



JUNE 25, 2015

VOLUME 63, NO. 6

PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

On behalf of the Transition Team, I thank those of you who participated in the “Telling Our Story” history event and “Pathfinding: Present and Future” conversations this spring. This month the team is studying societal trends and their effects upon the church, to frame our interpretation of our data about Pilgrim Church. The Pew Research Center recently released the summary version of its current “America’s Changing Religious Landscape” report. Among the findings:

In the past seven years, the number of Americans who self-identify as Christians has dropped from 78.4% of the population to 70.6% -- a decline of ten percent—that would be 10% of the 78.4%, or 10% of those professing Christianity. But this gets confusing...

Perhaps more telling: While 85% of those born between 1928 and 1945 claim to be Christian, only about 56% of the Millennial generation of young adults call themselves Christian.

From other studies we know that every week in the U.S. and Canada, approximately 70 churches are holding their last worship service. Our context has shifted dramatically, and we need to understand that.

At the same time, the Team is learning about keys to church vitality. What marks a vibrant, vital church in the more progressive expression of Christianity? Knowing what these markers are helps us assess our present situation, and point the direction forward. Some of these keys include a clear sense of identity, high levels of participation and commitment, identifiable missions, and worship that engages both head and heart for an experience of both the Divine and genuine community.

I was reminded by an interim ministry colleague at the Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting of 4 questions for YOU during this season of your life. The first two have been asked, in various ways, in the Pathfinding conversations. But the majority of church members and friends were not present. So as you consider your responses to all these questions, also consider letting us know your responses. If you’re online, email me at jennifer-ad@pilgrimduluth.org. Or write your answers below and drop them by the church office. Oh, and keep a copy for yourself, especially for questions 3 & 4:

⇒ What does our church do very well?

⇒ What does our church need?

⇒ What are you going to do during this interim season?

⇒ What is your passion?

Even as we work on transition issues, the ongoing ministries of Pilgrim Church continue. Vital churches with vibrant futures only happen when each member of the body participates according to their gifts and passions. And EVERYONE has something to offer for the church’s upbuilding and outreach. Identify what you have to offer, and let us know; we’ll help you find where to you can be part of the great life of this church!

See you Sundays (or Thursdays)!

Dear Pilgrim Family,

We would like to thank each and every one of you for the outpouring of love and care, support and prayers since Sophie’s accident in April.

From all the caringbridge posts that gave us a feeling of connection and hope while holding vigil in Utah, to our “conference call” in worship, to Jennifer’s daily ‘centering’ calls, the cheerful and heartfelt handmade cards from the children, the outpouring of cards and gifts, the delicious homemade MEALS and gift cards for meals that helped us focus on supporting Sophie and taking care of ourselves.

Then enfolding Sophie in your love upon our return to Pilgrim....

What a huge source of strength this all has been for us in our continued healing process.

Thank you for sharing your love and God’s love with us! We have felt it!

In loving gratitude, Nan, Michael, Sophie and Claire Hillmeyer



EMAIL FROM THE MN CONFERENCE

Despite “mainline decline,” our Minnesota Conference UCC is remarkably vibrant and active, taking significant action in transforming the world, touching lives, and strengthening local churches. We are proud to be in covenant with the Conference and 131 other UCC churches! We urge you to discover more by subscribing to the weekly emailing of the MN UCC by going to uccmn.org and entering your email address in the subscription box at the right hand top of the page.

PILGRIM TURKEY’S SOFTBALL

There are still four games left in the season before the playoffs. We play on Tuesday nights at Wheeler Field #4. Come out and cheer the Turkeys on. It is a great evening out for any family. Show your Turkey spirit for our YMCA Competitive Division Church Softball League.

FAIR TRADE RESOLUTION

On Saturday, June 13, voting members of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ chose to support a resolution encouraging churches in the conference to become Fair Trade churches, by:

- 1) Using and promoting fair trade products;
- 2) Celebrating Fair Trade through events; and
- 3) Educating and raising awareness of Fair Trade.

The resolution also encourages the Minnesota Conference UCC to use and promote Fair Trade products at events and activities whenever possible. Currently those products are coffee, tea and sugar. By purchasing Fair Trade products, we provide farmers in developing nations the tools to thrive as international business people instead of creating dependency on aid, we use a market-based approach that gives farmers fair prices, workers safe conditions and entire communities’ resources for fair, healthy and sustainable lives.

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.

