



Pilgrim's Progress

December 2024



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

FROM YOUR MINISTER

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Grace and peace to you

Ready or not—*Welcome to Advent.*

I suspect that many of you have begun preparations. I wish I could ask for a raise of hands—how many of you have: Baked Christmas cookies? Put up your Christmas tree? Trimmed the inside and outside of your home? Started writing Christmas cards? Have listened to Bing Crosby? Watched the Christmas epics, Die Hard, or Christmas Vacation, or Miracle on 34th Street, or It's a Wonderful Life?

My guess is that many have done some of those things, but not all of them. This is not surprising, because Advent is a season of preparation and ritual. It is not a season where we do the one thing and then cross it off our list (I am thinking about you, 4th of July). Instead, it is a season that takes time.

Sometimes Advent feels like a terribly slow season. Some years I think to myself: It would be nice if Christmas would just get here. But Advent cannot be rushed. We must go through all the movements of this season. Sometimes Advent feels like a terribly fast season. Some years I think to myself: It would be nice if I could just have one more week before Christmas arrived, just so I can get everything done. But Advent cannot be slowed. We must go through all the movements of this season.

Advent arrives if we are ready—or not.

That's the thing about Advent: Some years are rushed and it feels like Advent comes crashing down all of a sudden. But other years, I feel prepared, and I move through the season and am able to lean in and enjoy all that it is. And I never quite know how Advent will arrive and move. Will it be rushed and filled with anxiety? Will it be comfortable and filled with calm? I have found, no matter if I am rushed or ready, the process of Advent remains the same. It will always include trees, and lights, and cookies, and movies—and most importantly, sitting with Mary, pregnant and waiting, listening to the angels wondering if we are ready or not.

Advent is a season that must take its time. But it also moves with great haste. And each year, we are invited along through this season, trusting our beloved rituals and stories to wait alongside Mary for another beginning.

And this beginning arrives whether we are ready or not. Because God did not wait till the world was at peace—till all the nations were still—till all the bellies were fed. God came to a world that was and was not ready. But this is how birth works: It happens when it happens—sometimes its too early— sometimes it is too late—but birth never stops to ask, *"Are you ready or not?"*

Ready or not—welcome to Advent.

I pray that you lean fully into and trust the process of this season.

With much love, Pastor Ashley





PILGRIM ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Worship Events at Pilgrim

- ♦ **Worship Services.** Join us at 8 and 10:30 for worship services, which includes our special Advent Candle Lighting.
- ♦ **Weekly Vesper Services.** Pastor Ashley continues Wednesday Vesper Service throughout December at 6:15 pm via Zoom.
- ♦ **Women's Advent Service, December 9**—please read below.
- ♦ **Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service, December 19, 7:00 pm**
Pastor Ashley will lead this special in-person service. While we do have feelings of Joy during this season, there are many who feel sadness, fear, and anxiety.
- ♦ **Christmas Cantata, December 22**—presented at both 8 and 10:30 services.
- ♦ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 3:00 / 5:00 / 9:00 pm** We look forward to sharing the *Blessings of Christmas* with you.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 29 Worship Services: 9:00 am:** A New Year's Party with appetizers will follow after service.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Prep Work: Tuesday, December 3

Decorating: Wednesday, December 4

Begins at 6:30 each evening

Please join the Worship Committee for our annual decorating of the sanctuary and narthex. A few extra hands will be helpful to compete the work. If you are available to help on either of those days, please contact Ron Wildasin or any member of the Worship Team.



Thank you.

Visit page 9 for articles on "Celebrating the Holidays When One is a Caregiver" and "Mental Wellness and the Holidays"



Women's Advent Candlelight Service, Monday, December 9

Ladies, join us for your very own special night of song, stories, candlelight, and relaxation during these hectic holiday preparations.

Friendship and dessert at 6:30, with the service to follow at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you on December 9.



Pilgrim Family Fund: This is an opportunity to help members within our congregation who are experiencing financial hardship. Please use envelopes in the pews, online option, or send to church, noting that it is for the "Pilgrim Family Fund."

December Scripture Readings

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Sign of Things to Come | Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36 |
| 8 | Make Ready | Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philemon 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6 |
| 15 | Look Forward | Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philemon 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18 |
| 22 | Moving with Mary's Song | Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 |
| 29 | Who is This Child? | 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52 |

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Luke 1:46-47

Love Made a Way

The Journey of Christmas

By: Mary McDonald and Jay Rouse

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 8 AND 10:30 AM

FEATURING PILGRIM UCC CHOIR

DIRECTED BY: JOHN REITER

PILGRIM CHURCH 1621 SECOND AVE,
GRAFTON, WI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Immediately following the 10:30 worship service, we will gather in Kalweit Hall for a light lunch (free will offering will be taken). We will then carpool and sing traditional carols to our Pilgrim friends who are homebound or in need of extra cheer. All voices are welcome. This is a great opportunity to spread kindness.



YOUTH COOKIE BAKE:

Sunday, December 15,
between services

Visit Youth Page 4
for more info.



Pilgrim's online
giving link:

[Online Giving](#)



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE - DECEMBER 31

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING:**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025



NEIGHBORS IN NEED – We have collected a total of \$1,405 for this UCC Special Mission that highlights our God-given right to mental health. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who they are or where they are on life's mental health journey. A check will be sent to our Conference Office.

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to this special UCC offering.



MOUNT HOREB CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT A check will be delivered, along with the decorated light bulbs, to Rev. Hopgood at Mount Horeb as soon as all donations are added together. A final amount will be posted in the January *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Thank you for giving so generously to this holiday Mission project. Your love and support for our sister church is wonderful and greatly appreciated.

DESSERTS FOR ST. BEN'S COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM – We have once again been asked to contribute two dozen cookies or bars, which will be added to the lunch that volunteers from St. Joe's, Grafton, deliver to St. Ben's on the first Friday of the month. If you would be willing to purchase or bake cookies or bars and drop them off at St. Joes, please put your name on the sign-up form on the Missions bulletin board. Thank you so much! ***New volunteers are welcome!***

A special thank you to LaVerne Johnson, Judy Kopka, Susan Maca, Diane Nauta, Donna Tredrea and Janet VanZile, who provided desserts this past year. You are greatly appreciated!



THE CHRISTMAS FUND For over one hundred years, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers and their families.

Last year **The Christmas Fund** provided over \$1.9 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families.

This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who have devoted their lives to serving others. We will accept donations through the month of December. Please use an envelope found in the pews or use the online giving link and note that your donation is for **The Christmas Fund**.



"The Glory of God shone around them" ...Luke 2:9

WINTER FOOD DRIVE FOR FAMILY SHARING Our annual non-perishable food drive will begin on December 31 and will continue through the month of January. Family Sharing's food pantry is always in need of restocking after the holidays. The suggested list of most needed items include canned fruit, beans, and vegetables, tuna, salmon and chicken, cereal, flour, peanut butter, jelly and spaghetti sauce. Also needed are the following personal care items: toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and unscented bar soap. A bin will be located in the carport entrance beginning December 31.



*If you have been enjoying the Advent Calendar shared last month, you may very well have collected some of these items at home by December 31! Calendar copies may be found at church, or the list included here on page 8.
Thank you so much for your donations.*

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS:

- ♦ **Empty Printer Cartridges**— Drop off your ink cartridge in the bin located in the carport entrance. The cartridges can be new, used, any brand, and in any condition. Funds raised from the ink cartridge collections will be contributed to the VIP General Fund. *Neither toner or laser cartridges, nor large print cartridges are accepted at this time.*
- ♦ **Empty Prescription Vials**—Please drop off your empty amber (only) prescription bottles in the bin located in the carport entrance. They will be delivered to the Bread of Healing Clinic.
- ♦ **Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House, MKE** Please drop off your Pop Tabs in the collection box located on the table in the Narthex. Once the box is full, they will be delivered to Ronald McDonald House MKE. Visit the table as you enter Narthex for the collection box.

Our next **Mission Team Meeting** will be **Sunday, January 12, 2025, immediately following the 10:30am service.**

Any Pilgrim member/friend interested in joining the Mission Team is welcome to attend.

Please contact Lucy Wyka at Missions@pilgrimuccgrafton.org

Pilgrim's online giving link: [Online Giving](#)

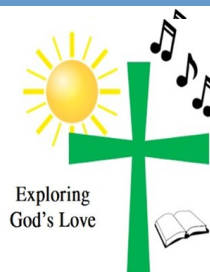


Pilgrim Children's Hour

A Reminder: Children's Hour now begins after the Children's Time during the 10:30 am worship service for ALL kids (3K-6th Grade).

On the 3rd Sunday of the month, we will bring the kids back upstairs to participate in communion.

JOIN US on Sundays for stories, songs, crafts, games, snacks, and more!!!



Pilgrim Children's Hour
United Church of Christ

[Click Here to Register your Child for the 24-25 Program Year](#)

NO Children's Hour on December 22 and Dec 29

We will be celebrating Christmas during Children's Hour on Sunday, December 15.



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

You are invited to attend the worship services on Dec. 22, 24, and 29. There are kids bags hanging on the window next to the nametags in the Narthex if you are looking for activities for your children to do during the service.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

**Reminder – We will NOT have a Children's Christmas Program this year as we switch off each year with Pilgrim's choir who will be singing during the Dec.*

Pilgrim's Nursery

The nursery is open on Sundays during the 10:30 am service.

The nursery is available for children 6 weeks through 3 years old.

It is staffed by two youth workers EVERY Sunday!



Contact the Children's Ministry Team: childrensministry@pilgrimuccgrafton.org



Devon Polzar -

Elementary/Middle School Education Coordinator

Tracey Van Ryzin -

Children's Ministry Education Coordinator



Confirmation Classes @ Pilgrim

The Confirmation Classes have begun and are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm
Contact us if you have a 7th or 8th grader who would like to participate.



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all those who supported the Youth Mission Trip by purchasing Marcus gift cards/tickets. Watch for an email to let you know when the your order is ready for pickup at church!

Youth Mission Trip - Brooklyn, NY **July 12-19, 2025**

For those attending the trip this year, please watch for an email with a payment schedule and a Mission Trip meeting in January!

Upcoming Fundraisers **To support the Youth Mission Trip:**



[Cookie Baking Help 2024](#)

BABYSITTING NIGHT:

Friday, December 20, 6:00-8:30 pm—drop off your children for popcorn and a movie. See info link below!



[Movie Night Babysitting fundraiser 2024 1.png](#)

Youth Cookie Bake Sale

Sunday, December 15

Youth will be baking cookies

December 12-14

****We will be looking for donations of baking supplies, too!**

Contact the Youth Ministries Team: youthministry@pilgrimuccgrifton.org

Devon Polzar

Elementary/Middle School Coordinator

Meg Claeys

Middle/High School Coordinator





There will not be a Women's Journey lunch or Coffee Chat this month. See you "next year!"

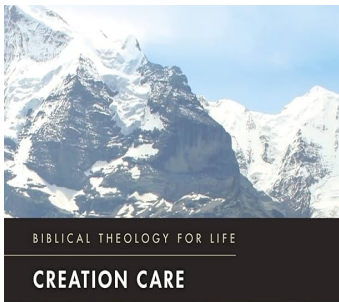
SCOPA Group will meet **on Monday, December 2, at 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room.

SHEEPSHEAD—The group will meet on Friday, **December 13, at 1:00 pm** in the conference room, and will resume the twice a month schedule in January.

FUNSETTERS—No lunch is scheduled for the month of December, but will resume again on **Tuesday, January 28.**

DOMINOES—For those interested in playing Dominoes, mark your calendar for **Wednesday, January 15, at 1:00 pm.** We'll meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

CRIBBAGE—For those interested in Cribbage, mark your calendar for **Tuesday, January 21, at 1:00 pm.** We'll meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the conference room.



Adult Study - Sunday Mornings
9:15 –10:00

Downstairs Conference Room

Current video series is:
Creation Care: A Biblical
Theology of the Natural World,
by Douglas J. Moo and
Jonathan A. Moo.

This includes 14 episodes.

The group has finished 3 thus far, and you are welcome to join at anytime.

BREAKFAST & LEARN

Please join us for Breakfast & Learn on Saturday, January 11 at 7:30am as **Siena Carli** will talk about rowing.

Siena is a member of the Milwaukee Rowing Club varsity high school team. She will go over rowing basics, her experience on the high school rowing team, and the excitement of race day at regattas across the country.



"When you give of yourself to help others, whether it be through your time, your talents or your resources, a miracle happens. And that miracle is you get back more than you give."

---Dr. Michael Lovell
(Late president of Marquette University)

Giving Tuesday
December 3, 2024

FALLS PATIO PLAYERS

DECEMBER 6 - 8

FRIDAY	7:00PM
SATURDAY	3:00PM & 7:00PM
SUNDAY	1:00PM & 4:00PM

ADMISSION

ADULTS / SENIORS	\$15
STUDENTS	\$10

DECEMBER 6 - SCHOOL SHOWS
9:00AM - 10:30AM - 12:45PM
Reservations required for school shows!
Call us at 262-437-7336.

North Middle School Auditorium
N88W16750 Garfield Dr.
Menomonee Falls, WI
fallspatioplayers.com

Pilgrim Members' holiday performances:
They would love to see you in the audience!

Messiah

bringing communities together through God's Word

December 6, 2024

Friday at 7:30 pm (Doors open at 7)
St. Robert Catholic Parish
4019 N Farwell Ave, Shorewood, WI

December 8, 2024

Sunday at 3 pm (Doors open at 2:30)
Crossroads Presbyterian Church
6031 W Chapel Hill Rd, Mequon, WI

Free admission!
Donations benefiting
Milwaukee Rescue Mission welcome.

Milwaukee Area Messiah Community Chorus & Orchestra

mamcco

www.mamcco.org + info@mamcco.org + www.facebook.com/mamcco/



Our Thanks to....

HOSPITALITY Team—To those who assisted during memorial luncheons.

THANKSGIVING MEAL—To Hope Holland-Mullins for preparing food, and also to all those who assisted in providing such a wonderful fellowship opportunity. Many thanks to all those who participated and brought sides to share.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE—To Cherie Burton for decorating the sanctuary, and to those who assisted with the service, and participants who provided delicious breads to share.

TECH TEAM—For always providing stellar live-streaming and sound, and working out issues that arise without notice!

MEAL BLITZ—For those who made a meal for someone in need.

For Healing and Strength:

*For Dorothy Sorenson, who received a pacemaker last month and is now recovering at home.

*For Janet Van Zile, who recovers from finger surgery.

*For Richard Martin, who remains in hospice care at Cedar Community. Prayers for Richard, his sons, and their families in the upcoming days and weeks.

*For Mary Hay, who fell recently and fractured her hip. She is recuperating at Newcastle Place, and hopes to be home soon.

*For Don Huibregtse, who recently received a bone marrow transplant and is now recovering at home.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

*For Julie Rottier, who remains at home recovering.

*For Rhonda, Mike & Meg Claeys' mother/mother-in-law, who is receiving chemo treatments.

*For Martha Whitaker, who is in hospice care.

*For the safety of all our military personnel.

*For all those who are expecting.

*For all those who struggle with mental illness.

*For all who are caregivers for family & friends.

*For all who are homebound in senior living and assisted living facilities.

*For our brothers & sisters at Mount Horeb Baptist Church.

Congratulations

*To Richard and Martha Whitaker on the birth of their 3rd grandchild, Mars Nova Branciforte, on November 24, 2024 in Durham, NC. Mars was born on his great-grandmother's birthday. Parents are Beth (the Whitaker's daughter) and wife Gia Branciforte.

With Sympathy:

*For Ross Walker, husband of Rev. Erv Uecker, who passed away on November 14.

*For the family of Willie Anderson, Lys Buck's father, who recently passed away.



OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES OR HOMEBOUND

Pam Paul, Home

Carolyn Fuhr, Village Pointe Commons

Elizabeth Hembel, Lasata Care Center

Richard Martin, Cedar West

Jack & Lila Landman, Home



OUR MEMBERS IN THE SERVICE

Adam Lusty—US Army, Staff Sergeant

Mark Aaron Schubert—US Air Force-Airman

Garrett Rescorla—US Marine Corps, PFC, New River, NC; schooling for aviation mechanics, with aircrew to follow

Josh Meier—Army National Guard, Pvt.

Luke Johnson—US Navy-Builder Chief Petty Officer

Jacob Godejohn—US Marine Corps, LCpl





ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO YOUR OWN BOX.
IN JANUARY, DONATE YOUR FILLED BOX TO
PILGRIM'S WINTER FOOD DRIVE FOR FAMILY SHARING.

- December 1 – box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3 – stuffing mix
- December 4 – boxed potatoes
- December 5 – macaroni and cheese
- December 6 – canned fruit
- December 7 – canned tomatoes
- December 8 – canned tuna
- December 9 – dessert mix
- December 10 – jar of applesauce
- December 11 – canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 – cranberry sauce
- December 13 – canned beans
- December 14 – box of crackers
- December 15 – package of rice
- December 16 – package of oatmeal
- December 17 – package of pasta
- December 18 – spaghetti sauce
- December 19 – chicken noodle soup
- December 20 – tomato soup
- December 21 – can corn
- December 22 – can mixed vegetables
- December 23 – can carrots
- December 24 – can green beans



Celebrating the Holidays when one is a Caregiver



It's December and somehow, someway, the holidays are once again here. What does that mean for a caregiver? Many times, additional stress, that they do not really need nor want. In my days of being the Caregiver Specialist at the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) of Ozaukee County, many phone calls I received in December were from caregivers who either felt they had to continue holiday traditions for their family or whose family members had those high expectations of them. So much of our holiday anticipation is tied up to Christmases in the past—the memories we made then and traditions that we have continued year after year. Although those traditions are cherished, they may no longer be feasible. Many of these traditions involve

lots of preparation time and energy. A caregiver usually does not have the time nor the ability to exert themselves any more than what their daily responsibilities currently require.

