



FEBRUARY 25, 2016

VOLUME 64, NO. 2

PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR PILGRIM CHURCH

New Beginnings: Phase One came to us on a snowy February afternoon and evening, as Rev. Doug Pfeiffer, the assessor assigned to us, toured building and neighborhood and met with leaders and church members in an Appreciative Inquiry session. His final report is nearly complete, offering an in-depth look at who Pilgrim is, its gifts and its challenges.

New Beginnings: Phase Two happens March 11-12 as Pilgrim representatives participate in Small Group Facilitator training in St. Cloud. These participants will be the first to read the report, learning how to interpret and use it. They will be trained to facilitate small group discussion of the report that leads to each small group formulating a vision for Pilgrim's future.

As I write, we are still recruiting these facilitators; prior commitments prevents many fine prospective leaders from attending the training. As they are being trained, *this is your part: Pray, intentionally, for them, that they be open to God's Spirit, to new truths and new skills, and filled with hope.*

New Beginnings: Phase Three begins in mid-April. *We look to have at least one hundred persons participating in small group discussions this spring.* Each group will meet SIX times to read and discuss the report, led by a trained facilitator, and to spin a future vision for Pilgrim Church. Starting THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, you are asked to sign up for times that you are available to participate (Sunday afternoon or evening, a weekday afternoon, a weeknight, or suggest another time if none of the above are options for you). This will help us set up the groups and assign facilitators.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: We are committed to providing child care activities at the church building on Sunday afternoons during Phase III. Dual-parent households may sign up for Sunday afternoon groups, or may make alternate childcare plans, or may participate in separate groups and not use childcare. More information and sign-up for childcare sessions will be coming in March and early April.

Once all small groups have submitted their visions to the Council, the Council will work to discern a unified vision and bring it to the congregation. We are all seeking discernment that is clear-eyed, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, and BOLD. Churches that are clear about their identity and where they are headed are vibrant and vital. The entire congregation knows, embraces, and participates in living out the church's specific call in its present season. Such churches are not just "sustainable." They are full of life, and they spread life to the world. They become the Gospel with courage and joy. And they can identify more clearly who God may be calling to serve them as pastor for that season.

Hold New Beginnings in your prayers. Put it on your calendar! Plan to be church with each other during this holy season of discernment.

"Do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way" - God, through Isaiah (43:18-19)



Announcements regarding the March Campaign will be made shortly by the Social Justice Ministry.



MINNESOTA CONFERENCE TRAVELING TO ISRAEL-PALESTINE IN 2017

Have you always wanted to "walk where Jesus walked"? Do the complexities of the situation in Israel-Palestine interest you? Do you long to experience the region that is the cradle of three Abrahamic faiths...Judaism, Christianity, and Islam?

The Minnesota Conference is organizing a study tour to Israel-Palestine for January 9-20, 2017. The experience is open to anyone eager to learn more about the region and committed to intentional study and dialogue. Participants will visit such holy sites as the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives and other sites in Jerusalem, Galilee, the Dead Sea, and more. We will also visit with global mission partners of the UCC there in the region, and meet with a variety of groups dedicated to justice and peace in the Holy Land. This study tour is part of a commitment we made as a Conference to a 2-year period of study following the adoption of a resolution at Annual Meeting 2015.

The tour will be led by Reverend Bonnie Van Overbeke, a retired UCC pastor who has extensive experience in Israel-Palestine and has led multiple other groups. Minnesota Conference Minister Shari Prestemon will be part of the delegation and share in leadership. Approximate cost of the trip (per person) will be \$3000 (including air fare).

If you are interested in being part of this amazing experience, contact Conference Minister [Shari Prestemon](#). Exact cost, itinerary, deposit deadlines, and other details will be released at a later date.



Three free workshops on ensuring civility in our community and understanding how each of us can make a difference.

Civility Starts with Me

9:00-Noon Saturday March 19

Learn about the importance of civility in society, the advantages that communities achieve by adopting it and, importantly, how each of us can make more of a difference than we might think.

Future workshops:

But You're Not Listening-April 12

What Hurt Was How You Said It-May 9

All sessions at Pilgrim. This is an initiative of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. For questions or to register, please call 218-726-0232 or email info@dsacommunityforundation.com.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Pilgrim Search Committee is currently evaluating profiles of candidates. We expect to narrow down those candidates to those we find to be most interesting and qualified for call. Once again keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Steve Cushing

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.

