

February 18, 2009

# 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](http://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 February 27<sup>th</sup> 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

Ben listened to the preacher at the revival and when the preacher asked those with needs to come forward for prayer, Ben got in line. When it was his turn, the preacher asked, "What do you want me to pray about?" Ben said, "Pray for my hearing, preacher."

The preacher put one hand over Ben's ear and his other hand on top of Ben's head and prayed a while. Then he removed his hands and asked, "Ben, now how is your hearing?" Ben answered, "I don't know, preacher. It's next Wednesday at the Asheville courthouse!"

Isn't that one of life's greatest challenges, our hearing? We struggle to hear the right voice. God's voice is often soft and still and is easily covered over by the noise of our world. Sometimes it comes like a fog horn, but usually it is gentle and mild. It is interesting that synonyms to soft (as in soft, still voice) are pliable and malleable. We can easily bend God's word to fit our will. The trouble is that it is no longer God's word, but it is ours.

I have discovered that as I am aging I can still hear soft voices, but I can no longer sort out the sounds. When I am in a quiet room, I can hear the garage door opening and closing at the other end of the house, but have two conversations happening at the same time and I can not hear either one of them. We struggle to hear God's voice in the midst of the clamor of the demands of home, family and work.

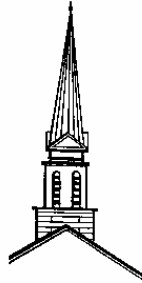
Lent is a time of renewal; it is a time to tune out the other noises and listen to God's whisperings. Lent is not a time of deprivation; rather it is a time of letting go. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 25. I would invite you to come and listen together for God's quiet murmurings as we gather for dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then for a short time of worship at 7:15 p.m.

Shalom,

*Pastor Kirk*

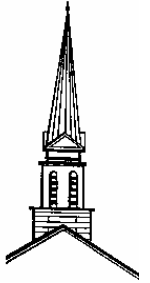
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To light the *Pilgrim United Church of Christ Steeple* from dusk to dawn for a week in honor or remembrance of someone or a special event, please sign the sheet in the Social Hall or contact the church office.

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



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

*JoAnn Neill* as she mourns the loss of her sister; All those mourning the loss of *Dawn Sydnor*; *Wayman Carter*, undergoing back surgery; *Yvonne Labelle* in Akron City Hospital; *Ed Metz* as he recovers from having his kidney removed due to cancer; *Kenny Miller* as he encounters tough life decisions; The “expecting” *Parana* Family; *Robert* for financial blessings; *Barb* and her children: *Christian Angel*, *Rocky*, *Nick & Heather*; *Linda* as she struggles with mental illness and drug addiction; *Melody Rippey*; *The Kremling family*; *The Kump family*; 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.

While vacationing in California, *Audrey Crain* was admitted into the hospital for lung problems. Notes of encouragement can be sent to the care of her sister,

Lois Nelson at  
819 North Citrus Ave #5  
Azusa, CA 91702

Thank you for bringing in your **ACME RECEIPTS** for Community Cash Back. Remember: Receipts must be dated between September 28, 2008-February 21, 2009. Please bring in the remainder of your qualifying receipts no later than Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>!

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

A reminder: Pilgrim has scholarships for education. If you wish to apply, pick up an application from the church office (they are also available in the hallway under the scrolling sign). All completed applications should be returned to the Stewardship Board by the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## SAINTS AMONG US:

Nomination forms will be available in the Social Hall for you to recognize any “Saints Among Us” here at Pilgrim. Be sure to nominate someone the next time you notice them doing anything a little extra for Pilgrim; whether it’s fixing a leaky faucet, ground maintenance, even shoveling snow off the roof! Stay tuned for more details about how we will recognize these “Saints Among Us”. In the meantime, please take advantage of this opportunity to recognize all those who work so hard “behind the scenes” here at Pilgrim.

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## Upcoming Events

Want more details about any of the following events?  
Want your event to be listed in the next Spire?  
Contact the church office @ 330.928.4847 or  
[pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net](mailto:pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net) for more information.


