



# THE PILGRIM QUILL

FEBRUARY 2025

## Journeying With Jeannie

Dear Members and Friends,

The other day I was reading from the book of Luke and the following passage spoke to me:

"...she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them." Luke 7:38

This passage reminded me of an article I once read on the internet telling the story of a teacher who was teaching about the 7 wonders of the ancient world. It seems that after the lesson, the teacher wanted to stretch the lesson, so she asked the students to write down what they would consider to be the 7 wonders of the world. The notes that were turned in included items like the Great Pyramids of Egypt, or the Taj Mahal or the Grand Canyon. As the teacher was looking at her students notes she noticed that one child had not turned in her assignment.

She asked her student "Mary, are you having trouble with your list?" Mary quietly replied, "Yes, I can't decide, there are so many." Realizing that the girl had written something on the paper, the teacher persisted, "Well, just tell me what you have so far." Mary hesitated and then said, "I think the seven wonders of the world are to touch, to taste, to see, to hear, to run, to laugh and to love." The teacher was speechless.

Mary, in her innocence, had captured the true wonders of life – the wondrous gifts from God.

Mary's list is composed of common, everyday things that we take for granted. By labeling them wonders of the world we can gain greater appreciation for how extravagantly God has blessed us.

But, for me, today, one stands out, the wonder of touch. Touch is essential for us in order to be healthy. Research on animals found that animals deprived of touch develop serious behavioral and physical problems. Research studies also show that premature infants who are touched are healthier than those not touched. Diane Ackerman, an American poet, says, "In

the absence of touching and being touched, people of all ages can sicken and grow touch starved."

Jesus used touch to heal, although he didn't need to.

With his words he was able to make the afflicted well and the crippled whole. Even so, he included touch as part of his miracles:

- He touched the eyes of blind men and healed them
- Peter's mother-in-law was healed when Jesus touched her hand
- He touched the hand of a lifeless girl and raised her from the dead
- He put his fingers into the ears of a deaf man and healed his hearing

Touch in the most basic expression of love and touching creates a connection between the ones who are touched and the one who touches. So, it's no wonder that, when the sinful woman, while weeping and wiping Jesus' feet with her hair and kissing them, Jesus forgave her sins. A connection was made and Jesus knew her true heart.

We are called to be a people of love. If we're going to learn to love like Jesus loved, we need to learn to touch others as Jesus touched us. Jesus calls us to be people who are determined to touch people who need to be touched. As we face our daily routines, let us be on the lookout for those who need a touch, and as Jesus did, let us reach out and touch one another with the love of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeannie

### ACOLYTE

Some of you may not be familiar with this word. We use it to refer to someone who lights and extinguishes the altar candles at worship time. The meaning of the word is

"a person assisting the celebrant in a religious service". Historically speaking at Pilgrim, we use to have the children grades 3 and up through confirmation light the candles each Sunday September through May. Since COVID we have tried to have them acolyte the first Sunday of the month and the rest of the Sunday's the ushers do this part.

We, the worship ministry would love to have the children or adults be the acolytes for our service, even if this only is on the first Sunday of the month. It is a special part of the service as the acolyte brings the light into the service and then at the end, takes the light of Jesus out into the world.

Please let me know if you have children who would like to be a part of this or if you are an adult and would be able to do this part of the worship service. We will work towards having special acolytes for the first Sunday of the month and the other Sundays will be covered by our wonderful ushers. If we have lots of volunteers, we can expand what Sundays we do this.

Email me or call to let me know your availability

Linda Stutz

rlgp1964@att.net

920-539-2518

### Alternative Gift Fair Ministries

DIVERSE and RESILIENT (D&R) – was founded in 1995 as a program to build the capacity of LGBTQ groups in Wisconsin. D&R engages in advocacy and provides both capacity-building and direct-service work to address the health disparities experienced by LGBTQ people in Wisconsin.

Our Mission is to achieve health equity and improve the safety and well-being of LGBTQ people and communities in Wisconsin.

Our Vision at Diverse & Resilient, is to see a future in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in Wisconsin thrive, living healthy, satisfying lives in safe, supportive communities.

Our Name serves as reminder that LGBTQ people are everywhere, engage in interesting and meaningful lives, and contribute to the welfare of each other and the broader community.

Our long-term objective is to eliminate health disparities between LGBTQ people and the general population, as measured by commonly accepted indicators of physical and mental health. These health disparities occur in four areas:

Mental Health

Sexual Health

Partner & Community Violence

Substance Use

The key social determinant of these health disparities is anti-LGBTQ discrimination. To that end, our work also includes efforts to increase acceptance, end discrimination, and build leadership skills and confidence among LGBTQ people.

This charity's score is 96% on Charity Navigator.

### Contact Information

[WWW.DIVERSEANDRESILIENT.ORG](http://WWW.DIVERSEANDRESILIENT.ORG)

2439 N HOLTON ST

Milwaukee WI 53212-2934

414-390-0444

## New Opportunity Center offers a lifeline to Fond du Lac's most vulnerable

ADVOCAP has recently launched The Opportunity Center, a vital resource for low-income individuals in Fond du Lac. Open since mid-November, the Center has already assisted over 100 people, seeing around 30 people per day on average. It addresses immediate needs while fostering long-term pathways out of poverty, empowering individuals to achieve stability and independence.

The Opportunity Center provides comprehensive support services tailored to help individuals overcome barriers. These include:

- **Basic Needs:** Connections to FoodShare, medical insurance, and phone and email registration.
- **Shelter Assistance:** Support in finding temporary shelter for those at risk of legal issues when sleeping in public spaces.
- **Employment:** Resume building, job search, interview prep, and skill development for economic stability.
- **Mental Health:** Access to services addressing mental health, trauma, and substance use disorder.

### How You Can Help?

The Center's work relies on private donors, but growing demand necessitates additional community support. Ways to contribute include:

1. **Donate Items:** Organize drives or drop off items from ADVOCAP's specific needs list.
2. **Financial Contributions:** Enable personalized assistance with monetary gifts or gift cards (Amazon, Walmart).
3. **Volunteer:** Support operations at the Center, from restocking items to front desk registration.
4. **Donate Meals:** Help provide breakfast and lunch for individuals in the Center. The CSA JPIC Office has created this spreadsheet for volunteers to sign up for at least once weekly lunch items.
5. **Spread Awareness:** Share ADVOCAP's mission widely with your connections
6. **Attend the Open House:** Join on January 28 from 4:00–6:00 PM to meet staff, tour the Center, and learn more about ADVOCAP's impact.

For more information on how to support the Opportunity Center, please reach out to Brenda Hull at ADVOCAP: [Brenda.hull@advocap.org](mailto:Brenda.hull@advocap.org) or 920-957-0295 (cell). Together, we can work to eliminate barriers and empower individuals to achieve stability and independence, allowing them to pursue the dignified life they deserve.

Thank you!

Uniting Hearts for Justice,

Tracy Ablar  
 (she/her/hers)  
 Office of Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Coordinator  
 Certified Laudato Si' Animator  
 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA)  
 320 County Road K  
 Fond du Lac WI 54937  
 \* [tabler@csasisters.org](mailto:tabler@csasisters.org) | ( Direct: 920.907.2315



## Adult Education Opportunities ADULT FORUM

Sunday mornings from 10:15AM to 11:15AM in the lounge. There will be a few minutes to chat after Worship before the program begins promptly at 10:15AM. For those who prefer to join from home, the link for the programs will be the same throughout the semester. To join the Zoom Meeting the link is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NkICTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)

[pwd=NkICTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NkICTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)

### February 2 Coffee Fellowship



### February 9

#### The Klu Klux Klan Yesterday and Today (Part 1)

**Leader: Dr. Michael Jacobs – History Professor U.W. Platteville**

Join Dr. Jacobs as he discusses the circumstances surrounding the formation and rise of the Klu Klux Klan in the United States.

### February 16

#### The Klu Klux Klan Yesterday and Today (Pt 2)

**Leader: Dr. Michael Jacobs – History Professor U.W. Platteville**

Dr. Jacobs continues his discussion of the Klu Klux Klan and its role in the United States today, especially in light of Christian Nationalism.

### February 23

#### The Work of Ebony Vision and Importance of Juneteenth

**Leader: Antonio Godfrey – Vice-President Ebony Vision Fond du Lac**

Mr. Godfrey will share the inner workings of Ebony Vision and their goal to create a more inclusive community as well discussing the importance of the Juneteenth celebration.

## EXPANDING HORIZONS



**Monday Afternoons 1:00PM-2:30PM in the lounge. To join from home via Zoom the link is:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NkICTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)  
[pwd=NkICTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NkICTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)

### February 3

#### Be Like Jesus- Live Like Jesus

**Leader: Mary Ann Otto Co-Producer/ President BJLLJ INC.**

In the final session of the three-part series, we will continue to explore creating a more loving and peaceful world by becoming more Christ-like through the series sessions Be Inclusive and Be Vulnerable.

### February 10

#### Great Course Lecture Video Series-The Lives of Great Christians

**Leader: Linda Stutz**

Linda will present two lectures with time for discussion. Hear about the Monks of Mount Athos and Defining the Christian Life.

### February 17

#### The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Part 1)

**Leader: Neal Sieglaff**

Neal will introduce us to the book and the authors' perspective on what the "Gospels really teach about Jesus' final days in Jerusalem." Taking the last week day by day, the authors give us a detailed insights The session will explore Monday through Thursday with time for discussion.

### February 24

#### The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Part 2)

**Leader: Neal Sieglaff**

Helping us to prepare for Lent, (Ash Wednesday, March 5th) Neal will continue to share the authors theory of Jesus' final days in Jerusalem – Friday through Sunday. This includes time for reflection.



### For the Calendar

February 2 - Blood Pressure Sunday  
 February 7 – Wear Red for Women’s Heart Health Day  
 Feb 11 at 11:00 - Membership and Evangelism Meeting  
 Feb 15 - Celebrate CommUNITY

### February is Heart Month – know your Blood Pressure

A blood pressure reading is a measurement of how hard your heart is working to pump blood through your insides! It’s quick, easy and painless. Check in with Doug Baltz on February 2nd after the Annual Meeting in the room across from the Office - and feel good that you are taking control of your health!

### Mind-Body-Spirit

Any change – good, unexpected, long awaited, devastating, worrisome, anticipated...effects our emotions, our physical processes, and how we look to God and at our connection to the world. Uncertainty and trust sometimes feel on opposite ends any change. We need to focus on ourselves and families first; creating healthy habits that become second nature.

Healthy dietary patterns - not total diet restrictions

Movement and stretches – not mindless internet scrolling

Gather, listen, support and laugh – remember Third Places!

Sleep is a priority – alcohol is not

Slow deep breaths -

Winter is not over, but the day light hours are getting longer. Just as in nature, change will happen. In the midst, please work to make healthy choices the easy choices.

A personal **Breath Prayer** combines 2 essentials: a conversation with God and breathing. An example is:  
 (Inhale) God of all creation, (Exhale) fill me now with your peace. (Inhale) God of all creation, (Exhale) fill me with your love. (Inhale) God of all creation, (Exhale) guide me in your desires. (Inhale) God of all creation, (Exhale) grant me the courage to do your will. Amen.

### Wear Red for Women’s Heart Health Friday, February 7th

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women. Wear RED to be seen, to be counted, to be heard, and to make an

impact. Women at every age, stage and season of life need to be aware of cardiovascular disease. Women have many important roles in their world, and heart care is too important to be taken for granted!

We talk about and test for Cholesterol levels in the blood when considering heart/cardiac care. The body (the liver) makes 75% of the cholesterol that’s needed, and the rest comes from diet. Some people make more cholesterol than is needed. And if there is too much cholesterol in the blood, it can collect inside the arteries; creating a layer of plaque buildup – thus narrowing the vessels themselves. If the plaque becomes unstable and breaks apart, it can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Cholesterol medications work to decrease the amount of cholesterol the body makes and can help people who can’t bring their cholesterol into a normal range by changing what they eat and getting more physical activity. They also help to stabilize that plaque that is already there.

A healthcare provider will look at an individuals’ risk of heart and blood vessel disease when deciding to recommend a cholesterol medication. Having diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol and using tobacco products are all risk factors for heart disease. Historically, women have been less likely to be treated for having high cholesterol levels, but that is changing. Awareness and communication are key!

## WISE Wisdom Corner



### Individual Actions to Reduce Stigma

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers some suggestions about what we can do as individuals to help reduce the stigma of mental illness:

Talk openly about mental health, such as sharing on social media.

Educate yourself and others-remind people that words matter.

Encourage equality between physical and mental illness-draw comparisons to how they would treat someone with cancer or diabetes.

Show compassion for those with mental illness.

Be honest about treatment—normalize mental health treatment, just like other health care treatment.

Let the media know when they are using stigmatizing language presenting stories of mental illness in a stigmatizing way.

Chose empowerment over shame—"I fight stigma by choosing to live an empowered life. To me, that means owning my life and my story and refusing to allow others to dictate how I feel about myself." - Val Fletcher.

Barb Geiger

### Celebrate CommUNITY

It's not too late to sign up to help represent Pilgrim Church at Celebrate CommUNITY on February 15th at the Fairgrounds Expo Building. Check out the poster in the Narthex. We will be highlighting out ONA designation and support of Café Q. (Even if you are not able to be at Pilgrim's table, please plan to attend the celebration – it is amazing!)

January 20, 2025

Dear Pilgrim Church Council and my Beloved Church Family,

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this letter. After many years of being Pilgrim's Sunday School Director, the time has come in my life where I need to step down from this position that I have loved so much. As many of you may already know, I have been on a medical leave since early October.

What a pleasure it has been to serve for many years in this capacity. The love I have for not only the children, youth, and their families, but for my entire church family who has always stepped up to be supportive of our Sunday school program is immeasurable.

Please know I have appreciated the many people who have served alongside me on the CE ministry over the years. The fun and laughter have made our hard work easier. You all hold a special place in my heart. I'd like to think my work with the CE ministry is not totally ending but will just be different going forward. My resignation is effective February 10, 2025. Please understand I am willing to help in any way possible for this transition to go forward as smoothly as possible.

With Much Thanks and Blessings,  
Karen Goodacre

### **Great Start to a New Year! Pilgrim Church Helps Neighbors Around the World Through KIVA!**

Members of the Outreach Ministry have given four loans to people in Tajikistan, Fiji, and Palestine through KIVA. 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 \$600 was money that was repaid on other loans Pilgrim has given.

Two women from Tajikistan were chosen to receive loans. The average annual income (USD) is \$2,700. Bunafsha is 33 years old. She lives with her husband and four children. Bunafsha works as a seamstress. She is unable to buy school uniforms for her children. In an effort to keep her children in school she asked for a loan. We can all certainly understand the desire she has to have her children educated.

Marifat also lives in Tajikistan. She is an active and energetic woman with a strong character. She is 21 years old, single and lives with her parents. For three years she has been working in the farming sphere. She has four hectares of land where she grows carrots, onions and potatoes. Her mother is ill and needs hospitalization. Marifat is asking for a loan to buy medicine and pay for her mother's medical costs.

Ulamila lives in Fiji where the average annual income (USD) is \$4,900. Ulamila has been running a prepared meals canteen to support her family of five. She seeks a loan to buy more ingredients and containers and expand her output of home cooked dishes and snacks. She will prepare more of these ready-to-eat meals at home, and deliver them to a local food stall. She is confident she will be able to earn enough to cover her children's school costs.

Ebrahim lives in West Bank, Palestine. He is 58 years old and married. He is an enthusiastic and active man, full of hope and energy. He is a hard worker, serving his family by facing life's challenges. He wants to enhance his family's living standards. He is requesting a loan to buy a solar system for his house to reduce the use of electricity and get hot water.

As we begin a New Year, we can be grateful that we have the opportunity to help others around the world. KIVA allows us not only to help but to begin to understand the problems others face. If you would like to learn more about KIVA see their website [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org) or talk to Peg Bradley or any member of the Outreach Ministry.

### **New Opportunity Center offers a lifeline to Fond du Lac's most vulnerable**

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The Opportunity Center provides comprehensive support services tailored to help individuals overcome barriers.

These include:

- **Basic Needs:** Connections to FoodShare, medical insurance, and phone and email registration.
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- **Mental Health:** Access to services addressing mental health, trauma, and substance use disorder.

#### **How You Can Help?**

The Center's work relies on private donors, but growing demand necessitates additional community support.

Ways to contribute include:

1. **Donate Items:** Organize drives or drop off items from ADVOCAP's specific needs list.
2. **Financial Contributions:** Enable personalized assistance with monetary gifts or gift cards (Amazon, Walmart).
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5. **Spread Awareness:** Share ADVOCAP's mission widely with your connections
6. **Attend the Open House:** Join on January 28 from 4:00–6:00 PM to meet staff, tour the Center, and learn more about ADVOCAP's impact.

### **Search Committee**

Your search committee has been working on the church profile and expect to have it ready to be published this month. Once reviewed by our conference staff member, it will go live on the UCC website for ministers interested in new callings.

Once we receive submittals, the next step will be to meet with Rev. Jane Andersen again. She will instruct us on how the review process is accomplished and what to look for.

Thank you all for your support and confidence in us as we continue forward.

On a side note, the committee lost one member this month when Wendy needed to step down. Since this will give the committee an odd number of members, we recommended the position not be filled at this time.

#### **Search Committee**

Neal Sieglaff	Chris Frederick
Bradley Leonhard	Barb Roder
Tina Potter	Steven Witichowski
Lucia Golla	
By Neal Sieglaff	

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Neal Sieglaff  
 WEB guy  
 Pilgrimuccfdl.org  
 neal.sieglaff@pilgrimuccfdl.org

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### **Regarding Used Eye Glasses**

Drop off boxes for used eyeglasses may be found at the National Exchange Bank, 104 S. Main St., the Fond du Lac Senior Center, 151 E. First St., SSM Eye Department on Camelot Drive and Shopko Optical Center, 616 W. Johnson St. The Evening Lions Club thanks you!





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



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Ushers for February	
Date	9:00 Service
February 2	Bill & Patti Burns
February 9	Max Hoyer & Lucia Golla
February 16	Avery & Barb Geiger
February 23	Steve & Rachel Wicichowski

Welcomers for February	
Date	9:00 Service
February 2	Wendy Ellison
February 9	Bob & Jane Flaherty
February 16	Avery Geiger
February 23	Ron McCreedy

Worship Leaders for February	
Date	9:00 Service
February 2	Sue Kaiser
February 9	Noreen Henderson
February 16	Jue Schmitz
February 23	

The St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you sincerely for your valued gift we received in November. May the Lord bless you, as you have blessed his poor.

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Dear Pilgrim Church,  
Thank you 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.

Grace and Peace,  
James Pennington  
Executive Director

Dear Pilgrim Church,  
On behalf of all of us at NAMI Fond du Lac County, we want to thank you for your generous donation. Your donation will help us in reaching out to family members and friends of persons with mental illness with valuable programs, and to our community with opportunities for awareness on mental health issues.

Respectfully,  
Sue Mitchell Metz  
Executive Coordinator

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Thank you to all of the people who brought their own reusable place setting to the Welcome Back Potluck Brunch. We noticed.

The next time you are in the church, stop and read the information displayed in the narthex on recycling soft plastics. These are the plastics you can put in the recycling containers at the entrance to grocery and department stores. There is a handout you can take home to identify what can go in these bins.

--  
Barbara Roder  
cell: 920 251 1484

## PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 20, 2025

**Present:** Patti Burns, Jim Bentley, Jill Barbeau, Donna Jost, Avery Geiger, Patty Minter, Linda Stutz, Fran Schmid, Pastor Jeannie, Wendy Ellison, Dixie Sullivan, Steve Wicichowski, Ron McCreedy

Patti Burns acknowledged a quorum was present at 6:15 PM. Pastor Jeannie opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** December meeting minutes had some corrections which were formalized in the final draft. Request made to add an addendum to the December minutes regarding end of year Trust Fund Allocations. This will be added. December minutes approved by Unanimous Consent.

**Treasurer's Report: Attached.** SCRIP amount of \$8000 added to the General Funds. \$1000 from the Trust fund monies of \$1000 was placed in the dedicated Hand Bell maintenance account. Information regarding having an accounting group take over payroll for the church was shared. Donna will continue to work on getting more estimates.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jeanie shared the Pastor's report for December 17, 2023 – January 16, 2025. It was a very busy month.

**President's Report:** Patti Burns wanted to thank everyone for their support during her time as the Council President. The Annual Meeting for the church will be February 2, 2025 after service. She will get an agenda together and get it sent out. She also wants to include members from the ONA, Wise, and Green Team groups to give a synopsis as to what they have accomplished over the past year.

**Vice President's Report:** Jim shared with the council, by request, a letter which he received from Karen Goodacre. She has tendered her resignation as Sunday School Director due to health issues, effective February 10, 2025.

**OLD BUSINESS:** New phones had been ordered through Amazon however never were never delivered. Amazon was contacted and credited the monies back to the church. Neal will continue to work with the administrative assistant and purchase new phones. Neal will continue to work on getting the new computer for the finance committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Avery has set up an Amazon Business account so we can order items tax exempt. He will add Vicki (Administrative Assistant) to the account.

Funeral refreshments: Linda reported that Mary Hobbs has volunteered to be the coordinator for funeral refreshments.

Memorial Garden: Fran has free tickets for a garden show that she is willing to share with anyone who is interested in attending from those interested in the Memorial Garden which was purposed by Gary Ring. Interested parties are Lynn Zwerg, Peg Bradley, and Gary Ring. She will reach out to them. There are mixed feelings in the congregation as to having a memorial garden and no established group is currently interested in working on this project. There is a lot of ground work which would need to be completed before a plan can be developed. Gary and those interested need to work on those issues ie: zoning, legal issues etc.

- **Property and Maintenance-** Avery Geiger (Council Rep) Report attached. Fire and Rescue Department inspections were completed. There was one violation- the SW emergency exit light was not functioning. Replacing batteries corrected the issue. The kitchen door and janitor room key boxes have been changed. FYI. Harter's empties waste containers every four weeks. 2025 schedule is 1/20, 2/17, 3/17,4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7/7, 8/4,9/28, 10/27,11/24,12/22.
- **Stewardship and Finance-** Ron McCreedy (Council Rep) Review of Monthly Financial Statement:
  1. Income received to date was below targeted budgeted amount.  
Average monthly income needed to meet budgeted expenses \$18,654. Sunday offerings and Pledges – Average Monthly or 1/12th of the budget: \$16,021; Other income Fall Fest, SCRIP, Rummage Sale average 1/12th of the budget: \$2633
  2. Stewardship Drive for 2025 Budget: Theme was "Imagine Together what we can do together". There were only 57 Pledges received
  3. **3.Stewardship & Finance** reviewed the 2025 budget requests on December 11 and received church council approval on January 13, 2025.
  4. There were 60 Pledging Units for the 2025 budget. Total amount Pledged was \$159,906.04
- **Christian Outreach-** Jill Barbeau (Council Rep) Minutes attached. February they will be looking in to Cafe Q. Pastor Jeannie will

be talking with Sue Kaiser to get more information. March we will be helping Blandine House, and April will be the Fondy Food Pantry.

- **Lay Life-** Patty Minter (Council Rep) Due to low attendance Diners Club will not meet the rest of winter. She will announce when it will resume.
- **Membership & Evangelism-** Fran Schmid (Council Rep) Fran presented the list of church members who are on the inactive list (45) as well as those that wish to be removed from the Membership Roles (16). The number of active members is 186. Total number of members Active and Inactive total 233.
- With Unanimous consent the list was approved. If a member remains inactive for 1 year they will be removed from the roles. M&E will continue to gather the information for the membership lists.
- Fran also submitted a request for up to \$1500 to purchase some screen printing of our new logo on white canvas bags which will include the church web address on them as well. These bags will be available at community events specifically for outreach and evangelism. Patti made a motion that up to \$1500 from the trust fund allocations be give to M&E to purchase the screen printing on the canvas bags, Wendy seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous consent.
- **Worship Ministry** – Steve Wicowski (Council Rep) Meeting minutes attached. Pastor Jeannie shared that Pastor Stepp from Church of Peace has reached out to develop a shared Lenten Wednesday evening service schedule with four UCC area churches. Pastor Jeannie would like this brought to the council, seeking their support of this idea. More details to follow. Discussion was held regarding our past participation in this. We spoke of the possible idea of us hosting a soup supper prior to the service on the night we are to host the service. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services will continue to be held at Pilgrim. (The council agreed to take part in the services and Lay Life will host a soup supper)
- Praise Worship Music: ideas regarding the 5th Sundays in '25 being praise music Sundays. March 30th, June 29th, August 31, and November30th are the dates. Linda will be reaching out to Paul Thelan to see of his availability with his music team. Chris Deaner-Rogers will be reach out to someone Wendy suggested in the Oshkosh area who does praise music to see of her availability and cost. Chris also continues to explore pulling together some church members for some praise music for those worship services.
- Discussion was held regarding May 19 being a Sunday when Zach is not available to lead the choir so the choir's last performance will be May 4th. Linda will speak with Chris about ideas for special music on May 19th. Discussion was held regarding recognition Sunday and Pastor Jeannie will discuss this with the Christian Education ministry if all recognition will occur on May 4th or if just the choir and their leadership will be recognized that date.
- **Christian Education** : Dixie Sullivan (Council Rep) Minutes attached.  
The committee welcomed Joy Behrens as well as Gary Ring to CE ministry.  
There was no meeting in January.  
Sunday School has returned to a typical lesson schedule after having off several Sundays due to the Holiday season and special events.  
It was decided in December by the youth to split the Birthday Bank proceeds with the St. Katherine Drexel Homeless shelter and Rosenow School.  
February 2 will be the next Inter-generational Family Fun night. We will be going bowling from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM at Ledgeview Lanes. More details to come.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Scrip

Ham Dinner

Trust Fund

Nominating Committee:

Memorial Fund

Adult Education

Green Team

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at **7:45 pm**.

Respectfully submitted:

Wendy Ellison, Council Secretary

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **February 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM**.



# February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship 10:00 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00 Sunday School Blood Pressure Sunday 10:00 Coffee Hour	3 1:00 Expanding Horizons 4:30 Christian Ed	4	5	6 7:00pm Choir	7 Women's Heart Health Day—Wear Red	8
9 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed	10 10:00 COP 1:00 Expanding Horizons	11 11:00 Membership & Evangelism Meeting	12	13 7:00pm Choir	14	15 Celebrate COMMUNITY
16 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed	17 1:00 Expanding Horizons 6:00 Council Meeting	18 9:30 PEO 1:00 Book Club 1:00	19	20 7:00pm Choir	21	22
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 10:15 Adult Ed	24 1:00 Expanding Horizons 4:00 Green Team- Guild room	25	26	27 7:00pm Choir	28	

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ**  
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## The Pilgrim Quill

### 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

Pastor ..... Rev. Jeannie Douglas  
Administrative Assistant..... Vicki Humbert  
Parish Nurse .....Sue Schmitz  
Sunday School Coordinator ..... Karen Goodacre  
Youth Coordinator .....  
Interim Adult Education Coordinator ..... Mary Ann Otto  
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

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.