



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

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 13th** 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.

"Greetings!" Well it may not seem like much just to hear me say, "Greetings," but then again, last week I almost couldn't say anything. I was blessed to be in the hospital.

I can remember being in the hospital and seeing all of the nurses and doctors gathered around my bed talking about me and they were asking each other what they thought was going on. I remember my nurse asking me a question and then listening to my mumbled answer. I wanted to tell her, but I couldn't speak. (Not being able to speak is tough for me.) I wanted to tell her, but I couldn't say anything that made sense. I wanted to tell her, but the words never came out. I remember the nurse saying, "He's had a stroke."

I remember my wife, Cheryl, coming back into my room after getting a full two and half hours of sleep. I can remember her telling the nurse, in the new unit I was moved to, that she would be staying. I knew if Cheryl was there, I would be alright. She calmed my stress. My legs that wouldn't listen to anyone and kept floating around the air gradually began to listen to my command again. My voice slowly found its way out of my throat and into the air.

Now two weeks later, the question is what to do with it. What do I do with my week spent in the hospital? Is it a week that was spent in opposition to my goal, or can it become part of who I am? I have known some folks that have gone in for bigger surgeries and have come home in less time and I have known people that haven't had surgery and never come home. Maybe, I am just asking the wrong question.

There are two questions that are left: "Why" and "What's Next?" As I attempt to grapple with the question of why I had three strokes, I keep coming up empty: age, weight, diet, exercise, and family history all bring no answer. The more I play that game the less I come home with. There is another game though. There is another question, "What's Next?" Where does God want me to go from here? We only get one ring on the bell; can I make it a good one, am I able to make it mean something? What's next? You don't know, I don't know, but you do know that it can mean something. Parents die, spouses die, children die... my heart goes out to you. It hurts and no one can tell you why. There is no answer to "why." But there is an answer to what's next. Let today mean something. What's next? God can suggest some thoughts but, what's next is something only you can answer. "What's next?" Make your answer mean something.

I am missing all of you and am looking forward to seeing you real soon.

Shalom,

Pastor Kirk

Pilgrim News Pilgrim News

Mark Your Calendar:

Sunday, November 8th:

Singles ages 35+ are invited to Pilgrim UCC for a **SINGLES MOVIE & WING NIGHT** at 6:30pm. Please bring a snack, or even make your favorite wings, to pass as we relax and watch a movie. RSVP with *Linda Siple* (330.983.4419). Singles are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors. Their current needs include tuna, spaghetti sauce, baking mixes and cereal.

Sunday, November 15th:

Game Night for Pilgrim's Youth Group: Senior High meets at 6pm for set up and leaders' mtg. Jr. High meets at 6:15pm. The Youth are asked to bring their favorite board game and a friend for a night of fun. LAST YEAR'S 6th GRADERS WILL PAINT THEIR NAMES ON THE ATTIC'S WALL OF MEMBERS. This year's 6th graders will do so after a year with the group. Game night will be over at 8:15. If anyone has any questions, call *Jo Green* at 330-945-4166.

Sunday, November 22nd:

Be sure to RSVP for **PILGRIM SUNDAY**. (See enclosed flier for details)

Wednesday, December 2nd:

ADVENT DINNER and **TRIM A TREE** Combined Event at 6:30pm. Stay tuned for details!

L.I.G.H.T.

Learning in God's House Together

Sunday 9:30 -10:15 am

All children ages 3 through grade five are welcome

It's all about DAVID!

November 1- Bible Max Theater: David movie - popcorn and juice

November 8 – Art & Storytelling: David the Psalmist – Exploring the Psalms

November 15 – Stages of Faith: David & Goliath – Acting the Story

November 22 – Stages of Faith: Acting the Story – Videotaping our version; Discovering the “giants” in our lives; Who or what do we fear?

The Steeple lights the sky over Cuyahoga Falls:

In memory of John Welch

from

Marilyn Welch and family

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**: *Pastor Kirk*, that he give himself the R & R needed to make a full recovery; *Charlene Calvin*, recovering in Akron City Hospital; Three-month old *Kaylee Thompson* undergoing open heart surgery; The *Gunge Family* in Florida, caring for their dying son *Steve*; *Susan*, battling leukemia; 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.

Fine art prints of our recently dedicated historical colored pencil drawing may be ordered on Sundays during Social Hour. They are available in several common sizes, including 8x10 inches, and 11x14 inches. Either size is \$12. Prints are also available mounted on archival quality foam core with a custom cut mat in a neutral beige/gray color, ready to put into the frame of your choice. (This will increase the size of the frame needed by one size. Example: an 8x10 print with matting will need an 11x14 frame. The 11x14 print with matting fits in a 16x20 frame.) Prices for matted prints are 8x10- \$28 and 11x14 - \$35. Please make checks out to *Kathie Richards*. Larger sizes and different colors of matting are available. It will probably take a couple of weeks to receive your print. Watch your Sunday paper for coupons and sales at *Michael's*, *Pat Catan's*, and *JoAnn's* for good prices on a frame to match your decor.

Letters to Pilgrim

Letters to Pilgrim

To my dear church family-

It is with a heavy heart I leave you all, but also with a joy for the faithful and loving support provided to me during my good times and sorrowful ones while I was amongst you all. It was with a glad heart I was able to be a service to God and my church in fulfilling my responsibilities of service on boards. On Evangelism we published a pictorial directory while Rev. Hirschfield was here. As a member on Trustees I was asked to choose the Accessibility Committee and with the sage advice and expert help of Herb Rake and Phil Doane, the ramp was built. During my stint on the Annual Review and Planning Committee, we were asked to rewrite the by-laws. So while in North Dakota with my daughter, I wrote and sent copies to the other board members until we were satisfied it was good. They were adopted by the congregation at the 1990 Annual Meeting in January. Since then I have served on the Stewardship for a term.

*Goodbye dear friends,
Audrey Crain
Heritage Place 332
700 Napa Valley Dr
Milford, MI 48381
(248) 506-1819*

Letters to Pilgrim

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Dear Pilgrim family,

Thank you- for what you did, what you said and who you are!! Your visits were wonderful, the altar flowers beautiful and the cards and calls cheering! May your thoughtfulness find its way back to you!

*In Christian love,
Charlene Calvin*

My Dear Parishioners:

It seems blessings flow both ways! You have blessed me with your love and charity. I have received the groceries you have provided for the residents in my building and I have partaken in the meal you provided afterwards. I give thanks for your kindness in sharing with me. I give thanks for your love of your fellow man.

*Just as I write this and lift my voice to God, I see the blimp flying overhead. It reminds me of all your prayers being lifted to our God.
May God give you His blessings as you have given me yours!*

*Thank you!
Steve Hendershot
Sutliff I Apt 814*