



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

December 2019

~Anticipation~

Dr. Patrick Horn ~ Senior Minister

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN”

When we read and hear these words from the 2nd Chapter of Luke this Christmas Season, let us have ears to hear what is being said. God is glorified, God is exalted, God is acknowledged as the source of all love and goodness through the birth of an otherwise **insignificant** baby, born to a relatively **poor** couple, in a country severely **oppressed** by a foreign power. God is glorified in those very people that our world often treats as insignificant, poor, and oppressed.

The Gospels teach us over and over again that the least among us is the greatest. We have many in our church and community who are least in the eyes of the world. If you are among that number, take heart, for God is glorified in you. For those of us who are not, let us humble ourselves and serve those who are least among us.

I am so grateful to Pilgrim Congregational Church for the opportunity to begin my ministry in this Advent Season. As we start this journey together, let us never forget that everything that we do as a Church has its ultimate foundation in that manger in Bethlehem. May we, by God's grace, always be able to recognize Jesus when we see and respond to those viewed as insignificant, poor, and oppressed.

And may God be pleased with us and may we enjoy the peace spoken of in Luke 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

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PILGRIM PATHS WORKING

DR. LOWELL LINDEN **INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER**

December is going to be a very exciting month in the life of Pilgrim. We are already preparing for the many activities that come during the Christmas season. The Youth Department is busy putting together their Christmas presentation including the decoration of the Christmas tree in Pilgrim Hall. The Choir is already working on the music they are going to present during the month, including Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve. I think I hear the Bell Choir.

The very first Sunday of December is the First Sunday of Advent. I hope you will be able to pause and reflect upon what we should be thinking during this season of the year. With all the things that happen we need to remember the most wonderful Christmas gift of all comes from God. The gift is God, "Immanuel, God with Us." Is as true as it was two thousand years ago.

If that is not enough, as the result of the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, November 17, 2019, we have taken a major step in "Securing Pilgrim's Future." We have called Dr. Patrick Horn to be our Sr. Minister. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Hallelujah!!!!!!!

A NEW PATH

FROM THE MODERATOR



Pilgrim Congregational Church of Pomona is starting a new path! We have chosen Dr. Patrick Horn as our new Senior Minister. Dr. Horn was called on Sunday, November 17, 2019, and we welcome Dr. Horn and his wife, Dr. Fay Ellwood, along with all their family! We are so grateful to Dr. Lowell Linden and Shirley Linden for shepherding us through the past 13 months, and thankful for the hard and dedicated work of our Search Committee as they worked to present their candidate. Dr. Linden will be working with Dr. Horn over the next few months to keep our paths of transition smooth.

Many activities are scheduled for December, including: Alternative Christmas, the Christmas Marketplace, being part of the Purpose Church Christmas Celebration, and our Hand-in-Hand work with school district families. A huge thanks to Lisa Keepers and her crew for decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

You may have noticed there are two pianos and the Hanging of the Greens and getting the two trees in place to fit just right. This was donated by the Lytle Family in honor and memory of Gwendolyn Lytle, our member and long time choir soloist. It's taking time to "acclimate" to the sanctuary, but I am assured, as we hang the greens and decorate for the Christmas season, our Christmas trees and other greenery will still fit.

As we begin our journey through the Advent season towards Bethlehem, as we anticipate the birth of the baby Jesus, let us find a place in our hearts for all that is joyful in the Christmas season.

Sue Selters, Moderator.

PILGRIM PATHS WORKING



Another annual Pilgrim Auction is in the books and it appears a great time was had by all. The new location had some real positives and most guests seemed pleased. Our THANK YOU's go to Judy Sanders and Diana Smith in addition to all of their elves...The auction would never be this successful without the efforts of these two ladies and their elves. Although the numbers are not yet final we have profited somewhere in the area of \$6,000 which a great event for the church budget. We look forward to seeing you next year and invite your friends...it is a fun evening with great food, great prizes, fun games, and oh yes....good stuff!!

The Board of Trustees.

Christmas Outreach



Alternative Christmas items will be available at the Harvest Festival on November 17 and again on December 1.

The Hand in Hand Program will go from December 1, 8th & 15th with the distribution on the 18th.



Welcome New Members! Alicia Stout (Mary Scott's daughter) and Katelynn Reist (Heather Reist's twin sister). Both joined on 11/3/19.

DECEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Merry Christmas from the library committee: **Mary Ferguson, Andrea Gray, Jackie McHenry, Jeanne Nolden, Bill Parnell, Megan Parnell, Patty Schelling, Cynthia Shoultz, Bob Smith, and Janet Stevenson.**

We have lots of books for Christmas reading. There are ones for special cookies and baking treats, carols, crafts and Christmas stories and, of course, devotions.

The committee will meet in early December to select popular new books for your reading pleasure. Just a reminder: mark your calendars for February 7, 2020 to hear **Larry Burns** speak at our annual library coffee about his book *The Secret Inland Empire*.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD BOOK!

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	9:00 a.m. to noon

Megan



NOTE: Library will be closed ~ December 24 @ Noon, December 25 thru December 28, December 31 and January 1, 2020, resumes January 3rd.



PRAYER

A church that prays together, stays together, especially during a season that can be lonely for some.

Band of Prayer requests may be sent to Mary Prendergast

REMEMBRANCE

If you know someone who would love to receive a card or note from the Women's Auxiliary; please call or email submitting their name, address and telephone number. We believe in no one being left out, it's always nice to receive a note "Just Because". You can contact me, Sharla Wickman, sharla1wick@gmail.com at 909-374-9220.

WISHING ALL MERRY CHRISTMAS

VMMers on Project
Art and Pat Aslesen
from California





Are you getting ready to participate in the all-church talent show Wednesday, December 18th? Well there's still room for more acts. We are looking for all types of performers and all different ages. Please sign up on the list in the church office hall way, we look forward to seeing your talent.

Bill Parnell, emcee



Christmas Dinner and Talent Show
Wednesday December 18th 6:30pm

Name _____

_____ #Adults @ \$10

_____ #Children @ \$4

_____ #under 3yrs. free

PILGRIM PATHS WORKING

FACILITY USE

There are a lot of changes happening at the church, so when coming to the church, please remember to **check IN and OUT** with the office staff. This is extremely important in case of an emergency because if no one knows you are here, no one can look for you. It is also important so that you can know whether or not rooms are being rented by others. Renting our facility to others brings us much needed income. We want our guests to continue to come back to our facility, so we need to be respectful of their space. Also, if you are planning to meet at the church, let BaLinda know so she can make sure the space you want is available and the member fees are quoted properly to you. Following these procedures would be very much appreciated.

2020 we will have changes, we are asking **all ministries** to be sure and contact the church office and submit a list of everyone who has keys to the church. We must keep and maintain an updated list for our insurance purposes. Please contact us right away.

Thank you,
Janet Stevenson, Facilities Use Chair

	FACILITY USE	
December 7	CBC ~ Pilgrim Hall, Gym, and Kitchen	5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
December 8	Gym only Christmas Marketplace	9:00 a.m. to Noon
December 13	Private Party ~ Pilgrim Hall, Gym, Kitchen, Ring Court	5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
December 13,14,15	See page 8 for details	
December 17	Private Party ~ Pilgrim Hall only	5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
December 18	Christmas Dinner/Talent Show Pilgrim Hall & Gym	
December 18 & 19	HNH ~ Conference Room	All day
December 29	Youth Event ~ Pilgrim Hall	11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PILGRIM PATHS WORKING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP HOST AN OPEN HOUSE

We are excited to announce that Pilgrim Congregational Church will partner with The Purpose Church across the street during their Christmas community outreach. We will provide use of our parking lot for their “Journey to Bethlehem” and “Come Celebrate Christmas” concert. The dates and times are as follows:

Friday, December 13, 5 PM to 10 PM
Saturday, December 14, 2 PM to 9 PM
Sunday, December 15, 2 PM to 9 PM

Pilgrim Church will host an “Open House” to visitors using the parking lot so that they can see our church up close, learn about our activities, and participate in prayer services for the city of Pomona in the sanctuary.

We will greet visitors at the back hallway and lead them through the courtyard, the sanctuary, and to the crossing area at Garey. This is an excellent opportunity for people in the community to see our beautiful facility, hear our historic organ, and learn about our church.

Volunteers will be needed to serve as greeters and guides. We would like to have 3 to 4 Pilgrims present. Should there not be enough greeters for some hours, the church would remain locked. A sign-up sheet will be available outside the church office.