**Wednesday- February 18<sup>th</sup>** Sorting for **S.A.R.A.** takes place in the Social Hall from 6-9pm. Everyone is welcome to come for any of the three hours to help. Contact *Bob Kindel* @ 330.923.5183 for details.


**Thursday- February 19<sup>th</sup>** **AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held at 7pm in the Heritage Room.


**Sunday- February 22<sup>nd</sup>** Interfaith Hospitality Network presents their annual **WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES** fund-raiser at Fairlawn-West UCC @ 2pm. To participate in the walk, or to sponsor *Marilyn Freeman*, contact *Marilyn* in the church office.

**Wednesday- February 25<sup>th</sup>**  Please plan to join us for our **ASH WEDNESDAY** service. Soup, salad and freshly baked bread will be served @ 6:30pm followed by worship and communion @ 7:15pm. A sign up sheet is available in the Social Hall (or RSVP with the church office).

**Friday- February 27<sup>th</sup>** C.E. Sponsored **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**. Pass out free tickets to your friends and family! (See the cover of today's Spire)

**Sunday- March 1st** You are invited to a **LENTEN STUDY OF HOLY HABITS** at 9:30am in the Heritage Room. Come and enjoy a "designer" cup of coffee or tea and light breakfast fare during discussion. This study will continue every Sunday of the Lenten season. See *Marilyn Freeman* for details. 

**Sunday- March 8<sup>th</sup>**  **SINGLES GROUP** invites all singles 35+ to come along for 'a wee bit of fun' at Rockne's in Chapel Hill @ 6pm. Bring your 'shillelagh', put on your dancing shoes for a bit of an Irish jig, and expect some wild 'shenanigans'. Leprechauns welcome of course. Don't forget to wear your green! For more information or to RSVP, contact *Linda Siple* @ 330.983.4419. You can also RSVP with the church office.

**Sunday- March 15<sup>th</sup>** The Christian Education Board is sponsoring an **AFTER CHURCH "CAMP" LUNCH** including hot dogs, sloppy joes, coney dogs, baked beans and s'mores in an effort to raise awareness of our church camps. Children and youth are invited to participate. If you have been blessed by having attended one of our Ohio Conference church camping programs, please come prepared to say a few words about your experience. If you have not yet had this wonderful blessing, please come and listen to the stories and consider the invitation to attend camp this summer. Camp books and schedules are available, or you can go to the website [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org) and click on the Outdoor Ministries link for more information. 

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First Congregational Church of Tallmadge invites you to their **BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS** in 2009; numerous activities and projects are in the works. Please visit [www.fcctallmadge.org](http://www.fcctallmadge.org) for dates and details. All of the UCC family is invited to come and join us in celebrating our 200th year!

**WEEKLY SEEDS** from the UCC: Each Monday morning, an in-depth reflection for bible study on [i.ucc.org](http://i.ucc.org). Go to: [i.ucc.org](http://i.ucc.org) and click on "Weekly Seeds" (on upper left) and select "subscribe" (on upper right)!

A New vision for **"GODSPELL"**: Auditions will be held for a new vision for this musical! Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7pm each night at First Grace UCC, 350 S. Portage Path. Plan for approximately 90 minutes. Various aged actors needed who are hungry for hard work, artistic challenge, and generous collaboration. Prepare one full song that best fits your personality and dress comfortably. Please RSVP by calling 330-212-6709, or email [jtuck@hotmail.com](mailto:jtuck@hotmail.com).

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00pm at St. John's UCC (136 Main St. Glenmont, OH) all are invited to a showing of the documentary film **"THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO"** followed by discussion and fellowship. This is a documentary film that explores the use of the Bible, as families deal with faith issues when they discover their children are homosexual. The essence of the film focuses on the stories of real families who struggle with their children's sexual identity and their own religious formation..

**THE LAW OF LOVE MUSICAL** to benefit Akron's Faith in Action. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Saturday, March 7th at 3pm and 7pm, featuring Rev. Steve Gifford as Dr. Luke and Dave Carnell on bass. The Law of Love is an upbeat, uplifting musical about the Good Samaritan, written and produced by Sharon Dobbins Alberson. Tickets: \$10 Adults; \$5 children 12 and under.

**HAVEN OF REST'S OPERATION HOPE TOTE** for 2009 needs personal care items for a special Easter outreach ministry for needy homeless men, women and children in our communities. The following new, regular or large size items are being collected through March 27, 2009:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Soap
- Shaving cream and disposable razors
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lip Balm
- Socks
- Brush and Comb
- Shoelaces
- Hand or body lotion
- Facial tissues

Your Hope Tote items may be dropped off at any of the following locations:

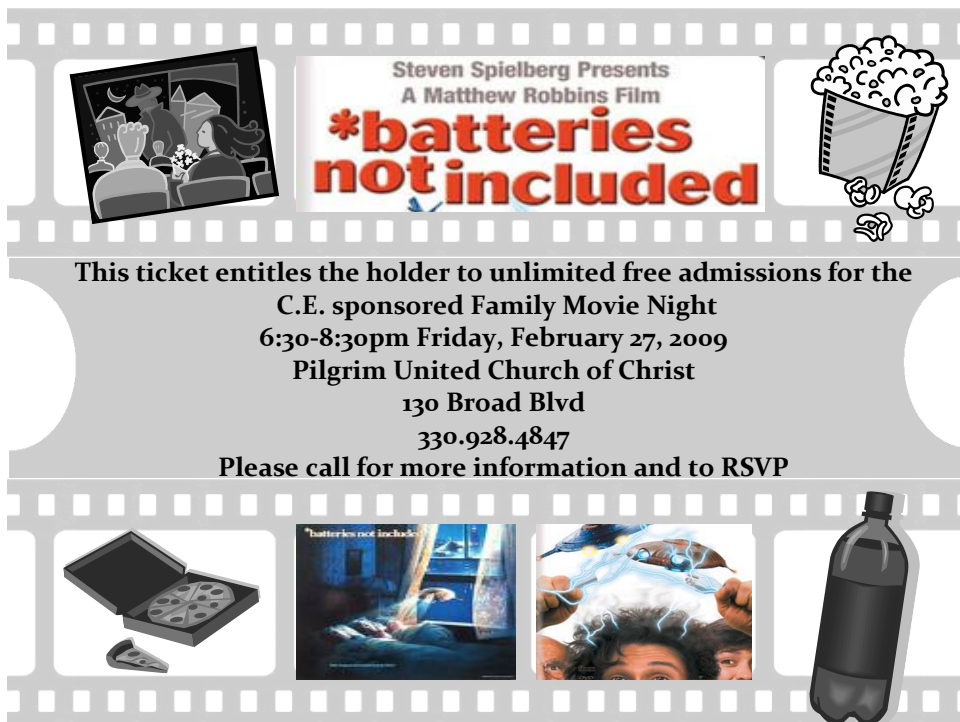
- Haven of rest's Donation Drive Thru, 207 E. Market St., Akron
  - Berean Christina Store, 143 Rothrock Rd., Copley
  - Berean Christian Store, 110 30<sup>th</sup> St NW, Canton
  - Hartville Kitchen, 1015 Edison St., Hartville
  - Schlabach's, 2760 Carlisle Ct., Walnut Creek

For additional information, please contact Katrina Henry at Haven of rest at 330.535.1563

Pilgrim's Christian Education Board invites you to:  
Family Movie Night  
Friday, February 27, 2009  
6:30-8:30pm

Bring friends and family to enjoy a showing of  
Steven Spielberg's "Batteries Not Included"  
Pizza, popcorn and pop will be provided to enhance  
your movie experience! RSVP in the Social Hall, and  
pass this ticket on to a friend!

See you there!



Cut out this free  
admission ticket to  
share with a friend!  
Bring the whole  
family with one ticket!

