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**stillspeaking Devotional of June 27, 2018**

**How We Heal** Written by Mary Luti

"Jesus went through all their towns proclaiming good news ... and making people well." - Matthew 9:35

The truth about human beings is that we're broken. The larger truth is that we heal. The even larger truth is that we heal each other. We have the power, often by the simplest of acts, to help each other heal.

The gospels' most vivid stories are about healing. We call them 'miracles,' and they are, but not just because the lame walk, the blind see, and the deaf hear. It's the way those things happen, so close, so human. Jesus lifts people to their feet, applies salve to their eyes, touches their ears.

The miracle isn't the healing. The miracle is that one person decides not to stand aloof from another person's pain. The wonder isn't that people are healed, it's that they're loved like that. The greatest need we have is to be treated with care, treated like human beings, but because that's so rare, when it happens it seems miraculous.

We say, "If you have your health, you have everything." That's not true. Some people aren't healthy, but they have something many healthy people would gladly trade for—people who pray for them, accompany them, don't forget them, a circle of care. In such circles even people facing death may experience a kind of healing, even the dying find the blessing of life.

Jesus didn't heal everyone, but he showed us a new kind of life that can be ours when we don't retreat into one-person worlds. He gathered the church as a circle of care to give that new life away, hand to hand, heart to heart, suffering body to suffering body.

It's how we heal—by the company we keep.

**Prayer:**

Encircle us with care, merciful Jesus, and make the church a healer, good company for the world.

**Looking Forward . . .**

October 7, 2018: World Communion Sunday & Neighbors In Need offering taken.

October 14, 2018: Healing Service at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary.

November 4, 2018: All Saints Day: Remembering those who have gone before us.

November 11, 2018: Stewardship Sunday Celebration

November 18, 2018: Baptism of Theodore Kusnarsky

**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**

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**Acolyte:** *Thank You!*

**Altar Flowers:** *In Memory of Gord.  
Nancy Van Waes*

**Greeters:** *Everyone present today!*

**Ushers:** *Thank You!*

**PowerPoint:** *Thank You!*

**Liturgist:** *Dan Gerstenberger*

**Fellowship:** *Free Community Lunch*

**Steeple Lighting:** *David Kump*

# *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, September 9, 2018



***Jesus the Healer!***  
**Rev. Richard F. Beck**

**Pilgrim United Church of Christ**  
**A Caring Church for Thinking People**  
**Sunday, September 9, 2018 † Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

THE PRELUDE *Requiem Aeternam* John Rutter  
\*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* No. 195

**OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 146)  
One: Praise the Lord, O my soul.  
**All: I will praise the Lord all my life.**  
One: It is the Lord who sets the captives free and gives sight to the blind.  
**All: All who are bowed down, the Lord will lift up. Let us praise the Lord.**

\*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Dan Gerstenberger  
**We gather together in Your house O Lord, to praise Your holy name. To recall the blessings of life You gift us with and to be grateful that there is no place You are not. You hear us when we cry. You celebrate with us when we dance. You walk beside us every step of our way. Thank you o Lord, for Your great love. Hear us 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 Dan Gerstenberger

CHILDREN'S SERMON *Health!* Rev. Richard F. Beck  
Faith Focus Marilyn Freeman

ANTHEM: *Pie Jesu* John Rutter

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH Black Hymnal, No. 885

**WE GIVE TO GOD**

**\*all who are able may stand**

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *He Smiled on Me* Geoffrey O'Hara

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER  
(Black Hymnal) *Sweet Hour of Prayer (vs. 1)* No. 505  
**Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!**

THE MORNING PRAYER

\*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *There is a Balm in Gilead* No. 553

**GOD GIVES TO US**

SCRIPTURES Mark 7:24 - 37 (page 37) Dan Gerstenberger

SERMON *Jesus the Healer!* Rev. Richard Beck

**WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE**

\*HYMN (Public Domain) *Open My Eyes, That I May See* See Insert

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *(We invite you to join hands as we sing)*  
*Spirit Song* by John Wimber  
**O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

POSTLUDE *Psalms 23 The Lord is My Shepherd* John Rutter

### 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!

### **Pray for:**

The Mounts' family grieving the death of their brother and uncle.  
Ralph, having double bypass surgery.  
Roberta, back and stomach problems.  
Tom, a friend, having open heart surgery.  
Dave & Sandy Noonan & Amy Trier grieving the death of nephew & son, Billie Trier.  
A young couple in a broken marriage.  
Jane and her family.  
Daughter-in-law with cancer, lymphoma, a mother of young children. Pray for healing and comfort for the family.  
A member with a new health issue added to her chronic conditions. Help her to cope and not give up.  
The children separated from their parents at our border.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Be sure to pick up produce from the garden in the Fellowship Hall. Donations for the produce is earmarked for the Free Community Lunch. **Marilyn Freeman**

**ACME CASH BACK program has begun!**  **Save your receipts!**  
**Supports the Pilgrim Mission Trip Fund.** **Place in the box in the Social Hall!**

Stewardship needs your help!

The cost of **envelopes** makes it necessary to have members and friends let the office know if you want a box of envelopes. We have weekly and monthly envelopes available for 2019 for anyone who would like them.

Stewardship Board will be making available on Sunday mornings an I-Pad for electronic offerings. Within the next weeks more information will be available to explain the "how to's" as Pilgrim moves towards the ability to make electronic offerings.

***A special note from Trustees . . . We at Pilgrim are proud of how well we keep our building and grounds looking. We appreciate all the volunteers that help in many ways by weeding, watering, trimming, and more. The lawn needs some TLC, seeding bare spots, thatching and weed control To allow the lawn to grow healthier, please refrain from driving on the lawn. Any questions, contact the office or one of the Trustee Board members. Thank you!***

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, September 9, 2018

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Richard F. Beck, Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Free Community Lunch, Social Hall  
11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board meeting, Heritage Room  
2:45 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501, Adult Library

### Monday, September 10, 2018

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Ty Kwon Do Demo, Social Hall  
6:30 p.m. Trustees Board meeting, Adult Library

### Tuesday, September 11, 2018

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library  
8:00 p.m. Broad Highway Group AA, Heritage Room

### Wednesday, September 12, 2018

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Dance, Social Hall  
2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Adult Library & Children's Library

### Thursday, September 13, 2018

3:30 - 9:15 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Rev. Greene Room  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #3186 Den meetings, Adult & Children's Library, Nursery & Classroom #27  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

### Friday, September 14, 2018

### Saturday, September 15, 2018

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Akron Multi-District AA meeting, Adult Library  
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

### Sunday, September 16, 2018 - Family Gathering Sunday

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Free Community Lunch - Team #3, Social Hall

### Monday, September 17, 2018

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Ty Kwan Do, Social Hall  
6:30 p.m. Diaconate Board Meeting, Adult Library  
7:00 p.m. Council meeting, Heritage Room