



May, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church of Plymouth,

It seems to be more the sheer coincidence that the Gospel Reading for April 29th included in John 15:2 the concept that God prunes the branches, each of us, so that we can bear more fruit for the Kingdom. Pruning can take many forms, but ultimately it involves some sort of change to the branch. The concept of change is also addressed by the writer of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, where in Chapter 3 we read, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." Change usually takes some getting used to, but ultimately the changes God implements in our lives are part of the Lord's plan.

A few weeks ago, the Governor of the State of Connecticut nominated a number of people to become judges of the Superior Court. As I told the Congregation a few weeks ago (and as some had already known), I was included in the nominations. It is an honor and a privilege to have been nominated, and the nomination must now be confirmed by both chambers of the State legislature. If confirmed, I will no longer be able to practice law (other than in the context of being a judge). Furthermore, a judge must remain impartial and treat everyone equally. Therefore, to prevent actual and perceived conflicts of interest and bias, the personal and professional activities of judges are restricted. According to the Code of Judicial Conduct, I will not be able to serve as a pastor of a church while serving as a judge.

I am working with the leadership of our Church to ensure as smooth of a transition in pastoral leadership as possible, if I in fact become a judge. Although I had submitted the materials required to be considered for a judicial nomination years before coming to Plymouth, I only became aware of a potential nomination a short while ago. The process required absolute confidentiality and I was not able to tell my own family until the nomination was announced publicly by the Governor.

While this is a time of uncertainty for all of us, I am convinced that God is in action and that whatever unfolds is part of God's plan for all of us. Therefore, even though pruning isn't always easy, I have confidence that end result will be that we will all bear more fruit for the Kingdom.

I'll keep you posted as the confirmation process takes place, and I thank you all for your patience, prayers, and well-wishes throughout this process.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

May Sermons



- May 6** **John 15:9-17** **"Sometimes It's Easier to Love Those We Don't Know"**
- May 13** **John 17:6-19** **"A Good Reference Is All We Need"**
- May 20** **John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15** **"Sadness Leads to Joy"**
- May 27** **Memorial Sunday - We will be worshipping on the Plymouth Green with our friends from the First Congregational Church of Plymouth and Terryville Congregational Church.**



DAILY BIBLE READINGS MAY 2018



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

1 John 14:1-14
2 John 14:15-31
3 John 15:1-17
4 John 15:18-16:15
5 John 16:16-33
6 Revelation 1:1-20
7 Revelation 2:1-29
8 Revelation 3:1-22
9 Revelation 4:1-11
10 Acts 1:1-26

11 Ezekiel 1:1-2:1
12 Ezekiel 2:2-3:15
13 Ezekiel 10:1-22
14 Ezekiel 36:1-15
15 Ezekiel 36:16-38
16 Ezekiel 37:1-28
17 Ezekiel 43:1-12
18 Ezekiel 43:13-27
19 Ezekiel 47:1-12
20 Acts 2:1-28

21 Acts 2:1-28
22 Acts 3:1-26
23 Acts 4:1-22
24 Acts 4:23-31
25 Acts 6:1-15
26 Acts 7:1-22
27 Acts 7:23-43
28 Acts 7:44-8:3
29 Acts 8:4-25
30 Acts 8:26-40
31 Acts 19:1-10

All in the Family

Our condolences to **Anthony & Tonya DiBella** on the passing of Anthony's father, Joseph DiBella...**Denise Gilbert** has undergone some recent testing. We are happy to say that ALL turned out well...Good news, **Joel Fairchild** is doing well after both surgeries and is back to work!!!...**Betty Salerno** has been in rehab after a short hospital stay. Get well soon, Betty...**Joyce Drew** is doing well and will most likely be going home. She is awaiting special equipment to be installed before her release...Congratulations to **Pastor Mike** who is one of 14 state residents that have been nominated by Governor Malloy for a judgeship on the CT Supreme Court.

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

am – 4 pm. You can call the Church Office (860/283-6181) to arrange a drop off time or arrange a pick up if needed.

Help get the word out to the community that all are welcome to come and take clothing for themselves and their family.



MOTHER'S DAY – May 13th

Bring the whole family to celebrate Mother's Day. Always a special time to affirm those who mean so much to us all. Flowers will be given to all the mothers present.



MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Our annual observance of Memorial Day in Plymouth takes place on Sunday, May 27th beginning with a Worship Service at 10 a.m., followed by a reading of the Gettysburg Address at the far end of the Plymouth Green, weather permitting. There is NO parade this year.

This is always a beautiful and moving community remembrance. Do join us.



SPRING CLOTHES CLOSET GIVEAWAY – May 25th + 26th

Got clothes? Please donate them to First Baptist for our Spring Clothing Giveaway on Friday, May 25th from 4 – 7 pm and Saturday, May 26th from 10



THE MUSIC CORNER

MAY 2018

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

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday were joyous days in the church. On Easter Sunday Tonya and Arlene played hand bells with the choir on an Easter Introit; what a beautiful sound it was to hear the bells.

The children joined the choir on Palm Sunday to sing "Hosanna." Everyone seemed to like the mixed choir, so the choir is currently learning a song for Baptism Sunday called "I Got It" in which the children would also sing.

Rehearsals are on Fridays, 6:00 – 7:15. They are a mix of singing and laughing and being in communion with each other. Consider joining us for a week or two.

Julie



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

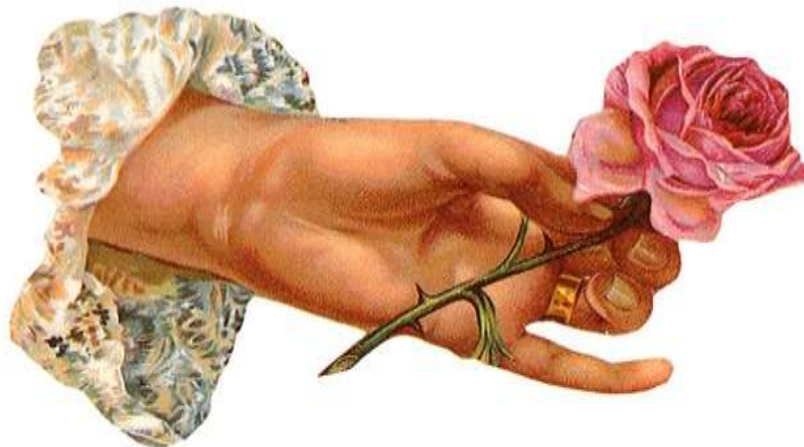


Craig Fiermonte	5/2
Laurie Goldreich	5/7
Boden Charles Stanton	5/7
Deborah Dellaquilla	5/9
Faith Mbabli	5/10
Eunice Johnston	5/15
Steve Johnston	5/25
Daniel Stanton	5/26
Ted B. Durley	5/28
David + Eunice Johnston	5/20



MOMENTS OF MEDITATION NOW ON PODCAST

Listen to M.O.M. with Pastor Mike
firstbaptistplymouth.ecucomm.ro
and clicking on the podcast link .



CELEBRATING MOM

HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.

Mom, you're the light of my life!



What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M	N	O
E	F	G	P	R	S
H	I	L	T	U	Y

" _____ your _____
 and your _____,
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____."
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV

†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



May 2018
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Return Service Request

Dated Materials – Deliver Promptly to: