



NOVEMBER 20, 2014

VOLUME 62, NO. 11

# PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

## ADVENT: FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Deep within each of us there is the child we once were. In that child is the capacity for wonder and amazement, an ability to believe almost anything, an impulse to explore and a vulnerability that both gives and receives love. By the time we leave infancy, most of us are already learning how to protect and guard that child spirit. On our way to adulthood, most of us learn to curb our wonder and contain our amazement. There are limits to our exploration and we become more guarded about whom we love. Those skills are necessary for our survival. But somewhere deep in our hearts, the child spirit lingers.

Donna Pena wrote an Advent/Christmas song entitled *In This Child*. The lyrics of the refrain are this: "In this child, Christ will come again". I heard Donna introduce this song at a concert years ago: In every child, Christ comes to us to open our eyes to new ways of mending a broken world. The gift of the Christ child is the gift of awakening our imagination (the child within us) to new avenues of compassion.

Advent is a time of such awakening. It's an opportunity to look within—to search for the child spirit that may be buried under mounds of adult responsibility; or may have been hidden away in the face of harsh experience; or may have been lost in the well filled pages of calendars and planners. Advent is an opportunity to practice compassion: a plate of cookies for the neighbor, cards and greetings sent by email or postal service, the preparation of gifts for family and friends, the extra gift from the Advent tree in Salter Hall, the extra plate of cookies for the holiday party at the jail. Advent is not just a flurry of holiday preparation, but a season for finding new ways to see the world and practice compassion. Look for the child spirit within and you may also find the Christ child as well.

Check the table in Salter Hall for Advent devotions that can help you observe the season. This year there are a variety of booklets—For adults, the devotional *Tear Open the Heavens* from the Still speaking UCC writers. There is *Advent-agous* for older youth and almost tweens, *What Do I ABC?* for elementary school age students, and a Bethlehem sticker book for the youngest Pilgrims. Choose the Advent devotionals that fit for your family.

In this newsletter, you'll find information about holiday activities, most of them intergenerational, so that, as a community, we can discover the Christ Child's presence among us. "When hearts are bound together, with eyes open wide, seeking a new way to mend, the Christ child comes again," Donna sang. Here's wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Advent.

**For the Child in All of Us**

**Peace, Hope, Joy, Love**

Charlotte Frantz, Minister

## JOINT INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 pm

Pilgrim Congregational UCC

Join the members and choirs from St. Paul's Episcopal, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, First United Methodist, Glen Avon Presbyterian, the Twin Ports Islamic Center, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Temple Israel, Hope United Methodist, Peace UCC and Pilgrim for our annual interfaith Thanksgiving service.

The choirs will be singing individually and also performing a mass anthem.

If you're available to usher, serve as a greeter or provide a plate or two of bars and cookies for the event, please contact Tammy Hensley at 515-419-4620 or at [tammyhensley1@mac.com](mailto:tammyhensley1@mac.com)

**THE CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE**

Give a gift from Pilgrim's gift tree. This year you'll find ornaments for two different projects:

**A)** We will continue our tradition of giving Christmas gifts to the children at City Center Housing's Sheila's Place. This year is a little different in that you will select an age appropriate gift of your choice under \$20. Gifts will need to be placed under the tree **UNWRAPPED**, with the gift tag attached, no later than December 14th.

Sheila's Place provides "a permanent supportive housing program for homeless families who have a family member with a disability."



**B)** For families at Steve O'Neil Apartments. In late December, homeless families will begin moving into the new apartments. Pilgrim is looking for monetary donations to help furnish kitchens. Take an ornament from the tree and put your monetary gift in check or cash in an envelope and mark it *Steve O'Neil Apartments*. Place your envelope in the "apartment box" under the tree on or before December 14..

The gift tree will be ready November 30th, the first Sunday of Advent. Many Thanks.

Nan Hillmeyer and Melanie Grune for the Social Justice Ministry

**ADVENT WORKSHOP AND ARTS AND CRAFT SALE  
DECEMBER 7  
AFTER WORSHIP**

Mark your calendars for December 7th for the Annual Advent Workshop! There are several planned activities with three new items and much more! There will be fun for all ages! Mike & Nan Hillmeyer will prepare their famous Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Tomato Soup for lunch!

There will also be an Arts and Craft sale so you can do some shopping and see what some of your fellow Pilgrims have talents for. Plan to stay after worship and enjoy this Advent event.

**WILL YOU ASSIST WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY DURING ADVENT?**

**"In this child"** is a central theme for this year's Advent season. If you have any mother and child or family and child decorations that you would be willing to let Pilgrim use in decorating for the season, please drop them off at the Pilgrim office before November 29th.

**Hanging of the Greens preparation** will be happening on **Saturday, November 29 at 3:00 pm**. We're looking for a few volunteers to help prepare the Sanctuary and Salter Hall for the Advent Season and participate in the service Sunday, November 30. Contact the Pilgrim office or Tammy Hensley if you're available.

We'll be doing a small **Art & Craft Fair** in conjunction with the **Advent Workshop on December 7**. If you would like a small table where you can sell a few of your wares so your fellow Pilgrims can get a little Christmas shopping done, please let Tammy know prior to November 30.

**Ushering on Christmas Eve at 5 and 10 pm** - We need ushers for both the 5 or 10 o'clock service. If you are an usher and will be here Christmas Eve, please let the Pilgrim office or Tammy know so we can schedule people to help with those services.

**COOKIES FOR THE JAIL**

Each year the chaplains at the County Jail host a party for inmates and their families—if you are baking and could box up a dozen or so cookies, it would be greatly appreciated. Mark your cookies "for Jail" and leave them in the small kitchen Sunday or Monday December 7th or 8th.

**MEMBERSHIP**

If you've been a guest or visitor long enough and would like to join Pilgrim, please contact Charlotte Frantz asap. New members will be received this Sunday, November 23, or arrangements can be made for a later date.

**PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST**

Pilgrim's regular broadcasts on Channel 180 (Note channel Change) are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 am. and 8:30-9:30 pm.

November 26 and 27 All Saints Day Service from November 2, 2014

December 3 and 4 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service from November 25, 2014

December 10 and 11 1st Sunday of Advent-Hanging of the Greens

The remaining services will follow in sequence.

Please watch for special Holiday programing!

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**November 23**

**Thanksgiving Service**

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

“Giving Thanks for Having Come:

Personal Reflections on a Life in Ministry”

Reception of New Member(s)

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am 2nd Hour-Update on Energy Retrofit

Childcare available 9:00—12:30 pm

**November 25**

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

7:00 pm at Pilgrim

Reception afterwards

**November 30**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Hanging of the Greens**

10:00 am Worship with Sacrament of Baptism

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**December 7**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion and  
Sunday School

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:15 am Advent Workshop

Arts and Craft Fair

Coffee and meal

Childcare available 9:00—12:30 pm

**December 14**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Pilgrim Choir Cantata**

“Carols and Lullabies” by Conrad Susa

Pilgrim Choir accompanied by

Harp and Marimba

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:20 2nd Hour—Closing conversations  
with Charlotte Frantz

Childcare available 9:00—12:30

**December 21**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Intergenerational Pageant with Bellissimo  
Handbells**

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Reception in honor of Maeve Beaster, James  
Kresha and Rowan Ohm

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**

**NOVEMBER 30**

There will be no Sunday School on November 30, and children are invited to worship with their families. We decorate the sanctuary during the service; James Kresha will be baptized and welcomed into Pilgrim; and much of the service is designed with children in mind. So, come with your children and enjoy this first Sunday in Advent together.

**CAROLS AND LULLABIES:  
CHRISTMAS IN THE SOUTHWEST**

**DECEMBER 14**

Invite someone to worship on December 14 when Pilgrim Choir presents this beautiful cantata by American composer Conrad Susa. Susa collected Christmas music from the Hispanic cultures in the American southwest; many of the songs are much loved traditional music from Spain and the Spanish Americas. Musical accompaniment includes harp and marimba.

**CLOSING CONVERSATIONS**

**WITH CHARLOTTE**

**2ND HOUR DECEMBER 14**

Charlotte’s tenure at Pilgrim will conclude on January 4, and with it she will be closing out more than 40 years of parish ministry. She invites you to a 2nd hour on December 14 for a look back at the 12 years she has been at Pilgrim. What did she learn? What did we learn? Are there questions you’d like to ask? Is there information she needs to leave behind? From the silly to the serious—this is an opportunity to reflect with her on where we’ve been.

She is also willing to meet with individuals over lunch or coffee, at the office or elsewhere if there is a “closing conversation” you’d like to have with her on your own.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**DECEMBER 21**

**4:00 P.M.**

Sing a few fa-la-la-la’s for Pilgrim’s homebound or elderly members on Sunday, December 21. It’s always fun to drop in on our elderly or homebound members to share some of the Christmas spirit—then come back to Pilgrim for pizza and holiday conversation. This is a wonderful intergenerational activity for you and your family or friends.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
WILL BE AT 5:00 AND 10:00**

Child care provided for the 5:00 service.

**PARISH POSTS**

Hogwart's Success!  
 Final numbers are in! Over 600 people attended the party. We are donating to Kids Closet a \$500 grant I wrote from Kohl's Cares and \$500 from donations collected at party door for a total of \$1000. Last year I think we donated \$450 so this is a huge jump. At the door we took in \$1117.03 total so the remaining \$617.03 will stay at Pilgrim for party expenses and future outreach events. Great job! Jenny Jensen

**ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY UPDATE—NOVEMBER 23**

This Sunday during the Coffee Hour, the 4th-8th grade Sunday school class will share their learning about the environment. Take a few minutes to look at their posters and talk with them about what they've learned the past three months.

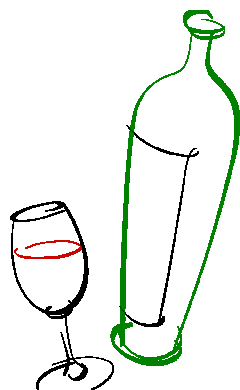
Then join Bret Pence in the parlor for 2nd hour and hear him talk about Pilgrim's energy efficiency efforts. Find out what's happened since our audit in early 2013, what we've learned along the way, and potential energy efficiency projects for the next 2 years.

**STEWARDSHIP RETURNS**

A huge THANK YOU to the 72 households who returned their pledge cards! 69 households have pledged \$192,051 to Pilgrim's operating budget and 41 pledged \$43,355 to capital needs. If you haven't returned a pledge card yet, please consider what you can give.

**WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER!**

Join other Pilgrims in supporting our church's service learning trip to Guatemala in June. Savvy Nomad specializes in wine education, tasting, and tours. David Devere is a Certified Specialist of Wine through the Society of Wine Educators.



What: Wine Tasting/Appetizers and Wine Education with David Devere

Day: Saturday, Dec. 13

Time: 6:30 to 9 pm

Where: Salter Hall at Pilgrim

Cost: \$40 per person

Class is limited to 18 adults. Please contact Stacey Achterhoff, 428-9708, to make your reservation.

**PARISH PERSONALS**

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Congratulations to **Alex Frantz, Alex Hadlock and Jenna Olsen** who were confirmed November 9, 2014. Thank you to their mentors Kate Tewes, Clyde and Julie Johnson and Jackie Falk, M. Div., teacher.

**Steve Cherne and Rebecca Ellenson**—transferred to Sandstone UCC October 10, 2014.

**Joanie Fechtelkotter**—transferred to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, October 23, 2014.

Welcome back. **Cliff and Shirley Grindy**, long time members of Pilgrim, are now settled back in Duluth. They are living at 925 Kenwood Ave, Apt. 3165, Duluth, MN 55811.

**Dave Zentner** is recovering from surgery.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD**

On December 21 (the same day as the Christmas pageant), the coffee hour will be in honor of the youngest Pilgrims: Maeve Beaster, James Kresha, and Rowan Ohm. You are invited to bring a donation to Lutheran Social Service's Crisis Nursery—our gifts will be delivered in honor of Maeve, James and Rowan.

Children of various ages arrive at the Crisis Nursery, often during family emergencies. Gently used clothing and toys as well as disposable supplies like diapers and formula are welcome. Bring your donation and we'll get it delivered.

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

Here is the selection for the next month. We meet in the parlor at 6:30 and you are welcome to attend even if you have not read the selection.

December 15: Brain: the Man Who Wrote the Book that Changed the World by Dermot Davis. Facilitator-Lois; This is the month that we collect cookies for the jail so we will each bring cookies. by December 8th.  
 Joan Setterlund



**GUATEMALA, HERE WE COME!**

Stacey Achterhoff will be leading a group of Pilgrims and others on a service learning trip to Guatemala June 7-14, 2015. Team members will be volunteering with Common Hope, a community development agency dedicated to educating Guatemalan children. Talk to Stacey if you are interested in going on this trip. For more information, go to [www.commonhope.org](http://www.commonhope.org).



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

- Kitchen help for the reception after the Thanksgiving Interfaith service (2 more needed)
- Hanging of the Greens preparation. (see article on page 2)
- Ushers and greeters for the two Christmas eve services.
- Sunday School teachers to begin in January. Contact Katie Hanlon at 341-6181
- Volunteers for Meyers-Wilkins—see article to the right.
- Visit Earl Austin once every two months and deliver a DVD of the recent service. Contact the church office.
- MANY THANKS to those who are driving for Meals on Wheels. Subs are still welcome. The good news is that the regular routes are filled!

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC NEWS**

On Sunday, December 21st, Bellissimo and the Sunday School Youth will be telling the story of Jesus's birth through the fresh perspective of the stable animals! We will be rehearsing on Saturday, December 20th from 10-11:30 am, and Sunday, December 21st from 9:00-9:45 am.

Stay tuned for information on our **Spring Musical, "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit."** The story is based on the David and Goliath story! Auditions for speaking roles and solos will be in February. We will have rehearsals on Sunday mornings from 11:00-11:30, and Thursday and Friday evenings from 6:00-7:15 starting in April.

**PILGRIM BUDGET INFORMATION**

Income continued to lag behind expenses in October. The year to date deficit is \$5,768 over the budgeted deficit.

We have \$38,518 of outstanding pledges for 2014 which should bring us within the amount budgeted.

**Oct. 2014 Year to Date**

Income \$ 262,893  
Expenses \$ 318,628  
 Difference \$( 55,735)

**Mortgage**  
 Notes \$3,000  
Loan 18,355  
 \$21,355

**OPPORTUNITIES AT MYERS-WILKINS SCHOOL**

Myers-Wilkins is an elementary school located on the east hillside in the remodeled building that was once Grant School.

The population is diverse which makes it a wonderful environment for learning and teaching. Volunteers working at the building find the work very rewarding. Once again, members of Pilgrim have an opportunity to spark the minds of young students at Myers-Wilkins.

Stacey Achterhoff is looking for volunteers to assist with distributing food packs at the school on Friday afternoons. These backpacks are filled with food items provided to families who qualify for the weekend meals and who have registered to take part in the program at the school. To be part of the program on a weekly basis or as needed, please contact Stacey at Stacey.achterhoff@isd709.org or 428-9708. This is a great way to experience the excitement that a backpack of food can bring to a child!

Do you have an hour to read with young students once a week or as a substitute for one of the "regular" adult readers? Anita Stech (monard-amom@yahoo.com or 724-5761) and Joan Setterlund (jsetterlund@msn.com or 728-4986) are looking for volunteers to read to young students. The need is usually greatest in kindergarten where some of the students arrive at school with gaps in the sound-letter relationship or who just need a person to sit with them and share the joy of reading one on one. One hour of your time can allow as many as 10 students an opportunity to meet individually with a volunteer. If you would like to sign up for a particular time or want to work out a schedule with a classroom teacher, please contact Anita or Joan.

**CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING**

Each Christmas season Pilgrim joins the UCC churches in receiving the Christmas Fund Offering. This is used by our Pension Boards to provide pension or health premium supplementation or emergency assistance to clergy who receive small pensions because they served smaller churches and received low salaries. We at Pilgrim can offer our "thank you" and "Merry Christmas" by sharing in this offering, which will be dedicated on December 21. Envelopes will be in the next newsletter.

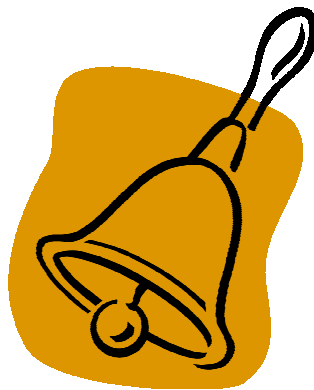
Social Justice Ministry

**VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE**

Peace Church will be hosting a vigil/ bell ringing on Thursday, Dec. 11th at Noon for victims of gun violence. This is a national event begun by Newtown Action Alliance after the Sandy Hook shooting. We are going to try a noon event and a light lunch in the hopes that people may come out while it's light outside in the dark winter. The vigil will be about 1/2 hour long- candle lighting, a bell ringing and a few brief comments by selected people. And then we are inviting participants to stay for lunch and a brief conversation about how they can become involved.

We hope this will be followed by more community events/discussions at local congregations around this issue. We would love to have faith communities more involved in the issue of gun violence prevention and safer communities as a values statement about preventing violence. The national vigil is co-sponsored by Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence.

