [The City Reach mission trip is rescheduled for March 24-25.]

SANDWICH MAKING WORKSHOP

Coming Soon on a Sunday in March

Please plan on attending the annual Sandwich Making Workshop and produce tasty tidbits for the Bristol Lodge! This has been a very successful event in the past with large participation, fun fellowship and hundreds of sandwiches being made and delivered to Bristol Lodge. Additional details on this event will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall along with a sign up sheet for participation, so save the date and plan on attending. Please speak with Brian Cornwall if you have any questions.



BRISTOL LODGE FOOD KITCHEN:

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Thank you to the faithful volunteers who have cooked a meal, delivered and served, and donated cash for our monthly hot meal outreach program with The Bristol Lodge Food Kitchen in Waltham. For many years, we have been serving about 75 men and women who come to the Waltham church for a hot meal, as well as fellowship and shelter. If you are new to the church or if you are looking for a new focus, perhaps you would like to cook a meal, serve guests or donate cash for supplies.

Please speak to Cynthia Lasker (colasker@comcast.net) if you would like to join others in this vital neighborhood outreach program.

Tuesday, February 28 - Corn and Ham casserole

Immanuel Methodist Church, 545 Moody St., Waltham

Deliver - 3-5 p.m.

Serve - 5-5:45 p.m.

A COMMUNITY IN ACTION WITH AN ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

AN OFFERING TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Please bring in new canned goods and dry food items on **Sunday, February 5**, to continue with the mission project for our two local food pantries in Belmont and Watertown! The “Active Prayer of Thanksgiving” will take place during the children’s moment in worship and will be an offering of food (and/or money for food) to help feed the hungry. There will be a procession to the chancel where the donations will be delivered. After church the teen youth will gather the offering for this month’s recipient, the Belmont Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity! Watertown will receive this month's offering.

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

THEOLOGY, LITERATURE & COFFEE

FEBRUARY 12 AT 9:00 AM.

The adult education group, “Theology, Literature, and Coffee (TLC),” led by our ministerial associate, the Rev. Bill Ragan, is starting a new book: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder.

Wilder's second novel, first published in 1927 to worldwide acclaim, tells the story of several interrelated people who die in the collapse of an Inca rope bridge in Peru, and the events that lead up to their being on the bridge. A friar who has witnessed the accident then goes about inquiring into the lives of the victims, seeking some sort of cosmic answer to the question of why each had to die. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize in 1928.

Get and read this short, but powerful book and join us on January 8 at 9:00 am, and come to know one another and our God better as we discuss *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. Come and experience our “Stillspeaking” God at Theology, Literature and Coffee!

Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan at on his cell 484-860-4108 or by email minassoc@paysonpark.org with any questions about this adult education opportunity.

How to Reach the Pastor



The Rev. Eric Wefald, Pastor, can be reached through the church office, 617/484-1542 or by email at

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



PRAYER REQUESTS:

EXTENDING OUR CARE TO OTHERS

If you have a prayer request that you would like announced during worship, please speak with our pastor in the days before our Sunday service or fill out a request card and give to an usher before worship. The cards are on the Narthex table. Concerns and celebrations are announced just prior to the Pastoral Prayer each week. Help us reach out to God and extend our care to others.

NEED A RIDE?

TAXI VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE!

Do you or someone you know need a ride to Sunday worship services or a special church event? The Transportation Team, Tom Cappadona and Hank Thidemann can help with transportation. We also have a voucher program paid for by the Phillips Legacy Transportation fund. Vouchers can be obtained through the Church Office free of charge for members and friends of Payson Park Church. Don't let transportation keep you from gathering in faith and love for worship, education, or fellowship and service events. Call a cab – on us!



