

# The Pilgrim

**Issue 1—January 2010**

A monthly publication of First Congregational United Church of Christ  
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Greetings,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

How exciting that our ministry together will begin on January 1, at the start of the New Year; and how ironic that in order to embrace the New Year we have to let go of the old.

Life is a journey and we are always on the road. Although we often think of life as a linear journey, starting at one point and ending at another, a deeper look reveals that life does not always unfold as a clear straight path, nor do our life experiences begin or end abruptly. Our births and deaths, our beginnings and endings all run into each other. At the exciting juncture of a new beginning there is inevitably the end of the old and familiar. The moments overlap and intertwine, intersect and crisscross, reminding us that the journey is perhaps more circular than linear. This circular image of life's journey reminds me of the words "*God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,*" (Revelation 21) and that all ends and beginnings, all moments are held in God's timelessness and eternity.

This circular notion of ends and beginnings, of darkness and light, of pain and healing are part of our faith story. The Israelites journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land, from slavery to freedom, then back to exile, then to freedom again. Jesus' own life went through cycles of birth and exile, pain and crucifixion, Easter and Resurrection. The Bible

itself begins with Genesis when God creates the heavens and the earth, and ends in Revelation when a new heaven and a new earth are created. Every end holds a beginning. Every beginning holds an end. The end is only a comma. God is still speaking.

A similar notion is found in the ancient Roman god Janus from whose name is derived the word *January*. Janus was the god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings, hence represented with a double faced head, each looking in opposite directions, one looking back and the other forward. I find this image along with the circle helpful especially during Interim ministry when we will look at First Congregational Church's past history, and learn from it, in order to find clarity and vision for the future. The interim is a time to look back and forward, trusting that the future will unfold as Christ's Light guides the way.

I look forward to our Interim ministry together as you and I end a chapter in our lives and begin another. I am delighted to arrive during the time of Christmas and Epiphany, a time of light and stars. It will be cold and snowy in Downers Grove but the burning light of the Christ Child will warm our hearts and lives!

Blessings and Peace,  
Nayiri Karjian

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***Sharing Christ! Growing in Spirit! Serving God's World!***

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**First Congregational UCC Worship Service  
and Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 31, 2010**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Blended Worship with praise to God  
for our Ministry in 2010**

*Please note...this is a combined and blended  
worship experience for 9:00 and  
10:45 a.m. attendees. Let's be One!!*

**10:30-11:30 a.m.: Brunch in Fellowship Hall**

Breakfast buffet and fellowship  
with loyal FCC members and friends

**11:30 a.m.: Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary**

- Bless our transitional Interim journey that it may be a time of transformation and healing, dreaming and envisioning
- Bless our 2010 budget as an opportunity to be creative and imaginative as we look ahead in hope
- Honor our Cabinet and Moderator Tom Williams for their leadership
- Honor other leaders who have served their terms in ministry
- Review and celebrate the reports of our leaders
- Review and celebrate our church improvements and activities made possible through our Capital Campaign
- Bless and support new leadership in each of our 10 ministries
- Embrace the Interim year as an opportunity for new ideas, initiatives and experiments
- Bless our covenant with God and with one another



**All are encouraged to attend  
this special Worship Celebration,  
Brunch and Annual Meeting.**

**Among Our Church Family**

**Remember our friends  
who were hospitalized:**

Judy Dedina	Lyndon Greenwood
Richard Miller	Ann Mullen
Greta Machalek	Vern Cleveland
Ted Stelling	Nancy Vosahlik

**Congratulations to:**

Lindsey Filkins and Chris Garza who were united in marriage on Friday, December 11 in our Chapel. The Rev. Laura Sova Hoglund officiated.

**Baptisms:**

Teagan Noelle Fortier, daughter of Sarah and Brian Fortier, was baptized on December 13. The Rev. Laura Sova Hoglund officiated.

Morgan Bruce Tremmel, son of James and Emily Tremmel, was baptized on December 20. The Rev. Bill Hoglund officiated.

Evan James Shaffer, son of Jennifer and Justin Shaffer, was baptized on December 27. The Rev. Bob Sandman officiated.

**Thankyous:**

- St. John United Church of Christ
- Walk-in Ministry of Hope
- Lifelink (for children's coats)
- Downers Grove Area FISH Pantry

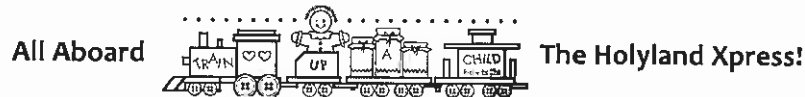
A big thanks to the wonderful group of singers that came and sang Christmas Carols on December 6. I really enjoyed them very much. Also, thanks for the tin of Christmas cookies that they left for my enjoyment and that of my caregiver. God bless all of you!

-Eleanor Kunze

Dear members of First Congregational Church, I was extremely touched by the various members that came to sing carols to me on December 6. I enjoyed and shared the variety of cookies they brought me. I really appreciated you doing that for me. Thank you ever so much for the enjoyment you brought me.

-Judy Dedina

## Children's Ministries



### HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE HOLYLAND XPRESS!

What a New Year it is! Look at all the changes around us as this year begins. We begin the year with an Interim Pastor as Reverends Bill and Laura begin their new year in a different church. While I know we all wish them happiness; at the same time, we will miss them dearly. What a paradox!

Ecclesiastes tells us: (3:1) Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. (3:11) He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does. (3:12) So I realized that all we can do is be happy and do the best we can while we are still alive. (3:13)... It is God's gift. Let's begin this New Year without fear and trepidation of the changes in our lives and specifically at our church, but be openly accepting of these changes with a sense of awe knowing that it is in God's hands.

Some things will stay the same of course; one being our Holyland Xpress. In January the Holyland Xpress will discover what home life in Bible times would have been like by visiting the home of Mary and Martha and relating it to life today.

In February the Holyland Xpress will study about homelessness in this community and others.

If you find you are interested in our Church School program, please feel free at any time to stop in to any of the classrooms. We have an open program and all are welcome. If you feel you would like to get involved in any manner or have questions about how you can get involved, please call me at 630-968-0358, or email me at [MarileeW@UCCDG.org](mailto:MarileeW@UCCDG.org).

*"Yesterday, today was tomorrow; and tomorrow, today will be yesterday.  
So, ring out the old, ring in the new, ring out the false, ring in the true."  
(George Harrison, Dark Horse, 1974, "Ding Dong, Ding Dong")*

Peace be with you and yours in this exciting New Year,

Marilee Williams  
Director Children's Ministries

**Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Thursday, January 7**

**10:00—11:00 a.m. in Room 503**

Join a delightful group of women including Montrew Dunham, Joan Gordon, Pam Wiemerslage, Pat Lockett, Ann Mullen, and Trudi Connick as they spend time each month knitting and talking. All are welcome! So far, many prayer shawls have been delivered. It's been a joy!

**Adult Education in January  
Seasons of the Church Year**

**Sunday, January 10, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

**Led by Linda Schranz  
(sponsored by WASL)**

Why is the church decorated in purple during Lent? Why is Christmas always on December 25 but Easter is on different dates all the time? What is Ordinary Time? These and other basic but often unanswered questions in the liturgical life of churches are answered in this one-session study. Participants are guided through the liturgical calendar and given a chance to discuss various and favorite seasons of the church year.

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FOR  
"OLIVE" TO DANCE WINTER BALL**

**January 23, 2010**

**At Seven Bridges Signature Events**

**\$48/Person**

**Available in Fellowship Hall every Sunday**

**-Fellowship Committee**

**Preschool-Childcare-Kindergarten  
Family Life Open House**

**Wednesday January 27**

**6:15 p.m.—7:15 p.m.**

The Family Life Program is hosting an Open House for new families who wish to register their child for the upcoming school year. See all that your church has available to you and your child who is between the ages of three and six-years-old and potty-trained. We are the only church program in the Downers Grove area that is both licensed by the State of Illinois and is NAEYC accredited. **For more information call Radika Jungwirth or Cathy Sexton at the Family Life office at 630-968-0527.** Please call to arrange a personal visit at your convenience. If you do not have a child of preschool/kindergarten age please share this announcement with a friend, neighbor or co-worker who may be looking for an early childhood program that offers the chance for their family to become a part of our Family. Please help us in continuing our success as the preschool with the personal touch! Registration begins at the Open House. When you register that evening, receive a 50% discount on your registration fee.

**The 2010 Annual Women's Retreat:  
Live Life Laughing!**

Save the date! The Women's Retreat will be on **Sunday, March 7, 2010** in the Signature Room at Seven Bridges in Woodridge. This year's theme is *Live Life Laughing!* Plans are still underway, but you will have the opportunity to register for this event beginning in February. The cost for this event is still \$30 per person. **Call the church office (630-968-0358) or Cathy Sanders (630-887-9112) with any questions.**

**Plan Ahead! Mark Your Calendar!**



**Our next blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26 in Fellowship Hall from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Donors will receive a \$5.00 McDonald's gift card! If you are not contacted by one of our callers, please call Marilyn Jelinek (630-789-3999) and set up an appointment. Blood can be donated every 8 weeks. We are hoping to set a new record for contributors! Our September drive brought in 26 units of donated blood. Let's try to beat that on January 26. This is an IMPORTANT outreach program, sponsored by our Congregational Care Ministry. We hope you will help us meet our goal. Please mark your calendar for January 26.

### From The Music Director

As the Music Ministry anticipates the second half of its program year, I want to thank everyone who contributed time, talent, and service during 2009.

The people who have contributed to the Music Ministry include, but are not limited to, singers, ringers, harpists, accompanists, directors, instrumentalists, and members of WASL and the clergy. We praise God for you!

In Christ,  
Kevin Ballard  
Director of Music Ministries &  
Organist/Choirmaster



### "Committing To Our Vision" Capital Campaign Update

As December 31, 2009 brought a close to the Committing To Our Vision Capital Campaign, we wanted to provide you with the latest results through November 30, 2009:

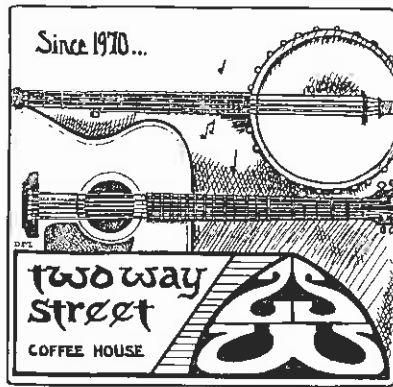
- Total Pledged to date: \$980,282
- Total Pledge dollars collected to date: \$935,678
- Payments past due: 80 payments totaling \$28,678
- **Pledge dollars needed to meet our goal: \$44,604**

Is your capital campaign pledge complete? If your pledge is still outstanding, please contact Jan Bondiman in the church office (630-968-0358 or JanB@uccdg.org) or Jim Hallman our Capital Campaign Coordinator (630-305-9806 or jjh93@comcast.net) so we can discuss your plans for bringing closure to your pledge. Thank you.

-The Capital Campaign Follow Up Committee

## Women's Fellowship News in January

- January 8:** **Circle IV, Ladies of the Morning**—Join Circle IV for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at Egg Harbor, 5128 Mochel St., Downers Grove. **Please call Peggy Gutzke at 630-971-1382 or Julie Burke at 630-969-3276 if you have questions or plan to join us.**
- January 13:** **Circle VI, Ladies of the Evening**— Come hear about your health and well-being at the January 13 meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor. Connie Laidlaw, Indian Boundary YMCA Fitness Director, will tell us about the many programs available for us at the Y. Start your New Year out right by joining us for information, fellowship and sharing. **Questions? Call Connie Kiley at 630-971-1786.**
- January 22:** **Circle IV, Ladies of the Morning**—Join Circle IV for their second annual pajama party in the church parlor at 9:30 a.m. It's Stitch and Chat while still in your PJ's. Bring something to share for breakfast, and remember, you don't have to have anything to stitch. Just come for the chat. **If you have any questions, please call Peggy Gutzke at (630) 971-1382 or Julie Burke at 630-969-3276.**



## TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

[www.twowaystreet.org](http://www.twowaystreet.org) • 630-969-9720

(Across from the Public Library)

*Folk Music Every Week since 1970!*

### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- Friday January 1 **CLOSED** — Happy New Year!!
- Friday January 8 **PETE NORMAN'S Post-Christmas Blues Fest!** — 25<sup>th</sup> annual show (!) sure to banish *your* post-Christmas blues! Great songwriter Pete, DK and guests present folk, blues and fun songs. Guitar, Dobro, fiddle, banjo, more!
- Friday January 15 **JOHN HASBROUCK & the Northside Southpaws** — Virtuoso fingerstyle & bottleneck guitar evokes Delta blues, roots, and moderns Michael Hedges & John Fahey, plus great old-time guitar/mandolin duets with Matt Gandurski.
- Friday January 22 **CHRIS PROCTOR** — National fingerstyle guitar champion and Rounder and Windham Hill recording artist (10 CD's!), he's one of the best and most innovative performers/composers for the 6 & 12 steel-stringed guitars!
- Friday January 29 **DREW NELSON** — Michigan native with a gruff/sweet voice & smart percussive guitar. Passion, energy and inspired songwriting won acclaim at the Kerrville, Falcon Ridge & Telluride competitions and across US & Europe. New CD!
- Friday February 5 **DAVID HAWKINS** — Singer/songwriter/guitarist who says "I write what I want to hear." Variety of styles: haunting melodies, soulful vocals, strong poetic sense, and intermittent injections of humor! Latest CD: *Driven to the Strings*.
- Friday February 12 **DAVID CLARK** — Georgia storyteller, songwriter, syndicated columnist and guitarist who's heard on NPR's *All Things Considered*. He returns with nine albums, three books, new stories, and a warm, insightful, entertaining show!
- (Ice Sculpture Festival!)*
- Friday February 19 **NATURAL BOB & MICKY HOLDSWORTH** — Performing songwriters offer original songs plus modern folk ballads & traditional tunes with a modern slant! With guitar, mandolin and bass. Critically acclaimed CD: *Just Be You*.
- Friday February 26 **CLAUDIA SCHMIDT** — Legendary performing songwriter brings a contagious spirit of joy to her shows! Folk, blues, & jazz styles; maybe a hymn, torch song or bawdy verse! Acclaimed guitar & mountain dulcimer. 14 albums!
- Friday March 5 **OPEN MIKE** — Anyone is welcome to perform, and we always have a great variety of acoustic performers! So popular we must limit the number of acts. **1-2 songs, 10 minutes max.** Doors open at 7:30 for signups – first come, first served. **Show starts 8:00.** For more information, phone 630-968-5526.

Saturday February 13 8:00 pm \$5	<b>Old Time Barn Dance Party!</b> — Reels, squares, line dancing, waltzes and more, plus music of our great live band. Fun for the whole family! All dances taught and called by our expert leaders. No experience, costume or partner needed. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Saturdays Jan 2 & 16 Feb 6 & 20, Mar 6 & 20	<b>Sing-Arounds</b> — Our popular song circles where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! Songbooks provided. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. First and third Saturday afternoons of every month at 2:00 pm.
Saturdays Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar**	<b>Bluegrass Jam!</b> — Musicians of all experience levels gather to improve skills, learn/share tunes, & have fun! 4th Saturdays, 2:00-4:00pm. **We'll skip Mar 27. ( <i>Naperville Bluegrass Fest</i> )
Thursdays Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25 7:00-9:30 pm Free!	<b>LAST THURSDAY!</b> — Monthly unplugged open mike for high school & college age students. Last Thurs of every month. Music, poetry, any performance art – 10 min. max. Signups begin 7pm – first come, first served. Info at <a href="http://twowaystreet.org">twowaystreet.org</a> , on Facebook, or 630-968-5526.
Live entertainment is featured every Friday night beginning at 8:15. Doors open 7:30. \$7.00 donation requested. Beverages and snacks available. The <i>Two Way Street Coffee House</i> is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, and Folk Alliance International. Please call us at 630-969-9720 for current entertainment listings and updates, or visit us on the web at <a href="http://www.twowaystreet.org">www.twowaystreet.org</a>	

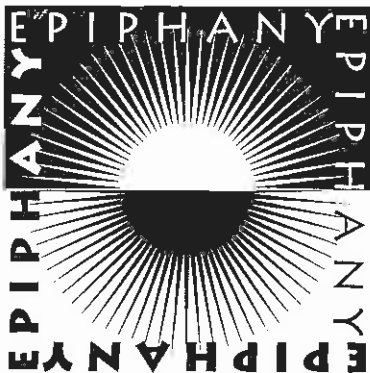
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**The deadline for the February 2010 issue of The Pilgrim  
is Thursday, January 14, 2010 at noon**

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# **The Pilgrim**

## **January 2010**