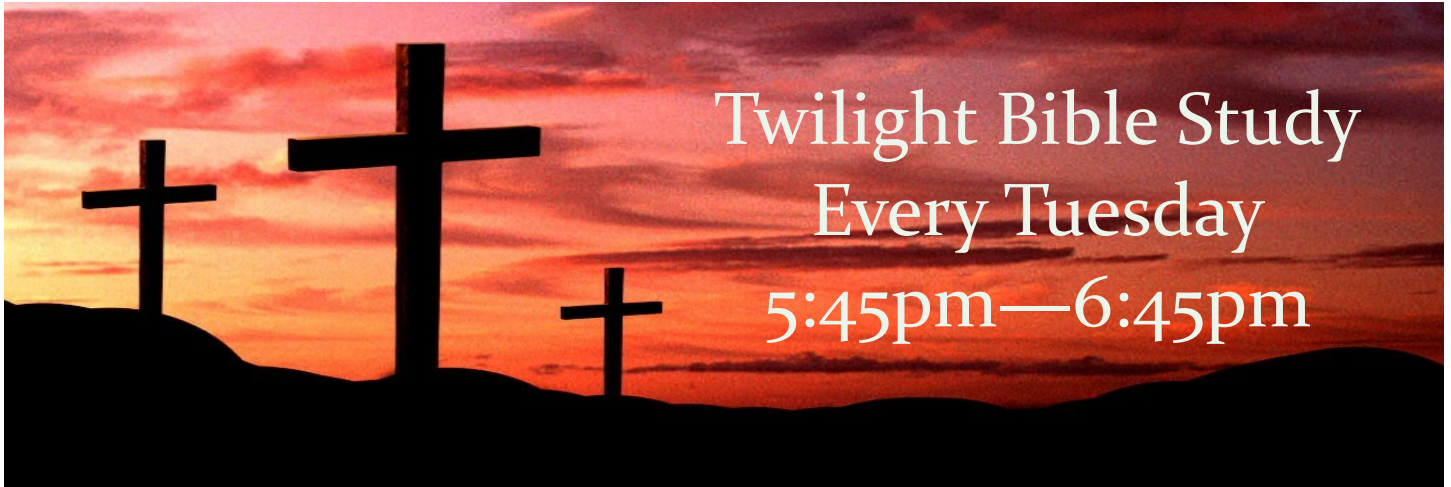
The Purpose Church is working with the Pomona Police Department to plan for safety and parking, including the safe crossing of Garey Avenue from Pilgrim property.

This is a busy time for all of us, but this is such a wonderful opportunity to introduce people to our church that I want to commit to be available as much as my work schedule will allow. I hope that you will also want to give generously of your time to introduce our beautiful church and our caring congregation to members of our community. We recommend that you considering signing up for one or more shifts:

Friday, December 13	Saturday, December 14	Sunday, December 15
	1:30-3:30 PM	1:30-3:30 PM
	3:30-5:30 PM	3:30-5:30 PM
4:30-6:30 PM	5:30-7:30 PM	5:30-7:30 PM
6:30-8:30 PM	7:30-9:00 PM	7:30-9:00 PM
8:30-10:00 PM		

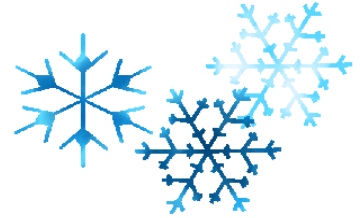
Keith Eades, Chair
Diaconate

**Join us for fellowship, learning
and fun each week!**





UPCOMING *Events*



Every Tuesday: Imagination Hour & Twilight Bible Study

(We will not be meeting for Imagination Hour December 24th or December 31st.)

Every Sunday: Adult/Youth Sunday School

December 14th: Journey to Bethlehem

December 21st: Dress Rehearsal & Set Up

December 22nd: Christmas Play / Soup & Salad Bar

December 29th: Sparking Legacies' New Year's Party

January 5th: NAPF/HOPE Parent's Meeting at 11:30am

Side by Side 2.0 at Noon

January 12th: Flashpoint at 11:45pm—1pm

If you have any questions about this or other events please email

PilgrimCongregationalCE@gmail.com

Or call 909-305-3155

Visit us on Facebook for up-to-date information at

Pilgrim Congregational Church Pomona

<https://www.facebook.com/Pilgrim-Congregational-Church-Pomona-105373002833758/?ref=bookmarks>

**The Sparking Legacies and anyone who wishes to join them
will be going on the
Journey to Bethlehem at Purpose Church
Saturday, December 14th**

**Price: Free for 12 and under / \$6 for 13 and up
Meet at Pilgrim's Parking Lot at 4:30pm**



This is a, "living history event that will give you a glimpse into what life may have been like over 2000 years ago. Sign the census, avoid the Roman soldiers, interact with the potter, weaver, carpenter, and other merchants. Spend some shekels, visit the animals, and make your way under the giant star to discover the new born King, baby Jesus. Food is available for purchase at our Bethlehem café. Enjoy some lentil stew, beef kabobs and citrus punch to experience a taste of the time!" This is a live event that includes live animals.