So how can family members help? First of all, be understanding that a loved one's situation has changed. Maybe offer to take the responsibility of hosting the holiday. Ordering a holiday dinner from a local grocer or restaurant rather than being homemade is another good option. If there is a person with dementia in the family, it may be best to take turns visiting. People with dementia can easily become overwhelmed with a large number of people present at one time, besides having their daily schedule disrupted. If there has been a long period of time since a family member has seen a loved one who has dementia, it often helpful if they introduce themselves to the person. This helps the one with memory problems acquaint themselves with the person without any embarrassment. If there are children that will be visiting, sitting down with them to explain grandpa or grandma's cognitive condition prior to the visit will help them understand some odd behaviors or responses that may occur.

Christmas is a time for families to gather together and enjoy each other's company. Making the holiday as simple and as stress free as possible can help to make this Christmas season a happy one. All it takes is a little pre-planning.

Merry Christmas to all!

-Contributed by Jan Braby

Mental Wellness and the Holidays

The holiday season brings joy and excitement to many here at Pilgrim as we decorate, sing carols, exchange gifts, and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. But not everyone experiences the same joy and excitement.

According to an American Psychological Association survey, 38% of people say their stress increases during the holidays. The National Alliance on Mental Illness says 64% of individuals living with mental illness feel their conditions worsen around the holidays, with 24% describing it as "a lot worse."

There is the stress caused by busy shopping centers, unrealistic expectations, social gatherings, travel, and financial pressures. There is sadness brought on by triggered memories, feelings of isolation and sadness for those who lost a loved one, and the guilt of lacking "holiday spirit". There are also physical disruptions to diet, sleep, exercise, and the seasonal lack of sunlight which can have a real impact on one's mental health.

While many struggle with these difficulties, they can be more severe for those with who suffer with anxiety and depression. But there are some steps to reduce these difficulties for yourself and your loved ones.

If someone you know is struggling during the holidays, Dr. Michael Wetter from Cedar-Sinai Hospital recommends reaching out to them. Some actions include letting them know you are there for them and that they matter, acknowledging that the holidays can be difficult and it is OK to not feel joyous, reminding them that the season will not last forever, and letting them know you do love them.

If you are struggling with the season, health writer Hope Gillette recommends setting boundaries to avoid doing too many things at once, while remembering to say yes to activities that energize you. She also recommends deep breathing, which can be as simple as focusing on exhaling longer than you inhale, as a way to calm the mind and body. For those who may suffer from the lack of sunlight, Gillette recommends using a light box for light therapy as a way to safely gain light exposure.

Crecenra Flim Boyd, a board certified licensed professional counselor, recommends self care by acknowledging your feelings, resting, eating healthy, staying active, and maintaining a support network. Mellisa Barsotti, a licensed clinical social worker, offers the "emotional freedom technique," which starts with an identifying statement followed by words of compassion to avoid negative thoughts. She gives this example, "Even though I feel anxious or alone, I love and accept myself," followed by tapping points on your body with your fingertip to center your thoughts.

So, during this holiday season, please remember to take care of yourself and think about reaching out to those who may need a friend.



Holiday Blessings!

Submitted by John Carli, Pilgrim's WISE Team



Stewardship 2024

Thank you to everyone who returned pledge materials. To return, place in the offering plate, bring to church during office hours, or mail in. Questions? Contact Geoff Nauth or another church council member. Stewardship materials are available in the narthex and hall table...don't forget the Time & Talent Sheet!

**FINANCE REPORT**

Operating Cash	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cash Balance- Beginning of Period	\$ 113,667	\$184,984
Cash Receipts	27,907	395,082
Cash Disbursements	(33,572)	(472,064)
Cash Balance - September 30, 2024	\$ 108,002	\$ 108,002

PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**Operating Giving and Expenses through October 31, 2024**

	2024 YTD	2024 Budget	2024 Budget compared to 2024 Actual Incr/(Decr)
Total Operating Incoming Funds	269,934	287,183	(17,296)
Total Building Repair Gifts	47,710	-	47,710
TOTAL INCOME	317,644	287,183	30,461

Conference Support	12,711	12,718	(7)
Salaries & Benefits	168,077	185,134	(17,105)
Building & Maintenance	52,221	55,327	(3,106)
Programs of the Church	32,699	33,666	(967)
Total Operating Expenses	265,708	286,845	(21,137)

Net Operating Income / (Loss)	51,935	337	51,598
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Please note that neither the income received nor the expenses paid occur on a regular quarterly basis. Therefore, items showing large increases or decreases from Budget may not show much difference from Budget at year-end.

As we approach the end of the year and look to next year, we wanted to remind you that there are **many ministry opportunities available at Pilgrim Church**. These teams are the soul of this congregation. As you consider how and where you would like to put your time next year, *please consider these teams at Pilgrim:*

Counting Team (looking for 4 members), members of this team meet bi-weekly to count offerings and other giving- please contact Kathy Monroe.

Endowment Team (looking for 2 members), this team meets quarterly and oversees the various endowments within the congregation, please contact Neal Hobbs.

Memorials Team (looking for 1 member), this team works with families of Pilgrim members that have passed away and oversees memorial funds, please contact Lys Buck;

Inclusion team, this team ensures that Pilgrim Church engages in continuous work of inclusion in the congregation- this includes education and action surrounding disability awareness and LGBTQIA+, Please contact Pastor Ashley.

Other teams that are always looking for members include:

Mission, Property and Grounds, Racial Justice, Technical and Media, Hospitality, Worship, and the Care Teams

Click here for
Pilgrim's :

Online Giv-



Pilgrim's giving site includes separate line items for special donations. If you do not see the offering you are looking for, you may designate next to "General Fund" at the top.





Christmas Poinsettias - DUE December 6

Please complete the form below to order a poinsettia for Pilgrim's sanctuary. Your choice is either a 6-1/2" pot at \$12, or a 7-1/2" pot at \$20. Both come in either red or white. Poinsettias may be given in honor of friends and relatives -or- in memory of loved ones who have gone on to eternal life. You may also send a general wish. **We must have your order by Wednesday, December 6.** You are welcome to take your poinsettia with you sometime following the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service to share with friends and family, or leave your flowers through January 1, New Year's Day!



_____ would like to provide:

(Your Name)

Circle choices: (\$12 or \$20); (red or white) in (memory or honor) of:

Relationship to you: _____

Other Tribute _____



Please turn in with payment via online app, offering basket, by mail, church office, or Lisa's mailbox. If using online, you are welcome to email the church this information at officemgr@pilgrimuccgrafton.org

Pilgrim UCC Council Meeting **October 15, 2024 6:30pm**

Present: Rachel Gutridge, Carrie Britt, Dave Nestler, Geoff Nauth, Beth Eernisse, Ashley Nolte, Emma Lucht, Jill Timmerman

Set Next Meeting Date: November 19th 6:30

Approval of September Minutes

Rachel motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Jill seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Regular giving for September was \$25, \$5k more last year. Regular giving is \$20k YTD of last year. The total giving toward the lift was \$47K. Endowment fund values in September were up \$4K and are up \$40k YTD. Monthly Operating Expenses totaled \$27k (on budget). Building maintenance was \$3k for carpet cleaning in September. In summary, this month showed a \$2k operating loss before depreciation and a \$4k gain YTD. Reviewing options to renew 2 CDs that are coming due.

Jill motioned to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion was seconded by Emma. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

See report for more details.

Old Business

Marketing discussion – increase the budget amount

Stewardship – initial mailing sent out, more to come

Liaisons

Building and Assets – Lift replacement nearly complete, AC replacement expected in Sept, Sidewalk project estimate, and Insurance

Finance – no additions to treasures report

Staffing—Discussed staffing needs

New Business

Church Accessibility – council to review and passed along to other groups

Action Steps between now and next meeting – TBD

Adjourn

Emma motioned to adjourn, Rachel seconded, Motion passed.





Volunteer Areas for DECEMBER

USHERS

	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
1	LaVerne Johnson Chris Leidel	Caryn Boegel
8	Diane Stoiber	Jane Sowers Dave Braby
15	Audrey Beck	John Carli
22	Chris Leidel	Dave Pfeiffer Caryn Boegel

SCRIPTURE READERS

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
	OPEN	Cory Jepsen-Hobbs
	Diane Stoiber	Jane Sowers
	Steve Schafer	Paul Zachow
	Kris Fisher	Caryn Boegel

December 29, one service at 9:00 am:

Reader: Jane Sowers

Ushers: LaVerne Johnson, Jane Sowers

SIGNUPGENIUS LINKS:

* [Sign Up to Usher](#)

* [Sign Up to Read Scripture](#)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA5A62FA4FCC61-53440387-christmas>

Christmas Eve Readers:

Sign-up at church or email/call to read at
3-5-9 Christmas Eve services. Link:

ALTAR FLOWERS

1	Emma Lucht
8	Jan & Dave Braby
15	OPEN
22	POINSETTIAS
29	POINSETTIAS

BULLETINS

Joy Bloemer
OPEN
OPEN
OPEN
LaVerne Johnson

SIGNUPGENIUS LINKS:

* [Flowers](#)

* [Bulletins](#)

*Thank you to all those who are
donating poinsettias for
Christmas!*



SUNDAY TREATS BETWEEN SERVICES:

1	Emma Lucht
8	Jane Sowers
15	OPEN
22	OPEN



December 29:

