

Pilgrim Sunday



Don't forget to wear dark colors and meet in the Heritage Room at 10:30am for our Pilgrim-style worship this Sunday!

*November 22, 2009
10:30am*

November 18, 2009

The Pilgrim Spire

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

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

Christian Education Director

Marilyn Freeman

Choir Director

Ryoji Shimpō

Secretary

Amber Parana

Custodian

Peter Paugh

Contact Info

Office phone:
330.928.4847

Office Fax:
330.928.1017

Email:

Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net

Marilyn Freeman

pilgrimce@ameritech.net

Amber Parana

pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

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 **November 20th** 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:

It is an interesting experience to lay in the hospital bed and be told since you didn't die, you're going to get better. But how much better is up to you. Saturday makes a month. Before I forget, thanks for the job. It is great to have something to come back to. Thanks for the doctors and nurses who got me well, they had a tough job! Thanks also goes to God for the chance to see life without myself. We are all going to die. We all come into a world that has never known us, and we leave a world that has never not known us. We all do this. The question is, "What do we do while we are here?"

Life is short. I have come to understand that. It may be shorter than we expect, it may end without our knowledge or permission. We may leave children at home or in school. Or our kids may all be grown, but count the years- it is still short. The question is not how to preserve it or how to keep it. The question is what to do with it while we have it.

Life is a precious gift. We spend our first twenty years planting it and tending it, then forty years doing it, and the last twenty remembering it. How often, even in the middle of forty, do we find ourselves too busy "making money" to enjoy having money? Maybe every age is supposed to be spent living. What if we lived without a promise of tomorrow? Live today and make it worth something because you were in it. If your job isn't meeting your needs- change the job, or change the employer, or change yourself. If it is, then give thanks.

Life is short, but not too short to enjoy it. Enjoy today. That is why it is given to us. Enjoy your life today and give thanks.

Shalom,

Pastor Kirk

Your Fellow Pilgrims Your Fellow Pilgrims

- Pilgrim News
- Steeple Lighting
- Prayer Requests
- Letter to Pilgrim

If anyone has any ½ PINT MASON JARS they are willing to part with, please drop them off in the church office or with
Jeanne Cundiff.

See pilgrims *Kylie Allen* as Kitty Bennet and *Becca Shisler* as Jane Bennet in Stow Munroe Falls High School production of *Pride and Prejudice* this weekend. Performances will be held Friday, Nov 20th & Saturday, Nov 21st @ 7:30pm, and Sunday, Nov 22nd @ 2:30pm. General admission \$9 (\$8 for students and senior citizens).

Anyone interested in going CHRISTMAS CAROLING in the neighborhood surrounding the church, please contact *Shari Schneider* (330) 926-1585.

Prayer Stations for Advent

In past eras, church sanctuaries were open most, if not all of the time, ready for anyone with spiritual needs to come in and pray in peace. As with everything else nowadays, security issues, expense, staffing and the effort to do that is sometimes a challenge for many congregations. So then, **where can we pray?** Actually we can pray anywhere, but the “busy-ness” of our lives and our world get in the way. There is a need for a place to go, set aside for the purpose of praying, set up to help us in the act of praying.

Prayer stations are a good way to help people to pray and engage with issues, and they appeal to people of all ages and at different stages on their faith journey. Prayer stations are interactive, multi - sensory, meditative, challenging, and inspiring. They are for people of all ages. Young children are invited to experience the prayer stations with an older teen or adult so station activity directions can be quietly read to them.

During the Advent/Christmas season, there will be a series of prayer stations set up in the Heritage Room. They are open for you to come, pray, and meditate in a quiet spot any time the church building is open. A Prayer Station Guide will be available at the entrance to further explain the purpose and give some simple directions for following the prayer stations.

Please come. . . experience God’s presence in your life through silence and prayer as we await the birth of our Savior,
Jesus.

The Steeple lights the sky over Cuyahoga Falls:
*With prayers for Pastor Kirk and the
Bruce Family*
from
their friends

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.

