



THE PILGRIM QUILL

FEBRUARY 2022



Dear Friends,

Take a few minutes to pray, following the prompts here as you do:

Prayer of The Seven Directions

Begin facing EAST- This is where the sun comes up, and so the direction of new beginnings, hope, promise, and potential. Pray that you may be open to receiving these gifts this day. * Each turn is a quarter turn to your right.

Turn SOUTH - This is the direction of warmth, growth, fertility, also known as creativity and productivity. In addition, this direction represents faith, trust, and faithfulness in relationships. Pray for these things this day.

Turn WEST - This is the direction where the sun goes down. Thus, it is the direction of rest, of our dream lives, and of closure and endings that need to take place in order for there to be new beginnings. Pray for these things this day.

Turn NORTH - This is the direction of the cold, of winds, of strength, courage, fortitude, might, single-mindedness, focus, clarity and purpose. Pray for these things this day.

Turn back to the EAST - and turn UPWARD. For Native Americans this is the direction of Father Sky. Pray that your heart, mind, soul, and spirit will not forget to look upward this day, to the One who is so much greater than we are.

Turn DOWNWARD - and touch our Mother, the earth. Pray that everything you do this day will be in honor and reverence of our Mother Earth.

Turn INWARD- Place your hand on your heart and pray that all that you do this day will be true to the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit who dwells within you. Amen.

- Jose Hobday

In our study and *cherishing* of the book, "Braiding Sweetgrass," by Robin Wall Kimmerer, we have prayed prayers of Indigenous peoples. We have shared parts of the book that were particularly eye-opening to us, *have walked through the woods* with

Robin Wall Kimmerer and are framing our hearts with a renewed intent to care for the earth. We pray thanks to the earth for caring for us. I recommend this book to you, and I dare say that everyone in the Bible with Bagels "Zoom" gatherings would agree! There will be two more sessions, January 26 and February 2 at 9am. Join us, listen to the **Audible** version of the book, read by Robin Wall Kimmerer or borrow the book from the library! You'll be glad that you did.

I am thankful to each one of you for helping to do your part in keeping our Church Family safe during this time of virtual at-home worship and Zoom meetings. Our caring for one another as we mask up in the church building is what we are able to do in our little corner of Fond du Lac to help mitigate the virus as we follow the mandate of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you." Thank you for continuing to be safe wherever you go in the coming days.

We are hoping that we will be able to join in in-person Worship (Virtual worship will also be offered for those who prefer to join from a distance) beginning again on February 5th. You will be kept informed by "Robo-Call" and email.

If you know anyone who would like to receive paper copies of the Sunday bulletin and the Sunday Sermon, please let me know or call the church office and leave a message for Cathy.

God bless us one and all,

Pastor Mary Jo



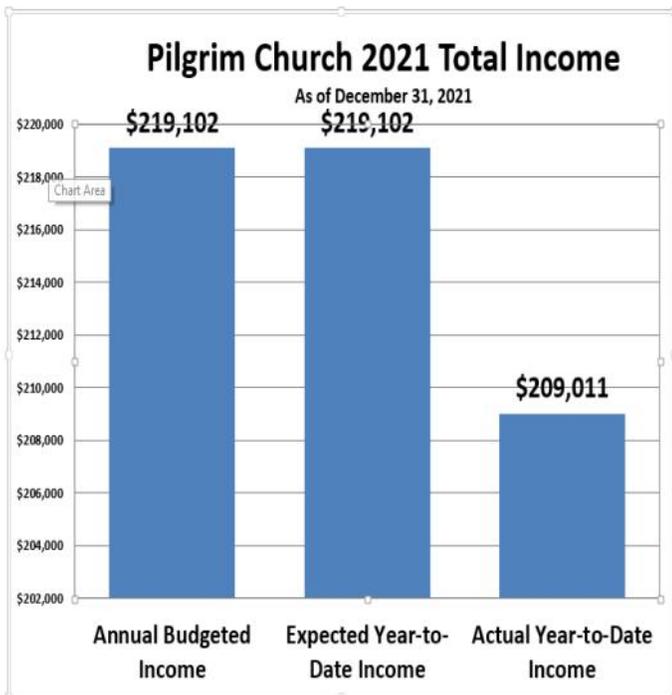
News from Council President, Barb Geiger

Short & Sweet:

Outside of covid affecting us from in person gatherings, things are going very well from an administrative perspective. We are doing well financially, the search committee has an accepted call by a great pastoral candidate and our various ministries/committees are carrying on. There is much to be proud of with how resilient Pilgrim Church has been this past year.

That was the sweet part. My update will be short as I've been busy with the annual report, congregational meeting planning and most importantly working on the pastoral call agreement details. Lots of details - so I'm very thankful to all the council members and Gary Ring for their assistance and input.

Tune into the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 30th via ZOOM. Also watch for details of the candidating weekend February 11-13th.



Use any of our easy ways to give:

Phone text at 920-796-9933

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

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

In person at Sunday Service

Great Start to the New Year Pilgrim Church Helps Others Through KIVA

What better way to start the new year than with loans to two women through KIVA? One woman in Fiji and one in Vietnam will have a good start to their new year because Pilgrim is able to help with the loans they need. 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 money loaned this month was money that had been repaid on previous loans we have given.

One loan was given to Waifane who lives in Fiji. Waifane finds it difficult to support her family of five. At the moment she only sells eggs to the people in her community. Many of these people have to travel several miles to the main grocery store. Waifane has decided to add some essentials to her stock. This will increase her income and be more convenient for her neighbors. She will use the extra income to provide security for her family and invest in her children's education.

The second loan was given to Mrs. Nguyet. She has two children. Her family lives in Quang Xiong district, a coastal area in Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam. Fishing and farming are the main business activities. She and her husband have worked in agriculture, cropping paddy rice, raising chickens and pigs for over 20 years. The income is inconsistent because the region often has natural disasters such as storms because it is near the sea. She will use the loan to buy construction materials and pay wages for laborers to build a toilet for her family. She hopes in the future to expand her farm by raising more chickens and pigs for sale.

As we begin the new year with hopes and dreams for our church and families, it is difficult to imagine the lives of Waifane and Mrs. Nguyet. Let us count our blessings and be happy that we can in some small way help others prosper through KIVA.

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.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Collection for Family Resource Center during February

The Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a collection of baby products and personal hygiene items for the Family Resource Center during the month of February. Family Resource Center (Helping Hands, Helping Families) of Fond du Lac County believes that families from all walks of life deserve support, education and resources as they raise their children. The center offers a variety of programs and services to pregnant women, parents, non-custodial parents, children and teens through several main focus areas.

Support Observe Achieve Read Program (SOAR)

All families with children from birth to five years of age are welcome to join in literacy activities, small motor crafts, large muscle games and other fun learning activities.

- *Ensures child is meeting certain milestones
- *Promotes parent & child interaction
- *Supports school readiness
- *In-home visits available or zoom meetings
- *Families that participate in programs have the opportunity to receive diapers, wipes, formula and baby food free of charge
- *1:1 parenting sessions
- *Group parenting sessions
- *Clothing & medical vouchers

Pregnancy & Parenting Support Program

The staff of the center provide classes and workshops on topics to help individual and families. One on one phone calls or appointments may be scheduled with staff. Their calendar of events may be found at www.fdlfrc.org. Referred only from Department of Social Services, the center offers supervised visitation in a safe and neutral setting for families whose children are currently placed in out-of-home care. The center also offers Respite care on Saturdays for children placed in foster care and children in the middle classes throughout the year for families going through separations and divorce.

- *One on one counseling
- *Parenting support group
- *Parenting tricks and tips classes
- *Potty training
- *Children in the middle

Car Seat Program

Car seats are provided for families that are in need.

Please bring any of the following items to the church during **February**. There will be a designated box for your gifts.

Products needed:

Diapers	Feminine hygiene products
Pullups - all sizes, especially 3T & 4T	Hair brushes/combs
Baby wipes/Wet Ones	Masks
Personal hygiene items	Gloves and mittens
Toothbrushes/tooth paste/dental floss	Blankets
Shampoo	Jackets
Deodorant	
Hand sanitizer	
Soap	

Future Christian Outreach Projects:

February:

We will be collecting for the Family Resource Center (FRC). Please note the information on the previous page in this Newsletter for items the FRC needs.

March:

We will be collecting "Birthday Pans" for the Fondy Food Pantry. Each pan will include a cake mix, frosting and candles. You can also include, if you like, birthday napkins, cupcake liners and a book of your liking. Then cover each pan with saran wrap. Fun project! We will also accept any other donations you would like to give.

April:

Baby Shower time! We will be accepting donations of any baby products, such as diapers, onesies, diaper cream, bottles, etc. Watch the April Quill for a more detailed list.

May:

Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day.

Thank you for all you do!
The Christian Outreach Committee



Last year, the members of this church entrusted the Search Committee with the responsibility of prayerfully selecting a candidate for your approval. The committee members have been reviewing UCC Ministerial Profiles since May and meeting weekly via Zoom. We carefully reviewed all of the Profiles of each candidate. After conducting initial interviews, doing reference checks and viewing online services of the candidates, we had second interviews with our top candidates. One candidate quickly rose to the top and we invited this candidate to Fond du Lac during Christmas week to provide a mini worship service in the sanctuary and tour the Fond du Lac area. It was a mutually beneficial and exciting visit.

Through prayerful consideration, on December 23rd, the Search Committee unanimously selected this candidate as our next pastor for Pilgrim Church. A call was made to this candidate and without hesitation and with much excitement, the candidate accepted our call.

We are planning a candidating weekend February 11-13, with opportunities for you to meet the candidate on Saturday, February 12th and to hear him preach on Sunday, February 13th. A congregational meeting will follow the church service for you to vote on confirming the call to our new pastor. You should have received an all-member letter with details of the candidate and of the candidating weekend that was mailed January 21st.

Your opportunity to Meet 'n Greet the candidate will be on Saturday. To maintain social distancing, we are scheduling up to 6 people to meet with the candidate in 20-minute increments. To schedule your time, please call Cathy Drew in the church office at 920-921-0415, Monday - Friday 8:30 - 12:30 or sign up on-line with the link provided in upcoming Friday weekly church emails. Social distancing and masking practices will be observed.

We believe that God has led us to this exciting moment in our ministry and so does the candidate. We look forward to growing together as a faith community.

The Members of the Search Committee include: Tracy Abler, Jim Bentley, Peg Bradley, Kelsy Laudolff, Gary Ring, Barb Roder, Sue Schmitz, and Jeff Siemers.



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 winter/spring 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)

February 6 Coffee Hour

February 13 Congregational Meeting

February 20 Daycholah Center
 Presenter: Lisa Hart
 Associate Conference Minister for
 Faith Formation and Justice Ministries &
 Executive Associate to the Conference
 Minister

The Outdoor Ministry site in Green Lake, Wisconsin, was renamed last fall. The new name is Daycholah Center. Daycholah is the original Ho-Chunk name for Green Lake. This new name recognizes that this land was and remains a sacred place for Native Tribes. UCCI's Outdoor Ministry has a unique role and opportunity to restore the voice of Native Americans, acknowledge their stewardship of this sacred place and begin a journey with this one small reparative step toward building strong, supportive and sustained positive relationships with our indigenous siblings.

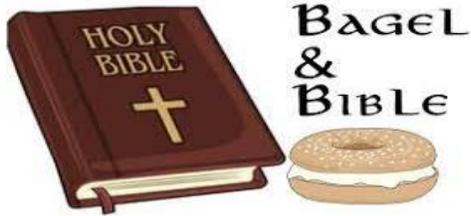
Lisa Hart was a part of the name change committee and will share with us the process, prayers and commitment involved.

February 27 The Doctrine of Discovery
 Presenter: Larry Littlegeorge
 Alliance for Justice

The Doctrine of Discovery established a spiritual, political and legal justification for colonization and seizure of land not inhabited by Christians. Foundational elements of the Doctrine of Discovery can be found in a series of papal bulls, or decrees, beginning in the 1100s. The 1493 Papal decree aimed to justify Christian European explorers' claims on land and waterways they allegedly discovered and promote Christian domination and superiority, and has been applied in Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. This ideology supported the dehumanization of those living on the land and their dispossession, murder and forced assimilation.

We study the Doctrine of Discovery to listen to voices that have been silenced and disregarded for centuries. These voices tell a frequently overlooked story about the origins of the United States.





