



SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

VOLUME 63, NO. 9

PILGRIM NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

I love to see a church being church! An elder chats with a child about school; an outpouring of volunteers show up to help; visitors are intentionally sought out in worship or coffee time. Church is being church when members tend to each other, especially to children and those in difficult times, and when they join together to serve the world around them. Church consultants Daniel Smith and Mary Sellon describe it this way:

People find hope. They experience belonging; they extend and receive forgiveness. They discover a sense of purpose and direction. They learn to live with appreciation and joy no matter what the circumstances.... Practicing loving, life-giving relationships transforms congregation members. Witnessing such benefits draws others who want something similar for themselves and their families.

This vision of church is the reason I am a pastor. I long for every church I serve to live with energy, to practice compassionate and forgiving relationships, unafraid of conflict or challenge, eager to serve their community and to do the slow, hard work of justice. As an interim pastor, I am often on the starting line of church renewal.

After last spring's events reviewing our history ("Telling Our Story"), then naming where Pilgrim is now in its life and our dreams and concerns for the future ("Pathfinding"), the Transition Team, Church Council and I began asking more deeply, "Who are we now in our life together, and what is God calling us to in the next chapter?" Pilgrim Church has made significant strides in making our building useable for many activities, as well as more energy efficient. We see growing numbers of children and new ministries with them. But in a changing world, we still face significant challenges, and we realize God is calling us to respond in some new ways. In addition, for the Search Committee to identify the right candidate, we need to know where we're heading, what we will let go of, what we will build upon, and what we will try new.

So, to get a good look at ourselves and discover how to move forward faithfully, the Council chose this summer to participate in the **New Beginnings** program of the United Church of Christ, starting with an introductory "**Come and See**" event on **Saturday, October 31**. An assessment team will review relevant information we provide before coming in January to see our building, our neighborhood, and talk with whoever wants to come about the gifts and blessings of Pilgrim Church. The report they generate for us will be the basis of small group discussions in the spring, in which we expect at least half of the membership to participate. Through this grassroots conversation, we'll be discerning what is next for Pilgrim Church.

The Council made its unanimous decision after months of discussion. They believe in this program so much that they challenged themselves and all the elected leaders of the church to provide out of pocket for the cost – and exceeded the goal! That's how much your leadership believes that God has a fresh future for us, and how much we want to discover it and do the hard work of bringing it to reality. As pastor, I challenge you to full participation in New Beginnings, especially the six weeks of small group conversations next spring, where the real heart of the process lies. Together, we hold the key.

To learn more about New Beginnings, you can attend the October 31 "Come and See" event (location TBA), pick up an introductory brochure in Salter Hall, join in a 2nd Hour presentation later this fall (date TBD), visit ucc.org/new-beginnings, or talk to me. It's an exciting time, full of promise, for Pilgrim Church; join in!

**2015 STEWARDSHIP THEME:
TRUST IN THE PROMISE**

“TRUST IN THE PROMISE” of what? In this era of political backstabbing and ultra criticism, the message and mission of our church offer a stark contrast. God says, “Trust in the promise” and face the future with hope. As we contemplate our level of giving, we should answer the questions: what makes us feel good about our church and what does our church do to make lives matter? If we add an additional \$5.00, \$50.00 or \$500.00 to our pledges, what positive action would we want Pilgrim Church to do within our church or within our community to make lives matter and to fulfill the promise of God?

When you receive your stewardship information, think of the good and the positive reach of our Pilgrim church. TRUST IN THE PROMISE and GIVE HOPE TO THE FUTURE!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

On Sunday, October 4 the Neighbors In Need offering will be dedicated. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects using the other two-thirds of the offering.

Priority will be given to grant requests that focus on public education and literacy. Local congregations are urged to establish partnerships with local schools, tutor or read to students, and help increase literacy. Education is one important key to establishing justice in our society.

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.

- Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-”Open Wide...” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from August 30, 2015
- Oct. 7 and 8-”A Time to Speak ...and to Act” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from September 6, 2015
- Oct. 14 and 15-”A Healthy Robust Community” by the Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler from September 20, 2015.



WORSHIP NOTES

During October, the lectionary leads us through the 10th chapter of Mark’s gospel. These are among Jesus’ final, urgent teachings to his followers as he journeys to Jerusalem for the last time. Themes Jesus repeats include the foretelling of his death & resurrection, the value of children, and servanthood and humility.

On **October 4**, we will join in **Holy Communion** with Christians around the world, and make our worship concrete by receiving the **Neighbors in Need special offering**.

Stewardship season begins on October 11, when Jennifer will invite us to “look” at the four times the verb “look” appears in the day’s gospel reading. Be ready to see new things, in new ways!

October 18 bring reflections on **servanthood and humility**. Most of us would just as soon be part of the “great middle” rather than first or last. Interestingly, Jesus never offers that option.

On **October 25**, **Dr. Monica Liddle**, formerly of Duluth, will speak on the work she and her husband Rev. Tom Liddle have engaged in East Timor (which officially regained its independence from Indonesia in 2002). They and their family plan to return to East Timor next year to serve.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 27-Tewnty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"It's the Little Things"

(James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

11:20-2nd Hour *Dear White Christians*

October 4-Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jesus' Family Values"

(Hebrews 1:1-3a, 2:10-13; Mark 10:2-16)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

World Communion Sunday

Neighbors in Need special offering

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

October 11—Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Look"

(Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Stewardship Season begins

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

October 18-Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"First, Last"

(Mark 10:35-45)

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Ministry Fair

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

October 25-Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest Preacher:

Dr. Monica Liddle,

Global Ministries missionary to East Timor

(Genesis 28:10-22; Mark 10:46-52)

10:00 am Worship and Sunday School

11:00 am Coffee Hour

A REFLECTIONS ON MUSIC IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

The Rev. Scott A Ressman in his forward to "Sing Prayer and Praise", provides some interesting insight on the role of music in the worship service. He writes: "THE MUSIC OF THE CHURCH IS GOD'S GIFT TO US;HOW WE RECEIVE AND USE IT IS OUR GIFT TO GOD. This gift is expressed in praise and worship songs led by a band and vocal group, a pipe organ in a grand cathedral offering a Bach prelude and soaring hymns, a well-used piano embraced by gospel sounds in a country chapel or downtown sanctuary, or a few worshipers gathering in a living room turned house church, singing along with MP3s or CDs. The music of the church is this and so much more.

The music brings us closer to our grace-full, loving, justice-seeking God; it moves us with the message and mission of Jesus Christ and surprises us with the power, mystery, and playfulness of the Holy Spirit. It takes us to a spiritual place where words alone cannot, helping us to address God with heart as well as mind, expressing joy and lament, struggle and hope."

Thanks,
Rachael Kresha, Director of Music

MINISTRY FAIR

October 18 Following Worship

All Ministries and Teams are invited to set up a "booth" on September 14 to tell others in the congregation about their work on behalf of Pilgrim. Let Jim Brower or know that your ministry or team will be represented and we'll be sure there is a place for you.

This provides a great opportunity to learn more about the variety of our congregation's ministries and even sign up for those in which you are interested.

And, at the very least, this is an opportunity to say "thanks" for those who are faithful volunteers through our congregation.

PARISH PERSONALS

Carri Hoagland is recovering from shoulder injuries. Prayers have been answered and **Ben Borchert**, husband of Katie (Killough) has received a new kidney and is recovering from the surgery. Congratulations to **John and Cindy Fochs** (grandparents) and **Megan and Adam Hugley** (parents) on the birth of Jack William on Tuesday, September 8. Everyone is doing great.

HOGWARTS CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Hogwarts Halloween Party is coming up October 25th at Pilgrim. Put it on your calendar now. Join the fun by volunteering at a party station using this sign up link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084ca8aa2da7f94-hogwarts2>

Contact Jenny Jensen (218-461-7727) if you have any questions or if your business would like to donate.

There is a bulletin Board in Salter Hall where you can pick up recipes to make various spooky and slimy items for Hogwarts or items to purchase to make the party another huge success.

BAKE SALE A HOT SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who purchased the baked goods we offered on Gathering Sunday in support of Pilgrim’s music program. The grand total was \$362.05! This will help pay for items that have not been budgeted for. A huge thanks to all the bakers who contributed the scrumptious goodies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	August 2015	Year to Date
Income	\$ 23,588	221,976
Expenses	\$ <u>22,789</u>	<u>261,026</u>
Difference	796	(39,050)

SPIRITUAL READING

Several persons responded to the general inquiry about daily devotional reading. Some of their recommendations:

Grace Notes, by Phillip Yancey. Zondervan, 2009. Daily readings excerpted from Yancey’s many books. Yancey is a widely respected author in the more progressive venue of evangelicalism who writes with a clear, conversational tone. Suggested by David Zentner.

StillSpeaking Daily Devotional. http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional. Brief daily pieces written by UCC clergy, scholars, pastors, and leaders, including occasional entries by former Pilgrims Matt Fitzgerald (St. Paul’s, Chicago) and Jennifer Garrison Brownell (Hillside). Community Church, (Portland). Option to sign up to have each day’s entry sent to your email inbox. Suggested by Julie Johnson.

Words to Live By: Short Readings of Daily Wisdom, selected and interpreted by Eknath Easwaran. Daily readings by Easwaran based upon brief quotations from the world’s poets, saints, philosophers, sages, and scriptures of various faiths. Suggested by Charlie Nichol and Lynda Parrella.

Other recommendations both within and beyond a “daily” format are also coming in; next month we’ll feature some of those.

Keep turning in titles of what has fed your spirit: title & author, publisher and year if available, and 1-3 sentence description (may be edited for length). Leave in office or send to jenniferad@pilgrimduluth.org.

YOUTH MUSIC PRACTICE BEFORE WORSHIP

- Sunday, October 4th, 9:30-9:55 am Youth Handbells
- Sunday, October 11th, 9:30-9:55 am Youth Choir
- Sunday, October 18th, 9:30-9:55 am Youth Choir
- Sunday, October 25th: 9:30-9:55am Instrumental Consort

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pilgrim Pastoral Search Committee is making progress putting together our church's profile. We expect to have it completed near the end of October. Prior to that time we will have provided a narrative form of the profile to the church council for their approval and to the congregation at large. Comments and suggestions from the membership of Pilgrim are always appreciated as are your best wishes and prayers.

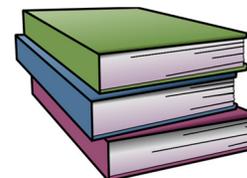
Steve Cushing And Tucker Hanlon
Co-chairs

I can read.

I can read books.

I can read books to kids.

I can read books to kids at Myers-Wilkins school on a regular basis.



If these apply to you, please contact Jim at the office and let him know. We are hoping to start this project in October.

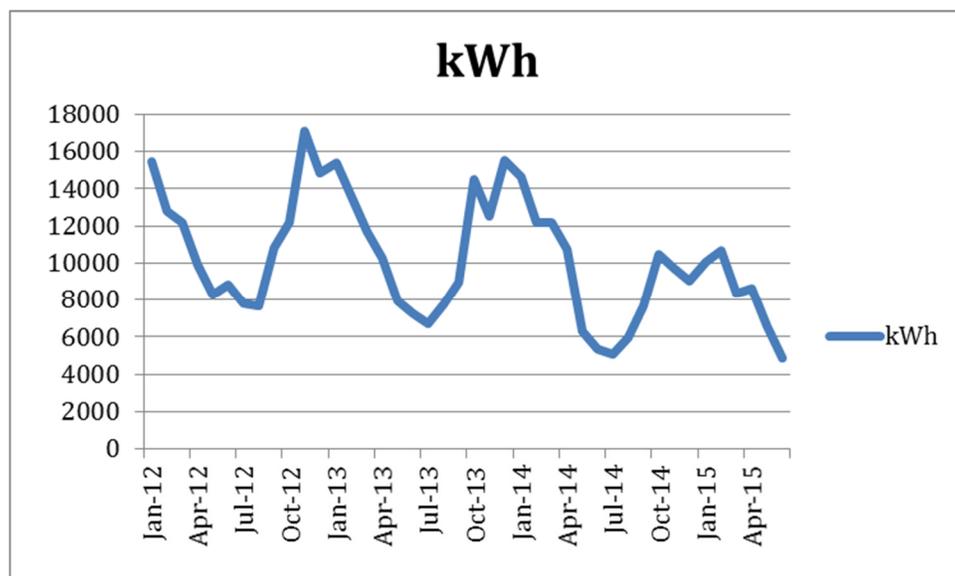
2015 PILGRIM ENERGY UPDATE

Pilgrim is halfway through 2015 and we've been watching our utility bills go down, down, down. Compared to our base year of 2012, our weather-adjusted electrical and gas usage is down 40% and 13%, respectively. This has led to lower utility bills, and in fact we've already paid \$9400 less on electricity, gas, and water than during the same period in 2014!! While some of that cost reduction is due to a much higher cost per unit gas in the long winter and cold spring of 2014, weather-adjusted avoided costs, based on our efficiency efforts from 2012 onward, indicate that we've saved around \$6000 in the first half of this year as a result of those actions. See the graph below to see what has occurred in terms of our electric usage over the past 3.5 years!

Not only does this help our bottom line, help us better fulfill our mission, and make us a better steward of our environment, it puts us on track to try for our stretch goal of 50% reduction in utility consumption by the end of 2017. Projects the Green Team has focused on this year relate to making our current heating system run more efficiently through repairs, tracing our complex ducting system, and the consideration of putting really big ceiling fans in our sanctuary (to bring hot, moist air down to the congregation on cold chilly winter days).

Thanks Pilgrim, and stay tuned for ongoing projects and results!

The Pilgrim Green Team





Do you have more produce than you can use? Are your neighbors and family members tired of zucchini? Consider bringing extra produce to the Food Shelf at 120 N 1st Avenue M-F from 9 AM to 2 PM. For more information call 722-2391 or email.

Programming at the Steve O'Neil Permanent Supportive Housing Apartments could be more enjoyable if we had a minivan to use. If you could donate a USED, SAFE MINI VAN, we would willingly accept it. Contact Mary for more information.

Students living at the Steve O'Neil Apartments and the CHUM emergency shelter are in need of Fx260 calculators. We could use about 20! Drop them by the CHUM office at 102 West 2nd Street. Thank you!

Wednesday or Friday with nothing to do? Join the Food Shelf volunteer crew from 10-2 or any part of the shift weekly or monthly. Contact Meg at the Food Shelf for more details

Our West Duluth Food Shelf location at Our Savior's Lutheran Church is in need of a 13-15 cubic foot upright freezer, as the one we were using no longer works. Contact Meg at the Food Shelf if you can help.

We are trying to round up six functioning microwaves for the Emergency Family Shelter. Please contact CHUM if you can help.

Dear garden angels, we invite you to come tend our raised beds which are in need of weeding, trimming, and harvesting. Contact CHUM if interested!

THEOLOGY BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

October 22 from 12-1 at Peace Church in the music room.

We will consider some of the foundational common principles that unite our diverse spiritual traditions as we serve in our community

SHARE FOOD DRIVE

When you do your grocery shopping on October 24th, please accept a "most needed groceries" slip from our volunteer on your way into the store. Purchase a few items from the list and give them to the volunteer as you leave the store! It is that simple.

