



MAY 26, 2016

VOLUME 64, NO. 5

# PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Last summer the Church Council agreed to engage Pilgrim Church in the New Beginnings discernment process. Phase One of New Beginnings happened this winter with the creation of the assessment report, based upon church statistics provided by Mary and Jim in our office, an Appreciative Inquiry session, a tour of the building and the neighborhood, a little face-to-face time with church officers and pastor, and demographic information from MissionInsite. Phase Two was the orientation and training of small group facilitators in March. Phase Three – small group discussions – launched a few weeks later. Eighty-five individuals have participated in the small group phase of the project, far exceeding the target of at least 50% of our worshipping average of approximately 104 (which includes children). Most persons have participated in at least five if not all six sessions.

The goal of the process is discernment: What direction does God have in mind for Pilgrim Church at this time of change? Where do we stand in terms of passion, energy, human and financial and faith resources, an understanding of our neighborhood and community, a sense of what it means to authentically be church today, and how does all this help us see both the real challenges and the real possibilities? The program sets forth a spectrum of options for any church, from doing nothing to closing in order to leave a legacy, with a range of redevelopment options in-between.

As I write, small groups are holding their last sessions, determining with as much consensus as they can honestly offer just what **bold decision** they believe to be God's call to Pilgrim Church. In the coming few weeks, the facilitators will share together the fruits of their small groups' discerning (as indeed they have been doing throughout the six weeks). They will draft a report to the Council regarding the groups' **bold decision** and recommend next steps to engage the congregation in fleshing out the "decision." This process will take some time, inviting us to practice the "passionate patience" and "alert expectancy" Paul wrote of (Romans 5:35, *The Message*). But much is happening in the meantime:

Small group participants have discovered a renewed hunger for deeper relationships, meaningful conversation, and spiritual growth. We will practice ways of meeting that hunger this summer, and develop new ideas for the future; this may mean trying new things in worship, setting up gatherings, testing short term small groups, and more.

Opportunities to share with one another about New Beginnings and what has been discovered will be offered repeatedly in the coming weeks. Your input will help craft what next steps need to be taken.

If you feel energy and desire to help shepherd Pilgrim to next steps, let your small group facilitator know, or me, if you were not in a small group; we will need a Team to guide how we move forward addressing major challenges, testing new possibilities, and refining a clearer sense of our mission (remember, every organization has a mission).

Trust the Spirit! Trust that we will have the wisdom and the courage to follow as we are called. Trust that the energy that has been released will not dissipate, but will find creative ways to express itself in this season of preparation to launch. Trust that the Spirit is working in the planning itself! And let yourself gather summertime's blessings, to strengthen you for the challenging but exciting ventures ahead.

Keep your eyes open for New Beginnings follow-up conversation online, in emailings, in worship and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour gatherings, and more. TOGETHER, we will live boldly into God's future.

Jennifer Amy-Dressler

**PILGRIM'S HILLSIDE COMMUNITY GARDEN SERVICE PROJECT: SUMMER - FALL 2016**

The youth involved in the "Malice and the Palace" musical have learned about the story of Esther. A young woman who used her position of privileged to speak up for a group of people were oppressed. Now, we are putting that message into action! The youth are going to be engaging in a service project, preparing, planting, and harvesting produce to donate to the Food Shelf! This project is not exclusively for the youth, anyone is welcome to plant a seed or two! Pilgrim is renting two large garden plots at the Hillside Community Garden on 8th St and 3rd Ave. The plot is in state of decline, and Pilgrims will be partnering with the Duluth Community Garden to build up the soil by donating and mixing in organic compost and other organic supplements. We will be planting pumpkin, squash, zucchini, onions, and carrots. Mother Nature will determine our fall harvest date, but we are hoping to be able to donate our produce to the food shelf. We need organic compost to get the soil fertile enough to give us a good crop. If you would like to donate compost, please bring it to the cloakroom just off the parking lot handicap accessible entrance. If you would prefer to contribute monetarily, make a check out to Pilgrim Congregational Church and in the memo line: Community Garden.



**SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS**

The search committee is gradually narrowing the field of candidates for our next called minister. We will be interviewing, in person, two promising candidates in July. Additionally, in early June, we have two more candidates we have scheduled to have an initial interview via Skype.

Steve Cushing

**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

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION?**

As members of CHUM, we participate in the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. Below is an important way you can be part of addressing homelessness RIGHT NOW:

A few days ago, when the House and Senate ended the 2016 session of the Minnesota Legislature, **they failed to pass a bonding bill they could send to the Governor** for his signature.

The Governor has said he is open to calling a special session to work on and pass a bonding bill.

**We know Minnesota families can't wait to have their housing needs met.** Minnesota's elected leaders need to know how important bonds for housing are, and it's time to pass a bonding bill.

**Please make 5 quick phone calls to ask for a special session!**

Call the elected leaders below with the following message:

*Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_. I'm asking that you support the call for a special session of the legislature to pass a bonding bill with a strong investment in housing. Minnesota families can't wait to have their housing needs met. Thank you!*

Here are the leaders you should call:

Governor Mark Dayton - [651-201-3400](tel:651-201-3400) or [800-657-3717](tel:800-657-3717)

Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt - [651-296-5364](tel:651-296-5364) or [800-710-7642](tel:800-710-7642)

Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk - [651-296-8881](tel:651-296-8881)

House Minority Leader Paul Thissen - [651-296-5375](tel:651-296-5375)

Senate Minority Leader David Hann - [651-296-1749](tel:651-296-1749)

Let us know that you called by [emailing Atom \(atom@mnhomelesscoalition.org\)](mailto:atom@mnhomelesscoalition.org).

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**June 5**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

“It Will Be Enough”

(I Kings 17:8-16)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**June 12**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

“Malice in the Palace”

(the book of Esther)

Youth Musical, directed by

Rachael Kresha, Director of Music

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Picnic-Style Lunch for All

**June 19**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

“Listen”

(I Kings 19:1-15a)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**June 26**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

“Yes, But...”

(Luke 9:56-62)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Worship

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**WORSHIP NOTES**

**Summer Midweek Worship Opportunity begins Wednesday, June 15, at 6 p.m.** This will be a less formal, more participatory service of worship and prayer, including Holy Communion. Services will be offered Wednesday evenings through the month of July.

**SPRING MUSICAL, SUNDAY JUNE 12TH, 10 AM, PILGRIM SANCTUARY**

Dear Pilgrims,

The Pilgrim Youth have been working diligently on the musical, "Malice in the Palace." This time, we are telling the story of Esther, a champion for social justice. This queen used her position of privileged to speak out against a politician who was marginalizing a group of people, and plotting to have them deported and executed. I picked this musical about two years ago because it had a strong female character and seemed like a good fit for the kids at Pilgrim. I had no idea that there would be so many opportunities for parallels to be drawn from this ancient story and current events, but the youth made some pretty powerful observations and connections. This story may not be in your "top ten" list of old testaments stories that you are familiar with, but it has powerful message choosing faith in something greater than political leaders, resilience, and standing up for what is right. I will hope you will be able to join us to cheer on these wonderful kids.

Rachael Kresha, Director of Music

**PILGRIMS ON YOUTUBE!**

*Did you know Pilgrim Church has its own YouTube channel? It is a wonderful way to gently introduce us to those who wonder what we are like.*

Viewers can experience Good Friday and Easter **worship services** for a taste of powerful worship and music, or watch the children's Christmas pageant for the joy of worship!

They can also listen to **short testimonials** by several Pilgrim members, sharing what they have experienced in this church and why it is their faith home.

These are available in the Connect menu on our webpage, or by looking for Pilgrim Congregational Church Duluth on YouTube.

**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.

June 1 and 2-"Now You See Him, Now You Don't" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from April 3, 2016

June 8 and 9-"Rising, Falling, Rising" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from April 10, 2016

June 15 and 16-"Beyond Resistance" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from April 24, 2016

June 22 and 23-"Un-Expectations" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from May 1, 2016

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

**Ana M. Gilbert** graduated from the University of St. Thomas and received her Bachelors of Arts degree with a major in Operations Supply Chain Management and a minor in Communications and Journalism.

