



JANUARY 28, 2016

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PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR PILGRIM CHURCH – YES, STILL!

I was honored and blessed to spend Saturday, January 24, with Minnesota Conference UCC members and clergy to meet with Rev. John Dorhauer, the UCC's new General Minister and President. John is deeply centered, utterly approachable, courageous and visionary. Two of his best gifts for leadership are his grasp of endemic racism, including how to begin to confront white privilege (this was the area of his doctorate), and his understanding of the postmodern world and what that means for the Church (he shepherded the UCC's Center for Progressive Renewal while serving as a Conference Minister). He spoke with us on themes from his new book, "Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World," from which I quote:

"The Church is about one thing: its mission. We are called into being for a purpose. We are invited to be in mission. We are sent forth by a God with vision for what this world could be, and who, in hope of fulfilling that vision, has always honored humanity with the invitation to participate in mission."

"Owning one's mission with clarity, with passion, with purpose, and with intention is, I believe, what will keep the Church alive and vital and relevant. It is where the Spirit invests herself...."

"Discernment, the art of listening, the spiritual discipline of hearing, be it the cries of the people or the voice of one crying in the wilderness or the invitation of God the Liberator sending us forth, is fundamental to undertaking mission.... Discernment requires skillful, prayerful, artful, playful listening."

Pilgrim Church is undertaking the New Beginnings process to discern its mission. Phase One has begun, as our Assessor reviews provided information in preparation for his visit on **Tuesday, February 2**. That evening, a group of 30-40 Pilgrims will meet for an *Appreciative Inquiry* session at **7:00 p.m.** If you are passionate about Pilgrim's future, get your name on the list for one of the remaining slots.

The Council is now identifying persons to be trained in Phase Two (March 11-12) to serve as facilitators for small groups. These groups will study the extensive report to be generated, and seek to discern what mission Pilgrim may be called to. Might you serve in such a role? Do you have someone to recommend?

This spring during Phase Three, we expect *at least half* of the confirmed membership of Pilgrim Church to participate in small groups for a series of six gatherings, digesting the report and listening for the Spirit's call. This is the discerning work that can only be done by a faith community. No expert, and no leadership team, can do this for you. The community is where the Spirit breathes and moves. You can trust the discernment you will do, together.

By summer, the Council will receive each group's sense of mission, and prayerfully seek a unified vision. That vision will guide Pilgrim and its next pastor in your new season, a season of faithfulness and change, of work and hope, of challenges and joys – of renewed vitality and fresh purpose. This is such an exciting time! Do join in, and trust what God will do!

WANT TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT “NEW BEGINNINGS”?

To understand what might happen because of undertaking New Beginnings, or how the experience can impact a church, explore the following resources:

<http://whatisourfuturestory.com/>

<http://uccfiles.com/mp4/Sue-Tamilio.mp4>

<http://www.hopepmt.org/transform/new-beginnings/new-beginnings-success-stories/>

Remember, New Beginnings’ purpose is to enable self-awareness as a church, and to provide a grass-roots process for faithfully discerning future mission and vision. Further consultation, training, or coaching can help Pilgrim to implement that vision in the coming years.

Contact Jennifer if you want to learn more.

PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST

Pilgrim’s regular broadcasts on Channel 180 are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00 to 8:00 am and 8:30-9:30 pm.

- Feb. 2 and 3-”United Campus Ministry” by Cynthia Coffin-Langdon from November 22, 2015
- Feb. 10 and 11- “Reign of Christ ” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from November 22, 2015
- Feb. 17 and 18-Lee Stuart spoke about the Steve O’Neil Apartments and CHUM from January 10, 2016
- Feb. 24 and 25 “White or Red” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy Dressler from January 17, 2016
- March 2 and 3-”This Day” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from January 24, 2016

INKJET AND TONER DONATIONS

We will NOT be accepting donations of inkjet and toner cartridges because the company we have been sending the empty cartridges has greatly restricted what they will accept. If you know of another organization who is collecting cartridges let the office know so it can be passed on to the congregation.

Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The search committee will begin the evaluation process of candidates on February 9th. At this writing we have 10 profiles to review. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we discern which of these or as yet unknown candidate we will consider calling.

