

Stillspeaking DAILY DEVOTIONAL United Church of Christ May 24, 2017
Written by: Mary Luki

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." - John 15:4

He doesn't know who he is. He doesn't know who anyone is. His silence is profound, but not the kind you yearn for in the midst of a noisy life. It's a far-awayness so complete it scares his visitor: Where is he if he isn't here? Who is he if he isn't who he was?

He doesn't respond to her voice, doesn't stir when she holds his hand. She feels helpless and anxious. She tries to remember what her pastor said, that it's enough to be there, one human being with another. But this is such a one-sided 'with-ness.' Could it really mean anything?

She decides to say a quick prayer and leave. But she sings instead. A hymn, an old chestnut, she's not sure why. She realizes that she doesn't sing very well, and she's amazed that she's worried about that: he isn't judging her performance.

*Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

His hand moves in hers. She's not imagining it. Later she tells herself it was only the sound of singing, just a reflex, not because it was *that* hymn. It could've been "Shine On, Harvest Moon," and the same thing would've happened. She shouldn't let herself feel so happy.

But she *is* happy. Like when someone you love pays unexpected attention to you. Like when you touch the *source* of something, the root; which we so very seldom do.

Prayer:

Teach us to abide. To be with and in and for each other, O Christ, as you abide in us.

Acolyte: Thank You!
Altar Flowers: Communion - No Flowers
Greeters: Everyone present today!
Ushers: Thank You!
PowerPoint: Thank You!
Liturgist: Richard Gill
Fellowship: Faith Formation
Steeple Lighting:

Thank you!

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

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

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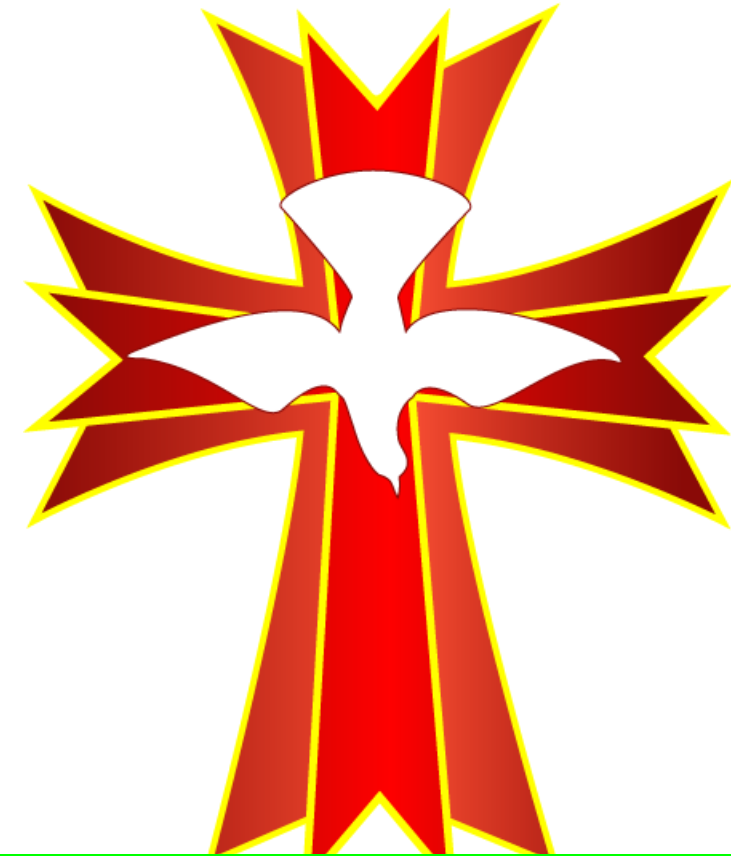
Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847
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Sunday, June 4, 2017



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.*

June 5th is the next . . .

Cuyahoga Falls Car Show



The Youth Group & Marilyn Freeman will be grilling hot dogs and selling them for \$1. They will also be selling soda/pop and water for \$1. Coney sauce has been for a topping. Donations of hot dogs, buns, soda/pop/water, baked goods will be accepted to sell each week. See Marilyn.

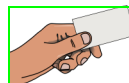
Pray for:

- For the victims & survivors in the Manchester, England at the Ariana Grande concert suicide bombing.
- For the health of the Hyden & extended family for their joys and sorrows that God pour out His healing and love now and the times to come.
- Elsie Brown recovery & healing from a stroke this week.
- Sherman healing at home.
- Healing of Jessie Clark's broken wrist.
- Jack healing from surgery.
- Healing of Peg Ewart from a recent fall.
- Alice for strength, patience and support.
- A dear friend, Jim, fighting a serious illness.
- Our Environment & National Parks.
- For our leaders to be courageous and work for the good of All.
- Journalists that reveal the truth.



A Note From Stewardship...

In an effort to be good stewards of Pilgrim's contributions from our members & friends, we need everyone's input regarding the following questions:



1. Should boxed contribution envelopes continue to be ordered?
2. If yes, are you willing to make an initial offering to cover the cost of the box?
3. If no, what would your suggestion be to replace the box of contribution envelopes?

Note: Last year the 100 Contribution envelope boxes cost \$4.06 per box.



Name: _____

1. YES NO (Circle One) **PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE**

2. Yes! _____

3. No! _____

6 _____

INVITATION

GOD'S PROMISE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PROMISE OF PARTICIPATION

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

CONGREGATIONS PROMISE (Unison)

We welcome you with joy into the common life of Pilgrim Church and renew our own covenant with Christ and His church. We promise You our friendship and prayers as we share in the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in awareness of God's love and be faithful witnesses to our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

ANTHEM

Joys Are Flowing Like A River

Jay Thomas

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION (Special U.C.C. Offering - Strengthen the Church)

THE OFFERTORY

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Peter Cults

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal)

No. 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER

(Black Hymnal)

Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1)

No. 451

Be now my vision, O God of my heart; nothing surpasses the love you impart-
You my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, your presence
my light.

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *This is the Day* No. 84

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Richard Gill
Acts 2:1 - 21 (page 103)
Galatians 6:4 - 6 (page 168)

SERMON *Who Is Responsible For Whom?* Rev. Kirk Bruce

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WE PREPARE OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE GIFT (Unison)
God of creation, there are times in which we wonder if You have ever regretted creating humanity. Nothing else in our creation has the power or desire to destroy like us. But then again, nothing has the ability to dream and create and love the way we do either. For the times in which we have chosen to break rather to heal we are sorry; for ways in which we have cut off others, rather than make room we are sorry. For forgetting to place You in the center of our hearts ask your forgiveness. Hear us now as we share our own shortcomings; hear us as we ask for Your forgiveness.

SILENT PRAYER

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT
Partaking of the bread - the body of Christ
Partaking of the cup - the blood of Christ

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN
We believe that the blessings of God are extended to children as well. To express this belief, children are invited to come forward, into the chancel, for the laying on of hands and blessing.

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* No. 282

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *(We invite you to join hands as we sing)*
(Black Hymnal) *Like a Tree Beside the Waters (Verse 1)* No. 313
Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care, we, O God, your sons and daughters your enduring witness bear. In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard. Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

POSTLUDE *Benedictus* François Conperin

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 Worshiping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PILGRIM WELCOMES THE 2017 CONFIRMANDS & THANK THEIR MENTORS!



Lindsey Mounts
Jaden Sandlin
Maura Schneider

Mentor: Janna Redd
Mentor: Jo Kindel
Mentor: Helen Hapanowicz

A Congregational Meeting has been called for



June 11th



following the Worship Service.

The **Knitting and Crochet** group that meets here at Pilgrim will meet Tuesday's on the 4th Tuesday, **June 27th, July 25th, & August 22nd.**