All donated groceries will be given to our neighbors, right here in Duluth, who live with food insecurities!

Volunteers are Needed! Can you help? If you can, please contact Meg Kearns at 727-2391 or email her. THANK YOU for considering this volunteer opportunity!



The **Alzheimer's Association** offers resources and connections for individuals and families dealing with ALL kinds of dementia. Medical information, programs, access to related services including respite care, and support groups for caregivers are all available at:

- 525 South Lake Avenue, Suite 214
- 722-4335 Jenna Herbig, Program Manager
- 800-272-3900 24/7 Helpline
- alz.org/mnnd (Minnesota/North Dakota)

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

“Those who say something cannot be done should get out of the way of the people who are doing it.”

- Author Unknown
www.instituteforcivility.org

SEPTEMBER 30—OCTOBER 22

Saturday, Sept. 30		UCM 50 Cent Sale
Sunday, Sept. 27	9:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	2nd Hour Anti-Racism
Monday, Sept. 28	8:30 am	Cooking at Damiano's
Wednesday, Sept. 30	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Oct. 1	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Oct. 4	9:30 am	Youth Handbells
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion And Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Oct. 6	6:30 pm	Leadership Team
Wednesday, Oct. 7	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Oct. 8	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Sunday, Oct. 11	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Oct. 13		All Ministry Night
Wed., Oct. 14	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Oct. 15	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise
Saturday, Oct 17	1:00 pm	Hogwarts Planning
Sunday, Oct. 18	9:00 am	Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Youth Choir
	10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:20 am	Ministry Fair
Monday Oct. 19		Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, Oct. 20	7:00 pm	BeFrienders
Wed., Oct. 21	6:00 pm	Bellissimo Rehearsal
Thursday, Oct. 22	1:00 pm	Newsletter Assembly
	6:00 pm	Joyful Noise

Next Newsletter Deadline is Monday, October 19

ALL MINISTRY NIGHT

October 13

Check the time of your Ministry meeting.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

September 27-Ushers

Marge Fraser and Bob Hensley

Greeters/coffee

Carol Bacig and Brian Medred

Reader

Tammy Hensley

Counters

Mardi Bagley and Greg Gilbert

October 4-Ushers

Carri Hoagland, Gene and Jane Shull

Greeters/coffee

Sharon and Jack Kemp

Reader

Tucker Hanlon

Counters

Jack Setterlund and Greg Gilbert

October 11-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Charles Walters

Greeters/coffee

Jenny Jensen and Josie Olson

Reader

Martin Grune

October 18-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Bob Heller

Greeters/coffee

Margo and Dave Zentner

Reader

Lois Heller

October 25-Ushers

Carri Hoagland and Tucker Hanlon

Greeters/coffee

Martin and Melanie Grune

Reader

Jenny Ballew

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

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 Thursday service as well as the viewing of our FB page!

pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**2310 East Fourth Street
Duluth, MN 55812-1430
Address Service Requested**

**Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT No. 94
DULUTH, MN**

Inside This Issue

Page 1	Vision of Church
Page 2	Events and News
Page 3	Worship Plans and Sunday Events
Page 4	Posts and Personals
Page 5	Pilgrim Events
Page 6	Community News
Page 7	Calendar and Volunteers For Sundays

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

Sept. 24	Joyful Noise
Sept 27	Worship and Sunday Scholl 2nd Hour-Anti-Racism
October 4	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
October 8	Joyful Noise
October 11	Worship and Sunday School Stewardship Launch
October 13	All Ministry Night
October 15	Joyful Noise
October 18	Worship and Sunday School Ministry Fair
October 22	Joyful Noise
October 24	Pumpkin Carving
October 25	Worship and Sunday School Hogwarts's Halloween Party



pilgrim CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST