



DECEMBER 18, 2014

VOLUME 62, NO. 12

# PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY



Advent 1

Among dark clouds, lightning  
On the mountain top, thunder  
In the heavens, signs  
In the silence, waiting  
For the coming of our God.



Advent 2

In the chaos of war, tenderness  
In the muddy waters of the Jordan, baptism  
In repentant hearts, hope  
Out in a barn, birth  
Beginning the good news of Jesus Christ.



Advent 3

In the dark night, a dream  
To the royal skeptic, a sign  
For a young woman, impossible expectations  
Among the angels, excitement  
Emmanuel, God with us.



Advent 4

In a crowded inn, laughter  
At the door, a stranger  
In a stable, animal odors  
On a hillside, sheep  
And suddenly, in the heavens, angels  
Announce the birth of Jesus.

May you and yours experience the blessings of Advent waiting and Christmas celebration. God is with us, Emmanuel.

## 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



**AFTER JANUARY 4**

Leaving a congregation is not easy—and letting go of a minister who played a significant role in a family's or community's life can be challenging. My best hope and prayer for Pilgrim is that you find a new leader who will serve you well as minister, teacher, guide, and comforter. I want to support and encourage your interim and your new settled pastor in their ministries with you. To that end, there are some helpful professional guidelines which I hope to observe.

1. Even if you think I am the most appropriate person to conduct a memorial service or wedding, please don't ask. Although these are very personal events, they are services provided as part of the church's ministry and therefore should be conducted by the minister serving the congregation.
2. Despite my curiosity and interest, I will not be worshipping here. No interim or newly settled minister needs a recently retired minister from that same congregation sitting in the pew on a Sunday morning!
3. I will not advise, consult, or otherwise offer opinions about how you conduct your life as a congregation. Whatever hopes and reservations I have for you, I am trying to verbalize during these final weeks here. If you have questions or you'd like to know what I think about an issue, ask it now, not later!
4. In order to keep my ministerial standing, I need to be a member of a United Church of Christ congregation. At the present time, Alex is a member of Pilgrim and I will support his membership here. So for the moment, my name will be on the roster even if you don't see much of me.
5. Speaking of Alex—at 15, you won't see much of him. This is still his faith community and the only church he has known. I hope that the adults who have been supportive and encouraging will continue to relate to him, occasionally invite his participation in the congregation, keep him in your prayers, and regard him as you do other young adults who are part of the congregation.
6. It is likely that I will accept invitations to assist colleagues with pulpit supply or other short term pastoral work. Don't follow me around town. You'll probably get a re-run of a sermon you've already heard! Pilgrim needs you here.
7. I will likely show up at ecumenical and interfaith efforts—at CHUM, Damiano's, and in other voluntary settings. We're all in this work of making the world a little better, and I will continue to do my part.

It has been a privilege to relate to you as a minister. That relationship will be dissolved on January 4. I will still be your neighbor, Alex's mom, an advocate for the precariously housed, a wanna-be artist, writer and poet, a classmate, a member of the Food Farm, a cook, a member of a particular political party—and who knows what else?

Relationships in my "re-incarnation" beyond January 4 will grow as I engage in those interests and roles in the community. It is possible that I will interact with some of you who are also members of the church; after all, Duluth is a fairly small place. Any relationship will be rooted in the new, not in my past as your minister. Becoming whoever I am apart from Pilgrim does not mean I love this community less. It is a sign of my faith that God is still at work, transforming individuals and communities.

You have important work to do as a community. I have a world to explore, without some of the restraints that have been a part of my life for so many years. I truly want the best for us all. Charlotte Frantz

**CHRISTMAS BROADCASTS ON  
PACT TV**

- December 22 11:30 am, 3:00 and 7:00 pm  
2014 Music from the Pilgrim Church Special
- December 23 1:00, 4:00 and 9:30 pm  
2014 Music from the Pilgrim Church Special
- December 24 9:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Service 2013
- December 25 10:00 am, 5:00 pm and Midnight  
Christmas Eve Service 2013

**PACT TV REGULAR BROADCAST**

- Pilgrim's regular broadcasts on Channel 180 are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm and Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 am. and 8:30-9:30 pm.
- December 24 and 25 "Carols and Lullabies" by Conrad Susa from December 14, 2014
- January 1 and 2-Christmas Pageant from December 21, 2014
- January 7 and 8-Christmas Eve Service 2014
- January 14 and 15-First Sunday after Christmas—"I Remember Christmas"
- The remaining services will follow in sequence.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**December 21**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Intergenerational Pageant with Bellissimo Handbells**

10:00 am Worship

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:00 am Coffee Hour

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

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelit Service**

5:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Child care provided for the 5:00 service.

**December 28**

**First Sunday After Christmas  
“I Remember Christmas”**

10:00 am Worship

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:00 am Coffee

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**January 4**

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

10:00 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School

The Rev. Charlotte Frantz

11:00 am Celebration of Charlotte Frantz’s Retirement

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**January 11**

**First Sunday after Epiphany**

Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**January 18**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**January 25**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Semi Annual Meeting

Childcare available 9:00—12:00 pm

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A CELEBRATION!**

After 40 years of ministry, 12 of them serving Pilgrim Congregational Church, Charlotte Frantz is retiring. Her last Sunday is January 4, 2015.

Please help us honor her years in ministry by attending service on Sunday, January 4, and stay for a celebration and lunch in Fellowship Hall. The service will be a joyous celebration of Charlotte’s ministry, with guests from the UCC Conference and Mayflower Church, where Charlotte served before coming to Pilgrim. Immediately following the service, we will move downstairs and begin with a social time, followed by lunch and dessert. Plans are underway for sharing memories of Charlotte’s 12 years at Pilgrim throughout the event, along with some entertainment.

If you are unable to join us on January 4, but have a memory or a greeting you would like to share during the celebration, please let me know by email ([wastaylor@earthlink.net](mailto:wastaylor@earthlink.net)) or in person and I will make sure it gets included.

Pilgrim Congregational Church has been blessed with Charlotte’s leadership these past 12 years. We hope you will be able to be part of her celebration.

Charlotte Taylor  
Moderator

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD**

This Sunday (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.

**I REMEMBER CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 28**

It’s a Pilgrim tradition—stories and carols the Sunday following Christmas. This year a number of speakers will share some of their memories of growing up and Christmases past.

**PARISH POSTS**

The Advent Workshop—130 Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, at least 25 wreaths, 25 frames, and countless ornaments, cards, and mice later, another Advent Workshop is complete! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it a wonderful event, especially to Mike and Nan Hillmeyer for the wonderful meal!! We will put a box in Salter Hall after the holidays for the wreath frames after the holidays so that we can reuse them next year. Thanks again for a wonderful event!

Katie Hanlon

Thank you for the wonderful response to the gift tree donations. Melanie Grune and Nan Hillmeyer delivered 30 Christmas gifts for children with families living at Sheila's Place City Center Housing. The staff was very appreciative. Thanks again for supporting this important Pilgrim tradition!

Dear Pilgrims

Trying to catch up with school in addition to that whole 24/7 parenting gig has been very tough. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to resign. Rowan is still nursing every hour. I am very thankful for my time working at Pilgrim and getting to know the wonderful kids and families. I feel very blessed to receive so much support and generosity. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Kristi

**WELCOME PATTY POLASKY**

Patty Polasky was welcomed into membership at Pilgrim Church on Sunday, December 7. Here are a few facts about this delightful individual. Patty or Patricia was born in North Dakota. She has also lived in Iowa, Foston, MN and now Duluth. Patty enjoys reading and attending the symphony with her husband David. She has recently become a member of the Duluth Woman's Club.

Patty was a high school English teacher for 19 years and retired in the spring of 2013. Patty and David have been foster parents to over 50 children in the Fosston area plus parents to 3 adult daughters - Kelly, Paula and Jody - all living in Duluth. One of their daughters, Paula, is a member of Pilgrim Church.

Welcome Patty! We are delighted to have you join the Pilgrim family!

**PARISH PERSONALS**

**Please remember and pray** for those with chronic or ongoing health issues.

**CHILD CARE POSITION OPEN**

Kristi Beaver has resigned from the position of Child Care Attendant and the position is now open. If you know a child care provider who would like to work on Sunday mornings—or if you are interested in applying—talk with Katie Hanlon or Charlotte Frantz. We will also need a few extra volunteers until the position is filled—let Katie Hanlon know if you can help.

**INTERIM MINISTER SEARCH UPDATE**

The Interim Minister Search committee is well on our way toward the goal of recommending an interim minister to the Church Council in the next several weeks. After the creation and posting of an advertisement, we are excited to be interviewing three highly qualified candidates on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Our team (Nate Stumme, Steve Cushing, and Diane Desotelle) is working to prepare interview questions. Please feel free to contact us if you have issues or topics to consider as we work to find the right candidate with the skills needed to help our dynamic congregation make this important step in our transition to a new fulltime minister.

**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. Join in the discussion on January 19 at 6:30 as we reflect on Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah. Avon will facilitate and Julie will bring treats.

*"Mesmerizing from beginning to end, Winter Garden is that rarest of novels — at once an epic love story and an intimate portrait of women poised at the crossroads of their lives. Evocative, lyrically written, and ultimately uplifting, it will haunt the listener long after the last word is spoken."*

**COMMON HOPE**

Thank You! When you support Pilgrim’s partnership with Common Hope, you improve the lives of children and their families.



**More Students are receiving a better education every year:**

This year, your support made it possible for 3,137 students to attend school, from elementary through university. An additional 1,579 children benefited from a higher quality of education thanks to the school partnerships you made possible. In November, we celebrated 144 high school graduates, whose futures are bright thanks to their accomplishments.

**Progress towards each family’s hopes and dreams:**

Social workers made an average of 511 visits each month to the 1,623 families that partner with us, making strides towards their goals.

**Access to quality health care:**

This year, our clinic saw an increase of 100 more visits per month, and by September had filled 19,188 prescriptions for our patients. Our volunteer dentists have provided 893 treatments, and our clinic staff consulted with more than 8,000 patients for things like diabetes, nutritional deficiencies, and cervical cancer.

**New Homes that are clean, dry, and safe:**

A total of 25 homes were built, and 39 additional housing improvements were earned by families. We also celebrated the completion of our 100<sup>th</sup> block home through our partnership with ConstruCasa.

The Guatemalan Craft Market will be open again this Sunday, December 21. Watch for additional opportunities to support our service learning team.



**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.common-hope.org](http://www.common-hope.org). A deposit of \$400 for this service learning trip will be due January 7.

**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 are included in the newsletter or available in the bulletin or from the church office. Social Justice Ministry

**JOYFUL NOISE STARTS THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH FROM 6-7PM**

Joyful Noise is for youth ages 5-10 at any level of musical ability. Movement, rhythmic instruments, games, improvisation, and singing are used to teach children about music. I have combined different aspects of the Musicgarten curriculum as well as the methodologies of Kodaly and Orff in order to provide a well-rounded curriculum and, most importantly, to foster a love and excitement for music making at a young age!

To request registration materials, please email [pilgrimdlh@msn.com](mailto:pilgrimdlh@msn.com) or stop by the church office. Registrations are due January 5 along with a \$25 fee per child. Please submit registration and payment to the church office. Rachel Kresha

**ART IN SALTER HALL**

**Our Advent Christmas Icon art exhibit** in Salter Hall is by Ruth Jacobson. Ruth stated “These icons...seek to initiate contemplation. The icons I create represent elements from both traditional Byzantine models and my own design. All the techniques and materials have been in use for over a thousand years: crushed metals and mineral pigments suspended in egg yoke on polished gesso wood panels.”

The display is courtesy of Jean Jacobson.

**Art from Charlotte’s Office.** The display on the wall closest to the parlor are art from Charlotte’s office. Taken together they form a collage of her theological interests and assumptions. The collection includes a piece by Brother Matthew of St. Louis, a Inuit portrayal of creation, a depiction of community from Guatemala, a logo created for her ordination, and a print of Wisdom, often considered a feminine aspect of God.

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL  
DECEMBER 24, NOON  
STEPS OF CITY HALL**

Please join CHUM for our annual vigil to honor those who have passed away in the past year who have experienced homelessness. The vigil will take place at noon on December 24th on the steps of the City Hall Building. This year's vigil is being hosted by CHUM with support from St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Please bring hats, mittens and large coats to donate to help keep those living on the streets of Duluth warm this winter.

**CHUM VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

We have MANY Volunteer Opportunities listed on our website. Here are some current needs...

There are opportunities to help at the Steve O'Neil Apartments as families begin to move into their new homes. Both short term and long term opportunities are available. Please review the CHUM Families Connect Volunteer list, complete the CHUM Families Connect volunteer application and contact Courtney Cochran if you wish to help.

The Development Office is seeking volunteers with database experience to: 1) perform data entry tasks, and 2) assist with tracking grants reporting and timelines. Also needed are volunteers to 1) update Standard Operating Procedures and 2) assist with a variety of office tasks like filing and managing the scrap book. Email Mary or call 720-6521. Thank you.

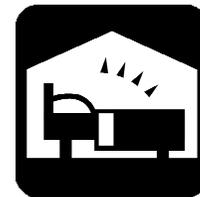
The Food Shelf is also looking for volunteers to 1) work on Wednesdays or Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. to assist with food distribution (you can work all or part of a shift and choose how many times you wish to work per month) and 2) perform data entry work and assist with statistic collections. Contact Meg at 727-2391.

