



Pilgrim's Progress

January 2026



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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- Missions for January
- Children & Youth pics, p. 4-5
- New Sunday Morning Study, p. 6
- Book Discussion, p. 6
- Estate Planning, p. 6
- Music Appreciation p. 9
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- Caroling Thank You, p. 13



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Grace and peace to all of you,

It's January.

January—the month that has lingering darkness, colds winds, and no more holiday lights. January—the month lingers and sticks to my bones. January—the month that feels like it will last forever. January—the month many of us endure.

I am writing this to all of you two days before Christmas Eve. It is 4:00 p.m. The light in the sky is already fading, the darkness is already settling in. I am loathe to endure January. But it will come, surely as the sun will rise. And *I wonder to myself, what would it look like to welcome January?* I wonder what it would look like to let January be what it is, and nothing more. Certainly, I cannot expect it to be like July. My struggle is that I want January to be something it can never be. I would love to expect the sun to warm my face, or the grass to bunch under my toes, or mosquitos to land on my arm. But this is January. So, I expect the moon to welcome me in late afternoons when I tuck my chickens in, and the snow to crunch under my boots, and goosebumps to fill my arms.

I wonder as I write this, how much of this is due to January or our inability to shift our expectations to match the seasons? Maybe I feel like I must 'endure' January because I try to force myself to keep pace with the frantic pace of late summer and autumn. As Katherine May writes in her book *Wintering*, for those of us with ancestors from the Northern Hemisphere, January was a time everything slowed down just so people could survive. People turned inward. I am going to stop short of calling this *rest*, because I do not think there was much 'resting' involved. The pace changed. The expectations changed.

This year, I may try to let January be January. I may try and invite the dark in. I may do my best to welcome the cold. I may allow myself a slower pace. I may pay more attention to the moon. I may gaze longer at the stars. I may linger in the quiet of a winter morning. I may have another cup of tea and piece of bread. I may knit up a wool hat. I may grab another book. I may take a nap. I may remind myself that January will not last forever. This season will pass at last, and all to soon (thanks, Mary Oliver). Even January carries within it gifts, unique to this month. We have a choice to see and welcome these gifts. It reminds me of that phrase I heard years ago, *"If you choose not to have joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but the same amount of snow."*

So, too, with January. January is ripe with treasures and gifts. January is no stranger to joy. *Maybe we just need to let ourselves adjust to the dark, as well as the light, so we can recognize its **treasures, gifts, and joy.***

Peace to you this January.

With love, Pastor Ashley



PILGRIM ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:



**SUNDAY,
February 1, 2026**

The meeting will be provided both in-person and virtual, beginning at 9:30 am

Annual Reports are due to the office; thank you to those who have already provided.

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 opportunities.

JANUARY HAPPENINGS at PILGRIM:

***January 25, 5:00 pm—Book Discussion** with Pastor Ashley: *"Learning to Walk in the Dark"* visit page 6 for more info about the book.

***January 31, 9:30 am—Estate Planning with Craig Plopper.** Pastor Ashley will also be available to talk about memorial arrangements.

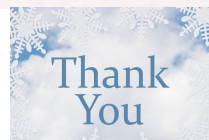
How is that New Year's Resolution working?

In our church constitution, **Article IV (Membership)**, there is a reference to *"participation in the life of the church."* What would a church be without volunteers? Are you aware we need weekly usher volunteers? It's so simple. There are guideline sheets on the usher table in the narthex. We have a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board and an option on our on-line web page. You sign-up for a specific service and Sunday.

What would a church do without volunteers?

Make this your resolution.

-Ron Wildasin



OPEN POSITION

** Missions Director*

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

Please contact Pastor Ashley with questions.

