



# THE PILGRIM QUILL

## FEBRUARY 2024



Hello Pilgrims!

This year is a leap year. This means the shortest month of the year adds another day to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical year or seasonal calendar.

We have leap years because instead of 365 days, the Earth really takes a few minutes less than 365 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  days to go completely around the Sun. It's that .25 that creates the need for a leap year every four years. During non-leap years, aka common years – like 2023 – the calendar doesn't take into account the extra quarter of a day required by the earth to complete a single orbit. The calendar year we know of, which is a human construct, is faster than the solar year, the 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes 46 seconds that our planet requires to orbit the sun once.

Without leap years, the seasons would start one day earlier on the calendar every 4 years. After 360 years, spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere would begin on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Which is when winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Southern Hemisphere presently begins. This adjustment allows us to keep some consistency. It's like every four years we need to stop and let time catch up with us so that we can find our bearings and chart our path forward.

What I appreciate about leap years is that they serve as a reminder of the Special Theory of Relativity. Einstein determined that time is relative – in other words, [the rate at which time passes depends on your frame of reference](#). While a scientific theory, I believe the same holds true for our spiritual lives, and we can see this most clearly during the season of Lent.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday (which falls on Valentine's Day this year) Lent runs through Holy Thursday, and is 40 days long. Interestingly a leap year does not add an additional day to the Lenten season. This is because Ash Wednesday is always a fixed

number of Sundays before Holy Thursday (six Sundays, counting Palm Sunday). This shows Lent is 46 days long regardless of a leap year. But what about our traditional understanding that Lent is only 40 days? Some say this count works, finding 40 days for lent in the 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday because they do not include the 6 Sundays which are days of celebration; Others say we come up with 40 days because that is the number from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday (the Sun before Easter) and thus does not include most of Holy Week. The historical formulas for determining Lent are imperfect and unclear. Another reminder that [the rate at which time passes depends on your frame of reference](#).

A similar experience happens to someone born on February 29<sup>th</sup>. They may not have the actual day (Feb 29<sup>th</sup>) to celebrate a birthday every year but they do get a year older and will celebrate on another day close to the end of the month. Again, the rate at which time passes depends on your frame of reference.

My point is that we can choose how we experience time by changing our point of reference. Life is what you make it and so is the time we have. This Lenten season we invite you to choose to slow down and take the time to find your bearings and chart your path. Consider this your spiritual leap year. Make the time you need to stop, breathe, and be. Join us as we engage in some spiritual practices to help us silence the internal monologue in our heads and open our hearts to listen to the still small voice of God noted by the prophet Elijah.

Note the Lenten services and events listed in this newsletter. Join us as we change our point of reference, allowing us to bend time itself, creating space for us to connect more fully with each other and the Divine.

Amen and Alleluia,

Pastor Rob

## Sunday Scriptures

Sunday, February 4:  
Mark 1:29-39 - Jesus Heals

Sunday, February 11  
Mark 9:2-9 - The Transfiguration

Sunday, February 18  
Genesis 6-9 - Noah's Ark

Sunday, February 25  
Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 - Abraham & Sarah's Visitors



## **NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**1. Introduce yourself to us?  
(Who are you? Where do you live? Who do you live with? What do you do? Where are you from?)**

My name is Bradley John Leonhard, and I was raised and still live here in Fond du Lac. Life has taken me many places, but this is where I belong. I am a Member Service Representative at Marine Credit Union and an Event Specialist at the Community First Champion Center in Grand Chute.

**2. Who or what has the biggest influence on you in your life right now?**

My father is the biggest influence in my life and has always been for better or for worse. I admire and try to live my life by his character, resolve, and generous life style.

**3. What do you do for fun/ hobby/ relaxation?**

I love to watch sports particularly soccer and hockey. I spend my free time volunteering with NAMI and the United Way in Fond du Lac County. I am a member of the Fond du Lac Noon Kiwanis Club, the treasurer for Hope on the Block, treasurer for the Fond du Lac NICA Mountain Bike Team, and a board member for Fond du Lac Rugby, Inc.

**4. What is the number one thing you wish people knew about you?**

I wish more people understood my mindset with volunteering. I have recently renamed my descriptor from being a "servant leader" to being a "selfish servant leader." This means I receive joy from helping others. I do so expecting nothing in return except for the joy of knowing I helped others. I continue to help others not just for the sake of helping but also because of the feeling I get from helping.

