



DECEMBER 17, 2015

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PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR PILGRIM CHURCH

(If you are reading this page before Christmas, READ AGAIN after Christmas, as you focus upon New Year's!)

Each new year invites us to reflect upon the past, and to dream and plan for the future. God has issued a special invitation to Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC to do precisely that in 2016. Like many denominational churches, Pilgrim has been challenged to find fresh ways to be faithful in changing times. With the search for a new pastor also getting under way, this is a particularly opportune time to set a **clear, bold vision** for this new season in Pilgrim's life.

The New Beginnings assessment program was developed by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and has been used in over 700 DoC, UCC, and Presbyterian Church USA churches. Its genius lies in at least three aspects: 1) Trained expert eyes help assess our situation and spark imagination for the future; 2) It's grassroots—WE do the discernment of our core identity and of a vision for our future; 3) At least half of the membership of the church WILL be personally active in this work.

Phase One begins in January; as I write, I am eagerly awaiting word of the exact day that an assessor or assessment team will spend with us (after having studied reams of information from us in advance)! This assessment visit includes an evening with YOU, Pilgrim members, sharing your perspectives through a process of *appreciative inquiry*. We will announce the date and time as soon as we have it; please plan to participate!

After a thorough report is generated, the church engages in serious study of the report and development of a vision (Phase Three). This is done through small groups that will meet six times, at the church or in homes, led by trained Pilgrim facilitators (training is Phase Two, in mid-March). Through the process, we will strengthen congregational ties and deepen spirituality. The approach is one of discernment, meaning that we will be seeking God's best dreams for us so that we can be faithful. That work cannot be done by outside experts, but only in and through a community.

You will recall that Pilgrim elected leadership reached into their own pockets to make possible this New Beginnings program. Even now we are working on child care, to enable full participation by parents. *To do good discernment, YOUR voice and perspective are needed.*

If you want to know more, talk with me personally or do a little online research:

<http://whatisourfuturestory.com/>

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

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

If you'd like to volunteer to host small group gatherings, facilitate a group, or assist in some other way, talk with me or with Char Taylor, Julie Drake, Steve Grindy or Anita Stech.

God has a New Beginning waiting for Pilgrim Church; our part is to actively discover it, then bring it into being. 2016 will be a challenging, exciting year!

2015 STEWARDSHIP RESULTS

As of December 15, 67 pledges to the operating budget have totaled \$185,597 and 37 pledges to the capital budget totaling \$43,130. Thank you to everyone who pledged.

It is not too late to return your pledge by mail, drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the office. **TRUST IN THE PROMISE and GIVE HOPE TO THE FUTURE!**

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Special Offering

Sunday, December 20

Being “between jobs” is a scary time. If you have experienced “slumps” as an independent business owner, or have found yourself without a job and without access to unemployment insurance or other sources of income, you know the feeling. And while it’s not quite as scary, being underemployed is still stressful. “Where else can I cut back?” is a constant, worrying refrain.

Sometimes angels visit us in such times. Not only might financial stresses be eased a bit, but worry and isolation are lifted by another’s compassion. Did you know you have been such an angel to me?

Twice in my ministry, the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ have provided assistance. Once was during a time that Dee and I were both working for the UCC in a shared position for youth, young adult, and outdoor ministries, with two young children needing daycare. A check meant we could do Christmas gifts after all. The second time was just last year, when health insurance premiums were due. A grant provided three months of coverage. As it turned out, our savings were just barely enough to keep us insured until shortly before my arrival to serve Pilgrim Church.

The Christmas Fund offering supplements pensions for pastors who served smaller churches, and provides an Emergency Fund for clergy in difficult financial situations. *Because you participate in this offering, you helped me in my times of need, long before you ever met me.*

Know that you bear good news of hope to faithful servants of the church when you give to the Christmas Fund. **Pilgrim will accept the Christmas Fund special offering on Sunday, December 20th.** Thank you for what you did for me, and what you will do for others who will never meet.

~ Jennifer Amy-Dressler,
Interim Pastor

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search committee has completed Pilgrim's profile and passed it on to the MN Conference. Ads will be posted at the conference site and the national UCC site. We will start reviewing pastoral candidate profiles after February 1st. How we progress from that time on will depend on the profiles we receive.

After the receipt of profiles we will spend considerable time reviewing them, contacting references and the like before we narrow down those with whom we would like to look more closely at.

Please feel free to offer advice, encouragement and prayers for this leg of our journey.

Steve Cushing

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

DECEMBER 20

3:00 PM

Sing a few fa-la-la-las for Pilgrim's homebound or elderly members on Sunday, December 20. 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 inter-generational activity for you and your family or friends. Please call the office to sign up.

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT PILGRIM

Services on Christmas Eve are at 5:00 pm and at 10:00 pm. Invite friends and bring the whole family to either service. Both services feature the Christmas story and traditional lighting of candles. The early service is slightly more “family friendly” and includes more traditional carol singing, and child care is available.

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.

Dec. 23 and 24-“Fruit Worthy of Repentance” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from December 13, 2015

Dec. 30 and 31- “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Children's Pageant from December 20, 2015

January 6 and 7-Christmas Eve Service of 2015
January 13 and 14-Worship from December 27, 2015

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 20

4th Sunday of Advent - "In/Significance"
(Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55)
Christmas Fund Offering
Children's Pageant:
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour

December 27

First Sunday after Christmas
"Jesus Was a Kid, Too"
(I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52)
Carol Sing
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour

January 3

Second Sunday after Christmas
"The First Epiphany"
(Matthew 2:1-12)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour

January 10

The Baptism of Christ
CHUM Update: Steve O'Neil Apartments
(Isaiah 43:1-7)
Lee Stuart, Executive Director of CHUM
11:00 am Coffee Hour

January 17

Second Sunday after Epiphany
"White or Red?"
(Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11)
Martin Luther King Day weekend
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour

January 24

Third Sunday after Epiphany
"In a Word ..."
(Nehemiah 8:1-10; Luke 4:14-21)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour

January 31

"Love Song"
(I Corinthians 13)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
11:00 am Coffee Hour

WORSHIP NOTES

The season of Epiphany is one of "enlightenment." The scripture lessons invite us to grapple with the identity and power of Jesus whom we call Christ (anointed, chosen) and Lord, and the difference that identity makes.

We celebrate Epiphany a few days early on **January 3** with a visit from an imaginary-but-historically accurate Zoroastrian and relative of the Magi who found Jesus and paid him homage. **Children are invited to help lead in worship this day, from music to ushering to reading; please contact the office or Jennifer asap. There will be no Sunday School.**

On **January 10**, Lee Stuart, Executive Director of CHUM, will help us see how the Steve O'Neil Apartments are changing lives one year into this new project.

"Jesus and Mary walked into a wedding reception open bar...." Find out what happens and what difference it might make on **January 17**.

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR MOTHER
EMANUEL AME:
PLANNING TEAM SOUGHT**

As part of a Minnesota Council of Churches initiative, Pilgrim will be hosting a Prayer Vigil in mid-February remembering the victims of last June's shooting at Emanuel AME in Charleston, SC, and addressing the need to undo racism. It will be open to the public. Persons are needed to help plan the service; please contact Jennifer asap.

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC FROM
PACT TV**

Here are two special holiday programs. All are cable-cast on PACT-180.

Christmas Music from Pilgrim Church is a one-hour mix of selected musical pieces take from the 2014-2015 services

December 21-3:00, 7:00 and 11:00 pm
December 22-10:00 am, 1:00 and 11:00 pm
December 23-9:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service from 2014
December 24-10:00 am, 4:30 and 9:30 pm
December 25-11:00 am and 5:00 pm

PARISH PERSONALS

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

PARISH POSTS

To the wonderful youth and adults that came to rake our yard last month-THANK YOU! We had concluded that we weren't going to get the raking done this year when we received a phone call out of the blue from Pilgrim asking if we would like to have our yard rakes. It was a greatly appreciated phone call and you did a great job!

Peggy and Steve Downing

Pilgrim Church,

Enclosed is a check for 20% of my sales at the Art Fair at Church. Thank you for the opportunity to sell my work.

Mary Vanderwerp

BOOK BUDDIES

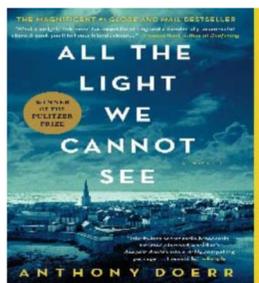
We would like to find a few more Book Buddies to read once a week with Kindergarten, first, second or fifth grade students at Myers-Wilkins school. It is rewarding to develop a relationship with a child who needs a boost or who needs a friend to share a book with.

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.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

There will be no Women's Book Group in December. For January 18, All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (leader Joan). This is the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It is rather long so give yourself plenty of time to enjoy this one.



HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW THROUGH JANUARY 31ST

Some Options Available Year-Round

Do you know someone who doesn't have health insurance? Are you looking for a better option? It is now Open Enrollment, which is a time for people to review, change, and/or renew their commercial health care coverage. Open Enrollment only runs through January 31st, so it is important to look into your options now. There is free local assistance with the enrollment process; utilizing this assistance is encouraged! The assisters, also called *Navigators*, are located at CHUM and in other trusted organizations throughout Duluth. To connect with Navigators near you, contact United Way 2-1-1 by dialing 2-1-1 (landline) or 1-800-543-7709 (mobile). Walk-in assistance is also available at the downtown Duluth library every Saturday from 10:30-1:30 through the end of January.

Many people qualify for free or low-cost coverage and MNsure is the only place to get the subsidies to help offset the cost of monthly premiums. Navigators will help you understand what you might qualify for. And Public Program enrollment, which is Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare, is not restricted to the Open Enrollment period; people can enroll in Public Programs year-round. If you're not insured, don't wait, call now and find out about you options!



ALL MINISTRY NIGHT

January 12

Check the time of your Ministry meeting.

"Nothing lowers the level of conversation more than raising the voice."
- Stanley Horowitz

www.instituteforcivility.org

MUSICAL NOTES

Upcoming Rehearsals

Saturday, December 19th

9:15 Youth Choir rehearsal, Exultate Domino

9:45 Youth Orchestra, Practice " Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

10:00-11:30 am: All Sunday School Youth

Sunday December 20th:

9:00 am Rehearsal for everything! Youth choir, Youth orchestra, and Pageant participants!

10:00 am Service and Pageant!

Wednesday, Dec 23rd:

6-7pm Bellissimo rehearsal

7:15-8:30pm Pilgrim Choir rehearsal

Thursday: December 24th:

4:00pm Bellissimo rehearsal

4:25: Pilgrim Choir rehearsal

Please feel free to contact me with any questions! Rachael Kresha, rachaelkresha@gmail.com, 218-721-6052

Bake Sale: Sunday, February 14th! We will be selling baked goods to raise money for the Musical in the spring!

Sunday, February 28th and March 6th: 11:30-12:30

Auditions for Spring Musical: Any youth interested in a speaking of solo singing part for the spring musical is invited to audition, sign up sheets will be posted in Salter Hall in February.

Sunday, June 12th: 10 am

Malice in the Palace, Pilgrim's Spring Musical: The story of Esther has all the ingredients for a great Hollywood thriller- a beautiful and spirited heroine, a dark hearted villain, and a twisting plot full of danger and intrigue, and a cliffhanger climax. And in the midst of this excitement we find a powerful message-the smallest person acting bravely can make an enormous difference, for God has placed us where we are for a reason.

MEAL DRIVER WANTED

There is still a need for a driver on Mondays for Meals on Wheels. It is a rewarding volunteer opportunity and only takes about 1 1/2 hours. We have three subs so there is flexibility. Please contact Cindy Fochs, 728-2061, for more information.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	November 2015	Year to Date
Income	\$ 28,696	288,427
Expenses	\$ <u>29,254</u>	<u>349,660</u>
Difference	(558)	(61,233)

Youth Music ensembles Schedule:

Sunday, January 3rd:

9:00-9:30 Youth orchestra rehearsal

9:30: Youth Handbells rehearsal

Sunday January 3rd: Youth Handbells are playing in church!

Sunday January 10th:

9:30 Youth Choir

Sunday, January 17th

9:30 Youth Choir

Sunday, January 24th:

9:30 Youth Handbells

Sunday, January 31st

9:30: Youth Orchestra

Bellissimo Rehearsal Schedule:

January 6th: 6-7

January 13th 6-7

January 20th 6-7

January 27th 6-7

**JOYFUL NOISE RESUMES
JANUARY 14**

**EPA'S 2016 FUEL ECONOMY
GUIDE AVAILABLE**

Several pamphlets are available in the office which compares fuel economy data for the 2016 model year. This information is also available at their website: www.fueleconomy.gov.

Consumers can save money, reduce our dependence on imported oil and promote cleaner air in our communities.

**PEER SUPPORT GROUP
OFFERED IN DULUTH**

A NAMI Connection peer support group for adults recovering from mental illness meets weekly in Duluth. The free group is sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Trained facilitators who are also in recovery lead NAMI Connection groups. The group meets on Mondays, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., at Peace Church, 1111 N. 11th Avenue E. For more information, contact Jodi at 218-576-4608 or call 1-888-NAMI-Helps.

CHUM CORNER

The CHUM annual fall assembly was held November 10 and 11 at Glen Avon Church with guest speaker, Lisa Sharon Harper, senior director of mobilizing our faith into action for Sojourners.

First, a few facts from CHUM Executive Director, Lee Stuart.

CHUM is working to repair broken worlds, to set free those that have been crushed.

- 1/3 of those that come to CHUM are homeless for the first time, 1/3 are long term, and 1/3 are in between.
- Emergency shelters are serving more people than last year.
- 63% have disabilities of which the most common is mental illness. It is important to know that homelessness is a symptom of their illness.

Stable housing at the Steve O'Neil Apartments has retained 80% of those who first came. This is above CHUM's expectation of retaining 66%. In addition, a community of support is building among the residents.

One take home message from Lisa Sharon Harper

One way to think of the phrase "very good" in Genesis is that the "relationship" is good. Goodness exists between things, not inside a thing. Our human systems should work to bless creation, not curse it. If we are made in the "Image of God", then we know what God looks like. The fastest and surest means to shrink humanity's capacity to exercise stewardship that reflects the "Image of God" within our systems is poverty and oppression. Poverty and oppression minimizes God on Earth. We need to learn to mobilize ourselves to push God's policy.

In Duluth over the last couple months I have begun to witness CHUM's ability to seek goodness by working to reverse poverty and oppression. CHUM held a forum called Local Solutions to Poverty with candidates for running for office. They are now following up on responses of our newly elected councilors and mayor made as candidates to work to develop policies they committed too. This includes policies related to racial equity, mental health, housing, and more. It will take hard work and patience, but it is encouraging to see a will to make changes in our community and that is "very good".

Diane Desotelle,
CHUM Delegate



Outreach Hotline
218-461-8505

Winter Community Advisory for Homeless Outreach Services:
You Can Help!

If you see someone who is homeless and in need of shelter this winter, please call this number to connect with an outreach worker.
For Emergencies, dial 911

HONORING THE HOMELESS AMONG US!

The annual noon Christmas Eve Vigil brings together the Duluth community to honor those who have passed away in the last year who have experienced homelessness. We also pray for those who are experiencing homeless.

This service is hosted by St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Our Savior's Lutheran. Meet at the steps of City Hall.

Donations of cold weather gear, (hats, jackets, sleeping bags, gloves/mittens, hand warmers, etc.) will be accepted at the Vigil. They will then be distributed to our homeless neighbors.

January 21, 2016: Theology Brown Bag Lunch Series - "Restorative Justice Meets Theology and Church"

12 Noon to 1 PM

Restorative Justice Meets Theology with Ted Lewis at First Presbyterian Church

As a 40 year old movement, restorative justice is finding wider applications year by year, impacting not only the criminal justice system with more humane processes, but influencing theological thought and peace-making practices in church communities. Ted Lewis, a trainer and consultant in victim offender mediation, will explain the basic principles of restorative justice and show new cross-fertilizations with Christian theology and church practices. Ted also works for Wipf & Stock Publishers that specializes in applied theology.

DECEMBER 18-JANUARY 28

Saturday, Dec. 19	9:15 am	Youth Pageant Rehearsals
Sunday, Dec. 20	9:00 am	Youth Pageant Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Wednesday, Dec. 23	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	4:25 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Candlelit Worship
	10:00 pm	Candlelit Worship
Friday, Dec. 25		Happy Thanksgiving
		Office Closed
Sunday, Dec. 27	10:00 am	Worship-No Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Dec. 28	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
Tuesday, Dec. 29	6:00 pm	Church Council
Thursday, Jan. 1		Happy New Year-Office Closed
Sunday, Jan. 3	9:00 am	Youth Orchestra Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Handbells Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Jan. 5	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wednesday, Jan. 6	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Jan. 10	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Jan. 12		All Ministry Night
Wed., Jan. 13	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 14	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Jan. 17	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Jan. 18	6:00 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, Jan. 19	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wednesday, Jan. 20	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 21	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Jan. 24	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Handbells Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Jan. 25		Newsletter Deadline
	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
Wednesday, Jan. 27	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 28	1:00 pm	Newsletter Assembly
	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise

Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, January 25

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

December 20-Ushers

Martin Grune and Tucker Hanlon

Greeters/Coffee

Jenny Ballew and Denny Falk

Reader

Steve Cushing

Counters

Denny Falk and Mardi Bagley

December 27-Ushers

Stacey Achterhoff and Carri

Hoagland

Greeters/Coffee

George and Jane Killough

Reader

Mary Olin

Counters

Jack Setterlund and Steve Grindy

January 3-Ushers

Carri Hoagland, Bob Hensley and

Josie Olson

Greeters/Coffee

Steve and Lauri Cushing

Reader

Nate Stumme

Counters

Jack Setterlund

January 10-Ushers

Gene Shull and Charles Walters

Greeters/Coffee

Martin and Melanie Grune

Reader

Joseph Grant

Counters

Jack Setterlund

January 17-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Tucker Hanlon

Greeters/Coffee

Patty Polasky and Jane Shull

Reader

Jenny Ballew

Counters

Jack Setterlund

January 24-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Josie Olson

Greeters/Coffee

Carol Bacig and Brian Medred

Readers

Tucker and Brooke Hanlon

Counters

Jack Setterlund



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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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

- December 19 Youth Pageant Rehearsal**
- December 20 Worship and Youth Pageant
Christmas Caroling**
- December 24 Candlelit Worship at 5 and 10:00 pm**
- December 25 Merry Christmas-Office Closed**
- December 27 Worship**
- December 29 Church Council**
- January 1 Happy New Year-Office Closed**
- January 3 Worship**
- January 5 Leadership Team**
- January 10 Worship and Sunday School**
- January 12 All Ministry Night**
- January 14 Joyful Noise Resumes**
- January 17 Worship and Sunday School**
- January 19 BeFrienders**
- January 21 Joyful Noise**
- January 24 Worship and Sunday School**



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST