

The Pilgrim Spire

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

130 Broad Boulevard
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

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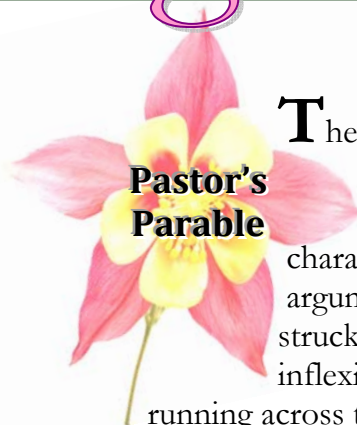
for electronic versions of current and previous Spires, calendars, the Pilgrim Constitution, wedding, funeral and facility use policies, history, and much more!

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 March 27th 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

There is a story that comes from the Bedouin culture.

"Bedouin" is the Aramaic name for "desert dwellers." These people live much as the characters of the Old Testament did. During a heated argument, according to this story, a young Bedouin struck and killed a friend of his. Knowing the ancient, inflexible customs of his people, the young man fled,

running across the desert under the cover of darkness, seeking safety.

He went to the black tent of the tribal chief in order to seek his protection. The old chief took the young Arab in. The chief assured him that he would be safe until the matter could be settled legally.

The next day, the young man's pursuers arrived, demanding the murderer be turned over to them. They would see that justice would prevail in their own way. "But I have given my word," protested the chief.

"But you don't know whom he killed!" they countered.

"I have given my word," the chief repeated.

"He killed your son!" one of them blurted out. The chief was deeply and visibly shaken with this news. He stood speechless with his head bowed for a long time. The accused and the accusers as well as curious on-lookers waited breathlessly. What would happen to the young man? Finally the old man raised his head. "Then he shall become my son," he informed them, "and everything I have will one day be his."

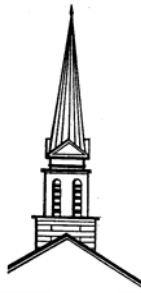
The young man certainly didn't deserve such generosity. And that, of course, is the point. Love in its purest form is beyond comprehension. No one can merit it. It is freely given. It is agape, the love of God. Look to the cross and read the scripture John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son." Now read the passage again only replacing the word "world" with "your name."

At the cross we encounter love in its purest form.

Shalom,

Pastor Kirk

The Pilgrim Spire

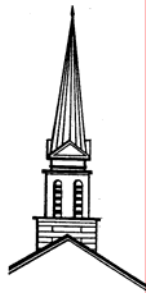


The Steeple lights the sky over Cuyahoga Falls:

*In memory of Jessie Klein
from the Middletons and the Holts*

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:**

Gary DeHart, as he awaits shoulder surgery; *Hank Rippey* as he recovers from pneumonia; Riki Dewitt-Kojac's daughter, *Caitlin*, now in her 2nd trimester of pregnancy and preparing to move with her husband to Germany; Riki Dewitt-Kojac's daughter, *Rachel*, as she prepares for graduation this year; *Jerry Hunter*, had surgery in November and is not recovering; continued care and healing for *Larry Horn* as he fights brain and lung cancer; Alice Woodburn's sister, *Carol*; *Audrey Crain*; *Marty Zimmerman*; *Melody Rippey*; *The Kump family*; *Yvonne Labelle*; *Joan Schnabel*; 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.

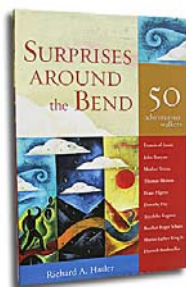
THANK YOU!
Thanks to all who faithfully saved their Acme register tapes. We turned in \$4,663.94 worth of *Community Cash Back* money and will receive a check for \$233.20 for our Mission Trip Fund.



Have you heard there's a community celebrity within our midst here at Pilgrim? Cuyahoga Falls Mayor *Don Robart* dedicated a plaque on March 12, 2009 to our own **MARIE PECKHAM**, the first Clerk of Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court. We are happy to see Marie honored, and await visitors to be knocking down our doors to be a part of the church she raved about in her speech. Thank you for all you do Marie!

Check out the March 15th edition of the *Falls News Press* for a full article both on Marie and Pilgrim's 175th Anniversary!

Former Pilgrim Pastor, Richard A. Hasler, has written a book titled **SURPRISES AROUND THE BEND: 50 ADVENTUROUS WALKERS**. Many of the most creative men and women in history have been ardent walkers, says Hasler, and many of those same people affirm that a particular walk was a serendipitous experience, resulting in personal transformation. *Surprises Around the Bend* shares the stories of some of these famous women and men including Francis of Assisi, John Bunyan, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King. Aimed at helping readers live well in body, mind, and spirit, *Surprises Around the Bend* includes simple walking tips, prayers, a guide to prayer walking, and scripture reading. Books are available for \$14.99. See *Gary DeHart*, or stop by the church office to get your copy today!



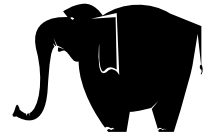
The Pilgrim Spire



"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21

Interested in a **BOOK STUDY**? There's been a recent buzz surrounding William P. Young's The Shack. It wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world filled with unspeakable pain?" If you'd be interested in having a book discussion on The Shack, please see *Marilyn Freeman*, or sign up in the Social Hall. Dates and times will be posted based on interest.

Start collecting your **"WHITE ELEPHANTS"** for the **Krazy Kamp Auction**. Please bring your items wrapped so we can maintain the "surprise" element. It does not have to be fancy wrapping—just



newspaper or tissue paper in a gift bag is fine. Please bring your gifts to the CE office no later than April 19th. Then be sure to attend the **KKA** on April 26th to offer your moral and financial support to all our campers.

Attention Students:

Did you know Pilgrim offers scholarships to active members? Each year, money is budgeted for scholarships. This year we have \$2,000 available, up to \$1,000 per person, depending upon need and the number of applicants.

Applications are available on our website (www.PilgrimCf.org) or in the church office. **THE DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 30TH**. Scholarship checks, made payable to the school, will be presented in worship. If you received a scholarship in the past, please consider a gift to the scholarship fund, so we can continue to help others in the future.

Attention **AKRON AERO BASEBALL** fans! Make your time with the Aeros "Twice as Nice" with the "Double Play" program. Two-game block packages are available for \$9/person.

Choose from the following 2-game blocks:

Sunday, May 24 @ 1:35 pm & Friday, August 7 @ 7pm (Fireworks following the game)

or

Sunday, June 28 @ 1:35pm & Friday, September 4 @ 7pm (Fireworks following the game). Contact *Gary Dehart* or the church office to reserve your tickets!

QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:

Please note: quarterly giving statements will not automatically be mailed at the end of the month. In an effort to be better stewards of your contributions, we are opting to save the cost of postage to mail these statements. If you would like an update on your YTD giving, please contact *Amber* in the church office. Your statement can then be picked up in the church office, sent to you by e-mail, or if you prefer, we will mail it to those who request it. Remember to use your offering envelopes to help ensure you get proper credit for your contribution! If you did not receive offering envelopes, please request them in the church office. Thank you for your stewardship!



The Pilgrim Spire

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 for more information.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday- March 18th

Sorting for **S.A.R.A.** (Sharing America's Resources Abroad) will take place in the Social Hall from 6-9pm. All are welcome to stop by to assist with this program that provides medical supplies, equipment and expertise throughout the world. *Bob Kindel* can give you more information.



For those interested in participating in the **S.A.R.A. MISSION TRIP** to Transcarpathia, please stop by the informational meeting at 8pm in the library.

Sunday- March 22nd

EASTER PAGEANT PRACTICE from 9:30-10:15am in Room 24. Anyone interested in participating or assisting with the pageant should attend. Contact *Marilyn Freeman* for details.



Join us for worship at 10:30am as we welcome **NEW MEMBERS:** *Bill Deverall, Erica Fleury* and *Kellianne Sutton*.

Sunday-March 29th

EASTER PAGEANT PRACTICE from 9:30-10:15am in Room 24. Anyone interested in participating or assisting with the pageant should attend.

