



# Pilgrim's Progress January 2025



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

## FROM YOUR MINISTER

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- Breakfast & Learn, January 11, p. 2 & 6
- Annual Meeting - Feb. 2
- Youth Chili Lunch, Feb. 2
- Music Appreciation, p. 8
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### Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you!

It was 4:35 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2024. I pulled my boots on, zipped up my coat, and walked down to the chicken coop to let the ladies (our three chickens) in for the night. Even though it was only 4:35 p.m., I did not need to put them on their perch. I did not need to scoop Cluck Norris (our Barred Rock, who likes to push the boundaries of what an 'acceptable' bedtime is) up to put her back in the coop. I shut the coop door and peeked in on the girls. They were already huddled together, sleeping. I said, "Good night, ladies!" while I shut the door and headed back inside, at 4:37 p.m. That same night, I watched the streetlights pop on. One, two, then three before our street was lit up in the failing light of this December day. Or evening? Or night?

*It was dark.*

I happened upon a book by Sharei Green and Beckah Selick, called *God's Holy Darkness*. And it says this:

*"The Spirit of God dwells in the holy darkness where we are invited to be held in God's love.*

*Angels appeared to the shepherds in the dark and told them of a baby in a manger.*

*The deep dark of the ocean holds more life than has ever been discovered.*

*We are reminded of the size of God's creation through the boundless beautiful black of outer space."*

It is so tempting to curse the dark. It is hard to find its beauty.

We believe we are people of "light." That is what we celebrate during the Christmas season, that we remember that God's light came into the world. But we cannot forget that just as God's light came into the world, so did God's dark. And that is where the light lives.

Surely, before the light had shape and form, it had to rest in the quiet, holy darkness of Mary's womb. And be **still-rest-grow**. The light had to settle in early, snuggle up next to his mom, and fall asleep in her arms. Mary, I am sure, was told, "Rest while the baby is sleeping. Nap while the baby naps." And be still and rest.

That feels like a slap in the face to this culture of (over) productivity. To be *still-rest-grow*. Because as people of the light we must do, do more, and then do some more, until we collapse on our beds, our chairs, our couches exhausted and then groan when our alarm jars us from sleep.

And yet, the darkness calls us to rest. And the natural world around us has fallen into its embrace. Cluck, all tucked in before I can chase her in with the other ladies. The trees are lying still in this season of winter. The streetlights, even they, too, recognize the dark.

It is dark. And that's not bad. Well, unless we will ourselves to live only in the light.

But even the light must rest. And, who are not the light, should rest, too.

This season of winter, of Christmas, is made for rest.

We are not made just for work. We are not made just for light. We are also made for rest. We were created in the dark. Listen, friends, to the ebb and flow of this season.



*I pray this January you find some time to rest  
and be still.*



*With much love, Pastor Ashley*

**PILGRIM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:  
SUNDAY, February 2, 2025**



The meeting will be provided both in-person and virtual, beginning at 9:15 am

**Committee Reports Due, and thank you to those who have already emailed to the office.**

Visit page 9 for an article by Jan Braby on **The Role of a Caregiver**, and also visit page 10 for **“Myths and Facts about Mental Health,”** brought to you by the WISE Team.

**Happy New Year to you, Pilgrim Family**

We are so grateful for each and every one of you, for your time and talents, and for all you do for Pilgrim.



*Blessings to you in the coming year and always.*

Cherie Burton,  
Membership &  
Volunteer Coordinator

**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.



**ENVELOPE BOXES:** Thank you to everyone who has picked up their giving envelope boxes or delivered to another member.

If you have not picked up your box, stop by during regular office hours to do so, or call/ email the office to arrange for a time to do so. *We appreciate those who let us know when a box is no longer needed.*

*Pilgrim extends heartfelt appreciates for your generosity this past year through offerings provided here at church, in the mail, or through online giving*

Pilgrim’s online giving link:

[Online Giving](#)



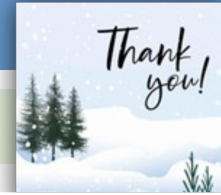
**PILGRIM FAMILY FUND**

This fund exists to help members within our congregation who are experiencing financial hardship. We would greatly appreciate your donations to this fund to help those who could use this special assistance. Please see the envelopes found in the pews or go online—there’s a special area for this fund. Checks can also be sent to the church office. *Thank you.*

**January Scripture Readings**

- 5 **Another Road** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18
- 12 **Affirmed by Love** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- 19 **Extravagant Sign** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
- 26 **Good News, Good Ways** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

*it is in*  
**< CHRIST >>**  
*we find out*  
**WHO** *we are*  
**& WHAT WE are**  
**LIVING for**  
*Ephesians 1:11*



Our December Mission Thank You Messages are found on page 6

**CAPUCHIN COMMUNITY SERVICES**



**ST. BEN'S COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM** – We have been asked to contribute two dozen cookies or bars, which will be added to the lunch that St. Joe's volunteer deliver to St. Ben's on the first Friday of each month. If you would be willing to bake or buy cookies or bars and drop them off at St. Joe's before 9:00am, please sign your name on the sheet posted on the Mission bulletin board.  
*Thank you to all who sign up!*

**NIGHT OF WARMTH** *A special Pilgrim Offering for Repairers of the Breach and St. Ben's Warming Rooms.*



For most of us, Winter means holiday gatherings, snuggling under an extra blanket, and perhaps turning up the heat a notch or two. But for people experiencing homelessness, Winter is a brutal challenge. The cold weather makes life on the street even more dangerous than usual.

The Mission Team would like to ask for donations to help with extra costs when these two shelters remain open as emergency warming rooms due to freezing temperatures. We can't do much about how long the cold will last, but through your generosity, we can provide some extra funds to help defray some of these extra costs. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate, please do so by using one of the envelopes found in the pews or use our online donation site. Please note that your donation is for Night of Warmth.

*Donations will be accepted through the end of January.*

**WINTER FOOD DRIVE FOR FAMILY SHARING** Our annual non-perishable food drive will begin on December 29 and continue through January 31. The list of most needed items include: *canned fruit, vegetables and beans, canned salmon, tuna 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.*

Please help restock Family Sharing's food pantry shelves, which is much needed after the holidays. Drop off your food donations in the bin in the carport entrance. **Thank you!**



**FAMILY PROMISE OF OZAUKEE COUNTY** Pilgrim will once again be providing meals to Family Promise in 2025 on the following dates:

- Week of March 31, 2025**
- Week of July 28, 2025**
- Week of October 13, 2025**



If you are interested in this wonderful volunteer opportunity, please contact our Volunteer Coordinators Brandon Mikulski at [mikulskib06@gmail.com](mailto:mikulskib06@gmail.com) or Marji Groth at [Marji\\_groth@yahoo.com](mailto:Marji_groth@yahoo.com). Thank you!

**EMPTY PRINTER CARTRIDGES** –Drop off your ink cartridge in the bin located in the carport entrance. The ink 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. Please note: this recycling program does NOT extend to toner or laser cartridges, nor large print cartridges at this time.



**EMPTY PRESCRIPTION VIALS** - 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** 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 the Ronald McDonald House MKE.



**MR. BOB'S UNDER THE BRIDGE MINISTRY**

To find a list of most needed items, please go to the link below. Note: Mr. Bob's is streamlining items to be more gender neutral. Also, just a reminder that donated items go straight to our homeless friends, so clean items are appreciated. Items will be accepted every Monday between 4-6:00pm or Thursday from 6-7:00pm at the *Ozaukee Nonprofit Center*, 2360 Dakota Drive, Grafton.

<https://mrbobsunderthebridge.org/donation-list/>

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](mailto:Missions@pilgrimuccgrafton.org)

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





## 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.

**\*\*No Class on January 8\*\***



**THANK YOU to all those who supported the Youth Mission trip this past month:**

- \* Cookie Bake—December 15/22
- \* Babysitting Night—December 20



## Youth Mission Trip - Brooklyn, NY

**July 12-19, 2025**

Mission Trip meeting—January 26 @ 11:45 am (Kalweit Hall)

### Upcoming Fundraisers to support the Youth Mission Trip:

## Youth Chili Lunch – February 2

**Dine in or Take To-Go!**

\*We will also have a Drive-Thru Option, too!!!

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

\*\*Will be ready after the Annual Meeting

Keep an eye out for a sign up with a recipe to bring in chili



Contact the Youth Ministries Team: [youthministry@pilgrimuccgrafton.org](mailto:youthministry@pilgrimuccgrafton.org)

**Devon Polzar**

Elementary/Middle School Coordinator

**Meg Claeys**

Middle/High School Coordinator





**WOMEN'S JOURNEY** will meet on **Tuesday, January 14, at 12:30 pm** at Linda Eakin's home. Please bring an appetizer to share.

**CHURCH CHAT** will meet on **Thursday, January 16, at 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room.

**SCOPA Group** will meet on **Monday, January 6, at 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room.

**SHEEPSHEAD**—The group will meet on Fridays, **January 10 & 24, at 1:00 pm** in the conference room.

**FUNSETTERS**—will gather on **Tuesday, January 28, 11:30 am, at Flipside in Grafton.**

**DOMINOES**—We begin on **Wednesday, January 15, at 1:00 pm.** We'll meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the conference room.

**CRIBBAGE**—First date is **Tuesday, January 21, at 1:00 pm.** We'll meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the conference room.

*Faith, Fellowship, Fun*



*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. 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.

*A free will offering  
will cover the cost of breakfast.*

*Thank You*

...from the  
Missions Team....



## MOUNT HOREB CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Because of Pilgrim's wonderful generosity, we were able to provide a total of **\$2,575**, which was used by Mount Horeb volunteers to purchase children's Christmas gifts. Rev. Hopgood and members of Mount Horeb are so very thankful for Pilgrim's generosity.

*A huge thank you to everyone who decorated a Christmas light bulb for Mount Horeb.*

*The decorated light bulbs were delivered, along with the check. Mount Horeb so appreciates all the love!*



## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Thank you to all who so generously donated to **The Christmas Fund**, a special UCC Christmas Offering that allows the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide grace, hope and joy through financial relief to UCC pastors, lay church leaders and their families. A final total will be provided after we receive the online giving totals.



**Our Thanks to....**

**Worship Team "Hanging of the Greens"** - to all team members & volunteers who created such a beautiful holiday sanctuary.

**Christmas Caroling, Dec 8**—To Cory Jepsen-Hobbs for organizing, and to all singers for this special event that brings so much joy to the recipients; thank you to Hope Holland-Mullins for making lunch.

**Women's Advent Candlelight Service, Dec 9** - To Linda Eakin and all committee members for such a lovely Women's Advent Service. Thanks to everyone who organized, participated, assisted, and attended!

**Hospitality Team**—To all team members for their preparations toward the Hay funeral meal.

**Cookie Bake, Dec 15/22**—To Youth Ministry & everyone who organized, volunteered, & purchased cookies toward youth mission trip!

**Christmas Cantata, Dec 22**—To John Reiter and all musicians and the Pilgrim UCC Choir for presenting "Love Made a Way."

**Christmas Services**—To all musicians, readers, ushers, technicians, worship team, & all who assisted with Christmas Eve Services.

**Christmas Poinsettias**—To everyone who provided poinsettias for our beautiful sanctuary.

**LaVerne Johnson**—For folding, stuffing envelopes, labeling, and stamping all of Christmas Letters, as well as her assistance throughout the year with Sunday items and newsletter mailings.