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 winter/spring semester. To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978012384?pwd=cGxJa0pJbExSM0FFWEtIMmtJYzNodz09>

Meeting ID: 889 7801 2384
Passcode: 762316

February 2 *Braiding Sweetgrass*
by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Leader: Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

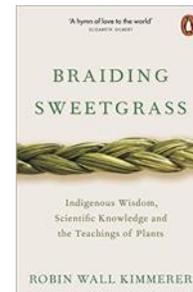
The WI Conference UCC has proclaimed the book as an "all-church-read." The author defines and illustrates the concept of reciprocity, which entails a human relationship with the earth whereby humanity gives back what it has been given.

Here is the Publisher's Summary: As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers.

In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as "the younger brothers of creation". As she explores these themes, she circles toward a central argument: The awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the world. Once we begin to listen for the languages of other beings, we can begin to understand the innumerable life-giving gifts the world provides us and learn to offer our thanks, our care, and our own gifts in return.

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February 2 Section 5:
Burning Sweetgrass (pp. 303 - 379)



February 9 -
March 9 Scholarly Study of the Book of Matthew
Leader: Brian Smith
Professor Emeritus Ripon College

It should be noted that 90% of Mark's gospel (which we studied last October) is included in Matthew. However, new materials include nativity stories, more references to Jewish scriptures and several long teaching discussions.

Brian Smith was on the Faculty of Ripon College from 1987 to 2019 when he retired in May. He has done extensive research in Abrahamic Religions, religion and politics and ethics and international affairs. Brian has also published several articles through the years covering political and religious topics. We are delighted to have him share his academic perspective in this bible study.



Suzette Curtis

Notes from Karen

(Our Sunday School Director)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

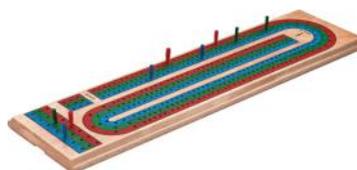
Dear Sunday School Families and All Church Friends,

Well, here we are again in the midst of learning to practice patience as we are again faced with having to return to online worship services, cancelled Sunday school classes and family fun night activities. I hope you are all staying warm and safe, but please know that you are missed.

I want to thank all of you for your patience and flexibility as we have had to make these unwelcome but necessary changes as we do our best, as a church, to lead by example in not gathering in large groups as the pandemic numbers have been on the rise and show our love for one another. It is my sincere hope (and that of those in charge of making these often difficult decisions) that this set back will be very short. As you all should have heard by now through various notifications, we are hoping to resume in person worship and Sunday school classes the first week of February. This is, of course, to be determined for sure as we get closer to then.

With all of this being said, the Christian Ed ministry is hoping to be able to hold our Intergenerational Family Game Night, that was planned for January, in February. How fun would it be to finally be able to gather together to have some good old fashioned fun playing board games, card games, maybe a new game you received over the holidays and just be together in fellowship?

At this time we are planning to hold our Intergenerational Family Fun Game Night on Friday, February 11th, from 6:00PM - 7:30PM. So bring a favorite game or come play one of the many we will have available. Maybe some of you have been missing Pilgrim's cribbage league. We hope it will be a night of fun and fellowship. Of course, if for some reason we are unable to again hold this event as planned, we will get the word out to you through announcements, emails, or phone calls.



Again, thank you for your understanding as we do our best to navigate through this. But take comfort in remembering that we have gotten through similar times before and we will again - TOGETHER!

Blessings,
Karen

NOTE TO ALL..... Start saving your loose change as the Sunday school children will soon be starting their penny wars collection to raise money for Heifer International.



Parish Nurse

Shoulders up – Shoulders back – Head up – Phone down

As you tweak your New Years' Resolutions, do not forget that you are the clay and a work in progress. The imperfections/cracks are where the light shines through. Shine On!

Ground Hog Day is February 2

So...If the day is bright and sunny we will have 6 more weeks of winter (which puts us around March 16). If it is overcast, we will have an early spring – which could also be around March 16.... I say we celebrate either way - the daylight is getting longer: Daylight length:

Feb 1: 9 hours, 54 minutes long

Feb 28: 11 hours, 9 minutes long

A gain of 1 hour and 14 minutes of daylight!

Mind-Body-Spirit - Woo-Hoo!



Viruses – The more you know...

My heart wants to write words of wisdom that will take away all questions surrounding the Omicron Covid variant, pandemic behavioral recommendations, and the exact date that this craziness will end. My head just laughs.

I've written about the nature of viruses and self-care priorities. The general layers of protection still and always will apply – frequent handwashing, no nose picking (Ever!), mask when in a group, protect that 6 feet of personal air space, stay home if not feeling well and if possible stay away from others who are not well, and get vaccinated if you haven't already. This goes for any and all viruses – including the common cold (except no vaccine (yet) against the common cold...). The more layers/practices, the more protected against illness.

Right now, I can only offer words of encouragement that this craziness will end...sometime. Please continue to take care of yourselves. We carry God's light and strength in the core of our being. Slow deep breaths, find humor, phone a friend and know that you are not alone.

Wear Red for Heart Health

I can't let a February go by without some holy nagging about heart disease – “the #1 killer of both men and women that is largely preventable”. **Non-controllable risk factors for heart disease** include family history, age, gender and race, while **controllable risks** are smoking, high cholesterol, uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes and stress, obesity and a sedentary lifestyle. In addition, some authorities add uncontrolled sleep apnea and poor oral hygiene to the “controllable” list. (The heart works hard day **and** night, and bacteria can get into the blood stream from irritated gums causing an infection that can settle on a valve in the heart). Even if you have all the uncontrollable risk factors working against you, having a heart attack or heart disease is not a given if the controllable risk factors are, in fact, under control!

Friday, February, 4th is a day to wear red (dress/shirt/socks/etc.) to raise heart health awareness. My Challenge: This month pick one controllable risk factor to improve upon as a gift to yourself and your loved ones - for Valentines/Heart Day.

Some ideas on ways to Love your Heart

If you use nicotine in any form – stop, lower how much salt and fat you eat, drink alcohol in small doses, balance your diet, exercise, brush your teeth and floss regularly, know your numbers (blood pressure, HDL, LDL), manage your stress, know your family history, get enough sleep and recognize the symptoms of heart disease.

Check out the bulletin board for information about salt and your heart



**On Becoming a WISE Congregation
(Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged for
Mental Health)**

The definition on health is *“a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not just the absence of illness or disease”*.

Statistically, 1 in 4 adults lives with a diagnosable mental health condition. In 2015 the *WISE Health Resolution* was adopted at the UCC General Synod. The UCC Mental Health Network then developed the WISE certification process – in a nutshell, a guideline to help churches increase awareness about mental health issues, resources, connections and possible actions to better serve (and welcome!) these youth and adults.

For example, a community connection may be the Public Health Department. Mental Health is in the top 3 Fond du Lac County Health Priorities. Their 2022-2024 Mental Health Goals are:

1. Reduce stigma around mental health and increase access to behavioral health services across the lifespan and for those in high risk groups.
2. 2. Reduce stigma around mental health and suicide, and decrease the number of deaths by suicide.

Stigma (defined as “negative perceptions and labels”) creates barriers and discourages individuals (and their families) from getting the help they need due to fear of discrimination. We can do respect, safety, and healing – we can help stop stigma.

Becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health is a process and we need a small team of people to lead this over the next year. If you have any questions, concerns, thoughts and/or want to be part of the WISE Ministry team, please contact Sue Schmitz (920-960-4912).

*The difference between
“I like you” and
“I love you”*

Beautifully answered by Buddha:

*“When you like a flower, you just pluck it. But when
you love a flower, you water it daily...!
One who understands this, understands life...”*



In the Spirit of St. Valentine...

“There is an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of Love to bestow. No one else can speak my message, or sing my song, or offer my act of love. These have been entrusted only to me. According to this tradition the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love delivered only to a few, or to all the people in the whole world. It all depends on God’s unique plan for each unique person. So from my heart I want to say this to you: Please believe that you have an important message to deliver; you have a beautiful song to sing, and a unique act of love to warm this world and to brighten its darkness. And when the final history of this world is written, your message, your song, and your love will be recorded gratefully forever.”

Father John Powell



EQUAL EXCHANGE - FAIR TRADE

Coffee, Tea, Chocolate Sale. Jill Barbeau will be taking orders **until February 13th**. You can email Jill at jillbarbeau@att.net or stop by and pick-up an order form at church. Checks can be made out to Pilgrim Church and be sure to note "Fair Trade Coffee" in the memo section of your check.



LOAVES and FISHES

Pilgrim Church will again be participating in the Loaves and Fishes Program. Loaves and Fishes provides meals to approximately 300-400 local people twice a week. Pilgrim has been assigned the following Wednesday dates for this year:

February 23rd May 11th
August 17th November 30th

Each time we provide a meal, several volunteers are needed to donate and prepare food, set-up, serve, clean-up and distribute leftovers. It is hoped that those people who have helped in the past will volunteer again. New volunteers are always welcome! The sign-up poster for February 23rd is in the narthex at church. Please watch for notification of when the sign-up poster is available for the remaining dates so we can plan accordingly.



Please consider helping out! You can call Cathy at 920-921-0415 and have her sign you up. If you have questions, please call Jim Bentley at 920-922-5093 or Karen Goodacre at 920-904-5740.



Advent Candle Wreath History

(In case you missed the live storytelling by Bob Flaherty during our December 5, 2021 church service, he graciously agreed to write the story down, of how our church came to own a unique, wrought iron Advent wreath stand).

Once upon a time, two churches merged, they built a beautiful sanctuary and as things went along somebody decided or thought we should have a new advent candle holder. And the conversations started; “What kind? How much? Should it be this? How much”? This, that! So, at the time, Rev. Hecky had a catalog from a worship catalog business. And he opened the pages with some of us. We were looking at them and some people said, well this one is too shiny, some people said this one is not shiny enough. Some said this one is too tall, too short, too fat, too round, all too’s. But it did come up every one in a while: how much?

So, in conversations, I noticed in the catalog, way in the corner down on the bottom there was a black, just plain wrought iron looking stand. The light bulb went on in my head. And I thought, I know where we can get one of those. I just happen to be involved in a metal fabricating business. So, I went back, talked to my brother and showed him the catalog. We brought a fellow in from part of our team, Jerry Raube, and we said, “Jerry, what do you think”?

Jerry was an excellent steel fabricator. He learned his trade in the navy. He had been with my dad and with us from the day after he got out of the navy and moved back to Fond du Lac. He originally was born and grew up in Oakfield. He said, “I’d really like to do that”. Jerry was a fabricator that was probably one of our top, if not the top fabricator in our shop. I mean he built things, huge guards for Giddings and Lewis. I know he built the guarding for a 12- foot vertical turret lathe that built the O-rings for the Saturn rockets. He just had this smile on his face. He was a church going guy and a good friend. He said, “I can do this!” So, we kind of drew a couple of little sketches about this and Jerry said, “Don’t worry about it, I will take care of this!” So, we said OK!

He punched in, started the project, we tried to stay out of his way and not peek and away he went. And this is what you see! This is one of a kind. There is not another one like it in the world. It’s really, really special! Now, if you notice if you get real close, there is a little plaque on here that says, “In memory of Ralph Urquhart”. And you say, who? Ralph Urquhart is my wife, Jane’s, father. So when Jane and I sit and they bring this out and we look at it, it’s a whole different ballgame. Now, Jerry, I would say maybe a year and a half after he built this, he had a stroke and when he was in the hospital, they found him full of cancer and he passed away at age 50 in 1988. So, when I look at this, I see my friend, part of our team and it means a lot.

Now if you remember when I said I am going to tell you a story and I started by, once upon a time. Well, most once upon a time stories end with the princess kissing the frog or something you know, but this story never ends because every first Sunday of Advent we start a new chapter. We start a new memory. Some of you will come up with your family, kids pay attention, if you ever get a chance to light this, take it, because years later you will look at that and say, “I remember doing that with my mom and dad.”

So here, enjoy. I am really proud of this thing and thank you. And peace, joy, love, and hope!



- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Randy Mittelstaedt |
| 3 | Ruth Willett |
| 5 | Judie Behnke |
| 6 | Mikayla Schmid |
| 7 | Victoria Dietenberger |
| 9 | Kayden Keys |
| 12 | Jeff Siemers |
| 13 | Bridget Keys |
| | Lily Mae LaLuzerne |
| 14 | Kathleen Dille |
| 15 | Barb Geiger |
| 17 | Kay Lynn Speidel |
| 19 | Bayard Frederick |
| | Julie Freund |
| 21 | Donna McCulloch |
| 22 | Judy Muthig |
| 24 | Neal Sieglaff |
| 26 | Stuart Henderson |
| 28 | Dianne Bentley |
| | Gayle Mandel |
| | Hannah Wright |



No February Anniversaries!

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 February	
Date	9:00 Service
February 6	Linda Stutz & Kaitlynn Zick
February 13	Linda Stutz & Donna Jost
February 20	Jim & Dianne Bentley
February 27	Avery & Barb Geiger

Welcomers for February	
Date	9:00 Service
February 6	Shannon LaLuzerne
February 13	Pat Towne
February 20	Wendy Ellison
February 27	Fran Schmid

Worship Leaders for February	
Date	9:00 Service
February 6	Jim Bentley
February 13	Noreen Henderson
February 20	Ellen Sieglaff
February 27	Linda Stutz

SCRIP NEWS

I want to thank everyone who utilized the SCRIP program in 2021 as it was because all of you that we were able to make a nice profit to go into the church budget.

With that being said, the only way we can continue to keep those profits coming in is to continue to have everyone use the SCRIP program for their weekly needs such as groceries and gasoline.

While we are currently not meeting for in person worship and I am not able to hand you your orders as we pass in the narthex, I am still able to help fulfill your SCRIP orders via the phone, email, or texts.

I will do my best to make it as easy as possible for you to receive your orders, BUT I NEED to have them in order for you to receive them.

So let's keep Pilgrim's SCRIP program going strong! It's easy and it's worth it!

Thank you,
Karen Goodacre



PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

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

Pastor Mary Jo offered a prayer.

Members present: Bayard Frederick, Patti Burns, Karen Goodacre, Avery Geiger, Barb Geiger, Donna Jost, Patty Minter, Fran Schmid, Sue Schmitz and Gary Ring.

Health Ministry Report: Sue Schmitz was present. She shared information she gathered at a recent webinar regarding COVID 19. She reports that Pilgrim is doing well with the precautions put in place. Sue also shared information about becoming a WISE Congregation. WISE stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged. The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network developed the WISE Certification process. The object of WISE is to encourage congregations to become more welcoming of those living with mental health challenges, to expand inclusion of those who are living with mental health challenges, to be supportive of all who are affected by mental health conditions, and to engage in ways to live a commitment to be WISE about mental health. Sue will present information at the annual congregational meeting about becoming a WISE Congregation. Sue Kaiser will present information at the January 23, 2022 Adult Education. Becoming a WISE Congregation will require a congregational vote. It is a process similar to becoming ONA.

Search Committee Report: Gary Ring was present to present a report from the Search Committee. He reported that the committee continues to receive profiles. They have recently received 2 new profiles. They are meeting weekly and have completed several second interviews.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Reports from Nov. 15, 2021, 2021 was reviewed. Corrections will be made to name spelling under Members Present. Also, under Committee Reports and updates Search Committee will be changed to Nominating Committee and the committee representative for Christian Outreach will be changed to Jill Barbeau. A motion was made by Karen Goodacre and seconded by Fran Schmid to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made by Avery Geiger and seconded by Patty Minter to accept the report. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Pastor's Report: See written report

- Has been attending committee meetings
- Conducted worship Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19
- Participated in Bible with Bagels and Loaves and Fishes as well as Family Fun Night
- Has been making visits to homes and hospital

President's Report:

- Discussion was had about a gift for Neal Sieglaff for all of his technical assistance throughout the year. A motion was made by Karen Goodacre and seconded by Patty Minter to give a gift of Scrip to Neal. The gift will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.

Vice President Report:

- Nominating Committee has the following updates –
Christian Ed welcomes Susan Holl
Trust Committee welcomes Sue Roloff
Worship Committee welcomes Jeanne Ihlenfeldt
Auditing Committee will consist of Jim Thomas, Weldon Peterson and Randy Mittlestadt.
Christian Outreach welcomes Tracy Abler

Budget: Budget proposal was reviewed. A motion was made by Avery Geiger and seconded by Karen Goodacre to accept the budget as submitted. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Membership: Fran Schmid presented the following:

- There are 2 couples that had been previous members of Pilgrim that are interested in rejoining; Gary & Judy Burton and Bob & Jane Flaherty. A motion was made by Fran Schmid and seconded by Bayard Frederick to Re-Welcome the Burtons and the Flahertys at an upcoming service.
- Sharon Menger is requesting a transfer of membership as she has moved out of the area.
- The Gilmores will be moving to Illinois.

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 completed. \$1535.00 was collected for Alternative Gift Fair with 13 donors. Warming Shelter has closed temporarily due to COVID. Next meeting Jan. 11, 2022.

Worship and Music – Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 pm. Continue to recommend mask wearing. Next meeting Jan. 10, 2022.

Christian Education – Averaging 11 students. Currently collecting canned fruit for the Fondy Food Pantry. Youth Group Movie Night will be Jan. 16, 2022. Family Fun Night Make and Take had 26 attendees. January Family Fun Night scheduled for Jan. 21, 2022. Next meeting Jan. 11, 2022.

SCRIP Update – Encourage purchasing of Scrip to support Pilgrim. Sales are down. Please contact Karen Goodacre with Scrip orders.

Property & Maintenance – Next meeting Jan. 10, 2022.

Lay Life & Leadership - no report.

Stewardship & Finance – No report.

Membership & Evangelism – See above. Next meeting Jan. 10, 2022.

Ham Dinner – Carry Out Ham Dinner was a success.

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

Memorial Committee – Next meeting Jan. 11, 2022.

Celebration:

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next meeting will be held January 17, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Burns

Valentine's DAY Word Search

H	C	O	U	P	L	E	S	I	D	A	T	E	P
I	H	A	I	F	H	I	S	T	U	L	I	P	S
E	E	N	H	B	S	P	E	L	A	S	A	C	T
R	A	G	M	O	I	A	C	Y	D	N	L	R	R
O	R	E	G	Y	R	S	A	D	O	I	I	U	S
M	T	L	I	F	E	S	R	N	S	L	H	S	O
A	C	C	R	R	H	I	B	A	F	S	E	H	C
N	F	I	L	I	C	O	M	C	W	D	I	H	D
T	O	D	F	E	U	N	E	E	P	O	E	M	E
I	R	C	R	N	F	Y	E	O	E	F	I	E	R
C	E	E	I	D	W	T	C	S	E	M	B	C	E
L	G	M	E	P	S	U	S	M	R	P	H	F	D
M	E	S	N	C	H	U	G	F	D	I	P	U	C
A	F	Y	D	A	D	O	R	E	N	M	U	O	E



WORDS

ROMANTIC	EMBRACE
PASSION	ANGEL
BOYFRIEND	DATE
POEM	CUPID
HEART	GIRLFRIEND
FLIRT	CRUSH
ADORE	CHERISH
SWEETS	COUPLE
HUG	CANDY
RED	TULIPS



FEBRUARY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 PEO 4:00 Exec Board Mtg	2 9:00 Bible w/Bagels <i>Ground Hog Day</i>	3	4 6:00 AL-ANON	5 Catherine Krail Memorial Service Visitation 10 - 11 Service 11 (Tentative)
6 9:00 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour 11:30 Confirm. Class 6:00 NA Mtg	7	8 11:30 Christian Outreach 4:30 Christian Ed 7:00 Adult Ed	9 9:00 Bible w/Bagels	10	11 6:00 Family Fun Night 6:00 AL-ANON	12
13 9:00 Worship Handbell Quartet Junior Handbell 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Congreg Mtg 6:00 NA Mtg	14 11:00 Membership 4:45 Worship 6:00 Property <i>Valentines Day</i>	15 9:30 PEO	16 9:00 Bible w/Bagels	17	18 6:00 AL-ANON	19
20 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed 11:30 Confirm. Class 6:00 NA Mtg	21 6:00 Church Council Quill Articles Due <i>Presidents Day</i>	22	23 9:00 Bible w/Bagels Loaves & Fishes	24	25 6:00 AL-ANON	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed 6:00 NA Mtg	28					

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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.

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

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