




Pilgrim's Progress

MAY 2026



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Busy Missions Month!
- Spring Clean, May 2
- Blood Drive, May 7
- *Confirmation Sunday, May 17, with an Intergenerational Song* 
- *"In the Spring of Things, a poem by Kris Fisher, p. 6*
- Welcome, New Members
- Summer Music
- Legacy Gift
- Pilgrim Softball Team

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pilgrim Announcements Page	2
Missions	3
Children's Ministry	4
Youth Ministry	5
Social, Enrichment	6
Our Thanks, Prayers	7
New Members	8
Volunteer Page	9
Finance Team/ Office Hours	10
Council Minutes	11
Legacy Gift	12
Birthdays, Mom's Day	13
May Calendar	14

Grace and peace to all of you

On Saturday, April 30, 2016, I walked into Pilgrim United Church of Christ.

It was over the course of three hours that members of Pilgrim would attend a "Meet and Greet" to meet me, the candidate the Search Committee (Rachel Gutridge, Caryn Boegel, Gina Graham, Annie Gerhke, Mark Matter, Neal Hobbs, Robert Olmr, Dorothy Overbye, and Devon Polzar) was recommending to serve as the next Pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ. The following day, I preached at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. After both services, Mark Matter took my family and me into the Pastor's Study. It was there we waited together. I remember Mark looking at me and smiling, and he said, "Don't be nervous." (Of course I was nervous.) It was on May 1, 2016, when the congregation voted to extend a call to me to serve as Pilgrim's next Pastor.

Ten years ago, on May 1, 2016, I accepted the call to be your next Pastor.

Yes, my friends, we have had a whole decade together!

Over the past 10 years, we have laid to rest 51 saints of the church. We have confirmed 107 young people (two of them were my own kids). There have been 59 baptisms at Pilgrim. There were also Weddings, Galas, Christmases, Easters, Lenten Meals, and Rally Days. Oh right, we also had a global pandemic and a Cubs World series in there, too... here's hoping neither of those repeat anytime soon.

One of the things that I have noticed about serving in ministry is that often when words of profound gratitude are shared, they occur during an ending. This has always bothered me, as why do we wait until things are coming to an end to say, "By the way, I think you're great."

I want to be very clear; this is NOT AN ENDING. I am not going anywhere. I am not leaving. I am not planning to leave. I want to simply normalize gratitude. I just wanted to tell you all, I really do think you are amazing. I really believe that one of the greatest gifts God has ever given me is to be called "Pastor" by Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Grafton, WI. I am so incredibly grateful for you—each of you—for the ways that you have challenged me, believed in me, pushed me, irritated me, forgiven me, prayed with me and for me, and most importantly, loved me.

I am looking forward to our next decade together.

I love you dearly, Pilgrim.

With much gratitude,

Pastor Ashley



PILGRIM ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS NEEDED: Cherie Burton is looking for several volunteers who would like to volunteer once every two months to prepare for communion.

The tasks involved are to prepare the trays of wine and juice, place the trays on the table, and to slice the bread and place it in a zip lock, as it will be put out the morning of communion Sunday. The wine, juice and bread will be provided and in the kitchen in the Narthex. Typically, this is done on Saturday at a time convenient for the person putting it together.

If this is something that you would like to learn more about or to volunteer for or maybe you would like to learn how to do this before you decide, please reach out to Cherie or to Ron Wildasin.



Spring Clean-Up-Saturday, May 2

We need help with the annual Spring Clean-up around church.



That means cleaning the dirty windows and assisting with working church grounds and landscape beds. It takes a lot of hands to complete this work.



Please consider it and mark your calendar for May 2 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex. Please bring some rakes & shovels.

Thank you!

Pilgrim Music Opportunities

Summer Worship Special Music – Sundays 9:00 a.m.
May 24 through September 6

Attention Pilgrim Musicians ... Do you have a meditative/inspirational worship music piece you would be willing to share and perform during a worship service? If so, please consider signing up to provide special music for a summer worship service. We welcome your talents & time with gratitude. The summer services start on May 24, 9:00 am, and will be live streamed.



A **signup sheet** is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex or use this SignUpGenius link: [Summer Music](#)
For more information, please contact Sue Willman
suewillman55@gmail.com

VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE—Thursday, May 7, 12:30—5:00 pm

Link to Register: [Blood Drive](#)

All attempting donors will receive a coupon for free cheese curds at participating local restaurants...while supplies last.

Visit the QR Code on our posted flyer, the link above, or this address:



https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11618086

Brewer Game: June 14, 1:10 pm



Join your Pilgrim family at a home Brewer game, **Sunday June 14, at 1:10pm against the Phillies**. We will be sitting in the Loge Outfield section.

Ticket price is \$41 per person. (parking & food not included) You may use the online option or send to church. Last day to sign up: May 14. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or through the SignUpGenius below. We are planning to tailgate before the game and have reserved an area.

Click to sign up: [Brewers Ball Game](#)

Any questions, please contact Cherie Burton,
Pastor Ashley, or the Office.



PROPERTY & GROUNDS is looking for 3 more volunteers to help maintain

GARDEN BEDS this summer. The beds

around church are broken into 14 smaller plots, and we need a volunteer for each plot to pull weeds, remove litter, and keep it looking nice. This is done on your own schedule and can be done individually, as a family, or teamed up with a group of friends. Please sign up at church or contact John Carli:
carlijohnm@icloud.com

MAY Scripture Readings—Common English Bible

- 3 Enduring Witness** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- 10 Witness of Love** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 17 Spirit of Witness** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14 and 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- 24 Pentecost** Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-35; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23; John 7:37-39
- 31 This is Good** Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

I AM
with YOU
ALWAYS
Matthew 28:20
A daily devotional



Our love offering to the world.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OUR LOVE OFFERING TO THE WORLD. A check for **\$4,013** will be sent to the Wisconsin Conference Office. This total includes money from the Wednesday Lenten meals.

Thanks to your generosity, we helped to keep the light shining.

VENTURES in PEOPLE: Our collection continues through the end of May for those who would like to contribute toward the 4 Haitian students we sponsor. The cost for each student to attend school \$175/yr. In spite of the continuous turmoil in Haiti, schools continue to function, with VIP supporting 202 students in 5 schools. Use a pew envelope or go online; *thank you for gifts received.*



BLANKET SUNDAY – May 10



Each year, we offer the opportunity to **Blanket the World with Love.** Each \$10 donation provides the comfort of a blanket as an expression of God's love.

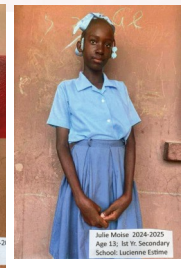
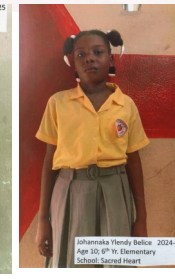
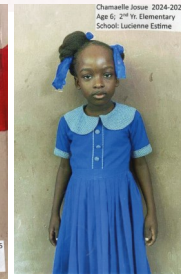
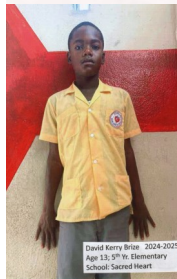
Our collection begins now and will conclude on Mother's Day, May 10!



Envelopes can be found in the pews and on the table in the Narthex. Please note on your check that it's for *Blanket Sunday* and drop it in the collection plate. You may also use our online donation site.

Cards are available on the table in the Narthex for you to use to send a note to your loved one, which shows that a blanket has been sent in their name.

Thank you with love!



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH 2026: Funds raised through Strengthen the Church (STC) support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



This year's theme is **SENT FORTH IN LOVE**. The offering date is Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Please use the special STC envelope found in the pews or use the online giving link.



A PILGRIM THANK YOU TO VETERANS AT ZABLOCKI MEDICAL CENTER

This July marks the **250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.** We would like to say **thank you** to those veterans who are currently residing at Zablocki with a card and treat. We will collect wrapped candy, cookies, & small snack bags from Sunday, May 17 through Flag Day-Sunday, June 14. We will include a card with the treat bag. There will be a container in the Narthex to collect your treats, and you'll find cards on the table if you'd like to add your thanks.

Our cards and treats will be delivered by a member of the Rose Harms Auxiliary on July 4!

Pilgrim is assisting with meal and beverage service at **St. Ben's** on **Thursdays—June 4 and 18.**

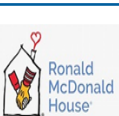
We need 6-7 people each night. We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. and be back by 7:00 p.m.

Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and a SignUpGenius.



Thank you everyone who signed up to provide 4 dozen treats to the St. Ben's community meal program for the first half of this year. Please watch for a sign-up sheet to continue this for the summer and the remaining months of this year. You may bake or purchase treats—no nuts. Do not individually wrap, but use a container that you do not need returned.

You can find out more information on the Missions Board.
Thank you for your continued support!



Thank you for collecting pop tabs. The winning group was age 44-59. **Congrats!**

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.

Our search continues for a Mission Director. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Dave Braby.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Pilgrim Children's Hour



Exploring God's Love
Pilgrim Children's Hour
United Church of Christ

Children's Hour takes place every Sunday morning during the 10:30 am worship service and is open to ALL children in 3K through 6th grade.

**Kids start the service in the pews with their families, and they head downstairs after Children's Time during the service.*

This month, we will also be participating in the **Intergenerational Song** set for May 17. We will be practicing during Children's Hour this month.

***On May 17** – *Children should be dropped off in the Sanctuary at 9:30am to practice.*



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.



"Crowded Table"
An Intergenerational Song

Presented on May 17
10:30 Service
As part of Confirmation Sunday

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 2-6 — 6:00pm-7:45pm
Open to kids entering 3K - 5th Grade
(Fall 2026)
Cost – FREE!

[Click here to Register](#)



Contact the Children's Ministry Team: <u>childrensministry@pilgrimuccgrifton.org</u>	
<u>Devon Polzar</u> Elementary/Middle School Education Coordinator	<u>Emma Lucht & Tracey Van Ryzin</u> Children's Ministry Education Coordinators



Our Confirmation Class will end this month with Confirmation Sunday!

Here is this month's schedule:

May 6 – Confirmation Party* & Last Confirmation Class

*8th graders arrive at 6pm for pictures; 7th graders arrive at 6:30pm

Sunday, May 17 – Intergenerational Song practice @ 9:30 am

Confirmation Sunday – 10:30 service – May 17



**Youth Mission Trip:
July 12- 18, 2026**

Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina

Final payments are due this month

**Watch for an email with your final payment total*



THANK YOU to all those who donated items to our church rummage sale and to those who volunteered or bought things during the sale!
All of the proceeds go towards our youth mission trips!!!



**“Crowded Table”
An Intergenerational Song**

Presented on May 17
10:30 Service
As part of Confirmation Sunday

Contact the **Youth Ministries Team**
youthministry@pilgrimuccgrifton.org

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



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

COFFEE CHAT: Thursday, May 21, 10:00 am in the Conference Room

FUNSETTERS: Friday, May 29, 11:30 am — the group will enjoy a fish fry at Bunker's Restaurant/Edgewater Golf Course. This will be the last gathering until September.

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

SCOPA: Monday, May 4

DOMINOES: Wednesday, May 20

CRIBBAGE: Monday, May 11

SHEEPSHEAD: Fridays, May 8 & 22

Those who enjoyed the introduction to the ZENTANGLE method, held on March 12, thought it would be good to meet again.

A second session will be held in the Conference Room on **Thursday, May 14, at 1:00.** Those who had signed up and couldn't make it, along with anyone interested, please join us.

Whether for fun, focus, meditation, or therapy, this art form has something for everyone.

Questions? Contact Donna Tredrea or Marji Groth

Remember, **"Anything is possible, one stroke at a time!"**

Enrichment Schedule at Pilgrim:

The following groups will take a summer break, with the last class listed below:

Sunday Adult Study—May 17

Sermon & Scripture—May 18

Vespers & Bible Study—May 20

Have a great summer!



In the Spring of Things

In the spring of things
there's excitement
hastened by the living
who welcome it
with earthly shouting
to honor it with themselves
In the sweet, cool rain
we examine
this penetrating joy
this burning recognition
this unexpected song
the songbird knows
In the explosion of vision
illusions disappear
and a grace meets
the surprising, perhaps lost
rescued with patience
in the affectation of change
In an ancient, raw question
Who am I?
We climb mountains
of self resolve
we break out all at once
into divine, infinite love

© 2021, Kris Fisher

PILGRIM's SOFTBALL TEAM has returned! Come on out to cheer!

The **2026 Schedule** for the **Ozaukee Christian Men's Softball League** is posted at the *Pilgrim News* area as you enter church.

Games this month will be at
Centennial Park, 1370 17th Ave, Grafton



May 4, 8:30 pm Pilgrim v. St. Paul's

May 18, 6:30 pm Pilgrim v. Friedens

(May 11 is a Bye Week)

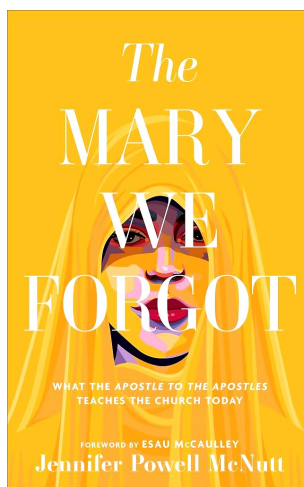
DATE TBD: The final installment of Pastor Ashley's 2025-26 book discussion series is being rescheduled. Please check upcoming announcements for a new date.

"The Mary We Forgot"

The author unpacks scripture and history to reveal the real Mary Magdalene:

The first apostle of the good news who embraced the call to "go and tell" with faith and courage.

This book also reminds us that God calls ordinary and unexpected people to share the good news of Christ.



Our Thanks to....

Holy Week and Easter—heartfelt thanks to all the Music Teams for the beautiful music, the work of the Tech Team to share the services, the Worship Team for the wonderful decorations, all those who volunteered to greet, usher, and read scripture, and those who donated lovely flowers.

Pilgrim Softball Team—to Brandon Mikulski for bringing back and coordinating the new team! Thanks also to Naomi Seiler for the team shirt design, and to all those who have joined the team. Have a great season!

UCC Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting—For members Beth Hartman, Naomi Seiler, and Nick Sancomb, who attended the gathering with Pastor Ashley.

New Member Sunday—to Cherie Burton for her welcome to our new Pilgrim members.

Rummage Sale—to all those who donated items, volunteered time to prep, work at the sale, and clean up, and to the Youth Team for their efforts to bring it all together.

For Healing and Strength

*For Lynda Kanios, who will be undergoing a procedure soon to remove a mass on the side of her neck.

*For Tiny Mayer, who had surgery recently to remove a large stone from his pancreas and will have more procedures to get the remaining stones in the upcoming weeks.

*For John Frank, who had kidney stones removed this past week.

*For Jaime, Kevin Runkel's wife, who was diagnosed with a bacterial infection in her spine in early April. She had surgery and is receiving physical therapy at St. Luke's in Milwaukee.

*For Dottie Sorensen, who is at home regaining strength following a recent infection. Please call her if you would like to visit. Prayers also for Dottie's family as they decide next steps.

*For Bill Mauer, who prepares for surgery in early May.

*For Landon Claeys, who remains at Children's Hospital. Continued prayers for Meg, Mike, and Robbie as they support him.

*For Lys Buck, who continues to receive immunotherapy. Continued prayers for Lys' mom, Marsha, who is receiving chemo for abdominal cancer.

*For all of those who are waiting to undergo medical testing as they search for answers.



May the warmth of the sun and the fresh breeze of May greet you with a warm hello.



Please send college graduate info to the church office, as we would love to share and congratulate you or your family



OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES OR HOMEBOUND

Carolyn Fuhr, Village Pointe Commons

Marilyn Gallagher, Azura Memory Care

Rachel Goldberg, Village Pointe Commons

Pam Paul, Home

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

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Justin Belleau I'm Justin—JB works, too. I cook in the kitchen at Kwik Trip as the Assistant Food Service Leader. I love getting lost—on trails, on roads with zero GPS, or at a campsite so remote even the deer are impressed. Tent camping, campfires, and staring at the stars are my kind of therapy. My fiancé, Isaiah, somehow keeps us mostly on track, and Kora, my partner in crime, makes sure we never run out of adventure. Life's better a little off the map, and that's exactly where you'll find us!



Isaiah Garza I grew up in Sheboygan County and lived in the area my whole life. I currently work for a Health and Human Services company as an Employee Developmental Specialist. Our company focuses on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as those struggling with mental health. Some of my interests and hobbies include travel, music, and astronomy. I've only traveled within the country, but have been to many states, especially out West. During HS and college, I played the trumpet and French horn. When it comes to astronomy, I have had the privilege to witness two total solar eclipses, and was blessed enough to observe solar prominences through my telescope during the last one. Solar prominences are beautiful and vibrant red and purple loops that appear around the edges of the Moon during totality.



Gail & Richard Hurd Gail is a retired registered nurse and Richard is a retired banker. They have two adult sons, a wonderful daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, all who reside in Ozaukee County. Gail's hobbies are art and gardening, and Richard enjoys golfing. They have lived in Cedarburg and Grafton for 42 years, and have been married since 1974.

Lynn LeBlanc-Marrone & Michael Marrone Lynn was a lifelong New Englander until 2025, when she and Mike made the decision to move to Wisconsin to be closer to their children and grandchildren. She has spent her career as a mental health and addiction specialist, in the clinical setting and as an adjunct professor. Lynn is an avid sports fan. She loves reading, meditation, and time spent in nature. Fun fact— she completed two marathons.



Mike was born and raised in central Massachusetts. He received B.A. in Psychology from the University of Vermont, where they both met. Mike was a Human Services Administrator for many years before switching careers to become a painting contractor, eventually evolving into more general contracting; he retired from contracting business in May, 2025. Mike's hobbies/interests include cooking/grilling, photography (especially nature/birds), crossword puzzles, and cribbage at Pilgrim once/month. He also bought a Honda Metropolitan scooter as soon as they moved here and love tooling around Cedarburg on it. Lynn & Michael married in 1983 and raised a son and daughter, as well as several dogs. Son Nathan lives in Chicago with his wife and two daughters, and Dana lives in

Wauwatosa with her husband and their 3 kids—two girls and a boy. Lynn and Michael moved to Cedarburg in September, 2025, to be closer to their kids and grandkids.

Michael & Kalin Van Hoorn The Van Hoorn family is excited to join the Pilgrim Church worship community, become more involved, and build meaningful connections. Kalin and Michael both grew up in Chilton, Wisconsin (Michael in the local UCC church), but have spent most of their adult lives in the Milwaukee area and now reside in Cedarburg. They have three children—Ana (8, on 4/22), Mae (6), and Leo (4)—along with a puppy named Ellie. As a family, they enjoy spending time together and focus on activities that bring them closer, including traveling, skiing (snow and water), golfing, and other outdoor pursuits. Michael works in corporate finance at U.S. Venture, and Kalin is a registered nurse at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital. They look forward to getting to know everyone.



MAY VOLUNTEERS

Ways to Participate:

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

Ushers: [Sign Up to Usher](#)

Flowers: [Flowers](#)

Bulletins: [Bulletins](#)

Greeters: [Sunday Greeters](#)



May 10—Pilgrim Appreciation Sunday!

Please enjoy treats in between services in appreciation of each other and the many ways that we all make this our community—our Pastor, our members, our friends, our staff & leadership, and our volunteers.

May you all be safe and have a Blessed Summer.

We would love to have greeters on **Confirmation Sunday, May 17,** or any Sunday!

Visit the Greeter link to warmly welcome all who join us for service.



USHERS

8:00 am

10:30 am

3	LaVerne Johnson OPEN	3	Robyn Wiegand Robert Olmr
10	OPEN OPEN	3	Rick & Gail Hurd
17	Dave Pfeiffer OPEN	17	Cherie Burton OPEN

9:00 am

24	LaVerne Johnson / Morgan McCraw
31	OPEN (2)

SCRIPTURE READERS

8:00 am

10:30 am

3	Marianne Hinder	3	Robert Olmr
10	OPEN	10	Emma Sancomb
17	Deb Lushine	17	Confirmation Reader

9:00 am

24	Emma Lucht
31	Lynn LeBlanc-Marrone



FLOWERS

3	Pastor Ashley
10	Mary Johnson
17	OPEN
24	Faye Junker
31	Deb Lushine

BULLETINS

3	Pastor Ashley
10	LaVerne Johnson
17	Paegelow Family
24	OPEN
31	Deb Lushine

TREATS

3	Pastor Ashley
10	Volunteer Appreciation
17	OPEN



Thank you to everyone who brought treats and/or donated money. See you in September!



Please consider providing special music, May 24 thru September 6.

Use this link: [Summer Music](#)

MAY EVENTS

May 1 Full Flower Moon

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

May 6 Nurses & Teachers Appreciation Day / Week

May 9 World Migratory Bird Day

May 10 Mother's Day

May 25 Memorial Day

May 31 Full Blue Moon




May 2— Please come to help!



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. 

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.

A LETTER FROM FAMILY PROMISE:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$685. Because of your thoughtful gift, you have enabled us to continue to provide shelter, rent assistance, and support to families and individuals in our community who need it the most. As needs continue to grow in Ozaukee County, your support enables us to provide service to families and individuals experiencing a housing crisis in our community.

With sincere appreciation, Mike Cosgrove, CEO



Missions Director:

Please send a letter of interest and resume to Dave Braby.

Job descriptions are posted in the hall. Thank you to Pastor Ashley & the Missions Team for their leadership while we look forward to the position being filled!

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ashley—available in the office Monday thru 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



Pilgrim UCC Council Meeting — March 16, 6:30 pm Approved Council Minutes

Present: Geoff Nauth, Rev. Ashley Nolte, Beth Eernisse, Amber Thomas, Nick Sancomb, Marilyn Linde, Caryn Boegel

Absent: Dave Nestler

Centering Moment: A Poem Blessing

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 20, 6:30pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Marilyn motioned to approve. Caryn seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Incoming

Regular giving for January totaled ~\$23k up ~\$4,000 from January. This is down ~\$3,000 from the same period last year and \$7,000 under budget for the month.

Outgoing

February's overall Operating Expenses were ~\$30k.

Operating expenses to highlight:

Snow plowing for January, paid in February was \$3,000.

Salary/benefits are under budget because of no Missions Director.

Programs/treasurers/software/publicity were all under budget.

Summary

From a pure Operating income/expense perspective, we report a \$6k loss in February.

Amber motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Second by Nick. Report approved.



Pastor's Report – Reviewed submitted written report. Marilyn Linde was added to the list of those who have brought items for display at the front of church. Some have not notified anyone that they dropped things off, so it is not a complete list.

Marilyn asked how many are interested in the new member meeting. Ashley said 6-10; many who have UCC background. The new member meeting is on March 22 at 9:30am.

We have three delegates for the WI Conference Annual Meeting on April 9-10 at Green Lake Conference Center. Nick Sancomb, Naomi Seiler, and Beth Hartman are attending. Ashley, Naomi, and Beth plan to share a room, which is ~\$300. Council members agreed that church can cover the expense.