March 2 and 3-"This Day" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from January 24, 2016

March 9 and 10-"The Gospel in a (Different) Nutshell" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from January 31, 2016

March 16 and 17-"Lost in a Cloud" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from February 7, 2016

March 23 and 24-"Stones, Power and Pinnacles" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from February 14, 2016

March 30 and 31-"Two Dreams" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from February 21, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

March 6

4th Sunday of Lent

“Little Brother”

(Luke 15:11-24)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Holy Communion

11:00 am Coffee Hour

9:00 am and 11:20 am Lenten Book Study

March 13

5th Sunday of Lent

“Big Brother”

(Luke 15:25-32)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

11:00 am Coffee Hour

9:00 am and 11:20 am Lenten Book Study

March 20

Palm/Passion Sunday

“From Anticipation to Abandonment”

(Luke 19-22, selected verses)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am Membership Exploration

March 24

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

7:00 p.m.

(see accompanying article)

March 25

Community Good Friday Tenebrae

7:00 p.m.

(see accompanying article)

March 27

Easter Sunday

9:00 am Continental Breakfast

“Do You Know What You’re Looking For?”

(Luke 24:1-12)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

WORSHIP NOTES

The forty-day season of Lent continues (not counting Sundays, which are weekly celebrations of resurrection) in March until Easter Sunday. We will spend two weeks with one of Jesus’ most iconic parables (often called “The Prodigal Son” – but there’s more to it than that!) before coming to Holy Week.

On **Palm / Passion Sunday, March 20**, we encounter the frenzied energy of Jesus’ final days, and the rapid transition from being hailed a hero to being despised as a criminal.

On **March 24**, we gather for a **Maundy Thursday communion service at 7 pm**. Recalling significant events of Holy Week and the power of Holy Communion, the service is intended for ALL ages, and will last no more than forty minutes.

Pilgrim Church hosts the Community Good Friday Tenebrae Service on March 25, 7:00 p.m., with Peace UCC and Glen Avon Presbyterian church members and choirs participating. This traditional “service of darkness” includes traditional elements such as scripture readings, anthems, hymns, the extinguishing of candles, prayers and silence.

Easter celebration begins with a light and festive breakfast provided by Jim & Teresa Peterson and family at 9 am, with Worship at the usual 10 am time.

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION

GATHERING

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

11:20 A.M. (“2ND HOUR”)

Would you like to know more about Pilgrim Church and what it means to be a member? In particular, we will be exploring the gifts and identity of the United Church of Christ, and how those are lived out in Pilgrim Church. Open to any and all interested persons (even if you’re already a member!). Child care will be provided. We will conclude within an hour.

**SPECIAL OFFERING FOR
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Pilgrim Church began a special collection for Gloria Dei’s rebuilding costs on Sunday, February 21. We will continue to accept contributions **through Sunday, March 6**. Please make checks out to Pilgrim Church, earmarked for Gloria Dei. All gifts will be consolidated into a single gift from the people of Pilgrim Church.

After March 6, gifts can still be made directly to Gloria Dei via their website (also posted on our Facebook page) or through the mail; temporary offices are at 1105 E. Superior, Duluth 55802.

PARISH PERSONALS

Congratulations to Holly, Tristan and Maeve Beaster with the addition to the family of **Lyra Pearl, February 4.**

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

JACOBSON MEMORIAL

The Jacobson Family would like to invite one and all to mark the passing of Gertrude Jacobson at a memorial service on **March 31st at 2 pm.**

Pilgrims (and others) who would like a watercolor, painting or sketch from the Gertrude archive to remember her by, can donate a modest purchase price to Pilgrim Church or to the Georgia Jacobson Education Fund. (Gertrude's wish to support the education of the surviving daughter of her late daughter Ruth was a concern close to her heart to her last days). We plan that this artwork will be on display in Salter Hall, for purchase and distribution after the memorial service.

Please spread the word about this service to anyone you think might need an invitation or reminder. Thanks and looking forward to seeing you there, Jean

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

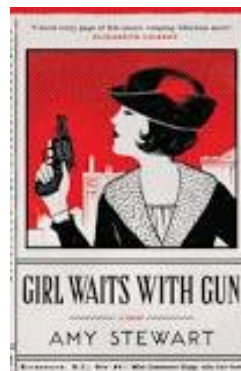
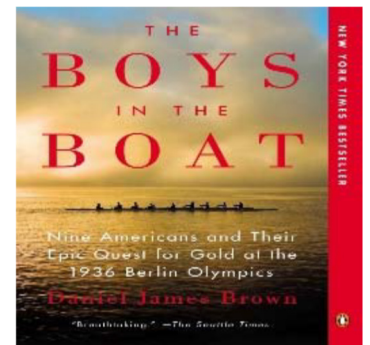
Sunday School is going steady, the kids remain motivated and excited about learning, and attending Sunday School each week. They have begun initial preparations for the spring musical with Ms. Rachael, one major thing they accomplished was raising over \$300 for the musical at their bake sale. We are looking to begin planning some community building activities for the youth, allowing them to get out into the community and grow bonds with each other. As always, contact Sophie Hillmeyer if you want to help out and teach or get involved in other ways. I'm also very open to any ideas, questions, concerns, comments, etc., regarding Sunday School. Contact me at sophiehillmeyer@gmail.com. Thanks!

Sophie Hillmeyer,
Children and Family Ministries Coordinator

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Monday, March 21 6:00 pm

The **March 21st** title is **Boys in the Boat**. Lynda Parrella will lead the March Women's Book Group.



The **April 18th** title is **Girl Waits With Gun** by Amy Stewart. There was a tie with voting so this was the title that was pulled "out of the hat." It is a coincidence that it is written by the author who wrote The Drunken Botanist, the title that we are replacing. Jenny Ballew will facilitate.

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.

"Before you speak, ask yourself; is it kind, is it necessary, is it true, does it improve on the silence?"

- Shirdi Sai Baba,
Indian saint

www.instituteforcivility.org

UPCOMING CONCERTS:

The Twin Ports Choral Project rehearses at Pilgrim Congregational Church on Sunday evenings. They have a concert coming up this **Friday, February, 26th** at 7:30 pm called "Spirit Moving over Chaos" at the **Mitchell Auditorium** at the College of Saints Scholastica. Tickets are \$10. The concert's theme is about the ebb and flow of the world's turmoil's, and the balance of both celestial and earthly beauty that washes away our pain and strife.

The American Guild of Organist Spring Pop Concert: A Fundraiser for the Chapter and Scholarship fund. It is scheduled for **April 10th, 3 pm** at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth. Our participants so far; Peterson Quartet, Jeremy Craycraft, Elias Mokole, Linda Turpening and guest (4-hands piano), duet-Alan Berg and Jeff Urbaniak, possibly Mark Monson and his brass. Other happenings for the event: silent auction with many hand-made items from artistic quilts, hand knit items, jewelry, chocolate basket, homemade pies by LeeAnn House and Shelley Gruskin. Also coffee and a scone sale prepared by Paul Sapyta, a scone master.

MUSICAL STUFF:

Sewing Party:

Time to dust off those machines, and sharpen your scissors! Help sew, cut out, and iron some costumes for the musical on **Friday, May 13th from 5:30-7:30pm** at Pilgrim Congregational Church. It would be a good old fashioned sewing party. Bring machines, favorite fabric scissors, and a needle and thread! We can have refreshments, cheese and crackers, and desserts by the ironing boards.

Musical rehearsals occur from 11:00-11:30 am in the chapel on Sunday mornings. Auditions for speaking roles and solos will be on, **February 28th** and **March 6th** from 11:30-12:30pm. Sign-up sheets will be on Salter Hall table. Beginning April 14th and April 15th we will have weeknight rehearsals on Thursdays and Fridays from 6:00-7:15pm. A more comprehensive schedule will be sent out once the main roles are cast! The actual musical performance will be during the church service on Sunday, June 12th.

CHUM CORNER

The 43rd Annual Meeting was held February 16 with representation from 39 of the 41 Communities of Faith present. The sanctuary at Eastridge Community Church was packed and the air was filled with a powerful sense of solidarity to act together for a just and compassionate community. Here are some facts:

The Steve O'Neil Apartments are one year old and much to our surprise 89% of the residents have stayed the entire year.

CHUM staff are heroes who day in and day out put up with soul crushing bureaucracies, cook, take care of children, write grants and bring strength and dignity to their job.

Housing comes first and foremost to provide safety and stability – from there people can deal with other issues (e.g., jobs, addictions). It doesn't work the other way around.

As Pilgrims, we are making a difference in providing basic necessities and fostering stable lives. It takes \$2,300,000 to run Chum and \$500,000 to run the Steve O' Neil Apartments – that doesn't go away, but this community has come together to serve others which has no value. At the same time, this work is economical to our community - learn more about that in the next CHUM Corner update.

JRLC DAY ON THE HILL

March 10

Joint Religious Legislative Committee's Day on the Hill is our annual policy briefing and lobby day. Participants are briefed on the JRLC issues that are being debated and voted on at our State Capitol. Clergy and lay people from across the state attend Day on the Hill to show our interfaith commitment to social justice and to participate in the lawmaking process.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The offering for One Great Hour will be Sunday, April 17.

These funds provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief in 138 countries.

ALL MINISTRY NIGHT

Tuesday, March 8.

CHUM THEOLOGY BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

March 1, 2016 " Faith, Politics, Gratitude, and the Road to Owatonna"

12 noon to 1 PM

St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church
2802 Minnesota Avenue, Duluth

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) is a leading interfaith voice for social justice in Minnesota. Brian Rusche is stepping down from JRLC after 27 years of being JRLC's executive director. What did he learn over these years? How's Minnesota doing? What spiritual and organizational practices were most helpful to him over the years? What challenges lay ahead for us to pick up? Join Brian as he shares his reflections on civic vocation, justice, interfaith work, Minnesota politics, and Philippians 1:27 - 2:18

March 17, 2016 "Social Justice and Purim"

12 Noon to 1 PM

Presented by Rabbi David Steinberg at Temple Israel
The joyful Jewish holiday is built around the plot of the biblical book of Esther, which tells of Jewish survival against an attempted genocidal plot in ancient Persia. What lessons can we learn about social justice from the story of Purim and from the Jewish holiday traditions that have grown up around it over the centuries.

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

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13. Turn your clocks ahead.



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!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

February 28-Ushers

Andrew Streitz and Bob Hensley

Greeters/Coffee

Don and Paula Bjoralt

Reader

Mary Olin

Counters

Denny Falk and Mardi Bagley

March 6-Ushers

Denny Falk, Tucker Hanlon and Bob Heller

Greeters/Coffee

Dana and Elise Lindaman and family

Reader

Lois Heller

Counters

Steve Grindy and Greg Gilbert

March 13-Ushers

Gene and Jane Shull

Greeters/Coffee

Zach and Serenity Campbell and family

Reader

Bob Heller

Counters

Greg Gilbert and Mardi Bagley

March 20-Ushers

Stacey Achterhoff and Josie Olson

Greeters/Coffee

Nate and Rebekka Stumme and family

Readers

Joseph Grant and Siiri Truckey

Counters

Denny Falk and Greg Gilbert

March 27-Ushers

Jane Shull and Andrew Streitz

Greeters/Coffee

Tucker and Katie Hanlon and family

Readers

Tucker and Brooke Hanlon

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!

FEBRUARY 25—MARCH 31

Sunday, Feb. 28	9:00 am	Lenten Book Study
	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Bells Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee
	11:20 am	Lenten Book Study
Tuesday, March 1	7:30 am	Men's Fellowship Group
	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wednesday, March 2	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 3	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, March 6	9:00 am	Lenten Book Study
	9:00 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	Lenten Book Study
Tuesday, March 8		All Ministry Night
Wednesday, March 9	10:30 am	Pilgrim Women's Group
	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 10	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Friday & Sat. March 11-12		New Beginnings Facilitator Training
Sunday, March 13	9:00 am	Lenten Book Study
	9:00 am	Youth Bells Rehearsal
	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Lenten Book Study
Tuesday, March 15	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wednesday, Mar. 16	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 17	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, March 20	9:00 am	Lenten Book Study
	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth & Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Lenten Book Study
Monday, March 21	6:00 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, March 22	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wed., March 23	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 24	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday, March 25	7:00 pm	Community Good Friday Worship
Sunday, March 27	8:30 am	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
	9:00 am	Pilgrim and Youth Orchestra
	9:30 am	Youth Orchestra Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Easter Worship
Monday, March 28		Newsletter Deadline

EASTER LILIES

Would you like to buy an **Easter lily**? We're taking orders for lilies Sunday March 13 and 20th that will enhance our worship space on Easter morning. Please use the form below or call the church office. Cost is \$20.00 each. Sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry.



Memorial _____ Honor _____

Flowers given in memory or honor of:

Number of Lilies @ \$20.00 _____

Payment marked "Lilies" \$ _____

I will pick up Easter Sunday.

Please deliver to a homebound Pilgrim.

Your name _____

Deadline for Ordering is March 20th.

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 28 Lenten Book Studies
Worship and Sunday School
March 6 Lenten Book Studies
Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday Schools
March 8 All Ministry Night
March 11 & 12 New Beginnings Facilitator Training
March 13 Lenten Book Studies
Worship and Sunday School
March 15 BeFriends
March 20 Worship and Sunday Schools
Membership Exploration Gathering
March 21 Women's Book Group
March 24 Maundy Thursday Worship
March 25 Community Good Friday Tenebrae
March 27 Continental Breakfast and
Easter Worship



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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