



## InSpire Weekly News & Updates

January 27, 2022 / Issue 56

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### Sunday Morning

Join us for worship online. View the Zoom [link](#) and service order for Sunday, January 30th [here](#).

### Parish Care Ministry

View the Prayer listing [page](#) and January birthday [page](#).



## CCT Church Office Contact us.

Link to Signboard request form [here](#) for events on the church calendar.



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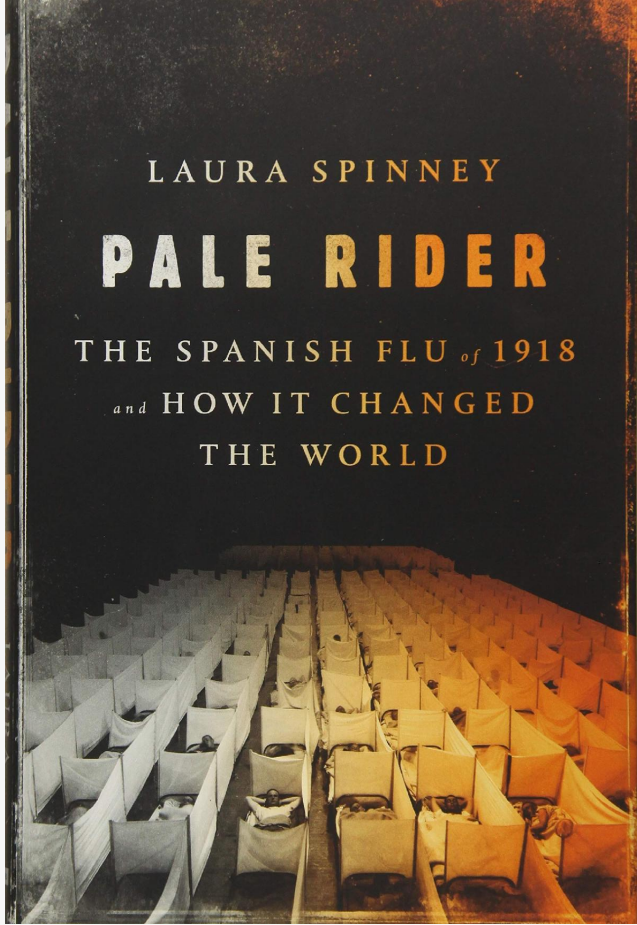
### Martin's Musings

#### **Penuel: An Obscure Name That Nobody Can Pronounce**

This year, from April 19<sup>th</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup> I will be on sabbatical leave. I will provide more information and perspective on this privilege and opportunity during my sermon on Sunday.

According to my employment agreement, the leave was due two years ago. I approached council with the idea of applying for a Lilly grant (from Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company) and to postpone the leave for one year. Council agreed and our application was successful. An initiative that we requested funding for, was the training of leaders in the community and in our church to facilitate respectful conversation in a polarized environment.

After careful consideration the project



LAURA SPINNEY  
**PALE RIDER**  
THE SPANISH FLU *of* 1918  
*and* HOW IT CHANGED  
THE WORLD

### Gather for a Pandemic Read and Discussion

**PALE RIDER: The Spanish Flu of 1918  
and How It Changed the World  
2017, by Laura Spinney, British science  
journalist/writer**

Join a group read and discussion of this book, written pre-Covid, to talk about the experience of 'our' pandemic and one that killed more people than two world wars.

Despite its historic detail, it flows easily as the author describes how different cultures/countries responded....in ways similar to what we've been experiencing. Reading about how things that went right and wrong, and how social structures changed as a result are very revealing of the universality of human nature.

Few, if any, of us have past experience with a pandemic, so in some ways, reading this book may validate the fear and confusion we've been experiencing and in some sense, 'normalize' it, in that it has happened in the past.

Available on Amazon (4.5 stars with 1,552 reviews) in Kindle and paperback

team, consisting of Steve Whelan, Jackie Cassidy, Mike Ierardi and myself, selected Essential Partners, Inc., a Boston based company, to provide this training. Some of our members participated in the training and through our newsletter, our membership received some information on the project.

We chose the name “The Penuel Dialogue Project” for our initiative. It is not a word or name that one would encounter in everyday contemporary New England life. Let me try to explain my thinking in suggesting this name to our team.

One first encounters this word in the Bible in the book of Genesis. Genesis 32 and 33 describes an episode in the life of the two brothers, Jacob and Esau. Jacob, after defrauding Esau earlier, fled and hid from Esau until he ran out of space and time as described in these chapters. The narrative sets us up for expecting a brutal, violent encounter and probably a massacre. Peniel or Penuel was the name of the place where Jacob “wrestled with God” and subsequently faced Esau. It is a rich and layered passage, with interesting theological motives and reflecting different stages in the development of the thinking about and images of God or gods.

Without analyzing those, I thought one element attached to that place name would serve us well in the identity giving and meaning making process of the project. The motive that I wanted to be formative for the project was the surprising outcome in a tense and antagonistic environment: where we expected violence and probable death, people met, talked to each other, and changed the seemingly inevitable spiral of violence to a trajectory of understanding of “the other”.

I hope something of that symbolism and narrative, translated and brought into our current reality, can provide sustenance and guidance as we do the difficult work of countering the dominant culture of “othering”, of enthusiastically embracing your own bubble, and of diligently protecting source(s) of information that affirms your own perspectives.

I think that is essential and prophetic work in our current climate and

for \$12–\$13.

7:15 pm – 8:15 pm Tuesday evenings,  
3 sessions on Zoom  
February 8, 15, 22  
Contact Jackie to sign up:  
[jacassiday@comcast.net](mailto:jacassiday@comcast.net);  
978-852-4567/leave a message



### Enable MassNotify on your smartphone

Know if you've been exposed and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

**MassNotify** is a free smartphone service that people in Massachusetts can voluntarily use to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Launched in June of 2021, MassNotify was developed in partnership with Apple and Google, and it can be enabled on an iPhone or Android phone in seconds.

#### **How it Works:**

When two people using MassNotify are near each other, their phones exchange random codes using Bluetooth. These random codes are completely anonymous, with no location tracking or exchange of personal information.

When a person in Massachusetts tests positive for COVID-19 they will receive a text message with instructions on how to anonymously share their test result. If they do share their result, MassNotify users who were near the person who tested positive may receive an anonymous alert on their phone about

environment. I hope our membership will embrace this initiative as we try to make a contribution to the well-being of our community and our nation.

I included a link that you can click on to help with the pronunciation of the name. Here it is:

<https://www.howtopronounce.com/penuel>

Shalom

Martin.

their possible exposure to COVID-19.

MassNotify can be easily enabled on a smartphone through Settings on both Apple and Android phones. Instructions for enabling on a phone, along with more information about MassNotify, can be found at:

[www.mass.gov/massnotify](http://www.mass.gov/massnotify)

MassNotify is safe, anonymous, secure and voluntary. It will not collect information about who you are, where you go, or with whom you come in contact. Users can maintain privacy while utilizing a COVID-19 awareness tool to help protect themselves and their families, especially right before the holiday season.

*Shared by:*  
**Sheryl Knutsen RN, MSN, PHNCS-BC**  
**Chair, Topsfield Board of Health**

**Explore how your consumption of the 'news' impacts your daily life, relationships and perspectives.**

**JOIN US!**  
**FEBRUARY 5TH**  
**10 - 11:30 AM**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**Dialoguing opportunity for The Penuel Dialogue Project 2021 training group!**

**Together, let's practice our skills and find ways to move forward with our commitments to facilitate meaningful dialogue in community groups. Join us, as the steering committee serves as dialoguing facilitators, and you participate in the discussion.**

**Following the dialogue, we'll engage in an informal group discussion of next steps of the PDP.**

**Kindly RSVP to Jackie Cassidy [jacassiday@comcast.net](mailto:jacassiday@comcast.net) by Tuesday February 1, 2022.**



**FEBRUARY CCoT DAY AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2022  
**Location:** 22 Old County Rd, Salisbury  
**Time:** Start 8:15 to 8:30 am; End 3:30 to 4:00 pm  
**Group size:** 6, adults (18 years or older) only  
**Type of work:** Likely painting, more information in January  
**Equipment needed:** None  
**Lunch:** Bring your own lunch, water, coffee (morning pastries supplied)  
**COVID 19 Requirements:** Masks are required.

For more information or to sign up, contact: **Jim Barnes**, Board of Missions and Outreach  
at [jhbarnes1@mac.com](mailto:jhbarnes1@mac.com)  
or 978-764-1583.

Thank you!