Pilgrim's online giving link:

[Online Giving](#)

For Your Review:

- ♦ **Family Promise Food Drive**—foods will be collected throughout January—visit the Missions page for suggested items.
- ♦ **Christmas Pics**—Included are highlights of the Children's Christmas Program and the Youth Cookie Sale—pages 5-6.
- ♦ **Christmas Caroling**—visit page 12 as thanks are abound for the Caroling event on a very cold December day!
- ♦ **Participation** is needed for Sunday needs—visit page 8 to see open slots.
- ♦ **Music Ministry**—Our thanks to all the teams—see the groups and members on page 9
- ♦ **W.I.S.E**—Please take time to read their Covenant Statement, p. 12

JANUARY Scripture Readings—Common English Bible

- 4 Another Road** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1: 1-18
- 11 Possibilities Unfolding** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
- 18 All That We Are** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- 25 Called Together** Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23





FAMILY SHARING:

We will collect donations of non-perishable food and personal care/cleaning products from **December 28th through January 31st.**

Below are most needed items:

FOOD: Canned Fruit/pasta/beef stew/sweet potatoes/cream of mushroom soup/beans/tuna/salmon/chicken Broth, stuffing, cereal, flour, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce.

PERSONAL CARE/CLEANING ITEMS:

Toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, razors, dish soap.



Please place your donations in the bin located in the carport entrance by the end of January. **Thank you!**

ST. BEN'S COOKIE DONATION

On the first Friday of each month, we are asked to provide 4 dozen cookies or bars for the meal served at St. Ben's. There is a sign-up sheet on the Missions bulletin board if you would like to help. **They are to be dropped off at St. Joe's church before 9:00 am.** There will be a cart outside the Parish office on Thursdays marked "St. Ben's." No nuts, please, because of allergies, and don't individually wrap them. Please use a disposable container for your donation, and they do not have to be homemade. **Thank you for your help.**

MISSION DIRECTOR

A job description is posted in the hall and available at the table outside the office.

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

Please contact Pastor Ashley with questions.



From Rev. Hopgood and the people of Mount Horeb regarding Christmas Toy Donations:

We are so very appreciative and grateful for the continuing partnership of Pilgrim's Missions. We thank and praise God for this ministry with our church community.

Thank you for generous gifts. A total of \$2,590 was received from our Pilgrim family to date.

KAPKO's KIDS2KIDS TOY DRIVE:

Many thanks to all who donated a toy towards the Kids2Kids collection. 27 total gifts were donated by church members and the surrounding community.

Your generosity is so appreciated!

-Brandon Mikulski



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*

Registration is FREE and open to ALL children 1 3K through 6th Grade.



Pilgrim Children's Hour
United Church of Christ

Use this link to
register your
child(ren): →

**Registration for the 2025/2026
Children's Hour**

THANK YOU to all those who participated and helped during our Children's Christmas Program on December 21!

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.



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
Coordinators**



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.

This month, we are taking some field trips to serve down at St. Ben's in Milwaukee

Youth Mission Trip: July 12- 18, 2026



***We've had to switch to a new location...more details to share soon!!!

We will have a Mission Trip Meeting on February 8 @ 11:45 am

Thank you to all those supported the Youth Cookie Fundraiser!



Contact the Youth Ministries Team
youthministry@pilgrimuccgraffton.org

Meg Claeys, Middle/High School Coordinator
Devon Polzar, Elementary/Middle School Coordinator

WOMEN's JOURNEY: Tuesday, January 13, 12:30 pm, Kalweit Hall—please bring your lunch

COFFEE CHAT / SCOPA / FUNSETTERS

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

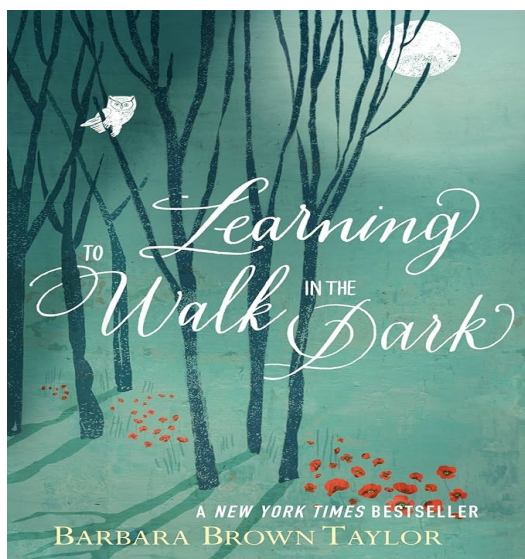
SCOPA: Monday, January 5

DOMINOES: Wednesday, January 21

CRIBBAGE: Wednesday, January 12

SHEEPSHEAD: Fridays, January 9 & 23

FUNSETTERS: Please meet at Flipside Cafe on Monday, January 26, at 11:30 am.