**2024 Sunday Morning Volunteers**—To all those who provided flowers, bulletin sponsorships, read scripture, ushered, greeted on Sunday morning, worked in the kitchenette and/or provided treats—we appreciate you!!!

**For Healing and Strength:**

- \*For Karen Tiffany, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery. Prayers for her as she waits to hear news of upcoming treatment.
- \*For Kris Fisher and her mom, Mary, who had a fire at their home just before Christmas.
- \*For Jack Landmann, who is currently residing at Care-Age of Brookfield.
- \*For Richard Martin, who remains in hospice care at Cedar Community.
- \*For Don Huibregtse, who recently received a bone marrow transplant and is now recovering at home.

**With Sympathy:**

- \*For the family of Elizabeth Hembel, who passed away on December 29.
- \*For the family of Mary Hay, who was laid to rest on December 14.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

- \*For Julie Rottier, who remains at home recovering.
- \*For Rhonda, Mike & Meg Claeys' mother/mother-in-law, who is taking some time off from 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.



**\*Prayers of Thanksgiving** for Owen Snyder, as he and his mom, Darya, traveled to PA; the follow-up scan showed all was well!



**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
- Owen Godejohn—US Army



## MUSIC APPRECIATION

Music welcomes and invites us into God's arms unconditionally. It touches hearts in numerous unique ways and is indeed a treasured gift given and received.

*Thank you* to all our musicians and tech team who filled our Advent & Christmas services with the season's beautiful music and ministry.



### Music Ministry 2024 Participants:

#### PILGRIM UCC CHOIR John Reiter, Director

Audrey Beck, Suzanne Beck, Jan Braby, Beth Eernisse, Dan Eernisse, Kris Fisher, Patty Guist, Beth Hartman, Marianne Hinder, Hope Holland-Mullins, Parker Kobliska, Ray Kremer, Marilyn Linde, Norm Loomer, Sue Loomer, Pastor Ashley Nolte, Peter Nolte, Melissa Pfeiffer, Devon Polzar, Steve Schafer, George Schowalter, Joyce Schowalter, Naomi Seiler, Larry Sween, Karen Tiffany, Sue Willman and Liz Yoon

#### HILLTOP VOICE – Directed by John Reiter

Dan Eernisse, Kris Fisher, Beth Hartman, Marilyn Linde, Pastor Ashley Nolte, Devon Polzar, Naomi Seiler, Larry Sween, Sue Willman, Liz Yoon

#### GARAGEBAND

Dan Eernisse, Kris Fisher, John Reiter, Naomi Seiler, Sue Willman and Eric Wiltgen

#### CHIMIN' IN – Directed by Liz Yoon

John Carli, Beth Eernisse, Patty Guist, Beth Hartman, Heidi Jenkins, Val Nauth, Lisa Pease, John Reiter, Alex Santo, Naomi Seiler, David Tiffany, Karen Tiffany, Sue Willman and Jan Yoon

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you are interested in participating or would like information about our music groups/choirs, please contact:

John Reiter, Music Director by email, [jer-13@att.net](mailto:jer-13@att.net)

Sue Willman, Music Assistant by email, [suewillman55@gmail.com](mailto:suewillman55@gmail.com)

For Chimin' In, contact:

Liz Yoon, Bell Choir Director, by email [lysnliz@gmail.com](mailto:lysnliz@gmail.com) or by text 262-910-1789



### SOUND AND PROJECTION TEAM

Steven Beloin (Sound Technician), Beth Hartman (Video & Computer Technician),  
and Kory Kobliska (Digital Media Specialist)

Assistants: Jenna Bloemer, Parker Kobliska, Peter Nolte

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you are interested in assisting the Sound and/or Projection Team, please contact:

Beth Hartman, by email, [bhartmanpmp@gmail.com](mailto:bhartmanpmp@gmail.com)





**Most people step into the role of a caregiver out of love for the person who is struggling.**

As mentioned before, people usually are unaware of what is involved when one takes on this role. It can be challenging and full of frustrations and worries. Yet, it can be very transformative. Caregiving has a way of reshaping priorities, allowing one to focus on what really matters. Simple moments spent with the loved ones, like sharing stories, photos, or just holding hands become shared treasured memories. Letting the loved one guide what makes them happy and then joining in that activity with them is the formula to create these loving memories.

If the loved one has dementia, the caregiver needs to enter into the care receiver's world - that being what is occurring at the present moment. Those of us without cognitive decline find it hard to do this as our mind is constantly running wild with thoughts of the past and plans for the future whether those be in a few days or some years from now. Therapists who encourage people to meditate say that being in the "present" will slow down our nervous system, yet so few of us listen to those words of advice. Being with a memory-impaired person forces us to enter their world. These quiet times remind us of the strong intimate bond we have with our loved one. The caregiver many times will find strength within themselves that they did not even realize they had.

If siblings or adult children are available to share in the tasks of caregiving, the main caregiver may find they also grow closer to those individuals. A caregiver may find support through these people, celebrating small victories and comforting one another when necessary. If this is not the case, then reaching out to others through support groups can help.



*Caregiving teaches lessons in patience, empathy and self-sacrifice.*

Many people find that when they reflect on this role, they see it in the light of the love that Jesus preached. Looking at it in this angle, can change one's perspective on caregiving as that of not being a burden, to one of it being a blessing.

- Contributed by Jan Braby

### Ways to Participate on Sunday Mornings

Please sign up on the Narthex Board, Email the church office, or use these SIGNUPGENIUS LINKS:

- \* [Sign Up to Usher](#)
- \* [Sign Up to Read Scripture](#)
- \* [Flowers](#)
- \* [Bulletins](#)

### JANUARY SCHEDULE:



#### SCRIPTURE READERS

- 5 8:00 —Steve Schafer
- 10:30—Dave Braby
- 12 8:00—Jane Sowers
- 10:30—OPEN
- 19 8:00—OPEN
- 10:30—Diane Stoiber
- 26 OPEN at both Services



#### USHERS

- 5 8:00—Chris Leidel / LaVerne Johnson
- 10:30—Cherie Burton/Wayne Hay
- 12 8:00—Steve Schafer / OPEN
- 10:30—OPEN
- 19 8:00—OPEN (2)
- 10:30—Diane Stoiber/John Carli
- 26 8:00—Dave Pfeiffer
- 10:30—John Carli

#### TREATS

- 5 Janet Van Zile
- OPEN on all other Sundays

#### FLOWERS & BULLETINS:

- Flowers: 1/26 by Pfeiffer Family; other Sundays OPEN
- Bulletins: OPEN all month

Please contact Cherie Burton with questions about volunteer opportunities: [volunteer@pilgrimuccgrifton.org](mailto:volunteer@pilgrimuccgrifton.org)

## Myths and Facts About Mental Health



There are many misconceptions about mental health that contribute to stigma around mental health issues. Here are some facts from the WISE Team to help you start the new year with some new perspective!

**Myth #1:** *Mental illness doesn't affect people like me.*

**Fact:** The World Health Organization estimates that one in four people will experience a mental health issue over the course of their lifetime. Some studies indicate that up to one in five Americans experience mental health issues during any given year. Mental health disorders can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background.

**Myth #2:** *People with mental health conditions are likely to be dangerous or violent.*

**Fact:** People with mental health conditions are no more likely to commit violent acts than the general public. Only about 5% of violent crimes are committed by people with severe mental illness. However, people with mental illness are up to 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime.

**Myth #3:** *Mental health conditions are a sign of weakness and people can overcome them if they just try enough.*

**Fact:** Mental health conditions are not due to weakness or a lack of willpower. Many factors outside of a person's control contribute to their mental health including brain chemistry, genetics, physical health, and life experiences.

**Myth #4:** *Mental health conditions are permanent.*

**Fact:** While some people will experience mental health conditions for the rest of their life, many find they are able to manage their condition with treatment. Others may experience a single episode of mental illness or may find that their mental health fluctuates with periods of more and less symptoms.

**Myth #5:** *Only people with mental health challenges need to think about mental health.*

**Fact:** Mental wellness is like physical wellness. All of us can take steps to improve our mental well being. In addition, you don't have to be a mental health professional to support people with mental health challenges. Anyone can show support by having open conversations to reduce stigma, being a non-judgmental listener, and letting people know that you are there for them.

*If you or a loved one are in need of immediate support, please contact the National Suicide and Crisis Hotline at 988.*

- Submitted by Liz Yoon, a member of Pilgrim's WISE Team



**FINANCE REPORT**

<b>Operating Cash</b>	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cash Balance- Beginning of Period	\$ 108,002	\$184,984
Cash Receipts	25,249	420,331
Cash Disbursements	(39,083)	(511,147)
Cash Balance - November 30, 2024	<b>\$ 94,168</b>	<b>\$ 94,168</b>

Click here for Pilgrim's :

[Online Giving Link](#)



**PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Operating Giving and Expenses through November 30 2024**

	<b>2024 YTD</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Budget compared to 2024 Actual Incr/(Decr)</b>
<b>Total Operating Incoming Funds</b>	<b>290,205</b>	<b>315,998</b>	<b>(25,792)</b>
<b>Total Building Repair Gifts</b>	<b>47,710</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>337,915</b>	<b>315,998</b>	<b>21,918</b>
<b>Conference Support</b>	<b>15,703</b>	<b>15,687</b>	<b>(7)</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>184,193</b>	<b>203,913</b>	<b>(17,057)</b>
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>55,415</b>	<b>59,900</b>	<b>(3,106)</b>
<b>Programs of the Church</b>	<b>38,408</b>	<b>36,933</b>	<b>(967)</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>293,718</b>	<b>316,433</b>	<b>(22,715)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income / (Loss)</b>	<b>44,197</b>	<b>(435)</b>	<b>44,632</b>

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.

**ANNUAL MEETING:  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2,  
9:15 am**

- *Committee Reports needed*
- *Pick up Envelope Boxes*
- *Updates on contact info always appreciated!*

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 begin the new year, please remember 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**

**BE THE CHURCH** God is still speaking UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Embrace diversity. **Reject racism.** Forgive often. Love God. **Fight for the powerless.** Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.*

## Pilgrim UCC Council Meeting    November 19, 2024 6:30pm

Present: Rachel Gutridge, Carrie Britt, Geoff Nauth, Beth Eernisse, Rev. Ashley Nolte

Not Present: Dave Nestler, Emma Lucht, Jill Timmerman

**Set Next Meeting Date:** Thursday December 12, 6:30 p.m.

**Centering Moment:** David Nestler

**Approval of October Minutes:** Rachel motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Beth seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report –**

- Giving/Income
  - \* Regular giving for October totaled \$25k, which was the same as September. This is \$2k over the same period last year.
  - \* Overall giving is under budget by \$17k YTD and is over last year by \$8k YTD.
- Endowment fund values were down \$5k in October and are up \$35k YTD.
- Expenses
  - \* October’s overall Operating Expenses were \$28k. This was right on budget.

**Stewardship**

- As of 11/14, 64 pledges totaling \$185,600 have been received
- In 2024, we received a total of 59 pledges.
- Target goal for 2025 budget is \$280,000.

**Treasurer’s Report Summary**

- From a pure Operating income/expense perspective, we broke even in October and have \$4k of income year-to-date.

**Other notable items**

- The two CDs totaling \$77k are being renewed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time for 30 days at 4.25%.
- The Pilgrim Family Fund is down to \$1,300 – not sure if this needs to be promoted with the Holidays coming up?
- Budget – Only revision on this budget is for the increased cost of property insurance. No carriers would bid on our account, and the only proposal we have is from Church Mutual for \$25,000. This is the minimum premium that this carrier requires.
- Discussion regarding how to record income and expense for lift were discussed

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report as presented and pertinent discussion was made by Rachel. Seconded by Beth. Treasurer’s report was approved.

**Pastor’s Report**—No questions or concerns regarding Pastor’s report, which is available upon request

**Old Business**—Nothing to attend to at this meeting



**Liaisons**

- Building and Assets – AC repair completed and installed in October, sidewalk project is moving forward
- Finance – no additions to Treasurer’s report
- Not-For-Profit Security Grant - Bill Maca has graciously agreed to adapt the current grant application and resubmit in December. Much gratitude to Bill for his work.
- Staffing
  - \* Staff Relations is in process of interviewing and vetting candidates for open staff positions

**New Business**

- Church Insurance- Neal Hobbs notified Geoff that the only bid for insurance was through Church Mutual and comes at a significant increase. The Council discussed the potential increase supports the decision to amend the proposed budget to include the increased insurance costs.

**Action Steps between now and next meeting –**

- Council nominations- Council members should identify individuals they believe would be an asset to the Council in the upcoming years. Potential names can be submitted to Geoff prior to our next meeting. Members of staff and their spouses should not be considered for Council positions, due to conflict of interest.
- Council is being asked to consider officer positions for the upcoming year. Both nominations for council and council positions will be discussed at the December meeting.
- With the help of Kathy Monroe, Ashley is going to compile a list of individuals to follow up with regarding pledges. She will get the list to Council, and they will contact individuals who have not yet pledged.

**Adjourn**

Beth motioned to adjourn, Carrie seconded, Motion passed.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS, OFFICE HOURS

1 Jill Cobb Neal Hobbs David Meier	8 Amanda Esselmann Trent Schaefer Zachary Swenson	19 Daniel Bader Matthew Sutinen	26 Leo Kivioja Nicole Meer David Rumpf
2 Owen Ramshaw	10 Sandra Wegner Angela Wenzel	20 Michelle Bauer Abigail Roberts	27 Dylan Mayer Anna Morrow
3 Isla DuBord	11 Bonnie Willis	21 Riley Braun Mark Meier	28 Alex Blanco Olivia Rottier Alex Santo
4 Addison Staszko Karen Tiffany	13 Tabatha Meier	22 Alexander Britt Christopher Britt	31 Ray Kremer
5 Maria Destrampe Ellie Gehrke Rayce Morrow Brooklyn Popp Eleanor Wendorf	14 Sophia Pekarske Sheryl Welzien 15 Brian Sueppel 16 Richard Martin 18 Tim Dearth	23 Chris Kline 24 Marlena Mikulski 25 Todd Johnson Alexander Meer Bonnie Orten Htoo Say Paw	
6 Justin Thomas	Andrew Cotton		
7 Annie Gehrke Marianna Rigert Holly Sutinen	Nicole Roberts		



*Dear Pastor Ashley & Pilgrim Friends: Thank you so much for taking the time to bring Christmas cheer to me! I loved seeing you all and hearing some of my favorite holiday songs. The bag of fun goodies was an extra treat, and I am so grateful for your love, prayers, and support these past seven months. Life threw me a huge curve ball, but I threw it right back!*

*Thank you again Pilgrim friends, and Merry Christmas to you all.*

*Love, Julie Rottier*

### 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@pilgrimuccgrafton.org](mailto:officemgr@pilgrimuccgrafton.org)  
**Website:** <https://pilgrimuccgrafton.org>  
**Facebook:** [@PilgrimUCCGrafton](https://www.facebook.com/PilgrimUCCGrafton)  
**Instagram:** [@PilgrimUCCGraftonWI](https://www.instagram.com/PilgrimUCCGraftonWI)



*Deadline for February PP: January 20*

# JANUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*****                      Pastor Ashley will be on vacation                      through January 5.                      *****</p>		<p><b>GAME TIME</b></p> <p>New Games this Month:                      *Dominos—January 15                      *Cribbage—January 21                      1pm in the Conference Room</p>	<p>1                       HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>	<p>2                      Overeaters Anonymous                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>3                      St. Ben's Desserts</p>	<p>4                      Girl Scouts                      12:30-3:30 pm</p>
<p>5  <b>Comm Worship Services</b>                      8 &amp; 10:30 am                      Adult Study &amp; Choir                      9:15am                      Pilgrim Children's Hour                      10:30-11:30 am                      Rev. Greg Whelton</p>	<p>6                      Chimin' In—7:00 pm                      SCOPA—1:00 pm  </p>	<p>7                      Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>8                      GarageBand-6:15 pm                      Vespers 6:15 pm                      No Confirmation Class</p>	<p>9                      Deco Removal                      6:30 pm                      Overeaters Anonymous                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>10                      Sheephead                      1:00 pm</p>	<p>11                      Breakfast &amp; Learn                      With Siena Carli                      7:30 am  </p>
<p>12  <b>Worship Services</b>                      8 &amp; 10:30 am                      Adult Study &amp; Choir                      9:15am                      Pilgrim Children's Hour                      10:30-11:30 am                      Mission Team Meeting                      11:45 am</p>	<p>13                      Women's Journey Lunch                      12:30 pm                      Support Groups                      2:00 pm</p>	<p>14                      Dominoes Group-1:00 pm                      GarageBand—6:15 pm                      Vespers—6:15 pm                      Confirmation Classes                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>15                      Dominoes Group-1:00 pm                      GarageBand—6:15 pm                      Vespers—6:15 pm                      Confirmation Classes                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>16                      Coffee Chat—10:00 am                      Overeaters Anonymous—6:30</p>	<p>17                       WEEK OF PRAYER FOR UNITY</p>	<p>18                      Girl Scouts                      12:30-3:30 pm</p>
<p>19  <b>Comm Worship Services</b>                      8 &amp; 10:30 am                      Adult Study &amp; Choir                      9:15am                      Family Sunday—10:30 am                      All-Church Potluck</p>	<p>20                       Peace Vigil—6:00 pm                      Staff &amp; Leadership Hybrid Mtg—7:00 pm                      Martin Luther King Jr Day</p>	<p>21                      Cribbage Group                      1:00 pm                      Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>22                      GarageBand—6:15 pm                      Vespers—6:15 pm                      Confirmation Classes                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>23                      Community of Practice                      11:30 am—2 pm                      Overeaters Anonymous                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>24                      Sheephead                      1:00 pm</p>	<p>25                       JANUARY MISSIONS                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Sharing Food Drive</li> <li>• "Night of Warmth" - Repairers of the Breach &amp; St. Ben's Warming Rooms</li> </ul> </p>
<p>26  <b>Worship Services</b>                      8 &amp; 10:30 am                      Adult Study &amp; Choir                      9:15am                      Pilgrim Children's Hour                      10:30-11:30 am                      Mission Trip Meeting                      11:45 am</p>	<p>27                      Chimin' In—7:00 pm</p>	<p>28                      Funsetters "Flipside"                      11:30 am                      Worship Team Meeting                      7:00 pm                      Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>29                      GarageBand—6:15 pm                      Vespers—6:15 pm                      Confirmation Classes                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>30                      Overeaters Anonymous                      6:30 pm</p>	<p>31                       NATIONAL Hot Chocolate JANUARY 31</p>	

## PASTOR

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Carrie Britt 414-526-6936

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## MUSIC ASSISTANT

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## BELLS DIRECTOR

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## VIDEO TECH & COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

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Naomi Seiler marketing@pilgrimuccgrafton.org 262-546-0607

## 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 Ernisse 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  
 Nancy VandenWymelenberg

## 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*

## January 2025



PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Ashley Nolte, Pastor



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**Mission-Driven. People Focused. *We are the Light on the Hill!***