Join us for worship at 10:30am as we welcome **NEW MEMBER:** *Joe Beck*.



Saturday, April 4th

Plan to join us following worship for **WAYMAN'S CHILI DINNER!**

All are welcome to join us for a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** from 8:30-10:30am. All proceeds from the free will offering will benefit persons who come to us in need of emergency assistance.



Sunday, April 5th

Final **EASTER PAGEANT PRACTICE** from 10:30am-noon in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested in participating or assisting with the pageant should attend.

Please join us for worship at 10:30am for the Children's **EASTER PAGEANT.**



YOUTH GROUP will be meeting after church instead of in the evening. The Youth will gather in the ATTIC for a light lunch and then divide up into groups to deliver Easter Baskets to Pilgrim members who are unable to attend church. Youth Group members are asked to call *Jo Green* (330.945.4166) by March 25th to let her know if you are able to help deliver the baskets. Any member of the congregation who would like to transport teams of Youth as they deliver the baskets, should also contact *Jo*.

The Pilgrim Spire



Community News

GOOD NEIGHBORS is in need of the following items: tomato products, tuna, spaghetti noodles, canned fruits and 18 ounce jelly. Items can be dropped off in the Good Neighbor's box located outside the church office.

The Schneider Family invites everyone to participate in the **6TH ANNUAL JACKSON-SCHNEIDER TEDDY BEAR DRIVE**. Donations of NEW stuffed toys, coloring books and boxes of crayons are being accepted for Akron Children's Burn Unit. Due to the sterile environment, the Burn Center can only accept stuffed toys that are NEW. Donations will be accepted through March 20th. Everyone interested in donating is welcome to bring the donations to church or make other arrangements with *Shari Schneider* by calling (330) 926-1585. If you're unable to go shopping but would like to make a donation, Bentley the Bear, AVON's 2009 fundraising item, an adorable 21" cuddly soft bear, is available for purchase at Shari's cost of only \$12.00 plus tax. The last date available to order Bentley the Bear is March 9th, 2009. To date, the Jackson-Schneider Teddy Bear Drive has donated approximately 4,000 stuffed toys to the Akron Children's Hospital! Last year, we introduced the collection of coloring books and crayons and they were a very welcome addition! We donated 75 coloring books and 24 packs of crayons. We thank you for your support!



The next UCC/DOC Worldwide **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend in Ohio will be April 24-26, 2009 at the Quality Inn in Richfield, 44286. Marriage Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away... from jobs, kids, chores, e-mail, and phones... and focus on each other and God's place in their relationship. Registration closes March 22nd, so please contact *Dave & Sue Ross* at 330.628.5846 or mogamom@neo.rr.com and join the millions of couples worldwide who have learned how to keep their marriage vibrant and alive!



The Men's Club of Trinity UCC, Canal Fulton (101 Manchester Ave. NW - Rt. 93) will serve a **SPAGHETTI SUPPER** on Saturday, March 28th, 5-7:00pm. Adults are \$7, children 5-12 are \$4, and children under 5 are free. Call the church if you have any questions (330-854-2650).

EMERGING OR DIVERGING? Debate between *Brian McLaren* and *Bryan Hollon* on Monday, March 30th at Malone College in Canton. The question to be debated: In What Direction is The Emerging Church Movement Headed? Event is at 7:00pm / No registration or fee / Open to the public. <http://www.malone.edu/9338>

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS! Medina UCC (217 E. Liberty St.) is hosting this elegant "Black Tie Optional" evening on Saturday, March 28 from 6:00- 9:00pm. Features appetizers and punch, a gourmet meal prepared by *Chef Eric Whyard*, and a musical program entitled "Light Up the Night with Music" featuring musicians from the Medina community. There is a \$50 donation per person. Tickets may be purchased by calling the church at 330-725-4559. Proceeds benefit the Medina UCC Capital Improvement Fund.



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 Haven of Rest's Donation Drive Thru, 207 E. Market St., Akron
For additional information, please contact *Katrina Henry* at Haven of rest at 330.535.1563.