

Pilgrim United Methodist Church
2965 West Parks Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

Pastor: Kenneth J. Bremer
Adm. Asst: Candice Pierson
Relational Ministries: Vicky Bremer
Youth Director/Evangelism: Eric
Branch

Church Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri. 8am – 1pm
Summer Contact Office

Phone (989) 224-6865/6925

E-Mail: pilgrimumc@mutualdata.com

Website: pilgrimchurch.com

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Pilgrim Body Builder

*We're Pilgrims on a journey,
won't you come along?*

Vol. VI No. 415

January 2012

New Year Worship Changes....

Beginning Sunday, January 8th our times will change slightly to allow for an easier transition between worship services and Sunday School.

First Service.....8:30am – 9:30am

Sunday School.....9:45am – 10:45am (NEW)

Second Service.....11am – 12noon (NEW)

Membership Classes Offered . . .

Classes will begin on Sunday, January 15th and will meet for six weeks ending on February 19th. We will meet at 9:45am during the Sunday school time. Anticipate joining the church on February 26th. We will study some basic Christian theology, Methodist history and valuable information about Pilgrim UMC. Contact pastor Ken with any questions or if you are interested in joining.

(Note: UMC Discipline ¶246.2 & ¶248 require that a person shall be a professing member of the local church to be eligible to vote at a called church conference. The church conference is where official decisions of vision and leadership are made and where voting on building expansion will take place. Also, most administrative committees in the local church have professing membership requirements.)





Thank you very much to the Carol Ministry for the beautiful poinsettia. Thank you to the Pilgrim gardeners for the canned food. I shall enjoy it. I have had to miss the last several church services due to a problem with my legs.

Sincerely, Jean Chaffin



Many thanks to the Carol Ministry and to the Pilgrim Gardeners for the pretty poinsettia and the home-canned goodies! Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Karen Schwarz



I want to thank the Pilgrim Community Gardeners and the Carol Ministry for the beautiful poinsettia plant and the basket of goodies.

....Alice Hoeve



We want to thank the carolers for their singing on December 18th. We were so blessed by them. We also want to thank the Carol Ministry Team and the Pilgrim Gardeners for the poinsettia and canned goods. God bless.....we love you!

.... Donald and Alma Davis



We would like to thank the congregation for the gift cards and for your encouragement throughout the year. Our ministry at Pilgrim is very rarely work to us It is a joyful act of service for those we care most about.

....Jim and Candy Pierson

Kroger Community Rewards Cont'd...

Step by step instructions:

- > Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- > Click Michigan
- > Click **"Re-enroll"** if you were registered last year.
 1. Put in your e-mail
 2. Put in your password (If you forgot the password, go thru the "Forgot your password")
 3. Find Pilgrim UMC by typing in the church's NPO number which is **82915**
 4. Click the **"Select Your Organization"**
 5. Click the **"Save Changes"**

--OR--

If you have *never* been a part of Kroger Community Rewards.com:

- > Click **"Enroll"**
 1. **"Sign up today"** (to the right)
 2. Enter your zip code and click **"Search"**
 3. Click on the arrow to display the list of stores in your zip code and highlight your preferred store
 4. Enter in your email and password
 5. Click **"Next"**
 6. Key in your Kroger Plus Card Number (If it says that this card has already been used, please call the number on the back of your card)
 7. Enter the security code (from the box above it)
 8. Enter in your contact information.
 9. Click on **"next"**
 10. Verify that your account information is correct. Check box for agreement of the terms and conditions and click **"complete information"**
 11. Kroger will send an email that you entered earlier in the process. (This can take up to 10 minutes)
 12. Read the email and either click on the link within the email or copy and paste it into your browser.
 13. Sign in: click on the **"Click here"** button and type in your email and password.
 14. Under Kroger Community Rewards Section at right, click **"Edit Kroger Community Rewards Info."**
 15. Find your organization by typing in Pilgrim's NPO number which is **82915**
 16. Click on Pilgrim UMC. Please make sure that you click on the circle to the left so that it becomes highlighted.
 17. Click on **"Save Changes"**
 18. You are now enrolled. **"registered"**