Here is a link to the national vigil page- <http://newtownaction.org/2014-national-vigil/>



**CHUM HOLIDAY CONCERT**

**December 13**

**at Hope United Methodist Church**

**301 W St Marie St, Duluth, MN**

**Doors open at 6:30, Concert at 7 PM.**

“The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next generation.”

- Abraham Lincoln

[www.instituteforcivility.org](http://www.instituteforcivility.org)

**SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**

**November 23-Ushers**

Tammy Hensley and Jenny Jensen

**Greeters/Coffee**

Len and Bobbi Edwards

**Lay Reader**

Joseph Grant

**November 30-Ushers**

Carri Hoagland and Charles Walters

**Greeters/Coffee**

Martin and Melanie Grune

**Lay Reader**

Tucker Hanlon

**December 7-Ushers**

Josie Olson, Bob and Lois Heller and

Martin Grune

**Greeters/Coffee**

Jane and Gene Shull

**Reader**

Kitty Van Evera

**December 14-Ushers**

Andrew Streitz and Stacey Achterhoff

**Greeters/Coffee**

Jenny Ballew and Kitty Van Evera

**Lay Reader**

Denny Falk

**December 21-Ushers**

Andrew Streitz and Josie Olson

**Greeters/Coffee**

Tucker Hanlon and Nan Hillmeyer

**Lay Reader**

Steve Cushing

**December 28-Ushers**

Andrew Streitz and Tucker Hanlon

**Greeters/Coffee**

Denny Falk and Charles Walters

**Lay Reader**

Don BJORALT

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

**HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 18**

Saturday, Nov. 22	2:00 pm	Memorial Service Tony Mitchell
Sunday, Nov. 23	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour-Energy Review
Monday, Nov. 24	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
Tuesday, Nov. 25	7:00 pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, Nov. 26		<u>NO</u> Bellissimo or Choir Rehearsals
Thursday, Nov. 27		Happy Thanksgiving
Friday, Nov. 28		Office Closed
Saturday, Nov. 29	3:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens Prep
Sunday, Nov. 30	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Dec. 2	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wed., Dec. 3	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 7	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Advent Workshop, Art Fair, Coffee and Lunch
Tuesday, Dec. 9		All Ministry Night
Wed., Dec. 10	2:00 pm	Communications Ministry
	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec. 13	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Wine Tasting Party
	7:00 pm	CHUM Holiday Concert
Sunday, Dec. 14	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
		Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies"
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour-Closing
		Conversations with Charlotte Frantz
Monday, Dec. 15		Newsletter Deadline
	6:30 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, Dec. 16	7:00 pm	BeFrienders
Wed., Dec. 17	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
Thursday, Dec. 18	1:00 pm	Newsletter Assembly

**Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, December 15**

**ALL MINISTRY NIGHT**

**December 9**

**Check the time of your Ministry meeting.**



***Poinsettias***

We are taking orders for poinsettias from Engwall's Nursery the first three Sundays in Advent. Orders placed will be delivered the following Sunday. The last chance to order poinsettias will be Sunday, December 14.

Order flowers to use in your home or donate them to Pilgrim to beautify our sanctuary. Cost is \$20.00. (The same plants retail for \$24.99) Proceeds from the flowers will help support our service mission trip to Guatemala and Common Hope.

Place your order at the table in Salter Hall or drop this form at the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Take Poinsettia home \_\_\_\_\_

Leave At Pilgrim \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Or  
In Memory of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**PILGRIM CHURCH STAFF**

- Charlotte Frantz, Minister
- Mary Sopoci, Business Manager
- Jim Brower, Administrative Assistant
- Rachael Kresha, Director of Music
- Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Music
- Kristi Beaver, Childcare Attendant

**pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Office hours are 9-4, Monday  
through Friday. You can reach us  
at:  
[pilgrimdlh@msn.com](mailto:pilgrimdlh@msn.com) 218-724-8503  
or [www.pilgrimduluth.org](http://www.pilgrimduluth.org)

**Upcoming Events**

- November 23 Thanksgiving Worship and  
Sunday School  
2nd Hour: Energy Update
- November 25 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- November 24 Cooking at Damiano Center
- November 27 Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 30 Hanging of the Greens Worship
- December 7 Worship and Sunday School  
Advent Workshop and meal
- December 9 All Ministry Night
- December 14 Worship and Sunday School  
"Carols and Lullabies" by Conrad Susa
- December 15 Newsletter Deadline
- December 21 Christmas Pageant Worship  
Reception in honor of our babies  
4:00 pm Christmas Caroling



**pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST