

The Pilgrim Spire

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

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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 3rd** 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.



Christmas is about...

I know you are waiting for the punch line to my joke. I don't have one, but I do have something else. Christmas is about the hope, peace, love, joy and good news that Christ Jesus brings to our lives. It isn't about getting the right gift. Maybe that is why our Christmas holiday comes up short so often. We keep buying gifts about ourselves instead of Jesus Christ.

As I left the nursing home today, I wondered what I could bring to the dear soul who was placed there. Her dementia has become so pronounced that I knew an hour after I left, she wouldn't even know that I was there. It would be easy to not even come. We all want to leave a gift that says we were there. But, what if gifts aren't about us at all? What if gifts are about the recipient instead? Or, what if gifts are about Christ? The best gift I could give is to come back, soon.

It is easier, and more fun, to make our gifts about we who give them. But for our gifts to have the power of Christ, His hope, peace, love and joy, they need to be about... Him.

Have fun putting up your tree and enjoy shopping. If you bake cookies, make sure to take some to someone who is hurting or left home alone. But most of all, may the birth of Christ, be about Him being born into your heart, mind and soul.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Kirk

Your Fellow Pilgrims Your Fellow Pilgrims

- Steeple Lighting
- Prayer Requests
- Friendly Reminders
- Christmas Fund
- Thank You

The Steeple lights the sky over Cuyahoga Falls:
The Steeple continues to light the sky

In honor of our Savior's birth

from

Jo Green

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:**
The Franks Family as they welcome their baby girl to the world;
Don Need, recovering from back surgery; *Juli Kump*, now recovering at home; *Lou Yanik* caring for his father, *Ed Yanik*, who recently suffered a brain hemorrhage and stroke; *Ginny Offret*, that she continue to heal and remain healthy through this season; *Charlene Calvin*, now recovering at Traditions; 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.

Gifts to the **Christmas Fund** help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants. As the depressed economic climate that continues to drag on, your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. The requests for Ministerial Assistance provided by the Christmas Fund are greater than at any point in recent history.

Friendly reminders:

- Please be sure to turn off all electronic devices (i.e. cell phones) before worship service begins!
- Contributions received after Sunday, December 27th will be counted towards 2010!
- From Acolytes to Ushers - Stop by the Social Hall to sign up to serve in 2010!
- Plan to stay following worship on Sunday, December 20th for Wassail!

Thank You

Youth Group and Evangelism Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in last Sunday's Christmas Caroling. That includes the carolers, the people who made the gifts to give to the people we visited, and especially the people who stayed back at church and made sure there were hot beverages and cookies waiting for us when we returned. We found over 18 homes that were willing to listen to us sing. The carolers hit the jackpot at one home where a huge family gathering was being held. More than 3 families came out in the cold to hear us! Fun, laughter, and the real meaning of Christmas were felt by all. Again, THANK YOU!

*Thank you to **Hugh Bentley** for volunteering your time and equipment to help keep Pilgrim's leaves under control throughout the autumn season!*

Dear Pilgrim Members,

Again this year you have been very generous to the Youth Group Program. Seventeen wreaths were sold and many members who did not buy wreaths donated money. This money will go towards the renovation of the Attic and to Youth Programs.

It was a very successful sale despite its delayed start.

Thank you all!

Pilgrim's Youth Group

Dear Parishioners,

Once again I must say thank you for your selfless and gracious help with food. I never tire of saying thank you! Your help is greatly appreciated ... All of your volunteers show much compassion. They are true models of "Christian Love." They show what it really means to "Love your neighbor."

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I cannot thank you enough.

*May Christ's Peace and Love be with you,
Steve Hendershot, Sutliff I*

Mark Your Calendar

Mark Your Calendar

A Christmas Story

A Christmas Story

Sunday, December 20

The Youth Group invites everyone to visit the **LIVE NATIVITY** they will present from 7-8pm.

Youth Group members are asked to arrive at church at 6:30 pm so they can don their costumes and find their places in the Stable. They are also asked to bring a dessert for the **YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** that will be held in the Social Hall after the Nativity presentation. Each youth is also asked to bring in a white elephant gift whose value is no more than \$5 if they want to participate in the gift exchange. The gift should be suitable for both girl and boy. Any questions please call *Jo Green* (330-945-4166).

Wednesday, December 23

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.

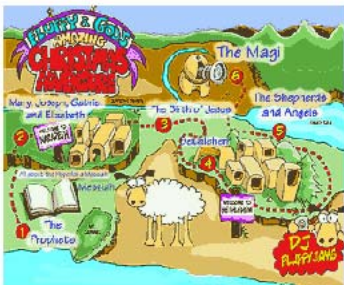
Thursday, December 24

Join us on the eve of our Savior's birth for a special **CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE** at 7:30pm.

L.I.G.H.T.

Learning In
God's House Together

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.

As the children gathered for the annual Christmas pageant practice, the teacher asked, “How many of you have been a part of the pageant in the past?” Several kids raised their hands. “How many of you have never done this before?” was the next question. A few reluctantly half raised their hands, knowing they were definitely in the minority.

“So, to those of you who have done this before, what can you tell our newcomers about this pageant? What is this all about? Why do we keep doing this every year?”

“It’s FUN!” two or three kids shouted almost as if on cue.

“I like to get dressed up like an angel,” one little girl offered.

“The Magi is my favorite part,” someone else chimed in.

“But the story is the same year after year, isn’t it? Don’t you think people get tired of hearing the same story? Do YOU get tired of hearing the same story?” the teacher queried.

“You do remember the story, don’t you? The one we’ve been reading in the Bible the last two weeks?” she added.

Yes, they remembered and several offered their own version of the story’s events—the shepherds, the angels, the trip to Bethlehem, the Magi. . .

And then it happened—the *a-ha* moment...that God-thing.

One of the “new” kids said. . . “But we need to keep telling the story, so we remember it and to educate others about the story.”

I’m not kidding—the EXACT words . . . this teacher will never forget.

And so, yet another Christmas Pageant; the story told again . . . and again.

So we will remember.
So others will know.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

In memory of Walter Brandon
from Jessie Clark

To the glory of God
from Jeanne Cundiff

Marilyn Freeman

In joy for the life and love
of Ruth Schnabel
from Marianne Hannum
and Judy Horn

In loving memory of my family
from June Harmon

In memory of loved ones
from Bill & Sandi Ignizio

In memory of parents and Aiden
from Evelyn & Vic Ing

In memory of our loving parents
from Bill & Sarah Mohn and Thelma
Vilova

In loving memory of
my son Bruce Kelley
from Carolyn Kelley

In memory of family and friends
from Barb & Pete Mellinger

In memory of loved ones
from George & Marjorie Mortimer

Henry & Elizabeth Nagel

In memory of Dawn and Jimmy
from JoAnn Neill

In memory of my parents
from Nancy Null

In memory of my grandparents
from Nancy Null

In loving memory of Jack
from Marie Peckham

In loving memory of Matthew
from Emily, John & Kathie Richards

For my loving family
from Marilyn Welch