Minister’s Missive

I admit to being disappointed that we cannot safely have an in-person worship service on Sunday, May 2nd, but I understand the concern about rising Covid infections in Shasta County. Sigh. Safety first.

It is still true that, having been fully vaccinated, I’m very much appreciating a modicum of freedom. I am able to meet - unmasked - with other vaccinated folks, and even sing with them. In the public sphere, I am still wearing my mask and keeping my distance. This is because only 30% of Shasta County residents are fully vaccinated. Please, if you have not yet gotten your shots, join the ranks of those who have. We all need to get to herd immunity, and getting sick is not the way to get there. (I’ve been very impressed by how miserable one family member was when she contracted the virus twice last year.)

While we’re not worshiping together in our sanctuary, lots of good things continue to happen at your church. Fresh paint is being applied, a rotten sidewalk has been replaced, the big storage area in the basement has been cleaned out, a large white board has been added to the Sunday School space downstairs, fresh bark has been applied to our grounds, weed pulling and string trimming have been accomplished (although there’s always more to do), and new parking signs have
been erected. Some dead Cottonwood trees will soon come down, and reflective film has been applied to the windows in the Office Manager’s and Pastor’s Study. (The latter will reduce the need for air conditioning and provide privacy at half the cost of new blinds.) Thank you for supporting these efforts with your dollars and your volunteer time.

Ministry also proceeds at a commendable level. Home visits with vaccinated parishioners are happening, and communion is being shared. Worship services continue to be produced in a virtual format and widely disseminated. Social justice work is being ably pursued by your Connecting Co-coordinators, and community relationships are being nurtured. Learning continues with wonderful Sunday presentations and challenging book studies. Youth are gathering with strong adult leadership and enjoyable activities. Memorial services are being planned for small or outdoor gatherings. Administrative tasks, like updating the church directory and website, continue to be achieved. Your church is alive and well.

Having written all this, I still need to ask for your prayers for Pilgrim. Our Search Committee is doing their best, but the right candidate for our permanent Pastor has not yet been found. My time as your Bridge Pastor will end on June 30, and we will need to find the right solution to ministerial leadership from July 1 onward. Grace abounds, but prayer will help! Let God and the universe know of our needs, and then keep an open mind and a hopeful heart.

Special Notes

FREE FIREWOOD! Heather and Randy have lots of cut up oak and grey pine. (Some of it needs splitting.) You would need to come get it, but you can drive right up to the stacks. Call Heather at 206-953-2325 or Randy at 206-295-2141 if you could use the wood.
Polishing up the Church

The results of Chris's hard work
Our masked weed whacker...Chris McNeill!
Kit Harvey, pulling weeds and still smiling!

Paula Damico cleaning up the flower beds.
Building and Finance

Although the church building has been largely unpeeled over the last several months, when the time does come that we can meet in person, we hope you will notice some significant changes inside and out. Under the table guidance of Nick Andersen, a portion of the deck or breezeway behind the kitchen has been rebuilt, replacing weakened and rotted wood that had been in place for decades. The new section of deck and side paneling are both very solid and built to last.

Also new is the installation of sun block film on the windows of the two church
offices. The material will provide more privacy and should help reduce cooling costs by reflecting some of the sunlight. The aging blinds in the secretary’s office, which are in bad shape, will be removed. The blinds in the pastor’s office will remain.

If you come into the lower parking lot and sense that things look somehow different, it may be because three large, dead cottonwood trees will be taken down. A fourth cottonwood near the parking lot, although a bit scraggy, has leased out. The tree service people will prune out only the dead wood.

The Strengthen the Church offering is May 23. In the words of the UCC web site, “The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.” A vital and vibrant United Church of Christ is important to us all.

John Crowe and
Bill Justice

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**Financial Secretary’s Report**

Financial Secretary’s Recap of Income
For the first 3 Months of 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Projected Income</th>
<th>Actual Income 3 Months</th>
<th>Actual Income 3 Months</th>
<th>Income Variance 3 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>126,932</td>
<td>31,734</td>
<td>51,828</td>
<td>20,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>1,045</td>
<td>-1,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub- Total</td>
<td>135,932</td>
<td>33,984</td>
<td>52,873</td>
<td>18,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building use</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>1,299</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other-Parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot Rent</td>
<td>*5,100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>146,232</td>
<td>35,283</td>
<td>52,933</td>
<td>17,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The income for the first three months for Pledges, Loose Plate & Building use was $52,933. Included in this total are Pre-Paid pledges for year 2021 received in 2020 totaling 10,100 which explains why the income number for the 3 months continues to show a positive variance of 17,650.

We should see some improvement in the income from Building Use in April since we have started to see interest in using our building. Simpson University has already scheduled the use of our building this month.

Submitted by: Robert Cross
Financial Secretary

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**Connecting**

We are happy to report Cesar Chavez Day was successful raising over $2000 and collecting lots of clothing, food, PPE, and other items for local farm workers. Right now as we write, the Whole Earth Watershed Festival is getting underway. Let us know if you are a lucky winner of one of Pilgrim’s trees. Thank you all for your support of both events!
Pilgrims' Fall Fundraiser is underway. Plans are afoot to hold it tentatively on October 16; indoors with many of the fun events we have come to love….including Heather’s soup, music put together by Sheri Curtis and friends, and more. If anyone wants to volunteer, has an idea, yearns to head up a committee, now is a good time to step up. Our next meeting will be on Zoom at 12:30 on Sunday, May 2. All are welcome!

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84987683513?pwd=eml0VU5DZjljakd6aUZiYXQrS3FFdz09
Meeting ID: 849 8768 3513
Pass code: 534207

Many of you have called and emailed offering to help our new FaithWorks family. The change-over is still in process. As of this writing, the new family has not yet been selected – but will be soon! Know that when we have a specific need, we will call you! Thank you for all of your offers!!

We are working on bringing the Pray Their Names display to Redding - hopefully within the next few months. If you have not heard about this display, it was created at the UCC church in Sonoma out of Black Lives Matter, but places a deeper, more spiritual aspect on remembering the names of those black lives who have been lost. You can Google Pray Their Names to find images of the display. It consists of a large sign offering instructions on how to experience the display and then over 240 individual hearts each remembering one individual and each to be placed about six feet apart to allow people to walk among them. We do not know yet precisely where all the hearts will be placed, nor do we know who we will have as co-sponsors. We will keep you apprised as we move along.

Remember to send in your personal ideas on how to save the Earth one step at a time. The can is filling slowly for the drawing on June 20th. If you do anything you believe is good for our planet, tell us. We’ll put your names and tips in the drawing.
Remember the ripple effect and how good this is for your kids to participate!

Update on Camp Caz – our Northern California mountain church camp, Camp Cazadero
At the Conference meeting on March 13, 2021 it was decided to pursue two options for the future of Camp Caz and form a new committee to look at what is feasible. Currently they are looking at two options:
1. Sell the camp (The financial arm of our Conference governance is tasked with trying to sell the camp. An unsolicited letter was received from a group outside the UCC that asked if we would consider selling;)
2. Rebuild it (Camp Caz could rebuild to become self-sustaining, perhaps as a non-profit.)
A new committee was called by the Conference Council to look into hiring a consultant to look at the feasibility of the two options, respond to recommendations, consider Caz as a nonprofit, and fundraise to make those recommendations a reality, unless the recommendation is to sell. A Zoom Meeting of the new committee will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021 to discuss these possibilities.
For more information go to [https://ncncucc.org/under-the-bell/](https://ncncucc.org/under-the-bell/)

Pilgrim May Calendar – be aware there may be additions in the Blast as we move through the month:
May 2 12:30 Fundraiser meeting – next meeting TBD
May 11 4:00 SEACM
May 12 5:30 Council
May 14 12:00 L-Club
May 21 8:15 HOPE Van Breakfast/Lunch
May 23 ~ Strengthen the Church – our 2nd special offering (2/5) of 2021
Adopt-a-Block Nancy Milton & Heather Hennessey

Stay connected!
Sue Crandell and Pam Crowe
The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering (May 23) is one of five special offerings UCC does each year. STC reflects the shared commitment of all UCC churches everywhere to cooperatively build UCC. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. This offering embodies the wisdom of ‘together we grow stronger.’

Thank you for your past support of STC. Because of your support, new church starts have emerged, congregations have been revitalized, and leadership skills have been enhanced. Let’s keep the fund growing.

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**Joys and Concerns**

**JOYS:**

What a joy to gather outside Pilgrim Church for our Easter Sunday Service. So much time and effort on the part of many Pilgrims to make this event possible. The service was beautiful as well as the day -- a day filled with gratitude and love.

At the Easter service we also welcomed a new member to Pilgrim Church, Lauralyn DuBois. She even participated in the service by reading the scripture. Welcome Lauralyn!

Our very own Paul Dhanuka shared words with us at worship on "The Love of Power or the Power of Love." Thanks to Paul for being willing to be the speaker for us on April 11th.
A trip to Seattle for Paula Kahler gave her a chance to be with her 3 grandchildren and her 2 sons and their wives. Paula came home beaming with joy for her family time.

Kaarin Brooke shares messages each week with children, often complimentary to the theme of the Sunday morning speaker. On April 18th, after her video of a caterpillar transformed to a cocoon and into a beautiful butterfly, Ken Hill's sermon was presented in his yard where he acted out the transition with a caterpillar to a butterfly having a conversation with "God". What a talented couple the Hills are in our midst!

YES, Peggie Linville is recovering well at home!! We welcomed her to coffee hour recently. She looks radiant and is doing PT at home.

Thelonius McNeill often joins coffee hour as it gives him a chance to share events in his 7 yr. old life. Because he and his dad, Chris, were going to do yard work, he held up the leaf blower. Another Sunday, he shared a guitar given him by Sara Hoxie. He is anxious to learn how to play it.

Sara Hoxie is so talented....... not only does she sing and play the guitar, she composes her own songs. Thank you, Sara, for singing for us in worship service on April 25.... Lovely songs sung from your garden.

Hooray for those volunteers who helped tidy up the church grounds. Hats off to Paula Damico, Heather Hennessey, Kit Harvey, Chris McNeill and Randy Haynes.

Extra thanks to Randy Haynes for his efforts to keep our church looking so attractive. He has the skill of seeing something which needs attention and taking care of it.

How thoughtful of Diane Hepburn to invite Diane Langan to her house to she could
join in the coffee hour conversations! Many are not able to connect to the Zoom meetings so Diane Hepburn's sharing was a welcome solution. Perhaps other Pilgrims can do the same so more can be a part of the social hour.

Our eagle resource person, Kit Harvey, reported that the eaglets who are now 5 weeks old (April 25th) have names chosen from a field of suggestions... "Honor", "Glory" and "Rebel". It is always a treat to watch them on the Eagle Cam.

Welcome back to Nancy Milton who has been visiting her daughter Megan Owens down in Hemet for 2 weeks. We claim Megan as "ours" as she was ordained in Pilgrim Church and now has a church in Menifee, California.

As many know, John Crowe is an avid bicyclist. Recently he was biking with his "Wheelman Group" along the American River Parkway. They stopped for a break at a restaurant near Folsom. He is hoping that the organizers of the "Bike Depot" in Redding will provide a similar rest stop for bikers.

Watching her 8 year old grandson celebrate his first communion on Zoom was a very special moment for Linda Robathan. Another reason to sing the praises of Zoom during the pandemic.

What a joy to welcome Ellis Martin, retired minister, to our pulpit. This wise man has frequently shared with our congregation. Thank you, Ellis, for your time and talent.

Kaarin Brooke is ecstatic that she will be able to walk at her graduation from Chico State University on May 22nd. She will go on to get her teaching credential. This is a big accomplishment for her while raising her 2 sons when her pilot husband, Mike is often away.

CONCERNS:
It is with much sadness that we share the news that Sheri Curtis' father, Jay Curtis, passed away on Sunday, April 25th. He lived a full life of 99 1/2 years. Over the last few years, Sheri has been a dedicated care giver. Our prayers are with Sheri and her brother. Some of us recall the gathering for his 99th birthday last summer when he was delighted to have visitors.

Sue Crandell's daughter-in-law, Megan Crandell, had surgery to remove a melanoma in April. The procedure was a success.

In April, Dee Domke also had successful melanoma surgery.

Sally Dale and her son, Joe, continue to be in our prayers as Sally deals with health challenges and Joe is recovering from knee surgery.

Mary Hammer continues her stay at Marquis Assisted Living. Bringing her the pleasure of singing were Heather Hennessey and Mary Forbes. On another day, Donna Nelson, and Sue Asbill, long time close friends of Mary’s visited. Moments like these help keep her spirits positive.

Reaching out to the following "home-bound" Pilgrims would be greatly appreciated. Paul Frye (at Marquis Assisted living), Deanie Coon (Lives with her daughter, Margaret) and Claudine Cupples (at St. Lorenz Assisted Living).

If you know of any fellow Pilgrims who are in need of special care or assistance please let the Serving Cocos know-- Karin Lightfoot and Cindy Asher.

Submitted by Barbara Cross
Pastor Search Committee

Your Pastor Search Committee continues to prayerfully consider applicants for our next Settled Pastor. After several interviews with prospective candidates we are again praying for more profiles to come our way. We know that God will send the right candidate to us. It is important to the committee that we consider each candidate as a complete person, where they are now, where they want to be in the future and how that fits with Pilgrim. While the search process is necessarily confidential in nature, we want to hear any concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact anyone on the committee and we will be happy to share what we can. The members of the committee are Kaarin Brooke, Diane Campbell, Pam Crowe, Sue Crandell, Andrea Gibbens, Kit Harvey, Sara Hoxie, Rob Lightfoot, Chris McNeill, and Tara Swanson.

Learning

All of us are learning from Pilgrim's guest ministers/lay speakers each week. Thank you Heather, for coordinating and to all who have participated. Children (of all ages!) learn from Karin’s special messages each and we thank her also.

Pilgrim Youth Group is planning an outing to play miniature golf on Friday, May 14th. An email with details will be sent to all families of youth grades 6-12. It's sure to be a fun evening! Thank you, Glenn Hoxie, for leading this group.

Pilgrim Book Study continues with Active Hope by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnston. It meets Thursdays at 3 o’clock via zoom. All are welcome. Please contact the church office if you’d like the zoom link.
For spring and summer, we again recommend the Daily Devotionals by UCC writers available via email. Also, our Pilgrim Library (in the Fireside Room) is open Tuesdays-Thursdays from 10am to 4pm. Stop by and find your next good read!

Many books from past Book Studies have been donated to our collection so if one sounded interesting to you but you didn't make the study group.....here's your chance!

Happy Spring learning!
Scott Hepburn and Paula Kahler
Pilgrim Learning CoCos

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Harry's Memorial Plaque
Memorial Bench for Dr. Harry Daniell