



THE PILGRIM QUILL

JANUARY 2024



"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Hello Pilgrims!

It's 2024! Twenty Twenty-four. I know it's just another year. A change in the 4th number from a three to a four. It's not hard to understand. But still, it's 2024! I can remember as a kid thinking that the year 1980 was going to be a big deal. I mean, 1980! At 11 years of age this was the first beginning of a new decade I could remember. The 70's were yesterday's news and the 80's were new and exciting and filled with wonder. By the time the 80's were over, I would have just turned 21. A realization that blew my 11 year old mind in December of 1979. The 80's. I just knew it had to be something special. And it was. The age of excess, shoulder pads, spiral perms, rap groups, and synthesized music. I loved the 80s. This was my coming of age decade. Everything was new to me. I didn't know enough to know that every generation has their own coming of age decade; their own time to learn, to come into their own, and find themselves. But I do now.

These days I look at every day as an opportunity for a new lease on life. The recovery mantra, "One day at a time," is something I have held in my heart for over twenty years. It helps me to pace myself amid the anxiety and tension I find in the gap between the future unknown and auld lang syne (*times long past*). And yet, I still feel the magic in the air on New Year's Eve. It feels special, different. The beginning of a new year carries the power of possibilities and I find myself time and again standing in awe and hope. Which makes no sense. December 31, 2023 was a Sunday and January 1, 2024 was just another "Manic Monday" (*that's a reference to the song by the same*

name released in 1986 by the American pop rock band the Bangles). The sun rises, the sun sets, just another day in an endless string of days.

On the other hand it does make sense for the same reasons we have a desire for spiritual fulfillment. It was the French philosopher Chardin who famously said: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." We long to be a part of something bigger, larger, more than, we are on our own. And isn't that the way of Jesus. The inherent belief that there is always more. More to learn, more to love, more to share, more to become. In a world based on scarcity and oppression of the many for the benefit of the privileged few Jesus preaches a message of abundance and freedom for all. "No limits, only love." I can see that as a bumper sticker in the time of Jesus.

As we walk into a new year together I invite you to join us on a spiritual journey that reveals more of the way of Jesus promises us all. Let's embrace the power of possibilities while standing together in awe and hope in front of our amazing God.

Together may we hear the Spirit speak.
Together may we embrace the call to do new things.

Together may we be a conduit of Christ's eternal hope for the world.

Amen and Alleluia,

Pastor Rob



Sunday Scriptures

Sunday, January 7:
Mark 1:4-11 - Jesus' Baptism

Sunday, January 14:
1 Samuel 3:1-20 - God Calls Samuel

Sunday, January 21:
Jonah 1-4 - Jonah and the Big Fish

Sunday, January 28:
Mark 1:21-28 - Teaching and Healing



News from Council President, Patti Burns

Happy New Year Pilgrim,

I hope January is the start of a great year at Pilgrim.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting takes place January 28, 2024.

We will be voting on becoming a WISE Congregation. What a great way to start the year. Blessings to you in the New Year.

Patti Burns

Why WISE? (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health.

At the Congregational Meeting on January 28th, The WISE Task Force will be asking for a vote for Pilgrim to become a WISE designated church through the UCC. By adopting our WISE Covenant, we as a congregation will be promising to continue to learn about mental wellness challenges, so we can respectfully respond to those in our congregation now and those who come through our doors who struggle – and those who love them. We will be promising to learn more about community resources and to work toward eliminating stigma. We will be promising to develop a WISE Ministry group who will help hold us accountable to our covenant as an extension of our ONA pledge.

Please come to the Congregational Meeting, ask questions, and vote to help us become a truly safe space for all. Check out the Bulletin Board for Mental Wellness information!

Task Force Members: Sue Schmitz, Randy Stutz, Barb Geiger, Donna Overbo, Judy Burton, Judi Faubel, Chris Frederick, Kaitlynn Zick, Patti Burns; Advisors: Pastor Rob, Dr. Brian Christenson.



Come out and support NAMI and watch some good ole Hockey!! The FDL Bears will be having a Mental Health Awareness Night on Saturday, January 5th at 8pm. All proceeds will go to help NAMI Fond du Lac continue to bring education and awareness to our community! The Bears will be wearing special Mental Health Awareness Jersey's! NAMI will have a booth set up with information and resources. Bring a friend!



Loaves and Fishes

Pilgrim Church will serve its first Loaves and Fishes meal for 2024 on **February 7th** 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!

The sign-up poster is in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Bentley at 920-922-5093.



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 will be on **January 20th** at **Katrina's on West Scott Street**. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. **Please sign-up by January 18th**. 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 is the same.

To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NkICT0ZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCMGRhQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 8245 7999

Passcode: 769374

January 7
Coffee Fellowship



January 14 & 21

Dancing in the Darkness - Spiritual Lessons for Turbulent Times by Otis Moss III

Leaders: Mary Ellen McMeen &
Sue Schmitz

January 14 - Introduction; Chapters 1-4
January 21 - Chapters 5-8
Epilogue - America & Amazing Grace

Dancing in the Darkness is a life affirming guide to the practical, political, and spiritual challenges of our day. Drawing on the teachings of Dr. King, Howard Thurman, sacred scripture, southern wisdom, global spiritual traditions, Black culture, and his own personal experiences, Dr. Moss instructs you on how to practice spiritual resistance by combining justice and love. This collection helps us tap into the spiritual reserves we all possess but too often overlook, so we can slay our personal demons, confront our civic challenges, and reach our highest goals. Dr. Moss is senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. (You do not need to read the book to benefit from the class.)

January 28

The Premonition: A Pandemic Story by Michael Lewis

Leader: Ellen Sieglaff

Book review of Lewis' popular 2021 book.

Michael Lewis is a journalist and bestselling author. This 2021 nonfiction book is a story of a group of medics and scientists who attempt to get the US government to take pandemic response seriously, well before there was a COVID 19 pandemic. Very well written, it reads almost like a novel. Lewis describes the book as, "a superhero story where the superheroes seem to lose the war." Come and hear more about the author and the book and why it is a book to consider reading.

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

January 10
Respite for All

Leader: Susan H. McFadden, Ph.D.
Co-founder Fox Valley Memory Project

How churches can care for individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

Susan McFadden, a member of First Congregational UCC in Appleton, is a retired University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh psychology professor and founder of the Fox Valley Memory Project. She will speak to us about *Respite for All*, a church-based program that offers care both for individuals with dementia and for their caregivers. During an interview this fall Ms McFadden was asked, "What does a faithful ministry to aging parishioners and those living with dementia look like?" Her reply..."I use the word accompaniment. And how can you best accompany people: by understanding that this is a progressive condition. There will be many opportunities for meaningful engagement, but sometimes people are having a bad day.

We need to understand that you can accompany a person by sitting in silence. By asking beautiful questions that rely not on memory but on imagination. It's a complete way of relating to people. People with dementia can read body language. They can read facial expressions. They know if you're bored. Those facts can go into training programs for parish visitors and clergy."

Join us and you will learn about *Respite for All* and how a national movement of faith-based, volunteer-driven, intergenerational programs are working together to build communities of connection for those living with dementia.

January 17 & 24

Armageddon: What the Bible Really Says

About the End by Bart D. Ehrman
Leader: Diana Beck

January 17 - Consequences of "Imminent Apocalypse"
January 24 - The Impacts of the Book of Revelation

To guide us in our study on this topic, we will turn to Bart D. Ehrman, an acclaimed New Testament authority. We will discuss his book Armageddon: What the Bible Really Says About the End.

Participants are encouraged to read the book but it is not required. In session one we will cover the first four chapters, which take us on a tour through three millennia of Judeo-Christian thinking about how the world will end, the false predictions and the real life consequences of "Imminent Apocalypse". In session two we will explore the last half of the book. Bart Ehrman helps us understand how to read the book of Revelation and explores how its message may be at odds with the teachings of Jesus.

January 31 - March 6

Living The Questions

Marcus Borg: Beyond Belief

Leaders: Jim Thomas & Neal Sieglaff

Centered in the Spirit

This is a six session series which will continue in February. Each session stands on its own, so you will benefit whether you are able to attend all six sessions or not. Marcus J. Borg (1942-2015) was an American

New Testament scholar, theologian and author. He was among the most widely known and influential voices in progressive Christianity and internationally known in both academic and church circles. The New York Times described him as "a leading figure in his generation of Jesus scholars." Marcus brought clarity and insight to an understanding of Jesus and Christianity that was accessible and transformative. He was also a long-time friend and contributor to Living the Questions. This video series contains favorite moments, core teachings and extensive never-before seen material from the Living the Questions archives plus commentary from Rev. Marianne Borg.

You are Invited to Join Pilgrim's New Book Club!

We will be reading fiction and nonfiction, but all books will have a spiritual theme.

January is the perfect time to enjoy relaxing by the fire with a good book. Our first book is Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith by Marcus J. Borg. Publishers Weekly says this about the book. "In this small, but eloquent and learned book, Borg...directs his readers, especially those who have found no meaningful image of Jesus, away from confessed doctrines about Jesus (what the gospels and the churches say about Him) and toward a relationship with the Spirit of God."

Walter Wink, famed theologian and scholar, has this to say about Marcus Borg. "In every generation there is a handful of writers of whom it can be said, 'Read everything they write.' Marcus Borg is one of these today: a writer of rare lucidity, original scholarly insights, profound spirituality, and the universal capacity to connect it all to life in the present. He might just change your mind- or life."

The book is available in paperback from Amazon. We will meet to discuss the book on **Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30PM in the church lounge.**

Sign up on the poster in the foyer to show your interest. During our first meeting we will decide whether we want to continue, a date and time to meet and pick another book. Come with suggestions.

Notes from Karen

(Our Sunday School Director)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Update

With the holidays behind us, Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Thank you to everyone who helped to fill the box with arts and crafts supplies for the Sunday school children to donate to the St. Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter during November and December. They are always so appreciative of the various items we are able to help them with.

With that being said, for the months of January and February, the leaders at the shelter have shared that they are in need of school supplies. They explained to me that often, families are having to leave their apartment or home and can only take what they can carry and school supplies is not high on the list. Also many of these families were unable to sign up for the Back to School collection last August (for various reasons) and therefore are also in need. Working in the school district myself, I can attest to the fact that we are nearing the new semester and many students that I have the pleasure of working with are running out of notebooks, folders and pencils. This certainly makes their ability to be successful at learning difficult. Thank you for helping Pilgrim's Sunday school children be successful in their giving to others.

Thank You Christmas Carolers



On Friday, December 15th, 23 people gathered to go Christmas caroling to various members of the congregation. They made 4 scheduled stops and 1 surprise stop to bring joy and happy tears to the people they sang to. They then returned to church for some hot chocolate, cookies and to play some JINGLE BINGO! On behalf of the Christian Education Ministry, THANK YOU to everyone for giving of their time during this busy time of year to make others happy!

Birthday Dimes

On December 17th, the Sunday school children presented a check in the amount of \$656.12 to representatives from Hope on the Block. This was the organization that the children chose to have the birthday dimes collected from last year to be donated to. Thank you to the entire congregation for your gracious giving of dimes when celebrating your own or a loved one's birthday, it truly is appreciated by the Sunday school children as they continue to learn about giving and generosity.

It's Bingo Time!!!

In case you missed caroling and returning to church to play JINGLE BINGO in December, the CE Ministry will be offering an Intergenerational BINGO event in the fellowship hall on **Friday, January 19th from 6:00PM - 7:30PM**. There is no charge to play (where else can you play BINGO for FREE?). Prizes will be available as well as a light snack. Please consider joining us for a night of fun and fellowship and as always, feel free to invite a friend or neighbor.

PLEASE NOTE.....The Christian Education Ministry is in need of additional members willing to be a part of our fun ministry. If you have an interest in this area or just want to learn more about our ministry, please talk with Karen or one of the other ministry members; Chris Clementi, Susan Holl or Alia Abler. Thank you.

Blessings,
Karen



My challenge to all of you for the New Year is to continue to help make Pilgrim's SCRIP program the best it can be! TOGETHER we can accomplish this....

The SCRIP program at Pilgrim continues to offer a variety of gift cards to area businesses that you can use for your weekly shopping, travels and restaurants.

I want to personally thank everyone that has been continuing to use SCRIP on a regular basis. It's wonderful to see some new faces utilizing this program. Each SCRIP card sold helps to make a percentage for the church's budget.

If you have any questions about the SCRIP program or I can be of any assistance in helping you to use SCRIP, please don't hesitate to give me a call @ 920-904-5740.

Thanks and Happy New Year!
Karen Goodacre

Christian Outreach News!

For the month of January we will be collecting long underwear for men and women at the Warming Shelter.

There is a real need for this article of clothing for the homeless to keep warm during the winter months. The shelter is in need of new or gently used long underwear; sizes M -3X.

Thank you for all you give to the humans in need.

Note: Christian Outreach had cash in their account, from a donation earlier in the year and voted to give the money to the FRC for Domestic Violence. The amount was \$155.32.

Congratulations to Ronnie Kirkwood who won this beautiful quilt made and donated by Deb Wamser. Thank you everyone who purchased raffle tickets. We raised over \$1500 for our youth mission trip to Knoxville in July.



Ushers for January

Date	9:00 Service
January 7	Avery & Barb Geiger
January 14	Steven & Rachel Wicikowski
January 21	Randy & Linda Stutz
January 28	Dave & Donna Overbo

Welcomers for January

Date	9:00 Service
January 7	Judie Behnke
January 14	Barb Tadych
January 21	Linda Stutz
January 28	Ron McCreedy

Worship Leaders for January

Date	9:00 Service
January 7	Linda Stutz
January 14	Noreen Henderson
January 21	Jill Barbeau
January 28	Ellen Sieglaff

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

January Blahs

January is a transition month when the pace of life changes. For some people, putting their home back in order after the holidays is a good thing, and then there are those New Years' Resolutions....

May I suggest a dry January to re-evaluate the relationship with alcohol, and/or abstaining from random scrolling and Twitter/X in January...I wonder what would happen to world views and suddenly having time for other things (?)

Relationships are built on contacts - Attending church services and/or church activities, volunteering, taking part in community classes, exercise groups, hobby groups, inviting a neighbor over for a cup of tea, a game night or meeting to play cards. Even routine personal snail mail/email/messaging lays some groundwork for building on...

Our emotions, physical health, and spiritual wellness are so intertwined – January is a good month for inventory and connection.

I will be available to take blood pressures after the worship service on January 7th. Start 2024 off with the good habit of knowing your numbers.

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month

Quick (and very general) anatomy...The *Optic Nerve* is a bundle of nerve fibers in the back of the eyeball, that carries signals of light, dark, and colors to the part of the brain that translates them into images to produce vision. The eyeballs make a clear fluid (*Aqueous Humor*) that keeps the eye inflated, provides nourishment, and maintains proper eye pressure inside the eye. In most types of glaucoma, the eye's drainage system becomes clogged so this fluid cannot drain and pressure builds up inside the eyeball – damaging the optic nerve and resulting in vision loss.

Risk factors for glaucoma include: being older than 55, Black, Asian or Hispanic heritage, family history of glaucoma, certain medical conditions such as diabetes, migraines, high blood pressure and sickle cell anemia, extreme near or farsightedness, eye injury and long term use of steroid medications.

Many forms of glaucoma have no warning signs. The effect is so gradual that vision changes may go unnoticed until the condition is in its later stages. It's important to have regular eye exams that include measurements of eye pressure. If glaucoma is recognized early, vision loss can be slowed or prevented. A person with glaucoma will need lifelong treatment and/or monitoring.

And, as long as I'm talking about eye care, I want to remind people that reflective surfaces like water, sand, ice and snow double the risk of getting "sunburned eyes". Symptoms can include: eye pain, burning or gritty sensations in the eyes, sensitivity to light, blurry vision, and seeing halos around light sources. "You may not even experience the symptoms until several hours after the burn occurs," according to [John A. Moran Eye Center](#) Ophthalmologist [Jean Tabin, MD](#). " Treat your eyes with rest, use preservative free artificial tears for moisture and don't rub. If the symptoms seem severe, contact your ophthalmologist."

Good eye care can be as easy as wearing sunglasses – even on cloudy days – that block 99% of UVA and UVB rays. Wearing wraparound sunglasses gives the most protection.

Sue





We want to send a huge thank you to the Pilgrim Carolers. It touched our hearts so deeply to be on the receiving end of the caroling event. You all did a great job and brought great holiday joy to both of us.

Randy and Linda Stutz

Dear Pastor Rob,

Thank you for helping this year with our Rake a Difference Day. It's truly appreciated.

Happy Holidays!
Amber Kilawee & Chris Metiwur

Happy Holidays!

Our favorite time of the year is finally here . . . An opportunity to express our appreciation to you for being a part of the Boys & Girls Club family. The gift of your support helps us fulfill our mission and continue the important work of serving youth and families in our community.

With sincere gratitude,
Leadership Team
Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac

Pilgrim United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your generous monetary donation. It is greatly appreciated and so very helpful.

God Bless,
Sandi Paws Rescue

To My Wonderful Church Family,

After over 20+ years of helping to plan and then have the honor of going with friends from church to carol to others from my church family, this year turned out to be very different. The week leading up to caroling, I became sick, missing the entire week of work. I knew I would not be able to join the group of carolers scheduled to go out to our beloved member's homes. I knew I would miss the silliness in the cars as we drove from one house to another. I knew I would miss seeing the joy (and often tears) on the faces of those whose home we stopped at. But I also knew staying home was the right thing to do.

Well, the night of caroling arrived. I had done a few behind the scenes things to get things ready and I was all set to sit home in my nightgown feeling sick while I watched another Hallmark movie.

When what to my amazing eyes should appear, but an unexpected phone call from Pastor Rob asking me if I was able to come to my front door for a minute. I can't begin to describe the feeling I felt as I opened my door to an entourage of carolers from my church family, all different ages. They sang songs, the little ones kept waving at me and staring as I wiped tears from my eyes, the older ones waved from behind the younger ones, everyone smiling. I was so surprised by the beauty of what I was seeing and experiencing, from being on the receiving end of hearing those beautiful carols.

You see, for all those many years past, I always considered myself to be on the receiving end of being able to experience what people were enjoying as we "showed up" to bring them Christmas cheer. I felt blessed all those many years I was able to go caroling, but this particular night, I experienced a whole new blessing. Thank you to EVERYONE who came to carol, share Christmas cheer, and love with me on that night. Your kindness will NEVER be forgotten. I love you all and am BLESSED to be a part of this church family. THANKS FOR "SHOWING UP"!

With Heartfelt Love and Thanks,
Karen Goodacre

Dear Peg, Gary and the Entire Family of Pilgrim UCC,

I truly cannot tell you all enough how much I and our whole team at Rawhide Youth Services appreciate all of your incredible support and the huge impact you are making on our mission, our programs and in the lives of thousands of youth! It means the world to us! Thank you for having me speak to your group back in September and I sincerely apologize that at such short notice, I could not attend the Alternative Giving Fair - I feel so bad but I am glad to hear how well it went. That is such an innovative idea and what a great way to get members involved.

Again, thank you for everything and I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

Tara Heindl

Trust Fund Committee,

We are so incredibly thankful to you for providing our school with a generous \$500 check to help our most underserved students and families. Especially as the temperatures continue to cool and the pressure from the holidays start to mount, we will be able to provide a variety of different services to help our students.

With Gratitude,
Matt Wolfert
Rosenow Principal

Pilgrim United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for joining us in the 2023 Thanksgiving Meal. We are truly blessed to have such amazing partners. We appreciate your donation of time to come help make this year such an incredible success. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Blessings,
Tess & Becky
Faith in Action Team

Dear Pastor Rob,

We here at Solutions Center are so blessed to have such great supporters like you. Your donation of \$1,500 is so appreciated. Your donation will allow us to continue with our mission of caring for children, women and families who experience domestic violence or homelessness.

It is because of the support and dedication of our donors that make our programs possible. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,
Amy Loof, Executive Director

(Additional hand written thank you)
Dear Pastor Rob & Everyone at Pilgrim,

Thank you so much for the amazing donations to our agency and youth program. This is just one of the many donations and forms of support you have given to us this year. We are so grateful to you for all your support.

We are reminded this time of year, and throughout, of all the things that we need to be thankful and grateful for. For Solutions Center that is our donors and community partners, ones just like you that keep us keep doing the work we do in the community.

Thank you again and from all of us at Solutions Center, have a Very Merry Christmas.

God Bless,
Amy Loof

Thank you everyone for being so welcoming to us! We are so happy to be a part of the church! We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas!

The Petersen's



- 5 Kirk Dille
- 6 Jane Flaherty
Carol Browning
- 7 Pat Towne
- 8 Randy Stutz
Susan Peterson
- 10 Robert Oenes
Michelle Schmid
Ron Spies
- 13 Alex Curl
- 14 Sarah Kirchhoff
- 15 Judy Reinke
- 16 Dorian Johnson
Paisley Diorio
- 17 Brian Christenson
- 18 Hailee Olson
Olivia Schilling
- 20 Kristin Johnson
Lisa Laudolff
- 22 Stephen Ross Speidel
Shannon LaLuzerne
- 24 Bud Browning
- 25 Abigail Blanc
- 27 Joseph Keys
Jeanne Ihlenfeldt
- 28 Jerilyn Oenes
- 29 Sue Schmitz
- 30 Dave Overbo

January 17	Jim & Dianne Bentley
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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: _____

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Pastor Rob provided an opening prayer and had council members add links to the Paper Chain of Gratitude.

