

## YOU CAN ACHIEVE THE VICTORIOUS LIFE...

through living in deep dependence on Me. People usually associate victory with success: not falling or stumbling, not making mistakes. But those who are successful in their own strength tend to go their own way, forgetting about Me. It is through problems and failure, weakness and neediness, that you learn to rely on Me.

True dependence is not simply asking Me to bless what you have decided to do. It is coming to Me with an open mind and heart, inviting Me to plant My desires within you. I many infuse within you a dream that seems far beyond reliance on Me. It is a faith-walk, taken one step at a time, leaning on Me as much as you need. This is not a path of continual success but by a growth spurt, nourished by increased reliance on Me. Enjoy the blessedness of a victorious life through deepening your dependence on Me.

### Scriptures:

Psalm 34: 17-18, 2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

**Acolyte:** Thank You!  
**Altar Flowers:** *"To the Glory of God."*  
**Greeters:** Everyone present today!  
**Ushers:** *Thank You!*  
**PowerPoint:** Cheryl Bruce  
**Liturgist:** John Richards  
**Fellowship:** Team #2 -  
**Steeple Lighting:** *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 8, 2017



## 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 8, 2017 † The Baptism of Christ**

THE PRELUDE *Absolution* Alex Guilmant

\*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *All Praise to Thee, For Thou, O King Divine* No. 147

**OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 39)

One: Come let us listen for the voice of the Lord calling our names.

**All: From over the water, in the glory of thunder, God beckons to us.**

One: Let us open our hearts and souls to His calling.

**All: We come trusting in the Lord to give us His strength and peace.**

\*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) John Richards

**We gather in Your house, O Lord, seeking Your guidance, longing for Your presence, and needing Your direction. These gifts You promise to all who trust in You. Bless us with Your power and touch as we gather together in Your name. Hear us 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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER  
MISSION MOMENT S.A.R.A. Jo Kindel

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM *When We Walk With the Lord* Arr. Dale Grotenhuis

**WE GIVE TO GOD**

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION  
**\*all who are able may stand**

THE OFFERTORY *The Star Carol* Alfred Burt

\*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 (Black Hymnal) *You Have Come down to the Lakeshore* No. 173

**GOD GIVES TO US**

SCRIPTURES John Richards

Isaiah 42:1 - 9 (page 630)  
Matthew 3:13 - 17 (page 3)

SERMON *Possibilities Unfolding* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

**WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE**

\*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* No. 223

\*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 *Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King* Moses Hogan

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, January 8 - Baptism of Christ**

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation for all ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall  
 11:30 a.m. Music Committee Meeting, Rev. Greene Room  
 11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board Meeting, Heritage Room  
 Girl Scout Troop Meeting

**Monday, January 9**

9:00 am Evangelism Mtg., Panera  
 12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School-TKD, Social Hall  
 6:30 pm Diaconate Mtg., Adult Library  
 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg., Heritage Room

**Tuesday, January 10**

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library  
 5:30 - 8:15 pm Project Panda, Social Hall & Kitchen  
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Faith Formation/VBS, Adult Library  
 8:00 p.m. Fruits of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

**Wednesday, January 11**

1:00 - 2:30 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School, Social Hall  
 2:00 - 8 pm Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin, Children's Library  
 4:00 - 8:00 pm Western Reserve Suzuki School-Cello, Adult Library  
 Girl Scout Meeting  
 6:00 pm Confirmation, Heritage Room  
 7:00 pm Bible Study, Heritage Room  
 8:00 pm Hand Bells, Music Room

**Thursday, January 12**

6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meetings, Child & Adult Library, Nursery & Classroom  
 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

**Friday, January 13**

Girl Scout Meetings  
 Deadline for Annual Report - Reports

**Saturday, January 14**

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Free Community Lunch, Social Hall, Kitchen  
 12 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School, Children's Library  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

**Sunday, January 15**

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary ~ Rev. Kirk Bruce ~  
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall

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

**SIGN-IN**

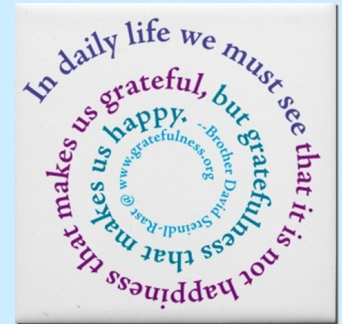
There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.

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:**

Dennis & Rose healing from their injuries.  
 Alice Woodburn for strength and patience after surgery.  
 Sharon Von Alt who has cancer.  
 "Jake" a friend in the hospital with pancreatic & sepsis.  
 "Jake's" family.  
 Families going through difficult times.  
 Families grieving the death of a loved one.



**Pilgrim's Annual Mtg.**

Sunday, January 22, 2017  
 11:30 a.m.  
*Chili Lunch*

*Vote on Nominating Slate  
 Hear from the Boards  
 Budget Presented  
 Everyone is Invited!*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Spire Deadline**  
 Fri., Jan. 20th

**Donato's night**  
 5 - 8pm  
 Thurs., Jan. 26th

**SOS Celebration**  
 11:30 am  
 Sun., Jan. 29th

**Souper Bowl/Subs**  
 11:30 am  
 Sun., Feb. 5th

**Youth Group SOS  
 Fundraiser/Valentine's  
 Dance**  
 12 noon - 5 pm  
 Sun., Feb. 12th

**Women's Retreat  
 November 3 - 5, 2017  
 at  
 Punderson State Park  
 Newbury, Ohio**

**Interested in going?  
 Open to young &  
 not so young women  
 Scholarships & payment  
 plans are available.**

**Contact: Marilyn Freeman**



**Steeple  
 Update:**

**Donations Total  
 (as of 1/2)**

**\$143,623.91**



Learn Crocheting  
 with Janna Redd  
 January 24 at 6:30 p.m.  
 in the Heritage Room.  
*Do you know someone  
 willing to teach knitting?*  
 Jo still needs  
 someone to  
 teach knitting!  
 To be included  
 in this endeavor,  
 contact Jo Kindel  
 330-945-4166.

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, January 8 - Baptism of Christ**

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation for all ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall  
 11:30 a.m. Music Committee Meeting, Rev. Greene Room  
 11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board Meeting, Heritage Room  
 Girl Scout Troop Meeting

**Monday, January 9**

9:00 am Evangelism Mtg., Panera  
 12:00 Noon - 1:30 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School-TKD, Social Hall  
 6:30 pm Diaconate Mtg., Adult Library  
 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg., Heritage Room

**Tuesday, January 10**

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library  
 5:30 - 8:15 pm Project Panda, Social Hall & Kitchen  
 7:00 - 9:00 pm Faith Formation/VBS, Adult Library  
 8:00 p.m. Fruits of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

**Wednesday, January 11**

1:00 - 2:30 pm Absorbent Minds Montessori School, Social Hall  
 2:00 - 8 pm Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin, Children's Library  
 4:00 - 8:00 pm Western Reserve Suzuki School-Cello, Adult Library  
 Girl Scout Meeting  
 6:00 pm Confirmation, Heritage Room  
 7:00 pm Bible Study, Heritage Room  
 8:00 pm Hand Bells, Music Room

**Thursday, January 12**

6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meetings, Child & Adult Library, Nursery & Classroom  
 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

**Friday, January 13**

Girl Scout Meetings  
 Deadline for Annual Report - Reports

**Saturday, January 14**

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Free Community Lunch, Social Hall, Kitchen  
 12 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School, Children's Library  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

**Sunday, January 15**

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary ~ Rev. Kirk Bruce ~  
 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall

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

**SIGN-IN**

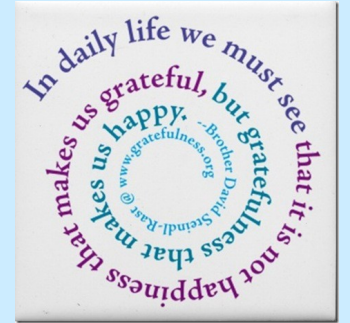
There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.

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:**

Dennis & Rose healing from their injuries.  
 Alice Woodburn for strength and patience after surgery.  
 Sharon Von Alt who has cancer.  
 "Jake" a friend in the hospital with pancreatic & sepsis.  
 "Jake's" family.  
 Families going through difficult times.  
 Families grieving the death of a loved one.



**Pilgrim's Annual Mtg.**

Sunday, January 22, 2017  
 11:30 a.m.  
*Chili Lunch*



*Vote on Nominating Slate  
 Hear from the Boards  
 Budget Presented  
 Everyone is Invited!*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Spire Deadline**  
 Fri., Jan. 20th

**Donato's night**  
 5 - 8pm  
 Thurs., Jan. 26th

**SOS Celebration**  
 11:30 am  
 Sun., Jan. 29th

**Souper Bowl/Subs**  
 11:30 am  
 Sun., Feb. 5th

**Youth Group SOS  
 Fundraiser/Valentine's  
 Dance**  
 12 noon - 5 pm  
 Sun., Feb. 12th

**Women's Retreat  
 November 3 - 5, 2017  
 at  
 Punderson State Park  
 Newbury, Ohio**

**Interested in going?  
 Open to young &  
 not so young women  
 Scholarships & payment  
 plans are available.**

**Contact: Marilyn Freeman**



**Steeple  
 Update:**

**Donations Total  
 (as of 1/2)  
 \$143,623.91**



Learn Crocheting  
 with Janna Redd  
 January 24 at 6:30 p.m.  
 in the Heritage Room.  
*Do you know someone  
 willing to teach knitting?*  
 Jo still needs  
 someone to  
 teach knitting!  
 To be included  
 in this endeavor,  
 contact Jo Kindel  
 330-945-4166.