

From "Christian Voices" (4-4-18) 1--2 Cup O'Cheer (cheer316kim@sc.rr.com)
and Christian Voices (christianvoices@att.net)

(Gregg Potts is a pastor between churches. He shares some of what he's learned while not serving actively as a pastor.)

THEY AREN'T INTERESTED

I've been out of the church for several months now. I would not have chosen this experience but God has taught and continues to teach me things that have given me a new perspective on church.

Christians, the unchurched and the hurting in the world are not interested in how well you're dressed on Sunday.

They aren't interested in what you did socially during the week. They aren't interested in what your next vacation is going to be.

Pastor, they aren't interested in how well we tell that story or recite that poem. And I confess I'm guilty there.

Worship leader, they aren't interested in how well the lights look or how good the sound is mixed.

What they are interested in is, "do you care about me?" We believe Jesus is the answer to all men's problems and He is. OK how does Jesus help the marriage that's almost done? How does Jesus help the person who's broke pay their bills? Sometimes they need more than "God bless you."

We need to lift up Jesus and let Jesus use us to hug people, help people and cry with people. And, once someone receives Christ, don't drop them like a hot potato but walk with them and help them to learn what it means to live the Christian life.

Prayer: *God help us, help me, do better. Amen.*

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 Staff

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

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

Music Director, Kyle Kelvington: kelvingtonk@gmail.com

Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger: pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

Acolyte: *Thank You!*
Altar Flowers: *In Memory of William J. Zeller.
Nancy Zeller*

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*
Ushers: *Thank You!*
PowerPoint: *Cheryl Bruce*

Liturgist: *Brian Ewart*
Fellowship: *Thank You!*
Steeple Lighting: *In Memory of my Aunt. S.R.*

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, April 8, 2018



Marco? Polo!

Rev. Kirk Bruce

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People
Sunday, April 8, 2018 † Second Sunday of Easter

THE PRELUDE *Apnes Un Deue* Gabriel Fauré
SPECIAL MUSIC Staccato Giocoso Cathy Moklebusx
Hand Bells
*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Thine Is the Glory* No. 193

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 133)
One: O Lord, how joyful it is to see your sons and daughters live together in unity.
All: It is like a precious oil poured on the head, running down onto the beard.
One: It is like a cool morning after a hot day.
All: May your blessings, O Lord, shower down on us and bless us with new life.
*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Brian Ewart
We gather in your name, O Lord, to be touched and fed by your loving spirit. We need a nourishment that is not of this world. We need a hope that will never expire. We need a love that can sustain us. Come now O Lord, to bless us with your gifts. Come 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 Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
Faith Focus *Jesus Heals a Blind Man* Marilyn Freeman
with "Mud" Painting (It's just chocolate pudding, really!)
ANTHEM: *Because He Lives* William J. Gaither
Pilgrim Choir

***all who are able may stand**

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION
THE OFFERTORY *He Grew the Tree* Chuck Lawrence
*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
CALL TO PRAYER
(Black Hymnal) *Precious Lord, Take My Hand (vs. 1)* No. 472
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

SPECIAL MUSIC *On Eagle's Wings* Michael Joncas
Hand Bells
*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos* No. 526
(3 verses: marching, hamb'e, walking)

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES I John 1:1 - 2:2 (page 211) Brian Ewart
John 20:19 - 31 (page 101)
SERMON *Marco? Polo!* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *These Things Did Thomas Count* No. 245
*THE BENEDICTION
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *(We invite you to join hands as we sing)*
(Black Hymnal) *Peace I Leave with You, My Friends (Refrain)* No. 249
Peace I leave with you, my friends, shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to you so you can give to others, too.
POSTLUDE *Pastorale on "In the Cross"* Rathbun

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:

Marjorie for healing mercies.

Sue and her family. Her mom is at hospice.

A friend with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is showing great improvement, still needs prayers because PTSD is a lifelong battle for the person & the family.

The prayers for Carl, who has cancer, are working! He has not gotten better BUT IT HAS STAYED THE SAME SIZE AND HAS NOT INFECTED OTHER AREAS!!!! This is a blessing for this type of cancer.

Cheryl's mom, Susan's mom, Louise & Jaynu all in their 90's & having medical problems.

For the sick & suffering from various health, family & emotional problems & are in pain. Bless them as we enter Holy Week! Peace to all!

Linda with a back problem.

Thelma with a hip problem.

Howell & Stimmel families for peace and healing.

Mark Poling, step-son of Dr. Don, recovering slowly from a stroke.

Thank You for the Prayers!



Diaconate is seeking:

1. **Liturgist's** on Sunday mornings to read the Invocation and the Scriptures.
2. **People to purchase altar flowers** (\$30 - Checks payable to: PUCC)
 - Give the secretary your dedication or place it on the clipboard hanging up in the social hall.
 - Then take the flowers and delivery them to someone.OR
 - Ask Diaconate (Kathie, Polly, Crystal, Brian, or Rich) to deliver them.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 p.m. Annual Pet Blessing

Bring your real pets, virtual pets, pet pictures and/or pet memories and we'll bless all God's critters! Even snakes!



Happy Easter!

We had a wonderful Breakfast with the **Easter Bunny/Easter Egg Hunt Event** this year.

Thank you to so many wonderful people who made it possible –cooks, candy donators, dishwashers, craft leaders, face painter, cake bakers and donators, our Queen of slime-making, those who came to eat and enjoy the party, photographer and picture print crew, and the clean up gang. It takes a village to make this happen and we had the best village ever!

Thank You!

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 8, 2018

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

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

11:30 a.m. Healing Service, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall

11:30 a.m. Music Committee meeting, Rev. Green Room

11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board meeting, Heritage Room

2:45 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501, Adult Library

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #169, Adult Library

Monday, April 9, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #840, A.T.T.I.C.

6:30 p.m. Trustee Board meeting, Adult Library

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

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

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

2:15 - 9:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin & Cello Lessons,

Adult Library, Children's Library, & Nursery

7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Heritage Room

Thursday, April 12, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meetings, Adult & Children's Library, Nursery

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

Friday, April 13, 2018

Saturday, April 14, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free Community Lunch (FCL), Kitchen & Social Hall

11:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons,
Children's Library

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

Sunday, April 15, 2018

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, Social Hall

11:45 a.m. Faith Formation meeting, Adult Library

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

Monday, April 16, 2018

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

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