



THE PILGRIM QUILL

OCTOBER
2025

Journeying With Jeannie
Journeying With Jeannie

"You shall love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and the second is like it: Love you neighbor as yourself. Everything in the law and the prophets hangs on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

This last Friday, I had the privilege of marrying Max and Lucia. It was a wonderful service and when I spoke to Max and Lucia, I spoke about love. For them I spoke about "love in marriage", but to you, today, I want to tell you about "love in commitments." So here goes:

I have heard it said that imitation is the highest form of flattery. I am sure you have all seen your own children or your grandchildren imitate you or someone else. Lots of times we see it in church when we pull out our hymnal to sing and the child beside us does the same. The hymnal may be upside down and on the wrong page, but that child is imitating those they care about and respect. They are learning one little part of what it is to worship together. Learning by imitation.

I have seen, lately, people who have learned by imitation. Those who say "He has his Mother's sense of humor" or "She's a storyteller, like her Father." At some point in our lives, all of us have someone who imitates us. So how do we pass on the good in us rather than the bad?

God understands, better than we realize, we need to learn by imitation, by doing, by practicing. It is one of the first ways we learn and develop as youngsters and on into adulthood. That is why God has given us so many opportunities, and methods of learning and passing these lessons on to others.

One of the biggest opportunities God has given us, is learning the lessons of those who have gone before us. Not only do we learn from the stories that were passed down through the Bible, the stories of the Old Testament, but we especially learn by the things that Jesus said and did. Jesus not only talked the talk, he walked the walk. He was an example to those around him and to future generations of how we might live

out a Godly life.

The Old Testament gives us the Ten Commandments, which we understand are laws given to us to follow. But Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is that *"You shall love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and the second is like it: Love you neighbor as yourself. Everything in the law and the prophets hangs on these two commandments."* (Matthew 22:37-40)

"You shall...love." These days, the word "love" is greatly abused. It is important to remember that the primary component of biblical love is not affection, but commitment. To love, as we are commanded in the Bible, is much deeper than whether we have warm feelings of gratitude or affection towards God. To love is to seek well-being for the other, even if you find that person intolerable or completely unlikable. Love does not overlook wrong or injustice.

Such love—deep commitment, an unwavering bond—this is the love of our Creator for us, and it is the way we are called to imitate, to practice, to live and learn together and apart. Christ empowers us to live out of his love for us. And as we live out that love, we can see others who want to imitate this love God has given to us.

So don't be surprised, as you continue to be faithful followers of Christ, when the ones whom you have shown love to, start to imitate you. When your grandchild chooses to come to church on their own, or that kid who once cried through service, wants to be Joseph in the Christmas play. All these type of acts, these imitations, are signs of flattery toward you and your love of God.

May God's love continue to give us insight to how we are to live out a Godly life worth imitating.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jeannie

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY ANN
PILGRIM’S ADULT EDUCATION
COORDINATOR

The adult education team is very pleased to share some exciting news with you. Our Coordinator, Mary Ann Otto, is being honored by the International Catholic Stewardship Council. We know you will enjoy reading about her accomplishments and years of dedication to the Catholic Church. We are blessed to have her as part of our church family.

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AWARD BIO

Mary Ann Otto is the 2025 recipient of the Saint Joseph Stewardship Award for Distinguished Service presented by the board of the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC). The award will be presented during ICSC’s 63rd annual conference to be held September 21 to 24 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL

Mary Ann spent thirty-five years in parish and diocesan positions before retiring from full time ministry in 2022. Holding a Masters Degree in Theological Studies, she acted as the Director of Faith Formation for all ages in a variety of parish settings.

Invited to serve as the Stewardship and Special Projects Director for the Diocese of Green Bay, Mary Ann spent nine years working with parish teams to develop practical plans based on the spirituality of stewardship. During this time, she developed two resources including a small group series entitled *Be Not Afraid* and a parish stewardship team retreat named *Light the Fire*.

Mary Ann connected with the ICSC as a diocesan director and served on its board of directors for six years as well as on its executive committee offering many presentations at its annual conferences. She has also presented nationally as well as making three trips to the Philippines to work with diocesan and parish teams promoting the spirituality and best

practices of stewardship. Returning to parish ministry and serving as the Evangelization and Discipleship Director at St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes in Appleton, WI., she worked with a Spirit-filled discipleship team. They were inspired by Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation-*Joy of the Gospel* and created a professional small group video series called *Be Like Jesus Live Like Jesus* which has an international presence. Mary Ann currently serves as the author, co-producer and president of Be Like Jesus – Live Like Jesus, INC. She also continues to offer workshops for diocesan and parish teams promoting Gallup StrengthsFinder, evangelization and discipleship. Mary Ann is an Associate Member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and she and her husband Jeff are blessed with five children and nine grandchildren.

