

THE PILGRIM QUILL





"In many ways, September feels like the busiest time of the year: The kids go back to school, work piles up after the summer's dog days and Thanksgiving is suddenly upon us." — Brené Brown

Hello Pilgrims!

Here we go! September is here and many of us stop and think: "How did we get here?" Easy answer: One day at a time. The long answer is a little different for everyone. For me it's partly what my greatgrandmother always said that confused me as a child: "The older you get the faster time goes by. You just wait and see." I never understood what she was talking about. I do now. I don't necessarily know why time moves faster, but I know it does. Doesn't it?

It's also part seasonal. In the summer things slow down at Pilgrim. Many of our programs take a break for the summer as our kids are out of school, families take vacations, and those cottages up north aren't going to take care of themselves.

There's also something I can't quite put my finger on that I believe has to do with the daylight and our biological clocks. I realize this is Wisconsin, but for me and my people we spend far more time outside in the spring, summer, and fall. In the winter we stay inside. We don't go snowmobiling, ice fishing, or skiing. (I come from a long line of accident prone people. We stay off the ice and close, but not too close, to the fire.) For us that means that in the summer we are on the move. We are looking outside of ourselves: going out, stepping out, and reaching out. Until the fall turns to winter and then we stop looking out and start looking within. We stop moving and start thinking, reflecting, and even remembering (especially around the holidays). We stop looking out into the sunset and start looking deep into the campfire or home-fire. In both times we are drawn to the light, but the light is very different, and so are we, at different times of the year.

as well. In the summer it's known as "common time" or "ordinary time." We talk about the life of Jesus. We look into the stories reported in the gospels that make up his day to day experiences with raising the dead and healing the sick, and casting out demons. He's going out to spread the gospel and there's always a miracle when you need one. We are looking at the summer of Jesus' earthly life. Perhaps we should call this "uncommon time" or "extraordinary time" instead?

Then in the fall we have Halloween, All Saint's Day, and Thanksgiving. All holidays both secular and spiritual that call us to stop and look within our hearts rather than beyond the next horizon.

We start thinking about gratitude and connections between this life and the next and everything appears to refocus inward. Long held emotions break free and rise to the surface. Long forgotten memories appear out of nowhere and suddenly we realize the older you get the faster time goes by. You just wait and see!

As we come together for another church program year, know that you are more than welcome, you are expected. We are a faith family that holds the heart of every person gathered from our lifetime members to our newest members. Know that when we come together we have a chance to stop time itself, for a moment, to honor what truly matters in this life. What we discover time and again in our faith and in community is that what truly matters is love.

I believe that love is why the older you are the faster time goes by. The more love you share and grieve and hold in your heart, the less time and energy you have to pay attention to the passing of days. We're distracted by the accumulated wealth of the love we experience that compels us to love more, which is what a church does, teaches us how to love more, as followers of the way of Jesus. Which is the way of love. Join us, won't you.

Amen and alleluia,

2.5. Vanca

Pastor Rob

Sunday Scriptures

Sunday, September 3:

Romans 12:9-21 - Love in Action

Sunday, September 10:

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

Sunday, September 17:

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

Sunday, September 24:

Matthew 20:1-16 – The Vineyard Workers

News from Council President, Patti Burns

Hope everyone is staying cool and hydrated. That is the nurse in me! I am hoping we have at least another month of nice summer weather to enjoy outside activities.

We have had a busy summer here at Pilgrim. Our Church Carnival or Summer Family Fun Night was a huge success. There were a lot of people, food and activities. Thank you to all who helped make this a huge success. The Diner's Club shared a great meal at TJs Harbor this month. Thanks to Patty Minter for always finding great places for us to try and organizing the outings.

Now with school starting, our youth are starting to gather. There was a youth bowling activity this week that was well attended. Thank you to Steven and Rachel Wicihowski for volunteering to lead the youth group and to Mike Potter who is helping them. Confirmation classes and Sunday School will be starting soon with Rally Day September 10th. 89 people were served at Loaves and Fishes this week as well. Thank you to all who helped make this meal possible.

It is with sadness that we received the resignation of Rob Edmondson, our Adult Education Coordinator. We wish him well in his new adventure. God brought him to us at the right time. I believe He has great plans and will make them clear to us soon.

Fondue Fest is coming soon on September 9th. Always a great time and Pilgrim will be present at this community event. We are blessed to have a congregation that is growing and remains active in the community! What an exciting time in the life of our church.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Helping Our Neighbors Around the World With a KIVA Loan

The three women we chose to receive KIVA loans this month live thousands of miles apart but their desires are similar. They want to provide better living conditions for their families. Through KIVA, Pilgrim is able to help these women accomplish that goal. KIVA is a 501(c)3 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 \$345.00 loaned to Ana, Huong, and Andriana was money that had been repaid on previous loans we have given. Women have less access to lending institutions and KIVA offers them that opportunity. Women are 81% of the borrowers on KIVA. KIVA funded more that 150,000 women in 2021.

Huong lives in Vietnam where the average annual income (USD) is \$5,600. Huong is 44 years old and married. The couple have two children who are dependents. Her family is part of the Moung ethnic minority and live in Cam Thuy district which is in the mountains. Her husband raises honey bees for honey sales. She supplements the income by raising pigs and farming crops. She is a dedicated woman who works hard to provide a better life for her family, especially their children. In order to improve their living conditions, they have decided to take a loan to build a new bathroom for their home. This is an important investment for their family because proper sanitation is crucial for their health and the environment. This is her first loan and Huong is determined to repay the loan and improve their financial situation. She will manage their expenses carefully, ensuring that they allocate their limited resources wisely.

Andriana lives in Soroca, Moldova. The average annual income (USD) is \$3,800. Andriana is 41 years old and a widow. She has three children and is raising them with a lot of love. She works very hard to give the children everything they need. The main activity and source of income in Andriana's family is sheep farming. After her husband died, all the financial responsibility was left on her shoulders. In 2020, Andriana benefited from a KIVA loan for business development. Now she is enjoying the fruits of her labor and currently she has 70 sheep. Her biggest problem is that during the cold season she has nowhere to shelter the sheep. She wants to build a sheep shelter, but she has no financial resources for this work. This loan will allow Andriana to protect her sheep during the winter months.