New Year's Fellowship after service

WELCOME TABLE: *Please visit the sign-up sheet at church to volunteer before/after a service, and help welcome our visitors!*

GREETERS: This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome members and guests alike.
If you were not able to greet on your scheduled date, please contact the office

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS, OFFICE HOURS



1 Victor Sowers	13 Megan Adams	19 Maggie Sobczak	30 Dee Dieringer
2 Phil Koch	Giorgio Fuentes	20 Kristen Halula	Vic Pappas
3 Gunnar Simenc	Elizabeth Rottier	Pam Klenner	31 Dennis Grabow
4 Geoffrey Karnish	14 Brynn Bertrand	Kathy Roberts	Shawn Moede
5 Ron Holtslander	Wesley Dreier	Adam Schulz	Megan White
Mike Homme	Andy Schmitter	Janet Van Zile	
7 Pam Morrow	15 Kiera McInerney	21 Mike Godejohn	
8 Roberto Ramirez	Cali Tagliapietra	23 Chris Hart	
Richard Whitaker	Violet Waldhart	Brynn Roberts	
9 Elaine Hilker	Adrian Zimmermann	Bailey Willis	
Nicole Kline	16 Mary Hockinson	27 Kelly DuBord	
Joshua Meier	17 Mary Johnson	Brandon Kelling	
Laura Robinson	Tom Mayer	Diane Nauta	
Lori Stern	David Plautz	29 Trinn Rigert	
10 Reagan Schmitter	18 Heidi Jenkins	Julie Rottier	
11 Cory Jepsen-Hobbs	Diane Kornetzke		
Clare Pedersen	Elizabeth Mikulski		
12 Blakelynn Godejohn	Gerry Orten Jr.		
Tink Linhart			
Heidi Steckel			
Nathaniel Wolfram			



Pilgrim Staff News

We are pleased to announce that Cherie Burton will be joining our staff as

Membership and Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome, Cherie!

A special thank you to Pastor Ashley and Pilgrim's Care Team for the meals provided to us after Larry's kidney ablation procedure. Meals were great and it was a huge relief to have one less thing to worry about during those first few difficult days. We are incredibly appreciative of your caring and support.

-Larry Lange and Jill Timmerman

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ashley – available in the office Monday through Thursday, and can also be reached by calling 920-762-0192.

Lisa Quick or Sue Willman – available weekdays 8:30a-1:00p.

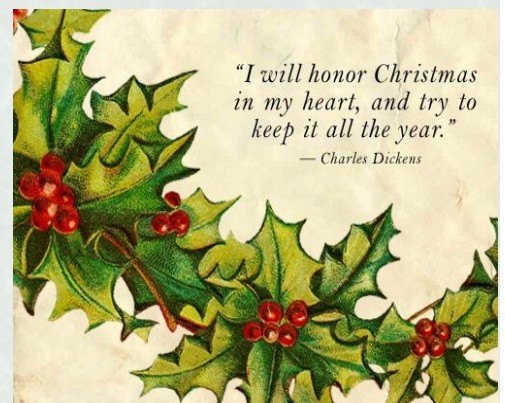
Office Phone: 262-377-2640

Email: officemgr@pilgrimuccgrifton.org

Website: <https://pilgrimuccgrifton.org>

Facebook: [@PilgrimUCCGrafton](https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimUCCGrafton)

Instagram: [@PilgrimUCCGraftonWI](https://www.instagram.com/PilgrimUCCGraftonWI)



