



THE PILGRIM QUILL

DECEMBER 2021



Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this, we will already be looking ahead to the second Sunday of Advent. The new *Church Year* has begun.

We will hear the stories in the life of Jesus, beginning with his birth in the Gospel of Luke. The traditions of Christmas will surround us in the church, in our homes and in our communities.

Without letting go of the memories of Christmases “past,” I encourage you to consider Christmas “present,” 2021, as a *precious gift* that has been given to us.

As we celebrate that blessing, find ways to give the gift of hope, the gift of time, the gift of peace, the gift of joy, the gift of love...the gifts that first were given to us and were meant to be re-gifted!

The birth of Jesus is the miraculous story of the eternal God being born into this world in a rugged stable, to an immigrant family: a teenage mother and a carpenter father.

We learned the story of that birth day when we were very young. Angel choirs and shepherds gathered around on that cold winter night and Wise Men came from far away to bow down to worship him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We have come to know, as Christians, that the message of Christmas is much more than the pretty little scene that each crèche portrays. It is more than the “Christmas” presents, decorations, Santa Claus, cookies and fudge. The spirit of Christmas that we need to take off the tree, remove from the shelf and carry in our hearts every day of our lives... is that which opens our eyes to *smallness*, bows our heads in humility and reaches out in servanthood.

This Christmas, consider being the ones who squeeze into small places in the lives of those around us who have great need. Let the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, be known to those who least expect it this year!

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

~ Isaiah 9:6

Come, worship with our Church family at Pilgrim United Church of Christ on the Sundays in the season of Advent: November 28, December 5, December 12 and December 19. Join in the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 7:00PM. Each service will include the tradition of lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath.

For the safety of everyone who joins in Worship during this month of December, masks are recommended. Congregational singing continues to be discouraged. The words to the hymns will be available so that, as you listen to the music, you may sing the carols in your hearts.

December Scriptures and Sermon Titles:

December 5, Advent 2, 9 am:

Peace: “*Preparing Paths*” Luke 3:1-6
Communion Sunday

December 12, Advent 3, 9 am:

Joy: “*Good News*” Luke 3:7-18

December 19, Advent 4, 9 am:

Love: “*Anything*” Luke 1:39-55
and the Children’s Christmas Presentation

December 24, Christmas Eve, 7 pm

Service: “*By Heart*” Luke 2:1-20
Candlelight Service

December 26, 9 am:

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Merry Christmas and a healthy new year!
God bless us everyone, whether distant or near! May we have every reason to give thanks and to say that this is our merriest Christmas ever!

Pastor Mary Jo

News from Council President, Barb Geiger

“Community is a place where the connections felt in our hearts make themselves known in the bonds between people, and where the tuggings and pullings of those bonds keep opening our hearts.”

Parker J. Palmer

The above quote was a good fit because Bible with Bagels is discussing Parker Palmer’s most recent book. Also, because Pilgrim is continuing to demonstrate how we are a welcoming community within our greater community in so many ways. The annual ham dinner was a great success, thanks to the dedication & flexibility of the Ham Dinner Committee and all who helped. It brought together & re-connected many members! And, connections occurred with member’s recruited family & friends as well. With the memorial service for Pete Tadych, Pilgrim Church also provided a wonderful way for his family & friends to connect with our community. It was so very moving to see how this brought an incredible turnout from near & far together in a moving remembrance.

From our Sunday service being streamed online to ALL, our programs and activities within Pilgrim and those that reach out to our community and the world connections help bond us together. Loaves & Fishes has been one of those programs we have participated in over the years. Thank you Karen Goodacre for leading this program for so many many years.

Pastor Mary Jo has joined Pilgrim and making a lot of connections in the first 10 days, from helping many hours at the ham dinner, to leading (along with Rev. Steve Hecky) the memorial service for Pete Tadych, to leading us in her first worship service on November 14th. That was a huge commitment to our community considering it was in the midst of moving here. Thank you Mary Jo.

Thank you all who help make these connections possible for Pilgrim.



Pilgrim Shares a Holiday Gift Through KIVA!

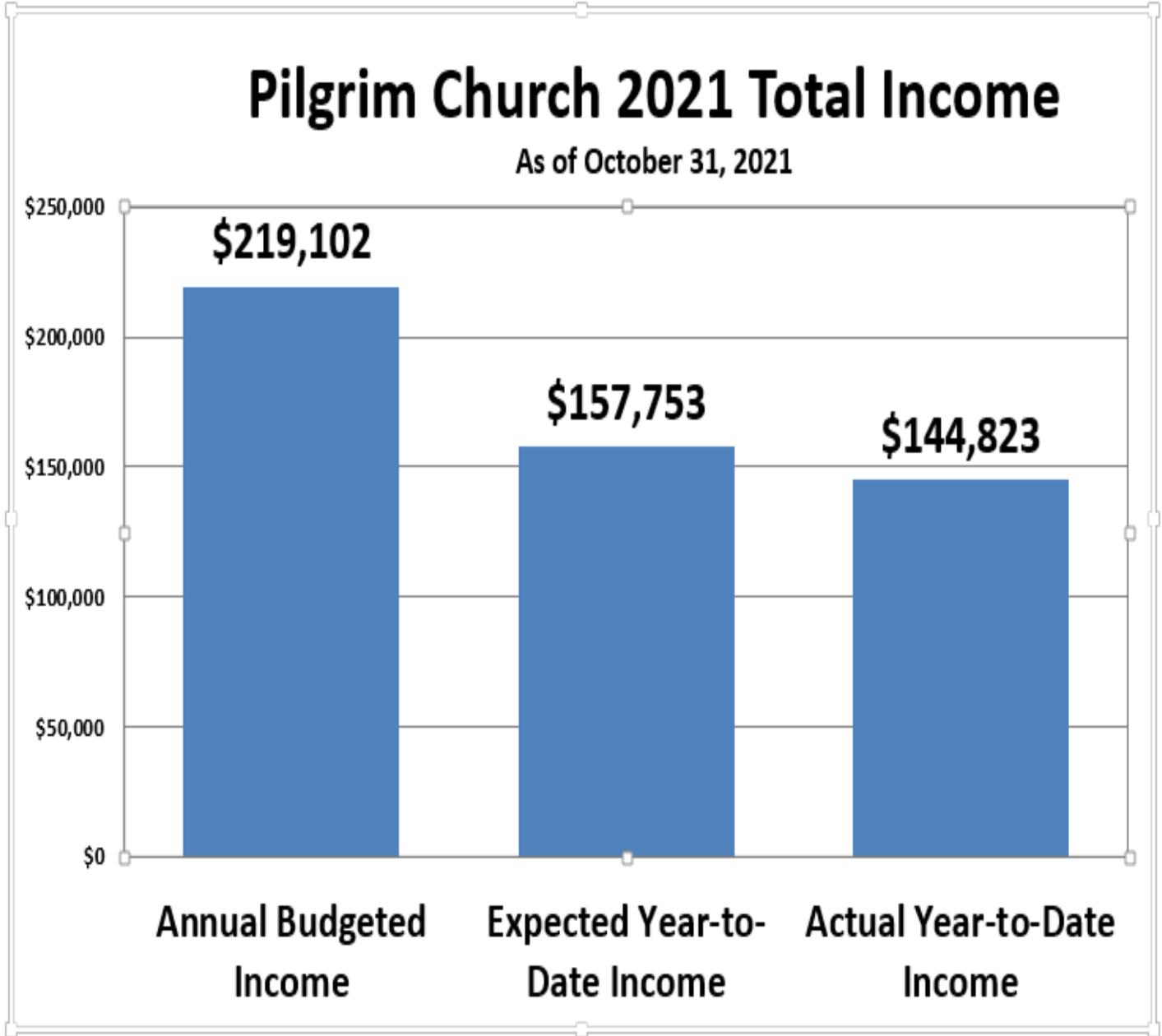
During the holiday season we have the pleasure of sharing gifts with those we love. Through KIVA we can also share with people around the world. This month we helped fund a loan for a woman in Kenya. KIVA is a 501(c)3 U.S. nonprofit organization. KIVA’s mission is to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. KIVA works with micro finance institutions on five continents to provide loans to people without access to traditional banking systems. The \$125.00 loaned this month was money that had been repaid on previous loans we have given.

Mary lives in Molo, Kenya. The average annual income in Kenya is \$1,800. Mary is 50 years old, married and has four children who she supports. Mary and her husband both engage in farming to provide for their family. She keeps animals, such as cows, which provide her with milk to sell and she also grows various crops such as potatoes to sell. One of the challenges she faces is climatic change, however, this has not deterred her from farming as she is continually educating herself on climate smart agricultural practices to boost her production. Through this business she has also impacted other lives through employment and she has helped boost the businesses of local suppliers. She is requesting a loan to help her buy more farm inputs to boost her production. Her dream is to own her own farm and be able to comfortably educate her children.

This holiday season as you share gifts with your family and friends remember Mary. While fighting the very real effects of climate change on her farm, she strives to care for her family and educate her children. If you would like to learn more about KIVA, see their website www.kiva.org or talk to Peg Bradley or any member of the Outreach Ministry.

May your holidays be filled with good health and happiness.





Use any of our easy ways to give:

Phone text at 920-796-9933

Internet at <https://pucfdl.breezechms.com/giv/online>

Mail at Pilgrim UCC, 535 Stow St., Fond du Lac, WI
54935

In person at Sunday Service



Once again, Pilgrim Church will beautify its Sanctuary with lovely poinsettia plants for the holiday season.

All plants come in 6.5" pots wrapped in green foil with 5-6 flowers. If you wish to order a plant(s), please fill out this form and put it along with your payment in an envelope and mail it to the church or drop it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to: Pilgrim United Church of Christ.

Please indicate the quantity you would like:

<u>Color</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Red	_____	\$8.00 each	_____
		Grand Total:	_____

**Final day to
order is Sunday,
December 5th.**



Our December 24th bulletin will list:

Poinsettia given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

(Please complete as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)

The plant is yours to take home after the Christmas Eve Worship Service or, if you wish, your plant can be given to a shut-in.

Please indicate your choice:

I will take my plant with me on Christmas Eve _____

I would like my plant to be given to a shut-in _____

Ordered by: _____

COPIES OF THE POINSETTIA ORDER FORM WILL BE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.



2021 “Alternative” Alternative Gift Fair December 12th

Pilgrim Church has had to find new and creative ways of doing many things since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. We have changed how we worship, how we meet for committee meetings and adult education classes, even how we hold the Ham Dinner. So in an effort to keep everyone safe but still have our annual Alternative Gift Fair, the Outreach Ministry is sponsoring an **“Alternative” Alternative Gift Fair**.

As a reminder, here is an explanation of why we have an Alternative Gift Fair and a description of how it will work this year...

The fair offers church and community members an easy way to bypass the annual stress of holiday shopping and accumulation of “stuff” while honoring friends and relatives with donations that fit their values. The fair provides critical support for a diverse collection of local, national and international nonprofit organizations that have established track records of helping people, diverting money to these charities rather than to department stores and malls. Each year, after careful consideration, the committee chooses several organizations. Gifts given to these nonprofit organizations can be in any amount and the amount is not disclosed to the recipient, making alternative gifts the perfect solution for co-workers, family, friends and the “hard to shop for” person. This alternative approach honors the spirit of giving.

Normally the fair is held after church, with a gathering of representatives from each organization as well as products from the Just Fare Market and fair trade coffee, teas and chocolate. This year we will not be able to invite representatives so your shopping will be done from the comfort of your favorite armchair! Other than that, the shopping process will be similar to past years. You will find a description of the nonprofit organizations in the November and December Quills as well as a shopping list. Simply think of the people you want to give a donation in honor of and then match them with an organization they would like. Fill out the top portion of the shopping list, add the gifts up and make out a check for that amount to Pilgrim United Church of Christ. Don't forget to write **“Alternative” Alternative Gift Fair** in the memo section. (Since the Quill is now being sent by email, we ask that you print off the shopping list. If you can't print it, there will be extra copies on the table in the church foyer or ask and we'll mail you one.) Mail or bring the entire shopping list, as well as your check payable to Pilgrim Church (535 Stow St., Fond du Lac WI 54935), **by Sunday, December 12th**. We will make sure that you receive your shopping list back ASAP along with a gift card for you to give each person on your list! Sound simple? It is just that simple!

Over the past 19 years, the fair has supported a wide range of causes including organizations dedicated to the environment, poverty, children, animals, nature, the arts, education, housing, women, hunger, refugees and more. We consider a successful fair one in which our shoppers are more educated about each charity's mission and good work. As you shop alternatively, your purchase is more than a gift to just the recipient. Your choice emphasizes community, outreach, service and justice. It is a celebration of non-material values. It honors the true meaning of Christmas.

If you have any questions please call Peg Bradley at 922-0731.



2021 “Alternative” Alternative Gift Fair For Your Shopping Pleasure...

Fond du Lac Humane Society

fdllhumane.org

The Fond du Lac Humane Society is a private, independent 501(c)3 nonprofit charity organization. It is dedicated to providing humane care and treatment to all animals needing protection and to enhancing the lives of animals and people through education, adoption and compassion. Donations to the Humane Society are always the perfect gift for children and any animal lover on your list.

St. Katharine Drexel Shelter

skdsfdl.org

St. Katharine Drexel Shelter for the homeless in Fond du Lac is a partnership project of St. Vincent de Paul and Solutions Center. The new shelter is under construction at 330 N. Peters Ave. and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. The facility will be capable of privately housing 15 families in the family shelter and in the singles shelter, there is space for 12 women and 24 men. Resource centers on the lower level will provide partner space for community resources that support permanent housing and self-sufficiency - employment, advocacy, counseling and housing searches to name a few. Programs include short-term crisis intervention and long-term goal planning with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency.

Heifer International

heifer.org

Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities they serve. Their programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers and female business owners, Heifer International is investing in a new breed of success.

American Red Cross

redcross.org

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. Red Cross volunteers are caring for U.S. citizens and others who have evacuated Afghanistan. Some 125 volunteers are onsite at Fort Bliss in Texas, Fort McCoy in Wisconsin, Camp Atterbury in Indiana and Joint Base Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst in New Jersey to address evacuees' basic human needs after their difficult journey to the U.S. Red Cross volunteers also have been helping the victims of Hurricane Ida across the south.

Team Rubicon

teamrubiconusa.org

Team Rubicon is an International nonprofit disaster response organization that unites the skills and experiences of *military veterans* with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams, free of charge, to communities affected by disasters. Team Rubicon currently maintains a roster of 130,000+ volunteers able to deploy throughout the United States and world. Team Rubicon focuses on serving vulnerable and at-risk populations affected by disaster. While the initial damage and trauma of natural disasters will impact any population regardless of socio-economic factors, the financial burden of recovery and rebuilding has dramatic and long-lasting repercussions on many rural and urban populations lacking proper insurance and public and private resources. Team Rubicon has been hard at work helping those who lost their homes due to Hurricane Ida, offering their support to Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy and also administering covid vaccines during the pandemic.

The Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ recently shared information about the work being done by the Red Cross and Team Rubicon for the refugees at Fort McCoy.



The Search Committee continues to meet weekly as we are presently having Zoom interviews with candidates. The committee has welcomed Kelsey Laudolff to the team as she has replaced Drew Mueller who has moved onto college life. We are very grateful for Drew's help since the start of the committee last year. We trust that God will show us which candidate will serve as our next pastor in the near future.

Our Local Church Profile has been attracting candidates and we are currently at step #11 in the process as outlined below.

Remaining Steps in the Search & Call Process:

Step 9: *Revising/updating Local Church Profile & resubmit for posting on UCC web site (done 4-29-21)*

Step 10: *Second meeting with ACM for orientation to reading candidate profiles and candidating weekend and beyond. (done)*

Step 11: *Start receiving candidate profile and work through discernment of best candidate, prepare questions for first & second interviews and review all candidate profiles. (May 7 to ongoing)*

Step 12: *Interview process typically includes:*

*Practice interview with neighboring pastor
(done on 1-11-21)*

Zoom first interview with candidates

Check references with prepared questions via telephone

Association Conference Minister (ACM) reference check before second interviews

Zoom second interview of 2-3 finalists if in-person is not an option

Invite top finalist(s) to visit our church for an in-person meeting and tour of the church building

Arrange with ACM for a neutral pulpit sermon visit ~~and/or~~ listen to taped video sermons via YouTube or Facebook. (ongoing)

Prepare Call Agreement for top candidate and negotiate terms with top candidate.

Step 13: *Arrange a candidating weekend in-person visit so Congregation meets the final candidate who leads worship followed by a special Congregational meeting to vote on a call.*

Make all travel lodging and hospitality arrangements for the candidate and family

Coordinate worship service lead by candidate and worship committee.

Step 14: *Newly called pastor arrives and begins ministry.*

Step 15: *New Pastor meets with the Association Minister and works with them on an installation service and date.*

Step 16: *Installation of new Pastor and celebration by Congregation.*

Respectfully submitted by Gary Ring, Search Committee Chairperson

Committee Members:

Tracy Abler, Jim Bentley, Peg Bradley, Barb Roder, Kelsey Laudolff, Sue Schmitz, & Jeff Siemers



WISHING YOU A
**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

Adult Education

ADULT FORUM meets on Sunday mornings from 10:15AM to 11:15AM in the sanctuary for those who would like to attend in person. We will have a few minutes to chat after worship and before the program begins promptly at 10:15. If you would prefer to join from the comfort of your own home, the link for the programs will remain the same throughout the fall semester.

Join Zoom Meeting:

([https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527265927?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527265927?pwd=akZvb2ZnZDRoM1lsZmEyWnZyYVpEUT09)
pwd=akZvb2ZnZDRoM1lsZmEyWnZyYVpEUT09
Meeting ID: 865 2726 5927 Passcode: 609609)

December 5 Coffee Hour

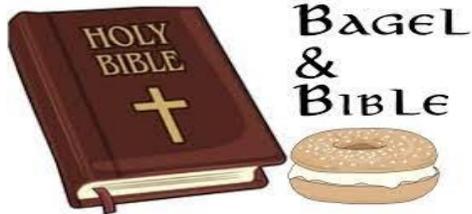
December 12 *Freeing Jesus*
 By Diana Butler Bass
 Leader: Ellen Sieglaff

Diana's most recent book is *Freeing Jesus*, published March 30, 2021.

"In this illuminating work of memoir and theology, Bass offers a variety of answers by identifying six persons of Jesus: Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. She addresses them chronologically in the context of her own life; thus, her explication of Jesus as friend appears when Bass was a little girl, singing "Jesus loves me / This I know." Jesus as teacher finds her aging from Sunday School to confirmation, and so forth as Bass grows up to attend a religious college, a seminary and, finally, Duke University, where she receives her Doctorate. Along the way, she offers a good deal about herself and her personal experiences of theology, humanizing what might otherwise be arcane material. Not to worry, however, for her writing is always lucid and a model of clarity. *Freeing Jesus*, she concludes, means finding him along the way. Thanks to her enlightened commentary, many readers will be enabled to make that discovery." —Booklist

December 19 "Pagan Origins of Christmas & Tradition History" Documentary

Many traditional elements of Christmas pre-date Christianity. In other words, Christmas was pagan before it was adopted (and renamed) by Christians. The Catholic Encyclopedia of 1908 states that "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts" - those authors lived into the 3rd century. The CE article concludes that when later Christians adopted the date of the 25th of December for Jesus' birth, "the abundance of analogous midwinter festivals may indefinitely have helped the choice of the December date, the same instinct which set Natalis Invicti at the winter solstice will have sufficed, apart from deliberate adaptation or curious calculation, to set the Christian feast there too". Prof. Hutton, a respected and careful primary-sources historian, mentions Christmas in his valuable book on the history of modern Paganism. How did December 25 officially become the world's most important festive day in the calendar? We all know that Christmas is being observed around the world and generally commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ among Christian communities. The word Christmas is from the old English "Crīstesmæsse", the pre historic Christian churches referring to the meaning to "Christ's Mass" the Eucharistic feast celebration of Christ's birthday.



BIBLE WITH BAGELS

Meets Wednesday mornings from 9:00AM to 10:30AM via Zoom. The link for these meetings will remain the same for each Wednesday throughout the fall semester. To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978012384?pwd=cGxJaOpJbExSM0FFWEtIMmtJYzNodz09>

Meeting ID: 889 7801 2384

Passcode: 762316

December 8 *On the Brink of Everything*
by Parker Palmer
Leader: Jill Stiemsma

From beloved and bestselling author Parker J. Palmer, a brave, beautiful book of reflections on eight decades of life and work. Reframing aging as “a passage of discovery and engagement,” Palmer writes, “Old is just another word for nothing left to lose, a time to take bigger risks on behalf of the common good.”

With gravity and levity, compassion and chutpah, Palmer talks about the importance of developing a robust inner and outer life, a sense of meaning and purpose amid pain as well as joy, and the intergenerational relations that enhance the lives of young and old alike. Here’s a book not only for elders but for those younger folks we call “old souls.”

Ultimately, Palmer sees age as a precious gift. Surprised by the fact that he likes being old, he writes, “Welcome to the brink of everything. It takes a lifetime to get here, but the stunning view of past, present, and future—and the bracing breeze in your face—make it worth the trip.”

December 15 Christmas Social Brunch

A time for gathering in friendship and fellowship. Exact details will be made available closer to the actual date.

Suzette Curtis



Ham Dinner Update:

To the Members of Pilgrim, congratulations on a successful event.

This year’s ham dinner of take out only was outstanding. We served 720 dinners, all take out. For those of you who were able to help in person, you are very appreciated. For those of you who donated, bought tickets, sold tickets or talked up the event, thanks to you.

We have received numerous compliments on how efficient and well run the drive through turned out. The meal was described as “more than Delicious”.

We were blessed to have some members donate some of their purchased tickets (15 total) to give away to individuals who would not have the financial resources to purchase a dinner. Those individuals were extremely grateful to be able to enjoy the delicious meal.

Watch the annual report for the final numbers regarding expenses and profit made from this year’s event.

Having you all do a part of this fellowship event is what truly makes it great.

Sincere appreciation,
Randy Stutz



Notes from Karen

(Our Sunday School Director)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday school classes are continuing to meet right after our 9:00AM worship service at approximately 10:15AM beginning in the fellowship hall for opening worship.

For the month of December, we will be collecting canned fruit for our monthly donation to the Fondy Food Pantry. Let's keep our monthly collections of different food items to be donated to the Food Pantry going strong as they are very much in need of all items and very much appreciative of our help.

BIRTHDAY DIMES

The children chose to divide the amount of money collected from the birthday dimes into two donations to local organizations that are affiliated with helping children and youth in our community. On November 7th, a check for \$309.06 was presented to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This is a rather new organization that makes beds for children in the Fond du Lac area who do not have a bed, providing the bed, a mattress and all the bedding needed as well.

On November 21st, a check in the amount of \$300 was presented to Project Linus a local organization that provides blankets to children and youth who are or have experienced some sort of trauma in their lives.

Thank you to the entire congregation who made it possible for the children to give so generously by helping to fill our wooden church with birthday dimes. Let's fill it up again for next time!

INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

On November 12th, 19 children and adults gathered in the fellowship hall for our monthly Family Fun Night activity. We made tie blankets and homemade greeting cards. The children will be using the blankets in conjunction with their Christmas presentation on Sunday December 19th and the cards will be used to mail to our church family shut-ins to let them know we are thinking of them. Thanks to all who attended. It was an evening of fun and fellowship! Special thanks to Fran Schmid for helping with the card making.

DECEMBER FAMILY FUN NIGHT MAKE N TAKE

On **Friday, December 3rd**, the CE ministry will hold their monthly **Intergenerational Family Fun Night**. This month we will be having a Make N Take craft night where kids and adults alike can make ornaments and crafts to take home and give as gifts or hang on their own Christmas trees. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. We will **begin at 6:00PM and end about 7:30PM**.



Notes From Karen Continued . . .

Special Children's Tree

You may notice during this holiday season, a smaller tree has been put up in the narthex area with a variety of ornaments that the Sunday school children made during classes. They have a variety of different words of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love as well as other messages to remind us of the love of this special time of year.



Children's Christmas Presentation

On Sunday, December 19th, the children will add to the worship service a small Christmas presentation, ***Tied and Wrapped in Love.***

Please Note to Sunday School Families . . .
There will NOT be classes on December 26, 2021 or January 2, 2022. Sunday school will resume on January 9th.



When going out in the cold, dress for success.

(go to the bathroom first...)

Cotton next to the skin -
undershirt, long johns, socks,

A tight weave/fleece pant (or snow pants) and a
long sleeve/high neck shirt,

Knee-high thick socks,

Winter jacket,

Gloves under mittens, a hat that covers ears, and
water proof boots that come up past the ankles.

You are now ready to go forth and conquer any
sledding hill, snow pile, ice rink and ski slope!

Remember...Shoulders up. Shoulders back. Head up. Phone down. Don't miss the wonders of the season!



Parish Nurse

Viruses - The More You Know . . .

Whether it's seasonal influenza, the "common cold" (also a virus) or pneumonia, one the most important things you can do for yourself is to keep drinking fluids – water, juice, milk, decaf tea, soup, broth, (even decaf soda) - to stay hydrated.

Cold and allergy medications (antihistamines, decongestants) dry out the membranes – temporarily making it easier to breath and sleep, but also making the sinus and lung gunk thick and cemented to the membranes. By continuing to drink at least 6 cups of non-alcohol/non-caffeine liquids per day, the gunk will stay "thinner". (*Think of a puddle of honey on a table. The longer it stays there the harder it becomes. But if you put water on it, the puddle becomes softer, less attached to the table and easier to clean up.*)

Dehydration puts a strain on the entire body and contributes to dry skin, fatigue, headaches, constipation and lightheadedness. Some seemingly minor illness - like seasonal influenza, the "common cold" (also a virus) or pneumonia - can turn into needing hospitalization if dehydration is prolonged.

So, please continue to take care. In the dark cold seasons, (the ones with closed windows and circulating germs...) we may not feel as thirsty as we do in the warm light ones (the ones with open windows and fresh air...). But that warm mug of tea, apple cider or even hot chocolate can be part of the plan to prevent dehydration...just sayin'.

Re: COVID and Seasonal Virus – Fond du Lac County continues in "High Transmission Status"

Following Public Health and CDC recommendations, we will continue to keep lists of those attending worship services to be able to assist in any COVID contact tracing if needed. We will also continue to request that people mask when in groups indoors regardless of vaccination status. (We want to help prevent the exposure and spread of ALL viruses right now).

Fond du Lac Public Health is aware that PUCCL is willing to be a vaccination site should they need one. At this time, there are no vaccine clinics scheduled at PUCCL.

Winter Holiday Safety

For any winter get-together, holiday lights, greens, trees, candles and decorations may pose fire risks. From the National Fire Protection Association, "Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve". Also, "more than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles".

Light, color, comforting foods and shared stories make for good memories. Please take care and stay near/monitor the hot stove, blow out lit candles and turn off decorative lights before going to bed, make sure you have working smoke alarms, replace worn cords and keep matches/lighters inaccessible to children and pets. (All common sense practices, but they bear reminding). Keep those good memories good!

We Welcome the Returning Sun with Hope and Joy

In the dark silence comes whisperings of new beginnings. December 21st is the shortest daylight day of the year. (Sunrise at 7:24AM – Sunset at 4:19PM) in this area. Personally, I'm not a fan of extended physical darkness, so I celebrate December 22nd – because that daylight is just a tad longer and the light at the end of the tunnel.

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

Albus Dumbledore

Let the Stable Still Astonish

*Let the stable still astonish:
Straw – dirt floor, dull eyes,
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;
Crumbling, crooked walls; No bed to carry that pain,
And then, the child, Rag-wrapped, laid to cry
In a trough. Who would have said: "Yes,
Let the God of all the heavens and earth
Be born here, in this place?"
Who but the same God
Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms
Of our hearts
And says, "Yes,
Let the God of Heaven and Earth be born here –
In this place."*



Leslie Leyland Fields

Reminder that October 15-December 7 is the Open Enrollment Period for Medicare Part B Supplements and November 1 – December 15 for Affordable Care Act Plans.

Every year there are changes to Medicare benefits and supplements and the yearly opportunity to make any changes is October 15 - December 7. The Senior Benefit Specialist for Fond du Lac County is able to provide a free meeting/review of plans for Fond du Lac County residents aged 60 and older. *She is the go-to person for current, accurate, non-advertisement information about Medicare and types of supplements. She does not sell anything - she educates on options.*

The Department of Senior Services
Phone Number is 926-3521.



Pilgrim Church,

Just a note of thanks for all the wonderful church services I was able to watch when our church was not open. I really enjoyed Helen's playing and the tapes of the bell choir. The interim had wonderful messages and brought me the Holy Spirit.

Peace—Edi Moore

Project Linus thanks you for your kindness!

Your generosity helps us to provide warm, comforting blankets to children who are suffering trauma. In this time of need, we are able to provide them some security with your help! We appreciate your assistance.

Thank you so much for the gift cards. We were able to purchase most of the material for our big "Make A Blanket Day" on February 19, 2022.

Penny—FDL Project Linus Gang

I want to thank you for your help in making a brighter Christmas for our less fortunate children in Fond du Lac County. Our ability to help these families would not be possible without your dedicated service to the community and the passion you have for supporting this mission.

Crystal Ognan—Social Services Manager
The Salvation Army



The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

Collection of toys began on **November 1st and will conclude on December 14th** here at Pilgrim Church. Toys can be deposited in the box located between the entrance doors.

"ANGEL TREE" PROGRAM

Tags have been provided to Pilgrim Church in order to "adopt an angel". The felt Christmas tree is hanging from one of the windows in the narthex. The deadline for returning unwrapped gifts to church is **December 6th**. It is important to return the gifts with the coded tag attached, as the tags identify who the gift is for.





Church of Our Saviour Music Ministry presents

ADVENT MUSIC AND MEAL

Wednesdays
December 8 & 15

CONCERTS 12:00 NOON
LUNCH 12:30 P.M.



DECEMBER 8
BRASS MENAGERIE
(BRASS QUINTET)
DECEMBER 15
FOND DU LAC
HIGH SCHOOL
CARDINAL SINGERS

SEASONAL MUSIC • OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
CONCERT AND LUNCH ARE FREE!
-free-will offering-

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

363 S. Main Street • Fond du Lac
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South Shore
Chorale
presents
**A SOUTH SHORE
CHRISTMAS**
Conducted by Cory Schneider
**December 4, 2021
7:30 p.m.**
**FOND DU LAC HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**
TICKETS - \$15
Tickets may be purchased at www.hometowntickets.com or at the door

*Fond du Lac High School
Music
Department
presents*
**Night of Silence
2021**
**December 10 & 11, 7:30 p.m.
December 12, 2:00 p.m.**
~ TICKETS - \$7 RESERVED SEATING ~
Tickets may be purchased in one of the following ways:
• Beginning November 20, 9 a.m. at www.hometowntickets.com
• FHS Box Office in PAC Lobby
Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. beginning November 23
• Box Office will be open one hour prior to each concert

From “The Stable of Bethlehem”

’Twas not a palace proud and fair
 he chose for his first home;
 No dazzling pile of grandeur rare,
 with pillar’d hall and dome;
 Oh no! a stable, rude and poor,
 received him at his birth;
 And thus was born, unknown, obscure,
 the Lord of heaven and earth. ...

Come to your Savior’s lowly bed,
 ye vain and proud of heart!
 And learn with bowed and humbled head
 the lesson ’twill impart;
 ’Twill teach you not to prize too high
 the riches vain of earth —
 But to lay up in God’s bright sky
 treasures of truer worth. ...

—Rosanna Leprohon (1829-1879)

Christian Symbol



EVERGREEN—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God’s everlasting love.

In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the “cedars of Lebanon,” suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

PUZZLE

H
M
V
S
R
B
O
L
Y
Q
O
X
A
V
H
R
T
A

→ → →

What’s in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary’s baby.
 Solve the puzzle to discover the name’s meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

“S_e w_ll __ve bir__
 to __ s_n, and __u a_e to
 gi_e _i_ the __me J__us,
 b_c_u__ he _ill s_e his
 __op_e f_o_ t__ir s_n.”

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

← ← ← **START HERE** ← ← ←

U
E
L
W
B
A
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V
H
P
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S
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M

A I N G F I P **H** S C I B E J H A

Answer: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21, NIV



- 1 Kaden Goetsch
- 2 Laura Hawkins
Blair Holl
- 6 Dennis Stephany
Joanne Baltz
- 12 Alia Ablor
- 14 Kameron Keys
- 15 Nate Dietenberger
- 16 Gary Greenfield
Tina Potter
- 18 Richard Goetsch Jr.
- 19 Megan Christenson
Christopher Luckow
- 21 Linda Graves
Hannah Connor
- 25 JESUS**
- 27 Isabelle Schilling
- 28 Jean Lawrence
Beth Fedyszyn
- 29 Tim Flaherty
- 30 Paul Dille
Rob Steinert



Michael & Jane Steinke	December 14, 1985
Benjamin & Barbara Roder	December 19, 1970
Thomas & Sarah Kirchhoff	December 22, 1984



Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and your name is not on the list, perhaps we don't have your information. Please call Cathy in the church office (921-0415) or fill out the form below so your name can be included next year! Thank you!

If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary listed in The Quill, just fill out this form and return it to the church office.

Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Anniversary: _____

Ushers for December

Date	9:00 Service
December 5	Jim & Dianne Bentley
December 12	Pete Vercoouteren & Connie Anderson
December 19	Avery & Barb Geiger
December 26	Bill & Patti Burns

Welcomers for December

Date	9:00 Service
December 5	Jim & Dianne Bentley
December 12	Robin Speidel
December 19	Shannon LaLuzerne
December 26	Pat Towne

Worship Leaders for December

Date	9:00 Service
December 5	Bobbie Flaherty
December 12	Jill Barbeau
December 19	Noreen Henderson
December 26	Linda Stutz

SCRIP NEWS

On behalf of the Pilgrim SCRIP program, I invite you to consider using SCRIP as you prepare for your many holiday needs. From food preparation to gift giving, SCRIP can provide you with a variety of gift cards with which to do your shopping.

You purchase gift cards to various businesses at face value (Ex: \$25 Festival Foods = \$25 purchase price) and Pilgrim receives a percentage from each card sold. It's as simple as calling me at 920-904-5740, texting me or sending me an email (karen.goodacre@pilgrimuccfdl.org).

I will do all I can to make this as simple as possible to keep Pilgrim's SCRIP program available to you. If ordering something out of the ordinary, like Cabela's or Bath & Body, for example, please plan ahead as I do not keep those on hand.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas season! Thanks for supporting Pilgrim's SCRIP program

Peace,
Karen Goodacre



Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Barb Geiger

Barb Geiger shared a reflection from How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going. This was followed by a prayer.

Members present: Bayard Fredrick, Patti Burns, Karen Goodacre, Avery Geiger, Barb Geiger, Donna Jost, Linda Stutz, Jean Wright, and Patty Minter, Suzette Curtis, Fran Schmid, and Gary Ring.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Reports from Sept. 20, 2021 was reviewed. A correction will be made to the President's Report. A motion was made by Avery Geiger and seconded by Linda Stutz to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made by Karen Goodacre and seconded by Fran Schmid to accept the report with correction. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Pastor's Report: See written report

Barb has been in frequent contact with Pastor Mary Jo Laabs. She is scheduled to start in position as Interim Pastor of Pilgrim UCC on Nov. 8, 2021. She has submitted an article for the Quill introducing herself. She is now licensed in the North East Association.

Rosenow School conducted a successful disaster evacuation drill to Pilgrim. They did not need to enter the building. Rosenow School does have a key if they need to make entrance in case of disaster.

Barb received a request from a UWM PHD Student requesting that Pilgrim participate in a Pilot Study. After Discussion, the council agreed to decline to participate as we are in a state of transition.

An exit interview was conducted with Pastor Richard, Barb Geiger and Patti Burns. Many of the items discussed were also included in Pastor Richard's last Quill article. He did share that he felt Pilgrim may need to consider hiring outside contractors to complete work at church versus relying on volunteers. Another suggestion for the future is to explore the order of the Sunday activities at church as this may increase membership. Including time for a multigenerational weekly fellowship activity would provide time for family and member involvement. He suggested that Pilgrim aggressively work on getting word out into the community of the programs offered at Pilgrim. His last suggestion was for Pilgrim Council to make a 5 and 10 year plan which may include a Capital Campaign.

Vice President's – None

Old Business:

Discussion took place about decision making surrounding seating in the sanctuary. At this time the pews will continue to be unanchored. Will hold off with a decision until we have secured a settled pastor.

The wooden chairs that were by the alter are currently being stored in the education wing. They were removed for carpet installation.

New Business:

A motion was made by Linda Stutz and seconded by Patty Minter to approve the updated Lending Policy as presented by Property & Maintenance. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Ministry Reports:

Search Committee – Remains active. Staying busy reviewing profiles. Have conducted second interviews but at this time have not secured an accepted offer for a settled pastor. They will continue to review profiles and conduct interviews as profiles are submitted.

Christian Outreach –Coats for Kids completed. Angel Tree and Toys for Tots will begin in December.

Worship and Music – Pulpit supply has been secured until Mary Jo Laabs begins as Interim. Zoom worship meeting Oct. 25 and will include Mary Jo Laabs. See minutes from Sept. meeting.

Christian Education – Food Pantry collections have resumed. Jr./Sr. High youth group events are planned. Will be making decisions on where to donate B'day dimes. Friday Fun Night Nov. 12.

SCRIP Update – Encourage purchasing of scrip to support Pilgrim. Sales are down. Please contact Karen Goodacre with scrip orders. Consider placing an order for Christmas gift needs.

Property & Maintenance – Parking lot repairs are progressing. Lending Policy updated. See minutes. Next meeting November 8, 2021.

Lay Life & Leadership - no report

Stewardship & Finance – No report

Membership & Evangelism – Using Facebook for advertising before Christmas. Laminated emergency cards have been placed in pews. See minutes.

Ham Dinner – Will be carry out. Sign up signs in the narthex.

Adult Ed – Hybrid of zoom and in person on Sundays. Bible with Bagels remains zoom.

Celebration:

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting will be held Nov. 15, 2021, @ 6:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Burns



Glory to God
in the highest.
 and on earth peace,
 good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 Bible w/Bagels	2	3 Family Fun Night 6:00 - 7:30	4
5 9:00 Worship Stewardship Moment 10:15 Coffee Hour	6	7	8 9:00 Bible w/Bagels	9	10 6:00 AL-ANON	11
12 9:00 Worship Jr. Handbell Handbell Quartet 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed	13 11:00 Membership 4:45 Worship 6:00 Christian Ed	14	15 9:00 Bible w/Bagels - Christmas Social Brunch On ZOOM	17	17 6:00 AL-ANON	18
19 9:00 Worship Children's Christmas Presentation 10:15 Sunday School	20 6:00 Church Council Quill Articles Due	21	22	23	24 7:00PM Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES 6:00 AL-ANON	25
26 9:00 Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

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Website: www.pilgrimuccfdl.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Pilgrim Quill



We are happy to send you our newsletter, but if you no longer wish to receive it, please contact us and we will remove you from our mailing list.

- Church Treasurer..... Donna Jost
- Church Council Secretary..... Wendy Ellison
- Church Council Vice President..... Patti Burns
- Church Council President..... Barb Geiger
- Custodian..... Nick Bonnell
- Choir Accompanist.....
- Choir Director..... Zachary Ball
- Organist..... Helen Gilsdorf
- Adult Education Director..... Suzette Curtis
- Youth Director.....
- Sunday School Director..... Karen Goodacre
- Parish Nurse..... Sue Schmitz
- Administrative Assistant..... Cathy Drew
- Interim Pastor..... Rev. Mary Jo Laabs (starting approx. November 8th.....)

Those Who Serve

Pilgrim United Church of Christ, a theologically progressive Christian church, pursues growth in faith, social justice, and respect for all voices-with Jesus as our model for how to live and love.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Mission Statement