**NEW MEMBER INQUIRY CLASS
2nd Hour February 7th.**

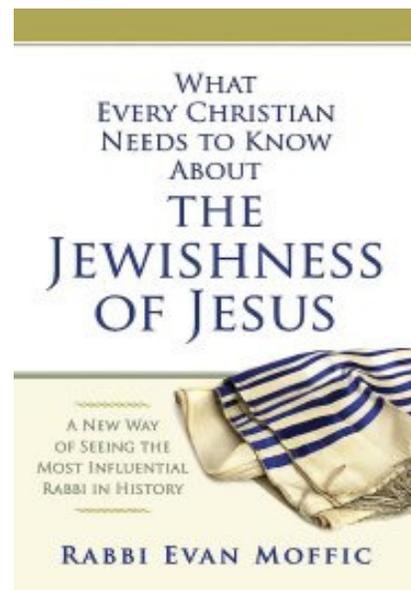
Whether you are just visiting and want to learn more, or you are a “long tenured visitor” who’s ready to join our covenant, plan to stay for this “get -acquainted” opportunity after worship next Sunday.

Letters have been sent to many of you who have expressed interest, but we may very well have missed some names.. Please feel very welcome even if we did not send an invitation!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

The Lenten book study will be “What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus,” by Rabbi Evan Moffic. Written by a Jewish Rabbi specifically for Christians, this book gives fresh insight on how Jesus’ contemporaries knew him, how his Jewish faith shaped him, on the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer, and the miracles he performed. Books are available in Salter Hall.

Groups will meet Sundays starting Feb. 14 either before or after worship. See sign-up sheets on the information table in Salter Hall. The cost the book is \$15.00. It can be downloaded electronic for from



www.cokesbury.com and key in the title in the search area.

**ADULT LENTEN MEDITATIONS
are available in Salter Hall**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 31

“Love Song”
(I Corinthians 13)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Annual Meeting

February 7

Transfiguration Sunday
“In the Cloud”
(Luke 9:28-43a)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
Holy Communion
11:00 am Coffee Hour
11:20 am-New Member Inquiry

February 10

Ash Wednesday
6:00 pm Supper
7:00 pm Worship

February 14

1st Sunday of Lent
“Forty”
(Deut. 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour
9:00 am and 11:20 am Lenten Book Study

February 18

Prayer Service for Mother Emanuel AME
7:00 pm
(see accompanying article to the right)

February 21

2nd Sunday of Lent
“Two Dreams”
(Genesis 15:7-18)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour
9:00 am and 11:20 am Lenten Book Study

February 28

3rd Sunday of Lent
“Better Than Life Itself”
(Ps. 63:1-8, Luke 13: 1-9)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour
9:00 am and 11:20 am Lenten Book Study

WORSHIP NOTES

The Epiphany season of “enlightenment” always concludes with the story of Jesus transfigured, glowing on the mountaintop and engulfed by a cloud. We’ll ponder that cloud as a spiritual metaphor on February 3.

On February 14, we’ll reflect on the significance of “forty,” as the number of years of the Exile and the number of days of Jesus’ time in the wilderness. What is our “forty”?

Abram’s strange dream in Genesis 15 gives us pause to consider, on February 21, what God might be saying through dreams we have today.

February 28 raises the age-old question of evil, and where God is when bad things happen.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 10

6:00 pm Supper, 7:00 pm Worship

The service ushers us into Lent, a reflective season to plumb the depths of suffering and of grace. A Service of Prayer for Healing will be included. We will pray for the healing of bodies, lives, and relationships at all levels. There will be opportunity for personal prayer where you are seated, and for prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil with the pastor. The service concludes with the imposition of ashes for all who desire.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR MOTHER EMANUEL AME

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00 P.M.

As part of a Minnesota Council of Churches initiative, Pilgrim is hosting this service to remember the victims of last June’s shooting at Emanuel AME in Charleston, SC, confront racism and our complicity in it, and address violence in our world. Rev. Richard Coleman, pastor of St. Mark AME in Duluth and Executive Director of Hope United Community Development Corporation in North Minneapolis, will be a featured speaker.

This service is open to the public; please invite others! If you are able to assist with ushering, hospitality, or other details, please contact Jennifer asap.



PARISH PERSONALS

**Please keep in your thoughts
and prayers those
with ongoing health issues.**

PARISH POSTS

Dear Pilgrims and Friends,
Thanks you for all the cards, good wishes and prayers for my speedy recovery when I was in the hospital in early December. Thanks too for the offers of help on my return home.

Sincerely,
Jane Shull

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
Thank you for your congregational gift in the amount of \$512.50, received in December. With your help, we provide services to those who come to CHUM looking for food, shelter, understanding and stability.

Lee Stuart, Executive Director

Dear Pilgrim Congregational Church Members,
Thank you for your recent contribution of a wonderful assortment of new hats & mittens and some gently used clothes are greatly appreciated!!
Sincerely,

Kay Doyle, Kid's Closet Board Member

"If we would guide by the light of reason
We must let our minds be bold."
-Louis Brandeis
Supreme Court Judge (1916-1939)

www. instituteforcivility.org

ALL MINISTRY NIGHT
Tuesday, February 9.

**EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITHOUT
AN EXTRAVAGANT AMOUNT OF
TIME!**

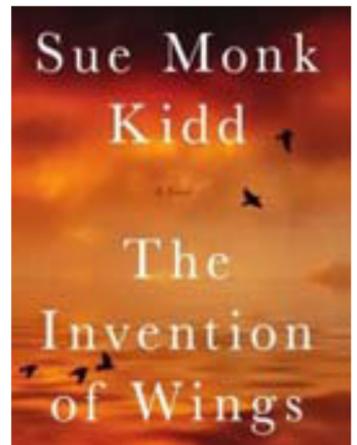
In year's past, each congregation member or family gave one Sunday of the year to serve as a Greeter prior to worship, welcoming members and visitors to Pilgrim; and to serve as Coffee Host by setting up tea/coffee for after worship. For the past few years, these tasks have been performed by a small group of people (and we graciously thank them!). Let's widen the circle again and go back to each of us taking a turn. A small commitment of one Sunday of your time can lead to a welcoming environment for all.

Check your email inbox for the designated date and instructions for you to be a Greeter/Coffee Host in 2016. You can easily switch with others if the date doesn't work for you.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP
Monday, February 22 6:00 pm

At our next meeting we shall review The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (leader, Mary Jo). This historical novel, early 1800's, portrays the true life of Sarah Grimké, a historically known Charleston socialite and Hetty, her fictional slave girl. Challenges are presented like abolition and women's rights: are they still relevant today?

Come join for treats and discussion. Paperback-350 pages
Questions?
Mary Jo Gould 218-722-3987



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Pilgrim is full of motivated and inspired youth. They were kept very busy in December with work preparing for the Christmas pageant, and since then have been helping out with service with reading and sharing their musical talents with the congregation. We are working on planning some activities for our youth, like a lock-in, and other bonding type opportunities.

They are also all very interested in service learning opportunities so we are working on coming up with some good ways to help them get that experience. Sunday School is structured around a curriculum on the website Sparkhouse, however some teachers create their own lessons and ideas to share with the children. If anyone is interested in teaching, contact Sophie Hillmeyer—sophiehillmeyer@gmail.com—you can sign up for just one week if you're not looking for a huge time commitment. The kids love having new teachers, they're great to work with.

Sophie Hillmeyer,
Children and Family Ministries Coordinator

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Pilgrim Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card. Online Giving lets you go to www.pilgrimduluth.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office

Mary Sopoci

BAKE SALE

Sunday, February 14th: We will be selling baked goods to raise money for the musical in the spring after church! Sign up sheet to bring baked goods is on the Salter hall Table!
Give your Valentine a sweet from the sale!



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT:

Friday, February 12th 5:30-8:00pm
Handbells, Youth Choir, and Musical Rehearsal,
Pizza and a movie for the kiddos
\$5 donation per child to help cover the cost of pizza.

Ages 4 and up:
RSVP to rachaelkresha@gmail.com



BOOK BUDDIES

We would like to find a few more Book Buddies to read once a week with Kindergarten, first, second or fifth grade students at Myers-Wilkins school. It is rewarding to develop a relationship with a child who needs a boost or who needs a friend to share a book with.
Can't commit to every week? Sign up as a substitute! It is always nice to have some names in case one of our regulars can't make it.
Contact Joan Setterlund to find out more about this intergenerational program.

CHUM ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday February 16
6:30 pm Fellowship
7:00 pm Meeting

Eastridge Community Church
3727 W Arrowhead Road, Duluth

Join CHUM and our 40 Member Congregations for our Annual Meeting. This is a chance to hear from our executive director, Lee Stuart, about the past year at CHUM and what the future of CHUM looks like. We will also elect new board members and delegates and welcome new staff.

PATHWAYS TO PEACE

An Interfaith Response to Gun violence

Sunday, February 28
Temple Israel
1602 E 2nd St, Duluth
1:30 Registration
2:00-4:30 Summit

Join Duluth area faith communities to learn more about the issue of gun violence from victims, survivors, local advocates and faith leaders. There will be treats, music, a bell ringing in memory of victims, presentations and panels for discussion



to involve participants in finding solutions to prevent gun violence. Sponsored by the Northland Brady/Protect Minnesota Chapter and local faith communities

2016 CROP WALK

Sunday, February 28th 2~4 pm
United Campus Ministry sponsors the Duluth CROP Walk, Ski, Sled and Snowshoe event!

Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. at Bagley Nature Center on the UMD campus right off of St. Marie



St. The trail is about 1 mile long and you can walk, or bring your skis or snowshoes! There is a sliding hill for kids to bring their sleds as well. We will have a few snowshoes on hand for people to try out. We will also have an outdoor fire to warm up and roast marshmallows and cookies & hot chocolate for everyone.

With the event we will raise money and awareness for those who do not have enough to eat around the world and right here in our own town of Duluth. If you can't give any money we still want you to come and just be part of this fun community event! It is a rare time when all faiths, churches, congregations, and campus can join together and be united! It is an event for every age! Just come and hang out by the fire! You can also give a donation to the cause the day of the event when you register. Hope to see you all at the 2016 CROP WALK!



PILGRIM CHURCH STAFF

- Jennifer Amy-Dressler, Pastor
- Mary Sopoci, Business Manager
- Jim Brower, Administrative Assistant
- Rachael Kresha, Director of Music
- Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Music
- Sophie Hillmeyer, Children and Family Ministries Coordinator
- Annika Nielsen, Childcare Assistant

Need more information on happenings, or a boost in the arm about how God has been working in and through Pilgrim Church? Remember to visit our website, pilgrimduluth.org, and our Facebook page!

When you visit the Pilgrim Church Facebook page, please click the "LIKE" button as well as the "SHARE" button. Also, you may "INVITE" your FRIENDS to any current "event" listed. Help us promote the viewing of our FB page!

JANUARY 28—FEBRUARY 24

Thursday, Jan. 28	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Jan. 31	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Orchestra Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting Coffee
Tuesday, Feb. 2	7:00 pm	Inquiry Session
Wednesday, Feb. 3	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Feb. 4	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Saturday, Feb. 6	10:00 am	Search Committee
Sunday, Feb. 7	9:00 am	Youth Orchestra Rehearsal
	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Handbells Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour-New Member Inquiry
Tuesday, Feb. 9		All Ministry Night
	6:00 pm	Search Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 10	6:00	Soup and bread meal
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, Feb. 11	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Friday, Feb 12	5:30 pm	Parents Night Out
Sunday, Feb. 14	9:00 am	Lenten Book Study
	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour/Bake Sale
	11:20 am	Lenten Book Study
Monday, Feb. 15		Office Closed-President's Day
Tuesday, Feb. 16	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wednesday, Feb. 17	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Feb. 18		St. Mark AME Prayer Vigil
Sunday, Feb. 21	9:00 am	Lenten Book Study
	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir and Youth Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Orchestra Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Lenten Book Study
Monday, Feb. 22		Newsletter Deadline
	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
	6:00 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, Feb. 23	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wed., Feb. 24	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Feb. 25	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise

Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, February 22

**SUNDAY
VOLUNTEERS**

January 31-Ushers

Stacey Achterhoff and Andrew Streitz

Greeters/Coffee

Bob and Lois Heller

Reader

Don Bjoralt

Counters

Greg Gilbert and Mardi Bagley

February 7-Ushers

Tucker Hanlon, Bob Hensley and

Josie Olson

Greeters/Coffee

Kane Tewes and Mary Anderson

Reader

Patty Polasky

Counters

Jack Setterlund and Ruth Ann Eaton

February 14-Ushers

Martin Grune and Bob Heller

Greeters/Coffee

Mike and Nan Hillmeyer

Reader

Nate and Elle Stumme

Counters

Mardi Bagley and Jack Setterlund

February 21-Ushers

Charles Walters and

Stacey Achterhoff

Greeters/Coffee

Karl and Sarah Beaster

Reader

Jenny Ballew

Counters

Denny Falk and Steve Cushing

February 28-Ushers

Andrew Streitz and Bob Hensley

Greeters/Coffee

Don and Paula Bjoralt

Reader

Mary Olin

Counters

Denny Falk and Mardi Bagley

Please arrive at church between 9:15 and 9:30 to allow enough time to get ready for worship. Thank you!

pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday Volunteers

Office hours are 9-4, Monday
through Friday. You can reach us
at:

office@pilgrimduluth.org 218-724-
8503 or www.pilgrimduluth.org

Upcoming Events

February 7 Worship with Holy Communion
and Sunday School
February 10 All Ministry Night
February 10 Ash Wednesday meal and worship
February 11 Joyful Noise
February 12 Parent's Night Out/Youth Rehearsals
February 14 Lenten Book Studies
Worship and Sunday Schools
February 16 BeFrienders
February 18 Mother Emanuel AME Vigil
February 21 Lenten Book Studies
Worship and Sunday School
February 22 Women's Book Group
Newsletter Deadline
February 23 Church Council



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST