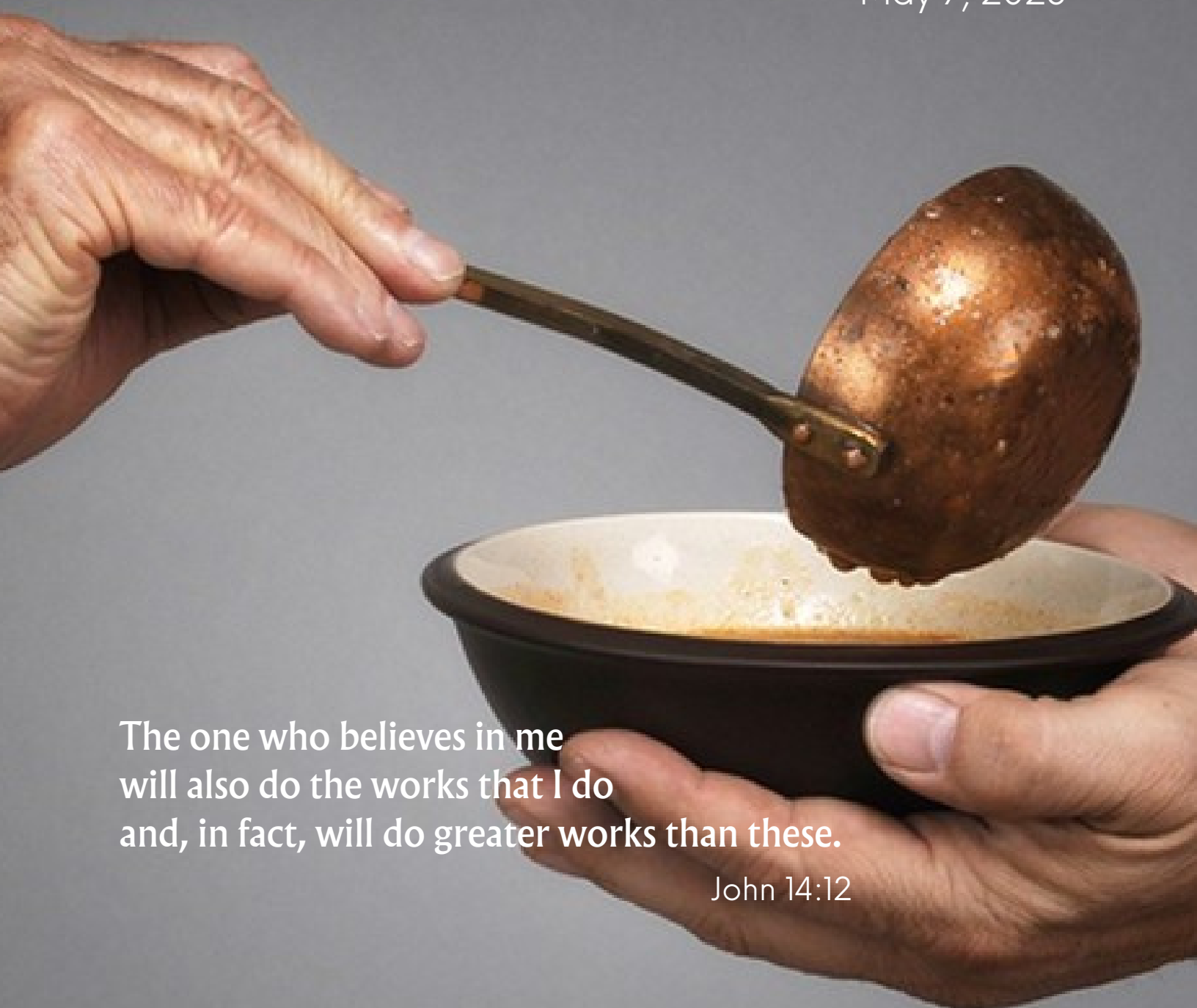


# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

A close-up photograph showing a hand holding a golden, reflective egg over a black bowl filled with a light-colored soup. The egg is held by a thin metal rod. The background is a plain, light gray.

The one who believes in me  
will also do the works that I do  
and, in fact, will do greater works than these.

John 14:12

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**Sunday, May 7, 2023**  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Tolling of the Bell

Prelude

*Largo*

*Eccles*

Call to Worship

\*Opening Hymn

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Welcome and Announcements

Unison Prayer of Invocation

**Generous God, remind us again of the power of doing good and investing in the lives of others. It can be so easy to get caught up in our own lives that we forget the simple acts of kindness which can make a world of difference. We want to seize the day and not miss any opportunities. Show us the paths where we might follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*The Peace of Christ

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

**All: And also with you!**

Acts 7:55-60

Blessing

Sermon

"Emergence"

Choir Anthem

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Johnson*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*The Servant Song*

*Honore*

Doxology

*Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.*

***Children Join Us in the Sanctuary***

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\* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

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## A 10-year Anniversary

*We believe all people are created in the image of God, and we embrace Jesus' call to love one another. We commit ourselves to the ongoing work of being an Open and Affirming congregation. We strive, with God's grace, to welcome all persons into our community. We celebrate our differences, including age, race, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, mental and physical ability, and spiritual tradition. We invite all to share fully the life, leadership, ministry and sacraments of this church. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we journey together in faith.*

## Holy Communion

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Consecration*

*Sharing the Elements*

*Communion Hymn #288 Let Us Break Bread Together (verses 1 and 2)*

*Post Communion Prayer*

*This morning, the bread is allergen-free, so we may all partake together. A Deacon will signal your pew when to come forward to receive the bread and cup. Bring both back to the pew with you, so we may eat together. We would be happy to bring the elements to you; just let the Deacon know as they come by.*

\*Closing Hymn

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

\*Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

*Minuet in G*

*Handel*

*Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission. You may sit for the Choral Response and Postlude in quiet contemplation.*

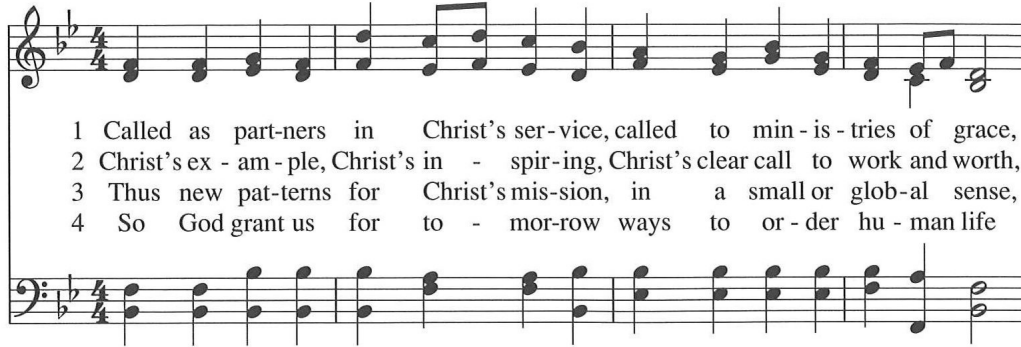


*All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.*

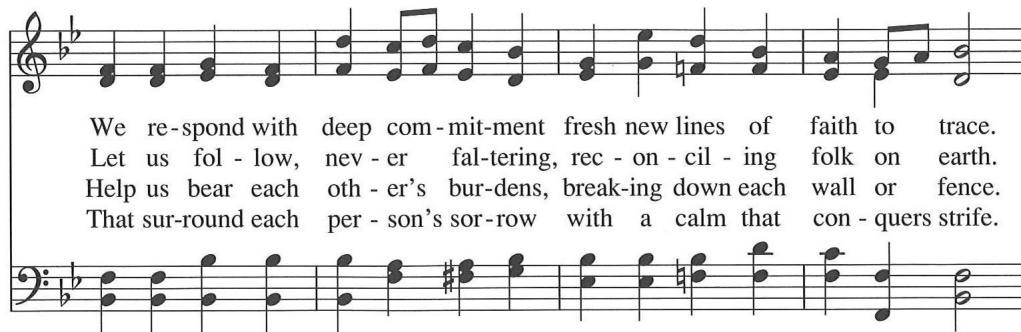
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## Called as Partners in Christ's Service

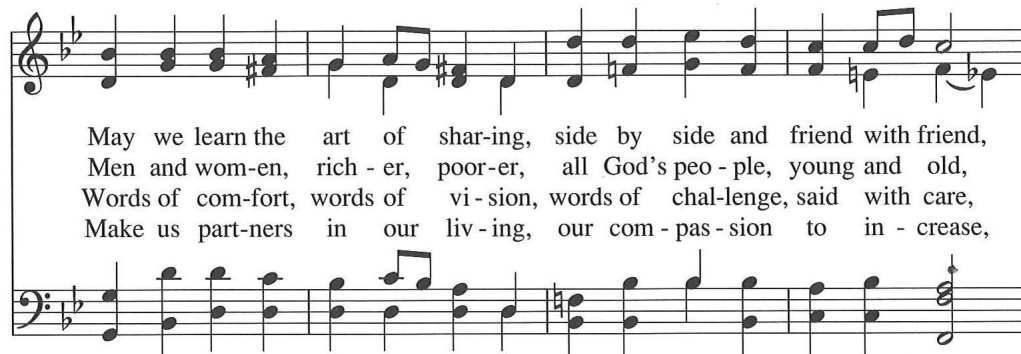
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*Jane Parker Huber, 1981**John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22*


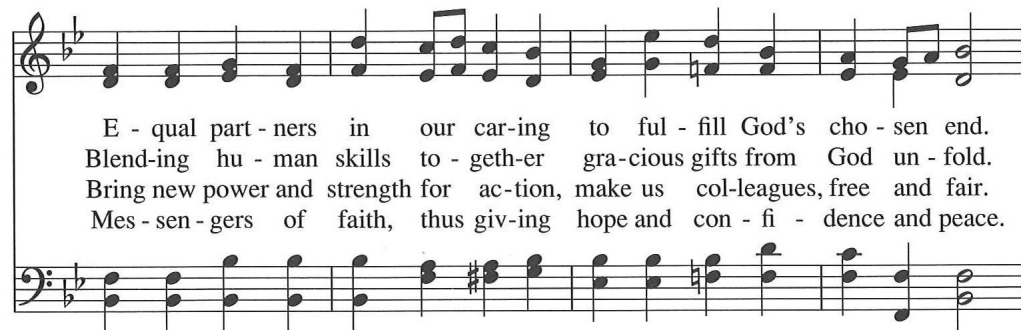
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
 Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.  
 Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.  
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

*One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.*

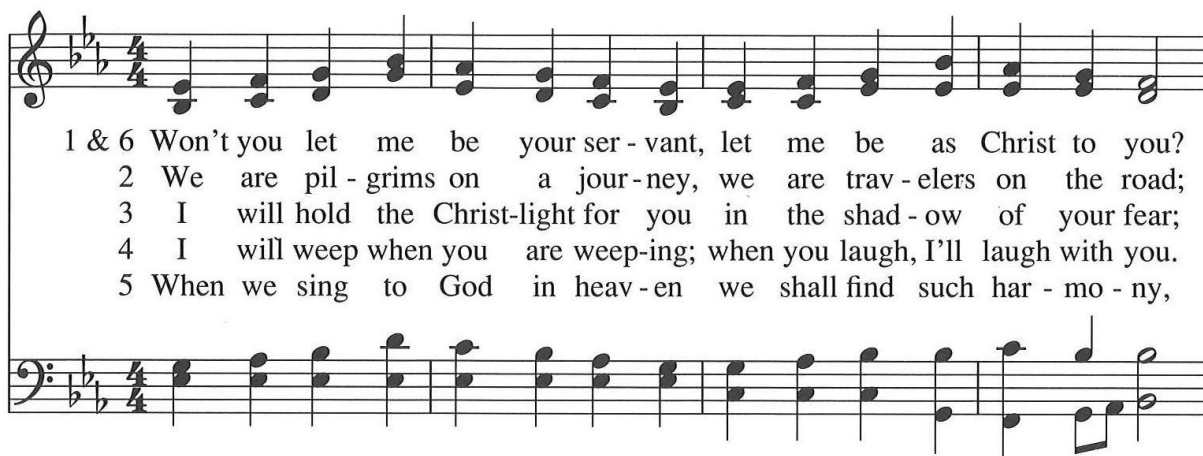
Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.  
 John Zundel, 1855  
 For another key, see 43, 368

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

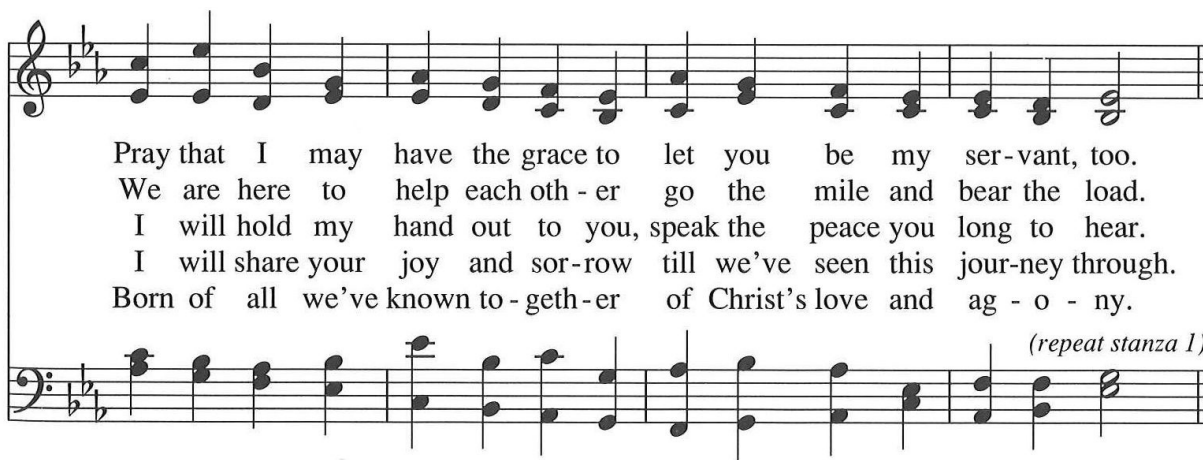
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.  
Richard Gillard, 1977  
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

# Bulletin Reminders for May 7, 2023

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**TODAY, May 7**

We will be collecting gifts for this important United Church of Christ special offering on Sunday, **May 7**. (Envelopes are available.) Your gifts to *One Great Hour of Sharing* provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world. There is great need in the world and we can grow weary because we do not know how to help. God's Spirit energizes and re-energizes us in every season. We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

**Hearing: Sunday, May 7**

**Meeting: Sunday, May 14**

This spring, several important items will come before the congregation for discussion: updates to our Church By Laws, a proposal for Solar Panels on the Sanctuary roof, and nominations for Officers and Committee members. There will be a presentation on **May 7** to allow for expanded discussion; the formal meeting will take place on **May 14**. (*NOTE: the meeting is a week earlier than in previous years to make space for Children and Youth Sunday, May 21.*)

## SPRING CLOTHING SALE

**Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3**

The Rummage Sale is now: "Pre-Loved/Used Clothing Sale for the whole family" We are encouraging donations of nicer quality items to provide our shelters and schools with the head start they need for success! Please sort and label your donations of men's, women's, teens, babies, boy's and girl's items. We can receive donations beginning Sunday, **May 28** and the following week. As always, we will look for your help and fun participation in the execution of this community service. Details will follow as our plans unfold!  
Contact Mattie, 774.217.3477

## ANNUAL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

**Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please check your perennial beds for seedlings and/or plants to be divided for potting up and donating. All gardeners, interested novices, and anybody willing to help, please join the fun. Volunteers are needed for set-up and staffing. Donated perennial plants can be left the week of the sale. Additionally, extra empty pots (at least 6 inches in diameter) may be left next to the shed at your earliest convenience.

Ellen, evrivoir@gmail.com, 508.877.8482

Leona, lldorlmd@verizon.net, 508.481.5770

## TIME AGAIN FOR SPRING YARD CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, May 13**

Meet at The Plymouth Church on Saturday (8:45 a.m. and or 12:45 p.m.)

Be part of a caring community and help older residents in need of your services. Organized by the Framingham Council on Aging, The Callahan Center. Sam Swisher will be taking sign-ups via email over the next weeks at ccvolrec@gmail.com. *See details in your Wednesday Email.*

## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY

**Sunday, May 21**

Our children and youth have been studying the parable of the Good Samaritan. And who is our neighbor? Make sure to be here for this

## MEMORIAL DAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

**Donation Drop-off Begins May 14**

As part of our Memorial weekend worship service, hosted by Plymouth Church, we will collect items for the *Soldier Care Package Outreach*, coordinated by First Baptist Church, in Hingham. They will take our donations, along with the cards our young people will make, and send them in care packages to people serving overseas. Right now, they need: **Slim Jims, Twizzlers, small canned fruit, ground coffee, eye drops, Tylenol, puzzle books, sleeping masks, small individual Kleenex, or nuts.** Please bring your donations to worship on Sunday, May 28, or drop them by the Parish Hall, starting Sunday, **May 14.**