



JULY 28, 2016

VOLUME 64, NO. 7

PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Towards the end of Tuesday evening's Church Council retreat, I saw something I have rarely seen: an engaged group of gifted, committed leaders sitting in long stretches of silence. Granted, all were tired at the end of challenging conversation and a long, hot day. But more than fatigue, the quiet expressed the quality of awe. We were newly aware of just what we all, as Pilgrim Church, have opened ourselves to in this season of "New Beginnings" and "Pilgrims on the Way."

The consensus from New Beginnings participants was a desire – even a sense of *call* – to pursue "Redefinition of Mission." While it raises some anxiety, most felt this is an exciting proposition, and all believed it was the most faithful option. It is also the HARDEST option, for at least two reasons:

First, "Redefinition of Mission" is not simply tweaking what you do, or how. It is not choosing new goals or different projects within or beyond the congregation. These things may happen, but they happen as a result of *growing into a new way of being church*. This is a shift from a membership model to a discipleship model; from "church growth" to community transformation; from institutional preservation to preparing to live the Way of Jesus individually and as church. This kind of redefinition demands careful discernment and shared visioning.

Second, all of this requires time. Re-formation as a body of faith cannot be done quickly; the seed that flourished and bore much fruit was not the one that sprung up quickly with shallow roots (Matthew 13:5-6). New Beginnings told us up front: this will take 2-3 years of tending to get to something truly new.

So the Council sat in silence, aware just how "huge" this work of Mission Redefinition is. It is rather daunting. BUT, it is also exciting! The newness it will bring is not foreign, but rather *authentic* to what it means to follow Jesus as Pilgrim Church, the church that *God* has called into being. As Council member Nate Stumme pointed out, it's rather like Michelangelo seeing the statue in the marble all along, and simply removing what got in the way of its true form and beauty. The practices of discernment, prayer, and visioning that you will be learning together will become an ongoing part of Pilgrim's life, so that you can be continuously watching for what God is up to, and more ready to join in.

Along the way, you may begin feeding the spiritual hunger awakened by New Beginnings discussions, through Bible study, prayer and deeper conversations. Having experienced the power of relationships, you may join in small groups and other community gatherings more regularly. As you deepen and grow, you will discover what more you are capable of in financial stewardship, in following the Way of Jesus, in serving the Reign of God, and you'll see how it is your transforming life (individual and corporate) that draws others to Pilgrim. As you feel passion for particular ways of serving, you'll go ahead and try them out, then reflect upon them to see if these are faithful responses to the Spirit's nudging. And the new pastor who joins you will help draw out the holy vision that God has already placed within you.

This is a lot to take in. It leads me to silence again. A little nervous about it all, yes, but mostly, in awe of what God has in store for Pilgrim Church. As Council finds individuals to serve on a Coordinating Team for at least the next steps of the process, there will be more opportunities for you to join in discussion and action together. Please pray for your church, your leaders, and your role in this new season, that together we may find and follow the authentic Way God has prepared for Pilgrim Church.

Celebrating 100 Years!

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of our beautiful building. We are seeking volunteers to form a team to plan the celebration of 100 years of ministry as Pilgrim Church in this location. We would like to plan several activities to mark this remarkable anniversary that would highlight not only the building but more importantly the ministries that Pilgrim has provided to our community these past 100 years.

If you are interested in being part of this team, please let me or Jennifer know. We would like to have the team formed before September so that plans can get underway to begin in January.

Char Taylor, Moderator

**SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 14
GATHERING SUNDAY**

4TH STREET CONSTRUCTION

Construction has already begun on the 4th Street project. Beginning at 6th Avenue, many roads besides 4th Street will be closed. Construction will run to about November 18. Construction is expected to come as far east as 14th Street. Next year construction will include Pilgrim. Numerous streets are being closed for this project. For additional information you can go to stlouiscountymn.org/construction.



Remember, there is a parking ban on the east side of 4th Street anytime, including worship. We are working of a more amicable solution with the City.

