



THE PILGRIM QUILL

NOVEMBER 2025

Journeying With Jeannie

Dear Members and Friends,

The other day I was reading a familiar passage from Romans 12:2:

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

This verse speaks to us at Pilgrim UCC in a very particular way right now. We are in a time of change, and as Warren Shultz once said, this passage is about *change, transition, and transformation*. Change is the inevitable movement of life. Transition is the way we live through change. Transformation is the new shape that God is forming in us through it all.

The Bible reminds us that interim times are not wasted times—they are fertile ground for God’s work. Think of Moses leading God’s people through the wilderness: he helped them grieve what was past, wrestle with the unknown, and ultimately arrive ready for new leadership under Joshua. In many ways, Moses was their interim pastor.

As your interim pastor, I see God at work here in the same way. You are preparing for your next minister even now, and God is preparing that minister for you. After more than a year together, I can say with confidence that you are a congregation with deep gifts for community and service. My prayer is that you will not grow weary but continue to live into God’s love and calling. At the same time, we cannot ignore the world around us. In a conference newsletter Franz Rigert wrote: “These days we witness the dismantling of decency—people being shut out, rights rolled back, aid denied, violence ignored. Retaliation and cruelty too often dominate our political and cultural life. It is easy to feel helpless, but this is not who we are as people of faith.”

So how do we live faithfully in such a time? Franz continued with these suggestions; however I have paraphrased what he wrote:

- **We bear witness** to the Gospel of love, remembering that kindness matters. Small acts of compassion ripple outward.
- **We cross boundaries** as Jesus did—talking with strangers, building friendships across divides, being “ridiculously generous.”
- **We practice hope.** Faith, as Hebrews 11:1 tells us, is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen. God invites us to imagine and live toward a world of justice, mercy, and lasting peace.
- **We speak our values clearly.** Rather than only reacting to what we oppose, we boldly declare what we believe in: neighborly love, full inclusion, forgiveness and grace, relief for the poor, healing for the broken, justice and generosity for all.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, let us be grateful for all God has given and pray for our Search Committee as they discern the pastor who will walk with you into the next chapter. Let us also renew our commitment to live as people of hope and transformation in a world that needs both desperately.

May God continue to bless us in our time together, and may we continue to be a blessing to the world.

In gratitude and faith,
Rev. Jeannie

Alternative Gift Fair

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Alternative Gift Fair is a positive holiday experience that brings together our church members in a fun way. We bypass the annual steps of holiday shopping and accumulation of "stuff" while honoring friends and relatives with donations that fit their values. The Alternative Gift Fair provides critical support for a diverse collection of local, national, and international nonprofit organizations that have established track records of helping people - diverting money to these charities rather than to department stores and malls.

Each year we strive to feature 8 or 9 local, national, and international organizations that we have researched and chosen. We strive to feature different organizations as much as possible in order to educate our shoppers about the diverse and extensive number of worthwhile nonprofit charities that exist. This alternative approach honors the spirit of giving. Gifts can be any amount and are not disclosed to the recipients making alternative gifts the perfect solution for co-workers, family, friends, and the "hard to shop for" person.

Attendees use a "shopping list" with the names of all the nonprofits who are represented at the fair. They can stroll among the booths and talk to the organization's sponsor who will have information to share about their mission and current projects. As shoppers browse, they can match what charities they might support with the interest of the people on their gift list. Once complete, shoppers can check out and pay for all their gifts at once. Shoppers may pay by cash or check and 100% of all donations go to the designated charities.

The shopper will receive a gift card for each monetary gift donated to a designated charity that they can give to their recipient. Information is posted on the gift card about the charity's general mission and contact information. Pilgrim Church's checkout eliminates the need for multiple transactions. After the event, Pilgrim will issue one check to each charity with all of their donations consolidated into one.

As you shop alternatively, your purchase is more than a gift to just the recipient. Your choice emphasizes community, outreach, service, and justice. It is a celebration on nonmaterial values. It honors the true meaning of Christmas.

This year's Alternative Gift Fair will be on Sunday, December 7th after worship. The Just Fair Store will also be present....and of course, lots of Christmas

cookies and coffee will be provided. The Alternative Gift Fair is sponsored by the Outreach Ministry.