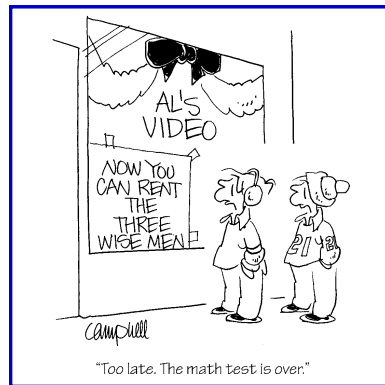
Eric John Branch Cont'd...

of this amount to make it so you will go to this event. Scholarships are available and don't feel like you shouldn't use them. The money is set aside for a reason and please don't sit something out because you don't want to use the scholarship or for financial reasons.

Lastly, I just want to take a moment to say "Thank You." From the bottom of my heart and my entire soul for all the love and support during my shoulder surgery and recovery. The love and support that has been shown to my family and I is overwhelming. In this difficult time, Pilgrim U.M.C. and KAIO have been a huge blessing. May the Love you have shown continue to echo through our lives, may we focus our lives on what is true-honorable-right-pure-lovely-admirable, and may all that we say and do advance the Gospel of Jesus the Christ.

**In the service of Jesus the Christ
and His Bride, the Church,**

eric john branch



Kroger Community Rewards

It's easy to enroll or re-enroll in Kroger Community Rewards. All participants must create an online account at Kroger.com and must sign up online to participate....you can no longer do it through the store. Pilgrim receives a percentage of the amount you spend each time you use your card at Kroger once you sign up for the community rewards



Two Pilgrim teams will be traveling to work with Revs. Merlin & Kay Pratt through PAPA'S Ministries between January and February 2012. That is 15 individuals that have the opportunity to help by taking the much needed supplies down to the island.

Current Specific Needs:

- Long wood bits 8" or more
- Block Plain
- Spade bits -various sizes
- Nice Pruning Sheers
- Carbide 7 1/4 saw blades
- Extension Cord (outdoor 25 or 50 ft)
- Tongs & serving spoons (industrial -cooking for teams or school)
- Hone -fine grain
- Nice wood Chisels
- Jig Saw
- PVC CUTTER

The Continually Needed items:

- PVC 1/2 inch (various joints)
- Sand paper
- Medium size adult shoes (size 6-8 womens or 7-9 mens)
- Un-insulated mud boots (size 7-9 mens)
- Men's trousers (30/32waist) (not jeans)
- Women's summer church clothes (formal stuff size)
- plumbers putty
- Kids black shoes

S&M)

- Visine allergy drops (for Desmond) 2-pk at

Meijer \$10

- Bibles
- Craft Supplies (simple crafts)
- School Supplies
- Sewing Supplies (basic color threads)
- Ink cartridges (Lexmark 28 & 29 and HP 60)



All of those who are traveling, appreciate your help in collecting and sending these items. There is a box in the coat room that you can drop these items off so they can be packed to go.



featuring the Bunch-a-boys:

Welcome to the sounds, actions, and thoughts of our 1st-3rd grade Bunch-a-Boys in Caravan! These energetic boys are fearlessly lead by wonderful Christian men, Eric Harger, Dave Hunt, and Clayton Harger. There is never a dull moment as they have been memorizing the books of the Bible, learning scripture and reading it in front of the class, and working together as a team for Jesus! They have worked on respecting each other and their parents, putting on the Armor of God, and soaking in their minds the forgiveness of sins God has for each of us. Personal hygiene and crafts have also been in their studies. Of course physical education activities and eating snacks are always important parts of the regular schedule as growing boys. When we start rolling again in 2012, the Bunch-a-boys will be busy taking a field trip to Big Boy, learning about the business and food though they will want to include taste-testing, of course, plus public safety with Ryan Cressman, and techniques for treading or not treading on thin ice! There will be service projects such as visits to Hazle Findlay and Grace Haven as they reach out and share their smiles and God's love with others. The Bunch-a-Boys have been the go-getters in bringing in the most mission money so far this year but every penny is important when giving to the Lord and His work as we collect for the Wesley Woods camp in Michigan and our Ethiopian sponsor child, Nigist. Thanks for continued prayers for these young men and their leaders as they all are focusing on serving the Lord and being in His will. These leaders are such amazing examples of Godly men and we praise God for their leadership each week.



Eric John Branch Cont'd...

We are told, by the fallen world, that we have to make-up some stories or some mythological character because we or our children will miss out if they don't celebrate with lies. We are told that Christ's actions aren't enough reason to celebrate. And where do these "mythological creatures" and "made-up stories" (lies or untruths would be another way to say both of them), where do they fit into a healthy Christian's life if one is trying to live out 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Philippians 4:8? I don't know about you, but I am going to start a new tradition for the holidays: to ONLY tell TRUE stories and ONLY celebrate REAL people. And for me, Jesus' birth and resurrection are BEYOND ENOUGH reasons to celebrate. I don't need anything else. I won't listen to the lies of the commercialized world, I won't celebrate lies, and I won't listen to those that would distract me from the true reason to celebrate during the holidays. I know in my own life I have wasted too much time believing lies and celebrating the wrong things. Just something I was thinking about. Please tell me what you think. Let me buy you a cup of coffee and we can discuss it. But I wonder, do our children need any more lies being screamed at them from an unbelieving world? Or should we strive to help them know the One and Only Truth? The real and only Reason for the season. The truth is always the most loving thing and the best reason to celebrate. Do we really need anything more?

Reason for the Season



Upcoming Events: In January and February, youth from Pilgrim U.M. Church will be attending Winter Blast 2012 at Wesley Woods Camp in Dowling, MI. This is an awesome event and I highly encourage all youth, from elementary to high school to attend. Elementary Youth will be having their Winter Blast on Jan. 6-7, 2012. Last day to register is February 1. Total cost is \$79 but the Youth Ministry is willing and able to pay any portion

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From Eric John Branch...

Director of Youth Ministries & Evangelism

“I destroy every claim and every reason that keeps people from knowing God. I keep every thought under control in order to make it obey Christ.” ~2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIRV)

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” ~Philippians 4:8 (NLT)



I took this picture of ice crystals that had formed overnight on the roof of my car. And it got me thinking...How beautiful and amazing the created world is. And how God's ways are so astounding and so perfect. And that got me thinking about the holidays, specifically the two big ones -- Christmas and Christ's Resurrection (*some have mistakenly called this "Easter" but that isn't in the Bible*). And then I started thinking about all that surrounds the "Big Two." Have you ever thought about the fact that these two holidays -- you know those few times in the calendar year when we celebrate what God has done and is doing, when we draw together with friends and family, when we have special church services -- that part of these holidays, from the worldly view, are based on lies, mythological creatures, and made-up stories? It almost is like some "evil conspiracy" is plotting to convince us that Christ's birth and Christ's resurrection aren't enough reasons to celebrate.

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Carrie's Card Class



This month's card class will be on Saturday, January 21, from 1-4 pm, in the lounge. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 17 so that materials can be prepared. Contact Carrie at carriejuhas@yahoo.com or (989) 847-2055 to RSVP or ask questions. Please bring adhesive (tape runner works best) and scissors. Come for fun, food, and fellowship!

...Carrie Juhas

Summer Jobs - Camp Greenwood, located just northeast of Grand Rapids, MI, is receiving applications for Support Staff, Counselors, Lifeguards and a Program Director for the summer of 2012. If you feel God is calling you to a summer of ministry read the job description and fill out an application at www.campgreenwood.org. Interviews will begin in February.

There will be a meeting at 4:00 p.m. for the CHILDREN'S CHURCH large and small group leaders on January 15th. It will be at the church.

Luncheon for Jamaica Missions

Deb Ruthruff has graciously and deliciously said she would bless the Jamaica team and all of you with a soup/salad/baked potato meal **after the 11am service on January 8th**. There will be a free-will donation for the meal which will go towards the team leaving for Jamaica in early February. More details in the bulletin to come soon on the menu you will get to enjoy that day. If you are on diet by then following the Christmas foods, you may always donate without consuming any calories!!!



The two greatest commandments, according to Jesus, are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Four of the Ten Commandments in the Bible have to do with our relationship with God while

the other six have to do with our relationship to other people. The scriptures consistently teach the importance of both our vertical connection (with God) and our horizontal connection (with others).

Romans chapter 12 begins with those inspiring words that call us to become living sacrifices to God as an act of spiritual worship. *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”* The chapter begins with our eyes looking up, and it ends with our eyes looking out. By the time you get to verse 9 you find some very practical advice on how to put your horizontal love into action.

If you are looking for ways to start the New Year off on the right foot then consider the following directives from God’s word.

Romans 12:9-19
Love must be sincere

- a. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
- b. Be devoted to one another in brotherly/sisterly love.
- c. Honor one another above yourselves.
- d. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
- e. Be joyful in hope.
- f. Be patient in affliction.
- g. Be faithful in prayer.

Continued on Page 7

Trustees Seeking Volunteers....

▶ We are still in need of a volunteer to lock up the church every night. If you would be interested in taking care of this ministry please contact Jim Pierson at 989-224-6865.



▶ We are looking for someone to change the outdoor sign each week. If interested in taking on this responsibility, please contact Jim Pierson at 989-224-6865.

Missionaries to speak at Pilgrim . . . On Sunday, January 29th

Craig and Shelly Schafer will be telling of their mission work among the Kora people in Papua Indonesia. The Schafers serve with New Tribes Missions (NTM). Their goal is to learn the culture and language of this primitive mountain people in order to one day share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. It will take many years of language study and living among this tribe before the good news (Wene) can be presented. Craig and Shelly will be sharing at 8:30am and 11:00am worship on Sunday, January 29.

All-House Meeting . . . The six ministry houses (God’s, Missions, Spirit, Green, Kids/Youth, Disciple) will be meeting on Tuesday, January 10th for an evening of vision, training and encouragement. Please see the insert in this Body Builder, House & Ministry Leaders, to see a listing of all who are invited to attend. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the mission and ministry of Pilgrim UMC. The meeting will be from 6:30 to 8:00pm.



Habitat for Humanity is looking for a ReStore Manager

The mission of the Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County ReStore is to generate revenue through the sale of donated building materials and household items to support the objectives of Habitat in providing decent, affordable housing to qualified residents in Clinton County, Michigan. The ReStore Manager will work 32 hours per week and supervise the day-to-day operations, including acquisition and sale of used, new, and surplus building materials, and represent Habitat and the ReStore at public and community events. Commitment to the Habitat mission, high energy, attention to detail, outstanding customer service skills and a positive attitude is a must. The ideal candidate would desire to work with a non-profit organization for a sense of fulfillment to further an important cause and where salary is not the highest priority. **Interested persons should send resume with cover letter to: hr@habitatclinton.org, or contact Sue Carroll at 989-227-1771.**



Thanks to all who made cookies for Christmas caroling and for all those who came to sing. We saw many smiles and tears of joy.

.....Darci Hallenbeck

Pastor Cont'd...

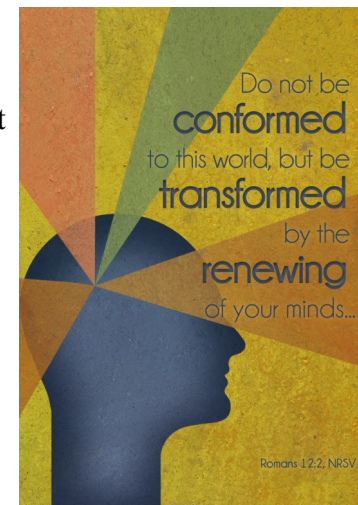
- h. Share with God's people who are in need.
- i. Practice hospitality.
- j. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- k. Rejoice with those who rejoice.
- l. Mourn with those who mourn.
- m. Live in harmony with one another.
- n. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
- o. Do not be conceited.
- p. Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
- q. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.
- r. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
- s. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

There is certainly a year's worth of inspiration and challenge in these words. Even the seasoned saint will be challenged to put all these into practice. But, that is what we are called to do. We are called to put our love into action. In 2012 let's intentionally ask the Holy Spirit have his way with our attitudes and our actions.

Why not try reading through the 12th chapter of Romans every Monday of the New Year. As we allow God to mold, shape and transform us our light will burn brighter for all to see. Let's ask God to make 2012 a great year of personal spiritual growth and witness.

Have a Blessed New Year!
Grace & Peace,

Pastor Ken





January Birthdays

- 2.....Erin McElroy
- 3..... Terry Juhas
- 4..... Hannah Zehr
- Elizabeth Zehr
-Maxx Gregory
- 7..... Chuck Hazle
- 9..... Ava Juhas
- 10.....Faith Hansen
- 12..... Mitch Hallenbeck
- 13.....Bridget Hazle
- Shondra Hallead
- 15..... Larry Hayner
- Diane Hazle
-Daniel Pennock
-Ashley Gibson
- 18.....Carolyn Delavan
- Jamie Miller
-Betsy Rennells
-Sarah Niemi
- Jimmy Gentner
- 20..... Terri Roberson
- 22..... Shirley Rennells
-Lillie Decker
-Nikki Salander
-Ashley Kerby

- 23 Ron Brown
-Dennis Cascaden
- 24 Mark Heibeck
- 25 Maranda Geller
- 26 Tess Suchek
- 27 Aubrey Dunigan
- Anne Pierson
- Roger Wyrick
- 29 Deb Badgett
- Owen Clark
- 30 Kevin Gentner
- 31 Antonia Morris



January Anniversaries

- 5 ...Dave & Bridget Hazle
- 15 .. Lorin & Katie Grams
- 20 .. Jim & Candy Pierson

If your birthday/anniversary is not listed or the date is wrong, please contact the church office with the correct information so you can be included in our monthly birthday/anniversary listing.



THANKS FROM ALLLLLLL THE CARAVANERS AND LEADERS.....

We had many wonderful helpers and providers the month of December as we prepared for and celebrated Jesus' Birthday during our Caravan meet-

ings. We would like to thank:

- * Pam and Mark Williams for providing the birthday cake for Jesus, yummmmmmm!
- * Tyan Cadwell, Wreatha Chant and Olivia Wenzlick for helping serve the cake and earth juice.
- * Lynn Eichenberg for providing the Christmas crafts and organizing all the groups as the children made the crafts and decorated the lounge Christmas tree.
- * For all of you families that shared Christ with others with over \$88 to the Lansing Rescue Mission for Women and children and many goods to give them that people are in need of.
- * Thanks Angie Sukovich for delivering the goods and helping out in this ministry.
- * May God bless you all as you keep serving and giving God's love.

With joy in serving Jesus,
 Roberta Pennock and the Caravan Staff & Kids

Thank You for blessing us! This season of love and joy has taken on flesh through all the cards, gifts, sweets, kind words and very generous love offering that you have showed us with. We are truly grateful to be a part of the Pilgrim family. We pray God will continue to use each of us to carry the love and joy of Christmas well into the New Year.



Our Love,
 Pastor Ken & Vicky