



Holiday 2022



Pastor MiMi's Musings: Coming Home

Thank you for accompanying me on this incredible journey. It was a blessed day shared with so many who have filled my heart and life: my parents; brother and family; aunt and cousins; high school and college friends; my ex-husband and in-laws; all 4 children!; prayer warrior moms; colleagues in ministry from CAIN (Churches Active In Northside), peace and justice efforts - especially in the women's ordination movement in the Catholic Church, First United Church of Christ and Pilgrim church families, the wider UCC, and the larger ecumenical community.

As I shared: *Today is truly a homecoming*

Two things I have been sure of my entire life is that I am called to be a leader in the church and that I am called to be a mother. From early on when I felt this nudging around the time of my First Communion, these were two seemingly incompatible vocations from where I was planted. I could not be a priest because I was a girl. And even if I were able to be a priest, I could not be a mother. I have tried to be true to these calls my entire life and lived with the inherent tension and contradiction within my Roman Catholic faith.

As I was approaching my sixties, I needed to be part of a church that at a micro and macro-level affirms my gifts and call and is an authentic prophetic voice in our world and truly models the inclusive and expansive love that Jesus exemplifies.

In October 2018, I joined the First United Church of Christ. In the 4 years since, I continued to feel a deeper sense of home and connection to the UCC – woven with a consistent thread in my adult life: my spiritual journey and religious participation is inextricably linked to our quest for a better world.

And being welcomed here at Pilgrim to serve as a licensed pastor has further instilled that sense of being at home.

Our new "Be the church" Banner presented and displayed today is our pledge and promise to ourselves, to each other and to God to continue to be an open, affirming and inclusive congregation dedicated to peace with justice for all.

Being ordained today in a community of believers is being true to my authentic self and to the calling God has continued to lay on my heart and mind. I am so grateful and amazed.

*As part of my remarks, I would love to sing a song. As any of you who are familiar with my singing talents, you know I am not going to do that. Music is a transcendent connection to the sacred for me. So Brandon will be playing a song that serves as part of my testimony for today. Surprisingly it's not a Bruce Springsteen song (there will be a few of those at the reception!) Most of the ones that I considered are ones I learned during the time I was part of the Mother of Christ community and their fabulous gospel choir ministry that brought me healing and hope during the lowest points in my life. Several fit today: **Please be patient with me, God is not through with me yet. Order My Steps in your Word. God's Still working Miracles. Hope is Alive. I Need You to Survive. I know my Redeemer lives.***

The one that I am sharing is another influence that I have shared with Pilgrim folks before. Sweet Honey in the Rock. Listen and singalong if you'd like. As we prepare to share communion together, we can claim the truth and proclaim our faith:

*I don't know why the angels woke me up this morning soon
I don't know why the blood still runs thru my veins
I don't know how I rate to run another day
I am here still running, I believe.*

*My God calls to me in the morning dew
The power of the universe knows my name
Gave me a song to sing and sent me on my way
I raise my voice for justice I believe.*



Thanks from Brandon Stroup!

Dear Pilgrim Family,

Words cannot express my gratitude for each of you! Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, kind words, hugs, and the reception after church on my last Sunday.

As I have said many times, you have been such an integral part of my faith journey, my healing, and my growth - I am a better person having been part of this church.

Also, thank you for being such a light in not only my life, but in the lives of those around you, and thank you for welcoming me with open arms!

Please know that while I will not be at Pilgrim anymore (except to visit, of course!), you will always hold a special place in my heart.

Love, peace, and blessings, Brandon



And from Pastor MiMi!

Thank you! Merci! Gracias! Danke! Grazie! شكراً

Thank you for sharing in this milestone with me. I am grateful for the gift that you are in my life and to our world. I can cultivate an attitude of gratitude because you are, have been, and will be part of my faith journey.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow." (inspirational author, Melody Beatty)

My hope and prayer for you today and everyday is that you fully and deeply know that God loves you and so do I! In faith, hope, love and gratitude,

☺ ♡ 🎵 *Mimi*



The 90's Club Celebrations

The Church Ministry Board new club honors our 16 members who are 90 + years young! We are celebrating their birthdays with cupcakes and singing, "Happy Birthday" on the Sunday closest to their birthday along with presenting them with a small gift. We invite their family to join us for service when we are honoring them so they can share in the celebration too. For those who can't make it to church, we are stopping by their home for a quick visit with their gift.

Congrats and blessings to recent celebrants!



Betty Pfaff - September 26



Lois Ivey - October 3



Bud Rullmann - October 4



Jean Gilbert - September 30

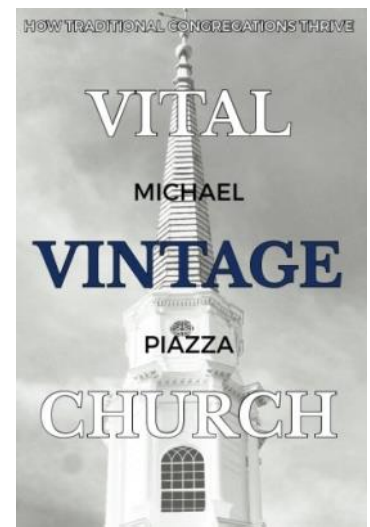


Vital Vintage Vignette

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!**

This month's insight is:

The way we say it around our place is that "the church members and leaders must take off our bibs and put on our aprons." That is, everything about us must be reoriented from meeting "our" needs / desires to meeting "theirs." We must stop acting as though we are guests, and become active hosts to any and all who stand in need of the transformational grace that the church supplies. Members must see themselves as the church, the body of the living Christ in the world. Leaders must understand their job to be "equipping the saints" to do just that. (Page 79)



Join the Advent-ure!



Pilgrim UCC

Nazly Mamedova

is a local immigration attorney. An immigrant herself, she speaks seven languages.

Nazly's work primarily concentrates on removal defense and family reunification. She also works with immigrants' children, victims of crime, and victims of domestic violence. Nazly always tries to empower immigrants toward a better future.



11-27-22
HOPE

Mary Kay Rehard

is a licensed clinical social worker at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her ecumenical spirituality is grounded in exploring mindfulness meditation, Christian mysticism, and contemplative prayer. She is passionate about children and families, peace and social justice, music and the arts, equality and community. Mary Kay enjoys reading, singing in the World House Choir, boating, bicycling, and hiking. She and her husband, Patrick, have two adult daughters and an adult foster son.



12-4-22
PEACE

Sr. Alice Gerdeman

is a member of the Catholic Congregation of Divine Providence. Officially considered "retired," she is still very active around a variety of peace and justice issues.

Believing that all life is sacred, she advocates for the elimination of the death penalty in Ohio, across the country and around the world. Sr. Alice has concern for family members both of murder victims and perpetrators and has led prayer vigils outside penitentiaries in Ohio and Kentucky during fifty-three executions.



12-11-22
JOY

Mark Curnutte

is a visiting assistant professor of social justice and inequalities at Miami University, Oxford, his alma mater. Now in his fourth year of teaching full-time, Curnutte was a reporter with the *Cincinnati Enquirer* for 25 years, a time in which he reported almost exclusively on matters of race, poverty, and xenophobia. He is the author of two social sciences books: "A Promise in Haiti" and "Across the Color Line."



12-18-22
LOVE

Join us to prepare to remember and celebrate the coming of the Christ-child and to re-dedicate ourselves to extend the reach of God's love embodied in Jesus: Emmanuel "God-with-us."

Cookies, Cookies, and more Cookies!

The Christmas Kitchen Cookie Sale is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to another successful sale.

Therefore, it is time to start thinking about what cookies you are going to make.

The sale is
Saturday, December 10th
9:30am to 11:30am.

Please bake at least 5 dozen of your favorite cookies.

What?!? You say you have more than one favorite cookie! Awesome!! Then please make 5 dozen of each kind of your favorite cookie. We always need lots of cookies as we have lots of customers.

Bring your cookies to the church kitchen on Friday, December 9th between 9am and 5pm.

*Remember to mark what kind of cookies they are so we can properly label them for the customers.

We will be advertising in the newspaper, on our website, and on Facebook. There will be flyers in the back of the sanctuary for you to pass out to your friends and family. A flyer is also in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to another successful sale, **thank you to all of our bakers!**



Christmas Kitchen Committee Schedule:

Sunday, December 4

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Baking session in church kitchen

Wednesday, December 7

9:30am - 12:00pm

Icing and decorate cut outs

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Fold boxes, weigh and wrap candy

Friday, December 9

9:00am - 5:00pm

Set up for sale and receive cookies

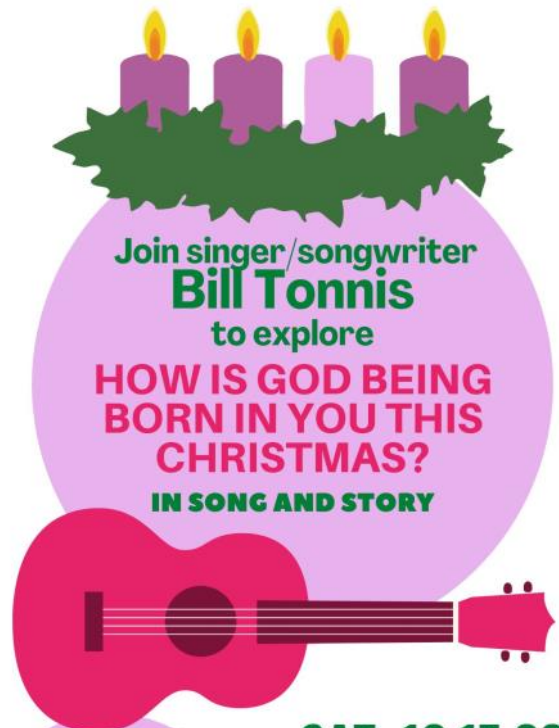
Saturday, December 10

9:30am - 11:30am --- Sale

11:30am - 1:00pm --- Clean up

Sunday, December 11 after worship

Sale of remaining cookies and items



Bill Tonnis is a chaplain, retreat presenter, and former radio news anchor. His music aims to encourage others to listen to their hearts, live to love, and give of themselves in service of God's on-going creation.

SAT. 12.17.22
1 PM

PILGRIM UCC - CHAPEL
4418 BRIDGETOWN RD + 45211

No admission charge - free will offering

USHERS, GREETERS, LITURGIST, TECHIES, and MUSIC

We have lots of new and exciting things happening at Pilgrim! Some are due to us learning to live with Covid and some are just new and refreshing as we move forward into the future.

USHERS: Only one usher will be needed each Sunday.

- Arrive between 10:00 and 10:10 am.
- Make sure doors are unlocked and open.
- Turn on sanctuary lights.
- Light candles.
- Keep programs spread out on tables.
- Count the number attending, fill out a blue sheet and put it in the offering box.
- Take the offering box up front when the Doxology begins to play.
- When worship is over, make sure candles and lights are out, and the offering is taken to the office and put in the safe.

First Sunday of each Month:

- Make sure the red wagon is in the Narthex.
- Place communion in the communion basket on the table with the bulletins. Make sure there are napkins in the basket.
- Take the wagon and food items up front with the offering box during the Doxology.

Communion Sunday:

- If ushering, get the communion out of the refrigerator and get napkins from the communion room.
- Put communion back in the refrigerator after service and put the napkins back in the container in the communion room. If you notice the communion cups are running low, notify the office so they can be reordered.

GREETERS:

- Arrive between 10:05 and 10:15 am.
- Stand or sit in the Foyer or Narthex and welcome all as they arrive.

LITURGISTS:

- Arrive between 10:15 and 10:20 am.
- Enter worship service with MiMi.
- Read scripture which will be sent to you via email prior to Sunday.
- Assist MiMi with communion at the communion table.
- Remove all of your reading material from the lectern when you leave the service.
- Carry the offering basket when you leave the worship service with MiMi.

TECHIES:

- Arrive between 10:15 and 10:20 am.
- Set up video Zoom to go live at 10:25 am.
- When worship is over, stop live recording.

MUSIC: If you like to sing or plan an instrument, please help out our Minister of Music by signing up. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Or contact Vickie Clark (513-574-8542) or Debbie Heintz (513-200-1646) if you wish to volunteer.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex beginning on 11/20. The schedule will be sent to you in December and will be in effect all of 2023. If you have any questions, ask one of us.

Thank You!! From The Worship Team

How can you serve our worshipping community?



Pilgrim UCC Historical Snapshot: Susan Sroczynski shared this short history as part of her welcome during the ordination service:

The story of our congregation began in nearby Cheviot where one German Evangelical Protestant congregation split in two. Apparently, we were the more liberal, independent group who broke away for 3 reasons;

1. We wanted a location closer to the people living west of here,
2. We wanted to be able to drink beer – either in church or on the grounds and most importantly,
3. We were determined to have a church that was truly protestant and evangelical in spirit where we could be free to make our own decisions about our faith.

And so this church began in the summer of 1870 with 43 charter members. Before there was even a building, the Ladies Aid Society was formed where the women would gather to cook meals and take them to the residents in the community who needed them. That was the beginning of a rich history of service to others.

The cemetery donated land for the building of the first church which was completed in 1872. Services and records were in German until 1923. At this time the church name was officially changed to First Evangelical Protestant Church. In 1945, Protestant was changed to Congregational.

In 1960 the church joined the UCC and renamed it - Pilgrim United Church of Christ. At the same time, the church built the present sanctuary and educational and fellowship wing.

Things have changed over the years; we are now a small but mighty group. Our mission has always been to serve others and to spread the love of Jesus Christ. It is with great jubilation our 20th senior minister, MiMi Chamberlin, minister in training, has led our church family with her love of God and love of serving others. This, her ordination day, is truly a special day in the 152nd year of this congregation.





The Coat Give-Away was a back and was a blessing to 28 families of 67 children from 19 schools and 17 zip codes.

To everyone who donated items and to the volunteers who worked so tirelessly...**Thank You!**

Joanie lives in our hearts as we continue to carry on her ministry each year. We will never forget this selfless person who thought always of the needs of others.



Hootenanny Rocks again!

On Saturday the 5th of November the Hootenanny returned.

Over \$626.00 was raised to benefit Camp Washington UCC "Gifts of the Manger" children and family ministry.

As always the music was great and a wonderful time was had by all!!



The Return of the Pancake Breakfast!



We gathered on Sunday, November 13th and will gather again on December 11th

Join us after church for delicious pancakes, morning beverages and great fellowship.



Mission and Outreach says Thank YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Thanksgiving Boxes. They were delivered to very grateful families for their Thanksgiving meal!

And thanks for your ongoing support of children and families in need. **YOU are a true blessing to Camp Washington UCC, Truth & Destiny and Delshire School.**



Thank You!

Christmas Giving Tree

Thanks to all who took ornaments. Please see those remaining.

Remember: each gift must be appropriately wrapped and, most importantly, the ornament must be attached to the gift.

Gifts must be returned to the church office by December 18th.

Thank you for your support!



Volunteers for Council, Boards & Committees

As you know, at the January 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting we voted to approve the revised Constitution and By-Laws. All boards and committees are now on two-year terms that end January 31, 2024. Therefore, there are no openings for the Boards and Committees.

However, there were no changes made to the Council, leaving two openings for the upcoming year. President Elect and Secretary. Both positions are a two-year terms. President Elect will then become President for two years.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee listed below.

Thank You,
Nominating Committee

Debbie Heintz 513-200-1646 + Nancy Matthew 513-574-5722 + Vickie Clark 513-574-8542

Preschool News

Time flies when you are having fun. That is so true! We are having so much fun in Preschool that we don't know where the first few months of school have gone. We ended October with our Halloween parties, after a 3-year hiatus due to COVID. Awesome sauce!!

November is always a busy and exciting month. We will be talking about Thanksgiving and all the things we have to be thankful for. We can't forget about all the learning that happens while we are having fun. The children are always working on their numbers, letters, colors, shapes, writing skills, phonics and so much more.

Other exciting news is that we are finally bringing back Father's/VIP Night. It will be held on Thursday November 10th from 5:30-8:00. It will be a Sports Night theme and we will have games and activities all throughout the school and in Fellowship Hall.

We will have our Thanksgiving Feasts on November 21st & 22nd with all of our classes. We will share a feast and the children will also exchange friendship feathers. Thanksgiving Break will be November 23rd-25th.

The most wonderful time of the year comes with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Our Christmas Parties will be December 15th and 16th.

We will play in a Winter wonderland, sing songs in the Sanctuary with Miss Lynne and have hot cocoa and donuts while reading a story with Mrs. Claus.

Christmas Break will be December 17th to January 2nd.

We will begin new family registration at the beginning of January and In-house enrollment will begin at the return from Christmas Break. If you are a church member you are considered as In-house enrollment and will be given priority registration. We will also hold 2 open houses in January and the dates will be posted on our website.

Pilgrim Preschool will be selling gourmet popcorn from Popcorn Palace for our fall fundraiser. It comes in all different sizes and is great for holiday gift giving. If you are interested, please contact the preschool office @ 574-9047. We will also put some catalogs in the church office.

We wanted to send a great big thank you to Denny, Terry B., and Terry P. for always tackling our crazy preschool projects 😊😊 We are super grateful.

Happy Holidays! May we remember the reason for the season!

Blessings,

Chrisy Greene & Preschool Staff

A huge **CONGRATULATIONS!** to the famous Miss Margo. She was nominated for educator of the week through Local 12 news. She has been teaching at Pilgrim for 44 years and we are honored that she chose Pilgrim as the place to share her gifts. Kristen Cornett from Channel 12 came to interview Miss Margo. This recognition was much deserved. If you would like to watch the full interview, go to our Facebook page or <https://local12.com>.



December Birthdays:

LaVerne Mohr	12/7
Jayson Pfaff	12/17
Cindy Rogers	12/24
Frances Hoetker	12/24
Pat Neidhard	12/25
Lorin Rogers	12/27
Abbie Clark	12/31



Lauren Honchul	1/1
Marisa Etris	1/3
Marilyn Fuller	1/20
Phyllis Neugebauer	1/20
Claire Hoetker	1/22

February Birthdays:

Michael Parsons	2/2
Marsha Cole	2/11
Kevin Berting	2/16
Prestin Berting	2/23
Stryker Robison	2/23
Val Brandt	2/28



December Anniversaries:

Donna & Larry Cederdahl 12/30/1984 38 yrs

January Anniversaries:

Denny & Sue Schmidt 1/19/1974 49 yrs

February Anniversaries:

James & Lynn Esmail 2/22/2003 20 yrs

ALL SAINTS: With joy, grief, and thanksgiving, we remember before God all those who have gone before us as examples of faith, and those who have departed us during the past year, especially:

Jill Parsons



And all those we carry in our hearts always.



Please remember our homebound friends in your prayers and with cards.

Christmas Memorials

Envelopes for Christmas Memorials are in the Narthex. **Last day to submit a memorial is December 18th.**



December 24, 2022 + 4pm
Christmas Eve Service with Communion
Lessons and Carols

Come and see!
Light to splinter darkness.
Hope to lift the soul.
Peace to ring the changes.
Grace resounds for all.

©Stephen J Maunder

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
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Cincinnati, OH 45211
513-574-4208
www.pilgrim-ucc.org



Holiday 2022 Issue

Return Service Requested



Cookie Sale

Cookies by the Pound
Candy, Bread, and Other Goodies

Saturday
December 10, 2022
9:30am to 11:30am

