

January 6, 2010

The Pilgrim Spire

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
130 Broad Boulevard
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

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Visit our website @

www.PilgrimCF.org

for electronic versions of current and previous Spires, calendars, the Pilgrim Constitution, wedding, funeral and facility use policies, history and much more!

The Pilgrim Spire is published twice monthly, on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

If you have something you'd like to share with your fellow Pilgrims, please contact the church office by **January 15th** to include your announcement in the next edition of *The Pilgrim Spire*.

We don't want you to miss a single issue! Please contact the office with any address changes, temporary or permanent.

Pastor's Parable

Did you hear about the frog?

Recently, the Psychic Hotline and Psychic Friends Network have launched hotlines for frogs and one called in. The Psychic hotline told the frog, "You are going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you."

The frog says, "This is great! Will I meet her at a party, or what?"

"No," says the psychic. "Next semester in her biology class."

We come to church to learn everything there is to know about God. We come to learn about God today, not just next semester.

"Tell me pastor, is God liberal or conservative, Methodist or UCC?"

"Yes, God is liberal and conservative and yes, God is UCC and Methodist (and a bunch of others too)." But, sadly we forget that we come to church to learn everything there is to know about ourselves, as well. Who am I and what can I do? The essence of living a life of faith is living in the presence of others, living together. What do I do when I am tired or hurt or disappointed?

There is good news. I am not responsible for anyone else, not my children, or spouse or neighbor. But, I am responsible to God for myself.

Yes, church life is about God, but it is also about us. See you Sunday as we explore together what it means to live together.

Shalom,

Pastor Kirk

- Flower Dedication
- Steeple Lighting
- Prayer Requests
- Thank You

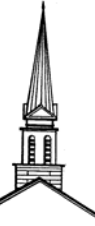
Your Fellow Pilgrims

The 2010 sign up calendar for **FLOWER DEDICATIONS** is posted in the Social Hall. Please take advantage of the opportunity to dedicate a lovely altar arrangement in honor of someone or a special event. Novelli's Floral will deliver the arrangement to the church and bill you directly.



To light the *Pilgrim United Church of Christ Steeple* from dusk to dawn for a week in honor or remembrance of someone or a special event, please sign the sheet in the Social Hall or contact the church office.

Donations to **LIGHT THE STEEPLE** are \$5.



Please keep the following in your **PRAYERS**:

Charlene Calvin; Juli Kump, now recovering at home; Nita Snider, recovering from back surgery at Gardens of Western Reserve; Reed Family, lost both parents this past weekend to unrelated illness; Heller Family, Dad had a stroke on Christmas day; Sandy Andres, that she find what's truly missing in her life; Michele Cecil, that she embraces an opportunity for a new start; Maren Olds, that she not get discouraged when life doesn't go as she planned; a wife diagnosed with Leukemia; that we may all feel our heavenly Father's presence despite an absence of an earthly father; a blessed New Year; appreciation for friendships; all other prayers that have not been given voice.

In memorium:

Betty Baker; Ellen Ross; Ed Yanik (Lou Yanik's father)

Note: If you have put someone on the prayer list, please contact the church office at least once a month with updates to keep this list current.

If the sign up sheet remains blank, Novelli's Floral bills Pilgrim for the weekly altar arrangements. In 2009, Pilgrim was billed for 10 Sundays at \$20 per arrangement. Please consider this opportunity to allow Pilgrim to be a better steward with member contributions.

To each of You!

I want to thank my church for the beautiful poinsettia that was delivered to me...

Very beautiful, many blooms.

*Thanks again,
Edith M. Parker*

God keep you all in His tender care as you so for me when you shared groceries with many of us here at Sutliff Bldg I. May He bless us all with His peace and love.

*Sincerely yours,
Jeanette E. Barnard*

Dear Parishioners-

I want to thank you for the beautiful Christmas Poinsettia Plant I received at Christmas.

*Thank you again,
Lena Macale*

Shari Schneider would like to thank Pilgrim for participating in the AVON Fundraiser. Eleven orders were placed during the two campaigns in December, resulting in \$102 being contributed to Pilgrim's Capital Fund.

We'd like to thank all the wonderful members of Pilgrim UCC for your Christmas gift, including our delightful staff lunch. You are the reason it is such a joy to work here at Pilgrim. We thank you!

Many blessings,

Pete & Barb

Pastor Kirk

Maulyn

Ryoji

Aharana



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, January 9

Pilgrim hosts **FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH** at noon.

Everyone in the community is welcome to enjoy lunch on us! Volunteers are welcome Friday @ 7pm to pack groceries, and anytime Saturday from 8am-2pm to help serve lunch. Contact *Crystal Wagner* (330.630.1600) for details.

Friday, January 15-16

YOUTH LOCK-IN: All 6th-12th graders are invited to join in a night of games, DVDs, food, and fun! Activities begin at 7:30pm Friday and end at 8am Saturday. Cost is \$8. Scholarships are available. Bring a bedroll if you plan on sleeping! Money and reservations are due to *Marilyn Freeman* by Wednesday, January 13th. Contact Marilyn at the church office with any questions.

Sunday, January 24

Attention Pilgrims: Members, please plan to stay following worship for **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING II**. Contact *Kathie Richards* if you'd like to help with the lunch!

Wednesday, January 27

EAT & EARN AT DONATOS: Place an order for dine-in or take-out from 5-8pm at Donatos on State Rd. (not applicable for delivery orders) Be sure to mention that you are a *Pilgrim* and Donatos will donate a portion of your purchase to the church. This program will take place the 4th Wednesday of every month at the same place and time.



Other Pilgrim News

Looking for an easy way to contribute to Pilgrim? For any shopping you know you're going to be doing, **BUY A GIFT CARD** in advance and the church gets a percentage of your purchase. Grocery and gas are consistent and easy ways to help the church, but restaurants and department store shopping gets Pilgrim the largest percentages. Orders must be paid in full - cash or check is fine. To place an order, please call *Vic Ing* at 330.459.9554 or stop by the church office. Online ordering is also available (ask Vic for details.)

2009 GIVING STATEMENTS are now available. Save postage by picking up your statement from your church mailbox (where you pick up your nametags). Contact *Amber* in the church office if you have any questions. If you have yet to pick up your **2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES**, they will also be waiting in your mailbox

From **ACOLYTES TO USHERS** - Stop by the Social Hall to sign up to serve in 2010!

ACME COMMUNITY CASH BACK PROGRAM: CE is sponsoring the Acme register tape program again this year to raise money for our 2010 mission trip. The tapes must be dated from September 27, 2009 through February 20, 2010. Please bring your tapes and place them in the ACME RECEIPT box in the Social Hall.

We are now accepting phone books and cardboard as part of the **ABITIBI RECYCLING PROGRAM!** To contribute to this fundraising program, please drop all paper, phone books or flattened cardboard in the bin located in our parking lot.

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** is always looking for new recruits! Rehearsals are held Sunday mornings at 9am. See Choir Director, *Ryoji Shimpo* if you have any questions.