**Michael Streitz** graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a degree in Neuro Science



**PARISH PERSONALS**

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

**PILGRIM POSTS**

Dear Friends at Pilgrim Congregational, Thank you so much for your generosity in allowing us to use the Fellowship Hall for practice space for Echoes of Peace Choir. We are deeply grateful!

Sara Thompson  
On behalf of all @ Echoes of Peace

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler  
Thank you for your congregational gift in support of CHUM. The emergency shelter was a place to sleep for 943 people, including 58 families and 125 children in 2015. Your support of CHUM, in all ways—treasure, talent and good will—makes our work possible.

Lee Stuart, Executive Director

Pilgrim Congregational Church  
Your gift to Northland College has a far reaching impact. Because of your gift, Northland students are receiving a superb education that gives them the experience, skills and knowledge to succeed.  
Kristy D. Liphart,  
Executive Director of Development

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JUNE 13 TO 17**

**VBS will meet 9am – Noon, Monday – Friday. 4 year olds to kids entering 5th grade**

Pilgrim are invited to **Vacation Bible School** at Peace Church.. Forms are in Salter Hall. Cost: \$20 per child if you register early (\$50 max per family), or \$25 per child if you register on the first day of VBS (\$60 max per family). Scholarships are available.

We are so lucky to live near the beautiful, clean waters of Lake Superior. Many children and families are not so lucky. Our theme for this year is *Water All Around the World*. We will be learning about the ways in which access to clean water (or lack of access!) affects the lives of children in many parts of the world. We'll also learn about the ministry of *Living Waters for the World*, the water purification project that is providing safe water for many people in places where the water supplies are contaminated. Each day, we will look at a Bible story that tells of God's use of water, and hear stories of children in other countries who struggle to have clean water each day.

We are being proactive and looking for Volunteers early! Are willing to help lead a station for one or two days, or even the whole week? Stations will include: Arts and Crafts, Snacks, and Games. Let Jackie Falk (218.310.3908) or Karen Sheldon ([karencsheldon@gmail.com](mailto:karencsheldon@gmail.com) 952.567.1079) know if you are interested in being involved.

**Donation Slips are available in Salter Hall!** Donating to VBS is so helpful in keeping the costs down! Please take a donation slip. We appreciate all different kinds of support.

**Youth Leaders needed!**  
We need your energy, positive attitude, experience, and enthusiasm to help make VBS extraordinary for the kids participating. As Shepherd Guides you will lead our younger kids to each of their stations and make sure everyone is safe. Your participation can be SO memorable for both you and the younger kids, busy shaping their faith.

**Adult Leaders Needed!**  
We are looking for adults to team-lead VBS activity stations. Volunteer for one morning session or all.

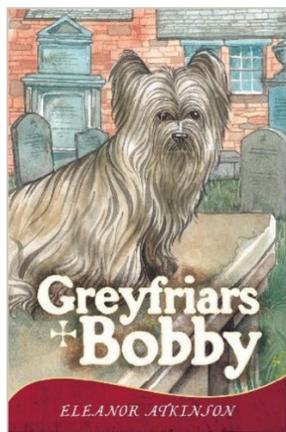
- Crafts Leader for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Games Leader for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- A Snack Helper for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Two Preschool leaders.

The kids are great and enjoy having you help them learn. Please let Karen or Jackie know if you can help.

**THE PIANO MOVED?!?!**

If you visit the sanctuary, the platform looks a little bare. Over the winter months our sanctuary underwent a thoughtful and artful facelift. Beautiful carpet was installed, the platform was sanded and stained, and the pews were cleaned and repaired. A lot of time and energy went into this project, and Mary Sopoci especially put in a lot of volunteer hours to make this project such a success. Unfortunately this past month, we discovered that every time the piano was moved, it would create a small groove on the surface of the platform. After all the hard work that had been put into the sanctuary, it was a bit of a shock for us all. In order to prevent any further damage and to preserve the beautiful work that has been done, the piano has been moved to the ground floor. The piano gets a lot of use. It is used on Sunday morning of course, but it is also used by the Lake Superior Youth Chorus and the Twin Port's Choral Project every Sunday evening and gets moved around a lot in order to accommodate the amount the different types of rehearsals.

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**



The **June 20th** title is **The Truth According to Us** by Annie Barrows. We begin at 6:00 pm in the church Parlor. Our July 18th meeting will feature **Station 11** by Emily St. John Mandel

Please volunteer to be the facilitator.

\*\*\*We are considering changing the meetings to the second Monday of the month starting in September, instead of the third Monday. Please let me know

ASAP if you are OK or not OK with the change.  
Joan Setterlund

**Softball season** is almost here. If you would like to participate in the Pilgrim Turkey's YMCA league, please contact David Braun at [dbraun1980@gmail.com](mailto:dbraun1980@gmail.com) or at 218-269-0412.

**ALL MINISTRY NIGHT**  
**Tuesday, June 14**

**CHUM CORNER**

**Tuesday, June 7**

New Wine presents **Children of Eden**, a musical presentation to be hosted at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 1419 St. Benedict St., at 7 PM. Based on the story of Genesis, the age-old conflict of parents and children takes the stage. Children of Eden is a joyous and inspirational musical about parents, children, and faith.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE ORGAN RECITAL**  
**MARISSA FAERBER**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 20TH, 7PM**  
**PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Marissa Faerber, a graduate of Duluth East High School has been studying pipe organ for the last three years with Rachael Kresha. Her studies were made possible by the local American Guild of Organist's Arrowhead Chapter scholarship fund. Marissa will be continuing her studies at Brigham Young University in Idaho and majoring in organ performance in the fall. Please join her as she shares her extraordinary achievement. Her program will include Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Langlais, and Gigout. A free-will offering will be collected and proceeds donated to Marissa Faerber to help her get launched!

**SHINY PAPER FUNDRAISER:**

On May 7th, our faithful crew dropped off 2660 pounds of shiny paper to VERSO raising another \$266 for our music program at Pilgrim. Thank you for sorting, and hauling the paper to church. We are still accepting white printer paper (old documents, etc.) and shiny glossy paper (newspaper adds, magazines etc.) We get 10 cents per pound! Funds raised are used to help build music programming in the church. It gave us the seed money to start musicals, increase the adult bellchoir and allow room for new players to join, and expand the Christmas Pageant to involve more youth. We have a new donation location, main floor just outside the office by the elevator.



**ASK AWARENESS CAMPAIGN  
JUNE 21**

“Asking Saves Kids” campaign, co-sponsored by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the American Academy of Pediatricians, reminds us that easy access to firearms can lead to tragic consequences for children. 17,500 kids are injured or killed annually by firearms; guns are the second leading cause of death among children and teens; over 1.7 million children and teens live in households with unsecured firearms. ASK encourages parents to inquire if there are unlocked guns in a home that their child visits. For more information, go to [askingsaveskids.org](http://askingsaveskids.org).

**SAVE THE DATE  
JUNE 28, 6-7:30 PM  
LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY  
ACCOUNTABILITY SESSION**

Location to be determined

Last year, candidates for city council and mayor agreed to action steps to improve the lives of low-income Duluthians. How are our elected officials doing? We will follow up with them to track progress and continue to push for a more fair and equitable Duluth. Please join us.

“If you’ve got an issue with a political opponent, you create a better argument and publicize that, but you don’t shout them down in a town-hall meeting.”

Activist Oxblood Ruffin

(As quoted in Newsweek, Aug. 30, 2004)

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

**NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS  
JUNE 2**

Several organizations are joining together to raise awareness of gun violence and possible solutions to prevent these tragedies on June 2. Dubbed “Wear Orange Day,” supporters are asked to wear the bright orange of hunters as a sign of firearm safety awareness.

A ceremony and press release will be held at City Hall at 1:00 pm, including a mayoral proclamation. At 8:30 pm, the Peace Bell at Enger Tower will be rung in remembrance of those lost to gun violence (crime, suicide, and accident) and the Tower will be lit in orange lights.

While it is the deaths from crime or accidents that make the news, eighty percent of deaths due to firearms in this state are suicides. All of these are tragedies requiring multiple approaches to prevent in the future.

**GOT RHUBARB?**

Pilgrim Church has committed to baking forty pies for the Rhubarb Festival in June. This event is CHUM’s biggest single fundraiser each year, raising upwards of \$70,000. Right now, WE NEED RHUBARB!

Baking will be done during the week of June 19. Fresh rhubarb may be brought in close to time. Earlier rhubarb should be washed, cut into ½ inch pieces, and frozen in packages of no more than one quart (four cups).

Pie bakers will be needed, too; all you need bring is a rolling pin. Baking day and time TBD; contact Lois Heller if you are interested in helping.

**CHUM RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

**June 25, 2016**

**9:00 am—4:00 pm**

**11th Avenue East and London Road,  
Duluth**



**MARCH 31 – APRIL 28**

Sunday, May 29	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	Musical Rehearsal
Monday, May 30		Memorial Day
		Office closed
Wednesday, June 1	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal
Thursday, June 2	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal
Sunday, June 5	9:30 am	Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:00 am	Musical Rehearsal
Tuesday, June 7	7:30 am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
	10:30 am	Women's Fellowship Group
	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wednesday, June 8	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal
Thursday, June 9	6:00 pm	Musical Rehearsal
Saturday, June 11	10:00 am	Musical Rehearsal
	2:00 pm	John Streitz Memorial
Sunday, June 12	8:30 am	Musical Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Youth Musical
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Wednesday, June 15	6:00 pm	Mid-Week Worship
Monday-Friday		Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, June 14		All Ministry Night
Sunday, June 19	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, June 20	7:00 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, June 21	7:00 pm	BeFriends
Wednesday, June 22	6:00 pm	Mid-Week Worship
Saturday, June 25		Chum Rhubarb Festival
Sunday June 26	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, June 27		Newsletter Deadline
	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano Center
Tuesday, June 28	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday, June 29	6:00 pm	

**DULUTH SUPPORT & EDUCATION GROUP FOR FAMILIES**

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for families who have a relative with a mental illness. Led by trained facilitators who also have a family member with mental illness, the support groups help families develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. A family support group meets in Duluth at 6:00 p.m., followed by an educational meeting from 7:00-8:00, on the last Tuesday of the month, at Miller Dwan Hospital, 502 E. 2nd St., in conference room 3. For information, call NAMI Duluth at 218-409-6566.

**SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**

**May 29-Ushers**

Marge Fraser and Jane and Gene Shull

**Greeters/Coffee**

Steve and Cindy Grindy

**Reader**

Kane Tewes

**Counters**

Jack Setterlund and Greg Gilbert

**June 5-Ushers**

Char Taylor and Gene and Jane Shull

**Greeters-Coffee**

Melanie and Martin Grune

**Reader**

Lauri Cushing

**Counters**

Steve Grindy and Mardi Bagley

**June 12-Ushers**

Char Taylor and Carri Hoagland

**Greeters-Coffee**

**Reader**

Mary Olin

**Counters**

Denny Falk and Steve Grindy

**June 19-Ushers**

Julie Drake and Jenny Jensen

**Greeters-Coffee**

Chris, Rebecca and Robert Harwood

**Readers**

Dana and Oskar Lindaman

**Counters**

Mardi Bagley and Steve Cushing

**June 26-Ushers**

Julie Drake and Martin Grune

**Greeters-Coffee**

Jane and George Killough

**Reader**

Lois Heller

**Counters**

Steve Grindy and Greg Gilbert

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

**pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**2310 East Fourth Street  
Duluth, MN 55812-1430**

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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**

- May 29 Worship
- May 30 Memorial Day-Office Closed
- June 1 & 2 Musical Rehearsal
- June 5 Worship with Holy Communion and
- June 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast Leadership Team
- June 10 Musical Rehearsal
- June 11 John Streitz Memorial
- June 12 Worship Youth Musical
- June 13-17 Vacation Bible School
- June 14 All Ministry Night
- June 19 Worship
- June 20 Women's Book Group
- June 21 BeFriends
- June 26 Worship



**pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST