

MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE



Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in harmony and of one mind.

Philippians 2:2

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



There is no beautifier of complexion, or form, or behavior, like the wish to scatter joy...

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Everyone knows that I love to tell the story of Pilgrim Church, and most of the time I use words. In the pulpit, the Messenger, and Gabriel's Trumpet, not to mention personal conversation and public speaking, I love to share the marvelous ministry that thrives here in this congregation. God is indeed still speaking, and still doing great things, right here in our midst!

Each January, we provide a detailed budget for the coming year: our "Mission Spending Plan: A Statement of Faith and Mission," with a list of our projected income and expenses. Those lines and numbers tell the story, too, in their own way. This booklet, however, is still another way to describe the amazing things that happen, day in and day out, here at Pilgrim Church, because of your generous and faithful giving to its ministry.

We hope these pictures and words paint a beautiful family portrait of our church – not a still-life portrait, but a vibrant and inspiring image – a motion picture, really – that will draw you in and encourage you to spend thoughtful, prayerful time considering how God is calling you to give back a portion of what you have received, in gratitude and commitment, in compassion and care. We often sing a beautiful hymn that reminds us that "in all our living, we belong to God." I believe that all that we have and all that we are belong to God, and our giving to the church is one way to say thank you for all that we have received, as well as an expression of our hope for a better world.

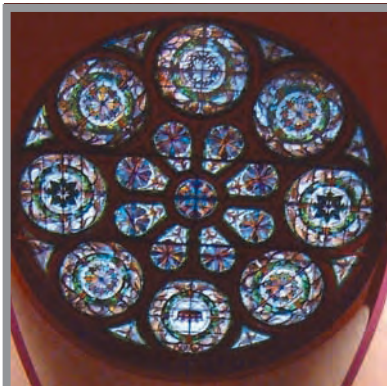
I want to thank you for your extraordinary generosity throughout the years, and for the many ways you share your time, your talents, and your treasure here at Pilgrim Church. Watching you each day, giving so generously, is like watching a great miracle unfold.

We have come so far, this far, by faith. By faith we will travel on, together, and feel God's presence with us, along the way.

Blessings and gratitude,

Dr. Laurie





WORSHIP

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

John Newton

It's the heart of our faith community, in the church of our hearts. Your giving provides what is needed for sacred space to embrace sacred time: bread and cup, flowers and candles, heat and light...soaring arches and a sturdy roof, oak doors that protect us from weather and open in welcome...pealing bells and majestic organ, great ensembles – both brass and jazz, choral voices young and old raised in praise...worship bulletins that keep us all on the same page, fine preaching amplified by a fine sound system...worship thoughtfully prepared and prayerfully led, on Sunday morning or Thursday night, quiet Taizé, lively summer picnic service, or the solemn Easter Vigil...

Word and Sacrament, and the work of the people...Joy!





COMMUNITY

*We shall overcome, we'll go hand in hand, we shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, our God will see us through someday.*

Traditional

Belong. Care. Share. Your giving provides pastoral presence in times of crisis and wraps each member in loving support: Pastoral visitation and counseling, wellness ministry at The Gathering, Parish Nurse and Health Fairs... Called to Care, young families and seniors, Pilgrim Women... GLBT ministry, Baptisms, weddings, holy unions, and funerals...Prayer-Praise-Potluck and clambakes in the fall...

Sacrament and celebration, the life of the church...Joy!





OUTREACH/WITNESS

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

I John 3:18

Prophetic speech and a listening heart: a Good News church in the life of the city. Your giving energizes compassionate ministries, in a world that needs “a church with an attitude” – of justice, openness, and joy. With our giving to the United Church of Christ, we reach out to the world beyond our walls through Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support (we tithe!), One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church (we're Five for Five!). And we meet needs close to home, too, through The Bradley Fund and our Food Pantry...Merrick House Day Care Center, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Adopt-the-Shelter... Festival of the Flea and benevolence giving. We witness in many ways: World AIDS Day, PRIDE, and voter registration... Abode4Peace and embracing diversity...Mission Blitzes and School of the Americas protests, Fair Trade coffee and the Living Wage...Open and Affirming, and Just Peace...

Care for the environment and prayers for the world...Joy!





EDUCATION

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

Emma Goldman

Growing hearts and minds, youthful wonderment and a legacy of wisdom, nursery games and grown-up discovery, telling the story and hearing it anew. Your giving sustains our teaching ministry: Church school K-12, Women's Study Group and Sunday Morning Adult Study...Book Club, Film Series, Bible study and "Borg-Again" Christians...Lenten and Advent series and Third/Fourth Wednesdays...Youth activities and Confirmation classes, parenting classes and neighborhood children's ministry, a lending library, and sexuality education...

Our faith is over 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not... Joy!





HOME/HOSPITALITY

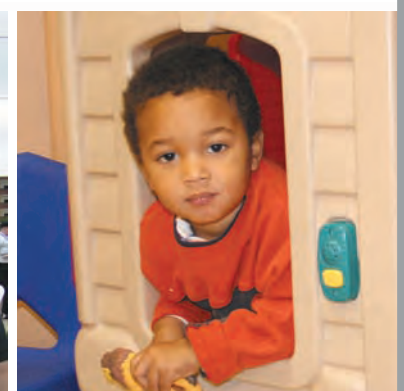
O God, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.

Psalm 26:8

Intentional welcome and a place at the table. Your giving opens our doors and sets the table for so many feasts: Christmas dinners and Easter breads, coffee cups and Mardi Gras masks... church administration, copying and computing, night attendant and custodial care...snow removal and landscape maintenance...equal access for all: a ride to church in the van and a lift up the stairs...space for the arts and room for our neighbors...

Open hearts, open minds, open doors... Joy!





EVANGELISM

Come and see.

John 1:38b

Bold witness and safe sanctuary: as a local congregation of the United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Church proclaims that God is still speaking, and extends extravagant hospitality and welcome to all those seeking a church home. Your giving spreads The Word and deepens our reach, lighting the way for new generations of Pilgrims finding a path to our door: The Messenger and Gabriel's Trumpet...membership classes and new member dinners...the Bridging Group and the Good News Team...Pilgrim in the news and community relations, Still-speaking ads and a banner out front...handwritten notes and personal invitation...

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here...Joy!





GOD IS GOOD - ALL THE TIME;
AND ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!

We invite you to consider prayerfully your own
pledge to the ministry of Pilgrim Congregational
United Church of Christ, and, as you are able,
to grow your giving each year.

Thank you for your faithful generosity!

The Pilgrim Church Stewardship Committee



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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