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Tails For Life

Mission statement: Tails for Life's mission is to empower children with disabilities to increase their independence and enhance their quality of life. We are dedicated to training service dogs to service the needs of children with medical and /or psychological disabilities. Our goal is to foster independence, instill comfort, and bring security to their lives by providing a "best friend" for life. Tails for Life is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Locally owned and operated in Fond du lac Wisconsin. The positive effects of dogs on people suffering from and injury, illness or loneliness has been well documented. In fact, dogs are being used more and more as an integral part of patient rehabilitation. Doctors are realizing the amazing differences dogs can make in the lives of their patients. A service dog can provide life changing experiences for disabled or ill people. Tails for Life, trains each service dog to each child's individual/specific needs. There is not one size fits all scenario, in the realm of disabilities. Each children/individual is different from the next, regardless of similar diagnosis's or disabilities. Not every dog in training can make it as a service dog. To increase graduation rates, through our rigorous training program, we provide bonding sessions with each child/individual throughout the training process to insure a strong connection and best friend for life!

Types of service dogs we train:

- physical assistance canines
- psychological assistance canines
- diabetic alert canines
- autism service canines

Total cost for a training dog can be in excess of \$30,000. Donations are used to offset those costs so a child/individual need not be denied the service dog.

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)
[pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)

NOVEMBER 2 – COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

November 9

Salt Wise

Leader: Peter Vercouteren

As we approach winter, Peter will share his knowledge on the effects of salt on our environment and will offer tips for practical and responsible usage.

November 16

Mindcraft: The Art of Positive Thinking Right Now

by Aaron Sadoff

Leader: Aaron Sadoff

The 18th President of Marian University, using his book as a backdrop, will share important and relevant insights for keeping a positive attitude in our negative times.

November 23

Solutions Center and St. Katharine Drexel Shelter

Leader: Amy Loof

Executive Director of Solutions & Katherine Drexel
Join us to hear about the work of this organization to combat homelessness in Fond du Lac.

November 30

Advent

Leader: Rev. Chris Deaner - Rogers

Pilgrim Worship Musician

Chris will share knowledge and insights to help make our experience of Advent more meaningful.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Monday Afternoons 1:00PM-2:30PM in the lounge. To join from home via Zoom the link is: [https://](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)

[us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)
[pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87682457999?pwd=NklCTOZEYWtTRnlwcEtRNDBCmGRhQT09)

November 3

The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully

by Joan Chittister

Leader: Dixie Sullivan

Dixie will review Chittister's essays on regret, nostalgia and forgiveness and her focus on the rewards of the mature life.

November 10

Who is Jesus? - Petrine Confession

Leader: Rev. Jan Doeschal

Pastor Jan will help us to discover how the confession of Peter in the Gospel uncovers the complicated identity of Jesus.

November 17

The Real Story of Sodom

Leader: Rev. Jan Doeschal

Pastor Jan returns to encourages us to rethink traditional interpretations of this famous biblical story.

November 24

The Making of a Saint: Blessed Solanus Casey

Leader: Mary Ann Otto

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.



Medicare Open Enrollment: Oct15-Dec7th

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.

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. 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 though pro-vaccine, I respect each persons' right to their own decision. Two facts 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! Check out the bulletin board for more information.

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Vaccines - according to the UCC

I am privileged to be a part of the UCC Wellness Ministry that meet s monthly via Zoom and work on ways to "collaborate, exchange information, resources and practices that nurture healing, wholeness and spiritual flourishing for all" (from our Goals).

Most recently, we asked - 'If wellness is a justice issue, where is the church's voice in the conflicting messages surrounding vaccines and tylenol?' We developed a one page informational paper titled "UCC Wellness Ministries Responds to the Confusion about Acetaminophen and Vaccinations, found on the UCC website under Wellness Ministry, and the Wisconsin Conference put it in their Newsletter several weeks ago. I've put a few paper copies on the table in the Narthex. P.S. - There is a rumor of new dietary recommendations coming out this year. Stay tuned...

Thanksgiving Blessing

Helping People Around the World through KIVA

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, Pilgrim Church has much to be grateful for. One of those blessings is the opportunity to help people in need around the world through KIVA. KIVA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose 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. Pilgrim has made 131 loans totaling \$20,965.00 in 41 countries.

The Outreach Ministry was able to make three loans at their October meeting. One loan of \$100.00 was made to Khadraa who lives in Jordan. She is a widowed mother of one and the main breadwinner in her household. Known for her ambition and perseverance, she will use the loan to buy different kinds of supplies and products for her home-based supermarket business. The average annual income in Jordan in U.S. dollars is \$6,100.00.

