

From: *Devotions from the Front Porch* by Stacy Edwards, p. 84-85

## THE SIMPLE LIFE

*Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation."*  
Mark 16:15 HCSB

Many of us are seeking simplicity. We cook simple meals and design simple homes. We homeschool and homestead. We limit activities to simplify our calendars. In order to cut back, we say no. We live with less, posting pictures of our simple lives all over social media. Yet, if we're honest, noting about life seems simple.

It's okay to long for a simple life. Many times in Scripture, Jesus told His followers to be still and to seek solitude. Yet, too many of us have confused a simple life with an easy life, and if we're honest, an easy life is really what we want. But life doesn't work that way. Family is complicated. Ministry is messy. Parenting is exhausting. Loving people well can make a body weary. We see loss and brokenness everywhere; no matter how hard we try, nothing is easy.

But God never offered His followers an easy life. Christ never said "Pick up your easy life and follow Me." His instructions for our lives, however, were simple.

*Go to every corner creation. Proclaim the good news to everyone in the world.  
Pick up your cross. Look after orphans. Take care of widows. Love your neighbors.  
Don't forget your enemies. Love them too. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked.  
Proclaim freedom to the prisoner. Love. Love. Love.*

All simple instructions, though none of them is easy. But we really can't say that no one warned us. God said to go everywhere. Paul said to expect some pain. Jesus warned that the world would hate us like it hated Him. Being a Christian isn't easy, but it truly is the simple life.

*I say I long for a simple life, but often what I am really seeking is an easy life. Give me the strength, Lord, to seek You and let You do with my life what You will.*

**Acolyte:** *Thank You!*

**Altar Flowers:**

Rick Gash/Heather Schwinn

**Greeters:** Everyone present today!

**Ushers:** *Thank You!*

**PowerPoint:** Cheryl Bruce

**Liturgist:** Crystal Wagner

**Fellowship:**

Save Our Steeple Committee

**Steeple Lighting:** Bev Hannahs

*Thank you!*

### Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

**Pastor, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce:** [pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net](mailto:pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net)

**F.F. Director, Marilyn Freeman:** [pilgrimce@ameritech.net](mailto:pilgrimce@ameritech.net)

**Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger:** [pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net](mailto:pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net)

**Music Director: Kyle Kelvington:** [kelvingtonk@gmail.com](mailto:kelvingtonk@gmail.com)

**Cleaning Services, Peter Paugh**

# 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, January 29, 2017

**THINK** POSITIVELY  
**EXERCISE** DAILY  
**EAT** HEALTHY  
**WORK** HARD  
**STAY** STRONG  
**WORRY** LESS  
**DANCE** MORE  
**LOVE** OFTEN  
**BE** HAPPY

*GLASBERGEN*

"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

## An Attitude Adjustment

### Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

**Mission Statement:**  
*God calls us to live our faith as disciples  
Sharing the love of God  
Revealed through Christ  
In the community and the world.*

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ**

**A Caring Church for Thinking People**

**Sunday, January 29, 2017 † The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

THE PRELUDE                                      *Sonata*                                      Bernardo Pasquini

\*HYMN (Red Hymnal)                      *Lead On, Oh King Eternal*                                      No. 375

**OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 15)

One: God of mercy and wisdom, we come seeking to learn how live lives that are blameless and righteous.

**All: Teach us to speak the truth from our hearts.**

One: Move us to honor all who revere You O Lord.

**All: As we serve You each day, may our trust in Your great love grow.**

\*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)                                      Crystal Wagner

**God of mercy and love, we know you love us. We see examples of Your great care for us every day: in the sun that rises, in the hand that helps, in the heart that loves us, and in the life You give us. Teach us to use these moments for more than ourselves, that in sharing we could find life fulfilling. Come now as we pray together the prayer Your Son taught us, "Our Father . . ." [debt, debtors]**

\*THE GLORIA PATRI (Red Hymnal)                                      No. 513

**OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER**

\*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM                                      *Order My Steps*                                      Glen Burleigh

**WE GIVE TO GOD**

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

**\*all who are able may stand**

THE OFFERTORY                      *His Eye is on the Sparrow*                                      arr. Charles H. Gabriel

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal)                                      No. 515

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER (Black Hymnal)      *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*                                      No. 506

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

\*HYMN (Red Hymnal)                      *Breathe on Me, Oh Breath of God*                                      No. 234

**GOD GIVES TO US**

SCRIPTURES                                      Crystal Wagner

Micah 6:1 - 8 (page 819)  
Matthew 5:1 - 12 (page 3 - 4)

SERMON                                      *An Attitude Adjustment*                                      Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

**WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE**

\*HYMN (Red Hymnal)                      *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*                                      No. 418

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE                      *Spirit Song*                                      John Wimber  
*(We invite you to join hands as we sing)*

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with His spirit and His love. Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. Oh, let Him have the things that hold you, and His Spirit like a dove Will descend upon your life and make you whole. He'll descend upon you life and make you whole.**

POSTLUDE                                      *Melody from "Rosamunde"*                                      Fr. Scubert

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, January 29**

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation for all ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
 11:30 a.m. Steeple Restoration Celebration, Social Hall

**Monday, January 30**

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - TKD, Social Hall  
 10:00 - 12 Noon, Calling hours for Lena Macale, Shoemaker Funeral Home  
 12 Noon, Service for Lena Macale, Shoemaker Funeral Home

**Tuesday, January 31**

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library  
 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Knit & Crochet Group, Rev. Green Room  
 8:00 p.m. Fruits of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

**Wednesday, February 1**

11:00 a.m. Pilgrim Staff Meeting, Office  
 1 - 2:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School-Dance, Social Hall  
 2:00 - 8 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin, Children's Library  
 4:00 - 8:30 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Cello, Adult Library  
 6 - 7:30 p.m. J.O.Y. Kids Club, Kitchen & Class Rooms  
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation, Heritage Room  
 Girl Scout Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Heritage Room  
 8:00 p.m. Hand Bells, Music Room

**Thursday, February 2**

6 - 8 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meetings, Child & Adult Library, Nursery & Classroom  
 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

**Friday, February 3**

Girl Scout Meetings

**Saturday, February 4**

8 a.m.– Noon Absorbent Minds Montessori School, Open House  
 10 a.m. - 12 Noon Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting, Adult Library & Nursery  
 12 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Cello, Children's Library  
 1 - 3:00 pm Youth Group "Souper Bowl" Prep, Kitchen  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

**Sunday, February 5 - Boy Scout Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary ~ Rev. Kirk Bruce ~  
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Social Hall  
 11:30 a.m. Youth Group Pick-Up Soup & Subs, Social Hall  
 11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board Meeting, Heritage Room

\*Please Turn Electronic Devices To Silent\* Thank You!

**SIGN-IN**

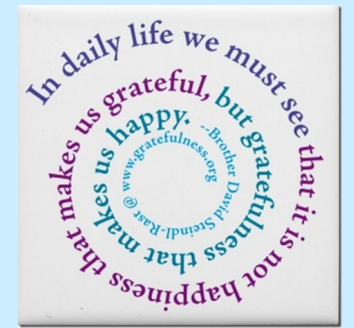
There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.

We joyfully welcome all visitors!  
 Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.

Please join us again!  
 We are so glad You are Worshipping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

**Pray for:**

Family and friends of Lena Macale.  
 J & J with serious illness and family crisis.  
 New parents, Dan & Lizzie with twin boys!  
 Alice's continued recovery after surgery.  
 Peace & healing for people who are hurting & dealing with life's' struggles.  
 A person with emotional problems going through a divorce.  
 A good friend who is struggling and needs prayers of comfort & support.  
 Our elected officials on the national, state, county & city levels.  
 Our First Responders and their families.



**Steeple Update:**

**Donations Total**  
 (as of 1/23)

**\$144,818.91**

**Tuesdays,**  
**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 pm**  
**Rev. Greene Room**

**Learn to:**

**Crochet with Janna Redd**

Project: Scarf  
 Need: Crochet hook size "h" or "i"  
 Worsted weight 4 yarn  
 (Caron recommended)

**OR**

**Knit with Bobbi Babbit**

Project: Dishcloth  
 Casting on, knitting & pearl stitches  
 Need: Short needles size "6, "7," or "8"  
 Crochet Cotton  
 (Sugar's Cream or Bath Cotton at Pat Catan's)  
 Questions?:  
 Jo Kindel 330-945-4166.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Souper Bowl/Subs**

11:30 am  
 Sun., Feb. 5th

**Boy Scout Sunday**

10:30 am  
 Sun., Feb. 5th

**Youth Group SOS Fundraiser/Valentine's Dance**

12 noon - 5 pm  
 Sun., Feb. 12th

**Spire Deadline**  
**Fri., Feb., 17th**

**Donatos Night**  
 5 - 8 pm  
 Thurs., Feb. 23rd

**Join the Save Our Steeple Committee in the Celebration of the Steeple Restoration Completion.**

**Sunday, January 29th**

**at 11:30 am**

**Everyone is welcome!**

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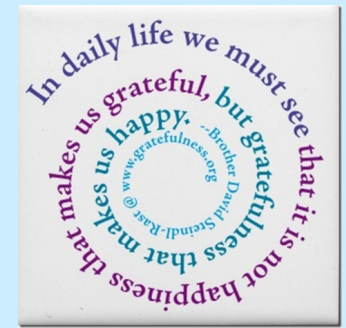
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