Sunday, JANUARY 25, 5:00 pm

In this book, Barbara Brown Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.” Through darkness, we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God’s presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. *Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most.*

Please purchase the book on your own, and we look forward to seeing you next month here at Pilgrim.

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

The **Adult Study group** meets between services on Sunday mornings and has begun a new series of short films that explore our world, with discussion of everything we do and how it affects the people around us.

You are invited to join the sessions between 9:15—10:00 am in the downstairs conference room.

Estate Planning Presentation

On **January 31 at 9:30 am**, our guest speaker, Craig Plopper, will engage us with the **6 keys to Estate Planning.**

Organizing is key and now is the time. Join us for a most important presentation for every family. Subject matter will include starting and organizing our legal documents, analyzing our assets, understanding power of attorney, considering our digital estate and importance of advanced care directives (final wishes).

Others in your family will appreciate that you took the time to bring these essential directives together, saving valuable time, and reducing everyone’s stress level. Please use the sign-up sheet on the narthex board for your attendance. Thank you.

Our Thanks to....

Char Peterson— who is retiring from 20+ years of preparing Communion for Pilgrim services. Thank you, Char!

Hanging of the Greens—To Ron Wildasin, Cherie Burton, Worship Team members, and all others who assisted with the beautiful Christmas décor in our sanctuary and narthex.

Women's Advent Service—To Linda Eakin, Women's Journey Team members, and all those who provided treats, music, read scripture, and served as ushers. What a lovely candlelight service.

LaVerne Johnson—For the distribution of Christmas Letters, as well the outstanding office assistance throughout the year.

Cookie Bake—To Youth Leaders Meg Claeys and Devon Polzar, and all the volunteers and youth for another successful fundraising event toward their ministry.

WI Gospellers Visit—To Naomi Seiler for arranging this joyous event, to those who hosted the Gospellers at their home, and to Hope Holland-Mullins for preparing a delicious lunch.

Christmas Caroling—To Cory Jepsen-Hobbs for arranging, and all those who sang carols of cheer and joy to members. What an outstanding group of singers on such a cold day.

Children's Christmas Program—To Devon Polzar, Emma Lucht, Tracey Van Ryzin, volunteers, and the children for the outstanding music program and message.

Music Teams—To Chimin' In, Pilgrim Choir, Hilltop Voice, GarageBand, Children's Ministry, and to leaders John Reiter, Sue Willman, and Liz Yoon—Such inspiring music for the season.

Tech Team—To Beth Hartman, Kory Kobliska, & Steven Beloin for outstanding work bringing us Advent/Christmas services.

Poinsettias—To all those who donated gorgeous red and white flowers in the sanctuary!



For Healing and Strength

*For Adam Lusty, who recently began deployment in the Middle East.

*For Vicki Schanen, who is recovering from foot surgery.

*For Dale Nauta, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

*For Landon Claeys, who recently returned home from the hospital – prayers also for Meg, Mike, and Robbie

*For Dorothy Overbye, who will be moving to an apartment at Cedar Community Campus in January.

*For Bonnie Orten who is at home recovering from wrist 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.

With Sympathy

*For Eric, Louise, and Adam Lusty, as Eric's mom, Audrey, passed away on November 30.

*For the family of Ken French (Kathy Ellenbecker's stepfather and Emma Sancomb's grandfather), who recently passed away.



OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES OR HOME-BOUND

Carolyn Fuhr, Village Pointe Commons

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



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

4	Steve Schafer Chris Leidel	4	Jane Sowers Jill Timmerman
11	Dennis Grabow Chris Leidel	11	Cherie Burton OPEN
18	OPEN OPEN	18	OPEN OPEN
25	OPEN OPEN	25	OPEN OPEN

Christmas Decorations are so beautiful, but they do have to be taken down, unfortunately.

If you are available on **Tuesday, January 6**, the Worship Team would appreciate your assistance with deco removal—time TBD.

SCRIPTURE READERS

8:00 am

10:30 am

4	OPEN	4	Cory Jepsen-Hobbs
11	OPEN	11	Joel Schowalter
18	OPEN	18	Dave Braby
25	OPEN	25	OPEN

FLOWERS

4	OPEN
11	OPEN
18	OPEN
25	OPEN

BULLETINS

4	OPEN
11	OPEN
18	OPEN
25	OPEN

Please visit the kitchenette counter to offer treats for Sundays—January is open!

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!

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

Ushers: [Sign Up to Usher](#)

Flowers: [Flowers](#)

Bulletins: [Bulletins](#)

Greeters: [Sunday Greeters](#)

LOVE GROW SERVE



Thank you to our Christmas Eve Readers, as well as to our ongoing readers & ushers – so appreciated!

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



January



Carnation

Let the carnation remind you of your unyielding strength and passion.



Snowdrop

Embrace the snowdrop's hope as you step into new beginnings.



Thank you to Hospitality Team Members for a Very festive & fun New Year's Gathering!

PILGRIM MUSIC MINISTRY

As we bring music for the New Year to Pilgrim, we want to invite all interested in sharing their musical gifts.

If you wish to add your voice/instrument or have any questions, please contact Sue Willman at suewillman55@gmail.com. If you are interested in our bell choir, Chimin' In, please contact Liz Yoon at lysnliz@gmail.com or 262-910-1789 for more details.

All are welcome, anytime!

CURRENT MUSIC MINISTRY PARTICIPANTS

PILGRIM CHOIR - John Reiter, Director

Audrey Beck	Ray Kremer	Sarah Scarpace
Beth Eernisse	Marilyn Linde	Steve Schafer
Dan Eernisse	Norm Loomer	Naomi Seiler
Kris Fisher	Sue Loomer	Larry Sween
Patty Guist	Pastor Ashley Nolte	Art Wille
Beth Hartman	Peter Nolte	Cathy Wille
Marianne Hinder	Melissa Pfeifer	Sue Willman
Parker Kobliska	Devon Polzar	Liz Yoon

HILLTOP VOICE – John Reiter, Director

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

GarageBand

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



CHIMIN' IN – Liz Yoon, Director

John Carli	Val Nauth	Dave Tiffany
Beth Eernisse	Lisa Pease	Karen Tiffany
Patty Guist	Alex Santo	Sue Willman
Beth Hartman	Jill Timmerman	Jan Yoon

Many thanks to our **Technical and Media Team staff**, Steven Beloin, Beth Hartman, and Kory Kobliska, who help present and carry the music for our worship services throughout the sanctuary and to your homes.

FINANCIAL / OFFICE HOURS

Click here for

Pilgrim's

[Online Giving Link](#)

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO THE OFFICE.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1, at 9:30 am, and offered in-person and virtually.

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.

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

Thank you to those who have!



A CHORUS OF
GENEROSITY

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ashley – available in the office Monday through Thursday, and may 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

PP Deadline:
20th of each month

Cheers to a
happy new year,
where your Wi-Fi
always stays
connected
and your coffee
never runs out!

RD

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

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

Absent: None

Centering Moment offered by Nick – Thanksgiving reflection. Centering moment for December - Beth

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Reviewed draft minutes from October's meeting. No corrections/updates proposed. Marilyn motioned to approve. Dave seconded. Motion carried and minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Incoming

Regular giving for October totaled \$34k - \$9k over the same period last year and \$5k over budget. Overall giving, however, remains \$11k under budget YTD. We collected another \$625 for the summer appeal, bringing the total for the campaign to \$24k to help to surpass the 2025 budget gap.

Endowment fund values were up \$5k in October and are up \$62k YTD. The Mission Endowment Fund gifted \$7k to help fund operation of St Ben's warming room.

Outgoing

October operating expenses were \$30k which was on budget

Summary

From a pure operating income/expense perspective, we report \$5k income in October. YTD, we report \$27k of income – without the \$24k received from the summer appeal, we would report income of \$3k.

Other

Thank you to Pilgrim members for answering the call to replenish the Pilgrim Family Fund. Balance is now at \$2k.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor's report reviewed and discussed. Special note regarding staffing – there has been interest in both the Treasurer and Missions Director positions and Ashley/Staff Relations are working with the candidates. Additionally, someone has stepped forward regarding the Finance Deacon slot.

Committee Liaisons

Building and Assets –

Flow logic value and coffee maker projects are complete. Equipment is up and running.

Hearing assistance proposal is moving forward.

Finance – no additional updates

Staff – no updates beyond what is noted in Pastor's report section above.

Old Business

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

Council cloud storage – no update

WISE team covenant approval – tabled discussion to now

2026 Church Budget discussion – Overall response to pledge campaign has been encouraging. Reviewed preliminary budget submitted to Council by FAC team. Several Council members expressed concern about the size of the projected loss for the coming year. Specifics of several budgeted line items were discussed. Council is directing the FAC team to revisit the proposed budget and to submit revisions prior to December's Council meeting.

New Business

None

Action Steps between now and next meeting – None

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

A WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health for all with mental health challenges and their loved ones.

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:38-40) Jesus made no distinction between various members of society. He included all people this commandment.

We, the WISE team of Pilgrim United Church of Christ of Grafton Wisconsin, will work to honor the inherent dignity of all God's children by promoting an environment of safety around mental health and wellbeing at Pilgrim through acceptance, belonging, and inclusion.

As people of Pilgrim UCC in Grafton, we realize that we are graced by the gifts, stories, and experiences of all our members. We recognize that we all have mental health, and we are intentional in our inclusion of those who live with mental health challenges. We care about the whole person: body, heart, mind and soul. We affirm the deep and constant movement of God's Holy Spirit, seeking to bring us to the fullness of life. We believe that all people are beloved by God, and if a person lives with a mental health challenge that person has a right to be seen as a person first.

Sometimes individuals with mental health challenges such as brain disorders, mental illnesses, addictions, and trauma feel cut off from God and do not feel included. It is our calling to communicate to all individuals that God loves all of us equally, even when we do not feel the love of the Holy Spirit in our lives. People with mental health challenges have gifts to be offered in our faith community, and we want everyone to feel fully welcomed, included, supported and engaged in the life, work and leadership of our church.

We, Pilgrim UCC in Grafton, Wisconsin, vote to be a welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaged (WISE) congregation for mental health.

Call to action

As a congregation, We pledge to create a welcoming environment for people with mental health challenges and their families, with the support of the WISE team, by:

- Educating ourselves and offering educational opportunities to help our whole congregation understand the spectrum of mental health.
 - Examining our own attitudes and preconceived notions about mental health and to confront our own ingrained stigma in an effort to reduce social stigma
 - Actively welcoming those with mental health challenges and their support givers into our faith community and providing a safe environment in which people can tell their stories and share their journeys
- As a congregation, We pledge to include people with mental health challenges in the life, work and leadership of the congregation by supporting our church leadership in:
- Recruiting, nominating and supporting persons with mental health challenges to serve on teams and in leadership positions within the congregation.
 - Being open to hiring/calling persons with mental health challenges.

A WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health for all with mental health challenges and their loved ones.

As a congregation, We pledge to support people in our congregation who have mental health challenges and their families, with the support of the WISE team, by:

Reaching out to those suffering from brain disorders, mental illnesses, addictions, and trauma in the same way we reach out to those living with other physical illnesses, offering companionship and compassion for individuals and families living with mental health challenges.

