



June 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

If you're getting tired of everything changing in our lives, I fully understand. Each new day seems to bring some kind of change!

At our last Church Council meeting, I mentioned that the religious landscape in our community is rapidly changing. As most of you have heard, three Catholic parishes are being merged into a single parish. A few weeks ago, the local clergy celebrated the retirement of the Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Thomaston. Pastor Bill Hawley, a longtime friend of our congregation, is retiring at the end of this month. And shortly, Pastor Emeritus Chris and Joyce will be moving north to New Hampshire.

We're witnessing change not only in the religious community, but we've coped with numerous other changes in our lives over the past year. Had I been asked to predict how much change would take place in the first six or so months of my pastorate at FBC-Plymouth, I wouldn't have even come close to predicting what has transpired. Our lives have changed dramatically, sometimes for the good, sometimes not.

While we sometimes yearn for things to stop changing, we all know that change is here to stay. Whether we want to admit it or not, we have been dealing with change all our lives! In fact, if you research back to the earliest days of the Christian Church, you come to the realization that the Christian Church has been continuously changing. Christ's ministry was revolutionary and brought dramatic change to the religious landscape of that time. God has always been calling us down a new path. Christians have always lived amidst change, and that isn't going to change.

How do we deal with all the change that is taking place in our religious community, Church and personal lives? Simple: the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the time when we celebrate the fact that Jesus gave his followers something that would help them not only deal with change, but that would enable them to lead the changes that God wants to see in our world. The Holy Spirit helps us think out of the box and find solutions to challenges. At other times, the Holy Spirit helps us ride the waves to a new place in our lives.

God has not left us on our own to deal with change. God realizes that we often yearn for stability and "the good old days." But with faith, trust, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are assured that we will be able to find new and creative ways to deal with the challenges of our world and our lives. As God's people, we cannot only cope with change, but we can lead in changing the world for the better.

May your hearts be filled with the Holy Spirit and may you face all change with confidence!

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

# June Sermons



June 4 – Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost is the time when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to think in new ways and to better understand what God would like us to do with our lives. In addition to joining for the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper, we will have a guest speaker. Mr. Jack Flynn is a Volunteer Voice with a group called The Voice of the Martyrs. He will share with us information about the work of that organization.

June 11 – Children’s Sunday

Matthew 28:16-20 – **“Go Into the World”**

We all like to have our own personal space that we can call our own. It could be your home, or a certain place in your home. In all honesty, we are also most comfortable with the people we already know and trust. God understands our comfort zones, but Jesus told his disciples to get out of their comfort zone. Although the Christian church was in its infancy, Jesus wanted his disciples to get on their feet and get out into the world. This applies to the Church of today. We may not like what’s out there, but that’s where God wants us!

June 18 – Fathers’ Day

Matthew 9:35-10:8 – **“No Strings Attached!”**

In the world, you have to pay for what you want. In fact, we are taught to be suspicious of “free gifts.” There’s always a string attached, no? Good parenting often requires that things be done without any expectation of receiving anything in return. That’s just part of the relationship between a parent and a child. Jesus pushes that concept and challenges Christians to do things in His name without any expectation of receiving anything in return. How does this new way of thinking challenge our understanding of our Church’s ministry?

June 25

Matthew 10:24-39 – **“God’s Way Is Different”**

People often turn to religion in hopes of maintaining the status quo. People cite scripture passages as grounds for not changing things. And that’s understandable: after all, there is too much change taking place in our world, and we need some stability in our lives. God may be a constant, stable force, but what God calls us to be dynamic and changing. To be a true disciple, we are called to follow God down new paths and in directions we never imagined!



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS JUNE 2017



*Come Together in Faith and share the Joy of the Lord.*

- 1 Romans 8:1-17
- 2 Romans 8:18-39
- 3 Romans 12:1-21
- 4 Acts 2:1-28
- 5 Acts 2:29-47
- 6 Acts 4:32-5:11
- 7 Acts 5:12-26
- 8 Acts 5:27-42
- 9 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- 10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- 11 1 Corinthians 14:1-25
- 12 1 Corinthians 14:26-40
- 13 Acts 11:1-18
- 14 Acts 11:19-30
- 15 Acts 14:1-20
- 16 Acts 14:21-28
- 17 Acts 15:1-21
- 18 Acts 15:22-41
- 19 Acts 16:1-15
- 20 Acts 16:16-40

- 21 Acts 17:1-15
- 22 Acts 17:16-34
- 23 Acts 18:1-23
- 24 Galatians 1:1-24
- 25 Galatians 2:1-21
- 26 Galatians 3:1-14
- 27 Galatians 3:15-4:7
- 28 Galatians 4:8-31
- 29 Galatians 5:1-26
- 30 Galatians 6:1-18