If you are interested in attending with Pilgrim's Sparking Legacies please sign up by the front office or contact Sarah at PilgrimCongregationalCE@gmail.com.

SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS ???



Scrip is a excellent way to gift family and friends from their favorite stores. We have scrip cards in stock: Express \$25 (Montclair Place), Bath and Body Works \$10 & \$25, Blaze Pizza \$25, Whole Foods \$25, Chevron \$50 & \$100, Buffalo Wild Wings \$25, T.J. Max/Home Goods/ Marshalls \$25.

Please let me know if you shop at a specific store all the time and I will check if they have scrip cards. We have a list of small denomination gift cards at the scrip table and check to see if you would like me to order some.

You can always look at www.shopwithscrip.com for all the gift cards that can be ordered.

Thank you
Nancy Blackstock
Scrip staff



What is NAPF? What is HOPE?

They are the national youth conferences for Pilgrim Congregational, but honestly it is so much more than that.

NAPF (National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship) and HOPE (Heritage of Pilgrim Endeavor). Held annually (and sometimes in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Conference), high school (NAPF) and college age (HOPE) youth meet for fellowship, spiritual growth and inspiration, and for mission work. The bonds of friendship that form endure for many years over many miles. Many participating youth go on to ministry in a variety of ways. Both programs have one thing in common – a place, a time, and friends with which to share their faith. The leadership team, counselors and participants come back year after year.

NAPF (National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship)

NAPF is for youth who are entering 9th through 12th grade. NAPF allows teens to meet and bond with other Christians from throughout the country and to share their faith in a fun-filled atmosphere. Small groups are led by dedicated adult counselors, many of whom volunteer and use vacation time to attend. In conjunction with tremendous worship music, worship times may be led by members of the Commission on Youth Ministries or other adult leaders. Local church youth groups are also asked to prepare and lead morning and evening devotionals. Opportunities to express faith through acts of service are always a highlight of the conference. Any time a group of young people is gathered, there is always plenty of fun!

HOPE (Heritage of Pilgrim Endeavor)

HOPE offers young adults post high school through age 26 a great opportunity to further grow in faith with peers in an environment similar to NAPF. While still including worship, speakers, small group time, and mission work, HOPE promotes closer connection with peers and deeper discussion about faith through peer-led small groups. The experiences and perspectives that each person brings to their small group are valued and can enrich discussions about faith in remarkable ways. In addition, HOPE provides more opportunities for leadership involvement through prayer team, small group leader, or CYM (Commission on Youth Ministries) representative positions. HOPE creates a genuine, meaningful, and fun atmosphere to grow in faith while creating new friendships!

Christian Campbell has attended now for three years attending N.A.P.F. in Georgia, California & Ohio. “For me N.A.P.F. is where I feel safe to express my faith as I understand it and ask my questions without judgement.”

In addition to the conference we try to take the opportunity to do a little touring. When in San Diego, of course we had to go to the beach and in Cleveland we enjoyed a tour of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. If you are interested in joining us for an adventure of faith, friendship and service then come to our Informational Meeting for Parents on January 5th following church services at 11:30am. We hope to see you there!

Holiday Fun Day November 30th



1pm	Christmas Play Rehearsal
2:30pm	Snacks & Activities
3pm	Decorate Christmas Tree
4pm	Adventure Games
6pm	Movie in Pilgrim Hall: Home Alone (Rated PG)
8pm	Clean up & go home.

RSVP by Nov. 29th to Sarah: 909-305-3155 or pilgrimcongregationalce@gmail.com



The Sparking Legacies

December 29th, 11:30am—2pm

Yummy food, Lego Games & watching:

How the Grinch Stole Christmas 2000

(Rated PG)

RSVP by Dec. 27th to Sarah

909-305-3155 or pilgrimcongregationalce@gmail.com





Pilgrim youth big and small are
invited to a casting call!

This year's Christmas Play promises
to be fun for one and all!

'Twas the Night Before the Christmas Play

December 22nd, 2019

11:30am Soup & Salad Bar Luncheon

1pm Christmas Play

Rehearsal Schedule

*We know with busy school & work schedules nobody can attend all rehearsals so we schedule many on alternating days to fit in with as many schedules as we can.

Please plan on attending at least one a week and the dress rehearsal.

