



Pilgrim's Progress

September 2025



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

FROM YOUR MINISTER

Grace and Peace to you,

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Job Opening: Mission Director, p. 2 and 11
- Summer Appeal, p. 2
- Blood Drive, p. 2
- Sermons & Scripture Chat Mondays, p. 2, 6
- Volunteer Drop-in Nights, p. 2, 14
- New Wednesday Bible Study, p. 2, 6
- Breakfast & Learn, Sept 20, p. 2, 6
- Habitat Presentation, Sept. 21, p. 3, 12
- Inclusion Article: Home Insecurity, p. 10

Inside this issue:

Pilgrim Announcements	2
Missions	3
Children's Ministry	4
Youth Ministry	5
Social, Enrichment	6
Our Thanks, Pilgrim Prayers & Cares	7
Finance, Committees	8
Council Minutes	9
Inclusion	10
Job Description	11
Music Ministry	12
September Birthdays, Office Hours, Thank You	13
Volunteer Page	14
Picture Page	15
September Calendar	16
Staff/Cmte Directory	17

I have always loved to sing. I was the youngest member of my home church's choir (in 6th grade). I sang in choirs in high school and college. I have been in multiple church choirs. I have memorized many songs and hymns and sang in countless concerts and recitals. After all of these years, I still remember the first song I performed / sang in public. I was in 5th grade. It was at my home church and I sang with one of my peers and his mom.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near, please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

I remember how my voice shook, how my fingers felt wrapped in the palm of my clammy hands. What I remember most are the words that I sang from Psalm 119:105: *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."*

It is the imagery of that verse that astounded me. Even when I was little, I understood what it felt like to walk in the dark. Psalm 119:105 provided me with an image of walking through a dark forest on an overgrown path, carrying a lantern that guided the steps I was about to take. It was this lantern that softened the hard edges of my fear and gave light to the road before me.



The lantern and its light have always been a metaphor for our Scriptures.

When I find myself feeling like I am walking in a dark forest on an overgrown path, unable to see where I am going, I can turn to our Scriptures to find a light. I want to be clear:

I do not turn to Scriptures to find answers. *I turn to Scripture to find guidance.*

Held within the pages of our Scriptures are stories of people who struggled: Cain who struggled with jealousy and a love for power; Moses who struggled with self-doubt; David who struggled with pride; Ruth who struggled with imposter syndrome; Job who struggled with grief; Hosea (and all the prophets) whose heart broke constantly over the pain in the world; Peter who struggled with faith; Mary who struggled to embrace her voice; Paul who struggled with guilt; John who struggled with uncertainty.

These stories are alive in our scriptures, and although they do not give us answers to our questions, they remind us that we are not alone in our struggle.

I feel drawn to our Scriptures more recently. My heart yearns to remember the stories of the people listed above—and not just their struggle, but also their perseverance. None of them had the right answers to their questions. None of them had the confident assurance that what they were doing was 'right and good.' But what they had was *faith*. What they had was a belief in a Higher Power that was living, moving, and working for good in the world. And these people wrestled with what they were called and challenged to do as people of faith.

Just like me. Just like you. Just like us.

If you are feeling like you are walking through a dark, overgrown forest and struggle to find a path, I want to remind you to reach for your light, your lantern. Use this lantern as a guide rather than an arrow and as a comfort rather than a solution.

"Thy word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." -Psalm 119:105

May we never forget to humbly return to our Scripture, our stories.

With much love, Pastor Ashley



PILGRIM ANNOUNCEMENTS

RALLY DAY—Sunday, September 7

Please join us for the return of 2 services and regular programming.

- ◇ **Pilgrim Children's Hour* begins at 10:30—registration info on pg 4
- ◇ **Adult Study*—returns—will continue with the topic of this past spring, "The Lives of Great Christians." Join them at 9:15 in the Conf Rm.
- ◇ *Music Practices*: Visit page 12 for a wonderful music ministry article—you are welcome to join any of these music groups at any time! Pilgrim Choir practice returns on Rally Day between services.
- ◇ *Nursery* will be open for the 10:30 service, and *treats* are back!



YOUTH BRAT FRY

for 2026 Mission Trip

**RALLY DAY!!
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7**

**BRATS, BURGERS AND
HOT DOGS TO GO**

**SOLD BETWEEN
SERVICES AND AFTER
SECOND SERVICE**

Thank you for supporting our youth as we raise funds for the next mission trip!



From the Finance Team: We are grateful for the generosity of Pilgrim members and friends. We have raised \$15,000 over the summer, which is half of our original goal of \$30,000. Gifts can still be made—online, mailed, or in person. Please specify *Summer Appeal* on your donation. *Thank you so much for your generosity!*



Pilgrim's online giving link:

[Online Giving](#)

OPEN STAFF POSITION

Effective September 1

Missions Director

The job description for this vital role at Pilgrim is included on page 10, available at church, and also on our website.

Please send letter of interest and resume to Dave Braby at brabydave@icloud.com

Please contact Pastor Ashley with questions.



VOLUNTEER DROP-IN DATES: Cherie Burton, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator, will be offering meeting dates to learn more about all the opportunities for you here at Pilgrim! Please visit the Volunteer Area, page 14, to learn more!

September Enrichment News: Visit page 6!

- ◆ Pastor Ashley will begin "Scripture and Sermon" on Monday mornings, beginning Sept. 8 at 10:30 am.
- ◆ New Bible Study by Pastor Ashley, starting Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7:00 pm—she begins with the book of Genesis!
- ◆ Vespers returns...Wednesday, Sept 10 at 6:15 pm.

PILGRIM GOES ON A HIKE! Saturday, September 13, Lion's Den Gorge Nature

Preserve: All ages are invited to this wonderful intergenerational event! Visit page 6, as well as the flyer posted!

Look for more events throughout the year involving all age groups!

BREAKFAST & LEARN— September 20—7:30 am



Do You Remember?

Please join what will be a wonderful discussion about some of our nation's biggest historical events over the past 80 years. Please visit **p. 6** for all the details—all are welcome to share experiences and hear others!

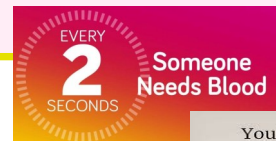
Versiti Blood Drive at Pilgrim

**Thursday, September 4
noon—5:00 pm**

Link to register:

<https://tinyurl.com/PUCBD-9-4>

Or call: 877-232-4376



You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
—Psalm 139:1



SEPTEMBER Scripture Readings—Common English Bible Trans-

- 7 **A New Identity** Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalms 1 and 139; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33
- 14 **Growing in God's Love** Jeremiah 4:11-28; Psalm 14 and 15:1-10; Exodus 32:7-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
- 21 **Prayerful Living** Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 and 113; Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- 28 **Surprising Investment** Jeremiah 32:1-15; Psalm 91:1-16 & Psalm 146; Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Thank you to everyone who donated to **Strengthen the Church**. A total of **\$1,296.00** was collected for this UCC special offering. A check was mailed in mid-August to the Wisconsin Conference. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



A message from VIP: Dear Friends at Pilgrim Church: Thank you for walking alongside Ventures in People and believing in our mission to help Haitians to help themselves. We are grateful for your generosity in the amount of \$1,350....We are putting \$700 of the gift towards the education of four children, and the remaining \$650 toward English teachers' salaries. Please keep our friends in Haiti in your prayers during this difficult time in their lives.

The entire letter is posted on the Missions Board.

MOUNT HOREB:

Many thanks, not only for your generous gift of \$1,500 toward school supplies, but also to those who volunteered at the Mount Horeb Wellness Fair on August 9:

Cherie Burton
Cory Jepsen-Hobbs
Marilyn Linde
Lucy Wyka



A thank you message from CHURCH WORLD SERVICES:

Thank you for your outstanding support of CWS Blankets! We are so grateful to have you as a partner in Missions and Ministry. Your \$857 gift will help to provide a tangible sign of Love and Hope when someone needs it the most.



HABITAT for HUMANITY Presentation:



Kristie, a representative from Habitat, will provide a presentation at Pilgrim between services on **Sunday, September 21**. Look also for an October Worship—TBD!

FAMILY PROMISE OF OZAUKEE COUNTY

We will be providing meals for the week of **October 13, 2025 to October 17, 2025**. If you are interested in this wonderful volunteer opportunity or have questions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinators, Brandon Mikulski mikulskib06@gmail.com or Marji Groth at 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 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.*

Pilgrim members and friends are always welcome to join the Mission Team.

If you would like to join this team, please contact Pastor Ashley or any Mission Team member.



Pilgrim Children's Hour Returns on Sunday, September 7

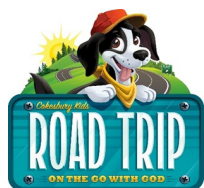
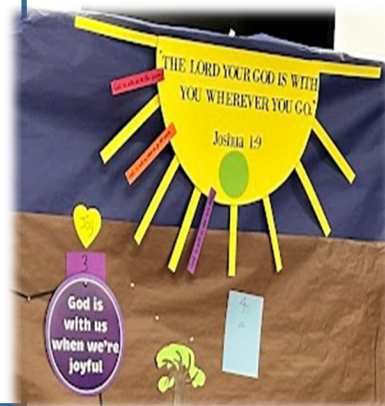
Click the link below to Register your child(ren) for the 2025-2026 Program Year. Registration is **FREE** and open to **ALL** children in 3K through 6th Grade.

Use this Link: [**Registration for the 2025/2026 Children's Hour**](#)

- Children's Hour takes place every Sunday morning during the 10:30 am worship service
- Kids start the service in the pews with their families, and they head downstairs after the Children's Time during the service
- On Communion Sundays (1st and 3rd Sundays this year), we will come back upstairs for Communion so they can participate
- During Children's Hour, we will have stories, games, crafts, music, snacks, and more!
- Most Sundays, we will split up into two groups (3K-5K and 1st-6th), with our 6th graders taking a more service role as they help our younger grades
- We are excited to begin using a brand new curriculum called *Two or More* this year!
- We will also be presenting a Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21 (10:30 service)



Pilgrim Children's Hour
United Church of Christ



Thank you, once again, for the wonderful week of VBS August 4-7! Our Road Trip was full of smiles, sunshine, and God's love!

First Communion & Acolyte Workshops



We will be celebrating First Communion on Sunday, October 5 during the 10:30 am worship service. 3rd Graders and their parents are invited to attend ONE of the workshops in September to ready themselves for this great day in their spiritual journey.

Click the link below to register for ONE of the workshops on either Sept. 14 or Sept. 28 at 9:30 am.

*Note: If your child is older than 3rd grade and would like to participate, just let us know!

First Communion Workshop Registration



Contact the Children's Ministry Team:

childrensministry@pilgrimuccgraston.org

Devon Polzar

Elementary/Middle School
Education Coordinator

Emma Lucht &
Tracey Van Ryzin

Children's Ministry Education

Pilgrim's Nursery

The Nursery will re-open for the Program Year during the 10:30 am worship service, beginning September 7. Bring your babies thru age 3 to the nursery, and we will have 2 youth workers there to watch over your little friends during the entire worship service.



Confirmation Classes Begin on September 17

Confirmation Classes are held on Wednesday nights beginning on Sept. 17 through May 6. **Classes are open to ALL 7th and 8th graders regardless of where they are at on their spiritual journey.** This year we will be heading to Daycholah Center in Green Lake for a 24 hour Retreat (Oct. 3-4), serving a meal at St. Ben's in Milwaukee, visiting a local funeral home, and exploring our faith in a safe and inviting space.

If your youth is interested in joining us this year, there is a Parent/Youth Informational Meeting on September 10 at 6:30pm.

A registration fee of \$125 is due at that meeting. This fee helps cover the cost of the retreat and other supplies needed during the year. If financial assistance is needed, please let us know.



8th Graders will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

PLEASE click here to complete the form below to register your youth for the 2025-2026 Confirmation Classes at Pilgrim

Summer Youth Mission Trip – Brooklyn, New York

29 youths and 9 adults traveled to Brooklyn during the week of July 12-19. Thank you all so very much for your prayers and donations in support of these youths. It was an amazing week, and the youth and adults are excited to share with you all their experiences from the trip.



A date will be forthcoming for a *Mission Trip Reflections* presentation.

Be on the lookout for information regarding next summer's Youth Mission Trip soon!!!





YOUTH BRAT FRY

for 2026 Mission Trip

**RALLY DAY!!
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7**

**BRATS, BURGERS AND
HOT DOGS TO GO**

**SOLD BETWEEN
SERVICES AND AFTER
SECOND SERVICE**

Thank you for supporting our
youth as we raise funds for
the next mission trip!

Contact the Youth Ministries Team

youthministry@pilgrimuccgraftern.org

Meg Claeys

Middle/High School Coordinator

Devon Polzar

Elementary/Middle School Coordinator

WOMEN's JOURNEY: Tuesday, September 9, at 12:30 pm; please bring lunch to church

COFFEE CHAT: Thursday, September 18, at 10:00 am

SCOPA Group: Monday, September 15, at 1:00 pm (will return to 1st Monday thereafter)

SHEEPSHEAD: Fridays, September 12 and 26, at 1:00 pm

CRIBBAGE: Monday, September 8, at 1:00 pm

DOMINOES: Wednesday, September 17, at 1:00 pm

FUNSETTERS: Monday, September 29, 11:30 am, at Flipside in Grafton



Breakfast & Learn **September 20 (7:30 am)**

Do You Remember?

A number of our Pilgrim members have been around during some of our nation's biggest historical events over the past 80 years. Our memories fade, but *certain events will never be forgotten.*

Join us for breakfast and then stories from some who will recall these earth-shattering moments. Where were you and how did it affect your surroundings at the time? *Some of us will never forget.*

Topics will include World War II in Great Britain, President John F Kennedy's assassination, Martin Luther King's assassination, first moon landing, Apollo 13 near-disaster, 9/11, and more.

Our breakfast will begin at 7:30 AM. A free will offering will cover the food cost. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board

Another Year of Kindness

An evening of Compassion, Connection and Hope

Saturday, September 13, 6-10 pm

Your presence makes a difference! Please help support Mr. Bob's mission to care for the homeless. Hosted at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, their **second annual Gala Fundraiser** will offer a delicious catered dinner, live entertainment, auction, 50-50 raffle, and Wine Pull.

Please call 262-355-5685

or email

director@mrbobsutb.org



Visit the flyer on the Mission board for full details!

- ♦ Pastor Ashley is excited to offer ***Sermon and Scripture Chat*** on **Monday mornings at 10:30 am.** This is a time to reflect on questions that arose from the sermon the previous Sunday and look at the upcoming scriptures for the next Sunday. We will begin **Monday, September 8**, at 10:30 am, downstairs in the Media Room.
- ♦ **Starting September 10**, we will begin a **Weekly Bible Study on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm** downstairs in the media room. **We will begin our Bible Study at the very beginning with the book of Genesis.** All are welcome to attend! If you have no experience with scripture, have read the Bible front to back 12 times, or just have questions about how to understand these ancient texts today—come and join us! We will be using “Listen UP!”- a resource put together by the Pilgrim's Press.

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

PILGRIM GOES ON A HIKE

LION'S DEN GORGE NATURE PRESERVE

SEPT
13

SATURDAY
9:30AM

Join us for an intergenerational hike
We will start with snacks and a prayer at the pavilion and then send you out onto the trails to hike with GOD
***The pavilion is reserved all morning if you would like to come out and commune in nature too!!!**

Pilgrim United Church of Christ - 1621 2nd Ave., Grafton, WI 53024

Our Thanks to....

Pulpit Supply: To Rev. Jakob Kroner, Rev. Eric Mareen, and Rev. Julie Mavity Maddalena for leading us in worship this summer, and for their very inspirational messages.

Outdoor Service, August 3: All the musicians, service participants, those who set up for the service & picnic, attended the picnic, bringing tasty foods, and those who helped clean up—much appreciated!

VBS, August 3-7: To the Children's Ministry Team, adult and youth volunteers, and all the children/families who attended this year's VBS: "On the Road with God."

Mt Horeb Wellness Fair, August 9: To Lucy Wyka, Cherie Burton, Cory Jepsen-Hobbs, and Marilyn Linde for volunteering at Mt Horeb's Wellness Fair on August 9.

Cleaning Project: To John Carli and all those who helped move furniture and items out and back in the rooms!

Summer Volunteers: To everyone who led Social groups throughout the summer, volunteered at service, worked the landscape beds, provided desserts for St. Ben's. For all the wonderful ways you have continued to take care of summer responsibilities, *we thank you.*



For Healing and Strength

*For Warner Schafer, who will have right knee replacement the week of August 31.

*For Larry Sween's dad, Kent, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

*For Lys Buck, who began chemo treatments for recurrent endometrial cancer, which she will have every three weeks. Please continue prayers for Lys' mom, who is also receiving chemo for abdominal cancer. Prayers also for Liz, Jordan, and Emlyn.

*Prayers for Ken Klas, who continues to navigate treatment for bladder cancer and remains active without significant symptoms. Prayers also for Pat Tumanic, who walks beside him.

*For Meg & Mike Claeys and their son, Landon, who joyfully returned home from an extended stay at Children's Hosp.

*For Kathy Ellenbecker, who continues to receive IV antibiotic therapy at home after hospitalization from an infection.

Ongoing

*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



With Sympathy

*For Nola Paegelow and the family of Butch Paegelow; Butch passed away on August 19.

*For Willie Gabrich, and the family of Mary Gabrich; Mary passed away on August 14.

OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES OR HOMEBOUND

Pam Paul, Home

Carolyn Fuhr, Village Pointe Commons

Jack Landmann, The Arboretum, Memory Care

Shelly Papenfus, Home



OUR MEMBERS IN THE SERVICE

Adam Lusty – US Army, Staff Sergeant

Mark Aaron Schubert—US Air Force, Airman

Garrett Rescorla—US Marine Corps, LCpl,
New River, NC

Josh Meier, Army National Guard, Pvt.



FINANCE REPORT

Operating Cash	<u>June YTD</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>July YTD</u>
Cash Balance- Beginning of Period	\$ 122,622	\$ 76,202	\$122,622
Cash Receipts	192,719	45,395	238,114
Cash Disbursements	(239,139)	(27,015)	(266,155)
Cash Balance - End of Period	\$ 76,202	\$ 94,582	\$ 94,582

Click here for
Pilgrim's

[Online Giving Link](#)

**PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST****Operating Giving and Expenses through July 31, 2025**

	2025 YTD	2025 Budget	2025 Budget compared to 2025 Actual Incr/(Decr)
Total Operating Incoming Funds	191,090	204,757	(13,667)
Summer Appeal	12,308	-	1,938
TOTAL INCOME	203,398	204,757	(1,359)
Conference Support	9,590	9,714	(124)
Salaries & Benefits	124,582	138,638	(14,056)
Building & Maintenance	44,688	46,280	(1,592)
Programs of the Church	23,526	27,725	(4,199)
Total Operating Expenses	202,386	222,357	(19,971)
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	1,012	(17,600)	18,612

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.

As always, thank you for your generosity.

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.

CARE TEAM: This team provides many options for ways you can bring TLC to others in need.

CHILDREN/YOUTH: Many helping hands are needed to reach kids and youth of all ages through the team's creative programs.

FINANCIAL/STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship could really use some extra help, and check out the other groups as well!

HOSPITALITY: Assist the team to provide our bountiful fellowship opportunities, and whenever there are special events throughout the year.

INCLUSION: This group is a special place to keep love moving in all directions!

MISSIONS: Pilgrim is a "mission church," so let's keep our work going through a variety of wonderful events available all year long. *If you are interested in the Mission Director position, please visit page 2 and 11*

MUSIC TEAMS: GarageBand/Pilgrim Choir/Chimin' In Bell Choir/Hilltop Voice Choir—many ways to express your gifts!

PROPERTY & GROUNDS: This committee always needs members, and your preference could be inside or out!

RACIAL JUSTICE: These team members are committed to promoting healthy discussions and ways to reach our community through films, books, and events.

TECHNICAL: Working on live-streaming equip & recording of services—great for anyone who likes to work with media!

WORSHIP: A service-oriented team, with a variety of areas to participate in and to share your ideas about our services. The need for ushers and scripture readers is always present—even if you aren't interesting in joining the group, please let us know that you can help in these areas! Sign-ups are always available on the narthex board and SignUpGenius online.



Pilgrim UCC Council Meeting - June 18, 2025, 6:30pm
APPROVED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present: Joy Bloemer, Geoff Nauth, Rev. Ashley Nolte, Beth Eernisse, Nick Sancomb, Marilyn Linde, Jill Timmerman

Absent: Dave Nestler

Centering Moment offered by Beth. Marilyn will offer centering moment at August meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 p.m.

Approval of May Minutes: Reviewed draft minutes from May's meeting. No corrections/updates proposed. Joy motioned to approve. Marilyn seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report -

Incoming

Regular giving for May totaled \$28k. This is \$2k over the same period last year but \$1k under budget for the month. Year to date through May, we are \$20k below last year's level and \$12k short of budget. No additional 2025 prepaid pledges were received during May. Our current prepaid pledge balance is \$61k (vs \$17k at this point in 2024) and we will be bringing \$9k of this prepaid balance into income each month through the remainder of 2025. Endowment fund values were up \$14k in May and are up \$6k year to date.

Outgoing

May's overall Operating Expenses were \$25k - \$6k under budget. Each of the following categories were under budget in May – payroll by \$2k, property insurance by \$1k and publicity also by \$1k. Building maintenance included \$1k for purchase of mulch for landscape beds but, even so, was still slightly under budget.

Summary

From a pure Operating income/expense perspective, we had a \$2k gain in May. Year to date we are at a \$16k loss.

Other

We have continued to conservatively invest short term excess cash on hand (e.g. memorial funds, mission trip funds, etc.) with bank CDs. In the near future, such funds will be moving to a high yield cash account that will be managed by Baird (same place that manages our Endowment Funds).

Pilgrim Family Fund is now down to less than \$600.

Jill motioned to approve Treasurer's Report as presented and motion was seconded by Nick. Treasurer's report approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor's report reviewed and discussed. Items of note:

There are 30 youth and 10 adults heading to Brooklyn on this year's mission trip.

Lucy Wyka has resigned as Mission Director, effective August 31. Discussions are underway with Staff Relations and Mission Team members on a path forward.

Ashley plans to join a community of practice group this fall that is offered through the UCC Conference. This is a continuing education/support group for both clergy and staff. Ashley wants us to consider involving Pilgrim staff members as well.

Recent changes to the UCC conference structure will necessitate a minor update to Pilgrim's bylaw (wording change from Association to Conference). This will need to be voted on at the next Congregational Meeting.

Committee Liaisons

Building and Assets –

Coffee pot project is moving forward. Expect this to be funded by Memorial Fund

Flow Logic system (required by insurance) is also moving forward.

Quotes for sidewalk slope range between \$5-\$8k. Project funding still to be determined.

Audio system upgrade proposal is in process.

Consideration of the addition of security cameras (as proposed in our NPSG grant application) has been tabled for now as there is no outside funding available.

Finance – nothing to add beyond Treasurer's report

Staff – One staff member is on medical leave and Lucy Wyka has resigned.

Old Business

NPSG – still no feedback on grant resubmission.

Summer appeal – will be highlighted in pre-service slides in upcoming services. Other suggestions (Adopt a Bill, etc.) will begin July/August time frame.

New Business

None

Action Steps between now and next meeting –

None noted

Adjourn

Marilyn motioned to adjourn. Beth seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.



Housing Insecurity

This month, the Inclusion Team, in partnership with the Mission Team, is going to provide information on housing insecurity and homelessness in Ozaukee County. We are focusing on Ozaukee County because this is where the church is physically located.

What is housing insecurity?

Housing insecurity refers to the lack of stable, safe, and affordable housing, encompassing a spectrum of challenges beyond just homelessness. It includes situations where individuals or families struggle to afford their housing costs, face residential instability, or live in substandard conditions.



What does this look like?

Families and individuals live in cars (yes, it happens in Ozaukee County).

Families and individuals without a permanent physical address live with relatives.

Families and individuals live in hotel rooms long term, with no permanent physical address.

But there are housing developments going up everywhere we turn! Yes, there are! The next question should be: Are they affordable? Great question! How do you figure out if housing is affordable? Don't worry, there is an equation for that:

- *Calculate gross monthly income GMI (AVERAGE Income in Ozaukee is \$96,000... remember there are people that make MORE of that AND less of that). Divide \$96,000 by 12 (12 months) and you get \$8,000 per month as the average GMI.
- *Affordable housing costs are calculated by multiplying the GMI by .30. $8,000 \times 0.30 = \$2,400.00$.
- * "Affordable" housing in Ozaukee County costs \$2,400 per month based on the average income of \$96,000.

Why is this a problem?

First, how many people do you know that make \$96,000 a year? How many people do you know that make LESS than \$96,000 a year? This is a problem for those making less than the average GMI in Ozaukee County because it provides them with limited housing opportunities. (*Translation... some folks who live in Oz literally can't afford to live here*).

Another problem is a substantial lack of affordable housing in Ozaukee County. Currently, the vacancy rate in Ozaukee County rental housing is less than 2%. (The national average is 7%.) Not only is it expensive to live in Ozaukee County, but there are also fewer rental properties available for rent. And, the properties available for rent (you guessed it) are expensive.

There are several agencies in our area working to counter housing insecurity: Habitat for Humanity (*who will be joining us in worship on September 21*), Family Promise of Ozaukee County, St. Vincent de Paul, and the United Way.

We will provide more information during worship about these programs during the month of September, along with more facts about what homelessness and housing insecurity look like in Ozaukee County.

Most importantly, remember: Housing insecurity affects people that sit with us in the pews.

This is not a problem 'out there,' but this is the reality for folks in our congregation, as well as our wider community.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Mission Director Job Description

Principal Function: The mission director is a valuable member of the church staff. The mission director is responsible for coordinating and maintaining all church mission projects and communication with pastor, staff, and members.

Position Type:

Part-time; 10 hours per week, not to exceed 520 hours per calendar year
Payroll; Monthly
Flexible Schedule
Annual Review

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

Prepare and oversee yearly national missions such as OGHS, Strengthening the Church, Neighbors in Need, etc.

Provide guidance and mentoring to coordinators regarding timelines and logistics of each mission project such as St. Bens, Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, Mt. Horeb, and all seasonal and ongoing projects

Prepare weekly bulletin blurbs and monthly newsletter articles for Pilgrim's Progress

Keep connected with Church World Services and other mission organizations

The Mission Director facilitates the Mission Team of volunteers, which includes providing direction, planning, and giving reports in a regular manner and reports to Church Council as needed.

Effective communication connecting the mission team through meetings, emails, and personal contact with team members and recruiting for new members

Periodically report results of past projects to congregation

Explore additional areas for mission work and assign a coordinator to facilitate

Coordinates domestic and international adult mission trips

Keep missions bulletin board current

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Independent, able to set priorities, attentive to detail, organized, great follow through and effective communicational skills, passion in missions.

Supervisory duties for the Mission Director will be the responsibility of the Pastor. The Staff Relations Committee will provide any needed support and/or guidance, as requested by the Pastor.

Every Church Staff Member is an at-will employee of the congregation, and is ultimately responsible to the Church Council and Pastor. Church Staff members maintain a shared promise of confidentiality, conflict resolution, and cooperation. The Church Staff Member also understands the need to attract and retain church volunteers, (which may include but not be limited to, congregational members / friends /visitors) as he or she works to maintain and extend the mission of Pilgrim United Church of Christ. The Staff Relations Committee will provide any needed support and/or guidance to all Church Staff Members, as requested by the individual employee, the Pastor and/or the Church Council.

Support the theological understandings of Pilgrim United Church of Christ (UCC), which promotes intentional hospitality, social diversity, freedom of thinking, and a spirit of grace rather than judgment. Our congregation is Open and Affirming of LGBTQ persons, and is committed to promoting Accessibility and Safe Sanctuary to all who participate in our congregational life.

Education and Experience:

A high school diploma or equivalent is required and two or more years of college is preferred

Ability to follow directions and communicate with all staff and the congregation

Work Environment:

Flexible during special events
Attend monthly staff meetings



PILGRIM UCC MUSIC MINISTRY

Music welcomes and invites us into God's arms unconditionally. It touches hearts in numerous unique and powerful ways. It is indeed a treasured gift both given and received and an important ministry welcomed at Pilgrim's worship services.



Pilgrim Music Opportunities Starting Up Again this Fall – September 2025

Pilgrim Choir (*John Reiter, Director*) – Rehearsals are Sundays between services beginning at 9:15 and start Rally Day – Sunday, September 7. The Pilgrim choir (open to teens and adults) provides featured music for worship services throughout the year.

Hilltop Voice (*John Reiter, Director*) – Small group of vocalists that offer gathering music and featured music for worship services throughout the year. Rehearsal times vary and can be Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings between services. Familiarity with reading music and ability to work on pieces individually is encouraged as rehearsals are primarily for polishing and not learning songs. Music is provided to all members as far in advance as possible.

GarageBand – Small group of praise band musicians that provide gathering and featured music for worship services throughout the year. Weekly rehearsals are currently scheduled on Wednesdays starting at 6:15 pm.

Chimin' In Bell Choir (*Liz Yoon, Director*) – Is open to teens and adults. No prior bell experience is necessary, but some familiarity with reading music is helpful. Rehearsals are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7 pm.

If you are interested in participating in any of the above Pilgrim music groups/choirs or if you have any questions, please contact:

John Reiter, Music Director jer-13@att.net

Sue Willman, Music Assistant suewillman55@gmail.com

Liz Yoon, Bell Choir Director (Chimin' In) lysnliz@gmail.com or 262-910-1789

Community Music Outreach

The **WI Gospellers** have added Pilgrim as one of their regular rehearsal spaces and will be holding a **rehearsal at Pilgrim on Saturday, Sept. 6** from 10am to 2pm. *They welcome all to attend and participate.* The Gospellers will also be with us in December for a performance. The WI Gospellers will be going on tour to Germany in June/July 2026, and are hoping to gather a larger choir and always open to new members. If you are interested or would like more information, please send your inquiries to wisconsinogospellers@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS / THANK YOU / OFFICE HOURS

1 Brayden Godejohn
Kenneth Plaisted
Melanie Plante
2 Marilyn Dearth
Jack Molinard
Irene Schumaker
3 Karen Hempelman
4 Aubrianna Maurer
5 Morgan Eernisse
Mason Krueger
6 Janet Kunz
Jonathan Waldhart
7 Amanda Binder
Parker Kobliska
Dawn Pfaff
Shane Rescorla
8 Matthew Faase
Morgan McCraw
Daniel Pfeiffer
10 Sharron Roffers
Allison Voras
Macy Voras

11 Willow Bauer
Val Dowe
13 Sam Jenkins
14 Samantha duVergey
Frank Harth
Amanda Koch
15 Linda Boesch
Evan Foerster
Judy Kopka
Jill Timmerman
18 Chris Leidel
Lisa Pease
19 John Frank
Scott Roffers
Lori Schmit
Erin Schumaker
20 Samantha Burrows
Jeanette Koch
Miles Koch
Lila Landmann
Olivia Lucht

21 Brooke Carli
Allen Krueger
22 Steven Beloin
Robyn Wiegand
23 Leila Behrens
Sean DuBord
Liz Wendorf
Sydney Wooten
24 Amy Swenson
25 Alex Fuentes
Eric Lusty
Garrett Simenc
Liz Willis
26 Laurie Gabrich
Callan Klippel
Elnore Merchen
Vincent Moede
Dylan Mursch
Aidan Stumpf

27 Matthew Kline
Daniel Meer
28 Michelle Fuentes
Brian Klippel
Aimee Mekelburg
29 Caryn Boegel
Marilyn Linde
30 Marji Groth
Joel Multerer



Thank you for all the cards, calls, and prayers offered on our behalf.
First of all, George's fall and surgery, then our 70th Wedding Anniversary, then in sympathy for the sudden death of our granddaughter, Victoria Parsons.

Our hearts are warmed by many friends and relatives, and we thank God for healing and strength to carry on each day.

God Bless you all,

George & Joyce Schowalter

If you are in need of a Pilgrim Family Directory, please contact the office for a copy, and we will have one ready the next time you come to church!

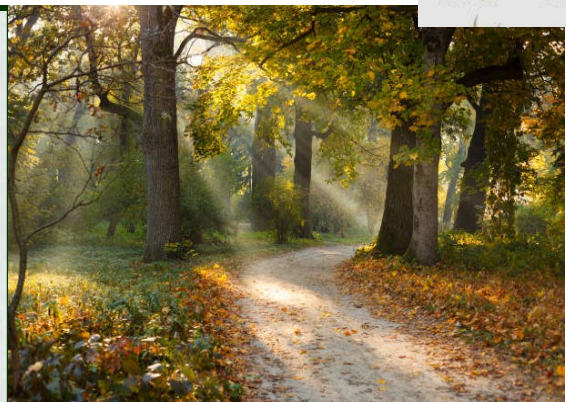
"September, I'm ready for the beauty you bring." — Unknown

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 8:30 am -1:00 pm
Office Phone: 262-377-2640

Email: officemgr@pilgrimuccgrafton.org
Website: <https://pilgrimuccgrafton.org>
Facebook: @PilgrimUCCGrafton
Instagram: @PilgrimUCCGraftonWI



Ways to Participate—Please use these SignUpGenius Links to offer your gifts here at Pilgrim. As always, the Narthex board is ready, and you may always call or email church to assist.

Scripture Readers: [Sign Up to Read Scripture](#)

Ushers: [Sign Up to Usher](#)

Flowers: [Flowers](#)

Bulletins: [Bulletins](#)

Greeters: [Sunday Greeters](#)



USHERS

8:00 am		10:30 am	
7	Chris Leidel Jane Sowers	7	John Carli Cherie Burton
14	LaVerne Johnson Mary Johnson	14	OPEN OPEN
21	Mary Johnson OPEN	21	OPEN OPEN
28	LaVerne Johnson Mary Johnson	28	Karen Maihofer Cherie Burton



GREETERS encouraged! Visit the SignUpGenius Link above, or sign up at church.

SCRIPTURE READERS

8:00 am		10:30 am	
7		7	Dave Braby
14	Lynda Kanios	14	Jane Sowers
21	OPEN	21	OPEN
28	OPEN	28	OPEN

FLOWERS

7	OPEN
14	OPEN
21	Nadine Eernisse
28	OPEN

BULLETINS

7	OPEN
14	Joy Bloemer
21	OPEN
28	OPEN

TREATS ARE BACK, beginning Rally Sunday! Please visit the sign-up sheet at the kitchenette counter—food and/or cash donations welcome (jar at the counter).



Hello to Fall!

Meteorological fall begins September 1, and Astronomical fall begins on September 22 with the autumnal equinox.

According to NOAA, fall is supposed to be warmer than normal for southeast Wisconsin.

Shortly after September 1, it is Rally Day at Pilgrim and we hope that we see YOU!

September



Aster

The aster reflects your wisdom and unwavering faith.



Morning Glory

Let the morning glory remind you of fleeting beauty and love.

From Pilgrim's Membership/ Volunteer Coordinator:

I have set aside some time this fall for volunteer drop-in nights, which will be here at church on specific Wednesday evenings, from 6-7:30 pm. I will be available should you want to find out more about the volunteer opportunities that we have here at Pilgrim, as well as our outside groups with whom we are connected.

Upcoming Volunteer Drop-in Nights:

September 10
October 8 and 22
November 12
December 10

OUTDOOR SERVICE / VBS PICTURES

Outdoor Service, August 3
Pics courtesy Kris



VBS 2025



SEPTEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 RALLY DAY Services at 8 & 10:30 am Comm Worship Adult Study & Choir 9:15 am Children's Hour—10:30a Youth Brat Fry</p>	<p>1 Office Closed</p> <p>8 Sermon & Scripture 10:30 am Cribbage—1:00 pm Chimin' In 7:00 pm</p>	<p>2 Let today be the start of something new</p> <p>9 Women's Journey 12:30 pm Grief Support Group 1:30 pm Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	<p>3 GarageBand—6:45pm</p> <p>10 *Volunteer Drop-in Meeting 6:00 pm *Vespers—6:15 pm *GarageBand Practice 6:45 pm *Parent Conf Mtg—6:30 pm *Bible Study—7:00p</p> <p>17 Dominoes—1:00 pm *Vespers—6:15 pm *GarageBand Practice 6:15 pm *Confirmation—6:30p *Bible Study—7:00p</p> <p>24 Grafton Clergy Mtg 11:00 am *Vespers—6:15 pm *GarageBand Practice 6:15 pm *Confirmation—6:30p *Bible Study—7:00p</p>	<p>4 VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE Noon - 5 pm</p> <p>11 Community of Practice -11:30 am Overeaters Anon—6:30p</p> <p>18 Coffee Chat—10 am Overeaters Anon—6:30p</p> <p>25 Overeaters Anon—6:30p</p>	<p>5 St Ben's Deserts</p> <p>12 Sheephead 1:00 pm</p> <p>19 Sheephead 1:00 pm</p> <p>26 Sheephead 1:00 pm</p>	<p>6 WI Gospelers Practice 10:00am-2:00pm</p> <p>13 Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic 8:00am—noon Pilgrim Intergenerational Hike Lion's Den—9:30 am</p> <p>20 Breakfast & Learn Do You Remember? 7:30 am</p> <p>27</p>
<p>14 Worship Services 8 & 10:30 am Adult Study & Choir 9:15 am First Communion/ Acolyte Training—9:30a Children's Hour—10:30a</p> <p>21 Comm Worship 8 & 10:30 am Adult Study & Choir 9:15 am Children's Hour—10:30a Habitat Presentation Mission Trip Reflections 10:30 am</p> <p>28 Worship Service 8 & 10:30 am Adult Study & Choir 9:15 am First Communion/ Acolyte Training—9:30a Children's Hour—10:30a Mission Mtg—11:45 am</p>	<p>15 SCOPA —1:00 pm</p> <p>22 Chimin' In 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm</p> <p>29 Funsetters—11:30 am Staff Meeting—6:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Worship Team 7:00 pm Boy Scouts—6:30p</p> <p>23 Boy Scouts—6:30p</p> <p>30 Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	<p>We Are the Church Together</p>			

PASTOR

Rev. Ashley Nolte Church 262-377-2640
RevAshleyn@pilgrimuccgraston.org Cell 920-762-0192

PASTOR EMERITUS

George Schowalter gschowalter89@gmail.com 262-335-3237

OFFICE MANAGER

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

MISSIONS

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

childrensministry@pilgrimuccgraston.org

Devon Polzar, Early Childhood/Middle School Coord. 920-327-3567

Emma Lucht, Children's Ministry Coordinator 952-693-1124

Tracey Van Ryzin, Children's Ministry Staff Asst. 262-305-5576

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Megan Claeys, Middle School/High School Coordinator

youthministry@pilgrimuccgraston.org 262-707-2927

Devon Polzar, Early Childhood/Middle School Coordinator

childrensministry@pilgrimuccgraston.org 920-327-3567

CHURCH CO-TREASURERS treasurer@pilgrimuccgraston.org

Joy Bloemer 262-305-2661

Carrie Britt 414-526-6936

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Lys Buck accounting@pilgrimuccgraston.org 414-362-0538

MUSIC DIRECTOR

John Reiter jer-13@att.net 262-255-7988

MUSIC ASSISTANT

Sue Willman suewillman55@gmail.com 262-388-2783

BELLS DIRECTOR

Liz Yoon lysnliz@gmail.com 414-362-0538

VIDEO TECH & COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Beth Hartman bhartmanpmp@gmail.com 502-314-8314

DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

Kory Kobliska koblis@hotmail.com 414-305-5679

SOUND TECHNICIAN

Steve Beloin scb2215@gmail.com

OUTREACH & MARKETING COORDINATOR

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

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Cherie Burton volunteer@pilgrimuccgraston.org 414-335-9012

WEBSITE

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

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

CHURCH LIBRARIAN

Tom Kopka tomkopka@wi.rr.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

Geoff Nauth (President) 414-507-1709

Dave Nestler (Vice President) 414-803-1728

Jill Timmerman (Secretary) 414-840-2763

Beth Eernisse 608-957-9695

Marilyn Linde 414-940-8346

Nicholas Sancomb 262-353-0153



CARE TEAM *Cory Jepsen-Hobbs- Chair /*

Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff

Linda Eakin Kathy Ellenbecker Marji Groth

Rachel Gutridge Heidi Jenkins Marilyn Linde

Susan Maca Donna Tredrea Deb Lushine

Karen Maihofer Nancy Vanden Wymelenberg

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Hope Holland-Mullins and Patty Guist, Co-Chairs

Rev. Ashley Nolte—Staff

Leila Behrens Marilyn Dearth Rachel Gutridge

Cory Jepsen-Hobbs LaVerne Johnson Sylvia Stephens

Sue Willman Nancy VandenWymelenberg

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

Todd Brame Jennifer Carli Kris Fisher

Beth Hartman Nicole Pekarske Liz Yoon

MISSIONS *Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff* Dennis Grabow

Pat Grabow Marji Groth Cory Jepsen-Hobbs

Susan Maca George Schowalter Naomi Seiler

Jill Timmerman Donna Tredrea

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Rachel Gutridge Annie Gehrke Neal Hobbs

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

Dennis Grabow Neal Hobbs Bruce Linde

Brian Maurer

RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM *Rev. Ashley Nolte - Staff*

Jennifer Carli Kris Fisher Rachel Gutridge

Ray Kremer Nicole Pekarske Naomi Seiler

Ron Wildasin

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

Caryn Boegel

Endowments

Neal Hobbs

Tony Tagliapietra

Heidi Jenkins

Counting Team - *Kathy Monroe, Finance Deacon*

Joy Bloemer, Carrie Britt, Liaisons

Subs: Beth Hartman, Jill Timmerman

Diane Nauta

*Pilgrim United Church of Christ
1621 2nd Avenue
Grafton, WI 53024*

Phone: 262-377-2640
E-mail: ppmail@pilgrimuccgraffton.org
Website: <https://pilgrimuccgraffton.org>
Facebook: @PilgrimUCCGrafton
Instagram: @PilgrimUCCGraftonWI



Pilgrim's Progress

SEPTEMBER 2025



PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Ashley Nolte, Pastor

Follow us on Facebook!



“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are Welcome Here.”