## All in the Family

*Elaine Fiermonte* had a procedure done to remove a kidney stone and is home recovering... *Nettie Fairchild* is finally back at home with Murphy, is doing better and trying to gain her strength back... By the time *The Record* is released, *Betty Salerno* will have moved to her new home. Her new address is 45 Bridge Street, #108, Suffield, CT 06078. Her telephone numbers remain the same... *Joyce Drew* was recently hospitalized and in rehab, but is now back home doing much better. *Pastor Chris* just recently back from a painting excursion to his new home in New Hampshire with Rev. Bill Hawley and several of the parishioners from PCC. Both *Pastor Chris and Joyce* are looking forward to their upcoming move. We wish you both well, but will miss you... *Robert Hall* is moving back to Florida. His new address will be 5372 Royal Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34234. We wish him well... Our condolences to the family of our former pastor, *Bill Smith*, who recently passed away... *Several of our ladies* attended a Women's Fellowship Group Breakfast at PCC that honored Robyn Hawley. As you know, Bill will be retiring in July and Robyn has already begun a new job in South Carolina. Good luck to you both as you begin your new journey...

As always, please remember to keep all of our *shut-ins* in your thoughts and prayers.

## Happy Father's Day



**June 18th**

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine and natural disaster, the church is called to reclaim the spiritual discipline of solidarity. Christians are summoned to adopt and live out a "theology of accompaniment. The church is called to stand in solidarity with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace.

It is reminiscent of the story of Ruth from which this year's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is taken: "Where you go I will go." Naomi and Ruth were very much like today's refugees – they didn't chose to move from country to country; rather it was imposed upon them by forces beyond their control. In the end Ruth chose solidarity with Naomi and accompanied her mother-in-law to pursue a livelihood for both of them.

We, too, can choose to make a commitment to our brothers and sisters created in God's image helping not just the physical refugees of today but the spiritual refugees in so many ways as well. Your gifts to this annual OGHS offering can and will do a world of good. We will receive the offering throughout the month of June. Envelopes are available in the pews during worship and enclosed with the print copies of *The Record*. You may also include it in your weekly offering envelopes under "other," marked OGHS. Thank you for helping others.

## BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION

During June and July we receive your donations in the "lunch bag" at the rear of the sanctuary that go to help local children be prepared to return to school in the fall. The Small Wonders Back-to-School effort has been going on under the leadership of Plymouth Human Services Department for many years and helps well over one-hundred children feel ready to go back to school with clothing, backpacks and school supplies. Please drop your contributions in the lunchbox and be part of helping our children.





# THE MUSIC CORNER

## JUNE 2017

### The Music Corner June 2017

*My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Psalm 57:7*

It's hard to believe we're entering into summer already, and that I've been your organist for a year! You have certainly been a blessing to me. For Pentecost Sunday on June 4th the choir will sing Holy Spirit Rain Down. We've ideas for June 11th and 25th but nothing yet certain. June 18th is a bittersweet Sunday; it will be Chris Drew's last Sunday celebrating with us and singing in the choir. We will miss your beautiful tenor voice, Chris. For this Sunday he has chosen a choral arrangement of Deep River and Shall We Gather at the River. And then there's the Praise music. I'm sure you all noticed the introduction of guitars (thank you, Tammy) for these songs. If anyone is interested in helping lead these songs please let me know. I'm also wondering if there are any drummers out there... I have a lead to purchase a drum set. If you can drum, I'll try to buy it! Rehearsals continue to be on Thursdays at 7:00; all are welcome.

Julie

## JUNE



Scieller, Gloria	6/2
Goldreich, Hannah	6/3
Brown, Malachi	6/25


Geckler, Robert & Karen	6/10
DiBella, Anthony & Tonya	6/13
Harkness, Gary & Kathryn	6/20
Fiermonte, Wayne & Elaine	6/27



### **MOMENTS OF MEDITATION NOW ON PODCAST**

**Listen to M.O.M. with Pastor Mike  
[firstbaptistplymouth.ecucomm.ro](http://firstbaptistplymouth.ecucomm.ro)  
and clicking on the podcast link .**


**HELD IN YOUR PALM**



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.


**What you need:**

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



**What you do:**


1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift — and a hug!



**Our heavenly Father**

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

*Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.*



"H\_ w\_ll c\_ll \_ \_t t\_ m\_,  
 'Y\_ \_r\_ m\_ F\_th\_r, m\_  
 G\_d, th\_ R\_ck m\_ S\_v\_r.'"

Ps\_lm 89:26, N\_V

Answer: "He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'" Psalm 89:26, NIV

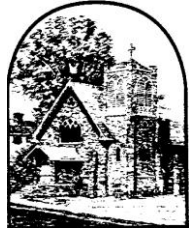
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**†PURPOSE†**

“God calls us together; we seek to respond to His word as disciples of Jesus Christ by ministering to one another, to the community in which we live, and to all humanity.”



# The Record



**June 2017**

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