

**Kids on Sunday:** Our nursery is always open for infants and toddlers. Ask an usher to show you where they hang out. PreK - 6<sup>th</sup> 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 by the front door and join us after 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 Beryl M. Nichols by her daughter Jane and son Donald.

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

**Lighting the Steeple – A Beacon of Faith**

**December 9:** Happy birthday Brooke from Gigi.

**December 13:** In honor of our son Andrew's birthday, Bruce and Barbara Wellnitz.

**December 14:** For people suffering from mental illness. Judy Sullivan.

**December 15:** In memory of Shirley and Clarence Norcross, from Howard.

(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***



**Sunday December 14, 2014  
Third Sunday in Advent**

***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)*



# *The Third Sunday in Advent*

## *The Season of Joy!*

*Welcome to Pilgrim Church. Thank you for being with us today.*

**Chimes** (*The chimes begin our service. Please turn off/silence cell phones.*)

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**      *Christmas Day I'da Morning*      Trad. Scottish/arr. Lamb  
(Handbell Choir, Thom Dutton, Director)

### **Call To Worship**

**+Gathering Hymn**    *Of the Father's Love Begotten*    Pilgrim #111

### **Unison Prayer**

**Come to us O God this Advent day of Joy. Restore our lives to the meaning and joy for which you created us. In your son's spirit of selfless love, may we refocus our lives on the compassion, forgiveness, and justice on which your kingdom is built. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

*(Silent Prayer)*

### **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.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath ~ The Candles of Hope, Peace & Joy**  
Bell Choir Members

**Song**      *Advent Candle Song* vv 1, 2 & 3 (remain seated)    insert  
(Children are dismissed to their classrooms during the song)

**Prayer:** "Holy Spirit, Power Divine, fill and nerve this will of mine. Boldly may I always live, bravely serve and gladly give." This Advent let your Holy Spirit give us power to live our faith so others may come to know you, O God, our rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

### **Gifts and Tithes**

**Offertory**      *Don Oiche Ud I mBeithil* (That Night In Bethlehem)  
(Mariellen Sears, flute, Thom Dutton, tenor & harp)    arr. Perry

*That night in Bethlehem will be spoken of forever under the sun,  
That night in Bethlehem that the word was made flesh.*

*The skies are aglow, the ground is covered white,  
See little Jesus in the cradle, and the Virgin in a transport of love.*

**Response**      *We give you but your own, whatever it may be,  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Response** *Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life a-new,  
That I may love the way you love, and do what you would do.*

**Scripture Reading**      John 1:6-8; 19-28      (N.T., pg. 91, 92)

**Sermon**      "The Signpost"      Rev. Peggy O'Connor

**Hymn**      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*      Pilgrim #114

### **Benediction**

**Benediction Response**      *Go Now In Peace  
Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
May the Love of God surround you...  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.*

**Postlude**      *The Light That Shines in Darkness*      Gerald Peterson

**Head Usher:** Al Eaton      **Acolyte:** Liam Mawn

**Lay Reader:** Tim Canada

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Peggy O'Connor

**Music Director/Organist:** Fred Drifmeyer

**All articles for the January issue** of Pilgrim's Progress are due in the church office by Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Team Izzy needs:** Men/women warm footwear; men's/women's jeans & sweatpants, 2x-3x man's coat, 2x ladies robe; boxers; new underwear; 3 queen comforters for men; gloves & mittens; 3 microwave ovens; toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, razors.

**Hands of Hope Food Pantry Food Donations for Christmas:**

Help fill Holiday Food Packages. Bring any of the following to church: canned yams, crackers, relish, olives, stuffing mix, bread mix, cranberry sauce, canned gravy, boxed potatoes, canned fruit, chicken or turkey broth, canned corn, coffee, tea; a gift card for a turkey.

**Hands of Hope Outreach Center Holiday Toy Drive:** New, unwrapped Christmas gift suggestions to bring to church include:  
INFANTS: Toys, hats & mittens, board books; CHILDREN: trucks Educational toys, cars (supply batteries if needed), Legos, dolls, craft sets, crayons/markers with drawing pads, art sets, board games (NO Checkers), books, sporting equipment; TEENS: Gift certificates for CDs, books, or clothing stores; flannel pajama bottoms, fleece jacket, sweatshirts, nail polish, makeup kits, art supplies, sporting equipment.  
*Please, no jigsaw puzzles or toys pertaining to war or violence!*

**Christmas Dinner** – Our Lady of the Cape Parish on Stony Brook Road in Brewster invites all who want to join with others for Christmas Dinner. Dinner will be served at 12 Noon on Christmas Day in the Parish Center, located behind the church. All are welcome! Meals can also be delivered to the homebound. Everyone wishing to attend is asked to call Kathleen and Barbara at 508-896-7951 by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Missions:** Flyers "Neighbors in Need," a yearly offering for the mission work of the UCC funds ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, are in this bulletin. One third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries. The rest supports a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Please read the flyer and give as you are able. Thank you.

**Pledge envelopes for 2015** are available in the Library. Please pick them up as soon as possible.

**This Week at Pilgrim Church– December 14**

<b><u>Sunday:</u></b>	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:15 AM 11:30 AM 1:30 PM	Mission Meeting Coffee Hour Chimes Tryouts Pageant Rehearsal Vision Meeting
<b><u>Monday:</u></b>		Church office closed
<b><u>Tuesday:</u></b>	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Team Izzy Nurse Scout Meeting Diaconate Meeting Pilgrim's Progress articles due
<b><u>Wednesday:</u></b>	9:30 AM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Dance Scouts Kitchen Epiphany Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	3:30 PM 7:00 PM	Joyful Prayer Group Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b><u>Friday:</u></b>	10:00 AM	Thrift Shop
<b><u>Saturday:</u></b>	10:00 AM	Thrift Shop
<b><u>Sunday Dec 21:</u></b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Pageant Rehearsal</b>

**Prayer cards** – To have your prayer requests included in next week's bulletin call the church office by noon on Friday, leave your request in the office on Sunday, or call or drop by during the week.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Jesse Nash, Joyce Dutton, Jean Traver, Laurieann Galer's daughter Kate and granddaughter Eva, Christian Antoine.