PAYSON PARK NURSERY SCHOOL

Are you looking for a nursery school program for your child? Do you have neighbors or friends who are making plans for their young children? The Payson Park Nursery School is currently accepting applications for enrollment. Scheduling is flexible, and 20% tuition discounts are available for members of the church. Please call Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director, for more information (617-489-4824) or email her.

nurserydirector@paysonpark.org

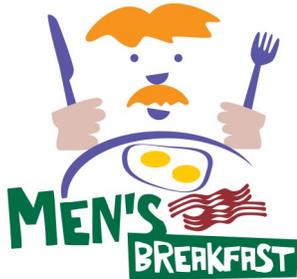
EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

WE MAKE PRAYER SHAWLS

FOR PEOPLE IN HOSPICE

For the past ten years+ members of the Faith, Hope, and Love Fellowship have gathered in the church parlor to share in friendship as they make prayer shawls that are then donated to area hospice programs. Whether you knit or not, your presence will be welcomed in this time of sharing Tuesday afternoons at 2:00. Please email the church office to find out how you can join in this meaningful ministry.

office@paysonpark.org



OUR MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY

We have quite an active group of men at our Thursday morning Bible Study, from 7:00 to 8:15 am. Perhaps it is because we have free bagels, donuts & coffee. Perhaps it is the great conversation and fellowship. Talk with Pastor Eric or email the church office to find out more. All are welcome!

office@paysonpark.org

OUR 10 AM FAITHFUL REFLECTIONS BIBLE STUDY

Do you wonder what it means to be a person of faith in contemporary times? Do you wonder what left-over bagels and donuts from the 7 am Bible Study taste like? All are welcome! Mark your calendars for Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:15 am.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Pastor Eric is gathering a group of interested people. We will meet and have a chance to ask questions about our Payson Park Church community, and about the national body we are associated with, the United Church of Christ. Please call the church office, 617-484-1542, email Cindy Lou in the office, or speak with Eric. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. office@paysonpark.org, email Eric, pastoreric@paysonpark.org



First Fridays Youth Group will meet February 3. If your youth would like to join our youth leaders, Cindy Lou and Brian, for this activity, please be sure to contact Cindy Lou by email. Thanks.

cedirector@paysonpark.org

A COMMUNITY RESPONDS:

THREE FILMS ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

The Belmont Religious Council is co-sponsoring a film series with the Belmont Public Library, area churches. Belmont has been doing some amazing work helping address the global refugee crisis. Flyers are posted on the bulletin boards near the church office. All proceeds benefit the International Institute of New England (IINE) and the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC). Tickets available in advance at

<https://www.ticketor.com/belmontworldfilm?cat=RefugeeCrisis>

SPECIAL NEWS

GROWING IN FAITH & UNDERSTANDING: BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN IN THE PARLOR

Looking for a good book to stimulate your faith and spiritual practices? Or would you like to share a volume or two that you found particularly inspirational? The Christian Education Committee's two book carts, adult and children's, may be just the thing for you! Located in the MacDonald Room church parlor, these carts serve as our church's lending library. Working on the honor system, you're invited to browse the collection and take a book to read, replacing it once you're finished.

A NOTE FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

It is nice to be fully back at Payson Park Church after the crazy month of December at Revels. Thanks so much to Molly Jo Rivelli and Pauline Lim for keeping the music flowing smoothly the weeks I was away. We are now looking forward to celebrating African American history month in February and will be focused on the wonderful music of this dynamic and courageous culture. We also welcome our newest choir member, Lisa Clark, to the soprano section! It's fantastic to have you with us each week now. All of you are welcome too! Feel free to come and try out a rehearsal and try on a beautiful bright blue choir robe! All are welcome. Happy Winter! *Megan*

WINTER WORSHIP SERVICES: SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

As the winter season continues, the Diaconate reminds you that Sunday morning worship services will be cancelled when a parking ban is in effect in Belmont. To confirm such a cancellation, please call the church after 8:00 am on the Sunday in question. The recorded message will provide information about the morning service. If you call the church and do not hear the recording, please call again. The line may be busy with another caller. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON: THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Thank you to all who helped with and attended the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Sunday, January 22, with a special thanks to our Senior Deacons, Holly Bloomfield & Nancy Fergus, and members of the Diaconate. Also, many thanks to moderator, Al Gledhill and clerk, Ann Alves. It was a festive and meaningful occasion for all, helping us to build our relationships with God and one another. Thank you for being a part of Payson Park Church!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE: OPEN SING

Please join us in the choir room at 9:00 am Sunday, February 26, if you have any inclination to raise your voice in song! The choir will be there to greet you and help you through the order of service with hymns and amens. Donuts will of course be served at the end of our rehearsal! Please contact Megan at her email address or speak with her on Sundays if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts with the congregation, or if you have any questions about Payson Park's music program. amdirector@paysonpark.org



PRESIDENTS' DAY

Please note: the church office will be closed on Tuesday, February 21, in observance of the holiday Presidents' Day. If you need church assistance, please call our Administrative Coordinator, Cindy Lou Benson, Wednesday through Friday of that week. Thank you!

FEBRUARY 2017

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 7:00 AM The Men's Breakfast Group
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study
- 1:00 PM Beyond Crossroads/Lasker group
- 7:00 PM Refugee Film Series (*offsite*)
- 7:00 PM Beyond Crossroads/Gulley group

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 6:00 PM First Fridays Youth Group

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

A Service of Holy Communion & Food Pantry Collection

- 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 Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 AM Youth Group Fund Raiser
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
(*Emily D., Cary M. & Hank T.*)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship
- 6:30 PM ~~Church Council~~

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 7:00 AM The Men's Breakfast Group
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Refugee Film Series (*offsite*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

Alleluia & Cherub Choir singing

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM Nursery Care
- 9:00 AM Theology, Literature & Coffee
- 9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Nursery Care
- 10:30 AM Worship & Church School
- 11:30 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
(*Judy B., Brian C. & Stephen E.*)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 7:00 PM Beyond Crossroads/Philpott group

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 9:00 AM Drop off food pantry (*Watertown*)
- 12:00 PM Communities of Practice (*offsite*)
- 2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship
- 6:30 PM Church Council

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 *Messenger Deadline*

- 9:00 AM Property Committee meeting
- 7:00 PM Beyond Crossroads/Cornwall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 7:00 AM The Men's Breakfast Group
- 8:45 AM Finance Committee
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Refugee Film Series (*offsite*)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

- 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 Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (*Barbara B. & Holly B.*)
- 12:00 PM Christian Ed. Committee (VBS)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 10:00 AM Christian Ed. Committee (VBS field trip)
- 2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship
- 5:00 PM Bristol Lodge meal, serving
- 6:30 PM Diaconate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 1:30 PM Staff meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 7:00 AM The Men's Breakfast Group
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study
- 11:30 PM Messenger Committee

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 *(Moving day for the Wefald's)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 *Last Sunday after Epiphany, Youth*

Choir singing

- 9:00 AM **Open Sing**/Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM Nursery Care
- 9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship & Church School
- 11:30 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
(*Mark C., Susan C., Matt C. & Jing Y.*)
- 12:00 PM Mission & Outreach Committee

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship
- 5:00 PM Serve Bristol Lodge

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

365 BELMONT STREET

BELMONT MA 02478-3438

LENTEN HOME DEVOTIONS:

WALKING WITH THE PEACEMAKER

We will publish our very own Lenten Home Devotions, a journey with Jesus in 2017. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex/lobby for one of the forty days of Lent. A short scripture reading has been assigned for each day. Write a brief meditation (50 -150 words) on the scripture and something about Peace that inspires you or builds/challenges your faith. Include a one sentence prayer at the end.

We will combine all 40 devotions into a booklet for all households of Payson Park, as a way to strengthen our faith journey during Lent. Deadline for emailing your meditations to the church office, office@paysonpark.org, is February 19. Handwritten devos are always accepted. Thank you.