- July 1 and 2-”Journey In, Journey Out” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from May 31, 2015
- July 7 and 8-”The Rockslinger and His Greatest Hit” Children’s Pageant from June 7, 2015
- July 15 and 16-”The Beauty and Pain of Blessing” from June 14, 2015
- July 22 and 23-”Facing Giants and Storms” by the Rev. Dr. Karen Schuder from June 21, 2015



NEW THIS YEAR! RHUBARB AFTER DARK

Red Herring Lounge

208 East 1st Street | 218-481-7318 7 PM |

\$10 all proceeds benefit CHUM

Viville 7 PM

Siama Matruzungidi 8 PM

Malamanya 9 PM

Southwire 10 PM

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
- Annika Nielsen, Childcare Assistant

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 28-Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship

“Fear/Faith: Embodied”

(Mark 5:21-43)

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20 am Hogwarts Planning Session

Childcare available 9:30-11:30 pm

July 2-Worship with Holy Communion

6:00 pm Worship

July 5-Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

“A Prophet Among Them”

(Mark 6:1-13; Ezekiel 2:1-5)

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Childcare available 9:30-11:30 pm

July 9-Worship with Holy Communion

6:00 pm Worship

July 12-Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship

“The Body, Part 2: The Power of Dance”

(II Samuel 6:1-5, 6b-19)

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Childcare available 9:30-11:30 pm

July 16-Worship with Holy Communion

6:00 pm Worship

July 19-Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship

“Come Rest for Awhile”

(Mark 6:30-34, 53-56)

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Childcare available 9:30-11:30 pm

July 23-Worship with Holy Communion

6:00 pm Worship

July 26-Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship

“Onions, Stories, and Bread”

(II Samuel 11:26 – 12:7; John 6:24-35)

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Childcare available 9:30-11:30 pm

WORSHIP NOTES

Summer Midweek Worship Opportunity runs Thursday, June 25, through Thursday, July 30, at 6 p.m. This will be a less formal but complete service of worship and prayer, including Holy Communion. If you will be gone for the weekend, make one hour available before leaving for intentional faith connection.

OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

At Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, the congregation elected the following persons to serve as the Pastoral Search Committee:

Mary Anderson

Zachary Campbell

Steve Cushing

Denny Falk

Tucker Hanlon

Jane Shull

Gail Trowbridge

These persons were commissioned and blessed by the congregation for their task. Their work began that very evening with an organizational meeting. They met again in June with Associate Conference Minister Rev. Rick Wagner for an orientation to the work of a pastoral search committee throughout the various phases. In their next meeting, the committee will explore and discuss the various gifts each member brings to the team, and determine a chairperson, secretary, and chaplain for the group. Updates will be shared regularly with the congregation as work proceeds, and input and feedback will be sought at various times. Please keep these persons and their calling in your prayers, and offer them your personal support.

BEAUTIFY WITH YOUR BOUNTY

Summer is officially here in Duluth, it would be wonderful if you would share your garden’s bounty by beautifying the sanctuary with your home-grown flowers and plants. You could bring in cut flowers or even whole pots or arrangements. Please call the church office if you would like to contribute.



THANK YOU

Kudos to Jim and Mary (Pilgrim’s new comedy writing team)

I know I speak for many members of the congregation when I say that the witty and warm tributes and the personalized balloons that Jim Brower and Mary Sopoci created for the Pilgrim annual meeting were delightful and very much appreciated! It was clear that Mary and Jim put their whole hearts into recognizing the unsung heroes of the church, people that they obviously have gotten to know very well over the years. Your tributes made for a lighthearted evening; lots of smiles and laughter. Thank you!

Gail Trowbridge

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

In June, the book group discussed the stories told in Choteau Creek A Sioux Reminiscence, but we were also led further into the life of the author Joseph Iron Eye Dudley. We learned from Avon Power how her husband Joseph came to write about his childhood growing up with his grandparents, about the visits back to that area of South Dakota, and about the awards and recognition that he received.

Coming up on July 20, we will have another special event, this time with Kathleen Hills, author of the mystery The Kingdom Where Nobody Dies. Mark this on your calendar and join us at 6:30 whether you have read the book or not. This will be another special night with a local author. *****Nan Hillmeyer was given a number of copies of The Kingdom Where Nobody Dies**. We have two left so if you would like a copy, please call Joan Setterlund (728-4986) and arrange to pick one up. The library also has a few copies of Hill's book.

COMMON HOPE TEAM RETURNS!

The Common Hope vision team of Stacey, Siri, Miranda, Kayla, Cindy and Steve would like to thank all of the pilgrims for your prayers, financial support and good wishes for our trip to Guatemala with Common Hope. The more we learned about Common Hope the more we admire the work they do for children and families in Guatemala. The week was simply amazing and we are looking forward to sharing our experience. Below is a link to photos taken during our week.

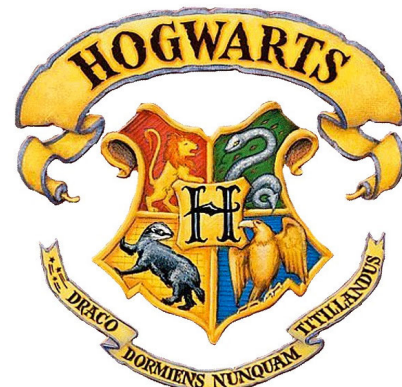
<http://www.commonhope.org/get-involved/join-a-vision-team/vision-team-diary/>

PARISH PERSONALS

Sophie Hillmeyer has returned home from rehabilitation at Miller Dwan and is using a walker! You can still view the updates from her parents at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/sophiehillmeyer

HOGWARTS 2015 DATES

- Sunday, June 28 after worship-Planning meeting in the Parlor
 - Sunday, July 12 after worship-Planning meeting in the Parlor
 - Sunday, September 6 after worship-Piñata making in Fellowship Hall
 - Sunday, September 13 after Gathering Sunday meal-Paint piñatas in Fellowship Hall
 - Sunday, September 27 after worship-Planning meeting in the Parlor
 - Saturday, October 17, 1-3:00 pm-Volunteer workshop
 - Saturday, October 24, 9-Noon-Pumpkin Carving
 - Saturday, October 24, 1-5:00 pm-Prep for Hogwarts
 - Sunday, October 25, 5:30-8:00 Hogwarts Party (volunteers please arrive by 5:00 pm)
- Everyone is welcome and encouraged to work on any aspect of the Hogwarts/Pilgrim Express. For additional information please call Jenny Jensen at 218-461-7727.



SCHOOL'S OUT...LET'S EAT

All children can come to the following locations and have a nutritious summer meal at no cost! Meals are served until August 21 (no service July 3rd).

Breakfast: 8:00AM to 10:30AM

Lunch: 11:30AM – 1:00PM

Summer Meal Locations

- Lester Park Elementary, 5300 Glenwood Street
- Lowell Elementary, 2000 Rice Lake Road
- Myers-Wilkins Elementary, 1027 N 8th Avenue East
- Piedmont Elementary, 2827 Chambersburg Avenue
- Laura MacArthur Elementary, 720 North Central Avenue
- Stowe Elementary, 715 – 101st Avenue West
- Lincoln Park Middle School, 3215 West Third Street
- Denfeld High School, 401 North 44th Avenue West

Also Available: Brown Bag Lunches at the Lincoln Park Boys & Girls Club, 2407 West 4th Street
 Questions please call 336-8707

JULY FOOD SHELF DONATIONS TO BE MATCHED

School is out and our children are eager to start their summer vacations. But hunger in our community doesn't take a summer vacation. You can help the CHUM Food Shelf fill empty plates this summer through the annual Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless food challenge.

This challenge offers a matching grant to organizations like the CHUM Food Shelf. The more you donate to the food shelf in July, the larger our share of the Open Your Heart grant will be. The \$150,000 challenge will proportionately match your donation.

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER NEEDED

There is a need for a weekly driver (Mondays) to deliver meals. It takes about 1 1/2 hours and is much appreciated by the recipients. Please contact Cindy Fochs (728-2061) if you are interested in this rewarding volunteer position.

BLOOD DRIVE

Kolar Toyota-July 18th

9:00 am-1:30 pm

Bus Parked at Kolar

An Animal Allies Fundraiser-With 25 blood donations, Kolar will give \$1,000 to Animal allies

Contact Michele Keil to Sign Up!
 (218) 740-1541 or mkeil @mbc.org

Register to win a fishing getaway!-all donors in July are eligible.



LAKE PLACE SUMMER SOUNDS!

Back again for another great summer line up, Duluth Sister Cities International presents its 2015 Lake Place Summer Sounds concert series! With Lake Superior as your backdrop, the whole family can come and enjoy free concerts at Lake Place Park that promote healing, peace, and community. All concerts are from noon - 1pm on Wednesdays. Teatro Zuccone is our back up location if the weather is bad. Rain or shine, be sure to put these dates on your summer calendar!

July 15 - Sara Thomsen and friends

July 22 - St. Scholastica Saints Steel Band

July 29 - "Kurdish Community of America" musicians and dancers performing original Kurdish music

August 5 - Z Puppets presents Monkey Mind Pirates Family Yoga Party

August 12 - Arna Rennan & Bruce Dack of Nordic Angst

Pack your lawn chairs or sit in the grass, pack a lunch or purchase a tasty lunch right in the park from Zeitgeist Arts Cafe, and come and enjoy some great music on lake this summer. Tours of Lake Place Park, International Sculpture Gardens and Duluth Sister Cities Park will be provided following each concert. Join us and rediscover these stunning parks that overlook Lake Superior!

2015-2016 CHURCH COUNCIL AND MINISTRIES

Church Council

Moderator: Charlotte Taylor
Moderator-Elect _____ open
Treasurer: Bob Reichert
Clerk: Ted Harwood
Members at Large: Deb DeVaney, Clyde Johnson, Dave Zentner
Ministry Area Coordinators: Julie Drake, Anita Stech and Steve Grindy

Spiritual Life Ministry Area

Coordinator-Julie Drake
Worship and Arts Ministry Committee
Tammy Hensley, Jean Jacobson, Carri Hoagland, Cary Thompson-Gilbert
Christian Education Ministry Committee
Chris Harwood, John Jensen, David Braun, Rebekka Stumme
Membership and Growth Ministry Committee
Jenny Ballew, Bobbi Edwards

Justice and Witness Ministry Area

Coordinator-Anita Stech
Social Justice Ministry Committee
Nan Hillmeyer, Melanie Grune, Bret Pence, Ben Olson, Sarah Beaster, Patty Polasky, Andy Nielsen
Communications Ministry Committee
Jim Drake, Harlan Stech, Triss Harwood, Lee Ziegler

Care for Common Resources Ministry Area

Coordinator-Steve Grindy
Building and Finance Ministry Committee
Steve Grindy, Greg Gilbert, Mardi Bagley, Jack Setterlund, Denny Falk
Stewardship Ministry Committee
Bob Heller, Zach Campbell
Human Resources Ministry Committee
Karen Andresen, John Fochs, Karl Beaster, Paula Polasky

Thank you to all the outgoing members. There are still a few positions available, please contact any of the Officers or Ministries for more information about how to use your gifts and interests here at Pilgrim.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it away from them but to inform their discretion by education."
-Thomas Jefferson
www.instituteforcivility.org

CHUM 11TH ANNUAL RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
11th Avenue East and London Road
Duluth, MN 55811
ADMISSION IS FREE!

Help celebrate rhubarb with children's games, silent auction, stage show, rhubarb treats, and so much more!



JUNE 25 JULY 23

Saturday, June 27		CHUM Rhubarb Festival
Sunday, June 28	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Hogwarts Planning Meeting
Tuesday, June 30	8:00 pm	Turkey's Softball
Thursday, July 2	6:00 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 5	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, July 6		Office Closed
Tuesday, July 7	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
	8:00 pm	Turkey's Softball
Wednesday, July 8	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
Thursday, July 9	6:00 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 12	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, July 14		All Ministry Night
		Turkey's Softball
Wednesday, July 15	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
Thursday, July 16	6:00 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 19	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday June 20		Newsletter Deadline
	6:30 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, July 21	7:00 pm	BeFrienders
	7:00 pm	Turkey's Softball
Wednesday, July 22	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
Thursday, July 23	1:00 pm	Newsletter Assembly
	6:00 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, July 26	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, July 27	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano's
Tuesday, July 28	6:00 pm	Church Council
Wednesday, July 29	7:00 pm	Youth at Peace
Thursday, July 30	6:00 pm	Worship with Holy Communion

Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, July 20th

FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Thank you so much for your generous donations to Strengthen the Church, which totaled \$504.00.		
May 2015		Year to Date
Income	\$ 22,601	149,731
Expenses	\$ 27,202	174,682
Difference	(\$4,601)	(24,951)
The Year to Date is approximately \$1,900 more than last year at this time. However, our budgeted deficit for 2015 is \$20,000 more than last year.		

ALL MINISTRY NIGHT

July 14

Check the time of your Ministry meeting.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

June 28-Usher

Julie Drake

Greeters/Coffee

Cindy Grindy and Anita Stech

Readers

Jane Killough and Grace Beaster

Counters

Steve Grindy and Jack Setterlund

July 5-Usher

Char Taylor

Greeters/Coffee

Melanie and Martin Grune

Reader

Bob Heller

July 12-Usher

Char Taylor

Greeters/Coffee

Margo and Dave Zentner

Reader

Don Bjoralt

July 19-Usher

Char Taylor

Greeters/Coffee

Gene and Jane Shull

Reader

Carri Hoagland

July 26-Usher

Char Taylor

Greeters/Coffee

Carol Bacig and Brian Medred

Readers

Jack Kemp and Siiri Truckey

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

June 27	CHUM Rhubarb Festival
June 28	Worship
July 2	Midweek Worship
July 5	Worship with Holy Communion
July 7	Leadership Team
July 9	Midweek Worship
July 12	Worship
July 14	All Ministry Night
July 16	Midweek Worship
July 19	Worship
July 20	Newsletter Deadline
July 21	BeFrienders
July 23	Newsletter Assembly Midweek Worship
July 26	Worship
July 28	Church Council



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST