

the land in which you are immigrants, the whole land of Canaan, as an enduring possession. And I will be their God.”

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, “As for your wife Sarai, you will no longer call her Sarai. Her name will now be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and even give you a son from her. I will bless her so that she will become nations, and kings of peoples will come from her.” <sup>17</sup> Abraham fell on his face and laughed. He said to himself, Can a 100-year-old man become a father, or Sarah, a 90-year-old woman, have a child?

The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day’s heat. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. <sup>3</sup> He said, “Sirs, if you would be so kind, don’t just pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant.” They responded, “Fine. Do just as you have said.”

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, “Hurry! Knead three cakes of the finest flour and make some baked goods!” <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup> Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate. <sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?”

And he said, “Right here in the tent.” <sup>10</sup> Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!” Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.” <sup>15</sup> Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened. But he said, “No, you laughed.”

TODAY’S MESSAGE      ***Go Ahead and Laugh!***      Rev. Sandra Hutchinson

SONG #471 New Century Hymnal      *What a Covenant*

BENEDICTION

PRAYER

One: If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces, never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That’s the beauty of being alive!

**All: We can always start over again. Enjoy God’s amazing opportunities bestowed upon us. Have faith in God always. Amen!**

RESPONSE      *Spirit of God*      Steve Garnaas Holmes

Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,  
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.

We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,  
held in your hands, born on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, Come!

POSTLUDE      Just As I Am      Wm Bradbury & Erik Satie  
Arr. Phillip Keveran

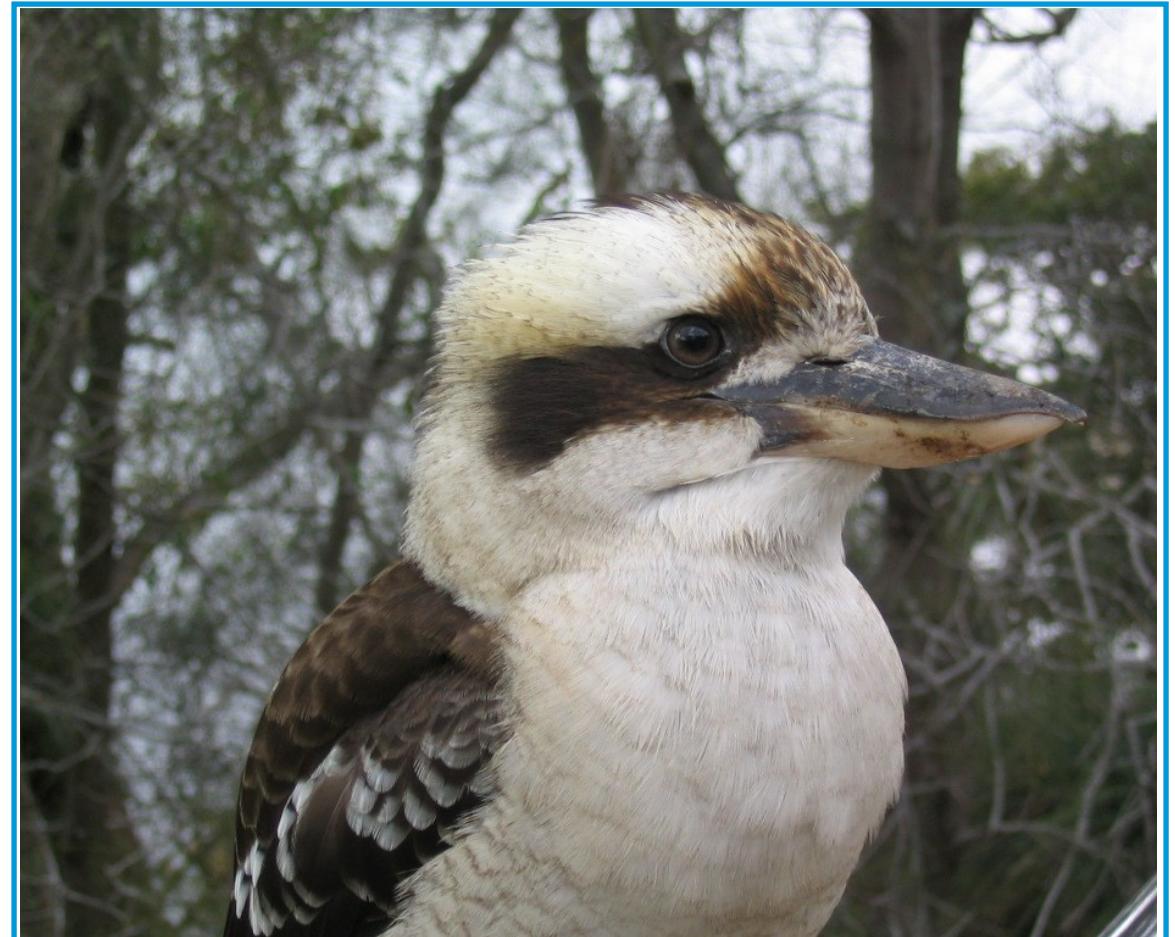
# ***Pilgrim United Church of Christ***

## **A Caring Church for Thinking People**

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847  
† [www.pilgrimcf.org](http://www.pilgrimcf.org) †



Sunday, July 17, 2022



***Go Ahead and Laugh!***  
**Rev. Sandra Hutchinson**

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ**

**Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio**

† Sunday, July 17, 2022 †

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST BREATHE: (moments for silent reflection) Terry Tempest Williams

One: The world is holy. We are holy. All life is holy. Daily prayers are delivered on the lips of breaking waves, the whisperings of grasses, the shimmering of leaves.”

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* Arr. Phillip Keveran

CALL TO WORSHIP Kelly Gerstenberger

One: A new day has begun.

**All: Hope wins!**

One: A fresh start is granted.

**All: Faith wins!**

One: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

**All: Hope wins!**

One: Christ is entering your life in a new way.

**All: Faith wins!**

One: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

**All: Love wins! Amen!**

SONG #24 New Century Hymnal *The God of Abraham Praise*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Kelly Gerstenberger

One: The church is not a place;

**All: it is a people.**

One: The church is not only a steeple above the tree line, streets, and cars;

**All: it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and of justice.**

One: The church is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by mortar;

**All: it is person, linked with person, linked with person: all ages and genders and abilities—a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love.**

One: The church is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning;

**All: it is the commitment, day after day, and moment after moment, of**

**our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome.**

**All: it is the commitment, day after day, and moment after moment, of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome.**

One: The church is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew. The church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts; gathering, however we can, to say to the world: welcome, come in, lay down your heartache, and pick up hope and love;

**All: for the church is us—each and every one of us—together, a beacon of hope to this world that so desperately needs it.**

RESPONSE #283 New Century Hymnal

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, make me, fill me;**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY/SPECIAL MUSIC *I Need Thee Every Hour* Robert Lowry  
Arr. Phillip Keveran

PASTOR'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING - Kelly Gerstenberger  
Genesis 17:1-8; 15-17; and 18:1-15 CEB

When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am El Shaddai.<sup>[a]</sup> Walk with me and be trustworthy. <sup>2</sup> I will make a covenant between us and I will give you many, many descendants.” <sup>3</sup> Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “But me, my covenant is with you; you will be the ancestor of many nations. <sup>5</sup> And because I have made you the ancestor of many nations, your name will no longer be Abram<sup>[b]</sup> but Abraham.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fertile. I will produce nations from you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will set up my covenant with you and your descendants after you in every generation as an enduring covenant. I will be your God and your descendants’ God after you. <sup>8</sup> I will give you and your descendants

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, July 17, 2021:

10:30 a.m. In-Person & Live-Stream (Facebook) Worship Service,  
Rev Sandra Hutchinson, Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship/Social Hour - Beverages, Social Hall

### Monday, July 18, 2021:

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin Lessons, Adult Library

### Tuesday, July 19, 2021:

10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin Lessons, Adult Library  
6:45 - 9:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA, Heritage Room

### Wednesday, July 20, 2021:

1:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin Lessons, Adult Library  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Legacy Barbershop Rehearsal, Heritage Room

### Thursday, July 21, 2021:

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

### Friday, July 22, 2021:

### Saturday, July 23, 2021:

6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

### Sunday, July 24, 2021:

10:30 a.m. In-Person & Live-Stream (Facebook) Worship Service,  
Rev. Glen Shedlock, Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship/Social Hour - Beverages, Social Hall

**Altar Flowers:** The Gerstenberger's  
**Dedication:** *In honor of our children & grandchildren.*  
**Liturgist:** X  
**PowerPoint:** Kathie Richards

### Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

**Transitional Pastor:** *Rev. Glen A. Shedlock*  
**Minister of Music:** *Benjamin Knight*  
**Choir Director:** *Kimberly Knight*  
**Secretary:** *Kelly Gerstenberger*



## WELCOME

We joyfully welcome all visitors!  
Please join us again!  
*We are very glad You chose to Worship with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you ... to everyone who ... have continued to send-in contributions!

Contributions Received:

\$6,925.00+	June 5, 2022	\$3,245.00+	July 3, 2022
\$2,498.36	June 12, 2022	\$7,770.00	July 10, 2022
\$2,080.50	June 19, 2022	\$	July 17, 2022
<u>\$2,387.00</u>	<u>June 26, 2022</u>	\$	July 24, 2022
<b>\$13,890.86</b>	<b>June Totals</b>	<u>\$</u>	<u>July 31, 2022</u>
		<b>\$11,015.00</b>	<b>July Totals</b>

**+Ameriprise-Reserve Income (Asset Movement) \$4,000.00 + \$2,000 = \$6,000.00**

*Children's Bulletins are now available for ages 3 to 6 and 7 and older. These are located in the activity bags in the narthex. Take the bulletins home and leave the bags with the other supplies in the pews when you leave today!!*

### Pastoral Search Committee:

Resigned, Chairperson	Katherine Subichin, Secretary
Bob Kindel, Chaplain	David Kump
Cindy Spenoso	

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 18, 2022**

## PRAYERS & PRAISES

- ◇ Cindy dealing with skin cancer.
- ◇ Neill, in the hospital following a motorcycle accident, fighting paralysis.
- ◇ The family and friends of Darlene Pizor, past Christian Education Director, who passed away Friday, July 8, 2022.
- ◇ Katherine's friend, Stacey, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ◇ Chris' wife and family for strength and courage.
- ◇ Benjamin following his third round of COVID-19.
- ◇ Anita, Frank & Fred grieving with the passing of their father.
- ◇ Alan dealing with cancer issues.
- ◇ Gun violence ripping apart families and communities.
- ◇ Love for all people.