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

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Annual CHUM Picnic Tuesday, August 2 at 120 North First Ave. W. 5:45pm-7:00pm.

Many Duluth and area communities host a picnic and events on **National Night Out**, held this year on **Tuesday, August 2**. **As members of CHUM, Pilgrims are invited to join in the picnic downtown** with guests, volunteers, downtown residents and businesses, congregations and public officials. Food is served 6-7 pm in the parking lot adjacent to the Food Shelf (120 N. 1st Ave. W.); music continues until the street is reopened at 8 pm. Together across our diversity, we make Duluth better! -- Your delegates, Diane Desotelle, Melanie Grune, Jennifer Amy-Dressler

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The search committee has completed three of the originally planned 4 in person interviews with the final one scheduled for mid-August. Each of the three candidates we have interviewed to date have many of the qualities we are seeking in our next called minister. The question remains for us to discern is which candidate clearly has the best set of skills to help us move ahead in this time of "New Beginnings." We are hopeful of having more definitive news in the next few weeks.

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.

- August 3 and 4-"Malice in the Palace" spring musical from June 12, 2016
- August 10 and 11-"Living Sanctuary" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from June 19, 2016
- August 17 and 18-"Yes, But...." by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler form June 26, 2016
- August 24 and 25-"Head, Heart, Hands" by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from July 10, 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 31

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

“A Temple Full of Sparrows”
(Luke 12:1-21)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Coffee Hour

August 7

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“Divest / Invest”

(Luke 12:32-40; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16)
Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
11:00 am Coffee Hour

August 14

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“When the Going Gets Tough”

(Luke 12:49-56; Hebrews 11:29-12:2;
Isaiah 5:1-7)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Coffee Hour

August 21

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“O Freedom”

(Luke 13:10-17; Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Coffee Hour

August 28

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“A Festival of Hymns”

Worship through the gift of hymnody,
learning about and singing some of the best!

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Coffee Hour

**PULSE SHRINE DECONSECRATION
MONDAY, AUGUST 1
6 PM**

Join in a brief ceremony
honoring those killed and wounded
at the Pulse Nightclub massacre
as we remember, honor, pray,
and read the names of the
dead

before dismantling the
shrine in front of
Pilgrim Congregational
Church UCC
2310 East 4th Street.



HYMN FEST AUGUST 28

Thank you for submitting your favorite hymns! Rachael and Jennifer will be narrowing down the list (we couldn't include everyone's favorite). The hymns will be an integral part of worship on August 28, a Festival of Hymns. Please come to sing and enjoy the music you requested. Invite someone, bring a friend to partake in this joyous worship.

**PILGRIM 2016 GREEN JUSTICE
AND EARTHWISE CHURCH**

The United Church Funds Justice and Witness Team has selected Pilgrim as a 2016 Green Justice and Earthwise Church. The award reflects the commitment to implement steps to “Green” Pilgrim.

Pilgrim's newest venture in being Earthwise is participation in an EPA-sponsored “Energy Efficiency Boot Camp,” consisting of six monthly webinars and lots of “homework” in-between, to equip houses of worship to be as competent and successful as possible in their energy efficiency. Many thanks to Bret Pence who heads up the “Green Team,” to Building & Finance Ministry for their support, and to Bob Reichert, Steve Grindy, Melanie Grune, Tucker Hanlon, and Business Manager Mary Sopoci.

Pastor Jennifer will be moving across town Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 3-4. She is seeking assistance with loading, unloading, and possibly cleaning. Since that is PRIDE weekend, a special donation will be made to LGBTQ work as well as Children's Ministries at Pilgrim in honor of volunteers. Please contact her if you can help (724-8503 or jennifer-ad@pilgrimduluth.org).

Pilgrim has a history of welcoming and assisting refugees with resettlement. A fantastic resource for interpreting the refugee experience was launched this summer by the Ad Council. Take time to understand the reality of refugees and the benefits they can bring their new homes: <http://www.embracerefugees.org/>.

PILGRIM POSTS

Dear members of Pilgrim Congregational Church. Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$1,625 to Our Church's Wider Mission. Your gifts to OCWM nurture new life and possibilities for ministry throughout the Conference and beyond. Thank you so much for doing all you do, and for giving so generously. We are the Church.....together!

Reverend Shari Prestemon
Conference Minister

Dear Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler and members of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Thank you for your commitment to United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Donors like you who support the Annual Fund are United's bedrock. Thank you for believing in United and its important role as a progressive, Christian, ecumenical seminary. On behalf of all the students we serve at United, thank you again for your generous partnership.

Rev. Kathleen Remund
Director of Church Relations and Grants

Dear Jim & Pilgrim Congregational Church, Thank you very much for the used candles. I so appreciate it because I repurpose the wax to make fire starters. I really appreciate the chance to reuse the wax.

Thank you for saving it.
Kate Van Daele

Dear Friends at Pilgrim Congregational, Thanks so much for supporting Life House. Your donation provides for virtually every need of young people who have been left to fend for themselves on the streets. Youth who need the very basics that we often take for granted-food and clothing, housing, mental health counseling and basic life skills. On behalf of all at Life House, our staff and the youth we serve, thank you.

Maude Dornfeld
Executive Director

Dear Pastor Jennifer, Church Members and staff; Thank you for hosting our youth group in your beautiful church. Your hospitality enabled us to serve the Twin Ports community cleaning up storm damage, working in the parks, ReStore and the Dorothy Day House/Bike Care. It has been an amazing week for us-Thank you for helping make it possible.

The Youth of Federated Church, Morris and Glenwood United Church.

PARISH PERSONALS

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

THE TREE IN SALTER HALL

Have you noticed the tree in Salter Hall has sprouted kitchen utensil cutouts and various kitchen related items? We are looking to fill out the utensils in the large kitchen downstairs. You can pluck a kitchen item from the tree, place it in an envelope (located at the base of the tree) and write a check for the item. Some of the 'fruit' is very inexpensive, and some with a larger price tag could be purchased by several people. Please assist in picking this tree of all the fruit!



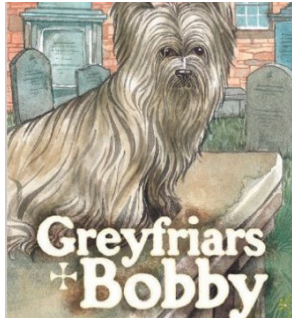
**WELCOME NEW MEMBER
KIRSTIN BATCHELOR**

I grew up in Atlanta before coming to St. Paul to attend Macalester. A few years after graduating I married my husband, Eric, who was an Army officer. Over the course of his twenty-year career we lived in Hawaii, Georgia, Washington State, Kansas (twice), and Alaska. In that time, I got ordained in the UCC, and later became a Board Certified Chaplain. When Eric retired from the Army a year ago, we moved to our home near Floodwood with our two dogs and have enjoyed getting settled there, starting a garden, raising chickens, and watching the wildlife come tromping past our back door. I work now as a chaplain with Essentia St. Mary's hospice. I love hiking with my husband and dogs, running, biking, reading, and knitting.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 2016	Income	Expense
	29,103.83	40,281.32
		(11,177.49)
Year to Date	204,570.32	203,570.58
		999.74

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



The Women's Book Group meets next on Monday, August 15th, at 6 pm in the Pilgrim Parlor. We'll discuss Greyfriars Bobby, a true story that takes place in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the mid 1800's. This heartwarming tale is written by Eleanor Atkinson. Shortbread, gluten-free, lactose-free

scones and tea will be served. Please join us!
Lynda Parrella

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION FULFILLED: KRESHA PLAYED FOR THE TURKEYS.

In the winter months of this past year, I found myself needing more lower voices in the choir to balance the upper voices and youth choir for a particularly beautiful anthem based on a poem written by a Jewish prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. As a rule, when you ask people to sing in a church choir, there is a polite refusal and an extensive list of self-deprecating comments about one's musical skill. This time, I bargained to play one Turkey Softball game in exchange for a group of people to sing in the choir this one time. I assured them that their singing ability would be far greater than anything I could offer on the softball field.

Last month, I was true to my word, and played one game for the Turkeys. Coach Braun mercifully had me play catcher, but unfortunately the umpire would not let me hide behind him. I didn't really ever catch the ball, nor could I throw the ball all the way back to the pitcher, but, I had fun. As I drove home from the game, I kept thinking, "I can't believe that I haven't played softball for the Turkey over all these years." I let my belief that I had nothing to offer keep me from having a wonderful time. Do we have some incredible ball players? Yes, we do! But, there is room at the table for people like me too. So, if you love to sing, or have always wanted to play in the bellchoir, don't be like me and avoid doing it because you believe you have nothing to offer, we will work around you! Consider joining the choir, full-time or part-time and take a risk! Your presence, your laughter, and your gifts will be a blessing to us all.

Rachael Kresha

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Gracey: The Zucchini plant, our champion. Pilgrim's community garden is finally starting to bear fruit. We were able to drop off three zucchini to the food shelf by CHUM this past week despite the storm. We had a rough start this early summer! We had critter damage that ate a lot of our plants, and we had to re-plant some carrot seeds, but by golly, despite all the challenges, Gracey, (the rockstar Zucchini plant) took off like crazy and is enormous.

We have some green tomatoes, cabbage, and our peppers are blooming. Our pumpkins plants are starting to flower and climb! In addition to harvesting vegetables for the food shelf, the whole garden plot is looking a lot better.

We would like to be able to plant some perennials around the front of the garden, so if you are dividing Irises or Lilies, or have something you would like to donate, let the Pilgrim office know and we will give it a new home. We would also accept any fruit berry perennial plants to help diversify our harvest for next year!

Stay tuned for another garden workday in the fall!



ALL MINISTRY NIGHT
Tuesday, August 9
 Check with your group for time.

[Note: this column excerpts portions of the sermon delivered by Conference Minister Shari Prestemon at Annual Meeting last month. Find the full text of the sermon, reflecting on Matthew 14:22-33, [here](#).



“A Call to Courage”

What would you do if you weren't afraid? That was the question I posed to Annual Meeting delegates in our closing worship on Sunday, June 12. Across the country, fear has taken hold of us...and it's popping up in all sorts of surprising and sometimes horrifying ways. We in the Church are far from immune from this; we have our own set of fears.

In our congregations, the fears are sometimes very practical. You watch the numbers who attend worship or give faithfully decline and you fear a future for your congregation that looks nothing like its more robust past. You fear not being able to pay the bills or keep the pastor you love. If you are the pastor, you might fear that niggling sense you have that no matter what you attempt or do, it's just not enough, that somehow *you* are not enough. You might fear saying something too bold, too prophetic from the pulpit lest someone in your pews gets angry. Or perhaps you fear the knowledge that the changes you know must be made if your congregation is to have a bright and vital future, are the very changes some of your folk will resist with a vengeance.

So what are we to do with all these fears? How are we to faithfully navigate the rocky waters we are in amid our own continuum of worry and of fear? What might it look like to meet those understandable and perhaps inevitable fears with a persevering spirit of faith-fueled courage?

I commend to you **three calls to courage** :

