<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 am Worship, Sunday School, Hanging of the Greens; 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 12:00 pm Advent Study Group</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 9 am to 2 pm &amp; 4—6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 am Worship, Sunday School; 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 12:00 pm Advent Study Group and Board of Spiritual Life</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 10:00 am WCA Ministers’ Fellowship, North Shore Church</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 9 am to 1 pm &amp; 4—6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 am Worship and Sunday School Pageant; 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 12:00 pm Advent Study Group and Caroling</td>
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<td>21 9 am to 1 pm &amp; 4—6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia</td>
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<td>22 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal; 10:30 am Worship, Sunday School; 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 12:00 pm Advent Study Group and Caroling</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship</td>
<td>25 26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 9 am to 1 pm &amp; 4—6 pm Iglesia Del Septimo Dia</td>
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<td>29 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship</td>
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I have been mindful of late that this will be my final Advent season at Heritage Church. Many of you know that Advent is my favorite time of the church year. I relate strongly to the idea of preparation, of being ready, to meet the Christ Child when He comes. We light candles to remind us of the light He brought into the world. We sing carols and songs that we hope will bring the appropriate glory to the season. We decorate with great beauty—our attempt to imitate the beauty of God’s gift to us in Jesus. And, we give.

At Heritage we give through the efforts of our Giving Tree. Set up in the entryway in front of the church office, this tree accepts hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for people of all ages. It also receives boots and warm socks to help those in need of warmth this winter. I cannot wait to see how many offerings will be given this year. I know that when I deliver our gifts to the Allied Wellness Center, they are thrilled with whatever we have given. Through the Heritage Giving Tree, we are helping keep our neighbors warm, and hopefully remind them that they are loved by God and by us.

The other giving focus for the Advent season is the gift of ourselves to Jesus. As God has given Jesus to us, we are reminded to prepare our hearts to receive Him. We do this through prayer and reflection, through song and scripture. We also do this through fellowship and gratitude. I try to remind myself with each gathering of friends or family, how blessed I am to have them in my lives. While shopping for or wrapping gifts, I thank God for each person. When preparing a menu or meal, or while decorating, I thank God for the season that brings us together and allows us the freedom to set the chaos of the world aside and intentionally welcome the peace of Christ.

What are your Advent and Christmas practices? How do you prepare your heart to meet the babe in the manger? Each year I look for new ways to prepare, that my offering to God in thanks for the birth of Jesus will be reflective of how I truly feel—overflowing with hope and joy and peace and love.

A blessed Advent to you all,
Pastor Cindy
**Sunday School**
Our wonderful children are working very hard on their Christmas Pageant. Be ready for something entirely new this year, as the children have reimagined the traditional pageant. They have found a way for everyone to participate, whether they are in attendance the day of the pageant or not!

For the rest of us, we will view the pageant, the children’s offering to God and to us, on December 15 during worship. Be ready for a meaningful and creative look at the meaning of Jesus’ birth as presented by our Sunday School students.

Beginning in January, our four oldest students will begin a confirmation class with Pastor Cindy. Twice a month, January-May, they will meet to pray, learn more about the Bible, participate in worship and do mission work. They will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, during worship. Please pray for these young women as they grow and learn in faith, knowledge and action.

**Adult Education**
Sundays in December, Pastor Cindy will be offering a class about various aspects of Advent, what it meant as the Hebrews awaited the coming Messiah, and what we await now as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’s birth. Please join her December 1, 8, 15, 22 for these classes, held in the Narthex. You need not purchase a book or attend every class to participate. It promises to be an enlightening and edifying way to help prepare our hearts and faith for Christmas!

**WCA News**
December 26-28, the WCA will again offer its Young Adult Winter Retreat. Each year, this retreat brings together college students and others just out of school to pray, learn, sing and share great fellowship. Old friendships are renewed and new friendships are made. If you are interested in attending, please check out the WCA website to register: wiscongregational.net.

**COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS**
On Sunday, December 15th following Worship we will be filling cookie tins to distribute to our shut-ins. Please help out by sharing a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies. Thank you!
I hope you have all enjoyed reading the 2 editions of the NACCC News that have been forwarded from the church office. The Messenger and Community Connections contain brief articles that can help keep each of us up to date on all that is happening in the life of our National Association. Please take the time to read these newsletters each month. Feel free to ask Pastor Cindy if you have any questions about anything that is happening in the NACCC. She is happy to tell you even more about what is happening!

Be ready to learn more about the history of Congregationalism in the United States as we celebrate our 400th Anniversary in 2020. Pastor Cindy will be offering some special classes, and worship will occasionally offer a special “Congregational Moment” where we will learn about a specific person who has had an impact on this 400 year journey!!

Strat Op Update

November 2 the original Strat Op group gathered to review where we have been in the last 14 months and how best to expand that effort in the future.

We took the temperature of how we were feeling about where both Heritage and the Strat Op process are right now.

We also chose to keep our current three initiative teams—Marketing—Vision—Worship. However, now that they have accomplished most of what we set out to do last fall, each group will now have new goals to work toward, all the while keeping in mind that our identity as a church is one of welcoming the spiritually lost and needy.

The Marketing team will focus on building a strong relationship with Little Pilgrims through various means. The Visioning team will look at some ‘big ideas’ that have been mentioned, but never explored fully. And, the Worship team will continue to work toward vibrant and inspiring worship for all.

Also, each initiative group will be seeking you out to see how you might like to participate. We are actively looking for new people to sit on each of the initiative teams, to gain a broader perspective of how Heritage might move forward.

If you are interested in participating in one of the initiative teams, please contact Sue Carter (Marketing), Andy Forsaith (Visioning) or Mitch Taylor (Worship). Thank you for your faith and your faithfulness!

The NACCC Advent Devotionals are now available. Pick up your copy in the Church Narthex.
December 1, 10:30 a.m.
Hanging of the Greens

December 1, 8, 15, 22,
11:45 a.m.
Advent Study Group

December 7, 9-11 a.m.
Breakfast with Santa

December 15, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School Pageant

December 15 (noon)
Caroling with Robert Eversman

December 24, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 7, 2019
9:00—11:00 am

Heritage Congregational Church
3102 Prairie Road, Madison 53719

Children $4.00 (ages 2-12; under 2 free)
Adults $5.00 (over 12), $20 maximum per family

Make your reservations now—pay at the door
274-0833 (leave your name and # attending)
heritageoffice@heritagemadison.org
Seasons Greetings Heritage Church!

It’s that time of year again! Boy, do we love Christmas at Little Pilgrims! As I type this we are wrapping up our picture day. It went really well, we got a ton of great pictures, and the photographers really did a great job.

November was a busy month - I hired some new teachers in October and have been trying to get them settled into our center and acquainted with all employees and families. Ms. Devora had two children at our center who are now in elementary, then for the past year she has been subbing/float around the center for me. I was very pleased when she decided to lead the Butterfly room (she changed the name to Dragonflies by-the-way)! We also have Ms. Hope back! She is mostly helping out with the Grasshoppers in the afternoons but may occasionally jump in elsewhere. In addition, we have also hired Ms. Nancy and Ms. Jems who are working afternoon hours, filling in where needed.

As you may remember, we are now a "Pyramid Model Implementation Site." One of our very first goals was to re-work the language for our Site-Wide Expectations. We decided among staff at a staff meeting, then polled our families. After unanimous feedback our expectations are: **BE SAFE. BE KIND. BE HELPFUL.** These three phrases will become common language in the interactions between all staff, families, and children. We will recognize each other for fulfilling these expectations and strive to uphold them at school and at home.

On November 2nd, we had a booth at the Verona Area Kids Expo! We have the children spin a carnival wheel, then do an action (like jumping jacks or touching toes), then they win a little prize. Pretty simple, but lots of fun for the children. The expo is always a good time and a great way to network and meet new families. Our Parent-Teacher conferences were held between November 4th -15th. Lots of parents came in and talked about their children's milestones and what has been happening in the classroom. Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon is coming up next week and I am expecting quite a crowd for the day - probably around 100 people (including children, teachers, and family members).

We will be having our Christmas Program, our Hat Fashion show, and Santa and cookies on December 19th. We are also doing our Stocking Drive for the Salvation Army. We fill stockings for children who wake up Christmas morning at the shelter. I love filling them with my kids, and they know that Santa has a hard time finding children when they don't have homes, so we have to help him out. Please think about signing up to fill a stocking. Our stocking sign-up is on the wall between the Dragonfly room and the Lightning Bug room by the children's mailboxes.

Finally, Little Pilgrims will close on December 24th and reopen on January 2nd. I look forward to this break every year and it is especially significant this year for me because my daughter turns 18 on December 23rd! This is such a wonderful time to spend with family and friends, and slow down for a week.

I hope everyone has a beautiful holiday season and enjoys time with loved ones. Thank you for another amazing year!

Jessica Carlson
Director
Little Pilgrims Christian Learning Center
3102 Prairie Rd., Madison, WI 53719
(608) 274-1675
jessmacarlson@live.com
HERITAGE GIVING TREE

At Heritage we give through the efforts of our Giving Tree. Set up in the entryway in front of the church office, this tree accepts hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for people of all ages. It also receives boots and warm socks to help those in need of warmth this winter. Through the Heritage Giving Tree, we are helping keep our neighbors warm, and hopefully remind them that they are loved by God and by us.

Annual Reports Due

Here is a list of the reports due to the Church office by Monday, January 13. Please be prompt with your submissions!

Our Winter Congregational Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 26**, following worship.

Minutes of Congregational Meetings—Sue Carter
Minister Report—Pastor Cindy
Little Pilgrims’ Report—Jesse Carlson
2019 Financials/Treasurer—Jo Sommers
Board of Trustees—Sarah Westcott
Budget for 2020—Sarah Westcott
Board of Spiritual Life—Marian Stokes
Nominating Committee—Janet Adams
Music Department—Robert Eversman
Statistics—Pastor Cindy

Christmas Carol Chaos

How well do you really know Christmas Carols? See if you can figure out the real title of these confused Christmas Carols.

1. Gone in a bed filled with straw.
2. Quiet after dusk.
3. A chocolate cake placed happily on top.
4. A melody of tiny rodents.
5. Small child who beats on things.
6. Do your ears notice the same vibrations mine do?
7. A trip in a big piece of wood pulled by horses.
8. A magical place that only happens during the season after fall.
9. The 288 hours of the big winter holiday.
10. We hope your holidays are happy.
11. December 25th in the year you are playing this game.
12. Allow the frozen white things to fall from the sky.
14. Mom of a mom hit by an antler covered animal.

Stop in Church office for correct answers.
Donavon
12/7 Armbruster
12/8 Carren Martin
12/11 Jean Stewart
12/14 Leslie Schaefer
12/14 Leanne Schaefer
12/19 Sarah Millholland
12/21 Peggy Metzner
12/25 Dan Nelson

Treasurer's Report
Heritage/Little Pilgrims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Income/Expenses</th>
<th>January-October 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Other Income</td>
<td>$568,938.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$560,053.12</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$8,885.12</td>
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**LECTIONARY READINGS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Isaiah 2:2-5, Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 46-55</td>
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<td>December 22</td>
<td>Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 29</td>
<td>Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 12:13-23</td>
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Let’s fill our Sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia plants in December. If you are able, please bring a poinsettia plant to share for the month of December. The color is your choice.

*Thank you!*
Members of Heritage
Nancy Andreson, recovering from mini strokes
Robert Eversman, recovering from foot surgery
Cassie Harris, chemo treatments
Fred Williams, nursing care at Capital Lakes
Jill Severson, recovering from cancer treatments

Friends and relatives of Heritage
Mary Jacobs (sister of Steve Heusinger), cancer treatments
Elaine Burmeister (friends of Barbara Morris) broken hip
Lillian (aunt of Robert Eversman), stroke
Karen (friends of Robert Eversman), seizure
Ashleigh Carlson (friend of Pastor Cindy) severe back problems
Virginia Urness (friend of Barb Morris), broken hip, infection
Rev. Neil Hunt (NA Pastor), lung cancer
Steve Fulton (husband of NA staff, Debby Fulton), recovering from fall off roof
Bea Amsler (mother of Susan Zerwick), broken leg, hospice care
Jim & Jean (friends of Bill & Marsha Haight, health issues
John Richardson (father of Tim & Regina Rotar’s sister-in-law, Sandy Rotar), Throat cancer
Rev. Amy Holman, (daughter of NA pastor, Greg Ellcey) stage 4 cancer
Gene Spindler (father of Sean Spindler) recovering from stroke
Cyndi Reppen (Aunt of Becky Spindler), grieving
David Bratber (friend of Mitch Taylor) diagnosed with COPD
Martha Skelton (cousin of Robert Eversman), advanced cancer
Al Wilkening (former co-worker of Larry Sommers’) pancreatic cancer
Frank Tocha (cousin of Larry Sommers) complicated health problems & multiple myeloma
Charlotte Stevensen (great-niece of Pastor Cindy & Michael) needs heart transplant
Sebastian (friend of Sarah Westcott), 3-year-old diagnosed with brain tumor
Those who are victims of domestic abuse
Those who are facing difficult medical problems
Those affected by mass shootings
Those suffering from addiction

Those who are serving our country
Will and Luke Reints, Tom Labenski and Chris Cox (nephews and friends of Porter and Carren Martin)

Mission of the Month
Giving Tree
Faith, Freedom and Fellowship are the hallmarks of the Congregational Way. As a Congregational Church, we are a freely gathered body, centered on Christ and bound together by covenant. We are a church that values spiritual growth, shared dialogue and working together for God’s glory. We believe in the freedom of individual conscience regarding Biblical interpretation, and respect theological and social diversity. We invite you to join us in worshipping God.