



The Pilgrim Spire November 2022



Pilgrim
United Church of Christ
130 Broad Blvd.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Pastor's Parable

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office:

Phone: 330.928.4847
Fax: 330.928.1017

Staff & E-Mail:

Guest Pastor:

Rev. Carol Clements
pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net

Faith Formation Director:

Open Position
pilgrimce@ameritech.net

Music Director: Benjamin Knight

Choir Director: Kimberly Knight

Secretary: Kelly Gerstenberger
pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net



Website: www.pilgrimcf.org

You'll find electronic versions of *The Pilgrim Spire*, Calendar, and more!

The Pilgrim Spire is published once a month.

Contact the church office:

- If you have something to share with your fellow Pilgrims in the next edition of . . . *The Pilgrim Spire*.
- If you'd like an electronic version of *The Pilgrim Spire* by email.
- Your address has changed.

Thank you!

In the absence of a Pastor's Parable, I have included a devotion from Amazing Freedom: Devotions to Free Your Spirit and Fill Your Heart, page 119 - 125. Kelly Gerstenberger, Secretary

Freedom to Be Kind

Marilyn Meberg

Be kind to one another. - Ephesians 4:32a NKJV

Well now, isn't that kind?" was a statement Mrs. Hooker frequently made. She lived next door to us when I was seven years old. She smiled a lot, made me lemonade, and told me I was kind. Naturally, I liked her. Because I was sure she was at least 128 years old, I felt constrained to do "kind" things for her each day because I was certain she had only few days left. I wanted her remaining time on earth to be filled with good things. (I was such a precious child...)

One day we were sitting on Mrs. Hooker's front porch drinking lemonade. I was chattering on endlessly about my wild exciting life when Mrs. Hooker interjected, "Well now, isn't that kind?" at a moment that didn't fit. I'd been describing how John Dietz kept poking Darlene Partridge in the ribs during reading group that morning. That Mrs. Hooker should say John's behavior was kind startled me. I looked at her face to see if her expression would help me understand why she said what she did. But she continued to smile and encouraged me to keep talking.

With the passing of time and many porch conversations under my belt, I realized Mrs. Hooker frequently said, "Well now, isn't that kind?" when the comment didn't fit. I was alarmed to ultimately realize Mrs. Hooker didn't have a clue about what was kind and what was not. In fact, sadly, I realized Mrs. Hooker didn't have a clue about much of anything. She was pleasant, made good lemonade, and encouraged my chatter, but I began to find our times together troubling. My mother encouraged me to continue my kindnesses to Mrs. Hooker but to understand that her mind was not as sharp as it once was and advised me to not take it personally when she had a fadeout that produced a "Well now, isn't that kind?" comment that didn't fit.

Reluctantly, I got used to this new reality about Mrs. Hooker. When her neighbor's dog chased a frantic cat up a tree and Mrs. Hooker said, "Well now, isn't that kind?" her words fell into a new category in my thinking, but things were never the same category in my thinking, but things were never the same for me. I wanted her to really know that dog was wrong to chase a cat up a tree. I wanted Mrs. Hooker to know the difference between kind and unkind. And, of course, I wanted her to know I truly was kind.

The dictionary defines kind as exhibiting a "friendly, generous, and warmhearted nature." We all love people who

— Continued on Page 2 —

Pastor's Parable - Continued

display a generous and warmhearted nature. Such people make us feel secure and safe. Such people cause us to believe in the possibility of a world with only porches and lemonade instead of mean dogs and scared cats.

I have recently become the recipient of behavior that is truly "friendly, generous, and warmhearted" from my good friend Les Clairmont. Not long ago, while he and Patsy were driving home from the mall, Les said, "Patsy, I want to do something really nice for Marilyn, but I don't know what that could be."

I had just had back surgery that I thought would immediately eliminate my nerve pain; it did not. (Now, three weeks later, the pain is steadily decreasing, but for a while I feared I'd have to learn how to manage that pain the rest of my life.) Les commented to Patsy that my house full of flowers from dear friends cheering me on, so he knew I was certainly not in need of another bouquet. "What do you think I could do?"

After thoughtful reflection, Patsy said, "Well, she's not eating much; the pain has really diminished her appetite. I know she loves custard, and I think that would be soothing for her. But where can you buy custard that doesn't come in a little Gerber jar from the grocery store?"

"I know how to get good custard, Patsy," Les said. "I am going to make her some."

Patsy stared at her husband in disbelief. "You've never made custard in your life, Leslie Clairmont!"

"I know, but it's time I started!"

As soon as they got home, Patsy scoured her cookbooks for a custard recipe but couldn't find one. They called a friend in Michigan who did not have one either. Finally, Patsy found a custard recipe on the Internet and copied it down. With the recipe in hand, Les went to the grocery store and bought each item, including perfect little custard cups. Then, according to Patsy, he threw himself into clattering and banging around the kitchen. Several hours later, he sent Patsy to my house bearing warm-from-the-oven custard. I was stunned when Patsy walked in with these treasures. "Did you do this, Patsy? How kind!" I said.

"I'd love to take credit, but Les did these himself," Patsy admitted. "You have to know, Marilyn, this is from a guy who never cooks except to occasionally throw a hunk of cow on the barbecue. I can't guarantee this offering."

I sat down and dove immediately into the first little cup. It was fantastic! Then I dove into the second little cup . . . Equally fantastic. What a wonderfully soothing and satisfying treat! Patsy stared at me as I shamelessly devoured all the custard. She said, "You know, Marilyn, custard is one of my favorite foods too. I can't believe I've been married to Les Clairmont for more than forty years and had no idea I could have been crying out for custard all that time!" Of course, I'm encouraging Patsy not to be bitter.

Now, two weeks later, Patsy regularly comes to my door with warm-from-the-oven custard from "the custard man." I am thrilled and grateful. With a full heart and contented stomach, I have to say, "Well now, isn't that kind?"

Second Peter speaks of the righteousness of God and how we are to mirror that righteousness to others. These words describe what Les is doing for me: "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in you self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness" (1:5 - 7 NASB). Thanks, Les, for your brotherly kindness.

There is real freedom we experience as we live out of a heart of intentional kindness. When I was attempting to make Mrs. Hooker's life pleasant, I felt a sense of "This is right . . . this is good," which translated into a sense of peace for my seven-year-old soul. Now admittedly, I had the human urge to get credit and to be recognized as a kind little kid, but that self-serving tendency was not the source of my gratification. The source of gratification came from responding to God's directive about how I was to live.

— Continued on Page 3 —

Pastor's Parable - Continued

The theology of that was not yet clear to me, but the inner feeling was. The Holy Spirit took up residence in me when I was five years old. I learned that as a result of his presence I was compelled to do the right thing and was uncomfortable when I didn't. One of the verses I learned in Sunday school was "Be kind to one another" (Ephesians 4:32 NKJV). No matter how that verse might cramp my style, I knew when I paid attention to it and obeyed, there came with that obedience a sense of inner freedom.

First Corinthians 13:4 says, "Love suffers long and is kind" (NKJV). That comes with the same freedom-producing reward. I have learned over the years that my job as a believer in and receiver of Jesus as my Savior is to be obedient to his admonitions. With that obedience comes a lightness of being that I recognize as freedom from the shackles of selfish self-centeredness.

It is interesting to observe the outpouring of kindness and love from thousands of people responding to the enormous needs of those whose lives have recently been devastated by floods, hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis, and earthquakes. People from all over the world are responding quickly and generously in an effort to rebuild homes, restore health, and reunite loved ones. This outpouring of human caring springs from people who do not necessarily know Christ as Savior. But they do know that the urging in their hearts to help and be kind cannot be ignored. Where does that urging come from?

We are all created in the image of God. We each bear the indelible God-imprint that unites us as persons created by God. One of the characteristics of God is that he is a God of love. He is a God who is kind and promises to meet us in our need no matter how large or small. That God-imprint is carried by all persons. Some have chosen to go against it and refuse to acknowledge that all human beings are to be treated with love and kindness. Then there are some who choose to live out their God-given desire to be kind but do not choose to receive Christ as Savior. Those persons miss the joy of being personally connected to the very One who authors their instinct to be kind. God placed that instinct with all people. What we do with it is a choice each of us is free to make.

As believers, we hear the words of Jesus, who told the disciples as well as those of us who follow centuries later to "give as freely as you have received" (Matthew 10:* NLT). Our acts of kindness spring from gratitude toward God, who has given to us freely. Each of us experiences soul freedom as we give.

Although Mrs. Hooker lost the ability to discern what was kind and what was not, she nevertheless continues to give freely to me. Her porch and her lemonade were always available. So now, nearly sixty years later, I can look back on her daily receiving of me and say, "Well now, wasn't that kind?"

Prayer:

Lord, reveal to me how I can intentionally show kindness to others. Release me from the bondage of self-centeredness so I can freely give to others as I have received from you.

ANNIVERSARYS

11/16 - Michael & Katherine Subichin (9)

11/23 - Jason & Terry VanHorn (25)

BIRTHDAYS - November

Date — Name (Age)

11/04 - Don Robart; Crystal Wagner

11/06 - Donna Ford

11/13 - Kacy Wagner

11/16 - Mark Holzapfel

11/19 - Jarrod Hampshire

11/20 - Rich Gill

11/29 - Karen Day; Ruth Fowler



BIRTHDAYS - December

Date — Name (Age)

12/04 - Jim Hampshire

12/05 - Rebecca Kuznarsky

12/09 - Kate Ing

12/16 - Cindy Spenoso

12/17 - Rayna Kasperk

12/20 - Carol Letvin

12/25 - Kellianne Sutton-Bosely

12/27 - Brandon McIntyre

COUNCIL

Contact the Chairperson of the following Boards & Committees for the next meeting

Council:

Brian Ewart, Kathie Richards, Mark Opritza

Diaconate: Kathie Richards

Evangelism: Not an active board

Faith Formation: Needed

Stewardship: Needed

Trustees: Dan Gerstenberger

DIACONATE

The Crafts and Carols Advent Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 30th, at 6 p.m. Your help will be needed to get things up and running again!

First, plan on bringing your favorite side dish, salad, or casserole to round out our meal! We will provide fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, dessert, and beverages.

Second, if you have an idea for a craft we can enjoy, talk to Kathie. And

Third, invite a friend for an evening of fellowship and fun!

Sign up sheets will be on the entry table so we have an idea of how to plan. Help with set up and clean up would be appreciated! We look forward to a festive evening!



FAITH FORMATION



The collection box is in the hallway on the way to the sanctuary from the parking lot.

Place your receipts with the "Community Cash Back" amounts in the collection box or send to Pilgrim's office. \$1,220.95 has been received!

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN



We will have Saturday dinners through the end of the year.

When you are cleaning your cupboards to make room for holiday meals please remember the Blessing Box. The need is great.

Suggested donations.

Pasta (not including mac and cheese)

Dried Beans

Canned Meats: tuna, chicken, & spam

Canned Vegetables - NOT corn or green beans

Canned Fruits

Mashed Potatoes

Snacks, Energy Bars, Breakfast Bars, Trail Mix, Pop Tarts & Chewing Gum

Rice

Canned Ready-to-eat meals: Stew, Chilli, Spaghetios, etc. (Chunky meat soup that can be added to pasta to make a family meal)

Soup - NOT tomato

Deodorant

Toothpaste & Tooth Brushes

Bar Soap

Essentials: 3 in 1 (body wash, shampoo and conditioner)

Shaving Cream & Razors

Pocket Size Kleenex

We really appreciate all the folks that have supported us through the last year. Also, know that the folks that use the blessing box really appreciate it too.

In December we will try to do the advent box like last year. We will give more details in the December news letter

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The pastoral search committee:



Brian Ewart, Chairperson
Bob Kindel, Chaplain
Kathie Richards
Katherine Subichin, Secretary

Beverly Hannahs
David Kump
Cindy Spenoso

Next Meeting: X

PRAYERS & PRAISES

- ◇ Trisha, who has stopped taking her medication and interactions with her family are destructive.
- ◇ Helen recovered from an August surgery at home.
- ◇ Jackie, at home following surgery and rehabilitation.
- ◇ Jim & Sandi's work on the Rose Garden.
- ◇ Ukraine and surrounding countries living in the instability of war.
- ◇ Gun violence ripping apart families and communities.
- ◇ Love for all people.
- ◇ Those who are dealing with another hurricane season and the anxiety that leads up to the storm surges on land, need for housing, and clean-up.

SHARING AMERICA'S RESOURCES ABROAD

SARA has set up a Ukraine Relief Fund. Donations should be mailed to:
Heartland Conference
Attn: SARA Relief Fund
PO Box 1230
Worthington OH 43085



Checks should be made out to the **Heartland Conference** with "**SARA Relief Fund**" in the memo line.
Thank you, Bob & Jo Kindel

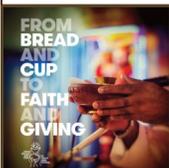
STEWARDSHIP

Good Neighbors will be off the month of December this year. Looking at their needs, the decision has been made to change what has been traditionally collected for Good Neighbors at this time of year.

There is a need for blankets and towel and washcloth sets. While doing your holiday shopping this month, please consider purchasing a good quality blanket and towel set to share with the Good Neighbor clients. Then bring them to the Advent Dinner.

If you have already picked up toys, socks, hats, gloves, or scarves, please give them to Kathie or Kelly in the next week or two. This will allow the items to be given to families who visit the center in November. Thank you for being a blessing to those in need this Christmas season!

Neighbors in Need Offering Update
Thank you for your prayerful consideration.
\$125.00 has been sent to the Living Water Association Office!



The Stewardship Campaign theme,

"From Bread and Cup To Faith and Giving,"

November 13, 2022

THANK YOU'S

Dear Pilgrim Friends,

Just a note to express my appreciation for the lovely Altar Flowers and especially for the nice visit with Sandi Ignizio who brought them. Sandi took the time to bring me up to date on people and activities and in general . . . "Pilgrim's Progress." Many Thanks, Helen Hapanowicz

TREASURER

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

Contributions Received:

\$ 1,065.00	September 4, 2022	\$ 1,365.00	October 2, 2022
\$ 7,075.50+	September 11, 2022	\$ 2,692.00	October 9, 2022
\$ 3,083.50	September 18, 2022	\$ 5,725.00+	October 16, 2022
\$ 3,830.00	September 25, 2022	\$ 2,164.50	October 23, 2022
\$15,053.00	September Totals	\$	October 30, 2022
		\$11,946.50	October Totals

+Ameriprise-Reserve Income (Asset Movement \$5,000.00 + \$ 2,000.00 = \$7,000.00)

End of September 2022: Balance of all Ameriprise Accounts: \$321,512.33+

End of September 2022: Income: \$10,054.79 Expenses: \$16,302.47

As of October 25, 2022: Income: \$10,124.13 Expenses: \$6,298.75

+Waiting on the October Ameriprise Statement

TRUSTEES

Cold weather is approaching and preparations have been made.

Jennings Heating & Cooling has been onsite to perform the fall check of our equipment and change the air filters. This preventive work is done in both spring and fall as part of our yearly maintenance contract. (Less service calls are needed and the equipment operates more efficiently.)

Pilgrim United Church of Christ has an agreement in place with IGS Energy to supply our natural gas at a fixed rate during the 2022 – 2023 season.

Ingersoll Landscape Co on Steels Corners will be plowing and salting the parking lot as needed this season.

As the leaves continue to fall, they will be raked to the lawn along Broad Blvd for pickup.

Additions to our calendar:

Our Saturday night AA group has returned to holding in-person meetings in the Social Hall. We are proud to host one of the oldest AA group meetings since Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in 1935.

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening of the month we host the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club. Jim Albright is a member and brought the club meetings to Pilgrim when their previous site was closed for renovations.

Wifi coverage has been expanded into the Heritage Room and Social Hall.

On a personal note, I appreciate how faithful the weekly contributions have been and all your support and prayers that bind us together.

A very special service was hosted on September 11th to honor Rev. Glen Shedlock's retirement. I give a grateful heartfelt THANK YOU to all that attended and contributed to his send-off.

Shalom,
Dan Gerstenberger, Trustee Chair



Pumpkin Patch



Downloaded 10.25.2022 from https://www.crayola.com/-/media/Crayola/Coloring-Page/coloring_pages/258.gif?h=560&la=en&mh=560&mw=540&w=453



Downloaded 10.25.2022 from <https://www.crayola.com/-/media/Crayola/Coloring-Page/coloring-pages-2022/free-pumpkin-coloring-page.png?h=560&la=en&mh=560&mw=540&w=472>



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

November 2022 ~ Calendar



<p>OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Website: www.pilgrimcf.org</p> <p>Facebook: Cuyahoga Falls Pilgrim United Church of Christ</p>	<p>Group Key:</p> <p>AMMS=Absorbent Minds Montessori School AA=Alcoholics Anonymous BHG=Broad Highway Group</p> <p>CS=Cub Scouts EA=Emotions Anonymous PCL=Pilgrim's Community Lunch</p> <p>WRSS=Western Reserve Suzuki School</p>	<p>Room Key:</p> <p>AL=Adult Library AT=Attic SA=Sanctuary C=Classroom CL=Children's Library</p> <p>HR=Heritage Room K=Kitchen MR=Music Room</p> <p>RGR=Rev. Greene Room SH=Social Hall</p>
---	--	--

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AMMS All Saint's Day 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL 6:45-9:00 p.m. BHG AA, SH	2 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS -Violin, AL	3 AMMS 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Scout Pack #3186 mtg., SH, AT 7:30-9:30 pm EA, AL	4 AMMS	5 6-10 p.m. AA, SH
6 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship Service, SA</i> <i>11:30 a.m. Social Hour - Treats & Beverages, SH</i>	7 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL	8 AMMS 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL 6:45-9:00 p.m. BHG AA, SH	9 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS -Violin, AL 6:45 - 9:30 p.m. Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, SH	10 AMMS 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Scout Pack #3186 mtg., SH, AT 7:30-9:30 pm EA, AL	11 AMMS	12 <i>9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Living Water Association Annual Meeting, 1st Congregational Church, Hudson</i> <i>9 a.m. - 2 p.m. PCL - Meal, Kitchen & Social Hall</i> <i>10:00 - 12 Noon Scout Pack #3186 - Parent/Committee Mtg., AL</i> 6 -10 p.m. AA, SH
13 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship Service, SA</i> <i>11:30 a.m. Social Hour - Beverages, SH</i>	14 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL	15 AMMS 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL 6:45-9:00 p.m. BHG AA, SH	16 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS -Violin, AL	17 AMMS 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Scout Pack #3186 mtg., SH, AT 7:30-9:30 pm EA, AL	18 AMMS AMMS - Operation Christmas Child, SH <i>5:00 p.m. December Spire Information Deadline</i>	19 1:00-4:00 p.m. Akron Multi-District AA mtg, AL 6-10 p.m. AA, SH
20 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship Service, SA</i> <i>11:30 a.m. Social Hour - Beverages, SH</i>	21 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL	22 AMMS 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL 6:45-9:00 p.m. BHG AA, SH	23 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS -Violin, AL 6:45 - 9:30 p.m. Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, SH	24 Offices Closed Thanksgiving Day 7:30-9:30 pm EA, AL	25 Offices Closed	26 6-10 p.m. AA, SH
27 First Sunday of Advent <i>10:30 a.m. Worship Service, SA</i> <i>11:30 a.m. Social Hour - Beverages, SH</i>	28 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL	29 AMMS 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. WRSS-Violin, AL 6:45-9:00 p.m. BHG AA, SH	30 AMMS 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. WRSS -Violin, AL 6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner, Social Hall			

Pilgrim United Church of Christ †
130 Broad Blvd.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221



Address Correction Requested



November 2022 The Pilgrim Spire

Sunday Schedule:

10:30 am Worship

Recorded Worship Services:

Website: www.pilgrimcf.org

Facebook: *Cuyahoga Falls Pilgrim United Church of Christ*

Contact us at:

www.pilgrimcf.org

330.928.4847



Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff:

November Guest/Pulpit Supply Pastor

Rev. Carol Clements

pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net

**Music Director
Benjamin Knight**

**Choir Director
Kimberly Knight**

**Secretary
Kelly Gerstenberger,
pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net**

**Faith Formation Director
Open Position
pilgrimce@ameritech.net**