**BEDS FOR THE STEVE O'NEIL  
APARTMENTS**

For months now the Duluth Woodworking Club and the Duluth Superior Friends Meeting have been working to build 69 beds, some double and some single, to be used by the families moving into the Steve O'Neil Apartments.

Featured in the Duluth News Tribune last Sunday, Mike Koppy, owner of Performance Edge Furniture Making, designed the beds and coordinated the work in his workshop. He invited and encouraged volunteers with and without wood working skills to help make the beds.

Thank you Mike and your wood working crew!



**ROOM AT THE INN**

Yesterday the Steve O'Neil apartments got their occupancy license and today, December 17, the first two families are scheduled to move in! These apartments include support services designed to help families get on their feet and stay on their feet. Families will be moving in over the next several weeks. Thank you, Pilgrim, for a gift of \$1400. \$908 of that came through the donation envelopes on the Gift Tree.

**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

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**JANUARY 25  
SEMI ANNUAL MEETING AFTER  
WORSHIP**

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**ALL MINISTRY NIGHT  
January 13  
Check the time of your Ministry meeting.**

“Why is there so much blunt fury these days?...Strong argument makes us wiser. Civilized debate ennobles the idea of self-governance.  
Wit in our national conversation helps us maintain perspective.  
Anger begets itself.”  
- John Balzar, columnist – Los Angeles Times  
[www.instituteforcivility.org](http://www.instituteforcivility.org)

**HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 20-JANUARY 29**

Saturday, Dec. 20	10:00 am	Youth Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 21	9:00 am	Youth Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour-Honoring our Youngest Children
Monday, Dec. 22	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
Wednesday, Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Candlelight Service
	10:00 pm	Candlelight Service
Thursday, Dec. 25		Merry Christmas-Office closed
Sunday, Dec. 28	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Dec. 30	6:00 pm	Church Council
Thursday, Jan 1		Happy New Year! Office Closed
Sunday, Jan. 4	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Celebration for Rev. Frantz
Tuesday, Jan. 6	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wed., Jan. 7	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 8	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise resumes
Sunday, Jan. 11	9:15am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee
Tuesday, Jan. 13		All Ministry Night
Wed., Jan. 14	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 15	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Jan. 18	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Practice
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday school
	11:00 am	Coffee
Monday, Jan. 19		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed
Tuesday, Jan. 20	7:00 pm	BeFrienders
Wed., Jan. 21	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday Jan. 22	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Jan. 25	9:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday school
	11:00 am	Semi Annual Meeting
Monday, Jan. 26	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
Tuesday, Jan. 27	6:30 pm	Church Council
Wed., Jan. 28	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
	7:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 29	6:30 pm	Joyful Noise

**SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**

**December 21-Ushers**

Andrew Streitz and Josie Olson  
**Greeters/Coffee**  
 Tucker Hanlon and Nan Hillmeyer  
**Lay Reader**  
 Lauri Cushing

**December 28-Ushers**

Andrew Streitz and Tucker Hanlon  
**Greeters/Coffee**  
 Denny Falk and Charles Walters  
**Lay Reader**  
 Don Bjoralt

**January 4-Ushers**

Charles Walter, Jane and Gene Shull  
 and Stacey Achterhoff  
**Greeters/Coffee**  
 Dave and Margo Zentner  
**Lay Reader**  
 Bob Heller

**January 11-Ushers**

Charles Walters and Josie Olson  
**Greeters/Coffee**  
 Steve and Lauri Cushing  
**Lay Reader**  
 Bob Heller

**January 18-Ushers**

Charles Walters and Avon Power  
**Greeters/Coffee**  
 Carol Bacig and Joan Semenchuk  
**Lay Reader**  
 Jenny Ballew

**January 25-Ushers**

Charles Walters and Steve Cushing  
**Greeters/Coffee**  
 Bob and Tammy Hensley  
**Lay Reader**  
 Joseph Grant

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

**Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, January 26**

# 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

- December 21 Christmas Pageant Worship  
Reception in honor of our babies  
4:00 pm Christmas Caroling
- December 24 5:00 pm Candlelight Service  
10:00 pm Candlelight Service
- December 25 Merry Christmas!
- December 28 Worship-"I Remember Christmas"
- January 1 Happy New Year
- January 4 Worship and Sunday School  
Celebration for Rev. Frantz
- January 8 Joyful Noise resumes
- January 11 Worship and Sunday School
- January 13 All Ministry Night
- January 18 Worship and Sunday School
- January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 25 Worship and Sunday School  
Semi Annual Meeting



# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST