

January 2020

3102 Prairie Road
Madison, WI 53719
608.274.0833 Phone

www.heritagemadison.org

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Minister's Musings

Dear Friends in Covenant and Faith,

The cold of winter is with us, shedding the shadow of dead plants and trees, of bitter temperatures and bracing wind. Some of us love the cold and snow and wind—we ski and skate, snowboard and snowshoe. We ride snowmobiles and enjoy the company of family and friends in the out of doors, despite the bitter weather. Some even sit and fish through the ice. I admire those who love the cold, for I cannot imagine it.



The rest of us enjoy sitting inside by a fire, cooking comfort food, reading a good book and watching movies that inspire. Many I know cannot imagine this way of spending the winter months. They would go stir-crazy sitting inside by a fire or reading a book. Even if it is freezing outside, they would much rather be on the move.

It's the human condition, isn't it—not understanding why some people like one activity over another, why we have divergent ways of thinking. When we do not share the same likes and dislikes, or the same opinions, it can cause great puzzlement. Sometimes it can create disagreement, anger and even resentment. And, being human, we add labels to people, focusing on what they do and how they think rather than who they are as a child of God. We make assumptions and, even though we know it is not our job (or right), we judge. And often, our judgement is final, which effects not only our actions, but our beliefs. It is only natural.

But the problem is, we don't feel good about this natural state. We want to live in harmony with our brothers and sisters. We want to find common ground. And so, what to do in these times? Hard to say. But, I believe in turning to our faith and the covenant that binds us to God and one another. There we will find perspective and clarity. There we will find wisdom. For there, God will speak. All we have to do is listen and believe.

As we walk with Jesus and engage in His ministry journey during the Epiphany season, let us question ourselves, our assumptions and our judgements. Like the Magi, let us humble ourselves before God and the Christ Child. Let us ask ourselves if there is another reason for what we think we know to be true. Let us put ourselves in other peoples' shoes and look at what they are looking at.

In peace and love,
Pastor Cindy

Church Office Hours

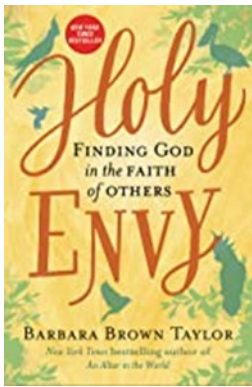
Please call or e-mail Pastor Cindy to set up an appointment.
cabaconhammer@gmail.com
274-0833

Little Pilgrims' Hours

6:30am-5:30pm
jessmacarlson@live.com
(608) 274-1675



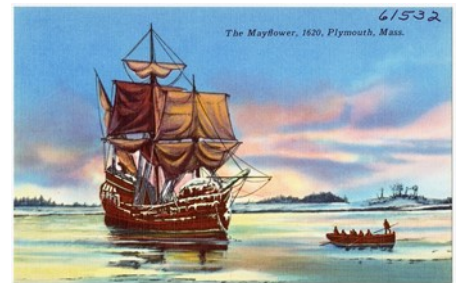
Adult Education



Book Club will continue in January with Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy*. In January we will read chapters 1-6 and in February chapters 7-12. The renowned Christian preacher and New York Times bestselling author of *An Altar in the World* recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching world religions to undergraduates in Baptist-saturated rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations.

Please note the time change for Book Club—we will meet at 10:00 am on January 28 rather than 6:30 pm. We are hoping that this time change will allow more folks to participate. See you then!

Also, beginning in January, a class will be offered on our Congregational history during this 400th commemorative year. The Congregational Library has created an excellent four-part course entitled *Plymouth's Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World, and Ours*. We will begin this class on Sunday, January 5 following worship. The other three classes will be offered in February and March.



Sunday School



Sunday School will go down to one classroom for the winter and spring months, as the confirmation students will be in worship at least twice a month, meaning less children going to Sunday School on those days.

Be ready for some fun, learning and faith expansion with the new lessons after the first of the year!

Thank you to all, parents, teachers and students, who presented the wonderful pageant, *What's in a Gift?* on Sunday, December 15. You were incredible!!

Confirmation

Beginning January 12, our four oldest students will begin a confirmation class with Pastor Cindy. Our first meeting is at noon on January 12. 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.



Welcome New Administrative Assistant



Elizabeth Boros-Kazai

Elizabeth is excited to join the wonderful community at Heritage and work with her childhood youth group director, Pastor Cindy. She grew up in Beloit, WI and attended Beloit College where she earned a BA in Theater Arts-Stage Management. After graduation, she moved to Chicago to pursue a career in theater and also became a caretaker for children in various capacities, as a teacher, babysitter, and nanny. In her free time, Elizabeth enjoys eating her favorite Hawaiian food with her partner Jason, and indulging interests in photography, music, and the natural world. Travel is something Elizabeth has often undertaken, mostly alone, from an early age, and she spent a great deal of time living and working in Central Europe, as her family is Hungarian and she tries to visit regularly; she also speaks the language fluently. Family brought her back to Wisconsin in 2018. Elizabeth currently lives in Waunakee with her cats and enjoys regularly exploring all southeast Wisconsin has to offer.



Strat Op Update

What are your thoughts about worship as a vehicle for spiritual growth? The Worship Initiative team would like to know! See Mitch Taylor with your ideas and opinions.

Have a big idea for Heritage Church? See Andy Forsaith to share it! The strat op group is not able to think of everything, and welcomes your input.

Do you know something about marketing that we don't? Are we missing something obvious? Let Sue Carter know, and we will do our best to make use of your idea.

Thank you for loving and worshipping at Heritage!

NACCC News

Have you been reading the NACCC web news that is being forwarded by the church office? There are many short and informative articles that can offer a window into what our National Association is doing. Please read and enjoy. If you have any questions, Pastor Cindy would be happy to talk to you!



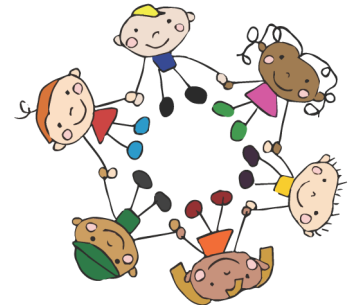
WCA News



The WCA will host its Annual Summit on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25. Please mark your calendars with these dates to take full advantage of what the WCA has to offer us in this yearly event. Details will be available in next month's Highlights.

Hello Little Pilgrims' families, Heritage Members and Friends,

It has been an incredibly busy month for all of us at Little Pilgrims Christian Daycare Center. We are looking forward to a much needed break. Little Pilgrims will be closed on December 24th and reopen on January 2nd. I hope everyone has a beautiful holiday season and enjoys time with loved ones. Thank you for another amazing year!



**Little
Pilgrims'**
Christian Learning Center

On behalf of our entire staff, I want to wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year.



Jessica Carlson
Director
Little Pilgrims Christian Learning Center
3102 Prairie Rd., Madison, WI 53719
(608) 274-1675

jessmacarlson@live.com

Winter Annual Meeting Sunday, January 19—following Morning Worship

Annual Reports



Annual Reports are due in the office by Wednesday, January 8!

The following reports are due:
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

Thank you for being prompt with your reports!



1/14 John Riley
 1/19 David Krase
 1/21 Andy Johnson



LECTIONARY READINGS

- January 5 – Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12**
- January 12 – Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17**
- January 19 – Psalm 40:1-5,11; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42**
- January 26 – Psalm 27:1,4; Isaiah 9:1-4; 1Corinthians 1:10-18**

I'm Walking Into 2020

With a clear heart & mind. If you owe me, don't worry about it- your welcome. If you've wronged me, it's all good- lesson learned. If you're angry with me, you won- I've let it go. If we're not speaking, it's cool- I wish you well. If I've wronged you, I'm sorry- it wasn't intentional. I am grateful for every experience that I have received. Life is too short for pent up anger, grudges, extra stress or pain. Forgiveness is a gift to yourself. Make 2020 a year of forgiveness and a season of positivity.



**Treasurer's Report
 Heritage/Little Pilgrims**

Operating In-come/Expenses	November 2019
Donations and Other Income	\$45,588.36
Expenses	\$51,093.65
Net Income	\$-5,505.29

Members of Heritage

Terry Wing, recovering from a fall
 Nancy Andreson, recovering from mini strokes
 Robert Eversman, recovering from foot surgery
 Cassie Harris, recovering from surgery
 Fred Williams, nursing care at Capital Lakes
 Jill Severson, recovering from cancer treatments

Friends and relatives of Heritage

June Cavanaugh (sister of Bernie Clousing), in hospital with kidney failure
 Mary Jacobs (sister of Steve Heusinger), cancer treatments
 Sue Wallace Travis (sister of Susan Zerwick), undergoing chemotherapy
 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 problem
 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)



If you have any corrections or changes to the Prayer Requests, please contact the office at heritageoffice@heritagemadison.org



Heritage Congregational
Church

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Madison, WI 53719

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Faith
Freedom
Fellowship



January/February Dates to Remember

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|--------------------|--|
| January 5 | Epiphany Worship |
| January 8 | Annual Reports due to Church Office |
| January 12 | Confirmation Class Begins! |
| January 19 | Winter Annual Meeting |
| January 28 | Book Group-<i>Holy Envy</i> |
| February 16 | Concert Series |
| February 23 | Transfiguration Worship |
| February 26 | Ash Wednesday Worship |

*Highlights
Articles
Due*

In the Church Office
or to Sue Carter by
January 18th.



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.