Sunday ~ Third Sunday in Advent ~

Mon, Dec 20, 2021

News & Updates
from Pilgrim Congregational UCC Bozeman

December 10, 2021

December 12, 2021

On The Blog
Message from Pastor Laura

Dear Friends,

I have been reflecting recently on this time LAST year. I know you were worshiping online, with Rev. Dick Weaver's good care. I was building worship videos, hosting online Advent reflections, and planning for an online Christmas Eve service in Missoula. No one was vaccinated yet, Laurie and I weren't even considering a move to Bozeman, and we were all living with such uncertainty. So much has happened in a year. Many folks I know are vaccinated and boosted, including kiddos and teens (thank you! bless you! good job!). People who are not able to be vaccinated and others of us too, watch news about new variants and heed recommended cautions with deep concern. We are still adapting to a new normal, which is still hard to identify.

I am drawing encouragement and hope from the fact that we ARE worshiping together AND online this season. Praise be! We ARE making progress on managing Covid and preventing more needless deaths. We also mourn those we have lost and hold the pain of grief gently. It is a lot to reflect on, to carry, and to move through. If you are tired or anxious or stressed, you are not alone. We are in it together and we will get through. Let's hold all of these good and hard things together in love, knowing that nearly everyone we meet is holding more than it may seem. This is the time for more kindness and generosity than usual for ourselves and each other.

This Sunday, we have a treat. It is the Advent Sunday of Joy. Rev. Danielle Rogers and the Pilgrim Youth are leading a "Pop-Up" Christmas Pageant. That means there is a spontaneous part for everyone to play, including you. You can sing carols from your seat, you can grab a costume on your way in to worship, and be an angel, a lamb, a shepherd, a Joseph or Mary, or you can sit back and take in the joy of it all. If you are joining us online, light your three Advent candles and belt out those carols! I hope you will join us in this silly and sweet celebration of the Christmas story.

Peace, and hope, and joy to you,
Pastor Laura

Advent Study

Pilgrim Advent Prayer and Study - Small Group

The Wednesday evening Advent Study has begun, on zoom and in-person. Email Pastor Laura, minister@uccbozeman.org to join. It's not too late!

12/15, and 12/22, (7-8:00 p.m.)

We will weave our way through Advent with the Bible poetry, using a devotional called ADVENT UNBOUND: A COMPANION TO PÁDRAIG Ó TUAMA'S “POETRY UNBOUND,” available to you to download or in hard copy for free, before Thanksgiving. (Small
donations to offset the cost of purchase and printing, accepted.) Sign up here https://forms.gle/319hUs47mMCLVAef6 or email the office, mail@uccbozeman.org or sign up at church, by Tuesday, Nov. 30th.

Download your Advent Unbound booklet, here: Click Here (print landscape)

Want a taste of O’ Tuama’s Poetry? Visit On Being’s “Poetry Unbound” project, here: https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/

Advent Prayer and Study - At Home

Download an Advent Study booklet, or get a hard copy at church to accompany you through the four weeks of Advent with poetry (Advent Unbound with Padraig O Tuama) or simple activities and reflections, more oriented towards young people and families, but great for everyone (Less is More).

CLICK HERE For Booklet (print landscape)
Click here for the Poster

Christian Education

Youth Group Christmas Party Dec. 12 5:30-7pm
Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to our annual Christmas Party. Join us for a fun night of holiday games and cheer. We are participating in a secret Santa exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift under ten dollars to the party. If you need help getting a gift please contact Danielle at ce@uccbozeman.org. Pizza and desserts will be provided.

Interactive Christmas Pageant Dec.12th 10am
Pilgrim members and friends of all ages are invited to our interactive Christmas Pageant. This year there will be no rehearsals. Members and friends can choose from several costume options and as the story of Jesus’ birth is narrated, each of you will fill in the nativity scene. There will be no lines to memorialize, just a narrator and friendly faces to act as Shepherds, Angels, Animals, Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Have specific part in mind? We can accommodate you. In fact, we can have more then one of the same character. For more information contact CE Director Danielle Rogers at rogersmt@mail.com

What's Happening

The 2021 Giving Tree

This Christmas Season the Social Justice Team will again coordinate a Giving Tree for the congregation. The tree will be by the sanctuary door from Sunday, Nov. 28th through Sunday, Dec. 26th. Please place your gifts in the large Christmas box in the Narthex. The gifts should be new, unwrapped and please attach the paper item ornament to the gift so it will go to the right charity. Gift cards should be placed in the collection plates during offering. The charities on the tree this year are the Warming Center, Haven and the Blueprint Home. We will also be collecting snack food items for the workers at Bozeman Health.
Hospital as a gesture of appreciation for their hard work during the pandemic. The church is open from 9:00 to 3:00 Monday through Thursday for those who would like to drop off gifts during the week.

CLICK HERE for more info for each charity

Sign up on the kiosk in the church narthex or email the office to:

- Bring cookies for coffee hour. (You don't even have to serve, just drop off some treats. Easy peasy.)
- Help set up and/or clean up for coffee hour, just once or twice will help.
- Serve as a Sunday School or Nursery helper.

The Poinsettias on the altar have been donated by .... the lovely Poinsettias that decorate our altar have been Purchased in memory of, In honor of, or just given as a gift. This beautiful addition to our sanctuary during Advent is organized by the Women of Pilgrim. Click Here for this years list.

Donation made to “AID TO ORPHANS OF MADAGASCAR”
As a result of our congregation’s generous contributions to our Poinsettia Sale and an additional amount from the W.P. budget, $500 was donated to this charitable foundation established in 2000 by Pilgrim member Annie deMeij! Heartfelt thanks to everyone!

Stewardship Season is Here!

Pledging Update: Our goal this year is to raise $200,000. To date as of 12/01/21 we have raised $111,820 with 49 pledges.
In previous years our pledge numbers were:

- 2021 - 92 pledges
- 2020 - 107 pledges
- 2019 - 117 pledges

We still need $88,180 to meet our goal! Generous members and friends of Pilgrim make a pledge commitment in the fall for the coming year to sustain and continue the ministry of our church.

Contact Treasurer, Jack Lehman, Finance Committee Chair, Roger Matthew or the church office with questions. treasurer@uccbozeman.org

Visit our Website

Building Use and Gathering

A comprehensive building use document has been created. The purpose of the document is to address concerns that arise when our diverse membership comes together in our facility. Click Here to read that document.
Inside the church, we have reposted signs encouraging masks and hand sanitization. Let's work together to keep our community healthy.

**Click Here** to read this week's Concerns & Celebrations email.

If you have prayer requests or celebrations, send them to mail@uccbozeman.org. (If you are requesting prayers for another person, please be sure you have their permission to publish.)

The **deadline** for inclusion in the Concerns & Celebrations newsletter is **Tuesdays at noon**. If you would like to receive Concerns & Celebrations via email each week, **Click Here** to see how to sign up.

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**This Month of December**

**Planning for Christmas?**

We will have two services at Pilgrim on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Christmas Crew - Shepherds needed on Christmas Eve!** We still need a few readers for the 7:30 service, as well as additional ushers/greeters, folks to help with luminary set up and take down, and more.

We will likely have many visitors and new faces at church on Christmas Eve (services at 5:00 and 7:30), which means that those of us for whom Pilgrim is "home," have the opportunity to welcome our guests with love and hospitality. (Sounds like Christmas!) Will you be in town? Can you join the Christmas Crew? We need liturgists, Advent Wreath lighters, ushers, sound techs, childcare providers, folks to help clean up and sanitize between services, folks to make sure everyone has a battery-operated candle, help setting up and taking down luminaries, and maybe even a warmly dressed welcome committee to greet newcomers as they enter the building and direct folks to coat racks, bathrooms, nursery, etc. and to wish them Merry Christmas as they leave. Let's pull out all the stops on love at Pilgrim this Christmas. Contact the office if you can help.

**Serve as liturgist/reader on Christmas Eve (5:00 or 7:30) or Sunday December 26th.**

You can sign up on the kiosk at church, or contact Eric Semerad. Questions? Ask Eric Semerad or Pastor Laura.

**Holiday Office Closures at Pilgrim:**

- Weds Nov. 24th - Closing at 12 p.m.
- Thursday Nov. 25th - Closed for Thanksgiving
- Monday Dec. 27th - Thursday Dec. 30th - Closed (for a long winter's nap)
- The office is closed on Friday every week.

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**Chrismons™ Ornaments: Their History & Meaning**

Once again, our sanctuary Christmas tree is adorned with beautiful **Chrismons™** ornaments, which were handmade years ago with love and care by Women of Pilgrim. “**Chrismons™ ornaments were originated and first made for use on the**
Christmas tree of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, in 1957 by Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, a church member. The designs were monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by his followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind each of us regardless of denomination of the One we follow. All Chrsmons™ ornaments are made in a combination of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.” Source: http://www.chrismon.org/chrismons-ministry.html. “The name Chrsmons™ comes from a combination of CHRISt and MONogram.” Source: http://www.peacepresbyterianchurch.org/chrismons.pdf.

**Etcetera**

**Storyhill Fest 2022: Tickets now on sale**

We had so much fun in 2021 with the return of Storyhill Fest that we’re doing it again in 2022! Returning to the shores of Clearwater Lake, we’ll be together in northern Minnesota August 12-14, 2022. Get your tickets early as we’ve set capacity limits this year to ensure enough space for all of our guests. We'll be announcing some of the artists that will be joining us in the next few weeks. We hope to see you there!

**HRDC Flying Signs Event Saturday, December 11th**

2 hour shifts 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm
Meet at 32 South Tracy 20 minutes before shift begins

All proceeds from the event go to funding our overnight shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness in Gallatin and Park County.

If you have any questions or need additional information! Sign-ups can be done by contacting Cat Cramer Fundraising Coordinator HRDC at 32 S. Tracy Ave. Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 587-5909 www.thehrdc.org

**Haiti Packathon Report from the Pilgrim Social Justice Committee:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**Fork and Spoon**

We have been called upon to volunteer for December 23rd, should you be inclined to get it on your calendars.
Stop by Monday-Thursday 5-7pm or Friday from 12pm-6pm for walk-in service!

For more Information CLICK HERE

Still Searching For an Office Manager

Click Here

New Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs. 9A.M. - 3P.M.

A team of volunteers will be covering office hours and maintaining communications for our congregation. Tawnie Lehman, Wendy Morical, and Dilynn Wise will together ensure that the basic functions of the office are maintained. Please have patience with any small glitches or oversights – and be sure to call the office if you have any questions! 406-587-3690

The Pilgrim newsletter is sent out once a week. Whereas Pilgrim news and information is posted on Facebook every day. Check in often to stay informed and involved. Click over to facebook.com/PilgrimChurchBozeman and follow us.

Share our newsletter on YOUR social media feeds!

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