

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 19, 2021: **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Walkthrough Wassail - Pick-up Cookies, Cider/Eggnog

11:45 a.m. Bible Study, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Heritage Room

Monday, December 20, 2021:

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room

Tuesday, December 21, 2021:

8:30 a.m. Silco/Fire Department Final Inspection of the Kitchen Hood
Suppression System, Kitchen

8:00 p.m. Broad Highway group, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 22, 2021:

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Legacy Barbershop Quartet Rehearsal, Heritage Room

Thursday, December 23, 2021:

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

Friday, December 24, 2021: **Christmas Eve**

6:50 p.m. Handbell Choir Begins Ringing, Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service, Sanctuary

Saturday, December 25, 2021: **Christmas Day**

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

Sunday, December 26, 2021:

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Rev. Glen A. Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. Bible Study, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Heritage Room

Monday, December 27, 2021:

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room

Tuesday, December 28, 2021:

8:00 p.m. Broad Highway group, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 29, 2021:

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Legacy Barbershop Quartet Rehearsal, Heritage Room

Thursday, December 30, 2021:

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



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 19, 2021



Pregnant with Possibilities

Rev. Glen Shedlock

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

† Sunday, December 19, 2021 †

Fourth SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST BREATHE: (One minute of centering) Prayer by Cristine Sine
One: God of New Beginnings, in this time between the times of Now but Not Yet, between Conception and Completion, of Promises Half Formed and Dreams Still Emerging, help us to let go of all that holds us bound. Enable us to see clearly the Light that beckons us forward towards your Love. Give us Wisdom and Patience for the journey into the new life you are creating for us and all creation. Amen.

THE PRELUDE *We Three Kings* Arr. Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP Janis Morgan

One: Love is what draws us here.
Many: Our desire to be loved unconditionally entices us; Agape love, the love of deep friendship, invites us. God's creative love unites us.

One: Love is what fills us here.
Many: A handshake or embrace warms us. Holy conversation informs us. Christ's grace restores us.

One: Love is what encourages us here.
Many: A compassionate tale stirs us. A need made known prompts us. God's pervasive Spirit inspires us.

One: Let us practice such love with hearts open to the possibilities God places before us.
Many: Let our worship be a wondrous act of love!

*HYMN #131 New Century Hymnal (NCH) *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

WE LIGHT OUR FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - Bob & Jo Kindel
One: On the first Sunday of Advent, we celebrated the faithfulness of God by lighting the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of peace, remembering that peace is the ability to remain grounded in love amid chaos and uncertainty. Last week, we lit the candle of joy.

WELCOME

We joyfully welcome all visitors!
Please join us again!

We are very glad You chose to Worship with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

- ◇ Brynn's surgery and recovery.
- ◇ Those dealing with and healing from COVID
Thank you to everyone for wearing masks and social distancing!
- ◇ Healing for everyone dealing with medical issues.
- ◇ All who are struggling to get through this holiday season.
- ◇ Those who... have left the church, are enemies of the church, and have not found a church.
- ◇ The poor and the hungry.
- ◇ The safe return of the Missionaries from Wayne county.
- ◇ Everyone to "Love their neighbors as they love themselves."

Prayers & Praises

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Contributions Received:

\$ 2,036.00	November 7, 2021	\$ 2,441.00	December 5, 2021
\$ 5,450.00+	November 14, 2021	\$ 5,885.00+	December 12, 2021
\$ 5,159.50	November 21, 2021	\$	December 19, 2021
\$ 7,801.00+	November 28, 2021	\$	December 26, 2021
\$20,446.50	November Totals	\$ 8,326.00	December Totals

+Ameriprise-Reserve Income (Asset Movement) \$2,500.00 + \$6,000.00 + \$3,500.00 = \$12,000.00

- **ACME Community Cash Back** receipts are being collected. See the box across from the restrooms in the education wing.
- **Handbell Rehearsals** are Monday's at 4:30 p.m. in the Music Room. All are welcome to join in the ringing.
- **The Mitten Tree** is located outside the 1st floor restrooms for socks, gloves, scarves, and mittens. Everything collected now through January will be taken to Good Neighbors.
- **Diaconate has overseen the Christmas donations**, and due to changes at Good Neighbors this year, the toys collected on December 5th were donated to the non-profit organization Closet of Caring for their Holiday Toy Distribution at the Cuyahoga Falls Pavilion & Amphitheater which happened Saturday, December 18th (yesterday) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (See Facebook for more information. The hats, gloves, socks, etc. from the Mitten Tree were donated to Good Neighbors for distribution in January. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of these collections.

Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, “God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³ Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”

TODAY’S MESSAGE ***Pregnant with Possibilities*** Rev. Glen Shedlock

*HYMN #148 New Century Hymnal *What Child Is This*

*BENEDICTION (Unison) From A Prayer By Henri Nouwen
As I return to the sacred dance of my daily living, teach me, O God, to ask the questions that matter most: Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I speak words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? Yes, Divine Friend, as this Advent season unfolds, teach me to ask the questions that matter most. Amen.

*RESPONSE *Spirit of God (verse 2)* 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 *Away in a Manger* Arr. Anthony Burger

Today, we conclude our celebration of Advent by lighting the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of love. God showed God’s love by sending God’s Beloved Child into the world, that we might live through him. Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. As we light the love candle, please join me in praying:

Many: Holy God, Divine Friend, thank you for your generous love to me. Thank you for choosing to see me as you created me to be, as your Beloved Child. Help me to recognize the abundance in my life rather than all the shortfalls I think I have. Help me to offer that same gracious love to those I mingle with this Christmas season. Pour your love into my heart so I can give it away. May people know I am a follower of Jesus by my love. Amen.

RESPONSE
 HYMN #133 New Century Hymnal (NCH) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING DEDICATION *Still, Still, Still* Heather Sorenson

WE GATHER IN PRAYER
 Joys and Concerns
 Today’s “Arms of Love” are wrapped around **Jackie Wanclovic**
 Prayers of the People
 Prayer of Our Lord

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!

SPECIAL MUSIC Handbell Choir

THE WITNESS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE - Janis Morgan
Luke 1:39-45 CEB

³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

<p>TODAY . . . <i>following Worship</i></p> <p><i>Walkthrough Wassail</i></p> <p>Pick-up . . . <i>a package of cookies & Cider or Eggnog</i></p>	<p>Celebrate . . .</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p><i>Friday, December 24, 2021</i></p> <p><i>6:50 p.m. Handbell Choir Plays</i></p> <p><i>7:00 p.m. Worship Service</i></p> <p><i>Music, Readings & Candlelight</i></p>
<p><u>Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff</u></p> <p>Transitional Pastor: <i>Rev. Glen A. Shedlock</i> Minister of Music: <i>Benjamin Knight</i> Choir Director: <i>Kimberly Knight</i> Secretary: <i>Kelly Gerstenberger</i></p>	<p>Acolyte: <i>Kristen Howe</i></p> <p>Altar Flowers: <i>Poinsettia Dedications</i> <i>See the Center Page</i></p> <p>Liturgist: <i>Janis Morgan</i></p> <p>PowerPoint: <i>Kathie Richards</i></p> <p>Ushers: <i>Thank you!</i></p>

December 19, 2021 Poinsettia Dedications

In Loving Memory of Art & Marty Zimmerman—Polly McCallum & Bev Hannahs

In Loving Memory of Toby & Lois Ann Hannahs—Bev Hannahs & Polly McCallum

In Loving Memory of Violet Shedlock, Annette Creech, & Anita Hicks—Rev. Glen & Missi Shedlock

In Memory of My Parents—Nancy Null

In Loving Memory of Matthew—Kathie & John Richards

To the Joy of the Season—Bob & Jo Kindel

In Memory of Lexie & Aldo, and Charles Viola—Thelma Viola and Sarah & Bill Mohn

In Memory of My Family—Helen Hapanowicz

In Memory of Richard J. Morgan—Janis Morgan

To Honor the Memory of husband, Walt and son, George—Ruth Fowler

To Honor the Memory of Jim & Sally Drew—Ruth Fowler

In Memory of David Ewart—Peg Ewart & Brian Ewart

In Memory of Our Parents—John & Kathie Richards

In Honor of Family & Friends—Dan & Kelly Gerstenberger