

The Pilgrim Spire

Pastor's Parable:

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

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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 August 28th 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.

It was mealtime on the airplane and the flight attendant was asking a passenger about his preferences for supper. The passenger asked, "What are my choices?" To which the attendant responded, "Yes or No."

We always gave our children choices about meals while they were growing up: "You can eat it now or later."

In the end of the book of Joshua, the people of Israel have crossed over the Jordan River and Joshua is telling them they have to choose; which God do you want to serve? Everything we do, everything we say, everything we think, reveals the choices we have made: for good or ill, for God or mammon.

In the sixth chapter of John, a number of Jesus' disciples find his teachings unacceptable and they go back to their former lives. But Peter replies, "Where can we go?" He might have added, "We've already burned our boats. We can't go back – we've made our choice."

What irrevocable choices have we made in life: marriage, children, friendship? How about Christ? Is our choice to follow him immutable or are we keeping our options open, looking for better offers to take us to the dance?

The only thing most of us know about Joshua is that he "fit the battle of Jericho and the walls come tumblin' down." The Hebrew tribes were one of many tribes in the area, and their ways and religion gradually displaced those of the other tribes' residents there. It's not hard pledging loyalty to the winner who can beat up on everyone else. But if you are one small tribe among many, and you are asked for a total commitment of all you are, and all you have, to a God who may turn out to be a loser, you swallow painfully, think deeply, and pray hard.

Isn't that far closer to the reality we face right now? Hard, quantifiable, measurable evidence does not come down in favor of the gospel of love given to us by Jesus Christ. Any experienced gambler would bet on somebody else. Nevertheless, in the light of all that, God invites us "To choose!"

There is an interesting postscript to the choices we gave our children about meals when they were younger. They have actually thanked us, because now they enjoy eating a wide diversity of foods.

See you Sunday.

Shalom,

Pastor Kirk

Your Fellow Pilgrims Your Fellow Pilgrims

- Letters to Pilgrim
- Steeple Lighting
- Prayer Requests

*To My Friends of Pilgrim Church:
Thank you for the lovely altar flowers that were
delivered by my friend Jeanne Cundiff.
It really lifted my spirit.
Blessings to all,
Alice Geopfert*

*Dear church members:
I want to express my sincere gratitude for the food you
have given me. You are so kind and thoughtful. Christ
does indeed show in your kind deeds and in your
compassion. I needed to pick up my bags of groceries in
a hurry because my son (who is home on leave from the
Army) is about to pick me up. I just have time to write
this thank you to you before being picked up. My son
just got married to a girl in his Army unit. She is here,
on leave, for the weekend to meet me. Both my son and
new daughter-in-law will be leaving for Iraq for
another year. Please keep them in your prayers. And
please pray for my other son who is already in Iraq.
May God bless you for your kindness
and you have my Thanks!
God bless you,
Steve Hendershot, Sutliff I apt 814*

*Thank you so much for the donation of your chairs.
They are much appreciated.
The school will get a lot of use out of them.
God bless you,
Karen Rowe
AMBC Christian Academy*

*Dear Pilgrim UCC & Marilyn,
Thank you so very much for your kindness and
generosity during our recent mission trip. Everyone was
so wonderful in helping us to find our way around town
and around your awesome church. It was a lovely
ending to an inspiring trip. The breakfast you provided
was such a welcome food- both physical and spiritual.
You have shown us true Christian trust and love!!
Unity Reformed Mission Team*

The Steeple lights the sky over Cuyahoga Falls:

In memory of Maureen Dolan

from

Antoinette Didato

The Steeple continues to light the sky:

In memory of my parents

from

Nita Snider

The Steeple will continue to light the sky:

*In memory of Michael Kindel and
other loved ones*

from

Bob Kindel

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.

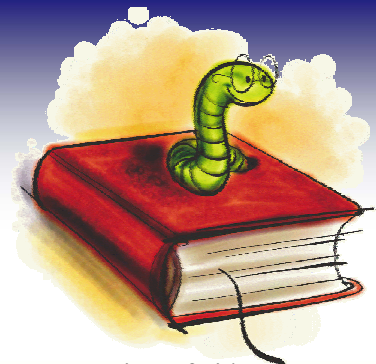
Donations to **LIGHT THE STEEPLE** are \$5.

Please keep the following in your **PRAYERS**:
Myrtle Glanville, healing from a leg
infection; *Trish Fritz* as she cares for her
husband, *Bill Fritz*, currently in the
hospital; *The Moore family* as they mourn
the loss of Roger's nephew, *Matthew*; *The
Lagasse family* as they welcome their
newest addition, *Madalyn Vivian (Dan &
Kelly Gerstengerger's first grandchild)*;
Rick Miller, scheduled for heart valve
replacement surgery in early September;
Reba Rayman; *The Sarroccos*; 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.

Mark Your Calendar..

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L.I.G.H.T.

Learning In God's House Together

June 28 through September 6 L.I.G.H.T. will go on summer vacation.

Children are invited to attend worship with their parents at 10:30.

After the Children's Moment during morning worship the children are welcome to attend Faith Focus. This summer we will be reading books that nurture our spirit and discovering spiritual practices. Check out the upcoming reading schedule:

August 23:

Because Nothing Looks Like God,

by Lawrence Kushner & Karen Kushner

How does God make things happen?

Where is God?

The book is an invitation to parents and children to explore together the questions we all have about God. It reminds us that no matter how young or old we may be, we can be a part of God's work in the world.

How will you use your hands to help God make things happen?

August 30:

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

This is a simple story about a beautiful fish who learns—the hard way—how to make friends. We all want to love and be loved, but that is not always an easy thing to do. Create your own shiny fish art project with some glitter, glue and a paper-plate fish shape. Then make a list of some toys and clothes you could give away to Good Will or Good Neighbors.

Perhaps there is a family member or a neighbor who is in need of some company, a hot meal, or a cheery phone call. What can we give away that makes our lives richer?

It is in giving that we receive.

Sunday, August 23rd:

By using Pilgrim UCC's Scrip program and shopping with gift cards, you are helping us grow our Capital Improvement Fund to pay for much needed upgrades and renovations to our church. Please place your next **SCRIP ORDER** by Sunday, August 23rd to be picked up on Sunday, August 30th. You may pay by check or cash. If you have any questions, please contact *Victor Ing* 330.459.9554/ victoring@gmail.com or *Rich Shisler* 330.815.6977/rshis@neo.rr.com

Wednesday, August 26th:

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.

Sunday, September 6th- Monday September 7th:

The **YOUTH GROUP LABOR DAY CAMPOUT** will take place at the Bruce's Farm. We will leave after church on Sunday, returning around 5:30pm on Labor Day. All 6th-12th graders are invited to bring a friend for play, food, fun, learning about yourself and your relationship with God and His church, games, shaving cream, and more food and fun! RSVP with *Jo Green* (330.945.4166) or the church office (330.928.4847) Cost is \$10.

Calling all adults who like adventure, camping and helping youth to know God: Pilgrim's Youth will need drivers and advisors to help with this Labor Day camp out. If you would be interested in helping, please contact *Jo Green* or anyone in the church office.

Saturday, September 26th:

We are looking for volunteers to participate in **PILGRIM'S YARD BEAUTIFICATION**. Pilgrims are welcome to gather anytime between 9am-3pm to edge, weed, trim bushes, pull out old shrubs, or complete any other task necessary to *beautify* Pilgrim's yard! If you (and/or your yard tools) are available for this endeavor, please contact *Carol Letvin* (330.325.1400) or the church office.

Saturday, October 24th

The **LANTERN TOUR** has been scheduled, but we need cast members to participate in this event celebrating Pilgrim's 175 years of history! Former cast members and those interested in participating for the first time are invited to contact *Shari Schneider* (330.926.1585) for details.

Adventures with God Adventures with God

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talent or treasures for the 27 kids that attended this year's Adventures with God Camp!



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful time you provided my children this year! What a blessing to have such caring individuals provide such joy for so many. The time, effort, and education you show are great gifts for these young people and I thank you for making a difference in their lives!

*God Bless-
Thank you,
The Cleveland Family*