As a congregation, We pledge to engage with other organizations that work at the intersection of mental health and faith/spirituality/religion, with the support of the WISE team, by:

- Welcoming and encouraging outside groups who deal with mental health challenges, brain disorders, mental illnesses, addictions, and trauma to use our church facilities.
- Engaging with external organizations to find opportunities to be in shared mission, ministry and advocacy together, as well as working with our church's ministry teams, the UCC Health Network and the UCC Disabilities Ministry.

This vote affirms that we join in the process of continuously becoming more welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaged with all of God's people.

A special thanks to First Congregational Church of Boulder, Colorado for sharing their covenant.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS / THANK YOU, CAROLERS

Page 13

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



Dear Pilgrim friends,

First, I would like to thank all those who made meals for our **annual Meal Blitz** that took place in November, with a few meals donated in early December. I have given some of those meals to people in our church community who were most appreciative.

Secondly, I'd like to thank all those who joined in the **Christmas caroling event** on Sunday, December 14th. It was an amazing turnout. The 10 people we shared some Christmas joy with seemed to enjoy our carols, many of whom sang along with us!

There were 12 or 13 of us who made the stops from Grafton to Port to Saukville, to Cedarburg, and lastly to West Bend. Thank you to everyone who shared their gift of voice and love. And also a big thank you to Hope who filled our stomachs with comfort food before heading out to sing.

We sure appreciate you! ❤️ ❤️

Sincerely, Cory 🧑🏻



Thank you for the large group of carolers on Sunday. We greatly enjoyed it and so did our neighbors. -George and Joyce Schowalter

Thank you for coming out in that freezing weather to sing a few carols. I enjoyed hearing you but wished you warmth. Brr!! -Sincerely, Carol Trad

Thank you to everyone who came out to sing carols and bring gifts. -Warner Schaffer

Twenty-one carolers braved the cold to make a joyful sound.






Thank you for singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" in my home. -Faye Junker



JANUARY 2026



Food & Personal Care Items
Thru January 31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>4 Comm Worship 8 & 10:30 am</p> <p>Adult Study & Choir 9:15 am</p> <p>Children's Hour 10:30am</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Sermon & Scripture 10:30a</p> <p>SCOPA—1:00 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Deco Removal</p> <p>Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	 <p>7</p> <p>*Vespers—6:15 pm</p> <p>*GarageBand—6:15 pm</p> <p>*Bible Study—7:00p</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>8</p> <p>Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>St. Ben's Des- serts</p> <p>3</p> <p>Girl Scouts 12:30 pm</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10:30</p> <p>Adult Study/Choir 9:15am</p> <p>Children's Hour-10:30am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Sermon & Scripture 10:30 am</p> <p>Cribbage—1:00 pm</p> <p>Council Meeting 6:00 pm</p> <p>Chimin' In 7:00 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Women's Journey 12:30 pm</p> <p>Grief Support Group 1:30 pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	<p>14</p> <p>*Vespers—6:15 pm</p> <p>*GarageBand-6:15 pm</p> <p>*Confirmation-6:30 pm</p> <p>**Bible Study—7:00p</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Coffee Chat 10:00 am</p> <p>Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Girl Scouts 12:30 pm</p>	
<p>18 Comm. Worship 8 & 10:30 am</p> <p>Adult Study/Choir 9:15am</p> <p>Children's Hour-10:30am</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Sermon & Scripture 10:30 am</p> <p>MLK DAY</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	<p>21</p> <p>*Dominoes—1:00 pm</p> <p>*Vespers—6:15 pm</p> <p>*GarageBand-6:15 pm</p> <p>*Confirmation-6:30 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Sheepshead 1:00 pm</p>	<p>24</p> 
<p>25</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10:30</p> <p>Adult Study/Choir 9:15am</p> <p>Children's Hour-10:30am</p> <p>Book Discussion-5:00 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Funsetters—11:30 am</p> <p>Chimin' In—7:00 pm</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	<p>28</p> <p>*Vespers—6:15 pm</p> <p>*GarageBand-6:15 pm</p> <p>*Confirmation-6:30 pm</p> <p>**Bible Study—7:00p</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Estate Planning with Plogger Funeral Home</p> <p>9:30 am</p>	