

THE COMPASS

Family Devotional for September 2023

Take Me to Church

Activity

Interview a family member about “church.”

We begin our Compass Family Devotional series with 10 questions about the church and our faith. We invite you to select someone to interview individually or as a family. You can interview each other, or other family members and friends. Send them the questions ahead of time so they can think about them. Then meet with them, bring treats to share, and ask your questions one by one and learn a little about each other, the church, and our faith. Have some fun.

1. Why do you go to church?
2. Tell me your church story. (Did you go to church as a child? Were you baptized, confirmed, or married in the church? If so, where and why? How did you end up at the church you are at now?)
3. What is your favorite part about going to church, and why?
4. Have you ever left the church and come back? What happened?
5. When did God become real to you?
6. What adjectives would you use to describe God? How would you describe God’s love?
7. How has God answered one of your prayers?
8. If you could have dinner with three people from the Bible, who would you invite? What would you ask them?
9. What do you think heaven will be like?
10. In the future, what part of your faith or faith life do you most want to pass on to your own kids or loved ones?

Afterwards, think about what you learned. Maybe you will sit down as a family and talk about it, or you will write our 10 questions in a journal and answer

them for yourself. If you do this keep the journal. Maybe in a few years you can come back to it and answer the same questions and see how your experience with the church and our faith has changed. The cool thing is that our faith grows up just like we do!

Prayer

This month we offer you 2 prayers to share, one for your family and one for the church. Please use these prayers before a meal or when you are spending time in prayer to focus your heart and your mind on your family and your church family this month.



A Prayer for Families by Ruth C. Duck:

Let us pray for all families: God, in you every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those in fearful times of change. We thank you for the gifts of love we have received from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love. Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for the Church by Robert V. Moss.

This Statement of Faith was adopted in 1959 by General Synod of the United Church of Christ and is widely regarded as one of the most significant Christian faith testimonies of the 20th century. The Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology was authorized by Executive Council in 1981. As a congregation in the United Church of Christ, we hold these words at the center of who we are.

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.



Sunday Scriptures

September 3

Romans 12:9-21 – Love in Action

September 10

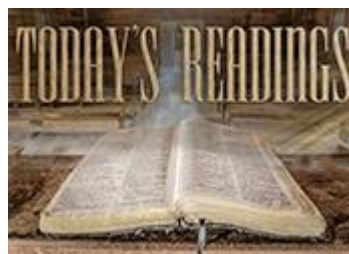
Exodus 12:1-14 – The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

September 17

Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21 – Joseph Helps His Family

September 24

Matthew 20:1-16 – The Vineyard Workers



Did You Know?

Did you know that Pilgrim United Church of Christ will be 45 years old on March 5, 2024? An article we have from The Reporter newspaper, Friday, January 16, 1979 tells us:

“Plymouth United Church of Christ and St. Mark’s United Church of Christ have voted to merge into a single congregation, to be known as Pilgrim United Church of Christ. The decision to merge is the result of recent annual business meetings by members of both congregations. The churches have shared a ministry for nearly four years, with the Rev. Norman F. Brooks as pastor. The two congregations have conducted worship services, a united Sunday school, explored the merger and have formulated a new constitution and by-laws. The merger will take effect on March 5, with a special worship service to be held. New officers will be elected at the first business session. Plans also are underway for the construction of a new worship facility on the present St. Mark’s property at the corner of Wilson and Stow Streets. Plymouth Church property at the corner of Sheboygan and Marr Streets will eventually be disposed of, according to church officials.”



THE BIG QUESTION: How do you think we should celebrate Pilgrim's 45th Anniversary in March?



2023-2024 YOUTH MINISTRIES AT PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY SCHOOL – We have a wonderful program for children offered after worship on Sunday mornings! Each class focuses on a Bible story, a lesson, or a way of living faith. We use art, music, prayer, and group activities to share stories that connect us with our God and our understanding of community.

CONFIRMATION – A small group that meets for approximately nine months of confirmation preparation during which young people participate in church activities and reflect on questions of faith and life, both alone and together with their peers.

MISSION TRIPS – Our mission trips provide opportunities for students to explore their faith, experience God, and extend service to others. This is a transformational experience by which our youth get to know themselves by getting out of their comfort zones while being the hands and feet of Jesus. Last year we went to Cleveland, OH and next year the youth will choose between Knoxville, TN or Kansas City, MO.

FAMILY FUN NIGHTS – Intergenerational activities for the entire family. The entire church family is invited to come together for card or board games, a chili cook off, movie night, Christmas caroling, etc. Time to relax as a family and get to know each other better.

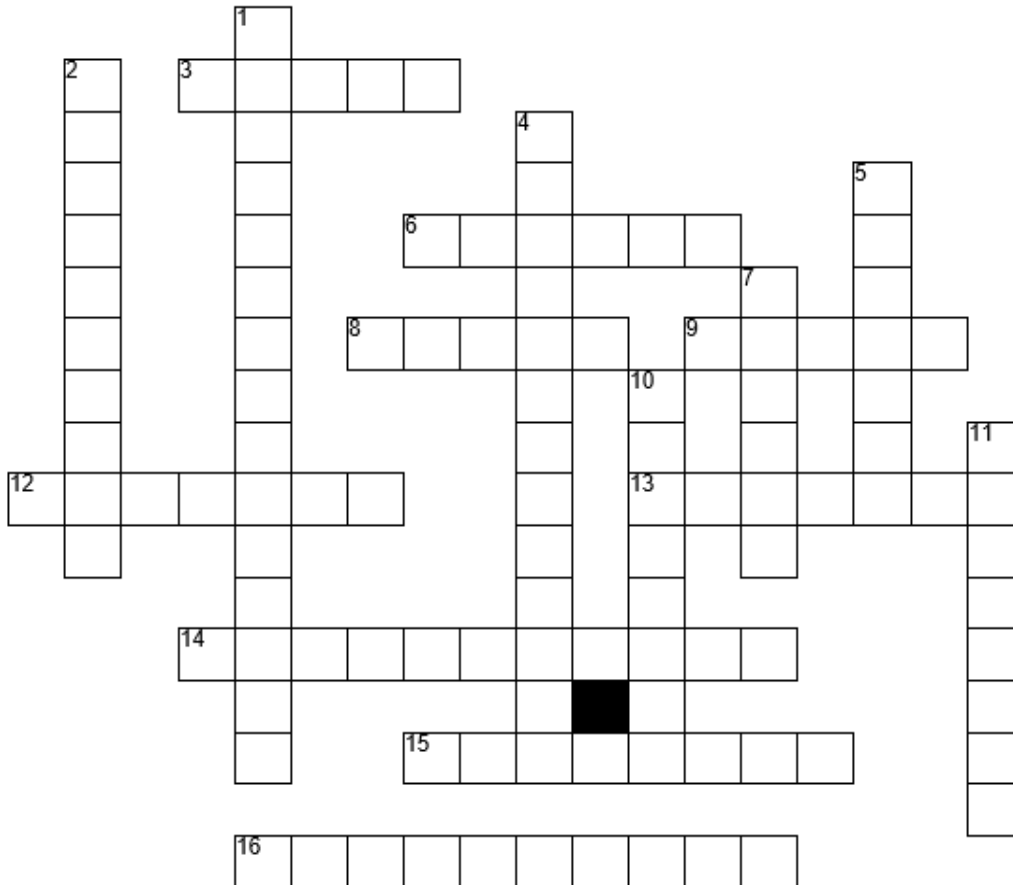
YOUTH GROUP – Our youth gatherings are designed as a "respite" from a socially pressured world for teens, and an opportunity to participate in the justice and fellowship ministries of the church. We strive to help our youth experience Pilgrim United Church of Christ as a supportive, trust-worthy, and loving community – a place that is safe and enjoyable to explore and respond to the spiritual side of being human, by building relationships and creating community.

THE COMPASS – A monthly family devotional to grow your faith and draw you closer to God. Each devotional has a theme and activity for the family to come together while learning more about our faith.

Name: _____

Date: _____

September Scripture Puzzler



Across

3. "The (blank) shall be last, and the last shall be (blank)"
6. The brother who everyone thought was lost
8. "(blank) those who persecute you"
9. Joseph's father
12. "If you enemy is hungry, (blank)"
13. "Love must be (blank)"
14. "Do not repay anyone (blank)"
15. An ancient Roman silver coin, originally worth 10 asses
16. Bread made without yeast

Down

1. "The (blank) is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard"
2. Where the Israelites were told to put the blood of the lamb
4. The Lord told these two brothers about the festival
5. To feel or show great joy or delight
7. A natural disaster that drove the brothers into Egypt
10. A major Jewish holiday that celebrates the Israelite's escape from slavery in Egypt
11. The brother Joseph hugs