Ana lives in El Salvador. The average annual income in El Salvador is \$7,500. Ana is 40 years old. She studied until third grade in school. Her partner works in metallurgy. She has two children who depend on her. Her mother-in-law also lives with her. Ana makes her living selling used clothing. She started this business 11 years ago. She also makes traditional food to sell. She works everyday from 7AM to 6PM. She will use the loan to purchase more used clothing to continue selling. She dreams of her business continuing to grow and her income offering a better living for her family.

As our summer activities wind down and our children go back to school, let us give thanks for the opportunity we have to help Ana, Andriana, and Huang. They live very far away from us but their hopes and dreams are much the same as ours. They are our neighbors! 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.



Flowers for Church

Members can continue to sign-up to provide flowers in church on the Sundays of each month In Memory Of Someone or In Honor Of Someone or Special Occasion.

The sign-up poster is hanging on the window (of Cathy's office) behind the Scrip table.



Diner's Club!!!

The next get-together is planned for Sunday, September 17th at Red Cabin at Green Acres.

The sign-up poster is in the narthex.

Please sign-up by September 15th.

Gathering begins at 5:00PM with sit down for the meal at 5:30PM.

As always, if you have suggestions for other restaurant choices, let Patty Minter know.

Happy Dining!!!



Coffee Hour 1st Sunday of Each Month (except where noted)

Volunteers are Needed and if no one signs up for any given month, there will be NO coffee hour. We can have coffee hour for a reason or no reason!

The sign-up poster is in the narthex with dates and instructions; any member of the church can sign-up.

If you notice supplies getting low or if you have questions, please let Patty Minter know at 920-251-0425 or pattyminter@gmail.com



Meet on Sunday Mornings from 10:15AM to 11:15AM in the **lounge** for those wishing to attend in person. We will have a

few minutes to chat after worship before the program begins promptly at 10:15AM. Those preferring to join from the comfort of your home, the link for the programs will be the same throughout the fall semester.

To join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999? pwd=NkICT0ZEYWtTRnIwcEtRNDBCMGRhQT09

> Meeting ID: 876 8245 7999 Passcode: 769374

September 17 The Supreme Court

Presenter: Dr. Paisley Harris

Dr. Harris teaches Women's History, African American history, cultural and legal history at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She will lead a two week discussion to help us understand both the intricacies and the impact of the Supreme Court in today's political climate. What is the history of the Supreme Court? Why should we care about it today? These are some of the questions she will dive into.

September 24 Rawhide

Presenter: Tara Heidl

Rawhide Youth Services helps hurting youth who feel lost or abandoned. It is their mission to help these youth discover the hope of a healthy and fulfilling life. They provide youth counseling, therapy and residential treatment for teens and young adults who question their worth and for families feeling powerless to help them.

EXPANDING HORIZONS



Meet Wednesday Mornings
9:30AM -11:00AM in the **lounge** for in-person learning; the link for those wishing to view via Zoom from home is as follows:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978012384?

pwd=cGxJa0pJbExSM0FFWEtIMmtJYzNodz09

Meeting ID: 889 7801 2384 Passcode: 762316

September 13 WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

September 20 WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health

Presenter: Sue Schmitz

We hear a lot about mental health challenges in the news. Due to stigma, many people may be reluctant to either seek help professionally or even speak to anyone about their struggles. "The objective of WISE is to encourage UCC congregations to provide a warm welcome, promote inclusion and offer support for all who live with mental health challenges and to engage in living a commitment to be WISE about mental health". We want to promote understanding and compassion and reduce stigma - for all ages - Mind, Body and Spirit. The WISE Task Force has been working through the process to become a WISE designated church. Come with your questions and learn more about this important topic.

September 27 Illuminating Project

Presenter: Juliane Troicki, Ph.D

The Illuminating Project started in 2019 as a community-based initiative, Illuminating Women. The women in the project came from a range of generations and a variety of backgrounds, including

doctors, teachers, organ donors, those in recovery from substance abuse, entrepreneurs, farmer, stay-at-home mothers, religious sisters, Episcopalian pastors, librarians, daycare providers, dentists, social workers, artist and an owner of a construction company.

The Adult Education Committee Invites You to Our

Annual Fall Welcome Brunch

Expanding Horizons
Pilgrim Church
Wednesday, September 13th
9:30AM - 11:00AM

*Reunite with old friends & meet new ones
*Learn about Adult Forum & Expanding
Horizons programs for September - December
*Enjoy a yummy brunch (food will be provided)
*Everyone is welcome...bring a friend
*Great way to get back into the Wednesday
morning at Expanding Horizons routine



Loaves and Fishes

Pilgrim Church will serve its final Loaves and Fishes meal for this year on **December 6th** at the Church of Peace.

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 that have helped in the past will volunteer again; new volunteers are always welcome!

Watch for the sign-up poster which will be in the narthex approximately two weeks before the serving date. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Bentley at 920-922-5093.

Brian Smith invites members of the congregation to join him in a ZOOM discussion of a book focusing on the biblical, theological and moral implications of migration. Brian and Rev. Karen Gygax Rodriguez, Pastor of the Federated Church in Green Lake, will moderate an online discussion for 11 Thursday evenings in the Fall (6:30PM to 7:30 PM from September 7th to November 16th) on Fr. Dan Groody's book, A Theology of Migration:

The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ.

Fr. Groody teaches at the University of Notre Dame and has done extensive pastoral work among migrants and refugees.

Anyone interested can contact Brian at bhsmith801@gmail.com or at home 920-748-9229.