**5. What has brought you to Pilgrim United Church of Christ?**

The two things that brought me to Pilgrim UCC is the welcoming congregation and the honest and relatable sermons.

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Pilgrim UCC will again be participating in the **Celebrate CommUNITY** event on **Saturday, February 17 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM** in the Expo Building at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds. This is a fun event where you'll see the great diversity we celebrate in Fond du Lac. There will be a sign up sheet for 2 hour time frames to man our booth. If you're in the area, come and visit.

UNITED FOR DIVERSITY

15TH ANNUAL  
**CELEBRATE**  
commUNITY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024  
FDL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EXPO CENTER

DOORS OPEN AT 10:30 AM  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
ADMISSION: \$5.00

Area's largest diversity and inclusion event featuring over 50 booths representing community organizations and diverse backgrounds, live entertainment, and amazing food.

Scan for Event Details!

www.unitedfordiversity.org  
Facebook: @unitedfordiversityfdl  
Instagram: @unitedfordiversity  
Twitter: @udiversity  
Email: unitedfordiversity@gmail.com  
#celebratecommunityfdl



### 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!!!

Watch for more information on the next get-together which will be February 18th. Gatherings begin 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](mailto:pattyminter@gmail.com)



Adult Education Classes - New Opportunities to Learn, Strengthen Your Faith and Make New Friends!  
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

**February 4**  
**Coffee Fellowship**



**February 11 & 18**  
**A.I. - Living (and Chatting) with Intelligent Machines**

Videos from the Global Lecture Hall  
Jim Kenney, Lecturer  
Facilitator: Peg Bradley

What is A.I.? What's an "intelligent machine?"  
What's real and what's (thus far) mostly hype?  
What has already changed in global science, commerce, and society? What's likely (or possible) to come next?  
Why are some experts so unruffled? Why are others so worried? What questions should we be asking?  
These are some of the questions Jim Kenney addresses in these videos from his Global Lecture Hall.  
Jim is an engaging, fast paced speaker who will help bring clarity to this complicated subject.

**February 25**  
**How Pilgrim UCC Was Born!**  
Leader: Chris Frederick

Forty-five years have passed since Pilgrim was formed when two UCC churches merged in 1979. Come hear about the rich history that the congregations of Plymouth and St Mark's churches brought with them to Pilgrim.

## 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

**February 7 - March 6**  
**Living the Questions**

**Marcus Borg: Beyond Belief**  
Leaders: Jim Thomas & Neal Sieglaff

February 7 - Meeting Jesus Again  
February 14 - Followers of the Way  
February 21 - Reading the Bible  
February 28 - An Emerging Way  
March 6 - Beyond Belief

This is a six session series which began on January 31. 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 a 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.

**Pilgrim Book Club**  
**Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time:**  
**The Historical Jesus & the Heart of**  
**Contemporary Faith by Marcus Borg**

February 5  
6:30PM in the lounge

This will be our first meeting of Pilgrim's Book Club. Please join us as we discuss this easy to read but powerful book. Borg shares his thoughts and knowledge about Jesus and challenges each reader to find their own path to understanding the teachings of Jesus. The book is available in paperback from Amazon.

If you would like more information talk to  
Peg Bradley or Steve Wichowski.

Please add your name to the poster in the foyer as  
someone who will join us.



# Easter Flower Order Form



On **Easter Sunday, March 31st** our Sanctuary will be enhanced by a variety of spring flowers. You are invited to purchase a plant or plants by completing the order form below. Please return this form to the church office by mail or by dropping it in the Sunday offering plate. Please enclose your check or cash with the order form; checks should be made out to Pilgrim Church with notation of "Easter Flowers" in the memo section. Please note the deadline for placing an order is **Sunday, March 17, 2024**. Your flowers may be taken home on Easter Sunday after the 9:00AM worship service.

Please order: \_\_\_\_\_ (qty.) Spring Flowers at \$10.00 each

Complete information below as you would like it to appear in the Easter bulletin (**please print**):

Flowers are Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Day to Order ~ Sunday, March 17,**

# Notes from Karen

(Our Sunday School Director)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### Sunday School Update

Sunday school class is continuing. We meet following the worship service at 10:15 a.m. in the opening worship area.

For the month of February, we are continuing to collect school supplies for children and youth who are at the St. Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter. Staff at the shelter 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 now in our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### Let's go BOWLING!

The Christian Ed ministry will be hosting an intergenerational bowling night. This event will be held at **Ledgeview Bowling Lanes** on **Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet right at the bowling alley at **6:00 p.m.** Karen was able to secure a discounted rate of \$3.99 per game and shoes will be free. In order to reserve enough lanes for those wanting to bowl, there will be a sign up in the narthex. Upon arriving at the bowling alley, please be sure to let them know you are with Pilgrim UCC Church. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join us.

### Heifer International

Beginning in March, you will find the children and youth in the back of church after our worship service collecting your loose change as they begin to collect for Heifer International. Start saving your loose change!



There are so many ways to utilize the SCRIP program in your daily lives. Did you know????? Festival Foods, Pick N Save and Piggly Wiggly are all participants of the SCRIP program and who doesn't go to the grocery store?

Kwik Trip gives the best bang for your buck on our SCRIP program...In fact, for the month of February we will once again be getting 9% back from all Kwik Trip cards sold. What that means is for every \$100 Kwik Trip card sold the church will earn a profit of \$9!

A&W, Backyard Grill, Culvers, Gilles, McDonalds, Schmitty's and Tuckers are just a few of the many area restaurants that are also available through our SCRIP program. So as you can see this is just a small sampling of the many different ways you can incorporate using SCRIP in your daily lives while helping to support Pilgrim's budget.

If you have not tried using Pilgrim's SCRIP program yet, I would encourage you to do so. It's very user friendly. Please talk with Karen Goodacre @ 920-904-5740 if you have any questions regarding the SCRIP program and how it works. Thanks Everyone!

### **Special KIVA Collection Last October Helps Five Families Around the World!**

The Outreach Committee highlighted the work of KIVA last October and a special designated collection was taken each Sunday. Through your generosity \$1,310.00 was given. In November, the committee met and made loans to five people who are struggling to provide basic necessities for their families. Please read their stories and be grateful that our church family can make a difference not just in Fond du Lac but around the world.

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.

Our first recipient is Leandro Bienvenido. He is 75 years old and he and his wife have 10 adult children. They live in Olmedo, Ecuador which is an excellent region for agriculture. Leandro is a hardworking man who despite his age looks for a way to support his family. He is dedicated to animal husbandry. He has several heads of cattle and collects the milk which he sells to merchants who come to his farm to buy it. He hopes to improve milk production and would like to implement genetic improvement to his cows, and thus better their breed and the quality of their dairy production. This loan will be used to buy embryos for the improvement of the breed of his dairy cows.

Carolina is 44 years old, married and has 2 children. She works at a dairy factory and her husband is a day laborer. They are a hardworking family and make every effort to provide the children with everything they need. Carolina lives in the village of Floresti in Moldova. Her modest house is not connected to the aqueduct system and the family must fetch water from a well that is very far from their house. They do not have the necessary resources to connect the house to the aqueduct system. This loan will allow the family to connect to the system and create the necessary hygienic conditions for their health and well being.

Sabita is a 39 year old married woman with 4 children. She lives in Nowshera, Pakistan. She is a vigorous lady and for many years has had a cloth purchase and sale business. She buys cloth in various fabrics, in different colors and designs from the market at wholesale rates and then sells them to the people of her community. She has a varied customer base and is able to earn enough through her business. Sabita hopes this loan will allow her to buy a wide variety of cloth to attract more customers and expand her business. The profit will be used to pay back the loan and provide a better life for her family. The average annual income (USD) in Pakistan is \$4,700.

Mrs. Thai is 47 years old and lives with her husband in a small house in the coastal area of the Nga Son District in Vietnam. The family's income comes from her husband's work as a construction worker and her own work of weaving sedge strings for handicraft production facilities. Despite their hard work their income is low and just enough to get by. One of the challenges her family has been facing is the pollution of their well water. The water they use for daily activities has become contaminated posing a risk to their health. Unfortunately, they do not have the financial means to install a clean water system from a water treatment plant. This loan will allow them to purchase construction materials and water filtration equipment from the water treatment plant. Her story is just one example of the many difficulties that families in the coastal area of Vietnam have to endure. Despite their hard work, they still struggle to provide a safe and healthy living environment for themselves and their families.

Doan is a 42 year old father of two children, ages 12 and 10, both attending school. They belong to an ethnic minority and live in a remote mountainous area in Ngoc Lac District of Vietnam. Currently, the family's income is derived from Doan's earnings as a construction worker and his wife's income from various odd jobs at construction sites. The family's income is unstable and barely sufficient for their needs. Their living conditions are challenging, and their deteriorating sanitation facilities urgently need renovation. However, due to financial constraints, they are unable to afford the necessary repairs. Doan has asked for a loan which will enable him to purchase construction materials and hire labor to rebuild their sanitation facilities, providing a safer and healthier environment for his family.

As we begin this new year, may we all give thanks for the blessings of clean water and sanitation facilities. Our children and grandchildren have every opportunity for healthy and safe lives. This month may we hold Leandro, Carolina, Sabita, Mrs. Thai, and Doan in our prayers.

## Christian Outreach News!

The Warming Shelter is in need of breakfast items. The list includes:

- Milk
- Orange juice
- Cereal
- Muffins( pre-packaged so the people can carry out)

**Drop your donations after 5:00PM at the Warming Shelter, Not Pilgrim Church.**

In the month of February we will be collecting for the Blandine House. The items needed for the male occupants include:

- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Shaving cream
- Underwear & socks
- Body lotion
- Any items men can use for personal care

### Ushers for February

Date	9:00 Service
February 4	Jim & Dianne Bentley
February 11	Pete Vercooteren & Connie Anderson
February 14 Ash Wednesday	
February 18	Bart & Dawn Dahlke
February 25	Bill & Patti Burns

### Welcomers for February

Date	9:00 Service
February 4	Jim & Dianne Bentley
February 11	Fran Schmid
February 18	Wendy Ellison
February 25	Avery Geiger

### Worship Leaders for February

Date	9:00 Service
February 4	Sue Schmitz
February 11	Noreen Henderson
February 18	Confirmand
February 25	Ellen Sieglaff





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

*“February is not just a time when many people fondly think of those close to their heart. It is also a time to take care of your heart.” Kathleen Sebelius, former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

**February is Heart Month - And Being Active is Good!**

“Physical activity triggers changes in blood vessels, muscles, metabolism, and brain — and over time, it can increase the size of the heart's chambers and strengthens the heart. As a result, the heart relaxes more easily and pumps more efficiently because it requires less effort to send blood throughout the body. Physical Activity can also improve mental wellness challenges like depression and stress, which are common but often ignored contributors to cardiovascular problems,” Dr. Aaron Baggish, Cardiologist and Professor at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

The important thing is to be as active as possible. *Stop by the bulletin board and listen to your heart.* Then jump up and down 10 times and listen again. That’s the sound of your heart exercising and getting stronger!

**Children’s’ Dental Health Month**

“By age 5 about 60% of children are affected by tooth decay - it is the number one chronic disease affecting children in the United States and is on the rise and it is largely preventable.” American Dental Association Recommendations (for children and adults!) are to avoid sugary drinks, (juice and soda mainly – also sports drinks) and instead drink water, and brush twice a day. Also, first dental appointments are recommended at 1 year of age – baby teeth are important!

“The Save a Smile program at the Fond du Lac County Health Department is a unique Public/Private partnership with local dentists. The program provides preventive and restorative dental care to residents 18 years old & younger who have Medical Assistance and

also provides urgent need dental services for adults with Medical Assistance or who are at or below 200% poverty. Additionally, the program provides a Fluoride Varnish program at Head Start and area schools and can offer dental cleanings onsite at Health Department for children. As of 2023, SAS has facilitated 24,000 appointments for children and adult residents of Fond du Lac County. For more information, call the Health Department at 920-929-3085.” *From the FDL County Public Health Dept. Website.*

**Being WISE and Random Acts of Kindness Week**

February 14-20

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Aesop *Kindness (noun): the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate;* English Oxford Living Dictionary

Acts of Kindness do not have to be elaborate, costly, loud, fancy or take large amounts of time. They can be as simple as a compliment, holding a door, smiling and saying good morning, posting something positive, messaging concern or “thinking of you”. They can be done in secret or not, and any small act can have a ripple effect - inspiring others to be kind.

Acts of kindness are linked to increased feelings of well-being, can improve support networks and encourage us to be more active. This, in turn, can improve our self-esteem and it is suggested that when we help others, it can promote changes in the brain that are linked with happiness, confidence, being in control, and optimism., So being kind can benefit mental wellness - for example, it can help reduce the feelings of stress and depression.

I challenge you to do a random act of kindness per day in February...for mental wellness – personal and community! You are a gift - a single life placed here at this moment in time. Take care and be kind to yourself also. Blessings as you begin your Lenten journey. My heart thinks you are special.

Sue





Dear Pilgrim United Church of Christ,

We here at Solutions Center are so blessed to have such great supporters like you. Your donation of \$175.00 in client assistance 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

Pilgrim United Church of Christ,

Thank you for the generous gift of \$725.00 (Alternative Gift Fair) and \$564.92 (Trust Fund). Your donations matter in the lives of the at-risk youth who are now receiving the healing support they need and deserve.

Mikeal is one of the young men positively affected by your giving. We have enclosed a letter about Mikeal highlighting the personal growth he has experienced since beginning our program. Your generosity impacts the youth we serve in a very special way. We encourage you to use the postage-paid envelope to write him back with a few words of wisdom. I know he would benefit from hearing from you.

Thank you again for your gracious contributions. Your gift is inspiring the hope of a bright future to many of the young men and women at Rawhide.

Sincerely,  
Heather J. Stern, CFRE  
Chief Growth Officer

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent support of Faith in Place with your contribution of \$230.00 on December 10, 2023.

Your generous gift is allocated toward the unrestricted funding Faith in Place to provide a stable future and build a stronger foundation for expanding our positive impact.

Your donation allows Faith in Place to empower leaders of diverse faiths and spiritualities with resources to educate, connect and advocate for healthier communities. Our five program areas: Energy & Climate Change, Sustainable Food & Land Use, Water Preservation, Advocacy and Youth are made possible by supporters like you who are committed to environmental and racial justice.

You can read more about the impact of your gifts in our 2022 Annual Report: <https://www.faithinplace.org/impact>.

We are thankful for your generosity and look forward to keeping in touch. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how your generous contribution has made a significant positive impact. I'll reach out to you in the next few days to connect on the phone.

In gratitude,  
Rev. Brian Sauder  
President & CEO

Dear Friends,

With your generous \$275.00 on 12/19/23, you've taken a stand for science - I'm so grateful.

Your support for the Union of Concerned Scientists means that you are behind the worldwide effort to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the damage their products and lies have caused. You are powering the fight for science-based election reform in the U.S. And you are demanding dramatic action on climate change and nuclear weapons to keep us all safe.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our Membership Department at 800-666-8276 or [member@ucsusa.org](mailto:member@ucsusa.org).

Togedther we're working to build the better world we know is possible, with science. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Johanna Chao Kreilick, President



The nationally renowned University of Wisconsin Marching Band will be bringing its stage performance to the Fond du Lac High School Performing Arts Center on February 25th at 3:00PM!

Each year, the band travels, bringing their high energy, high-quality show to stages across Wisconsin. Not only will this be an amazing show, but it is also a fundraiser for our Band Boosters.

General Admission Tickets are available NOW!!

\$15 - Adults

\$10 - Students

Tickets can be purchased at [hometowntickets.com](http://hometowntickets.com). You won't want to miss this experience.



- 1 Randy Mittelstaedt
- 3 Ruth Willett  
Jake Zheng
- 5 Judie Behnke
- 6 Mikayla Schmid
- 7 Vicki Dietenberger
- 9 Kayden Keys
- 13 Bridget Keys  
Lily Mae LaLuzerne
- 14 Kathleen Dille
- 15 Barb Geiger
- 17 Kay Lynn Speidel
- 19 Bayard Frederick  
Julie Freund  
Mary Berens
- 22 Judy Muthig
- 24 Neal Sieglaff  
Donna Schellpfeffer
- 25 Luke Walter
- 26 Stuart Henderson
- 28 Dianne Bentley  
Hannah Wright



**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  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
Monday, January 15, 2024**

**Present:** Jim Bentley, Vice President, Pastor Rob Van Ess, Donna Jost, Treasurer, Wendy Ellison, Secretary, Avery Geiger, Patty Minter, Guests: Barb Roder, Diana Beck, Linda Stutz

Jim opened the meeting identifying we did not have a quorum of 6 Council members at the start of the meeting. No decisions can be voted on and made until a quorum is established.

Pastor Rob opened with a prayer and the meeting began at 6:10PM

**1. Green Team - Motion**

Barb Roder and Diana Beck made a motion for Council approval to raise funds of \$6000 to \$8000 for a natural landscape project as discussed at the December, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 council meeting.

Motion: Motion made by Jim Bentley, Seconded by Patty Minter. Motion tabled until quorum established. Council quorum established at 6:45 PM. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**2. Secretary Report:** December minutes reviewed. Acceptance Tabled until Quorum established.

Quorum established at 6:45 PM, with no questions or objections acceptance of report passed with unanimous consent.

**3. Treasurers Report:** Donna submitted and explained the Treasurers report. Wendy made a motion to accept the report, Patty Minter seconded the motion. Acceptance Tabled until quorum established. Quorum established at 6:45 PM, with no questions or objections acceptance passed with unanimous consent.

**4. Pastor's Report:** Report attached. There will be 5 Celebrations Sundays before Easter. It will be a potluck supper and sessions based on "A New Family Through Opening The Doors of the Sanctuary."

The Church, through the Lay Life Committee, will supply the meat and a sign up for other dishes to pass will be created. Patty Minter has agreed to assist in the endeavor and supply the meat through the Lay Life committee.

Looking at statistical records it is difficult counting "members". The Bylaws are not clear as to who are counted as 'members'. Stewardship Committee will be looking at what constitutes members and make recommendations to the council for the bylaws.

**5. Vice President's Report:** We are still searching for an Adult Education Coordinator. An individual has been interviewed and references are currently being checked.

**6. President's Report:** None

**7. Old Business:** The budget has not been finalized yet to present at the Congregational Meeting. The Stewardship Committee meets this week. Council will meet with them next Monday, January 22, at 6:00 PM to review and approve the budget so it is ready to present at the congregational meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**8. New Business:** Avery Geiger made a motion to move \$9000 from the Member's equity line into the Dedicated Building funds. Linda Stutz seconded the motion. With no objections the motion was passed with unanimous consent.

**9. Ministry/Committee Reports and updates (as needed)**

- Worship & Music – Linda Stutz (Council Rep.) Meeting canceled due to weather.

- Christian Education/Scrip – Karen Goodacre (Council Rep.) Report attached
- Property & Maintenance – Avery Geiger (Council Rep.) Report attached
- Lay Life & Leadership – Patty Minter (Council Rep.) They will take care of Easter Sunday coffee hour. She will also obtain more biodegradable beverage cups. Using ceramic coffee cups is too work/time consuming.
- Stewardship & Finance – Bayard Fredrick (Council Rep.) None
- Membership & Evangelism – Fran Schmid ( Council Rep.) Report attached
- Christian Outreach – Jill Barbeau (Council Rep.) None

#### **10. Committee Reports**

- Nominating Committee
- Ham Dinner
- Memorial Fund Committee
- Green Team Committee
- Wise Task Force
- Trust Fund Report

#### **11. Celebrations**

Jim facilitated the Council meeting for the first time successfully!

Brad Lenard will be joining the church on 1/28/2024, he has also joined the Audit committee.

#### **12. Information Sharing**

Please keep the Ring Family and Kilawee/Johnson family in your prayers as they go through some difficult times.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Ellison, Secretary

Next Council meeting:  
 Special meeting January, 22, 2024  
 6:00 PM  
 February, 20, 2024  
 6:00 PM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:00 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	5 4:30 Christian Ed 6:30 Pilgrim Book Club	6 PEO	7 9:30 Expanding Horizons 6:00 Confirmation Class	1	2 7:00 AL-ANON	3 Youth - Herd Game
11 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	12 4:00 Adult Ed	13 11:00 Membership 5:00 Property	14 9:30 Expanding Horizons 7:00 Ash Wednesday Svc <b>Feb. 14-20 Random Acts of Kindness Week</b>	15	16 6:00 FFN - Bowling for All 7:00 AL-ANON	17 11:00 - 3:00 Celebrate Community Fairgrounds
18 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	19 6:00 Council Meeting	20 Noon Christian Outreach PEO 1:00/2:30 Book Club	21 9:30 Expanding Horizons Lenten Service	22	23 7:00 AL-ANON	24 Noon - 6:00 Ebony Vision Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
25 9:00 Worship 10:15 Adult Ed 10:15 Sunday School 6:00 NA Mtg	26	27	28 9:30 Expanding Horizons 6:00 Confirmation Class Lenten Service	29		

**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