

From *An Old-Time Christmas* by Helen Steiner Rice & Virginia J. Ruehlmann, published by Fleming H. Revell, a division of Baker Book House Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, copyright 1997, page 20.

Peace On Earth

*Christmas is God's pattern for living,
To be followed all year by unselfish giving,
For the holiday season awakens good cheer
And draws us closer to those we hold dear,
And we open our hearts and find it is good
To live among men as we always should.
But as soon as the tinsel is stripped from the tree,
The spirit of Christmas fades silently
Into the background of daily routine
And is lost in the whirl of life's busy scene,
And all unaware, we miss and forego
The greatest blessing mankind can know,
For if we lived Christmas each day as we should
And made it our aim to always do good,
We'd find the lost key to meaningful living
That comes not from getting but unselfish giving,
And we'd know the great joy of peace upon earth,
Which was the real purpose of our Savior's birth,
For in the glad tidings of the first Christmas night,
God showed us the way and the truth and the light.*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce: pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net

F.F. Director, Marilyn Freeman: pilgrimce@ameritech.net

Music Director, Kyle Kelvington: kelvingtonk@gmail.com

Cleaning Services: Robert David "Peter" Paugh

Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger: pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

Acolyte: Thank You!

Altar Flowers: See Insert

Greeters: Everyone present today!

Ushers: Thank You!

PowerPoint: Thank You!

Liturgist: Kurt Spenoso

Fellowship: Team #3

Steeple Lighting: Thank You!

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

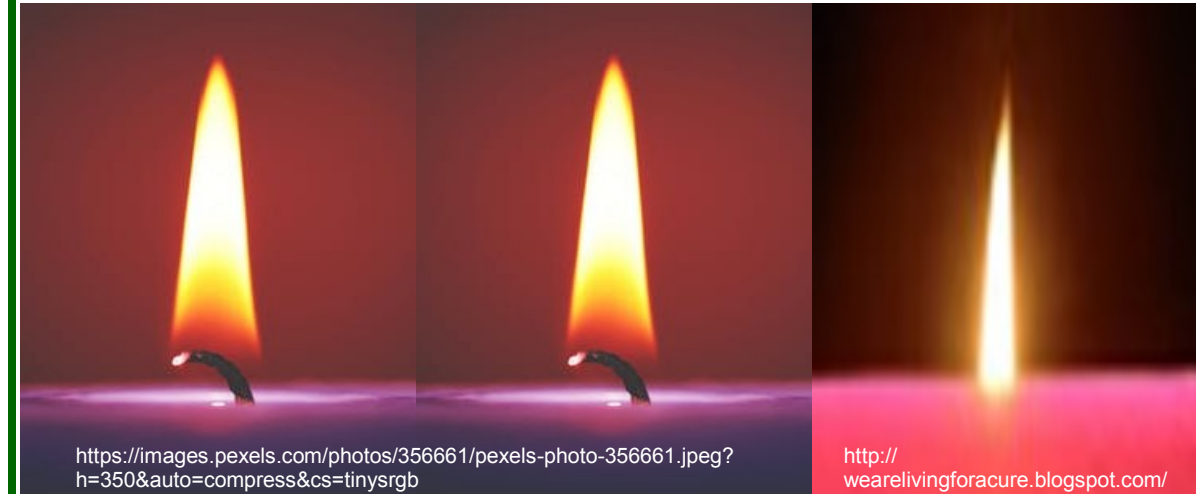
A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847

www.pilgrimcf.org †



Sunday, December 17, 2017



<https://images.pexels.com/photos/356661/pexels-photo-356661.jpeg?h=350&auto=compress&cs=tinysrgb>

<http://wearelivingforacure.blogspot.com/>

Finding God Above Our Heads

Rev. Kirk 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, December 17, 2017 † Third Sunday of Advent

THE PRELUDE	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	Rolfunkel
SPECIAL MUSIC	Rise Up Shepherd and Follow Hand Bell Choir	Bill Ingram
*HYMN (Red Hymnal)	<i>The First Nowell</i>	No. 141

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 126)

One: O Lord, make us to be people who can dream and wonder.

All: Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with joy.

One: Let all the world see the great things you do for those who love you.

All: For you are our God, by your hand our lives are filled with joy.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Kurt Spenoso

We gather close to you in this time of worship and celebration. Come close to us so that we could feel your love and know the directions you want us to follow. Come close so we hear your voice and be assured we are moving in the right direction. Come near to assure us of your love and to put your blessing upon us. Hear us now as we pray together the prayer your son taught us, "Our Father . . ." [debt, debtors]

*THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Red Hymnal) No. 116, Refrain

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

A MISSION MOMENT *CHRISTMAS FUND* Kelly Gerstenberger

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE-JOY Shari, Mackenzie, & Maura Schneider

THE CRADLE SONG *One Candle Is Lit (verse 3)* Parrott/Kirkpatrick

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

***all who are able may stand**

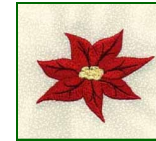
CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17, 2017 - Wassail, Eggnog & Delights

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team #3



Monday, December 18, 2017

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Summit County Teen Institute, Social Hall

6:30 p.m. Community Connections Committee Meeting, Adult Library

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Heritage Room

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library

6:30 - 8:15 p.m. Knit & Crochet, Rev. Green Room

8:00 p.m. Fellowship of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA),
Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

2:12:15 - 9:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons,
Children's Library

6:00 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room

Thursday, December 21, 2017

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

Friday, December 22, 2017

Deadline for the Spire information to the Secretary

Saturday, December 23, 2017

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall



Sunday, December 24, 2017 - 4th Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team #4

**7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service, Sanctuary
Join Pilgrim for an evening of scriptures, music & candlelight!**

Monday, December 25, 2017 - Christmas Day

Offices are Closed

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 join us again!
Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
We are so glad You are Worshiping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for:

A couple with financial issues.
Don's health.
The world and all its people. May we all trust God and do his will. Grant us peace and love.
A member trying to adjust to additional health issues and not give up on life.
Chandler & his family for strength, memories & patience that happen with a last wish trip.
Our public servants, first responders and medical personnel.
Continue prayers for Cousin Jeff's continued progress with healing.



Linda healing for her hand.
Carl's healing from cancer.

THE ENTIRE MONTH OF DECEMBER . . .

You are invited to bring one canned good/non-perishable item to the church every time you enter the building. We have extended this invitation to all of the groups who use our building for meetings and gatherings. Just imagine how many hungry tummies we could fill! All of the canned goods can be placed in the Good Neighbors box located in the parking lot entry



From Stewardship . . . Christmas Fund Offering taken December 24th! The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund: Remembering Those Who Serve Our Church



This fund is taken annually at Christmastide to help provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in need, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards.
In the bulletin is one example of a donor's experience. To read 2 other personal experiences, look for the printed information on the tables at the 2nd Street and Parking Lot entrances.

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - scriptures, music & candle light.

Thank you to Bill McHenry, Brian Ewart, Ken Anderson, the Hand Bell & Pilgrim Choir for their gifts of music this morning!
Beautiful music is celebration of the season warms the heart.



A Note from the Treasurer . . .

End of Year catch up contributions for 2017 must be in by December 31st.



During past Christmas seasons, it's been my privilege to collect donations from the congregation as a gift to our staff. I would suggest that we do that again this year. It is our opportunity to thank them for all their hard work. This collective gift is one way to show our gratitude & appreciation.

I will be taking these donations through TODAY. I can accept cash or check. If you use a check, please make it payable to me, John Richards, NOT to the church. I will turnover what I receive to Pastor Bruce who will distribute the gift to the staff. My thanks to you for your generosity and may you have a Merry Christmas.
John Richards

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Faith Focus

3rd Sunday of Advent – Angels

Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

Marilyn Freeman

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

Pilgrim Choir

Norman Luboff

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger
Bill McHenry & Brian Ewart

Arr. McHenry

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) *In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)*

No. 128

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER (Black Hymnal) *Away in a Manger (verse 3)*

No. 124

***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.***

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Song of the Angels
Hand Bell Choir

Arr. Anna Laura Page

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES

Psalms 121:1 - 8 (page 534)
Matthew 2:1 - 12 (page 1 - 2)

Kurt Spenoso

SERMON

Finding God Above Our Heads

Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal)

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

No. 125

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (We invite you to join hands as we sing)

(Black Hymnal) *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

No. 154, Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

POSTLUDE

Lully, Lully
Ken Anderson, baritone

Traditional English

“In loving memory of Arthur Zimmerman.”
Polly McCallum

“In memory of Lois Shook.”
Don Shook

“In honor of my family.”
Helen Hapanowicz

*“In honor of the Pilgrim Community, who
have passed from this earthly life to heaven.”*
Ruth Fowler

“Joy of the Season!”
Jo & Bob Kindel

“In memory of Dad, Mom & Sister.”
Nancy LeVan

“In memory of my husband Gordy.”
Nancy Van Waes

“In honor of my family.”
Jessie Clark

*“In loving memory of
Toby & Lois Ann Hannahs.”*
Bev Hannahs

“In honor of our church family.”
Mitzi & Chuck Stanley

*“In memory of
Hazel & James Carsten.”*
Carol Letvin

*“In celebration of our
Great Granddaughter.”*
Herb & Lois Rake

“In remembrance of Betty Comstock.”
Her husband, Ozzie

*“In memory of
my family.”*
Jessie Clark

*“In memory of
my son-in-law,
James Sinkway.”*
Sue Gillman

“In memory of Matthew.”
John & Kathie Richards

“In memory of parents.”
Sandi & Bill Ignizio

*“For God’s grace holding our family together
during this year of firsts without our daughter,
Heidi & to the memory of Lynn Chentow, LISW
who supported us through the
kaleidoscope of feelings the last 3+ years.”*
Kelly & Dan Gerstenberger

“In memory of Lena Macale.”
Meghan & John Howell

*“In remembrance of
my husband, Walt & son, George.”*
Ruth Fowler

“In memory of our family.”
Mitzi & Chuck Stanley

*“In memory of
Lexi, Aldo &
Charles Viola.”*
Sara, Bill, & Thelma

“In memory of Jon & Jessie.”
Linda Middleton