

Kids on Sunday: Our nursery is always open for infants and toddlers. Ask an usher to show you where they 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, 2015

Christmas Eve Family Service

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 Family Service

December 24, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.

Welcome to our celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Introit *Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow* American Spiritual

Christmas Greeting

Advent Wreath The Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love
And the Christ Candle

Prayer: Holy God, as these Advent candles burn in our wreath, grant that they might also burn brightly in our lives. Let the Peace, Hope, Joy and Love that they represent be firmly planted in our hearts, minds and souls on this most holy and sacred night. Amen.

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

Unison Prayer

We have prepared for this night for weeks. Gifts have been bought. Our homes are decorated. Now dear God help us to find your Son and claim him for our own as we never have before. 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.

The Christmas Story and The Crèche

Children are invited up to hear the Christmas story and to fill our crèche as we tell it. Parents may come up to help.

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* vv 1&2 Pilgrim #134

Hymn *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Pilgrim #129
vv1&4

Hymn *Away in a Manger* Pilgrim #137

Hymn *The First Nowell* vv 1&2 Pilgrim #141

Hymn *The First Nowell* vv 3, 4 &5 Pilgrim #141

Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night* Pilgrim #138

Gifts and Tithes

Offertory *A Tender Rose Has Blossomed* arr. J. Rasley
+**Response** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all creatures here below,
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter,
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.*

Christmas Prayer

+**Hymn** *Joy To The World* Pilgrim #130

Benediction

Postlude *How Great Our Joy* arr. Mary McDonald

Thank you for joining us for our family Christmas Eve service. The minister and deacons of the church wish all a very Merry Christmas.

Interim Minister: Rev. Peggy O'Connor

Music Director/Organist: Fred Drifmeyer



Poinsettias

In memory of my beloved wife Evie, from Ron Armbruster

Merry Christmas, from Richard and Lynda Burwell

In memory of Ethel Storer, from Janet Cymbala

In memory of Mary M. Thompson, from Kim and Pam Eaton

In loving memory of Mother and Dad, and other loved ones, from
Lois Eaton

In memory of Ruth and William Hobbs, from Walter, Martha and
Bradford Hobbs

In memory of Hortense Hollis

In memory of our parents and our many Blessings, from Bill and
Lois Hopkins

In memory of my husband Peter, from Marion Mangels

With love for our children and grandchildren, from Bruce and
Beverly Nightingale

In memory of Margaret and Charles O'Connor and Connie
Crosson, from Rev. Peggy O'Connor

In memory of Jim and Grace Smith and Vic and Helen Minich,
from Sally and Dick Smith and family

In memory of our Parents and Sisters, from Joan and Gil Stone

In memory of Hilda Tangring, from Susan and Jim Sullivan

In loving memory of parents Kitty and Van Thomson and
brother John Thomson, from Alex and Cissy Thomson

In memory of Loved Ones, from George and Carrie Wailgum

In memory of our parents, Olive and Rudy Wellnitz and Grace
and Jack Westdyke, from Bruce and Barbara Wellnitz

In memory of Alice and Jim Welsh and Christine and Weldon
Lovely, from Marjorie and Paul Welsh

In memory of my parents, Constance and Herbert Wilder, from
Margaret (Peg) Wilder