Committee Liaisons

Building and Assets – no updates beyond endowment below

Finance – no updates beyond Treasurer's report

Staff – We are still looking for a Mission Team Director. Please send anyone interested to Ashley.

Old Business

The Council Shared Drive on the Pilgrim network is up and running. Ashley will add new members.

New Business

Approval of the Minimum Distribution amount of \$12,550 for the Overbye Missions Endowment and \$24,692 for the Eickstedt B&A Endowment per the provided calculation. Motion – Geoff, unanimously approved.

Erv Uecker and Ross Walker Estate Gift

Ashley suggested the following for a small task force to discuss and prayerfully discern how the gift would be used: Beth Eernisse, Neil Hobbs, Beth Hartman, Lys Buck, John Carli, and Leila Behrens – council approves this list.

The congregation will be invited to provide feedback as part of the process. More details are forthcoming.

Lenten Meal 3/25/2026

We will be serving brats and burgers. Set up at 5:00, serving begins at 6:00. Planning for about 60-70 people
Nick will cook the meat at work (Thanks Nick!) we will all split cost, ~50 burgers, ~30 brats.

Amber – buns, chips, condiments?

Caryn - broccoli slaw

Ashley - green salad

Marilyn – dessert and coleslaw

Hope – 2 desserts/potato salad

Beth - \$

Geoff – dessert

Everyone will send email on amount spent, to evenly distribute the costs to all.

Adjourn

Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Caryn. Meeting adjourned.

Pilgrim has received a Legacy Gift from Rev. Erv Uecker and Ross Walker. Erv and Ross were beloved and active members of Pilgrim since 2012. Erv and Ross celebrated nearly 67 years together, and were married here at Pilgrim in 2014.

After serving in the ELCA for over 50 years, Erv served as an interim Minister for nearly six months (2014-2015) between Pastor Frans and Pastor. Ross was a mainstay of the Hospitality teams, both here at Pilgrim and at Alexian Village.

Both were well known for their genuine care and concern for members of this congregation and for the broader communities they lived and participated in. Erv passed away in November of 2024 and Ross in March of 2025. As an outpouring of love for this congregation, they have given Pilgrim a gift of \$250,000. They requested that the gift be utilized for improvements or projects that make it possible and easier for Pilgrim to help the Pilgrim and the larger local community

They requested the gifts not be use for funding of the annual budget, endowment funds (They have already made contributions to Pilgrim's Endowment Funds), or purely cosmetic projects for the church.

The church Council has decided to put together a team to prayerfully consider Erv and Ross's requests and think carefully over the next 3-6 months about the congregation and community's needs. During that time, they will explore potential projects, which will include feasibility and estimated costs. The team will present their recommendations to the council and the congregation this fall. Team members include: **Leila Behrens, Lys Buck, John Carli, Beth Eernisse, Beth Hartman, Neal Hobbs. Pastor Ashley will be leading the team through this process.**

During the process, we will invite the congregation for feedback and suggestions. Watch for more information on how we plan to collect feedback and suggestions for the use of this gift in upcoming announcements and Pilgrim's Progress.

Anyone who is interested is invited to join the Team at one of our meetings to discuss project potentials in person. Our next meeting is **April 28, 2026, at 6:30 pm** in the conference room.

Legacy Giving





1	Keighly Bartsch Liam Halula	7	Robert Claeys Tom Kopka Jenny Rescorla Lucy Rumpf	13	Hope Holland- Mullins Emma Lucht Linda Rudd Nancy Vanden Wymelenberg	19	Larry Sween 20 Don Huibregtse 21 LuAnn Pappas 23 Lisa Chapman 24 Say Hler Htoo Lance Wooten
2	Jake Godejohn Jim Mayer Sam Schubert Nathan Multerer	8	Ryan Leidel Jane Sowers	15	Meta Wilcox	27	Robert Olmr Jr
4	Justin Wendtlandt	9	Brooks Leverenz Ireland Micic Hton Naya Mu Connor Wenzler	16	Kathy Monroe Steve Schafer Amy Weir	28	Ava Berns Cooper Braun Melissa Pfeiffer Liz Yoon Norm Loomer
5	Savannah Neu Samuel Pekarske Matthew Sauer	10	Nora Eernisse Bill Marten Traci Multerer Carol Neis	17	Hannah Mueller Charlie Plante Ashley Weir	30	Dave Nestler Sue Sperber
6	Kay Christiansen Wayne Hay Faye Junker Dave Willis	12	Joseph Sutinen Donna Van Ryzin	18	David Heniadis Marianne Hinder Joy Bloemer Kristen Reiter	31	Haley Roberts