Sunday, November 3rd (following lunch)
Thursday, November 7th (5:30pm-7pm)
Sunday, November 10th (11:45am-1pm)
Wednesday, November 13th (5:30pm-7pm)
Thursday, November 21st (5:30pm-7pm)
Saturday, November 30th, (1pm-2:30pm)

Sunday, December 1st (11:45am-1pm)
Thursday, December 5th (5:30pm-7pm)
Sunday, December 8th (11:45am—1pm)
Sunday, December 15th (10:30am—1pm)
Thursday, December 19th (5:30pm-7pm)
Saturday, December 21st (1pm-5pm)

Sunday, December 22nd, Show Day, Call Time: 9am





Side-by Side 2.0

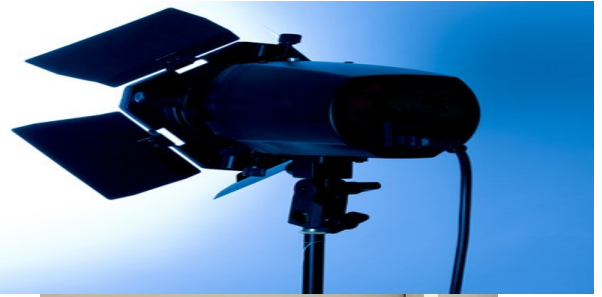
January 5th, 2020 at Noon

Side by Side 2.0 will be a fantastic re-boot of an amazing group for couples where they can come together for fellowship. If you are a young or young at heart couple please join us on

January 5th at noon
for lunch as we talk about how we
are going to conquer 2020
through faith, fun and service,
Side by Side!

Bring the kids as they will also
have fun activities to enjoy, led by
Mr. Christian Campbell.

Shining a light on some of our Sparking Legacies!



Miss Carina was honored at her district school board meeting for perfect scores on both the Math and English sections of the SBAC. She was 1 of 15 kids to do that among the 30 schools. She's going to do something great!



Miss Madelyn just finished a run at the Steelworker's Auditorium in Frozen, Jr. This followed her performance in The Little Mermaid, Jr. and soon you will be able to see her in The Lion King, Jr. This followed her debut on the stage as Little Cosette in Les Misérables, Jr last year. She is a bright shining star in the making.

Mr. Christian finished his 3rd year in Etiwanda's Marching Eagle Regiment. The show this year is Paris themed "Down La Rue" and they have taken home sweepstakes awards at each of their competitions.



If you know of any of our sparking legacies that are shining in their community please submit a picture with description to PilgrimCongregationalCE@gmail.com



FLASHPOINT

Flashpoint a place, event, or moment at which a person's faith ignites a fire within their soul.

Sunday, January 12th
Noon—1:30pm
Pizza Lunch included

All 6th—12th graders are invited to join us as we participate in discussion, activities and events that ignite our faith and discover who we are in Christ.

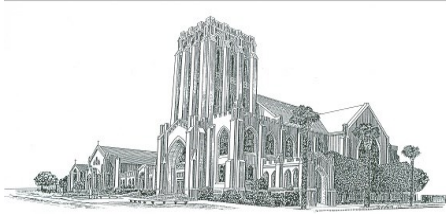
For more information contact Sarah at (909)305-3155 or PilgrimCongregational-CE@gmail.com



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the entire staff at Pilgrim Church.

It's been an honor to serve you and we look forward to GREAT things in 2020.

PILGRIM PATHS WORKING



Worship Services

Sunday 10:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.
Church School 10:15 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.
Children/Youth Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesdays

Twilight Bible Study 5:30 p.m. — 6:45 p.m.
Imagination Hour

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Fridays 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Office Closed Daily

Lunch 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

600 N. Garey Avenue

Pomona, CA 91767

P- 909.622.1373 F- 909.629.2554

www.pilgrimchurchpomona.com

pilgrimoffice@pilgrimchurchpomona.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Pilgrim-Congregational-Church-Pomona-105373002833758/?ref=bookmarks>

WEEKLY

Tuesdays

Twilight Bible Study
Imagination Hour 5:45 p.m.

Thursdays

Writing Memoirs 9:00am to noon
Quilting & Art Time—10:00am to noon
Choir Rehearsal — 7:30 p.m.

**OFFICES CLOSED
FOR HOLIDAY**

December 24 closes at noon

December 25 & 26

December 31 & January 1st

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, December 1

Advent/Communion

Tuesday, December 3

Women's Auxiliary Meeting 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Church Council Meeting- 7:00 p. m.

Saturday, December 7

Christmas by Candlelight 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 8

Christmas Marketplace 9 to noon

Sunday, December 15

Meeting Sunday

Wednesday, December 18

Talent Show/Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 22

Christmas Lunch & Pageant

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service 6:30 Special Music

Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

Sunday December 29

Youth New Year's Part