The best news around Pilgrim Congregational Church is that more and more of us are getting our Covid-19 vaccinations. Today, alone, five Pilgrims received their first shot. That number is added to the dozen or so who’ve received it earlier. Yay! I’m so grateful to all the scientists and their support staff for providing this solution, and to the local folks who are trying so hard to obtain and deliver the vaccinations.

The second best news around Pilgrim is the Thursday morning filming for worship services. Week after week, members of our church are showing up to read scripture, light our candles, sing and play music for us, and even - occasionally - preach for us. It is such a joy to see this activity and this dedication in our sanctuary.

A third joy is the opportunity to see and hear Kaarin Brooke’s lesson for the children every Sunday. She’s been fabulous in her choices, her readings, and her personal sharing. I don’t know how many kids get to hear her message each week, but I sure know all the adults appreciate her!

A bittersweet joy was hearing handbells and personal bells ringing on January 19 for all those lost to Covid-19. About fifteen of us gathered in the church’s lower parking lot and rang those bells as well and as long as we could. I found it a very moving experience, and I hope Jim Carr could hear us from heaven.
Beyond the walls of the church, your pastor is connecting with other leaders of faith communities, officiating at outdoor memorial services, volunteering for Pilgrim’s ministry to the homeless through the HOPE van and to the care of our greater community through Adopt-a-Block clean up efforts. Glenn Hoxie coordinates the HOPE van ministry and Pam Crowe coordinates the Adopt-a-Block efforts. Be sure and let them know if you’d like to participate.

Every week I reach out to a few more Pilgrims who have not been active in the recent past. I’ve had some wonderful conversations and am hopeful that some of these good folks will find their way back to church again soon.

For those who are new to our congregation, I’ll be offering an Inquiry Class in February. That’s an opportunity to learn about our church, share their own faith journey, and consider membership at Pilgrim. This will take place Friday, February 19th at 11 a.m. The link for the meeting will be sent out in an eblast.

Pilgrim Church is alive and well, and it’s been an honor to serve as your Bridge Pastor.

- Rev. Heather Hennessey

Serving Co-cos met on 1/10/21 with church members that comprise the Called to Care group to discuss any member concerns or needs they have learned of recently. This group continues to make phone calls, send cards, line up meals as needed and occasionally make a safe visit.

Doreeta Domke has volunteered to take over the sending of get well, thinking of you and sympathy cards from Peggie Linville. Doreeta is also mailing the monthly birthday cards to members who have provided their birth dates. We thank Doreeta for taking this on. It is a service that reaches all of us.

The Serving Co-cos welcome any church member to join with the Called to Care group. And we thank so many church members who are serving the church members but have elected not to join the monthly meetings. The next Called to Care meeting will be 2/14/21.
The Buddy System is still ongoing during this isolation period. For anyone wishing to connect with another member via phone on a regular basis, please contact Kim Healey at 605-0080, and leave a message. Those who have Buddies please continue your calls. They are appreciated.

The Serving Co-cos want to be sure all are aware of instacart.com, a nationwide service that provides home grocery delivery here in Redding. An additional internet site provides pre assembled delivered meals for 30 minute preparation. In your search bar go to every plate. Meals are reasonable and healthy.

Prayer chain requests are always available through:
   Jean Cannon • 227-3274 • jeancannon@frontiernet.net
   Barbara Cross • 221-3809 • eugjoy@gmail.com

- Peggie Linville and Kim Healey, Pilgrim Serving Co-cos

History of the Prayer Chain

Many of you may wonder “What is the Prayer Chain?” At least 30-40 years ago, before computers, Peggy Mallory, whom many of you remember, started a group of people calling from a list to one another to share news of a concern facing one of the Pilgrims. So by telephone, one call to another, “a phone chain” was established to inform the congregation.

With computers, communication changed so that those who wish to be informed of needs among the Pilgrims could add their email address to the list. Today we have approximately 30 people on the Prayer Chain to be notified.

An invitation: If you would like to pray for other Pilgrims, let Jean Cannon and Barbara Cross know. Your name will be added to their email list and you will receive prayer requests.

If someone has a concern and wishes for prayers, they notify Jean Cannon and Barbara Cross. Anyone who wishes for prayers must get permission from the person needing the prayers. The message is then sent out to the people who have signed up to be a part of the Prayer Chain.
February Calendar

- February 1: First Day of Black History Month
- February 9: SEACM Board Mtg. (Call Pam if you want to attend)
- February 10: FYI: Faith Forum Meeting (Heather attends)
- February 14: Valentine’s Day – Reach out to show you care
- February 19: Hope Van Breakfast (Call Glenn Hoxie to participate)
- February: Adopt-a-Block Clean up (on a nice day)
- February: Shasta Equal Justice Coalition (Zoom meetings)

Words from our Conference Minister Diane Weible:
“This is not us......What happened on January 6 is very much, us. It is who we are at this moment. I would hope that the meaning behind that statement is really ‘This is not who we should be.’“

We have to agree that there are fundamental wrongs that happened, not just on January 6, but every day—wrongs that oppress and disempower individuals, most often because of their skin color or their gender identity, or their culture, or just because someone decided they were different and different is wrong.

Read more...https://ncncucc.org/2021/01/14/lets-talk-about-us/

February is Black History Month, and we are discussing ways we can support and honor that. Pilgrim Council agreed to bring the Pray Their Names (BLM) display to Redding and we were working with Pastor Allen on this when he left. If you are interested in helping plan a Peace and Justice response please let Sue or Pam know and let us know you would like to attend our next zoom Connecting Planning session.

Pilgrim has had a member on the board of SEACM since the organization began 37 years ago. If you are interested in checking it out and maybe joining the board, call Pam Crowe. There is always room for more energy and support.

Heather is representing us at Faith Forum which is an association of Faith Communities advocating Acceptance, Understanding, Respect, Diversity, Peace and Nonviolence, Empowerment and Community Enrichment.
Lori McNeill and Rachel Hatch have been attending meetings of the Shasta Equal Justice Coalition (SEJC). We’re excited to learn more about this group. Stay tuned.

Valentine’s Day is February 14th reminding us of the UCC’s The Three Great Loves Initiative: the love of children, the love of neighbor, and the love of creation. We will be sending Valentine cards and love to our Faithworks Family and extending our good wishes to all in our Pilgrim family as well.

Connecting Co-Coordinators,
Sue Crandell & Pam Crowe

Learning

Pilgrims are continuing to learn from our guest preachers. Thank you, Heather, for all of your organizing and for the Sundays you fill our pulpit yourself.

Kaarin continues to bring special messages to our children each Sunday. Glenn Hoxie has stepped up to be our youth group leader and started off by leading another great hike to Chamise Peak on the last Sunday of January. (Picture below). Stay tuned for the next event.
Our book study is still reading and discussing Bishop Michael Curry’s book, “Love is the Way”. Heather is our leader, and we meet Thursdays at 3pm over zoom. Contact the office for the link if you’d like to join us. Like most students everywhere, Pilgrims are learning remotely, but we look forward to the time we can meet in person again.

Please let us know if you have other learning activities you’d like us to help facilitate.

Scott Hepburn & Paula Kahler
Pilgrim Learning CoCos

A great group turned out in early January to prune Crepe Myrtles around the church. Thank you Scott, John, Chris, Sheri, Kit and Paula! There are 28 of those pretty shrubs around the church, so it took a crew to prune them back. Get ready for a wonderful show of blossoms this late spring and summer.

Primroses have been planted in the small flower beds by the church's front steps. They look a little bedraggled now, due to the snow, but they'll spring back in time. They do need a volunteer, however, to trim them up every once in a while. If you have the time and interest (and ability to get down on the ground, then back up again), please let Heather know.

On **Saturday, February 13**, there’ll be another landscape work day from **9 till 12**. If you can help spread bark, or trim bushes, we’d love your help. Kids are welcome and donuts are promised.
Joys:

In January, Steve Kindle gave us informative sermons, enlightening us on Biblical interpretations. Thank you, Steve.

An ambitious group spent a Saturday morning pruning the 26 crepe myrtle trees on the church grounds. A big thank you to Heather Hennessey, Sheri Curtis, John Egolf, Randy Haynes, Chris McNeil, Scott Hepburn, and Paula Damico.

June Hartmann, who moved to a retirement community in Chico, sent word that she is doing well and enjoying her new lifestyle at Sycamore Glenn.

A lovely thank you note to the congregation from June Mackey shared that she is healing well after her tumor surgery. She is extremely grateful for the prayers and concerns for her as she recovers.
It has been joys and sadness for Louise Hansen’s family in the fall of 2020. She welcomed the arrival of a second great grandbaby: a baby boy joined his sister in Louise’s granddaughter’s family. And later on Thanksgiving, Louise’s daughter’s mother-in-law died of the Covid virus.

Sheri Curtis accompanied singers, Nancy Dutton, Nancy Milton, Pam Crowe and Donna Nelson. How nice to have these ladies share their talents for our worship services by singing hymns.

On January 17th, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, Lori McNeill accompanied herself singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, the African American National Anthem. It was such a special treat to hear Lori’s beautiful voice. Wow! Such talent in our midst.

Many turned out for the MLK drive-by celebration and community remembrance of King. Among several who spoke honoring King was Dr. Piyush Dhanuka from Pilgrim Church.

The helping hands of Michelle Martin-Streeby, Randy Haynes, and Heather Hennessey cleaned out storage rooms at the church. Thanks for your time and efforts.

We recognize and appreciate so many Pilgrims who help with our worship services which are online every Sunday....candle lighters, scripture readers and musicians... and especially Daniel Hill who is the videographer for the services. Let Heather know if any of you are willing to participate. A special praise goes to Kaarin Brooke who EVERY Sunday gives a message to Pilgrim Children which is always meaningful to all ages.

A group of our youth with some adults braved the chilly weather on Sunday, January 24th for a hike up Chemise Peak out of Shasta Lake City. Hopefully, Sara and Glenn Hoxie; Dr. Rainsford and his children; Kaarin, Colin and Cameron Brooke; and John, Joriana and Liam Egolf found the painted rock hidden at the top by Kit Harvey.

CONCERNS:

Prayers are with Nancy Dutton Hill and her mother, Barbara Davis, as they grieve the death of Nancy’s father in January after a long illness.
Peggie Linville needs our get well wishes while she is recovering from heart surgery during which she suffered stroke. She is recovering at Roseville Sutter Rehab in Sacramento. She is able to receive mail while she is there: Ms. Peggie Linville
c/o Sutter Rehab Institute
6 Medical Plaza Drive
Roseville, CA 95661

For several weeks, Mary Hammer has been at Marquis Assisted Living while she is recovering from back surgery as well as pneumonia. She needs our prayers as well as get well wishes.

As a remembrance of the thousands of people who have died because of the Covid Virus, 25 Pilgrims gathered at the church on January 19th to ring bells simultaneously along with bell ringers throughout the US. It was especially meaningful as our own Jim Carr is one of those thousand.

Mary Carr and her daughter, Jill, posted a lovely tribute to Jim Carr who died in Oct. 2020 due to Covid at the News Cafe web site: anewscafe.com

Andrew Forbes, Mary Forbes’s son, has been diagnosed with Covid. He is not hospitalized but is slowly recovering at home. Mary would appreciate prayers for him.

Rev. Heather Hennessey spoke for her sermon on Sunday Jan. 24th about each of the 10 Pilgrims who passed away in 2020: Ken Steele, Harry Daniell, Dick Kahler, Maggie Cerro, Wilma Steele, Joanne Nelson, Don Crandell, Mel Hammer, Jim Carr, Pete Anderson. Thank you, Heather, for those special remembrances of each of them.

There are several in our midst who may feel isolated due to living conditions and would appreciate cards or calls. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers, Deanie Coon, Claudine Cupples, Paul Frye, Caroline Kennedy.

Submitted by Barbara Cross
The City of Redding has a great little program that makes a BIG difference in keeping our city neat and clean. The city invites individuals and organizations to adopt a block and regularly pick up trash there. The city provides safety vests, instructions, “picker uppers,” and big, strong, orange trash bags.

Pilgrim Church has adopted a block in downtown, and Pam Crowe has been doing the trash pickup. Pam needs some help! Please contact her if you’d like to help once or regularly. With all the other helpful things that Pam does, she might also love it if someone else from the church could lead this project. If you’re available, let her know.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for all Pilgrim members will be held via zoom on:
Sunday, February 7, 2021 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Click on this link: https://zoom.us/j/694325347

Please note that the zoom link is the same link that has been used all along for our coffee hour held each Sunday. If you are not sure how to join a zoom meeting, please reach out. It is really straight forward and it is critical each member attends as we will need a quorum to pass by-law changes, the 2021 budget and elect the council for 2021. Documents such as the agenda and proposed 2021 budget will be available on the Pilgrim website. Hard copies can be picked up at the church upon request.

Glenn Hoxie, Moderator
The total income for the 12 months of 2020 for Pledges, Loose Plate & Building use was $158,003 compared to our projected 12 months income of $168,100 shows a variance to the negative side of $-10,097.

Income from Pledges and Loose Plate came out short of our projected income for the 12 months by $-1,257. The loss of income from building use is the reason for the total deficit of $-10,097.

For the 2021 Stewardship Campaign as of December 31 we received 61 Pledges for a total commitment of $126,932 as compared to the total of 62 Pledges in 2020 for a commitment of $134,429. If we adjust this number by - $12,740 for those members that have deceased or moved out of the area the total pledge amount for 2020 would be $121,689 so, our total commitment for 2021 of $126,932 exceeds the 2020 total by $5,243.

We also had a number of members who generously over paid their 2020 Pledge amount.

Submitted by Robert Cross, Financial Secretary
Our newly resurfaced upper parking lot was put to good use in early December as the Shasta High School Madrigal group hosted a drive-through Madrigal Dinner over four nights Dec. 9-12. It was obviously different from other years, but we’re sure those who attended enjoyed the event and we are pleased that our church could help the students have a madrigal experience 2020 style.

With the help on Nick Andersen, a burned-out light bulb was replaced on the light standard at the corner of the education wing, thereby fully illuminating the stairs leading down to the back entrance to the church.

We have purchased three signs (two saying No Parking, one No Trespassing) which will be put up soon. The No Trespassing/No Parking signs will likely be paired on a post at the upper parking lot entrance, the other sign will be near the parking lot island.

We are getting quotes from two companies for the church’s liability insurance which is due for renewal in January.

Our sharp-eyed custodian, Randy Haynes, continues to spot minor things in need of repair or touch-up.

On the financial side, Bob Cross, our financial secretary, reports that 64 pledges have come in for 2021 totaling $125,912. The finance team has prepared a proposed budget for presentation to the congregation at a (virtual) annual meeting in February.

John Crowe and Bill Justice
Inquiry Class

Have you been thinking about membership at Pilgrim Congregational Church? Come learn what that means and how to do it at an Inquiry Class. Pastor Heather invites you to a Zoom meeting on Fridays at 11:00, starting on February 19.

At this class you’ll meet other newcomers (and some old timers!), learn about the history of the United Church of Christ and Pilgrim Church, and have time for questions. We’ll plan to meet at least twice. If you choose to join the church, we’ll talk about how and when you might want to do that.

Watch the Thursday eblasts for the zoom link. And, if the Friday time doesn’t work for you, let Pastor Heather know and she’ll offer a second class in the evenings. The best contacts for Heather are her email... heather82750@gmail.com...or her cell...206-953-2325.