



# Pilgrim's Progress

## December 2025



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

### FROM YOUR MINISTER

*Grace and peace to you all in this Advent and Christmas Season*

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Hanging of the Greens, p. 2
- Women's Advent Svc, p. 2
- Youth Cookie Bake, p. 5
- Christmas Caroling, p. 2
- Pilgrim Family Fund, p. 2
- Missions for December, p. 3
- Religious Diversity, p. 9
- Job Openings, p. 9
- Children's Christmas Program, p. 4
- Advent Calendar, p. 12



#### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">Pilgrim Announcements</a>	2
<a href="#">Missions</a>	3
<a href="#">Children's Ministry</a>	4
<a href="#">Youth Ministry</a>	5
<a href="#">Social, Enrichment</a>	6
<a href="#">Our Thanks, Prayers,</a>	7
<a href="#">Volunteer Page</a>	8
<a href="#">Inclusion/Religious Diversity</a>	9
<a href="#">Finance Team/Resources</a>	10
<a href="#">Council Minutes</a>	11
<a href="#">Advent Calendar- Thanksgiving Meal Pics</a>	12
<a href="#">December Birthdays</a>	13
<a href="#">Online Directory</a>	
<a href="#">Office Hours</a>	
<a href="#">December Calendar</a>	14

Every year I hear Karen Carpenter sing, "Oh there's no place like home for the holidays..." Her warm alto tone, both cozy and comforting, invites me to close my eyes and think about home.

There is something about this season, more than others, that welcomes a sense of nostalgia. It begs and urges us to remember—home.

I, like many of you, have had many homes through the course of my life—my childhood home in Greenbush, WI; my college home at Elmhurst University; my first apartment in Evanston, IL; another apartment in Greendale, WI; a house in Plymouth; a house in Kiel; a house in Grafton. *Each of these places I considered a home.*

And even now, when I list them off, I remember the way each of these homes was decorated for Christmas. I can close my eyes and imagine my college apartment and see the spot where we put our little artificial tree. I can remember the garland that was hung over trim in my childhood home. I can remember the various positions we have put up our Christmas tree in our current home (as it turns out, radiant heat dries out live Christmas trees...fast). I can retrieve memories from each of these places and—along with many subsequent stories—it is hard to decide which one of these come to mind when I hear Karen Carpenter sing.

But, what I also remember when I think of home, are all the congregations I was able to call home. I remember my home church and their incredibly over-the-top Christmas programs, that included an all-day Saturday rehearsal the day before. I remember Christmas Eve as an intern at Emanuel Church in Hales Corners, where I participated in the Christmas Eve services as a leader. This was my first 'working' Christmas Eve. And the Christmas Eve I spent leading worship as a Chaplain at Bethany Homes in Glenview, IL. And my first Christmas Eve/Christmas Day as the Pastor of Bethlehem, UCC in Kiel. And, last but not least, the Christmas Eves I have been privileged to spend with you here at Pilgrim. And even now, when I list them, I remember these places and people. I remember how sanctuaries were decorated. When I recollect all these congregations, it is hard to decide which one comes to mind when I hear Karen Carpenter sing.

Home has never been one place to me; instead, it has become a myriad of people, places, and memories that have held me at different times in my life.

I am profoundly grateful for all of them. And they have taught me, truly, *home is that place where you can go to be loved. And treasured.*

I hope that Karen Carpenter, in her warm alto voice, invites us to consider all the places we have called home with wonder and gratitude and, maybe, a tinge of longing for "the good old days." This season, may we have grateful hearts as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child home—with a mother, a father, and a manger—to be loved and treasured.

*Oh there's no place like home for the holidays.*

*With love, Pastor Ashley*



**HANGING of the GREENS**

**Prep Work: Tuesday, December 2**  
**Decorating: Wednesday, December 3**  
**Begins 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 complete the work. Contact Ron Wildasin or any member of the team if you can assist.

**Women's Advent Candlelight Service—  
 Monday, December 8**

Ladies, join us for an evening created just for you—a break from all the stress that the holiday season brings upon us. Enjoy an evening of song, stories, friendship, and candlelight. Please feel free to bring a family member or friend.

**Friendship & treats: 6:30 pm / Service—7:00 pm**

*Looking forward to seeing you—The Women's Journey*


**December Worship Events at Pilgrim**


- ◆ **Worship Services**—Join us at 8 and 10:30 for worship, which includes our special Advent Candle Lighting.
- ◆ **Women's Advent Service, December 8, 6:30 pm**
- ◆ **Music by the Gospellers, December 14, 10:30 am**—This joyful service promises to fill our sanctuary with spirit, energy, and hope! Visit page 6 for more info about their weekend visit.
- ◆ **Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service, December 18, 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.
- ◆ **Children's Christmas Program, December 21— "Sing with us the Christmas Story"** will be presented at the 10:30 am service.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 3:00 / 5:00 / 9:00 pm**  
We look forward to sharing Blessings of Christmas with you.
- ◆ **Sunday, December 28 Worship Service: 9:00 am:** A New Year's Party with treats and fellowship will follow service.

**Sunday, December 14**—following the 10:30 service, we will



gather in Kalweit Hall for a light lunch (free will offering), then carpool and sing carols to our Pilgrim friends who are homebound or in need of extra cheer. All voices welcome!

**This is a great opportunity to spread kindness.**

**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 it is for the "Pilgrim Family Fund."

Pilgrim's online giving link:

[Online Giving](#)

**OPEN POSITIONS**

- \* *Missions Director*
- \* *Treasurer*

Please send letter of interest and resume to Dave Braby at [brabydave@icloud.com](mailto:brabydave@icloud.com)

Please contact Pastor Ashley with questions.

**YOUTH COOKIE BAKE:**

Sunday, December 14

9:00-10:30 am and 11:30 am -12 pm

Visit page 5 for more details!



**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE: December 31**

**Annual Congregational Meeting:  
 Sunday, February 1, 2025**

Visit page 9 for an Inclusion article on *Religious Diversity*, as we want to celebrate and honor the many interdenominational families in our congregation.

**DECEMBER Scripture Readings—Common English Bible**

**7 Vision of Peace** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**14 Heartbeat of Justice** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**21 God With Us** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**28 Cosmic Praise** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 22:13-23

The greatest present is God's presence.





**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Because of your generosity, we were able to send a check to our Conference office in the amount of \$1,252.00 to support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C. Thank you!



**THE CHRISTMAS FUND ~  
BE THE LIGHT**

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to the healers: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers and their families. Please consider donating to ensure they receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. Your gift is more than just a testament to your belief in the values of the United Church of Christ; it is a critical lifeline for those who depend on our grant programs for care and support.

Please use a special Christmas Fund envelope found in the pews or use the Online Giving link. We will collect through the month of December.

**"...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,  
THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY..." Matthew 2:10**

Want to make this year a bit merrier and brighter for kids in SE Wisconsin? This year Pilgrim is proud to be a partner organization for **Kapco's Kid2Kid Toy Drive**. With the help of Hometown Heroes and the Salvation Army, all toys collected are distributed to children in need through 30 different charities serving children and families throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. New toys can be dropped off at church during office hours in the black bin with the Kids2Kids flyer attached. Gifts will be accepted until December 11. For information and gift ideas, please visit:



<https://www.kids2kidstoydrive.com/toy-drive>

Kapco's KIDS2KIDS is proud to distribute toys to local families in need. We partner with these organizations to ensure children receive toys during the holidays:

- Camp Reunite & Hometown Heroes**
- The Salvation Army**
- Ronald McDonald House**
- Jacarie Kicks for Kids**
- Victims of Milwaukee Violence**
- Family Sharing & many more**



**WINTER FOOD DRIVE FOR  
FAMILY SHARING**

*Included on page 12 is a  
2025 Family Sharing Advent Calendar!*

Please bring these non-perishable items to Pilgrim in January to the carport entrance; they will be gathered and sent to Family Sharing. Calendar copies are available at church.

*Thank you so much for your donations.*

**FAMILY PROMISE PORTLIGHT SHELTER,  
PORT WASHINGTON**



The Portlight Shelter has been helping people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless in Ozaukee County for ten years. The aim of the shelter is to help people get back on their feet. It can house as many as 20 adults and children at one time and is usually at, or close to capacity. After 10 years, the blankets and mattress pads need replacing. We are asking for monetary donations to be used for the purchase of blankets and mattress pads for 8 full and 12 twin beds. Our check will be sent to the Shelter, and they will purchase them using their Amazon Prime account. If you would like to help, please use an envelope in the pews marked for Family Promise, or use the online giving account. We will collect through the month of December. **Thank you!**

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



If you would like to join this team, or have an interest in particular mission opportunities, contact Pastor Ashley or any Mission Team member.



### Pilgrim 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*



Exploring God's Love

Pilgrim Children's Hour  
United Church of Christ

Use this link to register your child(ren):



[Registration for the 2025/2026 Children's Hour](#)

Practices continue for our **Children's Christmas Program** this month during Children's Hour!

Here is our schedule:

- December 7—Practice during Children's Hour
- December 14—Practice during Children's Hour
- December 21—Dress Rehearsal @ 9:30 am

*Come and sing with us!*  
**Sunday, December 21 @ 10:30 am**

### Sing With Us The Christmas Story



A Program for Voices Young and Older  
With Narration from Scripture  
Musical Arrangements by Ceresa & Paul Jennings



**No Children's Hour – December 28**

Children's Hour will return on January 4



**Pilgrim's Nursery** The Nursery is open during the 10:30 am worship services. Bring your babies through 3-year-olds to the nursery and we will have two youth workers there to watch over our little friends during the entire worship service.



Chili Packer Party  
November 16



Contact the Children's Ministry Team:

[childrensministry@pilgrimuccgrifton.org](mailto:childrensministry@pilgrimuccgrifton.org)

**Devon Polzar**  
Elementary/Middle School  
Education Coordinator

**Emma Lucht & Tracey Van Ryzin**  
Children's Ministry Education



## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes are held on Wednesday nights through May 6. **Classes are open to ALL 7th and 8th graders, regardless of where they are at on their spiritual journey.** If you would like more information on our Confirmation classes, please reach out to the Youth Ministry Team.



**\*\*No Confirmation Classes on December 24 and December 31\*\***

## Youth Mission Trip: July 12-16, 2026

\*\*\*We've had a tremendous response to our youth mission trip next summer... because of the large group, we are currently working on possible alternate plans... be on the lookout for more information soon!



## Youth Cookie Bake

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

9-10:30 AND 11:30-12

POSSIBLY DEC 21 AS WELL

LARGE & SMALL PLATES

CHOCOLATE DIPPED  
PRETZELS & OREOS



### \*Youth and Parents:

We will be baking and decorating cookies on

**December 11-13**

Watch for an email with sign-up information!

### Contact the Youth Ministries Team

[youthministry@pilgrimuccgrafton.org](mailto:youthministry@pilgrimuccgrafton.org)

**Meg Claeys**

Middle/High School Coordinator

**Devon Polzar**

Elementary/Middle School Coordinator



**Chili/Packer  
Party  
November 16**



Thank you for your support, always!



**WOMEN'S JOURNEY:** See you at the *Women's Advent Service!*

Groups not meeting during this busy month of December (will return in January)

COFFEE CHAT / SCOPA / FUNSETTERS

Enjoy these "game days" - all beginning at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room:

**CRIBBAGE:** Monday, December 8

**SHEEPSHEAD:** Friday, December 12

**DOMINOES:** Wednesday, December 17

(No sheepshead on Friday, December 26)



#### ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

w/Pastor Ashley:

- *Scripture & Sermon*—Mondays, 10:30 am
- *Vespers*—Wednesdays via Zoom at 6:15 pm
- *Bible Study*—Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

**Adult Study** continues on Sundays mornings at 9:15 am in the Conference Room



The **Wisconsin UCC Gospellers**, a statewide gospel choir affiliated with the United Church of Christ, will bring their energetic and faith-filled music to **Pilgrim UCC Grafton** during worship on **Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.** All are invited to **join the Gospellers in song**—come to the open rehearsal on **Saturday, December 13 from 3–5 p.m.** and lift your voice in praise!

Because many members travel from more than an hour away, we're also looking for **families willing to host a Gospeller overnight** from Saturday to Sunday. Your hospitality helps make this ministry of music possible. Contact Naomi Seiler if you're willing to host: [Naomi.M.Seiler@gmail.com](mailto:Naomi.M.Seiler@gmail.com) or 262-546-0607

*This joyful service promises to fill our sanctuary with spirit, energy, and hope—please make a special effort to attend and invite friends and neighbors!*

The Gospellers will also be **traveling to Germany from June 16–July 2, 2026**, sharing the good news through music and fellowship. They are currently **raising funds and welcoming new singers** to join them for this exciting journey. To learn more or express interest, email [wisconsinogspellers@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinogspellers@gmail.com), visit [www.wisconsinogspellers.org](http://www.wisconsinogspellers.org), or follow them on Facebook at **Wisconsin UCC Gospellers**.



**Our Thanks to....**

**Coffee Time**—To Patty Guist, Neal Hobbs, and the Property & Grounds team for their work in implementing the wonderful new coffee system in the kitchenette.

**Chili/Packer Party**—To Youth Ministry leaders, youth, volunteers, and all who provided chili—thank you for a special event!

**Thanksgiving Décor**—To Cherie Burton and Kit Faase for the beautiful sanctuary.

**Thanksgiving Meal**—To Hope Holland-Mullins, Patty Guist, and the Hospitality Team for the wonderful meal, and to all who brought dishes and participated in fellowship.

**Diabetes Awareness**—To the Inclusion Team, once again, for providing a spotlight to Diabetes, and providing treats and recipes as well.

**Meal Blitz**—Thank you to those who donated meals in November, and throughout the year!



**For Healing and Strength**

\*For Landon Claeys, who is recovering from surgery in Critical Condition at Children’s Hospital. Prayers for him as enters into a long and complicated recovery process. Prayers for Meg, Mike, and Robbie as they support him and each other.

\*For Sherry, Caryn Boegel’s sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery.

\*For Joyce Schowalter, who is recovering at home following hip replacement surgery.

\*For Lys Buck, who continues treatment for recurrent endometrial cancer. Please continue prayers for Lys’ mom, who is receiving chemo for abdominal cancer. Prayers for Liz, Jordan, and Emlyn

**Ongoing**

\*For the safety of all our military personnel.

\*For all those struggling with economic insecurity.

\*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.



THANK YOU—A letter was received from Paige Webster, who attends the College of Menominee Nation, Keshena, Green Bay, and received a scholarship from Memorials. *The complete letter is posted in the hall*

*Dear Rev. Ashley J. Nolte,*

*I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of your scholarship...This scholarship will significantly ease my financial burden and allow me to focus more on my studies and community involvement... Your support is not only helping me reach my goals but also inspiring me to one day give back and help others pursue their educational dreams.*

*With heartfelt appreciation, Paige Webster*

**OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES OR HOMEBOUND**

Pam Paul, Home

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, flight schooling toward aircrew certification

Josh Meier—Army National Guard, Spc.

Luke Johnson — US Navy-Builder Chief Petty Officer



# VOLUNTEER PAGE—DECEMBER



**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.

## USHERS

8:00 am		10:30 am	
7	Jane Sowers OPEN	7	Caryn Boegel Karen Maihofer
14	Chris Leidel Dave Pfeiffer	14	Bill Maca Mia McCraw
21	LaVerne Johnson Chris Leidel	21	Jane Sowers OPEN
28	9:00 am service: LaVerne Johnson	←	Join us for New Year's Eve Fellowship

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

**Ushers:** [Sign Up to Usher](#)

**Flowers:** [Flowers](#)

**Bulletins:** [Bulletins](#)

**Greeters:** [Sunday Greeters](#)



**Cherie Burton will be available for volunteer discussion and to answer questions about involvement here at Pilgrim.**

**Upcoming Volunteer Drop-in Night  
December 10, 6:00 pm**

## Christmas Eve Ushers

3:00 pm	Caryn Boegel Cherie Burton
5:00 pm	Robyn Wiegand Robert Olmr
9:00 pm	LaVerne Johnson



**GREETERS** encouraged! Visit the link above, or sign up at church.  
December 7 & 21: Jane Sowers @ 10:30  
*All other dates are open*

## SCRIPTURE READERS

8:00 am		10:30 am	
7	Jane Sowers	7	OPEN
14	Marianne Hinder	14	Jane Sowers
21	Cathy Wille	21	Jane Sowers
28	9:00 am service: Morgan McCraw		

## December



**Narcissus**

The narcissus reflects your self-belief and growth.



**Holly**

Let the holly bring you strength, joy, and protection.

## FLOWERS

7	OPEN
14	Poinsettias
21	Poinsettias
28	Poinsettias



## BULLETINS

7	Carli Family
14	OPEN
21	OPEN
28	LaVerne Johnson



## SUNDAY MORNING TREATS

7	Nadine Eernisse
14	OPEN (Cookie Bake)
21	OPEN
28	New Year's Treats



**Friendly reminders:** Food should not be brought into the sanctuary and coffee may only be brought in if the coffee container has a cover. *Thanks!*

**WISE TEAM / JOB POSTINGS**

This month, the Inclusion team is highlighting religious diversity among families. We want to celebrate and honor the many inter-denominational families in our congregation! We are glad you are here and we deeply cherish the diversity of the body of Christ. Like Pastor Ashley says, “We are all ice cream, just different flavors.” One of the best ways we can honor these families is provide education on why some practices are different.

Many of us will go to church services or masses that are not held at Pilgrim. We wanted to provide some information on one of the common practices in Christianity: Holy Communion and the differences between the traditions. Just in case you find yourself in a congregation and tradition that asks you NOT to take communion, you know why (*It’s because we believe different things happen during communion*).



*Fun fact... the United Church of Christ fits into two different traditions.*

Denomination	Is Christ present?	What happens?	How often? Who can receive?
<b>Reformed</b> <b>*United Church of Christ</b>	<b>Yes!</b> Christ is <b>present spiritually</b> (but <b>not physically</b> ) in bread and wine	<i>Communion is a way grace is received, and the people are fed spiritually</i>	Frequency varies by individual congregation as does ability to receive
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	<b>Yes!</b> — <b>the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ</b>	<i>The physical substance of the bread and wine change to become the Body and Blood of Christ</i>	Often offered daily, always offered at weekly mass Only baptized and confirmed Catholics are allowed to receive
<b>Lutheran</b>	<b>Yes!</b> Christ is <b>in, with, and under the bread and wine</b>	The bread and wine <i>remain bread and wine</i> , but <i>Christ becomes spiritually and truly present</i> in them.	Most congregations offer it weekly ELCA: All baptized Christians LCMS and WELS: Only church members
<b>Episcopal</b>	<b>Yes! and No!</b> The answer will often depend on the theology of the local church	They don’t define what happens exactly, but; many believe in a <i>spiritual real presence</i>	Frequency varies by individual congregation
<b>Methodist</b>	<b>Yes!</b> Christ is <b>really present</b> , but they don’t describe exactly how- It is <i>A Holy Mystery</i>	<i>Communion is a channel of grace</i> ; elements remain bread and wine but are instruments of Christ’s presence	Open table and frequency varies by individual congregations
<b>Pentecostal / Charismatic Non-Denominational</b>	<b>No?</b> It depends on the congregation, but it is almost always symbolic	<i>Communion is a memorial act</i> that also may mediate healing or spiritual renewal	Varies; often monthly or occasionally

**Mission Director**

**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

**Treasurer Job Description**

**Principal Function:** The church treasurer is a valuable member of the church staff. The treasurer is responsible for maintaining financial management and communication with Pastor, Church Council, and the Financial Advisory Committee.

**Position Type:**

- Part-time; hours may vary per week, but not to exceed a total of 260 hours per calendar year.
- Payroll; Monthly
- Flexible Schedule
- Annual Review



Click here for  
Pilgrim's

[Online Giving Link](#)



### OPEN STAFF POSITION

*Treasurer*

Please send letter of interest and resume to Dave Braby at  
**[brabydave@icloud.com](mailto:brabydave@icloud.com)**

*Contact Pastor Ashley with questions concerning this vital role.*

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.



STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS  
Please return your **pledges** and  
**Time & Talent Sheets!**

*Thank you to those who have!*

### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE:

In anticipation of the **ANNUAL MEETING**  
on **February 1, 2026**, please turn in  
annual reports by **December 31**.

Pilgrim Church takes care of the members of our family. The love you provide for one another is astounding.  
Thank you for your contributions to the Pilgrim Family Fund.

For those who need assistance from local food pantries, see below information regarding what to expect and contact info:

**Family Sharing Food Pantry:** 1002 Overland Court, Grafton, 262-377-0634  
<https://www.familysharingozaukee.org/about/>

This pantry is open for shopping on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 pm, and the second Saturday of the month from 9:00-11:00 am. If those times do not work for you, contact Family Sharing and they will work with you to find a time to shop. Family Sharing has Express Pantry, with prepackaged groceries and In-person shopping available. In order to shop at the pantry you will need to provide contact information and a valid ID that identifies your Ozaukee County residency. Children (under 18) can use school ID cards or insurance cards. More information on signing up to shop can be found here:

<https://www.familysharingozaukee.org/food-pantry/our-programs-2/#in-store>

**Ozaukee Food Alliance:** 100 East Green Bay Road, Saukville, 262-689-8591  
<https://ozaukeefoodalliance.org/programs/>

The pantry is open for shopping on Thursdays and Saturdays. Families are able to shop at the pantry once a month. The pantry operates through sign up appointments. Sign ups open 7 days in advance and pantry slots book up quickly. If you are new to the pantry, there are forms that need to be filled out prior to your first visit. In order to shop at the pantry you need to have a valid ID that identifies your Ozaukee County residency. More information on **signing up to shop** can be found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0444A4AE28A3F49-appointments1#/>

## Pilgrim UCC Council Meeting - October 27, 2025, 6:30pm APPROVED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present: Geoff Nauth, Dave Nestler, Rev. Ashley Nolte, Beth Eernisse, Carrie Britt, Nick Sancomb, Jill Timmerman

Absent: Marilyn Linde

**Centering Moment** offered by Dave. Centering moment for November - Nick

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, November 18 6:30 pm

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Reviewed draft minutes from September's meeting. No corrections/updates proposed. Nick motioned to approve. Carrie seconded. Motion carried and minutes approved.

### Treasurer's Report

#### Incoming

Regular giving for September totaled \$32k - \$8k over the same period last year and also \$3k over budget. Overall giving, however, remains \$17k under budget YTD. We collected another \$8k for the summer appeal, bringing the total for the campaign to \$24k. This will help to close the 2025 budget gap.

Endowment fund values were up \$9k in September and are up \$57k YTD.

#### Outgoing

September operating expenses were \$26k (\$4k under budget in total). The following items were under budget: Payroll (\$2k), Publicity (\$1k) and Property Insurance (\$1k under budget-timing difference only as this was budgeted as a monthly expense but is being paid quarterly)

#### Summary

From a pure operating income/expense perspective, we report \$16k income in September (this includes the additional \$8k received from the summer appeal campaign). YTD, we report \$22k of income - without the \$24k received from the summer appeal, we would be at a loss of \$2k.

#### Other

Pilgrim Family Fund balance is seriously depleted.

Jill motioned to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by Beth. Treasurer's report approved.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor's report reviewed and discussed. This has been a busy month!

### Committee Liaisons

#### Building and Assets -

Agreed that narthex door can remain open during service to allow access from the new walk way.

Flow logic value and coffee maker work has been scheduled

Electric bills are creeping up. Under analysis.

Finance - Question has been brought to Council as to whether contingency funds should be built into budget to provide for unanticipated emergency spending. Instead of handling such matters as budget items, suggestion is to reserve funds on the balance sheet to be held specifically to cover emergencies. In addition, to expedite approval of emergency expenditures, we will suggest a change to our constitution to allow some level of spending (\$ TBD) to be approved by council president/paster (rather than by vote of full council).

Staff-request from staff is to provide a credit card reader to be used for brat fry, rummage sale, etc. Carrie and Joy will investigate feasibility.

### Old Business

Summer appeal - Total received ~ \$24k

New member, active/inactive status - tabled discussion for now

Finance Deacon - position will be open after first of the year

Council cloud storage - no update

Leadership, Council and Staff Retreat - will take place November 9 PM @ Pilgrim

### New Business

Approve WISE Covenant - WISE team has submitted covenant for Council's approval. Please review the materials before our next meeting. Will proceed with formal discussion and vote for approval at the November meeting

2026 Church Budget - Preliminary budget has been just recently submitted. No major changes in staffing or programming are being proposed. Formal approval tabled until next meeting. Stewardship letters and pledge card will be sent out this week with an overall stewardship goal, indicating that there are no significant budgetary changes anticipated for 2026 and that a formal 2026 budget proposal will be available prior to our annual meeting which will take place on February 1, 2026.

### Action Steps between now and next meeting -

Review WISE covenant and be prepared to discuss at November meeting

Request to FAC team to revise 2026 budget proposal to compare it with actual results from 2024/forecasted 2025 numbers rather than to budget numbers that had been approved for those years.

**Adjourn** Jill motioned to adjourn. Beth seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.



## ADVENT CALENDAR

# Giving ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day during Advent, add an item to a box. In January, drop off your donations in the carport entrance and they will be added to our Winter Food Drive of non-perishables for Family Sharing.



DAY 1	APPLESAUCE
DAY 2	BROTH
DAY 3	CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP
DAY 4	PEANUT BUTTER
DAY 5	JELLY
DAY 6	SPAGHETTI SAUCE
DAY 7	CANNED FRUIT
DAY 8	BOX OF CEREAL
DAY 9	CANNED SWEET POTATOES
DAY 10	BOX OF STUFFING MIX
DAY 11	TOMATO SOUP
DAY 12	CANNED PASTA
DAY 13	CANNED SALMON
DAY 14	BOX OF CRACKERS
DAY 15	PACKAGE OF RICE
DAY 16	MACARONI & CHEESE
DAY 17	CANNED CORN
DAY 18	CANNED TUNA
DAY 19	CRANBERRY SAUCE
DAY 20	CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES
DAY 21	CANNED CHILI
DAY 22	CANNED CHICKEN
DAY 23	BAKED BEANS
DAY 24	BOX OF CRACKERS
DAY 25	COOKIES



*Thanksgiving Meal—Thank you,  
volunteers and participants!*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS / ONLINE DIRECTORY/ OFFICE HOURS

1 Victor Sowers	12 Blakelynn Godejohn	18 Heidi Jenkins	23 Chris Hart
2 Phil Koch	Tink Linhart	Diane Kornetzke	26 Brynn Roberts
3 Gunnar Simenc	Heidi Hanneman	Elizabeth Mikulski	Bailey Willis
4 Geoffrey Karnish	13 Giorgio Fuentes	Gerry Orten Jr.	27 Kelly DuBord
5 Mike Homme	Elizabeth Rottier	19 Maggie Sobczak	Brandon Kelling
7 Pam Morrow	14 Brynn Bertrand	20 Kristen Halula	Diane Nauta
8 Richard Whitaker	Bud Orten	Pam Klenner	29 Trinn Rigert
9 Elaine Hilkert	Andy Schmitter	Kathy Roberts	Julie Rottier
Nicole Kline	15 Kiera McInerney	Janet Van Zile	30 Vic Pappas
Joshua Meier	Calina Tagliapietra	21 Mike Godejohn	31 Dennis Grabow
Laura Robinson	Violet Waldhart		
10 Reagan Schmitter	17 Mary Johnson		
11 Cory Jepsen-Hobbs	Tom Mayer		
Clare Pedersen	David Plautz		



**Pilgrim Family Directory paper copies are available upon request.**

Please contact the office if you would like one emailed to you or left at church for you to pick up when you visit.

**We would love to have all our Pilgrim Family included in the Online Directory!**

To do so, please use this link and sign up by Email or Phone as requested at the login site. Invite code: 3685 [app.onlinememberdirectory.com](http://app.onlinememberdirectory.com)

*If you need help, whether a new user or a returning user, please contact the office and we would be glad to provide assistance!*

**Our Online Directory company has updated the application process. If you are a current user, please review the following steps to log back in and enjoy this service, which includes individuals/families, but also Staff & Groups/Committees.**

You will first need to log in as a first-time user to the new system, then simply sign in thereafter.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Navigate to [app.onlinememberdirectory.com](http://app.onlinememberdirectory.com)
2. Click option labeled, "First time login from old system."
3. Next, You will be prompted to search for your old account via
  - Your First Name - **Required:**
  - Your Last Name - **Required:**
  - Your Old username or Email Address are not required but can be helpful to find your record.
4. Confirm Identity: Once your record is found, review the displayed info to ensure it is you. Click "**Yes, this is me**" to proceed.
5. Follow the prompts to migrate your account. Upon completion, you'll be logged into the member directory.



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

**PP Deadline:**

*20th of each month*



# DECEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>7 <i>Comm Worship</i> 8 &amp; 10:30 am Adult Study &amp; Choir 9:15 am Children's Hour— 10:30am</p>	<p>1 Chimin' In 7:00 pm</p>	<p>2 Hanging of the Greens Prep - 6:30 pm</p> 	<p>3 *Vespers—6:15 pm *GarageBand-6:15 pm *Confirmation-6:30 pm *Bible Study—7:00p <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 6:30 pm</p>	<p>4    <i>Overeaters Anon</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Grafton Christmas Parade 11 am Girl Scouts 12:30 pm</p>
<p>7 <i>Comm Worship</i> 8 &amp; 10:30 am Adult Study &amp; Choir 9:15 am Children's Hour— 10:30am</p>	<p>8 Sermon &amp; Scripture 10:30a Cribbage—1:00 pm <i>Women's Advent Service</i> 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Grief Support Group 1:30 pm <i>Boy Scouts—6:30p</i></p>	<p>10 *Vespers—6:15 pm *GarageBand—6:15 pm *Confirmation—6:30p *Bible Study—7:00p</p>	<p>11  <i>Overeaters Anon</i> 6:30pm</p>	<p>12 Sheepshead 1:00 pm</p>	<p>13 Gospellers' Practice 8:00am—5:00 pm</p>
<p>14 <i>Worship</i> 8 &amp; 10:30 Adult Study/Choir 9:15am Children's Hour-10:30am <i>Cookie Bake</i> <i>Gospellers—10:30 am</i> <i>Caroling—11:45 am</i></p>	<p>15 Sermon &amp; Scripture 10:30 am Chimin' In 7:00 pm</p>	<p>16 Staff Christmas Party 6:00 pm <i>Boy Scouts—6:30p</i></p>	<p>17 *Dominoes—1:00 pm *Vespers—6:15 pm *GarageBand-6:15 pm *Confirmation-6:30 pm *Council—6:30 pm *Bible Study—7:00p</p>	<p>18    <i>Blue Christmas Service</i> 7:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Girl Scouts 12:30 pm</p>
<p>21 <i>Comm. Worship</i> 8 &amp; 10:30 am Adult Study &amp; Choir 9:15 am <i>Children's Christmas Program 10:30 am</i></p>	<p>22 Sermon &amp; Scripture 10:30 am Chimin' In—7:00 pm</p>	<p>23 <i>Boy Scouts—6:30p</i></p>	<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve Services</i> 3—5—9 pm <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>25    <i>Merry Christmas</i> <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 <i>Worship Service</i> 9:00 am Adult Study &amp; Choir 9:15 <i>New Year's Eve Fellowship</i></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 <i>Boy Scouts—6:30p</i></p>	<p>31</p>			