

Kids on Sunday: Our nursery is always open for infants and toddlers. Ask an usher to show you where the little ones hang out. PreK - 6th start in worship and go to classes after the Children's Message except for Communion Sundays when they start in their classrooms. Ask any usher for help in finding the right resource for your child.

Visiting? Thanks for joining us for worship today. We hope you enjoy the service and that it hits a chord deep in your soul. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex by the front door and join us following the service for refreshments and fellowship. If you would like more information about the church or to hear from our pastor please let a deacon or usher know. They will be glad to help answer any and all questions.

Chancel Altar Flowers:

In loving memory of our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Young and Mr. and Mrs. Carleton E. Brown, and our father Eugene H., Winston, Jr., and our friend Mr. John (Jack) Ott, from Stephanie Roosa, Pamela Cartier, Gregory and Wayne Winston.

(The Altar/Flower Chair for December is Beverly Nightingale)

Lighting the Steeple – A Beacon of Faith

(To light the steeple please see Carolee Wentworth at coffee hour.)



Large print bulletins, and a hearing assistance system (see an usher) are available. Handicap parking is in the rear parking lot and off of Route 28 and Pilgrim Rd. Access ramps from all parking areas are available. An accessible unisex restroom is off the hallway at the right front of the sanctuary.

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Pilgrim Congregational Church United Church of Christ



December 24, 2014

Christmas Eve

Pilgrim Church Mission Statement

The mission of this Church is to provide a warm, safe, non-judgmental, and welcoming environment for all who wish to worship God; to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to celebrate the sacraments; to experience Christian fellowship and unity with all members of this Church family and the greater community; to render loving service toward all humankind; and to strive for righteousness, peace, and justice in the world. (Church Council Nov 2011)



Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.

+Please stand as you are able.

Christmas Greeting

Introit *Away In a Manger* arr. Chip Davis

Opening Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Pilgrim #132

Advent Wreath Lighting *The Harry Family*

Unison Prayer: God of all creation, spark of life in every birth, and midwife of the promise that waits to be born in each of us, we give thanks for the one who comes to us this night. Light our hearts like these candles so we may become beacons of your love. This we pray in the name of the one born to Mary, holy child of the living God, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Advent Candle Song Insert

Congregational Prayer: God of guiding stars, as we arrive at the stable help us to enter humbly; help us discover the gifts it holds for us. Then, filled with the grace of deep commitment to your son, guide us onto his path. Grant that we might be faithful to him every day. In his name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Gifts and Tithes

Offertory *O Jesus So Sweet* arr. Martin Shaw

**Offertory Response: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above the heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

Lessons and Carols

Please remain seated for the hymns

First Lesson *Foretelling the Savior's Birth* *Isaiah 9....*

Reader: Bonnie Hall

Carol *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* *Pilgrim #131*

Second Lesson *The Peace of Christ Foreshown* *Isaiah 11....*

Reader: Bruce Wellnitz

Carol *Coventry Carol* *Pilgrim Choir*

Third Lesson *The Angel Greet's Mary* *Luke 1....*

Reader: Sally Hayes

Carol *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates vv 1-3* *Pilgrim #114*

Fourth Lesson *The Birth of Jesus* *Luke 2....*

Reader: Sam Harry

Carol *Away in a Manger* *Pilgrim #137*

Fifth Lesson *The Shepherds Go to Find Him* *Luke 2....*

Reader: Nicki Palmer

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing vv 1&2* *Pilgrim #120*

Sixth Lesson *The Magi Follow the Star* *Matthew 2....*

Reader: Roy Terwilliger

Carol *We Three Kings of Orient Are vv 1&5* *Pilgrim #143*

Seventh Lesson *The Future Unfolded* *John 1....*

Reader: Rev. O'Connor

Refrain *Gloria in excelsis Deo...Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Homily **Take the Son** *Rev. Peggy O'Connor*

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High* *Pilgrim #116*

Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Christmas Candles (remain seated)

As the lights dim, deacons will come into the sanctuary to light the candles of those seated on the aisles. Please dip your unlit candle into the flame of your neighbor's burning one. DO NOT tip a lighted candle! Once your candle is lit, slide the cup up to enclose the flame. Then join the choir in singing Silent Night. When the lights come back up please extinguish your candle. Put your candles in the boxes at the doors as you leave.

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

+Hymn *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come* Pilgrim #103

A Christmas Blessing

Postlude *Lift Up Your Heads* arr. David Paxton

A Blessed Christmas to You and Yours
The minister and deacons of the church send you
their very best wishes for a blessed Christmas.

Interim Minister: Rev. Peggy O'Connor
Music Director/Organist: Fred Drifmeyer