



## Summer 2023

### Pastor MiMi's Musings:

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY UCC!**

As we sang during this Easter season: the Gospel in a word is LOVE. Love your neighbor as yourself. LOVE. LOVE. LOVE.

In Matthew's gospel, we hear Jesus proclaim the greatest commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

As we celebrated the UCC's founding and as I am preparing to participate in my first UCC Synod, I am forever grateful I found a home in the UCC and at Pilgrim. In our individual churches and our denomination, we see ourselves as a work in progress (as Ted Lasso coined) and seek to be united and uniting AND standing for something: **all are welcome to the communion table, the marriage altar and ordained ministry.** The UCC life as Christ-followers seeks always to widen the circle of inclusion and extend hospitality to all. We believe all are welcome and united by God's love.

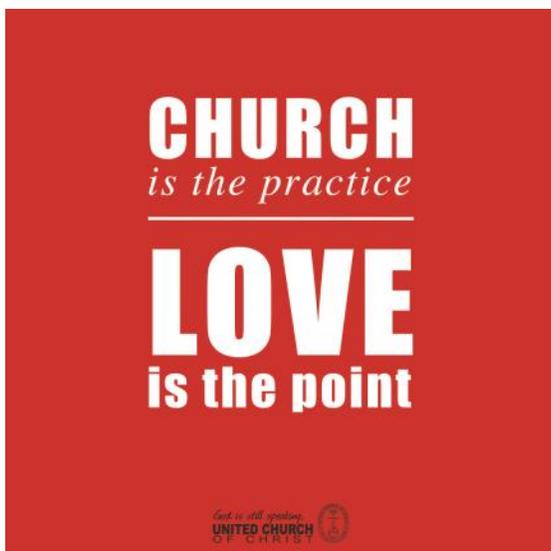


*For The United Church of Christ, Justice and Jesus are inseparable. Our daily worship is anchored by the belief that God is still speaking. We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church, living out Jesus' prayer in John's gospel "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials-unity, in nonessentials-diversity, in all things-charity." These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love.*

**I am so thankful to be part of a church family that encourages us to remember that we are part of a larger body of Christ followers and believes that *No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You're Welcome Here!***

In my prayer, study and experience of Jesus, I am drawn to a life of love, inclusion and acceptance, not hate, exclusion and judgment.

As denominations exclude women and LGBTQ+ individuals from the life and ministry of churches, I am affirmed in and grateful for the nudge of the Spirit to join the UCC and its pilgrimage of LOVE.



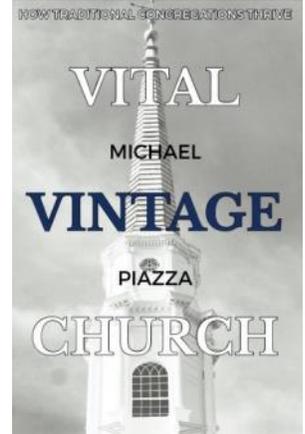
## Baptism - a family tradition!

On April 23, 2023, we celebrated the baptism of Grant Jacob Stoltzus. Grant wore the family baptismal outfit and is pictured with his family members who also wore this baptism suit. Both his birth and church family are grateful for the new life he brings to our world!



## Vital Vintage Vignette

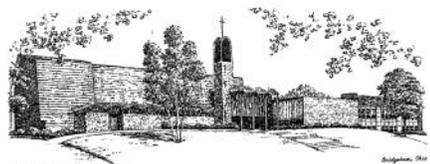
We continue to reimagine and recommit to being church inside and outside our building. We hope and pray that we grow in our understanding and identity as Pilgrim UCC: **vital, vintage and thriving!**



Our highlighted insight is: *Meetings must give way to ministry. Structures must become more agile and permission-giving. We must celebrate experiments that fail because they move us closer to what is needed. New songs must be learned, and old favorites must find new tempos and tunes. Spiritual practices must be reclaimed and practiced in newly invigorated ways. Vintage church may look like something from the past, but it must function like something for the future. (Page 16)*

\* We have copies of book available - please see Pastor MiMi if you would like one.

**We've come this far by faith...**



**Pilgrim UCC: vital, vintage, thriving**

## Memorial Day Cemetery Outreach



For the third year, Pilgrim Church and Boy Scout Troop 288 offered flags, water, snacks and ministry of presence to those coming to honor relatives and friends buried in Bridgetown Cemetery.

It was a beautiful experience for all of us! The visitors were so very grateful for the flags and for the conversations that took place. We not only met new people, we also heard touching stories about their loved ones. Several visitors made a point to compliment the boys on their polite and kind service.

Thanks to Nancy Matthew and Debbie Heintz and Scout leaders for making this happen!

## BLESSING OUR GRADS!

On the first Sunday of June, we celebrated our high school graduates! Peyton Tenhundfeld, Greta Pfaff and Noah Esmail are pictured below (missing: Gavin Reker). The four were our most recent confirmation class and are all headed to college in the fall. We hope and pray for all the best for them on the next part of their journeys.

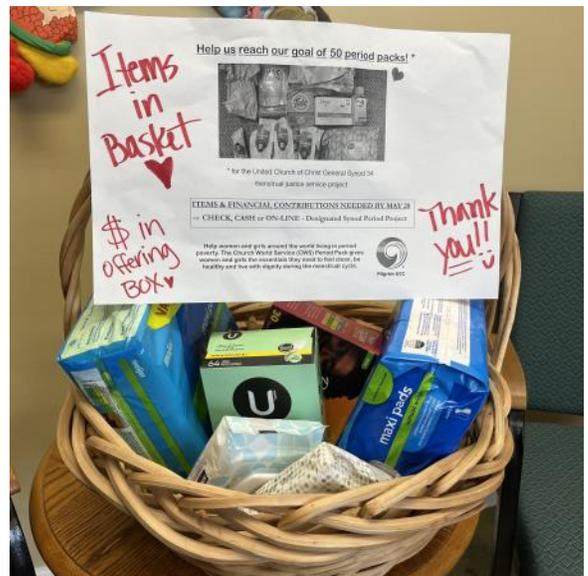


# Thank You!

## to all who contributed to the Period Pack collection!

132 packs were put together, along with 7 bags of miscellaneous items and \$81 in donations for the UCC Synod Menstrual Justice Service Project.

You helped Church World Service (CWS) give women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy, and live with dignity during the menstrual cycle.



## **PENTECOST: NEW MEMBERS, NEW BANNER + NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT!**

On Pentecost, May 28, 2023, we welcomed 5 new members: Carol Gangwer, Jan Gillen, Clare Hingsbergen, Marcia Lucas and Jan Mode.

Carol is our Minister of Music. She taught music in the Cincinnati Public and Oak Hills Schools. Carol was the organist & Music Director at Cheviot MCC prior to coming to Pilgrim. She plays piano duets with Marcia for Creative Aging of Cincinnati in nursing & retirement homes, senior centers & special programs. She enjoys family dinners, attending the symphony, ballet & theater and traveling.

Jan Gillen grew up in Bridgetown and was married at Pilgrim. She has 3 children and 6 grandkids. She is June Maxstadt's daughter. Jan is retired from Mercy Hospital-Fairfield where she worked as a Med Tech. She loves to do crafts and she watches her youngest 2 grandkids before and after school. She has 2 rescue dogs, who are now her besties.

Clare Hingsbergen is our Worship Song Leader, leading us in singing and providing our special music with her wonderful voice. Clare is a contracting officer for the EPA and a singer with the Songs by Heart Foundation. She sings weekly with memory care patients and a private singing student (Tom Neidhard, his sister-in-law, Pat is who introduced her to Pilgrim). Clare also performs in many plays and musicals in the area.

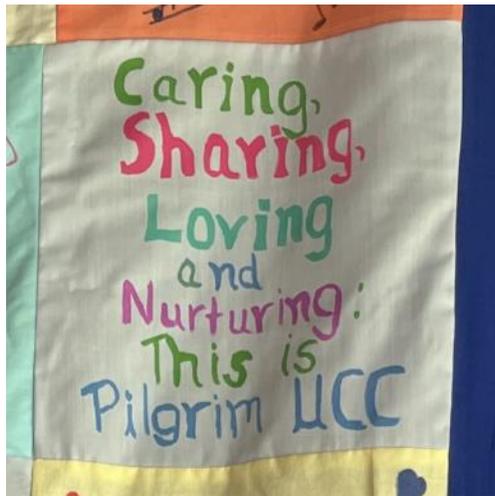
Marcia Lucas is volunteering to accompany Carol on the piano and she is coordinating the playing of the handbells. Marcia is retired from the Baldwin Piano & Organ Co. where she taught piano lessons. Today she continues to teach private lessons in her home. She plays duets with Carol, "It Takes Two" for Creative Aging of Cincinnati. She

loves to accompany choir and solo performances. Marcia has 2 children, 4 grandkids and 1 great-granddaughter who all live close by. Marcia enjoys reading, traveling and working 1,000 piece puzzles.

Jan Mode is a retired assistant program manager from WCPO. She has done extensive traveling through the states and through Europe.

Welcome to all our new members! We are truly blessed to have you as part of our Pilgrim family.





Above is the finished banner that was made up of the individual squares we created at the church picnic. We were asked to create a square that represented what Pilgrim Church meant to us. As you can see, Pilgrim is represented in many different ways. If you haven't looked at the banner up close, take a few minutes to check it out. A big thank you to Vickie Clark who sewed all the squares together to make the beautiful banner. For a small church we are huge in so many ways!

## Good parking makes good neighbors....



Just a friendly reminder.

If you need to park close to our accessibility ramp on Sundays, please be mindful of our Bridgetown Cemetery neighbors. They can accommodate our limited parking needs on Sundays. They ask that Pilgrim cars stay on the incoming side and leave space for cemetery visitors to drive by. Also, care must be taken to not park on or near headstones. Thanks for your cooperation.



## REMEMBER TO CHOOSE PILGRIM KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS!

Thanks! to the 34 households who are supporting Pilgrim - we received \$119.45 for the most recent quarter. If you are a Kroger shopper, please make sure you designate PILGRIM! You must have a Kroger Plus card to enroll. This is an easy way to help Pilgrim Church.



Get a great meal while supporting Pilgrim Church. Visit Diane's and 10% of your total bill will go to support Pilgrim. Must show a flyer, available in the Narthex. **Join us Sundays after Worship.**

**Please remember our at-home members in your prayers and with cards.**

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

## TREMENDOUS THANKS .....

To all who help in large and small ways to help Pilgrim BE THE CHURCH inside and outside the walls!!

... Debbie Heintz for stepping up to do Administrative Assistant office duties

... Vickie Clark for assembling our beautiful Pilgrim banner

... Teri Lynn Stackhouse and Jim Esmail for leading worship when Pastor MiMi was away

... **PANCAKE BREAKFAST CREW:** Terry Bossman (missing from the photo below), John Waples, Terry Parsons and Denny Schmidt



*Thank you to our Pancake Breakfast chefs for cooking and serving a delicious breakfast on the second Sunday of the month (in most cases) from October through May. We are lucky to have such talented chefs!*

## 90's Birthday Club Celebrations

On June 25th we celebrated our **June 90's birthdays.**

Janet Nailor and June Maxstadt share birthdays. Their birthdays are on June 19.

Audrey Angner, who was unable to attend, celebrated her birthday on June 26.



***“The greatest limitation facing older adults is not physical or mental handicaps but rather the negative stereotypes that exist regarding aging.”***

*– Linda Woolf,  
Professor of Psychology, Webster University*



AGING UNBOUND: MAY 2023

## Watch for Ongoing Improvements to the Buildings and Grounds!

Hopefully, you've been able to "look up" in the church foyer as you enter the church. A huge "Thank You" to Michael Sprague's company for the tremendous job of fixing and painting our entryway. It looks great!!



This summer, Thomas Wood, a Boy Scout from Troop 44 will be working on his Eagle Scout project. He plans to build an outdoor classroom/meeting space to be used by our Preschool and our church on the back patio area outside the Fellowship Hall. The shed will be turned into a playhouse for the Preschool. We need to plan a day to go through the shed and decide what needs to be kept. Thomas will start working on his project the week of June 26 with completion of the project by the beginning of the school year. Once the project starts, the sidewalk behind the kitchen and the back entrance into the church will be temporarily unavailable. Watch the weekly emails and listen to announcements for more details.



We will be upgrading our flags on our flagpole - take a look next time you drive by and check the progress.



We celebrated our Operations Manager, Annie Gambetta, on her birthday to thank her for all her help and the progress we are making!



## **2023 PILGRIM UCC Calendar**

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Lenten Soup and Study – Sundays after church – 2.26, 3.5, 3.12, 3.19, 3.26  
Fawn Candy Fundraiser – Friday, March 17 to Friday, March 31  
Memorial Day Outreach at Bridgetown Cemetery with Scouts – Sun. May 28, 12-2pm  
Joanie's Coat Giveaway – October TBA  
Cookie Sale – Sat. Dec. 9, 9:30-11:30  
(Cookie Sale Baking: 12.3 – 1-5 pm, Ice Cutouts: 12.6 – 9:30 am-Noon, Prep: 12.6 – 1-3 pm,  
Set-up: 12.8 – 9 am-5 pm)

### **MONTHLY**

'Red Wagon' Food & Personal Care Items Collection – First Sundays, Jan. to Oct.  
Special Collections – Thanksgiving & Christmas Giving Tree (tags on 11.19)

Pancake Breakfast – Second Sundays, 2.12, 3.12, 4.16, 5.21, 10.8, 11.12, 12.10

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

4<sup>th</sup> MONDAYS – 7-8:30pm in Parlor – every other month  
2.27 – 4.24 – 6.26 – 8.28 – 10.23 – 12:TBA (Budget)  
**Consent Agenda Due:** 2.21 – 4.18 – 6.20 – 8.22 – 10.17

### **BOARD / COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

CHURCH MINISTRY – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. after church: 2.19, 4.30, 7.16, 8.20, 9.17, 10.15, 11.19, 12.17  
MISSION AND OUTREACH – as needed  
PRESCHOOL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, 7pm, 2.13, 3.13, 4.10, 5.8, 9.11, 10.9, 11.13  
STEWARDS - 3<sup>rd</sup> week of month (Sundays in Winter, Mondays in Summer)  
Finance, Nominating, Personnel – as needed  
Pastoral Relations – March, April, July, Sept., Oct. TBA

### **WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS**

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 22 + 7pm + Chapel  
Palm Sunday – April 2 + 10:30am  
Maundy Thursday – April 6 + 7pm + Chapel  
Easter Vigil – at home – April 8 – 8am to 8pm  
Easter – April 9 + 10:30am  
Sharing Sunday – May 21 – 10:30  
Pentecost – May 28 + 10:30 am – New Members Welcome  
Church Picnic – September TBA – Sharing Sunday  
All Saints Sunday – Nov. 5 + 10:30am  
Advent Sundays - 11.26 + 12.3 + 12.10 + 12.17 (Decorate 11.26)  
Christmas Worship: Lessons and Carols – Dec. 24 + 10:30am



### **PILGRIM PRESCHOOL (SEE BACK → )**



**Pilgrim Preschool Calendar 2023-2024**

<b>2023</b>		
<b>September</b>	4	Labor Day - No School
	5	Open House – Meet the teacher!!
	6	Open House – Meet the teacher!!
	7	Regular class times begin
	8	Regular class times begin
	2,3,4	School Pictures-tentative
<b>October</b>	30 & 31	Halloween Party & Parade
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<b>November</b>	9	Father's/VIP Night
	10	No School
	20 & 21	Thanksgiving Feasts
	22-24	Thanksgiving Break-No School
<b>December</b>	18 & 19	Christmas Parties
	20-Jan. 3	Holiday Break
<b>2024</b>		
<b>January</b>	4	Back to school
	15	No School-Martin Luther King Jr.'s Bday
<b>February</b>	12 & 14	Valentine's Day Parties!!!
	19-23	Parent/Teacher Conferences & Staff In-service-No School
<b>March</b>	14 & 15	St. Patrick's Day Parties
	25 & 28	Easter Party & Parade
	29	Spring Break
<b>April</b>	1-5	Spring Break- No School
	8	Back to School
	18	Moms' Night
	19	No School
<b>May</b>	16 & 17	Beach Day and last days of school

All dates are subject to cancellation and/or change, at the discretion of the Director and/or Board of Governors.  
 \*Just a reminder that we follow Oak Hills School District for school closings due to weather.

### 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

### July Birthdays:

Terry Parsons	7/02
Carol Smith	7/02
Vickie Clark	7/07
Ronald Markgraff	7/11
Peyton Tenhundfeld	7/14
Colton Tenhundfeld	7/25
Tiffany Berting	7/30

### August Birthdays:

Sue Schmidt	8/04
Diane Girard	8/05
Scott Kiefer	8/05
Bob Sprague	8/11
Jean Eagan	8/14
Bruce Zimmer	8/15
Sage Berting	8/30



### June Anniversaries:

David & Geraldine Backer	6/15/1963	60 years
Bob & Cheri Sprague	6/17/1978	45 years
Michael & Kathleen Parsons	6/26/1999	24 years

### August Anniversaries:

John & Kathy Waples	8/02/1975	48 years
Tiffany & Kevin Berting	8/09/2003	20 years
David & Judy Hoehn	8/20/1988	35 years

### July Anniversaries:

Donna & Jim Bundy	7/07/1959	64 years
Pat & Jim Neidhard	7/30/1982	41 years



Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
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Summer 2023 Issue

Return Service Requested



**Pilgrim Church P I C N I C**  
COMING THIS FALL!