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ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome back Sunday & Monday participants!

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?pwd=NklCT0ZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09>

OCTOBER 5 - COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

October 12

Running to Stand Still: Migrants Search for Hope in the Promised Land – A Documentary

Leader: Linda Stutz

Such an important topic for today! After viewing the film, Linda will lead a discussion which focuses on the humanity of who these immigrants are and their hopes for a safe life.

October 19

Asylum and the Changing Face of Migration

Leader: Kat Griffith –

Let's look at the facts! Fond du Lac County Supervisor and Expert Speaker on Immigration, Kat will focus on data and experiences concerning the southern border, asylum seekers, ICE, etc.

October 26

Cognitive Apocalypse – Developing Critical Thinking Skills in the Age of Misinformation by

Gerald Bronner

Leader: Ben Blanc

Definitely a skill we need! So much free time and information at our fingertips. Ben will share Bronner's tips for developing critical thinking skills to address misinformation.

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?pwd=NklCT0ZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09>

October 6

The Power of Forgiveness by Martin Doblmeier

Leader: Linda Stutz

Let's reflect on the power of forgiveness. Linda will share insights from the video which includes Elie Weisel and Tich Nhat Hahn and describes how forgiveness can transform our lives.

October 13

How to End Christian Nationalism by

Amanda Tyler

Leaders: Peg Bradley and Debbie Wolf

Can knowing empower us? Join the team as we learn about Christian Nationalism. Part 1 will deal with understanding the problem and our responsibility.

October 20

How to End Christian Nationalism by

Amanda Tyler

Leaders: Peg Bradley and Debbie Wolf

The team will continue the discussion of Christian Nationalism. Part 2 will offer suggestions to respond how we can...where we can.

October 27

The Making of a Saint: Blessed Solanus Casey

Leader: Mary Ann Otto

Ordinary people living extraordinary lives. Mary Ann will present the steps taken to becoming an official saint and describe the life of one of our newest home-grown saints in the making.



October is National Apple Month

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were told not to eat the “fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil”. There aren’t any texts – anywhere - that say the fruit was an apple, and apples were unknown in the Near East when the Bible was written. Early artists added an apple to their paintings...and so it began. This month, enjoy the taste, smell, good-for-you crunchy deliciousness of fresh apples - without guilt.

October Blood Pressures

A blood pressure reading is an easy way to gauge how hard your heart is working to pump blood through your insides. Barb Geiger will be available after the worship service on October 5th to take blood pressures in the room across from the Office.

Medicare Open Enrollment - October 15-December 7th

Every year there are changes to Medicare benefits and supplements, and the yearly opportunity to make any changes is October 15 - December 7.

If you have questions, the Elder Benefit Specialist through FDL Co. Senior Services may be reached at 920-929-3521 and the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center Specialist at 920-929-3466. These people are the go-to people for current, accurate, non-advertisement information about Medicare and types of supplements. They do not sell anything - they educate about options.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

For the record...A person does not have to have a family history to get breast cancer. And caffeine, deodorants, implants, microwaves, or cell phone overuse do not cause breast cancer.

Cancer is defined as “an uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells”. The abnormal cells form a “glob” of cells - and sometimes pieces break off and travel to other areas of the body to form new “globs”. Routine Mammograms continue to be the gold standard test for early detection. The general recommendation for screening is yearly between 45-54 years old and then every 1-2 years after the age of 55. This is a conversation to be had with a Primary Care Provider as personal factors such as family history, breast density, history of chest radiation, a history of breast cancer, and/or hormonal therapy, may change the recommended frequency of testing. Breast Cancer deaths have been declining since 1989. Regular screening, early detection

and better treatments are being attributed to this (wonderful) fact.

October is National Healthy Lung Month

As the earth prepares for winter, environmental pollen, dust and molds are all increasing. Allergy symptoms can trigger asthma attacks as well as increased sinus and chest congestion. According to the American Lung Association, if someone is using their rescue inhaler more than 3X/week, their asthma is not well controlled and they should be talking with their Primary Provider. Please be reminded that if you can smell it, it’s already in your lungs. Stronger scents like perfumes, candles, room “fresheners”, dryer sheets, cigarette smoke, and cleaning product smells can trigger lung “spasms” in some people. As you move indoors and gather in closed spaces, be aware of this possible sensitivity.

Sharing

By the time you read this, we will have heard about updated vaccine recommendations from the CDC, and pharmacies/hospitals/clinics will have some direction. (In the past, these recommendations came out during the spring or summer, but there have been delays due to multiple changes in the advisory committee) There’s been more conflicting reports about vaccines, and I’m concerned about the health of everyone - especially the vulnerable - during this cold and virus season. For the record, I think everyone should be able to get vaccines, and tho pro-vaccine, I respect each persons’ right to their own decision. Two facts I want you to remember: Viruses can be passed to other people before symptoms start. (an incubation period) and the vulnerable generally don’t get sick from other vulnerable people - they get sick from otherwise healthy people who have not been vaccinated or don’t take precautions. The number of upper respiratory viral illnesses is already increasing in Fond du Lac - mainly covid and general “colds”. Please take care of yourself and those around you!

Share your knowledge, share your positive attitude, share your time, share your beliefs, share your lunch, but don’t share your germs! Check out the bulletin board for more information.

WISE WISDOM

10 Ways to Practice Self-Care as an act of Kindness to yourself.

It is very easy to feel mentally exhausted in today's world. We push ourselves from sunup to sun down with various commitments and beliefs that things in our life need to be done a certain way. When we begin to ignore our own self-care we can fall prey to burnout, nervous exhaustion, physical and mental health issues and substance abuse. We need to show ourselves the same kindness that we would show to others in our lives. Studies suggest that practicing self-care can boost happiness, enhance productivity and foster emotional health. It can also reduce the risk of chronic health conditions.

Self care does not have to be expensive or complicated, here are 10 simple ways you can practice kindness and self care for yourself.

Create affirmation cards, write positive statements and place them around your living space. Carry them in your purse or pocket so you can pull them out while you are waiting for something and read a positive thought to yourself.

Connect with a friend, call or write someone who you may not have spoken to for awhile. It is great to send and receive mail from a friend. Don't isolate, spend time in community with others.

Create a mood boosting playlist, music can deeply impact your emotional state. The right tunes can lift your spirit instantly.

Join a community group, if you are seeking connection and can't get out as much as you would like, think about joining an on line group, such as a book club, gardening group, on line yoga or mindfulness group.

Journal your thoughts and experiences, writing down our thoughts and feelings can assist us in processing them and letting them go.

Schedule yourself a "nothing" day, sometimes we need to give ourselves permission to do nothing. It is okay to have a day where we relax, refresh both mentally and physically

Spend time outdoors, time outdoors reduces the risks of depression and can boost our serotonin levels and Vitamin D.

Start a new book, put the technology down and begin reading a new book. If concentration is a struggle, choose a book like Chicken Soup for the Soul where a story may only be 2-3 pages. Give yourself permission to read small amounts at a time.

Meditate, incorporating meditation into your daily routine can bring you peace, calm and balance.

Remember that Self-care is not a one time event, but a continuous practice that we all benefit from. If it doesn't work today, try again tomorrow because **YOU ARE WORTH IT**

Pilgrim

Children and Youth ministry

Youth Group

We're excited to launch a new season of Junior and Senior Youth Group! The first Senior Youth Group gathering will take place on Sunday, October 5th after church service. Youth will get to make pancakes and get to know the fellow youth in the program.

To stay in the loop about upcoming Youth Group events and to register, please fill out [this form](#). We can't wait to see you there!

Intergenerational Fellowship Nights

We are looking forward to a night of fellowship at the Nature of Light exhibit at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh. If you are registered for this event, please keep an eye on your email or on the youth bulletin board for the details of our outing. If you have not signed up but would still like to attend, check with Michael to see if there are any extra tickets available.

Confirmation Class

We are excited to invite your 7th or 8th grade students to participate in our upcoming Confirmation Class, led by Pastor Jeannie. This is a meaningful journey of faith, learning, and fellowship that will prepare students to affirm their participation in the United Church of Christ and take an active role in our church community.

Class Details:

When: Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday evening (exact time to be announced)

Dates: October 2025 – May 2026

Dinner: Provided each week during class

Leader: Pastor Jeannie

Special Activities: Multiple engaging field trips to enrich learning and community connections

Please note: **Confirmation will not be offered again until the 2027/2028 school year**, so we encourage your student to take advantage of this opportunity now.