Deadline for January PP: December 18

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Comm Worship Services 8 & 10:30 am  Adult Study & Choir-9:15am Pilgrim Children's Hour - 10:30-11:30 am	2 SCOPA 1:00 pm Chimin' In—7:00 pm	3 Hanging of the Greens Prep Night—6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30 pm	4 Racial Justice—5:15p Vespers 6:15 pm GarageBand Practice 6:15-8:00 pm Confirmation -6:30 pm Hanging of the Greens 6:30 pm	5  <i>Overeaters Anonymous</i> 6:30 pm	6 St. Ben's Desserts 	7 Girl Scouts 12:30-3:30 pm
8 Worship Service 8 & 10:30 am New Member Sunday Adult Study & Choir-9:15am Pilgrim Children's Hour - 10:30-11:30 am Christmas Caroling 11:45	9 WOMEN'S ADVENT SERVICE 6:30—fellowship 7:00—service	10 *Women's Journey 12:30 pm *Support Groups 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30 pm	11 GarageBand-5:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal-7:00p Vespers 6:15 pm Confirmation Classes-6:30 *Cookie Bake Prep*	12 Council Meeting 6:30 pm Cookie Bake Prep 5:00-8:30 pm	13 Sheephead 1:00 pm Cookie Bake Prep 5:00-8:30 pm 	14 <i>Mary Hay Visitation—10 am Service—noon</i> Cookie Bake Prep 3:30-7:30 pm
15 Comm Worship Services 8 & 10:30 am Adult Study & Choir-9:15am Family Sunday—10:30 am Baptism—10:30 *Cookie Bake*	16  Christmas Caroling 11:45	17  Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30 pm	18 GarageBand—5:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal—7:00p Vespers—6:15 pm Confirmation Classes-6:30 Christmas Party	19 <i>Blue Christmas Service</i> 6:30 pm 	20 Babysitting Night 6-8:30 pm	21 Girl Scouts 12:30-3:30 pm
22 Worship Service 8 & 10:30 am Christmas Cantata at both services Cookie Bake continues Lockett Piano Recital—2pm	23 Chimin' In—7:00 pm	24 <i>Office Closed</i> Christmas Eve Services 3—5—9 pm	25 	26 <i>Overeaters Anonymous</i> 6:30 pm	27 	28
29 Worship Service 9:00 am New Year's Eve Party following service 	30 Pastor Ashley on vacation through January 5	31 	      			

PASTOR

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RevAshleyn@pilgrimuccgraston.org Cell 920-762-0192

PASTOR EMERITUS

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OFFICE MANAGER

Lisa Quick officemgr@pilgrimuccgraston.org 262-377-2640

MISSIONS

Lucy Wyka missions@pilgrimuccgraston.org 262-689-6203

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Tracey Van Ryzin
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YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

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Devon Polzar, Elementary Education/Middle School Coordinator
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OUTREACH & MARKETING COORDINATOR

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CHURCH LIBRARIAN

Tom Kopka tomkopka@wi.rr.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

Geoff Nauth (President) 414-507-1709
 Emma Lucht (Vice President) 952-693-1124
 Dave Nestler (Secretary) 414-803-1728
 Beth Eernisse 608-957-9695
 Jill Timmerman 414-840-2763
 Rachel Gutridge 262-375-0923



CARE TEAM *Cory Jepsen-Hobbs - Chair*

Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff
 Linda Eakin Kathy Ellenbecker Marji Groth
 Rachel Gutridge Heidi Jenkins Susan Maca
 Donna Tredrea Marilyn Linde

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Hope Holland-Mullins and Patty Guist, Co-Chairs
Rev. Ashley Nolte—Staff

Leila Behrens Rachel Gutridge LaVerne Johnson
 Sylvia Stephens Sue Willman Kathy Ellenbecker
 Dorothy Bowen Marilyn Dearth Cory Jepsen-Hobbs

INCLUSION *Open - Chair / Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff*

Todd Brame Kris Fisher Beth Hartman
 Bill Marten Sue Marten Liz Yoon

MISSIONS *Lucy Wyka- Staff / Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff*

George Schowalter Cory Jepsen-Hobbs
 Dennis Grabow Pat Grabow Donna Tredrea
 Laura Robinson Susan Maca Marji Groth

Naomi Seiler

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Rachel Gutridge Annie Gehrke Neal Hobbs

PROPERTY & GROUNDS *John Carli-Chair/Rev. Ashley Nolte-Staff*

Dennis Grabow Neal Hobbs Brian Maurer

Bruce Linde

RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Ron Wildasin—Chair / Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff

Kris Fisher Rachel Gutridge Naomi Seiler
 Ray Kremer Jan Van Zile

SAFE SANCTUARY ADVISORY PANEL

Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff / Children & Youth Ministry - Staff

Annie Gehrke Ron Wildasin

STAFF RELATIONS *Dave Braby - Chair / Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff*

Warner Shafer Robyn Wiegand

TECHNICAL & MEDIA TEAM

Beth Hartman, Kory Kobliska, Steven Beloin - Staff

Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff

WORSHIP *Ron Wildasin - Chair / Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff*

Dustin Beck Cherie Burton Kit Faase Chris Leidel
 Char Peterson Karen Tiffany

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Neal Hobbs - Chair

Bill Maca—Member-at-Large

Building Assets Mgmt

Neal Hobbs
 Larry Sween

Memorials

Lys Buck
 Dick Linhart

Stewardship

Endowments

Neal Hobbs
 Tony Tagliapietra
 Heidi Jenkins

Counting Team -

Kathy Monroe, Finance Deacon
Joy Bloemer, Carrie Britt, Liaisons

Beth Hartman

Diane Nauta

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Pilgrim's Progress

DECEMBER 2024



PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Ashley Nolte, Pastor



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