1. **Have the courage to wrestle with the things that are 'rocking your boat'.** Sometimes we have to be willing to go where we really don't want to go, to talk about the things we're scared out of our wits to talk about, to stay in that uncomfortable place for awhile to understand what's really happening inside ourselves or inside our churches and communities. Whether that uncomfortable place is a hard financial spot for your congregation, conflict that is dividing your church, or a social issue that is calling you to respond, confront it with love and mercy and with open, gracious spirits. Call on the strength and wisdom of God to be with you in the mess.
2. **Have courage enough to reach out and ask for help when you need it.** Call on God's power and purpose through a steady practice of prayer and discernment. Call on your wider church family—a neighboring congregation, a colleague in ministry, your Conference staff. Build relationships with others in the Conference and draw on them for support and assistance.
3. **Have the courage to persevere in service and in ministry.** While fear itself can paralyze us, courage makes room, conversely, for risk and innovation and cultivates a wild openness to the movement of the irrepressible Holy Spirit. Faithful courage compels us to discern where God is calling us next, how God is calling us to best steward whatever gifts we have in service to God and others. Courage puts us out there on the front lines of need and injustice because that's where our faith would have us be. What would you do if you weren't afraid? Beloved Church: don't let your fears keep you from pursuing God's bold call on your life and your congregation's ministry. May God grant you and all of us unflinching courage for these days.

Courage in the struggle,
Reverend Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister

JULY 31-AUGUST 25

Sunday, July 31	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, August 1	6:00 pm	Pulse Shrine Deconsecration
Tuesday, August 2	7:30 am	Men's Fellowship
	5:00 pm	Leadership Team
		CHUM National Night Out
Sunday, August 7	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, August 9		All Ministry Night
Wed., August 10	10:30 am	Women's Fellowship
	3:00 pm	Communications Ministry
Sunday, August 14	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, August 15	6:00 pm	Women's Book Group
Tuesday, August 16	7:00 pm	BeFriendsers
Sunday, August 21	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, August 22		Newsletter Deadline
	8:30 am	Coking at Damiano Center
Tuesday, August 23	6:00 pm	Church Council

Next Newsletter Deadline is August 22

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 7:30 PM
ORGANIST RECITAL**

Andrew Tessman

Pilgrim Congregational Church
Free-Will Offering

We are in for a real treat this fall, Andrew Tessman will be on tour in Minnesota and will be giving an organ recital at Pilgrim Congregational Church. Andrew Tessman (b. 1988) is a Minneapolis native, and organ student originally from Steve Gentile. Between 2005-2013 he held positions as organist and choir accompanist at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, and at the Chapel of St. Thomas (prior to the organist position reconstruction). He presently studies in Bayreuth, Germany with professors Mareile Schmidt, and Matthias Neumann.

Program:

- Bach Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (the three from the Leipziger Chorales)
- Mendelssohn Sonata #4
- Boëllmann Suite #2 for organ
- Vierne Lamento (from the Pièces de Fantasia)
- Tessman Prelude & Fugue in G Major

"The sum of the whole matter is this, that our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

- Woodrow Wilson

www.instituteforcivility.org

**SUNDAY
VOLUNTEERS**

July 31-Ushers

Julie Drake

Greeters/Coffee

Reader

Jenny Ballew

Counters

Martin Grune and Denny Falk

August 7-Ushers

Char Taylor, Marge Fraser and Bob Hensley

Greeters/Coffee

Jean and Georgia Jacobson

Readers

Tammy Hensley and Parker Tewes

Counters

Steve Grindy and George Killough

August 14-Ushers

Char Taylor and Martin Grune

Greeters-Coffee

Jean Walters and Lauri Cushing

Reader

Bob Heller

Counters

Martin Grune and Denny Falk

August 21-Ushers

Char Taylor and Josie Olson

Greeters-Coffee

Clyde and Julie Johnson

Reader

Don Bjoralt

Counters

George Killough and Steve Grindy

August 28-Ushers

Char Taylor and Carri Hoagland

Greeters-Coffee

Open

Reader

Patty Polasky

Counters

George Killough and Mardi Bagley

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

- July 31 Worship
- August 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Leadership Team
CHUM National Night Out
- August 7 Worship with Holy Communion
- August 9 All Ministry Night
- August 10 Women's Fellowship
- August 14 Worship
- August 15 Women's Book Group
- August 16 BeFriends
- August 21 Worship
- August 22 Newsletter Deadline
Cooking at Damiano Center
- August 23 Church Council
- August 28 Worship-A Festival of Hymns



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