More information, including a finalized schedule and time, will be shared soon. In the meantime, please fill out [the form linked here](#) to register and please reach out with any questions you may have.

PILGRIM UCC ANNUAL HAM DINNER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

4:00PM-6:30PM

TAKE OUT ONLY

The success of an event depends on everyone involved. There are many ways to help with the ham dinner.

Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex listing all the areas helpers will be needed; there will also be a sheet listing items that will need to be donated. You can sign-up on the sheets in the narthex or call the church office and ask Amy to put your name down on what area you can help with; you can also send an email to the office indicating what you want to sign up for, the address is pilgrim.info@pilgrimuccfdl.org.

The ham dinner is an important fundraiser for the church to help us make our annual budget. If you have questions about how you can help, please don't hesitate to reach out to Linda or I with questions. Listed below are the time frames for the workers and the numbers we need (number in parentheses denotes the number of workers for each function) and also listed are the items we need donated. We hope you can each find a way to help with this wonderful event.

9:00AM-11:00AM	Potato Peelers(8) Applesauce Cup Fillers(4) Bun/Butter Packaging (4)
12:30PM-2:30PM	Pie Cutters and Packaging (6)
3:15PM-5:15PM	Take Out Assembly Lines (12) Transporter of Meals
5:15PM-6:30PM	from Fellowship Hall to Narthex (3) Baggers of Meals in Narthex (4) Car Delivery
	Runners (5)
5:30PM-7:30PM	Clean Up Crew/Dish Washing (8)

Cash Donations are also needed to help offset cost of supplies for dinner (these cash donation can be put in an envelop marked Ham Dinner and dropped at the office or in the offertory plate. Other items that will need to be donated are butter, milk and desserts-cakes, pumpkin pie and fruit pies.

The price of the tickets will remain to same as last year. \$19 for adults and \$6 for children. Please mark on the ticket if it is an adult or child ticket please. Tickets will be available the first part of October along with sign-up sheets that will be in the narthex. There will be many opportunities for you to help to make this year's Ham Dinner a great success. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Randy Stutz

Seeking donations of 5 quart empty ice cream pails. Need for ham dinner. Please leave in kitchen. Thanks Linda Stutz

Neighbors in Need Offering

The Neighbors in Need offering supports vital ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United Church of Christ. One-third of the gifts directly sustain the Council for American Indian Ministries, while the remaining two-thirds strengthen UCC justice ministries working in communities across the nation.

In 2024, the generosity of UCC congregations made it possible for 26 ministries to receive Neighbors in Need grants, empowering projects of direct service, advocacy, and justice-making in local communities. Together, we are living out God's call to love our neighbors and to work for a more just world.

Our Neighbors in Need offering will be collected on **October 12, 2025**. Please remember this opportunity to give generously and support ministries of justice and compassion.



INTERGENERATIONAL FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

October; Friday, 17th–Nature of Light @ Paine in Oshkosh

November: Friday, 14th–Service Project

December: Friday, 19th–Cookie decorating & Caroling

January: Friday, 16th– Game Night

February, Friday 20th– Cooking class. Learn how to cook a delicious meal!

March: Friday, 20th– Crafting Night

April Friday, 20th –Movie night with treats and activities

May: Friday, 15th–Campfire games and treats

HOLY FAMILY WARMING SHELTER

Pilgrim UCC will have a second offering on Oct. 26th to help support the Holy Family Warming Shelter. The Shelter opened in 2023 to offer single men and women experiencing homelessness a place of safety and respite during the winter months. In 2024-2025 the Shelter served 100 individuals and 19,940 meals. In addition to warm meals and a place to sleep, neighbors have access to laundry and bathroom facilities and community resources. The Shelter has space for 36 persons per night. Annual expenses for the Shelter are approximately \$200,000 for staffing, utilities and other needs—the equivalent of \$35 per neighbor per day. You can help support the Shelter through the Pilgrim collection, directly to Holy Family, the Amazon wish list and/or meal contributions. Please be generous!



Green Team

Pill Bottle Collection Drive to Begin in October

Did you know that amber pill bottles—commonly used for medications—are too small for curbside recycling? Fortunately, they can be reused in meaningful ways.

In many parts of the world, medications are dispensed in whatever container is available—sometimes just a scrap of paper. Clean, resealable pill bottles are a luxury that can make a real difference in safe medication distribution.

Matthew 25: Ministries, based in Ohio, accepts donations of clean, empty, recapped, label-free, and residue-free plastic pill bottles. These bottles are included in shipments of medical supplies, helping improve healthcare in developing countries while also reducing waste.

Your Creation Justice Green Team is making it easy to participate. **Starting in October, a collection container will be available in the church coat room for donated amber bottles.** All collected bottles will be shipped to Matthew 25: Ministries.

✓ What to Donate

- Amber prescription bottles only
- Remove all labels completely
- Wash bottles in soapy water to remove sticky residue
- Ensure bottles are clean, dry, and capped

If bringing bottles in a baggie or box, please empty them into our container and take your bag or box home. This is a trial run. If donated bottles are not clean and ready to ship, we will discontinue the collection.

Let's turn everyday waste into global care. ♻️

Why composting matters.

When food decomposes in landfills, it produces methane—a greenhouse gas over 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, food waste is the third-largest source of methane emissions in the U.S., trailing only petroleum production and livestock manure. This invisible threat accelerates climate change and undermines efforts to build a sustainable future.

For the same reason, organic waste like pumpkins, apples and gourds doesn't properly break down in oxygen-deprived landfills. Instead of putting these items in curbside trash, the city recommends that you take them to the brush and grass drop-off site on North Doty Street. Please do not put these items in the church bins as they are too bulky.

Composting is one way to reduce food scraps in the landfill. The compost bin on the back side of the church is for everyone. Some users freeze their scraps at home, others keep a covered bucket in the garage. Find a way that works for you and dump it in when you visit church. If you have a question, ask a Green Team member.

Unwanted string lights.

People are asking, and the answer is yes, the Green Team is planning to collect non-working and unwanted lights again this year. Look for a collection box in the entry starting the Sunday after the ham dinner.

New Support Group

Pilgrim Church will be having a new community-based support group meeting in one of our fellowship hall classrooms Thursday evenings from 6-7PM. Please respect this groups' privacy. Linda/Church Council.

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COATS FOR KIDS

For the month of October, Christian Outreach will be collecting coats and jackets.

The items can be new or gently used and clean.

All sizes are welcome from newborn to adult!

There are many families who are in need of help to keep their children warm for the winter.

There will be a collection box in the vestibule for the month of October, ending Oct 23rd, so drop your donation off Monday - Friday from 9:00-1:00 or when you attend worship service.

Thank you!

Christian Outreach
Committee



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With the new program year beginning and everyone getting back into their routines, please consider making a stop at the SCRIP table on Sunday mornings and get back into the habit of using the SCRIP program.

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

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

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

920-904-5740

SAVE THE DATE(S)!

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

October 16TH, 17TH & 18TH

If you haven't yet, it's time to start cleaning out those closets, basements, attics, garages, and storage sheds. It is time for Pilgrims fall rummage sale! Sale starts on Thursday, October 16th and goes through Saturday, October 18th.

If you are donating clothes, they should be clean, without holes and stains. Other items should be clean and in working condition.

Donations can be brought to the church starting September 15th and put in the "kindergarten" room in the northwest corner of the church. The church is open from 9:00 until 1:00 Monday through Friday. All donations should be brought to church no later than Monday, October 13th, so that there is time to sort and price before the sale begins.

If you can help prior to the sale or during the sale, we will have sign up sheet in the narthex the beginning of October. All help and donations are appreciated.

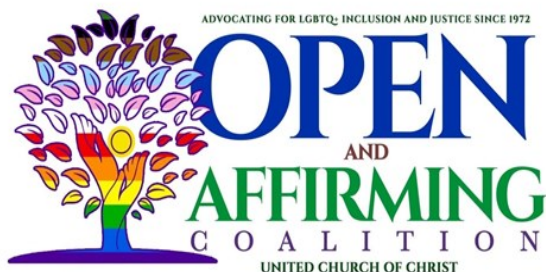


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THANK YOU.....

Thank You

A big Thank you goes out to Sue Schmitz for donating two new cloths to cover the bread on our communion table. Thank you also to Stephanie Jackson for her embroidery stitching on the cloths. Our communion table is made beautiful by these ladies' contributions.
Worship Ministry



WE ARE ONA (Open and Affirming) - Continuing to Learn and Grow

Part of continuing to learn and grow – means we must travel into the uncomfortable at times. We (both Pilgrim and the wider UCC) can't learn to accept what we don't know.

Your ONA Team has two videos for you this month!

The first video is Rev. Derek Terry the UCC Acting Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition, as he addresses the delegates and visitors at this year's General Synod 35 to honor the 40th anniversary of the 1985 ONA resolution.

His message? That LGBTQ+ people have always been part of the church—and that inclusion, justice, and love are sacred callings.

[https://vimeo.com/1101670425?](https://vimeo.com/1101670425?share=copy)

[share=copy](#)

Our second video comes from The Trevor Project – the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people, ages 13-24.

“Are you ashamed of this about me?” ❤️ is a video about Mat.

When Mat asked his mom Haylin that question, everything changed. In our latest episode of Learn with Love, we hear their powerful journey. Haylin, a therapist and loving parent, learned to accept and understand that what her son Mat truly needed was uncondi-

tional support for who he is.

Together, Mat and Haylin show us that family support, acceptance, and access to transgender healthcare can turn fear into love,

and silence into pride 🏳️‍🌈

Parents everywhere (all of us!) can learn from their journey: **acceptance saves lives.**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18U7c3RvUg/>

Our challenge as an Open and Affirming congregation is to Watch, Learn and Grow then get INVOLVED!

We would LOVE seeing you at our ONA meetings.

Or helping us prepare a meal for monthly Café Q meetings.

Check out our ‘home page’ on Pilgrim’s website: <https://www.pilgrimuccfdl.org/open-and-affirming/>

Your Pilgrim ONA Team



Chase Westphal	Oct 7
Karter Keys	Oct 9
Susan Roloff	Oct 9
Weldon Peterson	Oct 10
Thomas Kirchhoff	Oct 16
Maddie Abler	Oct 17
Linda Friedel	Oct 18
James LaLuzerne	Oct 18
Matthew Steier	Oct 19
Jean Wright	Oct 23
Jessica Goodacre	Oct 25
Samantha Curl	Oct 26
John Westphal	Oct 28
Barb Tadych	Oct 30



October 1	David & Judi Faubel
October 3	Barbara Spies
October 4	Arvin & Jeanne Koepke
	Jason Schmid
October 27	John & Kimberly Olson
	Randy & Linda Stutz

Ushers for October

Date	9:00 Service
Oct 5	Jim & Dianne Bentley
Oct 12	Steven & Rachel Wicihowski
Oct 19	Bill & Patti Burns
Oct 26	Max & Lucia Hoyer

Welcomers for October

Date	9:00 Service
Oct 5	Judie Behnke
Oct 12	Wenday Ellison
Oct 19	Fran Schmid
Oct 26	Ron McCreedy

Worship Leaders October

Date	9:00 Service
Oct 5	Jill Barbeau
Oct 12	Noreen Henderson
Oct 19	Bobbie Flaherty
Oct 26	Sue Kaiser

PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
August 18, 2025

Present: Jim Bently, Linda Stutz (via phone), Pastor Jeannie, Patty Minter, Ron McCreedy, Donna Jost, Fran Schmid, Dixie Sullivan, Avery Geiger, Wendy Ellison, Steven Wichihowski, Guest- Michael Friedel

Welcome and Quorum: Jim established there was a quorum present at 6:00 PM

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jeannie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Michael Friedel: As the Sunday School Coordinator wanted to give an update of where Sunday School and youth education is going. The Christian Education committee has been discussing how best Sunday School can meet the needs of the congregation and increase the attendance. One thing they are exploring is changing the time of Sunday School perhaps to offer it during the church service. Sunday School teachers and shepherds thought this was a good idea. A survey will be conducted with the families of potential students. Sunday School would be in 2 classrooms to separate the older children from the younger. There will be a need for 5 Sunday School teachers and 5 shepherds.

Michael also discussed coordinating youth groups and activities once a month for Junior and Senior high students. Pastor Jeanne will be conducting confirmation classes every other Wed. So far there are 4 students signed up. Dixie read the mission statement for Christian Education.

Secretary's Report: After review of the June Council Minutes and the corrections made the minutes were accepted as corrected, the minutes were approved with unanimous consent.

Treasurers Report: Report attached. This was a good month when it comes to what came in vs. what was spent out. This month we are in the black. Donna did pay out the Blanket Sunday funds. Donna reported that offerings for the month of July were up, mostly because checks of those that pay annually came in. Also to be noted is that dues to the NE Association have increased this year. Also income vs. expenditures is up as well.

Pastor's Report: June 13 – August 17. Report attached.

Pastor met with with 89 people for short walk-in counseling and advising and meetings. Attended 15 meetings of various ministries/committees. One small child was baptized - family are non members. They want to be part of the the church but their child has many issues.

Vice President's Report: Linda reported that a new administrative assistant has been hired and will begin on Sept. 2, 2025. We are not giving out her name at this point as she has to notify her current boss. She does have experience as an administrative assistant currently. She was very impressive at the interviews and was our 1st choice. We are excited for her to start!

All positions at Pilgrim are currently filled except the seated pastor.

Pastor Jeannie also has signed an extension to remain as our interim pastor.

OLD BUSINESS:

The one day seminar on September 18th "Faith Partner for Creating Hope 2025 was approved with unanimous consent to pay out for WISE members to attend.

Church organ: As the current organ is aging out and it is getting difficult to obtain replacement parts. To purchase a replacement organ it would cost around \$100,000. Chris Deaner-Rogers provided information as to the issues and the need to purchase a new one in the near future. Discussion ensued regarding the need to establish a committee to review the information given by Chris and also solution /options. Jim requested that he and Linda have permission to gather a group of members to be part of this committee. The council agreed with unanimous consent.

New Banner Placement: Avery and the Property/Maintenance committee will move the banner to the agreed upon placement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Note Bird: Pastor Jeannie brought up a new app that other churches use to keep track of and produce lists/reports of care notes for administrative purposes. The app would be used by the Parish Nurse, Pastor, Children and Youth Education coordinator. Personal confidential information would not be available to others but each individual would have access to that information for their own records. This also works in coordination with Breeze but only statistical info such as birthdays, anniversaries, membership and would be down loaded for record keeping etc. Cost for use of this App is \$204/year for 2 people, \$372 for 4 people. Discussion ensued. The council requested more information on this App. Pastor Jeannie will provide more information for the next council meeting Also will seek advice from Neal Seiglaflaff. This will be added to **Old Business** for the next month's agenda.

SAA (Sexual Addiction Anonymous): Pastor Jeannie passed on a request to the Executive Committee by member and director of the United Way that SAA be able to hold their meetings at our church. There are 4-6 individuals that would attend meetings. Meetings would be held Thursdays at 6 PM. There are no sex offenders or predators in the group. The group is for individuals who suffer from a sexual addiction. The group leader, Hayden, offered to come to a council meeting and explain the program and answer any questions. The council will add this to the September agenda for Hayden to provide information and answer questions before making a decision at the next council meeting.

Linda made a motion that the title/job description for Sunday school coordinator be changed to Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator. An updated job description was reviewed. The salary will be adjusted by combining Sunday School Coordinator and Youth leader to \$10,000.

School Coordinator compensation of \$9000 and the Youth Ministries money line of \$1000 for an annual salary of \$10,00. Avery 2nd the motion. The motion passed with no opposition by unanimous consent.

Donated Quilt. Deb Wamser is donating a hand made quilt to be raffled off for the benefit of children and youth ministries. Discussion ensued regarding the need to get a state license to have this raffle. Due to the fair market value it is necessary to have a license. Jim will make the application. Suggestion was made to sell raffle tickets for the quilt at Fondue Fest. Due to time constraints this will not be possible. It will take 4 weeks to obtain the license. Donna will look into tax ramifications.

MINISTRY REPORTS AND UPDATES (as needed)

Worship & Music: Steve Wichihowski (Council Rep): Report attached.

Stephanie Jackson will embroider a chalice and bread on cloths that are used to cover the communion bread and juice

The worship ministry will continue to try to have Sunday School students acolyte the first Sunday each month.

Linda will ask Michael Friedel to create a list.

Celebration Sunday (previously called Rally Day) will be on Sunday, September 7, The theme is, "Around the World". Sue and Mary will provide a breakfast entree for this potluck event.

Christian Education: Dixie Sullivan (Council Rep.) Report attached

1. Recap of Family Fun Night: 86 total in attendance, 28 workers, 40 with no affiliation to Pilgrim church.
2. Discussion of Celebration Sunday, Sept 7 concerning food donations from ministry members.
3. Michael will be sending a survey to Sunday School parents in August. The survey will include preferred time of Sunday School classes.
4. **Adult education:** There was discussion on the possible impact of Sunday School time changes on Adult Forum. Monday September 8, is the welcome luncheon for Adult forum. Completed brochures for Adult Education for Fall 2025 will be available for Family Fun Night.

Property Maintenance: Avery Geiger (Council Rep)

- 1, Avery and Dave Overbo mowed the lawn in May. Doug Baltz is mowing the remainder of the year.
2. Sanctuary lighting questionnaire results. WARM = 17, BRIGHT = 7, LEAVE AS IS = 18 The lights will remain as is.
3. Bill has tried three times to contact Eric Spies regarding updating the proposal to paint the sanctuary. There has been no response.

Lay Life & Leadership: Patty Minter (Council Rep)

1. Dining out will begin again in Oct.
2. Lay Life will assist with the beverages for the Celebration Sunday pot luck

Stewardship & Finance: Ron McCreedy (Council Rep.) Report attached.

Stewardship Campaign Pledge Drive will be in November and December

The theme will be "Dreaming God's Dream" together. No Gift too small. No gift to Big.

UCC Theme materials were purchased – cost \$49.99

Michael Friedel was asked about getting Sunday School Kids to help with pictures for display, and Michael will help with designing a theme image for published materials using Canva.com

Music for 'Dreaming God's Dream' by Brian Sirchio will be used during Worship Services. Brian is a Pastor and Song writer. Sue Kaiser and Joni Voss Hayibor were asked to do a special duet.

Membership and Evangelism: Fran Schmid (Council Rep.) Report attached.

1. Membership and Evangelism are working on 3 separate inserts for the general tri-fold brochures highlighting ONA, WISE, and Creation Justice
2. They are finalizing a space and basic materials for events to be located in the guild room.
3. Membership Sunday is being planned for September 21st with a potluck on the 17th of September. There is still a need for people to sign up to be at the table at Fondue Fest on September 6th.

Christian Outreach: Peg Bradley (Council Rep) written info provided

1. Coats for Kids will be for the Month of October
2. November will be Toys for Tots
3. December will be the Alternative Gift Fair on Sunday, December 7.
4. There will not be an Angel Tree this year.

Dixie shared that Holy Family received a \$2, million donation for the Warming shelter. She wondered if we wanted to continue to support the Warming shelter. She made a motion that we have a special offering one Sunday. Steve seconded the motion, motion passed with unanimous consent.

Committee Reports (updates as necessary)

Nominating Committee

Ham Dinner

Memorial Fund Committee

Green Team:

1. The Green Team will facilitate an intergenerational environmental activity on September 19th. Team Trivia, Word Search would be possible activities.
2. The new Bike Rack is installed at the south side of the main doors for the church.
3. Glass communion cups will be replacing the plastic single use cups at the September 7 communion. The Green Team will wash the cups after each communion service.

WISE:

1. WISE will be highlighted at Fondue Fest on Sept. 6th and can use more volunteers throughout the day.
2. WISE will be partnering with Christian Ed with the April 2026 Movie night
3. January is Mental Wellness Month and plans are underway.

Trust Fund Report

ONA:

1. Linda made a motion (per ONA team request) that the Council formally charge ONA to rewrite the Pilgrim ONA Covenant. Steve Wichihowski seconded the motion. The motioned passed with unanimous Consent. ONA will review and update the ONA covenant and present it at the next Council meeting.

Celebration: Steve's parents are celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary.

Information Sharing:

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 with the Lord's Prayer.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Coffee Hour Choir Blood Pressure Checks (after worship)	6 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons	7	8 4:30 PM Worship Meeting	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Adult Forum	13 10—12:30 PM COP 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons	14 10 AM Christian Outreach 11 AM—12 PM Membership & Evangelism Meeting 5 PM Property & Maintenance Meeting	15	16 Rummage Sale	17 Rummage Sale Intergenerational Fellowship	18 Rummage Sale
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Adult Forum Choir	20 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons 6 PM Council Meeting **Quill Deadline**	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Adult Forum	27 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons 4 PM Green Team	28	29	30	31	

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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.....	Amy Rector
Parish Nurse	Sue Schmitz
Child & Youth Coordinator	Michael Friedel
Adult Education Coordinator.....	Mary Ann Otto
Worship Musician.....	Chris Deaner-Rogers
Choir Director	Zachary Ball
Choir Accompanist	Chris Deaner-Rogers
Custodian.....	Green & Clean
Church Council President	Jim Bentley
Church Council Vice President	Linda Stutz
Church Council Secretary	Wendy Ellison
Church Treasurer.....	Donna Jost

Rides to church are available by contacting Randy Stutz 920-539-6277

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.