



Spring 2023

Pastor MiMi's Musings

Reflection is good for the soul

In this time of change of seasons and as we journeyed through Lent to Easter, it is good to take time to reflect and re-center in our good God's loving embrace.

As part of my ordination path and being an official authorized minister in the UCC, I am invited to create a ministerial profile. Several hours, twenty-plus pages and multiple edits later, I was relieved and rejuvenated. It is empowering to name and claim the action of God in our lives.

Looking back on our Pilgrim journey together fills me with gratitude. I would like to share some of the insights with you as a thank you note of sorts.

Serving at Pilgrim to serve as a licensed pastor has further instilled that sense of being at home. In writing up the summary for license renewal, I saw how God has used all that has come before in my life to help prepare me for this part of my journey. I am so grateful and amazed to have found a home in the United Church of Christ.

I noted three accomplishments at Pilgrim:

1. *I helped form and guide a leadership team 'Pilgrim Reboot 2.0' that updated our foundational documents (Constitution and By-Laws); created an organizational chart; reviewed and established policies and procedures; and created a behavioral covenant "Pilgrim Covenant of Grace." As the chair proclaimed: "Yes, after many months of hard work, the Reboot Team is presenting a new Constitution and By-laws. We as a church set a timeline of every 5 years to review our documents. It has been 9 years since our last review, so we are long overdue."*
2. *My ordination was a beautiful event that the Pilgrim Community really embraced. I suggested we approach it like inviting family and friends over to a party at your house. We made some much-needed physical improvements and did some deep cleaning and organizing, including interior and exterior painting and signage. Bright exterior painting and signage (primary colors of the rainbow) makes a more visible*

welcome to our Church and Preschool. We also had a summer Yard Sale which raised some funds by selling unneeded stuff we cleaned out.

3. *I spent some time focusing a bit on our presence – both virtual and print – to help promote our weekly service and special events. I updated our Facebook account, and started Instagram and Nextdoor accounts. I also, researched and contracted with a provider to update our website and the Preschool's website. I set a schedule for our newsletters and instituted a weekly email with the bulletin and announcements. In addition, I worked with a graphic designer to create a brochure. She also created a new logo for our Preschool and a similar one for our Church.*

I shared my overall approach to ministry: Love God. Love neighbor. It really is that simple. That is the theme of our holy books and the best of our lived faith tradition. The love of God cannot be separated from a love of self and a love of others. Our walk as Christians is not only about God and me, but perhaps even more importantly about God and us. I have grown to appreciate how the various threads of my life are woven together and how they come into play in my life's work and ministry.

One of my favorite quotes that sums up my theology of ministry is from Anne Lamott : Our preacher Veronica said recently that this is life's nature: that lives, and hearts get broken – those of people we love, those of people we will never meet. She said that the world sometimes feels like the waiting room of the emergency ward and that we who are more or less OK for now need to take the tenderest of possible care of the more wounded people in the waiting room, until the healer comes. You sit with people, she said, you bring them juice and graham crackers.

An early formative experience was an alternative Spring Break service trip in rural Appalachia where I learned and experienced the power of the ministry of presence. I have known in my life the healing and transformative power of time and attention and a seemingly small gesture of kindness and care by a friend or family member – or even a stranger. I am grateful to serve as an ordained minister.

THANK YOU, PILGRIM CHURCH FAMILY!



Highlights from Lent And Easter

We had a meaningful Lenten season this year starting with service on Ash Wednesday in the chapel on February 22 and ending with the delivery of Easter flowers to our at home members on April 11.

Our Lenten studies each Sunday after church started with tasty soup, bread & dessert. Then we had stimulating conversations about the last days in Jesus' life.

Thank you for contributing to the 30 Pieces of Silver collection. This fundraiser is named after Judas' betrayal of Jesus and will benefit Truth and Destiny and Washington UCC. \$451 was collected.

Our other fundraiser was receiving 20% on purchases from The Fawn Candy. We will report the amount when it has been received. This fundraiser will benefit our Music Fund.

Palm Sunday service began with a palm procession through the sanctuary and a beautiful service of lessons and hymns including Judy Oetzel and Marcia Lucas playing the handbells. Maundy Thursday was a solemn, meaningful service to lead us into Good Friday and our Easter prayer vigil on Saturday.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful, sunny day to celebrate our risen Lord. The sanctuary was filled with Easter flowers that smelled wonderful. The service was beautiful with music by our music leaders: Carol Gangwer, Marcia Lucas and Clare Hingsbergen. We had a special treat of having Wes Neal join us playing the trumpet.

On Tuesday, April 11 Vickie Clark, Karen Fyke, Debbie Heintz & Pastor MiMi delivered the Easter flowers to our at home members. Thank you to all who donated to purchasing the flowers.





Since our last newsletter we have had some changes to the music platform for our church services. We are pleased to announce that Carol Gangwer has been hired as our Music Minister to play the organ and piano. She is a lifetime Westsider. Carol has a Bachelors degree in Music Education from UC-CCM and a Masters degree from Miami University with emphasis in education, administration/supervision. She taught music in the Cincinnati Public Schools and then moved to Oak Hills Local Schools for the remainder of her career where she moved from the classroom to Fine Arts Coordinator for the school district. Carol was the organist and Music Director at Cheviot UMC from 1962-2022. She plays piano duets with Marcia for Creative Aging of Cincinnati in nursing & retirement homes, senior centers, churches and special programs throughout the city. She enjoys family dinners every Sunday evening, reading, attending the symphony, ballet & theater as well as traveling.

Marcia Lucas has volunteered to accompany Carol on the piano. She is originally from Grove City, PA and attended Baldwin Wallace University majoring in piano performance. She loves to accompany choir and solo performances. Marcia taught piano lessons at home & at the Baldwin Piano & Organ Co. Since retiring from Baldwin she continues to teach private lessons in her home. Marcia has one daughter, one son, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter who all live close. Marcia enjoys reading, traveling, working 1,000 piece puzzles and playing duets with Carol, "It Takes Two" for Creative Aging of Cincinnati. Marcia is working with Judy Oetzel and Stephanie Schuler to begin playing our handbells again.

Clare Hingsbergen has graciously volunteered to lead our singing and has been providing our special music with her wonderful voice. Clare comes to us through Pat Neidhard. Clare is Tom's (Pat's brother-in-law) voice teacher and sang with Tom here at Pilgrim in the past. Clare is a government contracting officer and a singer with the Songs by Heart Foundation. Clare is also involved with The Drama Workshop where you can see her perform in many of their plays.

Welcome to Carol, Marcia and Clare! We are so blessed to have your musical talents enhance our worship services.

Clare Hingsbergen



Marcia Lucas & Carol Gangwer



A Message from Daryl,

As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, I'm reviewing the new By-Laws that we as a congregation approved. If you notice something that needs to be made clearer or even find a spelling mistake, let me know.

I came across an interesting article about always remembering the good in life. I summarized it for the newsletter.

Shalom, Daryl

80% Approach book by Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan's book 80% Approach, is written for the business world. He talks about how businesses often want to have everything perfect or at least close to perfection. There are things that need to be 100%; a heart pacemaker can't work 80% of the time. And there is nothing wrong with working on making improvements. The "problem" is a business can get so wrapped up in the 20% that they are not happy with, they lose track of the 80% that is good. They can destroy their business if they ignore the 80% that is good.

A psychologist suggested we apply this 80% idea beyond business; use it for everyday life. How often do we get ourselves focusing on a problem that it blinds us to all the good? 80% is the number Dan came up with. Your number may be 90% or 70%, but you get the idea. If I enjoy the overall experience I get from a group, organization, church, etc., I shouldn't let the few things I don't care for keep me away. This doesn't mean we can't discuss ideas and make changes; but let's never forget to celebrate the good!



Adult Conference

June 19th—23rd

Adult Conference is full of endless possibilities where faith is deepened and broadened, ministry leaders are born and nurtured, and fellowship within the wider Church is strengthened. The UCC and DOC (Disciples of Christ) Ohio conferences are joining together for this year's Adult Conference. The theme, *All Things in Common*, is from Acts 2:42-47, and celebrates the ecumenical partnership of our two denominations. The festivities take place Monday, June 19th through Friday, June 23rd at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus, OH. If you want to enjoy a week of learning, worship, singing, fellowship, Bible study and relaxation, then this program will spiritually revive you. Evening vespers, keynote speakers, and daily Bible lectures are highlights of each day led by ministers from each denomination. There are also a variety of workshops to choose from such as the presence of God in our everyday lives, approaching spirituality as we age, music as worship and several others. Cost is \$230 (which includes two meals per day). Lodging is at a nearby Hampton Inn (\$520/four nights, two queen beds). For more information, the website is <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/adult-conference.aspx>

Pat Neidhard is planning to attend.

Registration deadline is June 5th. See Pat or call the church office for more information.

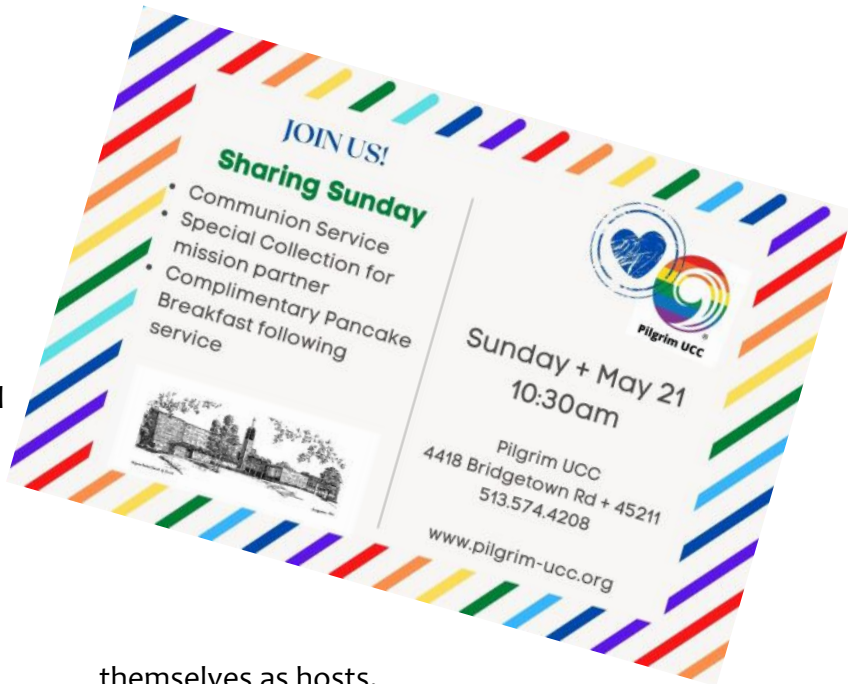


Sharing Sunday

The Board of Church Ministry would like to encourage everyone to participate in Sharing Sunday.

Sharing Sunday is a worship service to expand Pilgrim's community and connections. Communion will be served during worship service. We will gather after service for our pancake breakfast. A special collection will be taken for our identified mission partner. We will ask the mission partner to attend the service. A special performance by choir members or other talents would be welcomed. Please coordinate with Carol.

We ask that each person who regularly attends **bring one guest**. A special effort will be made to reach members who cannot join weekly service. Visitors will experience a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and if they are looking for a faith community, they might consider Pilgrim. Weekly worshipers will feel inspired and motivated to share their faith and see



themselves as hosts.

Many people do not worship weekly. **Most people attend church because they were personally invited.** We need to always reach out to others! Trying new things keeps our church community vibrant.

Scout Sunday

was observed on **February 12** and we were joined in worship with our Boy Scout Troop 288. The troop presented the flags and led the pledge of allegiance. Eli Doll and Jeremiah Campbell lead the Call to Worship, scripture reading and prayers of the people. Nikolaus Tripathy updated us with what the troop has been doing. It was so nice to celebrate Scout Sunday and worship with our boys, troop leaders and their parents.



Special thanks to Debbie Heintz for everything she does to support our troop.

Enjoyed Scout Sunday and welcomed participation of our own [Cincinnati Boy Scout Troop 288](#) 🙌🏻



Cincinnati Boy Scout Troop 288

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PILGRIM

All of the church boards have been busy. There is always something going on and things that need to be attended to. To keep everyone in the congregation informed, below is an update from each of the boards.

Board of Church Ministry

- ◆ We will continue to serve communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The weekly bulletin has been simplified to use less paper. Since COVID we are returning to some former practices; circulate during the welcome and ending the service holding hands, singing Bless Be the Tie that Binds.
- ◆ We hired Carol Gangwer as our Music Director, replacing Brandon. Carol's friend, Marcia Lucas has volunteered to accompany Carol on the piano and has taken on coordinating the playing of the hand bells. In addition to Carol and Marcia, Clare Hingsbergen has volunteered as our song leader. We are truly blessed to have all three of these ladies enhance our services with their musical talents.
- ◆ We had Pancake Breakfast after church in February, March and April. Our last Pancake Breakfast before taking off for the summer will be on May 21. A big thank you to our breakfast chefs, Terry Parsons, Denny Schmidt, John Waples and Terry Bossman, along with those who help set up, serve and clean up.
- ◆ Lent was a busy time with a lot of activities. We had services on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. Our prayer vigil was from home again this year on Saturday, 4/8.
- ◆ The church was beautifully decorated with Easter flowers, along with donations of flowers that were delivered to our at home members. We coordinated two fundraisers; 30 pieces of Silver and The Fawn Candy. We had a Lenten bible study on Sundays after church discussing the "Last Words of Jesus".
- ◆ Vickie Clark is working to complete the church banner from the squares that we made at the church picnic. We plan to present the new banner on Pentecost Sunday, 5/28/23.
- ◆ We have had several birthdays to celebrate in the 90's club since the beginning of the year. In January we celebrated Marilyn Fuller, who turned 93 on 1/20. Val Brandt celebrated his 91st birthday on 2/28. In March we celebrated Midge Wiedenbein who turned 94 on 3/11 and Jean Veith who celebrated her 99th birthday on 3/25. Eileen Garrabrant's 94th birthday on 4/27 was celebrated a little early as she will be traveling on her birthday.
- ◆ We will be hosting Sharing Sunday on May 21. Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Pancake breakfast will follow worship service.

Mission & Outreach

The Board of Mission and Outreach plans and carries out several programs during the year. In the fall, we have a Back to School collection to provide uniforms or clothing for Camp Washington kids returning to school. Also in the fall, we sponsor a coat drive that was started by our dear friend, Joanie Flaig. We collect coats that remain in lost and found at schools or from others who have gently used children's coats and hoodies. These coats and hoodies are washed and then distributed to families who need help providing warm clothing for their children.

Joanie's Coat Ministry will continue each year or at least every other year.

In November, we collect food for Truth & Destiny Church and Delshire School. We also collect food for both of those places on the first Sunday of every month.

In December, we receive information from CO Harrison and Delshire Schools for our Giving Tree Ministry. We are able, with the help of Pilgrim Preschool to provide gifts for the families who need assistance at Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of the Pilgrim members, we have been very successful with this ministry.

We are open for new ideas, so please don't hesitate to communicate with our members. We will try to feed the women at the Homeless Shelter and we will coordinate with another church to provide food and hygiene bags for the homeless. We thank you for your ongoing support for all of these programs.

Preschool Board

The Preschool has received a grant. Money from the grant is being used to purchase some new technology items and will be used for building improvements which will include some funding for air conditioning the Preschool classrooms.

As a fundraiser, the Preschool will be hosting a vendor night on May 12 where vendors can set up booths to sell their products.

Miss Barb, one of the Preschool teachers will be retiring after many years with our Preschool.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has been meeting regularly. Updates have been made to the employee handbook. Unfortunately in January we had to terminate our Administrative Assistant,

Lynn Schwarz. We are currently beginning the process of filling that position. We are blessed to have Debbie Heintz filling in again. Thank you Deb! In January we hired Carol Gangwer as our Worship Music Leader. We also worked with Pastor MiMi to finalize her Call Agreement.

Board of Stewards

Here are some of the projects we are working on:

Getting a quote for repairing/painting the ceiling of the hallway entry of the Sanctuary.

Quotes for replacing our electronic sign.

Air conditioning bids for the Fellowship Hall & Preschool.

Exterior painting for the front of church and the preschool playground wall.

Quotes for a new AED machine received—cost to be shared between church and preschool.

Training will be provided to church members and preschool staff.

Dishwasher—getting quotes on cost to repair or replace.

Allocated funds for cleaning up the front yard.

Lower parking lot lights have been fixed.

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Thank you to Sue and Denny Schmidt for attending the day-long House of Worship Security Program on Saturday, 3/25. This program entailed physical and personal security, youth safety, how to handle critical incidents, electronic data security and active shooter response. The class covered all areas to come up with a security plan for inside and outside the church (evacuation/disaster plan). It is our goal to ensure our church and preschool are safe and secure for all.

2023 Board Members

Council

President – Nancy Matthew	Feb. 2023 through Jan. 2025	1st term
President Elect – David Hoehn	Feb. 2023 through Jan. 2025	1st term
Secretary – Carol Smith	Feb. 2023 through Jan. 2025	2nd term
Treasurer – Denise Simpson	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
Treasurer Elect – N/A		

The Board of Church Ministry (5-7 members for a term of 2 years. At least one member must be a choir member.)

1. Debbie Heintz, chair	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
2. Judy Hoehn	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Karen Fyke	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
4. Pat Neidhard, secretary	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
5. Scott Kiefer, choir	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
6. Shelley Kiefer, choir	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
7. Vickie Clark	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

The Board of Stewards (4-6 members for a term of 2 years.)

1. Carolyn Scheidt	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
2. David Hoehn	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Debbie Wooton, secretary	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
4. Denny Schmidt, chair	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
5. Jean Egan	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
6. Terry Bossman	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

The Preschool Board (4 members for a term of 2 years.)

1. Amber Tenhundfeld	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
2. Debbie Wooton, secretary	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Denise Simpson	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
4. Susan Sroczyński, chair	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

The Board of Mission and Outreach (4-6 members for a term of 2 years)

1. Carol Smith	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
2. Cheri Sprague	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Judy Hoehn, co-chair	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
4. Karen Essell, co-chair	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
5. Nancy Matthew	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
6. Wendy Hemsink	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

2023 Committee Members

Finance Committee (Treasurer, Treasurer Elect, Pastor and 2 members who shall be appointed by Council for a term of 2 years.)

1. Denise Simpson	Treasurer	
2. N/A	Treasurer Elect	
3. Pastor MiMI Chamberlin	Pastor	
4. Karen Essell	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
5. Terry Parsons	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

Nominating Committee (3 members who shall be appointed by Council for a term of 2 years.)

1. Debbie Heintz	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
2. Nancy Matthew	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Vickie Clark	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

Personnel Committee (3-5 members who shall be appointed by Council for a term of 2 years.)

1. Amber Tenhundfeld	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
2. David Hoehn	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Debbie Heintz	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
4. Karen Fyke	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
5. Vickie Clark, chair	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term

Pastoral Relations Committee (President of Church Council and 3 members appointed by Council for a term of 2 years.)

1. Nancy Matthew	President	
2. Debbie Heintz	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
3. Wendy Hemsink	Feb. 2022 through Jan. 2024	1st term
4. Daryl Srocynski, chair	Feb. 2023 through Jan. 2025	1st term

Thank you to all who help provide leadership at Pilgrim. Please see members listed with any comments, questions or suggestions or use the box in the back of church.

Preschool News

We are hoping to see some warmer weather soon! We all need to be outside running and playing!

We have been so busy in the Preschool having fun and learning every day. Time flies when you are having fun. We cannot believe that we only have a few more months of school left.

April brings our annual Easter parade and celebration on the 3rd and the 6th. We are so excited to bring back our parades and entertainment by Karie Gibson. We have not had them since Covid. Parents are invited to watch the parade in the Fellowship Hall. The children will watch a fun puppet show and the Easter bunny will fill their baskets with goodies and hide them in the classroom. We are finally getting back to normalcy and it feels so good. Preschool will be on Spring Break April 7th-14th. Happy Easter!!

May will be a month full of activities and events. The 3's will have a Back Yard picnic and the 4's will have a pizza and pajama party. The 5's will go on a walking field trip to Stumps Bowling Alley and they will also have their Graduation Ceremony. The whole school will celebrate the last days of school with a Beach Day Extravaganza. Lots of fun.... but the learning never stops. Our last days of school will be May 18th and 19th.

Pilgrim Preschool was again voted the Best of the West for 2023 in Cincy Magazine!

Happy Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week (May). They are all special gifts who continue to amaze me with their talents, hard work, enthusiasm, kindness and dedication each day.

We are currently having a LaRosa's Buddy card Fundraiser. They are \$10 and the Preschool receives a 50% profit. I will put some flyers and information in the Chruch office.

Sincerely, Chrisy Greene



Congratulations on being a Winner!

Pilgrim Preschool,

Congratulations on being voted by our readers as a 2023 **Best of the West** in the **Preschool** category!

April Birthdays:

Donna Bundy 4/07
Wendy Hemsink 4/13
Polly Clinkenbeard..... 4/20
Karen Fyke 4/20
Michael Sprague..... 4/20
Judy Hoehn..... 4/23
Shelley Kiefer 4/25
Eileen Garrabrant 4/27
Russ Clark..... 4/27



May Birthdays:

Patricia Siefert..... 5/03
Denise Simpson..... 5/04
Bonnie Becker 5/08
Sara Eble..... 5/16
Tricia Johannes 5/18
Judy Oetzel..... 5/22
Daryl Sroczyński..... 5/24
Cheri Sprague..... 5/25



June Birthdays:

Marcia Lucas 6/6
June Maxstadt..... 6/19
Janet Nailor..... 6/19
Bill Schultz..... 6/19
John Waples 6/24
Audrey Angner 6/26
Greta Pfaff..... 6/27
Donna Cederdahl..... 6/29



May Anniversaries:

Amber & James Tenhundfeld
5/03/2003 20 yrs

Daryl & Susan Sroczyński
5/23/1981 42 yrs

June Anniversaries:

Bob & Cheri Sprague
6/17/1978 45 years

Michael & Kathleen Parsons
6/26/1999 24 years

90's Club Birthdays



Val Brandt



Midge Wiedenbein



Jean Veith



Eileen Garrabrant

Please remember our at home friends in your prayers and with cards.

Bob Girard Irene Freese Barb Mechler Irmgard Schulten LaVerne Mohr
Jean Gilbert Bud Rullmann Audrey Angner Jean Veith

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Spring 2023 Issue Return Service Requested



Please note the office and pastor email addresses are changing and we have added some new email addresses. Our current email addresses are still functional but we need to begin using our new email addresses. The new email addresses are:

Church Office—office@pilgrim-ucc.org

Pastor—pastor@pilgrim-ucc.org

Treasurer—treasurer@pilgrim-ucc.org

Facilities—facilities@pilgrim-ucc.org