***"When God Created Mothers"* by Erma Bombeck**

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, *"Have you read the specs on this order?" She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands."*

The angel shook her head slowly and said. "Six pairs of hands.... no way."

It's not the hands that are causing me problems," God remarked, *"it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."*

That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. God nodded.

One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

God," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "Get some rest tomorrow...."

I can't," said God, *"I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger...and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."*

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

But tough!" said God excitedly. *"You can imagine what this mother can do or endure."*

Can it think?"

Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek.

There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

It's not a leak," said the Lord, *"It's a tear."*

What's it for?"

It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

You are a genius," said the angel.





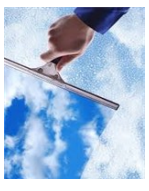
Somberly, God said, *"I didn't put it there."*



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
TO ALL THE SELFLESS
WOMEN WHO INSPIRE.
MOTIVATE AND REMIND US
TO BE A BETTER PERSON
EVERY SINGLE DAY

UNKNOWN

MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 Communion Worship 8 & 10:30 am Adult Study & Choir 9:15 am Children's Hour 10:30am Baptism—10:30 am</p> <p>10 Worship 8 & 10:30 Adult Study/Choir 9:15am Children's Hour-10:30am Volunteer Appreciation</p> <p>17 Comm Worship 8 & 10:30 am Adult Study/Choir 9:15am Children's Hour-10:30am Confirmation Sunday 10:30 am</p> <p>24 Summer Worship 9:00 am  Summer Worship 9:00 am</p>	<p>4 Sermon & Scripture 10:30 am SCOPA—1:00 pm Softball Game: 8:30 pm</p> <p>11 Sermon & Scripture 10:30 am Cribbage—1:00 pm</p> <p>18 Sermon & Scripture 10:30 am Staff & Leadership 6:00 pm</p> <p>25 Memorial Day  Resonance & Honor Office Closed</p>	<p>5 Pentecost Sunday  MAY 24, 2026 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i></p> <p>12 Women's Journey 12:30 pm Grief Support Group 1:30 pm Boy Scouts—6:30p</p> <p>19 Boy Scouts—6:30p</p> <p>26 Boy Scouts—6:30p</p>	<p>6 GarageBand—6:15 pm Vespers—6:15 pm Final Confirmation Class—6:30 pm Bible Study—7:00 pm</p> <p>13 Vespers—6:15 pm Bible Study—7:00 pm</p> <p>20 Dominoes—1:00 pm Vespers—6:15 pm Bible Study—7:00 pm</p> <p>27 School Supply Drive  Monetary collection for Mt Horeb runs thru July 5</p>	<p>7 Versiti Blood Drive 12:30—5:00 pm Worship Team—6:30 pm Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p> <p>14 Zentangle Group 1:00 pm Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p> <p>21 Coffee Chat 10:30 am Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p> <p>28 Overeaters Anon 6:30pm</p>	<p>1 St. Ben's Desserts</p> <p>8 Sheephead 1:00 pm</p> <p>15</p> <p>22 Sheephead 1:00 pm</p> <p>29 Funsetters—11:30 am </p>	<p>2 Clean-Up Day 8 am—12 pm </p> <p>9 Gospellers Practice 9:45a-2:30p Girl Scouts 12:30 pm</p> <p>16</p> <p>23 Girl Scouts 12:30 pm</p> <p>30</p>