The second loan (\$200.00) was given to Annet who lives in Uganda where the average annual income in U.S. dollars is \$1,800.00. Annet is a resident of Ruhendwa Village. She is seeking the loan to expand her goat fattening business. With this funding, she plans to purchase more goats, increase her herd, and ultimately boost her income. This investment will enhance Annet's livelihood and contribute to the local economy, supporting her family and community.

Our third recipient (\$200.00) is Nelly who lives in Kenya. As in Uganda, Kenya has an average annual income in U.S. dollars of \$1,800.00. Nelly is 39 years old, married and the mother of three. For over a decade, she has built a steady livelihood through livestock trading. This loan will expand her business-adding more livestock to boost profits. Her goal is clear: to secure her children's education and uplift her family's standard of living. Nelly's journey is a testament to resilience, vision, and the power of a mother's unwavering commitment to a brighter future.

One of the blessings we all share this Thanksgiving is the opportunity of helping to "lift the load" of many around the world through KIVA. If you would like to learn more about KIVA see their website www.kiva.org or talk to Peg Bradley or any member of the Outreach Ministry.

WISE WISDOM

Postpartum Depression

Having a baby is such a wonderful and exciting time for a family but for 10-20% of new mothers it can cause conflicting feelings of sadness, anxiety, exhaustion and for some they may have thoughts of self harm or harm for their infant. They may cry a lot or withdraw. They may have a hard time bonding with their newborn. This may happen with any one or all births. Family and friends may not understand how something so wonderful can cause so much distress to the mother. Hormone swings after the birth, exhaustion from sleepless nights and the general stress of adjusting to a new way of life can cause some women to develop postpartum depression (PPD). This is a real and serious medical condition and must be taken seriously. Often times the new mother will feel guilty for the feelings she is experiencing and will try to hide them from others.

What can we do to if we think a friend or loved one is experiencing PPD? We can let her know that she is not alone. Show her support by helping with household chores and caring for children so she can get extra rest. Bring a meal to ease her burden. Perhaps offer to take her to her medical provider to address her condition. Be there to listen but do not be judgmental or make light of her feelings. Remember this is a medical condition that can be treated by various medical means.

For the Calendar

WISE Committee Meeting: Tues, November 11 at 5pm

Membership and Evangelism Ministry meeting: Tues, November 11th at 11:00

Blood Pressure Sunday: November 2

Blood Pressures November 2nd: Deb Wamser will be available after the worship service on November 2nd to take blood pressures. Did getting an extra hour of sleep change your blood pressure? Come and find out!

Social Connection Awareness Week

Last year, Gov. Evers declared November 10-16 “*Social Connection Awareness Week*” in Wisconsin. Social Connection is the way we can be physically, emotionally and culturally connected to others.

Even before 2020 we were learning about the health implications of **Social Isolation** and **Loneliness**. *(The experience of having few or infrequent real social connections and the distressing feeling of being alone or isolated. They increase cortisol (stress hormone) and are factors for chronic health illnesses such as heart conditions, diabetes, depression, high blood pressure, dementia, a decreased immune response and premature death)* I believe we continue to experience the separation challenges of the pandemic as well as the political and social unrest of today.

I invite you to read about the Pando Tree. It’s a grove of Aspen trees in Utah that originated from a single seed and spreads by sending up new shoots from the expanding root system. Pando is believed to be the largest, most dense organism ever found; spreading over 106 acres and consisting of over 40,000 individual trees - each tree actually connected in the root system making it all one plant. It is estimated to have started at the end of the last ice age.

Belonging is a fundamental human need - a feeling of deep connection with social groups, physical places, and individuals...like having roots on the Pando. Please remember your Third Spaces - places that are not work or home - where you routinely connect to others - such as gyms, church, coffee shops, volunteer sites, card/book clubs, and family gatherings. The feeling of belonging helps to decrease cortisol levels which in turn promotes overall mental and physical wellness.

The more we are connected, the stronger we feel. Mind-Body-Spirit.

Get a Jump on Your New Years’ Resolutions!

We spend the first month of the New Year watching, waiting and preparing – we are told “do not be afraid”. It’s the perfect time for resolutions on overall health – whether to drink more water, eat an “extra” piece of fruit per day, stand and march in place during commercials, develop a meditation practice for stress management or to practice random kindness. Changes can be made at any moment, but sometimes they “stick better” if we plan ahead – like on November 30th – the first Sunday in Advent – the first day of the New Year. When it comes to self care, we really don’t have anything to fear!

Pilgrim Children and Youth ministry

Intergenerational Fellowship Nights

Join us for our upcoming Blanket-Making Event on Thursday, November 14, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. here at the church! We'll enjoy time together while creating blankets to support our community. All blankets will be donated to our local Project Linus chapter.

We are also collecting fleece donations for this event—2-yard cuts of fleece are perfect for blanket making. Donations can be brought the night of the event or dropped off in the collection box located in the narthex.

Youth Group

All 6th–12th graders are invited to join us for a Pizza Party before the Intergenerational Fellowship Event on November 14, from 4:30–5:45 p.m.

Come for food, games, and fun, and help us plan our upcoming youth events for the rest of the year. Remember that you can bring your friends with you, everyone is invited!

[Click here to register!](#)

Confirmation Class

We are seeking snack and beverage donations to serve during Confirmation Class. Items such as juice, Gatorade, lemonade, chips, snack cakes, and crackers are all appreciated.

If you'd like to contribute, please sign up in the narthex next to the date you'd like to provide food or drinks.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School students have chosen the recipients of this year's Birthday Bank donations!

We are excited to announce that Project Linus and Sleep in Heavenly Peace will each receive a contribution from our church. Both organizations do incredible work in our community, providing children with blankets and beds.

Representatives from both groups will be joining us at an upcoming worship service, where we'll have the opportunity to present them with our donations.

Youth

Youth Sunday School will now be called 'Chatbox'. Any youth in Junior or Senior High are welcome. We will meet in the Youth Room every 2nd Sunday at 10:15AM with Pastor Jeannie. We look forward to seeing you!

INTERGENERATIONAL FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

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

Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships is a global humanitarian organization that delivers free, world-class healthcare services, capacity-building, and sustainable development to people in some of the world's poorest regions. Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships operates hospital ships staffed by volunteer professionals, providing medical care and training in port cities where access to healthcare is severely limited.

Mercy Ships' mission is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves access to safe, affordable, and timely medical care. Their vision is to use hospital ships to transform lives and serve as a beacon of hope, particularly for those facing poverty and limited healthcare infrastructure. The organization operates under Christian principles and emphasizes compassionate service, regardless of race, gender, or religion.

The core of Mercy Ships' operations is their hospital ships—most notably, the Africa Mercy and the Global Mercy. These ships are fully equipped floating hospitals, with operating rooms, recovery wards, laboratories, dental clinics, and more. Volunteers from over 60 nations donate their time and expertise, making Mercy Ships a unique collaboration of individuals united for a common purpose.

Services Provided

Life-Changing Surgeries: Mercy Ships provide free surgeries for conditions such as cleft lips and palates, cataracts, tumors, club feet, obstetric fistulas, and more.

Dental and Eye Care: Comprehensive dental care and vision restoration surgeries are performed on board and in local clinics.

Medical Training: The organization invests in local health professionals through mentoring, courses, and workshops, helping to build sustainable healthcare capacity.

Community Development: Mercy Ships supports water and sanitation projects, agricultural training, and infrastructure improvements to enhance overall community well-being.

Global Reach and Impact

Since its inception, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 55 developing countries, providing services valued at over \$1.7 billion and treating more than 2.8 million beneficiaries. The organization's impact is felt not only in the lives of patients but also in the broader healthcare systems of the countries they serve. By training local professionals and upgrading medical facilities, Mercy Ships leaves a legacy of improved care long after its ships depart.

Mercy Ships stands as a testament to the power of compassion, global cooperation, and faith in action. By bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten ports, the organization continues to transform lives and inspire others to serve. www.mercyships.org

We Got This MKE

"We Got This" is a program based out of Milwaukee, WI. This program began 12 years ago with a crew of kids cleaning up their neighborhood and learning about gardening. The program grew each Saturday as youth in middle and high school came out to assist in duties and were each subsequently paid \$20 for their 4 hours of service to the neighborhood, but the life lessons and tangible skills they learn are priceless.

Our mission is to incorporate the "neighbor" back into our "hoods" and recreate a real sense of neighborhood. One action at a time we believe that we can restore our neighborhoods to what they should be.

In 2024 We Got This completed 3000 hours of work within the neighborhood.

The program has continued to grow and each week during the summer kids continue to make their way to 9th and Ring in Milwaukee's 53206 Zip Code for cleanup and gardening. Upon arrival, the youth are met by positive role models from the community to assist with their efforts.

Participants of the We Got This program learn the basics of gardening and care for the organization's multiple garden spaces within the neighborhood. Through weeding garden beds, planting trees, and figuring out how to bring water to newer garden spaces, the young people working with We Got This develop skills in communication, collaboration, and problem solving while changing the physical spaces and providing healthy food to residents within the poorest areas of the state of Wisconsin. **We Got This** is a 501(c)(3) organization that employs youth to beautify their neighborhood with garden spaces. <https://wegotthismke.com/> Wishlist: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2H73EZ1H1QGOR?ref=wl_share

[Donate today!](#)

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!

SSM HEALTH ADULT DAY SERVICES

SSM Health Adult Day Services on Merrill Ave. in Fond du Lac may be an option for your loved one. The Service provides care for the elderly, chronically ill and disabled adults Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30p.m. The director is a registered nurse and the staff are CNAs with experience caring for qualified clients. The Service provides activities, field trips, socialization, lunch and snacks. Also available are personal hygiene care, medication and medical services. One of the most important services provided is a monthly support group for caregivers. Peer discussions provide resources, problem solving and support for the caregiver.

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



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. ♻️

THE GROWING PROBLEM OF MICROFIBERS

by Diana Beck

Just a few years ago, a European researcher found widespread microplastic pollution on shorelines and coastal waters all over the world. A major source was from synthetic clothing fibers that were less than 1 mm in size. This problem is also affecting fresh water in our own area. Microfibers were the second major type of debris found in Lake Michigan. A study of the Fox, Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Milwaukee rivers found that over 70% of the plastic captured were microfibers.

It is estimated that 60% of the clothing in the world is made from polyester, which is a plastic made from fossil fuels. We have all come to appreciate polyester's wicking capability, breathability and stretching qualities.

The problem arises when the clothing is washed. One study found that a single fleece jacket could release 250,000 microfibers into the wash water. Now multiply that by an estimated 89 million washing machines in just the U.S. doing an average of 9 loads of laundry a week.

These microfibers pass through the water treatment facilities and into the environment. Some fibers are captured in the sewage solids but then may be applied on the land as fertilizer. The rest are released into the waterways.

We now know that these micro plastics are corrupting aquatic life. The small critters at the base of the food chain are ingesting the plastic and ultimately affect the predators higher up the food chain. Microfibers are showing up in shellfish and fish that humans are consuming. The fibers absorb persistent organic pollutants such as PCB's and concentrate them in the animal tissues.

Here are a few suggestions of ways that you can help reduce this fiber pollution: buy and wear more natural fiber clothing; wash synthetic clothing as infrequently as possible, and for shorter wash intervals on the gentle cycle; spot clean when possible; use liquid laundry soap (powder is more abrasive but can be dissolved ahead of time); when purchasing a new washer, remember that front load washing machines cause less fiber shedding; use garment filter bags, such as Guppy Friend, for fleeces or install a washing machine filter.

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.

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Creating Hope

Pilgrim Church was a faith partner sponsor in a one-day seminar on September 18, 2025. The event was held in Appleton at First Congregational UCC. The title of the seminar was Creating Hope with guest speaker Dr. Andrew Root. The Pilgrim Church council granted a trust fund allocation request to support the seminar with a \$1000 contribution. By doing so five members of the church received registration for the days event. The speaker shared information regarding the question of religion, why participate, but that spirituality seems to be everywhere. Discussion was held regarding the disconnect between the two. The afternoon focused on how Christian Youth Ministry seems to be pushed aside with all the activities and other opportunities our children are pulled towards. Those in attendance were proud to have been a part of one of the faith partners that helped sponsor this event. Linda Stutz

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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

Christian Outreach: Toys for Tots

For the month of November will be collecting toys and other gifts for Toys for Tots, which is sponsored by the Salvation Army.

Please remember that all children, from 0 to 18 need gifts. It is difficult to buy for older children, but some ideas are t-shirts, sweatshirts, or any type of clothing. Or if you have children or grandchildren, ask them for ideas for older children.

Christian Outreach also would like to thank Pilgrim for the generous donations for Fondy Food Pantry, in the month of October.

There were 290 lbs. of donations!!!

What a wonderful congregation we are all blessed to be part of.

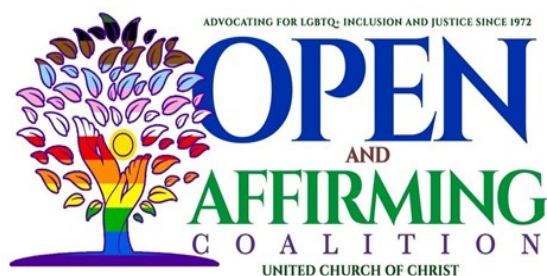


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Fall Rummage Sale was a Success: THANK YOU!!

It takes a village to prepare, display, price, and sell hundreds of random lightly used donations at Pilgrim's Annual Rummage Sales. Luckily, every year, more and more dedicated members of our congregation join in the effort and step up to help manage the ever-growing demands and tasks a sale of this size entails. Wonderful! At the finish line we all stand tall...stronger together, connected in fellowship, joyful, humble, grateful, blessed, and very proud of our hard work. Heartfelt thanks and recognition to all who generously made time in their schedules, to all who brought in lunches and snacks, and to all who found unique, collectible, usable, quality items to donate and sell. Without such generosity, our sales would not stand apart, and we could not reach our 2025 Fall Rummage Total: \$5649.00! MANY Pilgrim Ministries will happily share this bounty and put it to great use in their yearly programming.

Please shake the hand of Pilgrim's 2025 Fall Rummage Crew: Bobbie Flaherty, Dianne and Jim Bently, Chris and Matt Clementi, Donna Jost, Joni Voss-Hayibor, Jean Wright, Karen Goodacre, Gary Ring, Sue Schmitz, Laura Schmitz, Ron and Karen McCreedy, Chris, Joel, & Franklin Deaner – Rogers, Pastor Jeannie and Deb, Sandy (Bobbie's friend), Dixie Sullivan, Mary and Brian Christenson, Connie Anderson, Mary Berens, Barb Roder, Peg Bradley, Marilyn Hoch and her daughter, Judi Faubel, Barb Spies, Michael Freidel, Chris Frederick, Linda and Randy Stutz, and Terre Mand (friend.)



"Hello Cafe Q supporters!"

All interested people are invited to join Cafe Q youth & allies on Friday, November 21 for a 'Double Interest Night'!

What's double interest night? It's a one night Dungeons and Dragons campaign while we celebrate season 5 of 'Stranger Things'. No experience with D&D necessary. Wear your Stranger Things gear and bring any Stranger Things items you have. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Also - please check your calendars! We still need a meal host for the November 21st Cafe Q meeting! Your help would be greatly appreciated."

St. Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter

The St. Katharine Drexel Homeless Shelter came to be through the collaborative efforts of St. Vincent de Paul and Solutions Center, the two primary agencies that serve those in our community experiencing homelessness. These two agencies came together to address the unmet needs related to homelessness both equitable and effectively. They place a high value on positively impacting the human condition and subsequently, improving the lives of our neighbors.

Home is a safe haven. A cornerstone of stability. A place where meals are cooked, homework is done, and rest happens after a long day. For too many people in our community, home is not a guarantee. The gap between rising housing costs and low wages continues to grow, leaving thousands on the brink of homelessness and hundreds more without.

You can help ensure individuals and families in our community have a safe, stable support system to help them find a home. The St. Katharine Drexel Shelter is a very tangible way of how we can help individuals and families thrive.

Worship Ministry

Hanging of the Greens will take place after the November 23 worship service. Please join if you're available...many hands make light work. Thank you!

.....

On **Tuesday, November 11 at 5:30 pm**, CSA will be showing the film, *Paper Clips*. This is a documentary explains how paper clips were used as a way for a classroom to learn about the Holocaust and turned into an unforeseen way of bringing communities together. Here is a very [short video trailer](#).

Paperclips were a quiet symbol of unity and resistance against the Nazi occupation in Norway, with people wearing them to show they are "bound together." The Paper Clip Project turned into a universal act of solidarity and resistance that continues today.

The film is about 90 minutes and will be followed by up to 30 minutes of conversation.

Guests will also have an opportunity to create their own paperclip necklace, a symbol of unity, resilience, and connection.

REGISTRATION REQUESTED HERE: <https://forms.gle/6ZAJ6vNrKvpvrn3KA>

This showing will be in person only, but CSA purchased the video, which can be checked out from the JPIC Resource Library. The film can also be rented on Amazon Prime Video.



Callie Schmid	Nov 1
Mary Weber	Nov 4
Dorothy Kurth	Nov 4
Denise Snopek	Nov 6
Colin Schmid	Nov 6
Austin Cornell	Nov 7
Mary Jackson	Nov 11
Jane Rusch	Nov 13
Ron McCreedy	Nov 15
Bob Flaherty	Nov 18
Rebecca Dietenberger	Nov 19
Judi Faubel	Nov 27
Sharon Schmidt	Nov 27
Brad Leonord	Nov 27
Adrian Johnson	Nov 29



November 2	Susa Roloff
November 3	Donna McCulloch
November 26	Bud & Carol Browning

Ushers for November

Date	9:00 Service
Nov2	Avery & Barb Geiger
Nov9	Steven & Rachel Wicihowski
Nov16	Jim & Dianne Bentley
Nov23	Linda & Randy Stutz
Nov30	Bobbie Flaherty & Donna Jost

Welcomers for November

Date	9:00 Service
Nov2	Fran Schmid
Nov9	Randy Stutz
Nov16	Gary Ring
Nov23	Linda Stutz
Nov30	Ron McCreedy

Worship Leaders November

Date	9:00 Service
Nov2	Bobbie Flaherty
Nov9	Noreen Henderson
Nov16	Sue Schmitz
Nov23	Sue Kaiser
Nov30	Ellen Sieglaff

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Church Council Meeting

September 18, 2025

Present: Jim Bentley, Linda Stutz, Pastor Jeannie Douglas, Peg Bradley, Dixie Sullivan, Donna Jost, Steve Wicihowski, Ron McCreedy, Patty Minter, Fran Schmid, Avery Geiger

Guests: Hayden and Sarah

The meeting opened with the acknowledgment of a quorum and Prayer by Pastor Jeannie at 6:00 PM.

Hayden and Sarah Recovery group SAA (Sexual Addicts Anonymous) : This recovery group would meet on Thursdays at 6 – Approximately until 7. At this time it is unsure as to how many individuals would be attending. Hayden would start out as the leader and remain the contact person. Their agenda is they would do some readings and then some group discussions. This support group is based on the 12 steps in AA. They would like a room which is private. Jim took them on a little tour, discussions ensued as to the Guild room and the room across the hall. There is no press involved with recruiting members etc. Members to this group are by word of mouth. There may be 'offenders' but the majority of members to SAA are due to self identification and wanting support.

Allowing SAA to meet in is line with our WISE and Accepting all in our church as we do with NA and ALA -Non groups.

Steve made a motion to allow the SAA group to meet at the church. Dixie seconded the motion and the motion passed with unanimous consent. Pastor Jeannie will contact Hayden and let him know and what day they can start meeting.

Secretary's Report: With some additional corrections for the August minutes which Wendy will make the corrections. Linda made a motion to accept the corrected minutes, Ron seconded the motion, minutes passed with Unanimous Consent. Wendy will pass these corrections on to Amy.

Treasurer's Report: Report attached. Fran made a motion that the minutes be approved, Wendy seconded the motion. Motion passed with Unanimous Consent.

Pastor's Report: Report attached. Pastor Jeannie provided information regarding Note Bird which is an App to use for care notes. It is in line with Breeze. Steve made a motion to fund Note Bird for Pastor Jeannie (then seated Pastor) and 3 others for this -year. It will be funded from the Trust Fund Council Allocation. Patty 2nd the motion. Motion passed with Unanimous Consent.

Old Business: Warming Shelter: There will be a special offering October 26th. The announcement will be on Oct 19th.

Church Organ: A group has been put together to examine the information that Chris Deaner -Rogers put together regarding the issues with the organ and investigate what options there are regarding this. Those members are: Steven Wicihowski, Andrew Christenson, Ellen Sieglaff, and Connie Anderson.

Ministry/Committee Reports and updates (as necessary)

Worship and Ministry- Steve Wicihowski (council rep.) Minutes attached.

New Member Potluck: 9/17/25, Steven will attend to represent the worship ministry

Order of Worship; a discussion was held to discuss alternatives regarding order of worship. We discussed how the announcements could be on a pull out sheet in the bulletin, reducing the time spent on verbal announcements. And if they could be done after the prayer of thanksgiving prior to the parting hymn.

Christian Education- Dixie Sullivan (Council Rep.) Minutes attached

The results from the Sunday School School Parent Survey: 50% responded and all indicated preferring Sunday School be during Church Services.

Sunday School Enrollment: 2 students in first grade/4 students in 7th and 8th grade. Exploring ways to increase numbers and how to adapt to meet the needs of children and families.

Confirmation class: Working on details of when it is taking place and roles of the people making happen. The Ministry is recommending adult mentors to support the students. (Pastor Jeannie added, mentors are not to be family members)

Youth Ministry: No report

Adult Education Ministry:

The salad luncheon was held on Monday, September 8, 2025. as a kick off for Expanding Horizons.

They are currently working on the Spring Semester Classes.

Property Maintenance – Avery Geiger (Council Rep) Minutes attached

The ONA banner has been hung by the southwest entrance.

There have been multiple complaints regarding the bathroom lights. Complaints have been made that they are not working. They are all on automatic sensors which are both motion and sound activated. Upon inspection the lights have been turned off so were not turning on. Avery tested them all and when in the on position they are working fine. On the bottom of the switch is a switch to slide up to turn on. IF they don't appear to be working ensure that switch is in the up position so they are working. Do NOT slide that switch off. The lights will turn off automatically. When in the on position any movement turns the lights on, any sound keeps them on. No movement and not sound they turn off.

Lay Life & Leadership – Patty Minter (Council Rep.)

Dining out will be October 26, 2025 at Fat Joe's sign up will be in the Narthex.

Stewardship & Finance – Ron McCreedy (Council Rep.) Minutes attached.

Monthly Offering was behind \$4,130.

Over all Budget is on track with both spending and income

Discussed - Neglecting our UCC Special Mission Offerings the past years.

Assign ministry Mission Moments- November Sunday's and Stewardship Sunday, November 30th. Looking for individuals from 4 committees to provide mission moments.

Membership & Evangelism – Fran Schmid (Council Rep.) Minutes attached

They are currently working on the budget for next year.

There was an unfortunate incident at Fondue Fest. It is important that at these public events that there are more than one person at the 'tent' at these events. Fortunately there were individuals from the public that stepped in and assisted in the resolution of the incident.

Christian Out reach – Peg Bradley (Council Rep) Minutes attached

Alternative gift fair is all set to be on Dec.7, 2025. There 9 charities and volunteers for each. The article will be in the November and December Quill.

Karen Goodacre and Mary Hobbs have become new members of the ministry.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee: Ministries please ask members whose time on the ministry is up, if they are going to remain on the ministry or not.

Ham Dinner: The Ham dinner will be on Thursday November 6th. It will be drive through again this year. There will be a survey after to find out if people would like to have an area to sit together at the church after they get their meal or remain drive through.

Memorial Fund Committee

Green Team:

Signs will be installed along the sidewalk asking people to keep dogs out of the prairie

Pill bottle collection will begin in October and requirements for donated bottles will be posted in the quill

September 7 glass communion cups were utilized. The Green Team will take them home in special dishwasher safe racks to clean and then return them to the church.

WISE

ONA

SCRIP: There will be a 10% return to Pilgrim from Kwik Trip cards.

Trust Fund Report

Memorial Garden

Celebrations:

There were 64 in attendance at CELEBRATION Sunday Pot Luck. IT was a great event.

The meeting closed at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Wendy Ellison, Council Secretary.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</u> 9:00 AM Worship/Choir 10:15 AM Coffee Hour Blood Pressure Checks (after worship)	3 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons 5 PM Christian Ed	4	5 5 PM Confirmation Class	6 4-6:30 PM Ham Dinner 7 PM Choir Practice	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship/Bell Quart. 10:15 AM Adult Forum	10 10-12:30 PM COP 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons 4:30 PM Worship Committee	11 10 AM Christian Outreach 11 AM Membership & Evangelism Meeting 5 PM WISE	12	13 9:00 AM COP 7 PM Choir Practice	14 Intergenerational Night Project & Treats	15
16 9:00 AM Worship/Choir 10:15 AM Adult Ed	17 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons 6 PM Council Meeting **Quill Deadline**	18	19 5 PM Confirmation Class	20 7 PM Choir Practice	21	22
23 <u>HANGING OF THE GREENS</u> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Adult Forum	24 1-3 PM Expanding Horizons	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Adult Forum						

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
535 Stow Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-2865
Phone: 920-921-0415
Email: pilgrim.info@pilgrimuccfdl.org
Website: www.pilgrimuccfdl.org

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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.