Members present: Pastor Rob Van Ess, Linda Stutz, Bayard Fredrick, Patti Burns, Karen Goodacre, Patty Minter, Fran Schmidt, Donna Jost, Jim Bentley, and Avery Geiger

Secretary's Report: The minutes from Oct. 16, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Minutes as written were accepted with unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report from Oct. 13, 2023 was reviewed. The treasurer's report as presented was approved with unanimous consent.

Pastor's Report:

Written report submitted and reviewed.

Plans are being made for the annual children's Christmas Program. This year's program is *The Gospel According to Sheep*. Looking for additional children to play the role of the sheep.

Making plans for the Advent Season which will include Hanging of the Greens, Blue Christmas and a Christmas Eve Worship Service.

Vice President's Report: Beginning to work on the annual employee reviews. Jim is seeking input from council and handed out a sheet for input. Still seeking an Adult Education Coordinator to fill the vacant position.

President's Report: Updated council on search for Adult Education Coordinator. Asked council for ideas on what the church needs to be included in a mission moment later in Nov.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Date set for Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held January 28, 2024 following the 9 am worship service.

New kitchen door code will be created at the Dec. 2023 Council Meeting.

Ministry Reports:

Christian Outreach – Coats for Kids drive completed and very successful. Toys for Tots collection will be held in Nov. The Salvation Army Angel Tree will arrive in late Nov. The Alternative Gift Fair date set for Dec. 3, 2023.

Worship and Music – Minutes submitted. Piano was tuned. Working on readers for Advent. Will gather poinsettia order. Youth have been invited to perform musical composition during Advent Season. Hanging Of the Greens scheduled for Nov. 26 following worship

Christian Education – Minutes submitted. A decrease in attendance has led to a One Room Sunday School. Make and Take is scheduled Dec. 3th. Christmas Program will be held Dec. 17. Christmas Caroling will be Dec. 15.

SCRIP Update – Karen encourages Scrip purchases for the holidays. Would prefer those orders be placed no later than Dec. 17. Scrip will be available at the Alternative Gift Fair.

Property & Maintenance – Minutes submitted. Signed contract with Paul’s Snow removal. Planning to replace windows in the fellowship hall. Avery made a motion to use \$3,891 from the dedicated Environmental Project account to replace 7 windows on the south side of the fellowship hall. Motion seconded by Patty Minter. Motion carried unanimously. These funds will be combined with funds from the dedicated Building Fund to replace the windows. Next meeting Dec. 12, 2023

Lay Life & Leadership – will provide refreshments following the children’s program

Stewardship & Finance – Has a display in the Narthex of all the Pilgrim Ministries/Committees. Has scheduled speakers for Mission Moments to promote needs.

Membership & Evangelism – New Welcome Center has received positive reviews. Donna donated 2 new wheel-chairs.

Nominating Committee -note that per By Laws, Ministries need 4 members (not 5). Checking with ministries and committees to see who will be remaining on the teams.

Ham Dinner – Successful Ham Dinner. Thank you to all the helped. Approximately 800 meals were served. This year meals were also donated to several community organizations.

Memorial Fund – no report

Trust Fund – A motion was made by Avery Geiger and seconded by Karen Goodacre to accept the committee’s suggested distributions. Motion carried.

Celebrations: Linda has completed her chemotherapy and was present at the council meeting. Welcome back Linda!

The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Dec.18, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Burns, President



January

2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 6:00 Confirmation Class	4	5 7:00 AL-ANON	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	8 4:30 Christian Ed	9 4:30 Worship 5:00 Property	10 9:30 Expanding Horizons	11	12 7:00 AL-ANON	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	15 4:00 Adult Ed 6:00 Council Meeting	16 PEO 1:00/2:30 Book Club	17 9:30 Expanding Horizons 6:00 Confirmation Class	18	19 6:00 FFN - Intergenerational Bingo 7:00 AL-ANON	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	22 6:00 Green Team	23	24 9:30 Expanding Horizons	25	26 7:00 AL-ANON	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:15 ANNUAL MEETING 10:15 Adult Ed 6:00 NA Mtg	29	30	31 9:30 Expanding Horizons 6:00 Confirmation Class			

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
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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.

Pastor Rev. Rob Van Ess
Administrative Assistant Cathy Drew
Parish Nurse Sue Schmitz
Sunday School Coordinator Karen Goodacre
Youth Coordinator
Interim Adult Education Coordinator Peg Bradley
Worship Musician Chris Deaner-Rogers
Choir Director Zachary Ball
Choir Accompanist
Custodian Floors2Clean
Church Council President Patti Burns
Church Council Vice President Jim Bentley
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