Notes from Karen

(Our Sunday School Director)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Classes

September has arrived and with it the return of our program year here at Pilgrim. That means that Sunday School classes will be starting officially on Sunday, **September 17th at 10:15AM** in the opening worship area in our fellowship hall. Classes will end at **11:15AM** and we ask that you go to your child/children's classroom to pick them up rather than having them come to find you.

It important that we know if your child/children will be planning to attend Sunday School classes this year. <u>PLEASE</u> fill out an enrollment form (there is one included in this edition of the Quill or they can be found on the table in the narthex, filled out and put on Karen's desk). This will enable the CE ministry to help in planning as we need to order materials.

The Christian Education Ministry is still in need of a few teachers and shepherds to help lighten the load of those who have already agreed to help in this year's program. If you are willing to give of your time to help out for a few weeks, please speak to Karen for more information.

Rally Day/Pancake Breakfast

Please plan to join us on **Sunday, September 10**th when following our worship service, we will gather between 10:00AM - 10:15AM in the opening worship area for our annual **Rally Day/Pancake Breakfast**. Yes, that's right, the CE ministry is bringing back the annual Pancake Breakfast! This will be a time to introduce and meet incoming teachers and shepherds, meet our new volunteer youth leaders, find out what's happening in our Adult Education, when our monthly family fun nights will be and other information. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this event.

THANK YOU

The Christian Education Ministry, with the help of many volunteers, again put on a successful Community Free Family Fun Night this past August. It was so wonderful to see and hear Pilgrim's lawn alive with so many people having a wonderful time. THANK YOU to the many volunteers who helped that afternoon (to set up) and evening to run games, crafts, face painting, manage our bounce houses, call BINGO, lead music, donated food items and all the many other areas that were run by our wonderful volunteers. We could not do this wonderful event without help from all of you. We had over 100 people join us that evening (not including all our volunteers) for an evening of fun and community! THANK YOU ALL!!

KNOCK KNOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The **Jr. Youth, 6th-8th Graders**, have a wonderful opportunity to attend a weekend retreat at Daycholah Center on Green Lake from **11/17/23 - 11/19/23**. This weekend retreat will allow youth to discover love and acceptance as the true experience of the church. It is also a wonderful opportunity for youth who have never been to church camp to experience what a wonderful time it can be. The cost for this event is \$240.00; BUT, as always, scholarships are available. Please consider attending this fun event.

Sunday School

2023/2024 Sunday School Enrollment Form

I give my permission to have my child/children photographed; understanding that these photos may or may not be used for publicity in newspapers, our church website, other social media venues, and even on our bulletin covers.

-	Yes		No	
Parent/Guardian Name(s):				
Address:			Phone (H):	
E-mail:	Phone (W)	:	Phone (cell):	
Emergency Contact:			Phone #:	
Child's Name:	DO	В:	_Grade '23-24:	
Does your child have any	y allergies?	Yes N	lo	
Please list:				
Does your child take any	medications?	Yes N	lo	
Please list:			-	
Does your child have any	y physical limitations o	or medical con	ditions we should be aware	of?
		Yes N	lo	
Please list				

Please return by Sunday, August 27, 2023 to Karen

Additional children sign up on back

Child's Name:	DOB: _		Grade '23-24:
Does your child have any allergies?		Yes	No
Please list:			
Does your child take any medications?		Yes	No
Please list:			
Does your child have any physical limitat	ions or m	nedical co	onditions we should be aware of?
		Yes	No
Please list:			-
Child's Name:	DOB: _		Grade '23-24:
Does your child have any allergies?		Yes	No
Please list:			
Does your child take any medications?		Yes	No
Please list:			
Does your child have any physical limitat	ions or m	nedical co	onditions we should be aware of?
		Yes	No
Please list:			
Child's Name:	DOB: _		Grade '23-24:
Does your child have any allergies?		Yes	No
Please list:			
Does your child take any medications?		Yes	No
Please list:			-
Does your child have any physical limitat	ions or m	nedical co	onditions we should be aware of?
		Yes	No
Please list:			

Intergenerational Game Night

The CE Ministry will again be continuing with our Friday night Family Fun Nights. We will be having a game night for all ages from **6:00PM - 7:30PM on September 15th.** Come join us for card games, board games, cribbage, or any other fun games you can think of. Feel free to bring your own games or we will have some there for you to enjoy. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your church family, young and old alike!

Blessings, Karen



Have you remembered to purchase your SCRIP cards?? Every Sunday morning there is the opportunity to help the Pilgrim budget by purchasing SCRIP cards. With the new fall schedule in place, SCRIP will be available for purchase before and after the 9:00AM service until 10:15AM. If you haven't given SCRIP a try yet, it is a very friendly user program and can meet just about all your purchasing needs.

So from food to gas, home repairs to birthday gift cards, let the SCRIP table in the narthex be one of your Sunday morning stops!!

Thanks for your support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Karen Goodacre 920-904-5740.

Becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health

(Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged)

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

From The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – this is "a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help." The statistics are heartbreaking:

- Annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide, by U.S. demographic group:
 - * 4.9% of all adults
 - * 11.3% of young adults aged 18-25
 - * <u>18.8%</u> of high school students
 - * 45% of LGBTQ youth
 - * <u>79%</u> of all people who die by suicide are male.
- Although <u>more women</u> than men attempt suicide, men are <u>4x</u> more likely to die by suicide.
- Suicide is the <u>2nd leading</u> cause of death among people aged 10–14 and the 3rd leading cause of death among people aged 15-24 in the U.S.
- Suicide is the <u>12th leading</u> cause of death overall in the U.S.
- 46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition - but research shows that 90% may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition.

988 is the new phone, email and/or messaging number that allows people to quickly connect with a trained counselor during a mental health, substance use and/or suicide crises, 24/7, no matter where they live.

"It is important to understand that suicidal thoughts are strongly associated with disturbances in the brain chemistry and that these changes can be reversed with appropriate biological and psychological treatments. The majority of all suicidal people want to live, if only they can be shown a way. Far too frequently what seemed worth dying for could have been treated, mended, or endured until time worked its own magical cure." Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Our role as a WISE designated church will be ready access of information about suicide and support services. If you are able, please join us for Expanding Horizons on Wednesday, September 20th from 9:30-11:00 to talk about our WISE journey.

The WISE Task Force has been meeting since January: Sue Schmitz, Patti Burns, Donna Overbo, Judy Burton, Randy Stutz, Kaitlynn Zick, Barb Geiger and Chris Frederick – with Advisors: Pastor Rob and Dr. Brian Christenson.



PUCC YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES (AUGUST - DECEMBER 2023)

Steven and Rachel Wicihowski are coordinating our youth group events.

(Contact Rachel at ra.burns@hotmail.com or 920-238-5919)

Wednesday August 23, 2023 — Meet at 5:45 PM at church for Pizza Party/ arrive at 6:45 PM at Fondy Sports Park for putt putt and go-karts.

Sunday September 10, 2023 – Packers vs. Bears (Tailgate in church parking lot starting at 2 PM - Game at 3:25 PM on a big screen)

Saturday October 28, 2023 – Burial Chamber Haunted House Complex Haunted house in Fox Crossing, Wisconsin (Time/ Date TBA) Meet at church, ride up as a group (Neenah area).

Friday November 17 – Sunday November 19, 2023 – Knock Knock Middle School Retreat at Daycholah Center on Green Lake (for grades 6-8) Parents drop off and pick youth up from camp.

December 2023 – Serve food at new Fondy Warming Shelter (Time/ Date TBA) Meet at warming shelter.

Jan - May 2024 Events TBA



Shoulders Up – Shoulders Back – Head Up – Phone Down!

Another Transition Month:

In August we experience a slow increase in activity, and then BAM, September 5th happens – and once again summer seems over and the pace of life changes. It feels busier and more complicated. The shorter day light hours becomes more apparent, and conversation turns from the heat of summer to speculations about the upcoming winter.

Slow deep breath. If you notice feeling more stressed or even more joyful as the calendar changes and the leaves begin to turn colors, remember that mentally, physically and spiritually we are connected to the earth and seasons. Awareness is the first step in self-care.

September 23rd is officially the first day of autumn - the Autumn Equinox - when the day and night length are each 12 hours long. And on September 29th there will be a harvest moon – don't miss it!

Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower. Albert Camus



September is National Yoga Month

According to the National Institutes of Health, "scientific evidence shows that yoga supports stress management, mental health, mindfulness, healthy eating, weight loss and quality sleep by incorporating breathing exercises, meditation and physical poses". A routine yoga practice can help improve strength, balance and flexibility and can actually increase energy and mood and promote self-care.

Western medicine knows that slow movements and deep breathing increases blood flow and warms muscles, deliberately engaging muscles builds the muscle fibers, and reduced stress decreases body-wide inflammation...and that's Yoga.

Jean Wright does Yoga classes from 9:00AM - 10:00AM on Mondays (on Zoom) and Thursdays (at church). Check out Pilgrim's website for the Zoom information and if you have questions, please talk with Jean.



September is also National Health Aging Month

As I've told many (including myself...) age is a factor – not a reason. There are "old" 20 year olds and "young" 100 year olds. How we care for and about ourselves will affect how old we feel.

Part of healthy aging is being active — to keep muscles strong, and working together. September is a perfect month to get into a routine of being active whether it's by walking, joining (and going to...) a fitness center, following exercise routines online, working at a standing desk, parking in the farthest parking spot when shopping, or joining Jean's yoga classes — all activity is good when done routinely. The goal is to move, feel, and believe younger!

September is also the Beginning of "Cold and Flu Season" in Wisconsin.

Traditionally in September, the number of people with colds and flu's increases, and we've seen the number of new variant viral COVID cases increasing over the summer. (The new variant EG.5 or "ERIS" so far doesn't seem to be causing more severe disease, but it does seem able to spread more quickly and effectively – it's a virus doing its thing...one step ahead of us humans.) The same precautions that protect against one cold or virus protects against all...good/effective handwashing, covering a cough, distancing, and staying home if ill.

Vaccines for seasonal influenza this year will not contain any of the Corona viruses - there will be a new booster coming out this fall specifically against those. If you have questions, please contact your Primary Provider.

My hope is that wearing a mask and using hand sanitizer in any indoor gathering has become socially "normal". That practice is a visible message to be respected and honored as we all care for ourselves and those we love. (Jesus asks us to identify our neighbor and then to "go and do likewise...")

Fond du Lac Caregiving Conference - September 21.

For anyone taking care of someone with dementia, I would like to highlight the Fond du Lac Caregiving Conference – September 21st from 8:30-3:30 at Community Church. There are brochures on the ledge under the bulletin board, or go on the ADRC website to review the break-out sessions and sign up. It's a great way to meet and network with other caregivers and services in the Fond du Lac area.

National Food Month

National 5-a-day for Better Nutrition Month — Cholesterol Education Month — Celiac Disease Awareness Month - Whole Grains Month — Childhood Obesity Month... I think we should just group all September's Health Observances about food under one title — like "National Food Month". Check out the bulletin board for school lunch and healthy snack ideas.

Sue



Dear Pilgrim Church Family and Friends,

I just want to say thank you to everyone for their support through meals, rides, visits and cards over the summer as I continue to recover from my recent surgery.

I truly appreciate all of you and am blessed to belong to such a wonderful and caring church family.

With Love, Thanks and Appreciation, Karen Goodacre Dear Pilgrim United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to *Friends of the Mission*, makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.

Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift. We - and those we serve - are ever grateful.

Thank you Pilgrim Friends!

Grace and Peace,
James Pennington
Executive Director

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Trust Fund

Thank you on behalf of Back to School FDL for your gift of \$500.00 to the Back to School Program which provides school supplies for children who may not otherwise have access in the Fond du Lac area. Your support and belief in Back to School FDL is greatly appreciated.

It is because of support like this that Back to School FDL is able to serve all children in Fond du Lac County who need assistance. We continue to be true to our mission and committed to assisting area students to be ready for the upcoming school year. Your donation impacts each and every student that enters for assistance with school supplies for the upcoming school year.

On August 19th, we plan to serve over 1500 children in part due to your generosity.

Sincerely, Back 2 School Fond du Lac

Christian Outreach News!



School Supply Drive

Thank you, Pilgrim, for your donations to our School Supply Drive for the students in Fond du Lac. Many children will benefit from the donations!

We collected 43 boxes markers, 1 pack Expo markers, 121 pencils, 42 erasers, 176 pens, 20 pencil boxes and cases, 28 boxes of crayons, 1 watercolor set, 3 packs highlighters, 10 packs of Sharpies, 27 scissors, 49 pads of post-its, 152 bottles and sticks of glue, 7 pencil sharpeners, 21 boxes colored pencils, 60 notebooks, 15 backpacks, 1 calculator, 1 pack of 3x5 cards, 14 rulers, 4 binders, 10 packs of loose-leaf paper, 111 pocket folders. Your generosity will help students most in need.





If you love to sing, and if music and singing is one of your favorite parts of Sunday morning worship, then come and join the chorus!

The Pilgrim Choir rehearses Thursday nights from 7:00PM - 8:15PM, and sings twice per month on Sunday mornings; typically the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 7th, with a welcome back gathering on Thursday, August 31st.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Pilgrim Choir, please email Zach at zball1895@gmail.com.



During the month of September, Christian Outreach will conduct the "Coats for Kids" drive. We know it's early, but it will give us more time for the collection. Remember, gently used coats and jackets are accepted along with new.

There will be a collection box in the narthex for you to drop off your donations **starting September 1st**.

All sizes are needed, including adult, since most high school kids wear adult sizes.

Hats & Mittens



The Hats and Mittens Drive will also start on September 1st. Every year we get requests for hats and mittens for the kids in school. There are many kids who walk to school with no hat or mittens or gloves.

Your donations can be put on the rack between the front doors and we hope to fill it with hats, mittens and gloves through the winter months. All sizes are needed....small through adults.

Thank you fellow Pilgrims for all you do for the community.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO PLAY MAHJONGG?



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We are reaching out to church members to find out who is interested in learning mahjongg. Connie Anderson knows how to play and is willing to teach us. The first step is to find out who is interested. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex; deadline for signing up is September 10th.

When we know how many people are interested, we will order some mahjongg games and cards and determine when and where to meet.

Learning mahjongg is easier than learning chess, but more challenging than cribbage and euchre; once you learn the game, it is very rewarding and FUN!

Tina and Connie

Caring for God's Creation

Green Tips for Back to School

- *Take inventory of supplies at home first
- *Reuse whatever you can
- *Buy used or recycled supplies
- *Pack waste free lunches pack lunches with reusable utensils, containers and a reusable water bottle
- *Use less paper Kids come home with lots of papers from school. Before tossing the paper in the recycling, use both sides of the paper for scratch paper.
- *Carpool, walk or bike

ATTENTION ALL PILGRIMS!

The families that sent youth on our 2023 mission trip to Cleveland will be hosting a "stockholder's dinner" on **Sunday, September 24 at 4:30 PM** at Pilgrim United Church of Christ. This is our way of saying *thank you* to everyone who generously gave us the funds to go to Cleveland.

I look forward to this dinner. Not only are we saying thank you, but it is also an opportunity to promote our 2024 mission trip. In 2024 we will either go to Knoxville, TN or Kansas City, MO. Steven and Rachel Wicihowski are the leads on this trip, and we are taking youth in the 7th grade and up. These kids will be looking at the youth who went last summer, hanging on every word, to learn what it's going to be like for them next year. Literally one generation inspiring the next to engage in ministry for the gospel!

Our menu will be as follows: A side salad, spaghetti, bread, and dessert. (Note a vegan option will be available.) Join us, won't you?

- If you purchased stock, you will receive an invitation from the youth you sponsored.
- We have also decided to invite members and friends from the church who also donated in other ways, (quilt, candy bars, soup, pies, etc.).
 We will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex created by the Abler girls during the pancake breakfast on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10th where they will announce the dinner.
- As stated above, we will also invite families who have youth interested in next year's mission trip.

These are exciting times at Pilgrim and all of you are a part of this. Thank you for your time, your commitment, and your passion. Let me know if you have any questions.

— Pastor Rob

Join us for our 2024 mission trip! Where will we go? Help us decide.





Join us at the stockholder's dinner on Sun Sept 24 at 4:30PM & learn all about last year's trip. Then stay after for an organizational meeting where we will choose our city & sign up to go to either Kansas City, MO or Knoxville, TN!

MEMBERSHIP

Pilgrim United Church of Christ is growing! In the past 14 months we have welcomed 21 members listed below. **Are you interested in joining Pilgrim Church?** Talk to me (*Pastor Rob*). We believe being a member means many things, indeed likely something different to every member you ask.

- Some are members because of the connection to their families. The church and their faith is a connection to their parents and grandparents and this gives them comfort and strength.
- Others may talk about faith as a journey and are drawn to our Christian Education programs (Sunday Forum, Expanding Horizons, Sunday school, Confirmation, Youth Group, and Mission Trips). They enjoy learning and depend on the church to teach their families how to follow the way of Jesus while embodying the values we hold most dear.
- Others are drawn to our social justice ministries
 for the poor and needy, children, climate change,
 mental health, and our open and affirming
 covenant that proclaims inclusion and celebration of everyone in the LGBTQIA+ community, as
 well as those who are differently abled or
 oppressed or privileged. One of the most sited
 reasons is because "we don't teach our children
 to hate the people they love." A sad commentary
 on the state of the church in our day and age but
 it is true and relevant.

Our faith is a way by which we live our lives striving for peace and justice in the name of love that Jesus never stopped talking about. Personally I believe one of the best reasons to join a church is that you can get to know others who have been following the way of Jesus and you can learn from them. There will be people who have been through what you are or will go through and you can learn from their experience. Pilgrim church is rich with a wide variety of faith experiences we share. From our lifelong member to our newest members, from our oldest to your youngest, everyone holds a perspective, a story, and an experience with God we all benefit from. I like to say Christianity is a team sport. We need each other, and together, we find the holy, we will discover Emmanuel, God, in each other and in our lives, and we will be blessed. Join us, won't you?

Sincerely,
Pastor Rob

New Members

Jimmy Chen
Janice Westphal
Wayne & Valerie Graczyk
Steven, Rachel & Charle Wicihowski
Rev. Rob Van Ess & Nicky Banks
Julie Schroder
Jerry & Dixie Sullivan
Luke, Merry & Lucia Walter
Jim & Deb Wamser, Pearl and Paisley Diorio
Diana Beck
Donna Schellpfeffer

Ushers for September		
Date	9:00 Service	
September 3	Nicky Banks	
September 10	Linda Stutz & Kaitlynn Zick	
September 17	Dave & Donna Overbo	
September 24	Jim & Dianne Bentley	

Welcomers for September		
Date	9:00 Service	
September 3	Barb Tadych	
September 10	Linda Stutz	
September 17	Ron McCreedy	
September 24	Jim & Dianne Bentley	

Worship Leaders for September		
Date	9:00 Service	
September 10	Noreen Henderson	
September 17	Bobbie Flaherty	
September 24	Sue Schmitz	





- 8 Lucia Walter
- 11 Cassie Etheridge
- 12 Billy Goodacre Jane Steinke
- 13 Carter Mittelstaedt
- 15 Patti Burns Jim Wamser
- 20 Olivia Friedel
- 21 Andrew Curl
- 25 Sandy Baker
- 28 Kristie Luckow Keegan Schmid Barb Seder



Stuart & Noreen Henderson

September 9 Mike & Tina Potter
September 10 Bart & Dawn Dahlke
September 11 Jamie & Heather Connor
September 15 Mike & Beth Fedyszyn
September 16 Bill & Patti Burns
John & Laura Hawkins
September 25 Mark & Sharon Schmidt

September 26

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:		
l L		

Pilgrim UCC Fall 2023 Master Schedule

Worship & Event Schedule

Special Events in Orange Mission Moments in Blue Additional worship services in Red **Choir in Green Themed Sun Services in Purple**

Confirmation Classes in Light Blue Special Music Highlighted *all services at Pilgrim UCC unless otherwise noted

September 2023

Sun Sept 3 – Sun Oct: Season of Creation Sermon Series w/ Pastor Rob & the Green Team Wed Sept 6: 6-7:30 PM – 1st Confirmation Class

Sat Sept 9: 9 AM – 5 PM – Pilgrim will host a booth at Fondue Fest promoting our Creation Justice Church Covenant

Sun Sept 10: 9 AM Worship – Rally Day/ Pancake Breakfast after Worship/ Confirmation

Commitment Sunday – No Adult Ed/ Sun School – Choir – Mission Moment: Gary Ring (Refuse) Fri Sept 15: 6 PM Intergenerational Game Night

Sun Sept 17: 9 AM Worship – 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School Begins Fall 2023 – Mission Moment: Rachel Wicihowski (Reusable Bags)

Wed Sept 20: 6-7:30 PM – 2nd Confirmation Class

Sun Sept 24: 9 AM Worship – 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School – Handbell Quartet – Mission Moment: **Barb Roder (Quick Clothes)**

October 2023

Sun Oct 1: 9 AM Worship - 10:15 Coffee Hour & Sunday school - No Adult Ed - Choir - Blood

Pressure Screenings Offered after Worship Sun Oct 1: 12 PM Blessing of the Animals
Wed Oct 4: 6-7:30 PM – 3rd Confirmation Class w/Mentors

Sun Oct 8: 9 AM Worship - KIVA Sun - 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School - Handbell Quartet - KIVA

Intro

Sun Oct 15: 9 AM Worship – 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School – Choir – KIVA Highlight Wed Oct 18: 6-7:30 PM – 4th Confirmation Class

Fri Oct 20: 6 PM Intergenerational Craft Night – Blanket Making

Sun Oct 22: 9 AM Worship – 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School – KIVA Highlight

Thurs Oct 26: 5:30 PM – New Member Potluck

Sun Oct 29: 9 AM Worship – 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School – KIVA Highlight

November 2023

Wed Nov 1: 6-7:30 PM - 5th Confirmation Class

Thurs Nov 2: Annual Ham Dinner

Sun Nov 5: 9 AM Worship/ All Saints Day Celebration - 10:15 Coffee Hour & Sun School - No Adult

Ed - Choir - Mission Moment: WISE Task Force

Sun Nov 12: 9 AM Worship – 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School – Handbell Quartet Wed Nov 15: 6-7:30 PM – 6^{th} Confirmation Class

Fri Nov 17: 6 PM Chili Cook-Off and Game Night

Sun Nov 19: 9 AM Worship - 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School - Choir

Thurs. Nov 23: Thanksgiving Day

Sun Nov 26: 9 AM Worship – No Adult Ed & Sun School Wed Nov 29: 6-7:30 PM – 7th Confirmation Class

December 2023

Sun Dec 3: 9 AM Worship (1st Week of Advent/Hope) - Alternative Gift Fair after worship - Choir -Make N' Take Crafts for Youth

Sun Dec 10: 9 AM Worship (2nd Week of Advent/Peace) - 10:15 Adult Ed & Sun School -Handbell Quartet

Wed Dec 13: 6-7:30 PM – 8th Confirmation Class

Fri Dec 15: 6 PM Intergenerational Christmas Caroling/Jingle Bingo/Cookies & Hot Cocoa Sun Dec 17: 9 AM Worship (3rd Week of Advent/Joy) - Children's Christmas Program - 10:15 Adult Ed/ No Sun School

Wed Dec 18: 6-7:30 PM – 9th Confirmation Class

Thurs Dec 21: 7 PM Worship – Blue Christmas Service

Sun Dec 24: 9 AM Worship (4th Week of Advent/Love) – Christmas Eve morning

Sun Dec 24: 10 PM Worship - Christmas Eve Candle-light Service - Choir

Sun Dec 31: 9 AM Worship – New Year's Eve morning – No Ad Ed/Sun School

Special Sunday School Dates*

*Sunday School runs Sept 17, 2022 – May 12, 2023 after worship (10:15AM – 11:15AM)

Sept 10: Rally Day/ Pancake Breakfast – Come enjoy a pancake breakfast and meet teachers, shepherds and friends: as we talk about Christian education and our special events and ministries at Pilgrim.

Sept 17: 1st Day of Sunday School

Nov 26: No Classes – Thanksgiving Weekend

Dec 3: Make N' Take - During our normal class time, while the Alternative Gift Fair is happening, students will be able to make a variety of crafts as gifts while learning not all gifts have to be store bought.

Dec 17: Youth Christmas Program - during worship. No Sunday School Classes

Dec 24: Christmas Eve – No Classes

Dec 31: New Year's Eve - No Classes

Family Fun Nights

Fri Sept 15: 6 PM Intergenerational Game Night

Fri Oct 20: 6 PM Intergenerational Craft Night – Blanket Making

Fri Nov 17: 6 PM Chili Cook-Off and Game Night

Fri Dec 15: 6 PM Intergenerational Christmas Caroling/Jingle Bingo/Cookies & Hot Cocoa

Scripture Readings for Fall 2023*

*Scripture readings are used both in worship and Sunday school.

Sept 17: Joseph Helps His Family

(Gen 45:1-15; 50:15-21)

Sept 24: The Vineyard Workers (Matt 20:1-16)

Oct 1: The Chief Priests (Matt 21:23-32)

Oct 8: Parable of the Vineyard (Matt 21:33-36)

Oct 15: The Wedding Banquet (Matt 22:1-14)

Oct 22: Paying Taxes (Matt 22:15-22)

Oct 29: The Greatest Commandment

(Matt 22:34-46)

Nov 5: Be Humble (Matt 23:1-12)

Nov 12: Ten Bridesmaids! (Matt 25:1-13)

Nov 19: Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30)

Nov 26: Sheep & Goats (Matt 25:31-46)

Dec 3: *Be Ready* (Mark 13:24-36)

Dec 10: John the Baptizer Prepares the Way

(Mark 1:1-8)

Dec 24: Angels Visit (Luke 1:26-38)

Dec 24 10 PM Jesus is Born (Luke2:1-20)

Dec 31 Simeon & Anna (Luke 2:22-40)

Dates for Fall Term (Sept – Dec) 2023 Confirmation Class*

Wed Sept 6: 1st Class

Sun Sept 10: Commitment Sunday

Wed Sept 20: 2nd Class
Wed Oct 4: 3rd Class w/ Mentors
Wed Oct 18: 4th Class
Wed Nov 1: 5th Class Wed Nov 15: 6th Class

Wed Nov 29: 7th Class Wed Dec 13: 8th Class

Wed Dec 20: 9th Class w/ Mentors

*Field Trips and retreat TBD

Wed Evening sessions are from 6-7:30 PM

(Spring Term Jan – May 2024)

Christian Outreach

September: Coats for Kids, & hats, gloves/mittens, scarves for Rosenow School

October: KIVA: Connecting people through lending to alleviate poverty.

November: Toys for Tots and Angel Tree

December 3: Alternative Gift Fair (After worship)

Health Ministries Fall 2023

September 2023

A Transition Month National Yoga Awareness Month National Suicide Prevention Day and Week First day of autumn – Autumn Equinox Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower. Albert Camus

WISE - Expanding Horizons on September 20th Bulletin Board – Lunch ideas

Youth - Suicide prevention

October 2023

Healthy Lung Month – vaccines – deep breathing

Dyslexia Awareness Month All Saints Sunday – Oct 29

WISE – What is a Covenant? (Present WISE Covenant to Council)

Bulletin Board – cold/flu/pneumonia Youth – National Book Month - Importance of reading and the Little Library in front

November 2023

Shorter day light days and the holidays Health Literacy Month End daylight saving time – an extra hour of life (?)

Medicare enrollment time

Great American smoke-out – nicotine effect.
WISE – Covenant (Mission Moment and
Coffee Time November 5th)
Bulletin Board - Youth - Vaping

December 2023

Advent begins Dec.3rd. Happy New Year! National Handwashing Awareness Week Winter Solstice and National Flashlight Day The Longest Night WISE – Covenant again with any changes and questions/comments Bulletin Board - Handwashing Youth – Sleep and blue screens

Adult Forum

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." -Nelson Mandela

ADULT FORUM Meets Sunday mornings from 10:15AM to 11:15AM in the lounge for those wishing to attend in person. There will be a few minutes to chat after worship before the program begins promptly at 10:15AM. Those that prefer to join from the comfort of your home, the link for the programs will be the same throughout the winter/spring semester. To join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NkICT0ZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCMGRhQT09 Meeting ID: 876 8245 7999

Passcode: 769374

September 17: The Supreme Court – Presenter: Dr. Paisley Harris

Dr. Harris leads a two week discussion to help us understand both the intricacies and the impact of the Supreme Court in today's political climate.

September 24: Rawhide – Presenter: Tara Heidl

Rawhide Youth Services helps hurting youth who feel lost or abandoned. It is their mission to help these youth discover the hope of a healthy and fulfilling life.

October 1: Coffee Hour - No Adult Ed

October 8: The Supreme Court – Presenter: Dr. Paisley Harris

Dr. Harris finishes her two week discussion on the Supreme Court.

- October 15: Sabbath Presenter: Lowell Louis
 - Lowell Louis, from the congregation of B'Nai Israel in Oshkosh, discusses the Sabbath and its significance from the perspective of the Hebrew Bible and his own tradition as well.
- October 22: NAMI Presenter: Brad Leonard

Fond du Lac strives to support and empower every person, young and old, touched by mental illness. They are committed to removing stigma and nurturing recovery through advocacy, education and outreach throughout Fond du Lac County.

- October 29: Do Nothing Course Presenter: Professor Connie Kassor

 Learn to boost creativity, improve sleep, reduce stress, enhance productivity and improve mental and physical health.
- November 5: Coffee Hour No Adult Ed
- November 12: Limitless Possibilities Presenter: Josh Vale

 Josh Vale comes with his charismatic charm and tells how he is dedicated to empowering
 people with disabilities to maximize their independence and to lead satisfying productive lives
 in the community.
- November 19: A Thanksgiving Reflection: Come Before Winter Presenter: Peg Bradley Based on Paul's request of Timothy to "come before winter," we will explore what that means in our lives today.
- November 26: Aging & Disability Resource Center Presenter: Raine Bleecker Come listen about important pre-need information including funeral planning and living wills.
- December 3: Alternative Gift Fair No Adult Ed
- December 10: Forward Services Presenter: Maurice Pentek

 Come hear about a wonderful resource in Fond du Lac that provides training, education, career guidance and supportive services for anyone needing a little help.
- December 17: Advent Presenter:

A special presentation to help prepare ourselves for Christmas.

December 24 & 31: No Adult Forum due to Christmas & New Year's Eve.

Expanding Horizons

EXPANDING HORIZONS will meet Wednesday Mornings 9:30AM -11:00AM in the lounge for in-person learning; the link for those wishing to view via Zoom from home is as follows: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978012384?pwd=cGxJa0pJbExSM0FFWEtIMmtJYzNodz09 Meeting ID: 889 7801 2384

Passcode: 762316

September 13: WELCOME BACK BRUNCH

- September 20: WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for Mental Health Presenter: Sue Schmitz In 2015, a process for churches to become WISE congregations was adopted at the UCC General Synod. Learn about Pilgrim's WISE Task Force and why this designation is important for PUCC.
- September 27: Illuminating Project Presenter: Juliane Troicki, Ph.D.

 The Illuminating Women exhibit showcased 30 inspiring women from the Fond du Lac community.
- October 4 & 11: El Salvador Presenter: Jill Stiemsma
 Jill Stiemsma teaches English in El Salvador for an organization that funds housing,
 women's businesses, children's scholarships and much more.
- October 18: One Woman Play Presenter: Jill Stiemsma

 Jill presents a one woman play she wrote about Oscar Romero who was murdered while celebrating Mass, including the voices of his supporters and critics.
- October 25: HOPE LGBTQ+ Presenter: President Maddie Wiles
 HOPE serves LGBTQIA+ students in Oshkosh and provides awareness and programming
 around identities, acceptance and resilience.
- November 1 Dec 13: The Texts of Terror by Phyllis Trible: A Look at Feminist/ Womanist Biblical Criticism In highlighting the silence, absence and opposition of God, as well as human cruelty, these neglected stories interpreted in memoriam challenge both the misogyny of Scripture and its use in church, synagogue and academy.

November 1/ Week 1 – Introduction: Faith and Feminism

November 8/ Week 2 – Hagar

November 15/ Week 3 – Tamar

November 22 / NO CLASS – DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING

November 29/ Week 4 – An Unnamed Concubine

December 6/ Week 5 – The Daughter of Jephthah/ Conclusion

- December 13 CHRISTMAS BRUNCH A time to review our fall schedule and talk about our spring speakers.
- December 20 No Expanding Horizons due to the holiday week.
- December 27 No Expanding Horizons due to the holiday week.





The Little Farmer, LLC

A Festive Family Farm Market

N9438 Hwy 151, Malone

The Little Farmer is open for the season now through November.





See Pastor Rob, Gary Ring or Pete Vercouteren for tickets.







For donations please call Rae Nell (920) 948-3173 or Lorna (920)960-0057

Annual Picnic

BETHEL UCC CHURCH

N4510 County Road K, Fond du Lac

Sunday, September 10, 2023 11:00AM

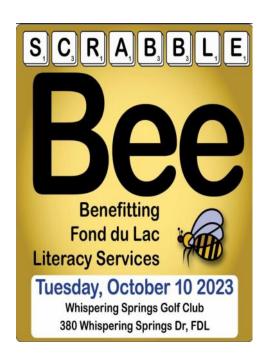
(following 10:00AM Worship)

~ Featuring ~ The ever popular AUCTION!

MENU: Brats, Burgers, Sloppy Joes, German Potato Salad, Beans, Cole Slaw, Relishes, Beverages, Homemade Desserts

> ALL YOU CAN EAT \$12 Adults, \$5 Kids (5 & Up)

ALL WELCOME, BRING A FRIEND



Gather your family, friends or coworkers for fun & friendly competition on Tuesday, October 10. It's Scrabble with a twist!! Teams of up to four players will work together in two rounds - one 20 minute, and one 15 minute. Click here to register https://conta.cc/3P6GKke







EPTEMBER





Pilgrim United Church of Christ Mission Statement

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.

Those Who Serve

sol sanod	Church Treasurer
mosill3 γbnθW	Church Council Secretary
yentley mil	Church Council Vice President
snrug itteg	Church Council President
neal2Sclean	neibotsu)
	Choir AccompanisttsinsqmoooA riodD
llea ynedosz	Choir Director
Chris Deaner-Rogers	Worship Musician
Peg Bradley	Interim Adult Education Coordinator
	Youth Coordinator
Maren Goodacre	Sunday School Coordinator
zaimhoe suc	Parish Nurse
Mey Drew	tnstrative Assistant
ssa Neb Van Ess	Pastor

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.

The Pilgrim Quill

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 920-921-0415 Email: pilgrim.info@pilgrimuccfdl.org Website: www.pilgrimuccfdl.org

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