Please keep the following in your **PRAYERS:**
Lou Yanik caring for his father, *Ed Yanik*, who recently suffered a brain hemorrhage and stroke; All those mourning the loss of *Jeanne Blandford*, who passed November 8th; *Ginny Offret*, that she continue to heal and remain healthy through this season; *Charlene Calvin*, now recovering at Traditions; *Erin Stimmel*, that she remain strong in her faith as she seeks her college degree while providing for her three daughters; Three-month old *Kaylee Thompson*, healing from open heart surgery; all other prayers that have not been given voice.

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.

Dear Parishioners,
I have been twice blessed today! You have once again blessed me with your bounty and have shared your groceries with me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for that! And my second blessing came in the form of a visit from my son. I was getting ready for the lunch you prepared for the residents in my building when I received a phone call from my son. Here he was in Cuyahoga Falls to have some leave time after returning from Iraq. So, instead of my partaking in your meal- I shared a very special visit with my son, Jonathon. His brother is in Iraq right now- please pray for him. And my daughter-in-law will leave for Iraq this January!
Thank you!
Stephen Hendershot

Mark Your Calendar Mark Your Calendar

*Sign up in the Social Hall to dedicate
a Christmas Poinsettia!*

Beginners Bible Study

Wednesday Nights at 7pm, we will be preparing for Christmas by seeing The Nativity through the eyes of the Herdmans. The Herdmans are characters from the book, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Future generations may consider the Herdman children as the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie, steal, smoke cigars, set fire to things, and never have heard about the birth of Jesus. Come see the Nativity through the eyes of these children who have not experienced much love or forgiveness in their lives and how they become a part of the BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER. Contact *Bob Kindel*, (330-923-5183) or *Jo Green* (330-945-4166) for more information or for a book.

Pilgrim Christmas Pageant

There is some good news! Under the very able direction of *Kim Shimp*, we are including music this year. The Joyful Noise Choir and all pageant parts will be rehearsing on **Sunday, November 29**, and **Sunday December 6** from 9:30 – 10:15 am. If you would like to be a part of this year's pageant in any way, please see Marilyn Freeman. All children (toddlers included—they make really good sheep!) and youth are welcome!

Sunday, November 22

The **MITTEN TREE** will appear in the parking lot entry way. Please bring hats, scarves, mittens, gloves for kids and adults. These items will be given to Good Neighbors to help those who need to stay warm in the winter weather.

Saturday, November 28

Ever wonder how the Christmas tree in the social hall “magically appears”? Ever wonder when those little “luminary elves” show up to so efficiently position the luminaries around the front of the church? Well—here's your chance to learn the secret of all these Christmas miracles! Come and join us (the CE Board members) at 10 am as we carry all the tree parts down from storage and fit them together. You can also help us untangle all the luminaries, check the bulbs and “plant” them outside. MANY hands will make this work go much faster! Think of all the fun you will have AND you won't be out “tangled up” in the shopping traffic!

Sunday, December 6

TOYS AROUND THE MANGER: Unwrapped toys for children of all ages will be collected at our morning worship. These are also given to Good Neighbors for distribution. Please remember items for older teens, as well and the younger children.

L.I.G.H.T.

Learning In
God's House Together
Advent/Christmas

It's Pageant Time!

Sunday, November 29 - 9:30- 10:15 am - Rehearsals for all parts
Sunday, December 6 - 9:30- 10:15 am - Rehearsals for all parts
Sunday, December 13 - It's PAGEANT TIME - MORNING WORSHIP
Please plan to arrive no later than 9:45 am

It's Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure!



December 20, 27 and January 3 children preschool - grade five are invited to meet in the disciples.net computer lab - room 20. We will journey through the Christmas story with God and Fluffy the sheep. We will meet prophets, shepherds, magi, kings and, of course—the Messiah—Jesus.

CAROLS AND CRAFTS

December 2 – 6:30 pm

(Formerly known as Advent Dinner and Discovering the Heart of Christmas)

There will be singing. . .



. . . craft - making to decorate the tree

. . .the traditional paper chain construction . . .



AND FOOD!

Please bring a side dish - salad or veggie - to share
Chicken, Ham, Mac & Cheese, dessert and beverages are provided

**Bring the family. . .invite your friends. .
your neighbors!**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Be sure to sign up in the Social Hall so ample food can be provided.