



PILGRIM
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Pilgrim's Progress

December 2020

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

12/9 Red Cross Blood Drive
12/24 Christmas Eve Service
12/25 Christmas Day
12/31 New Year's Eve



The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good tidings.

~ Isaiah 61:1

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



Dr. Patrick Horn

THE RESTORATIVE POWER OF CHRISTMAS

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good tidings.”

Isaiah 61:1

We need some restoration, and Christmas is on its way!

The Ancient Hebrews knew about the power of God to restore. The prophet Isaiah wrote extensively about this power to raise up an entire people of suffering. It is sweet music to the ears of the poor and afflicted. The land was filled with brokenhearted people who were about to experience comfort and renewal. Those who had been held captive were going to be set free. Instead of ashes for mourning, they were given a garland for celebration. Instead of being bereft of staple benefits, they were covered with an oil of gladness. Instead of a paltry disposition, they were blessed with a mantle of praise.

2020 has been like no other year in our lifetimes. Many have suffered illness and many more have suffered financial hardships. We have had to adapt to a lifestyle that we were not prepared for. The strength and encouragement that we received from attending church each week has had to be replaced by other means. We have been strong in support of one another. We have prayed for one another. We have committed ourselves to spiritual growth. We have served one another. We have worshiped like never before.

And now we need restoration. We need good tidings. And those tidings are here. The good news of peace and love is arriving. Let us open our hearts and our minds to the good news. Let us allow the message of peace and justice and love do its restorative work in our lives. Before we can even throw ourselves upon God’s mercy, the good news is here, ready for our reception.

The Advent of Christ brings healing and hope. It is a story of joy, of peace, and of love. Its power is unrivaled. From tiredness and despair, we are transformed into a new creation that tirelessly shares in the redemption of creation. Charles Wesley wrote of this power to restore:

Now display thy saving power,
Ruin’d nature now restore;
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to thine.

In this Christmas Season, let us allow God’s power to restore us and renew us for His work and His glory. The good tidings are here! Let us receive them and be restored.

Patrick Horn
Senior Minister



MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR



William (Tom) Gray

We were able to have a gathering outdoors in Ring Court for our annual Consecration Sunday activities. This event was attended by many of our Pilgrims. It was a wonderful site to see us together for the first time in many months.

The Vicinage Council met on October 28th as scheduled. Dr. Horn was recommended for ordination by the Council. We are hoping to have an ordination ceremony/celebration early next year.

The boards continue to meet via Zoom to carry on the business of the church. We are grateful for the dedicated church members who participate in these important duties.

As we move into the winter months the increase of Covid-19 cases has brought about the return of more restrictions regarding social activities. We are all anxious to return to church. Our church plays a very large part in our lives both physically and emotionally. A vaccine is on the horizon. Perhaps we will be back together sooner rather than later.

The phone tree is still in effect. Please remember your friends and fellow pilgrims during this time of isolation. Some members have expressed desire to hear from more than just one caller from the church. Our fellowship hour meant so much to our congregation. To some, it was their only social activity each week.

**“This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.”**

Happy Holidays to you all!

William (Tom) Gray
Moderator, Pilgrim Congregational Church

let there be light

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

"Building Bridges with Friendship in our Church and in our Community"

As the holidays approach we are still unable to meet in person for our monthly Auxiliary business meetings. The increase in occurrences of Covid-19 infections continues to put a damper on our meetings. Many of our members do not have the ability to participate in a Zoom meeting. If anyone has suggestions on other options for us to hold a meeting please let me know.

I would like to thank all the people who agreed to present programs at our meetings as well as those that agreed to provide our luncheons. We are hopeful that we will be able to reschedule some of the programs next year.

The rummage sale is still on hold. We will schedule it as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Women's Auxiliary encourages you to spread cheer while keeping yourself and others healthy. We would like to share some creative ways to celebrate together, while staying apart this holiday season.



Give back: This is the year to help others. It doesn't need to be financial. It can be calling or writing to fellow Pilgrims or neighbors who are homebound.



Celebrate virtually: Share holiday traditions together in a virtual setting. If your family enjoys preparing a special recipe, get on FaceTime or Zoom and cook it together.



Make it new: Create new traditions that you can continue for years to come. For example, plant a tree in your yard that future generations will enjoy.



Think small: Not all great moments are big. Go for walks, look at the stars, decorate your porch for Christmas, or create a handmade gift for your favorite grocery store clerk.



Zoom out: Instead of all the computer stuff, try a group phone call, or fill a friend's mailbox with handwritten letters and cards.



Celebrate health & gifts from God: Use this time for self-care and reflection. Rest and pray. Move more. Cook and eat healthier. Drink more water. Take the opportunity to avoid the stress that sometimes comes with holiday expectations.

Wishing everyone safe and Happy Holidays.

Andrea Gray

President, Women's Auxiliary

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.

~ Ecclesiastes 4:9

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

CONSECRATION SUNDAY UPDATE

The light continues to shine bright at Pilgrim with the generous support of our dedicated members and friends. While we sincerely missed our normal Consecration Sunday gathering and longed to share a meal with fellow Pilgrims, the drop off and outdoor reception on November 1st in the Ring Courtyard was well attended.

Thank you for your support and commitments for contributions in 2021. Your financial commitments allow our budget committee to better plan for the upcoming year. We sincerely appreciate each of you for your faithful stewardship, generosity, and love for Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Let there be light in your lives from the love that God shines on us all!

Andrea Gray, Kristie Hutchinson, Clark Selters
2020 Stewardship Committee



LIBRARY NEWS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the library committee: **Mary Ferguson, Andrea Gray, Harriett Hartshorn, Jackie McHenry, Jeanne Nolden, Bill Parnell, Megan Parnell, Patti Schelling, Bob Smith and Janet Stevenson.**

As we all struggle with trying times please remember reading a good book is a great escape and Pilgrim Memorial Library has plenty of titles from which to choose. Despite not being able to meet in person, the committee continues to select new books.

A big thank you to readers who have sent donations to offset our budget cuts. You have been a great help **Zoe Ann Altenes, Janet Stevenson, Bob Smith, Janet Beech, Cynthia Shoultz, Bonnie Seath, Lorraine & Cedric Rogers, and Thea Clark!**



Recent purchases in fiction: *The Sentinel* by **Lee Child**, *The Darkest Evening* by **Ann Cleeves**, *Christmas Cupcake Murder* by **Joanne Fluke**, *The Searcher* by **Tana French**, *Jingle All the Way* by **Debbie Macomber**, *The Thursday Murder Club* by **Richard Osman**, *Coast to Coast Murders* by **James Patterson**, *The Book of Two Ways* by **Jody Picoult**, *The Return* by **Nicholas Sparks**, *Shake Up* by **Stuart Woods**.

In non-fiction we have *Everything Beautiful in Its Time: Seasons of Love and Loss* by **Jenna Bush Hager** sharing moving and funny stories about her grandparents, **Barbara and George Bush**.

Megan Parnell
Church Librarian

Megan is in the library on Mondays and Wednesdays and can also deliver books to your front porch.
Just call to make arrangements. (909) 622-1373.

DIACONATE BOARD

Thank
you

A **BIG THANK YOU** to Jeanne Nolden for sewing a new Communion Altar Cloth to supplement the other one she made. Thank you Jeanne for the love and attention you put into the details of the cloth to make it compliment the communion service.

Susan Shedd
Diaconate Board

OUTREACH BOARD

“I can diagnose and write prescriptions but the people are too poor to buy medications,” the Rev. Harding Stricker MD, told Marria Casner. Dr. Stricker is Director of the Congregational Mission of Jardín América in Northwest Argentina, a NACCC mission with a church and medical clinic. Although focused on prevention, the clinic also offers primary health care and out-patient services. One physician and two nurses care for an average number of three hundred patients a month. Based on only voluntary donations to the clinic, medical attention and medicines are offered for free when available.

The Outreach Board is delighted to announce that one half of our 2020 Christmas offering will go to help supply desperately needed medications at the clinic for the people living in the surrounding shanties of this mission.

Marria Casner, Chair of Pilgrim’s Board of Christian Outreach, personally met Dr. Stricker in Cape Town at the International Congregational gathering and again in Cleveland. Marria shared Dr. Stricker’s story and information about the wonderful work being done at Jardín América with the Outreach Board and the vote was to split the offering between one local (Hope Partners) and one world mission – Jardín América.

“Thank you so much for promoting our mission’s activities and eliciting a positive response! Knowing how bad this pandemic has hit the economy of the United States, we appreciate this willingness to support a distant mission even more!” wrote Dr. Stricker in an email to Mrs. Casner when she informed him of the vote.

Visit www.accc-ja.com to read the annual report from Jardín América and to learn more about the work they do to help their community.



HAND IN HAND FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The holiday season is coming and there are more people needing the essentials of life such as food and clothes more than ever before. With consideration of safety precautions and to minimize contact amongst our donors we will be doing things differently for Hand in Hand this year. We will be gathering things as usual, but this year the School district will pick everything up from the church and distribute to the families through a drive through event already set up for their students.

Our concern for your health and safety is our priority. There are still many ways to help. The grocery shopping is already being done. We need gift cards for Stater Bros, Walmart, Target and Amazon. You can also mail a check to the church or donate through PushPay, selecting Hand in Hand from the dropdown menu. If you would like to adopt a family or an individual, please contact me via email to nancy@pilgrimchurchpomona.com or phone me (see church directory or call me in the church office on Tuesdays). Please get in touch if you have any questions. These families are very grateful for the church's help and the Hand in Hand team and Outreach Board are very grateful for your help.

Nancy Newell

Bookkeeper and Hand in Hand Coordinator



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SCRIP!

Fans of Sprouts grocery stores will be happy to know that they are back in the program and available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations. We also have new \$50 cards available for Vons/Albertsons, Walmart and Starbucks.

New gift card available!

"Happy Moments" gift cards are now available and the ideal gift for any occasion. Whether it's for an upcoming birthday, wedding, or milestone, Happy Moments gift cards give the gift of options.

Accepted at: The Cheesecake Factory, Red Lobster, Macy's, Regal Cinemas, Buffalo Wild Wings, Sephora, and Bed Bath & Beyond. These cards are \$25 each.

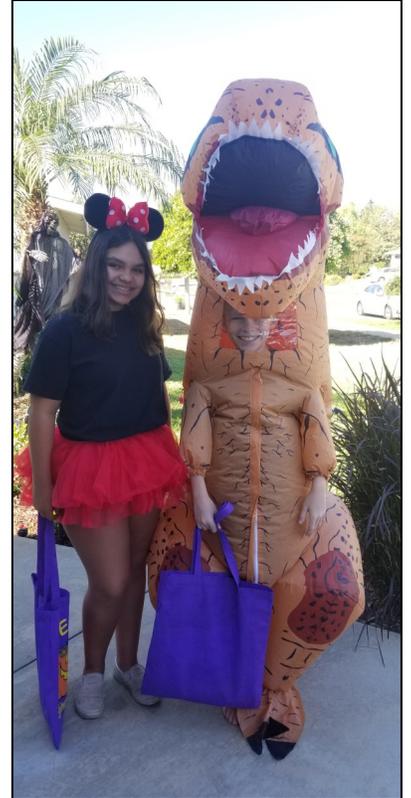


Important dates:

Scrip is available, however it is important to get your orders in early in order to meet your gift-giving needs. Delivery delays caused by winter weather, increased demand for the holidays and order deadlines are all issues that might impact scrip orders. Please get your orders to the church office before Tuesday, December 15th to help ensure you get the scrip you'd like. That will be the last order of the year. We will have additional stock on hand on a first come, first served basis.

Scrip sales will be closed from December 23 until January 4, 2021.

SPARKING LEGACIES



The Sparking Legacies have had a couple opportunities to come together for small in-person events such as the Halloween Drive-Through where they received fun Tricks and Treats.

For those that couldn't make it to the drive-thru event, they received their treats from a drive-by. The next day, while the adults joined in fellowship for Consecration Sunday in Ring courtyard the kids came and made yarn pumpkins in Dole Court for our first in-person Sunday School class since March. We look forward to doing more in-person events hopefully in the near future.

SPARKING LEGACIES



Join us December 6th & 13th on ZOOM as we explore the reason for the Advent & Christmas Season! We will be taking the remainder of December to spend the holiday away from the computers to celebrate with our families. Sunday School will resume on Zoom in January until it is safe for us to return to campus.

High School Bible & Breakfast Club meets each Sunday at 9am. Lunch Bunch meets at noon beginning with Music Worship and then the Jr. High & Elementary classes split to their break-out rooms. I want to thank our teachers, Jan Manildi, Fay Elwood, Nancy Newell & Nancy Rodewald for taking on the “Digital Classroom” challenge this year. Hopefully it won’t be long before we can return to our classrooms again.

The Harvest Festival maybe over, but the Country Store Catalog is open until December 20th. If you have not received a copy in your email or have any questions please contact me at (909) 305-3155. You also do not want to miss out on your opportunity to sweeten up this Christmas by ordering your See’s Candy at the Sparking Legacies’ See’s Candy Online Store. It is a perfect for sending gifts as they deliver to the destination of your choice.

Just visit: https://www.yumraising.com/secure/pilgrimcc_pilgrims_sparking_legacyes63/candy?h=SarCam5183&c=fb6584 or visit our Facebook page Pilgrim Congregational Church and click the See’s Candy link there to order your tasty treats today. You can make orders through December 4th.

The Sparking Legacies and I are sad to report that our beloved traditional Christmas Play is not going to work out this year. We are working on a potential alternative for January so keep your eye out for an update. Until then have a very Merry Christmas as we get ready for a bright new year!

Together we grow in faith, and shine with the love of Jesus!

Sarah Campbell
Youth Director
ChristianEd@pilgrimchurchpomona.com
909-305-3155



CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

Christmas season is here and with it comes the difficult task of finding the perfect gifts for our loved ones. This year is also presenting some new challenges when it comes to shopping. Here are 3 great ideas for shopping this season that have the added bonus of supporting the many ministries of Pilgrim Congregational Church.

The Sparking Legacies See's Candy Online Store

Profits go back to supporting Pilgrim's Youth Programs. Send a sweet treat to those we can't be with this holiday season or add a yummy delight to your own Christmas Celebration.

Order until December 4th at:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/pilgrimcc_pilgrims_sparking_legacyes63/candy?h=SarCam5183&c=ot8918

The Country Store Catalog

The Country Store Catalog has many great gift items, many of which were handmade by our own Pilgrims. The profits go to our many different ministries including Women's Auxiliary, Christian Education, Outreach, Harmonia and Membership as well as some outside vendors who have supported Pilgrim in the past. If you have not received the catalog yet or have questions, or would like to make an order, call 909-305-3155.

Orders will be taken up to December 20th.

Scrip

Do you have that person who you just don't know what to get for them? Scrip is a great option and fits right inside a Christmas card. You can also purchase grocery scrip to buy all your Christmas dinner fixin's. *Bonus:* a percentage of your scrip purchase goes to Pilgrim Congregational Church.

To order call the church office at 909-622-1373.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING

THE COUNTRY STORE IS OPEN!



An important part of our Annual Harvest Festival is the Country Store. Hosting the Country Store in person was not an option this year because of the pandemic. But, thanks to our talented staff here at Pilgrim and many great volunteers, it's happening ... **online!!!**

A great big Thank You to Sarah Campbell for her photographic expertise and lay-out skills. Thanks to Sarah we have photos of everything that's on sale! Also thanks to Karli Gordon for brainstorming the digital catalog idea with Sarah.

We have MANY wonderful bargains available for purchase! A variety of beautiful jewelry was donated to Women's Auxiliary. Judy Sanders organized and bagged it all, so it is ready for the sale. Nancy Newell worked on pricing and getting it ready for its "photo op." It took many hours to document all of the jewelry.

There are also many fun and interesting items we thought would go to the Auction, but since it was postponed, they're available through our catalog.

Megan Parnell has been knitting hats and booties (many are matching sets) for babies, proceeds go to Membership.

Jeanne Cockrell has provided delicious, homemade pomegranate jelly (you can't find that at your local grocery store!)

Nancy Blackstock has been spending her "shelter in place" time creating beautiful quilts and aprons. Sale of these articles will go to the Christian Education Dept. for youth projects.

Susan Winckler has donated several of her beautiful handmade ceramic pieces and proceeds will go to Harmonia.

We are including our annual Alternative Christmas program in this exciting catalog. Marria Casner has ordered many interesting things from SERVV that are handcrafted items from artisans in developing countries. Proceeds go to the Outreach Board.

A huge Thank You to Deborah Walden, D.J. and Nathan Campbell and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this happen. And a really huge Thank You to Sarah for putting the catalog together. We hope this new format for the Country Store will be successful and you will enjoy this new way of "making it happen".

Directions for ordering, paying, and picking up your purchases will be included in the catalog. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Campbell at (909) 305-3155.

WHISPERS FROM THE PEWS

A POEM FOR MY BROTHER

A poem in honor of my older brother Cliff who died from bone cancer at 17 years of age, a short but well-lived life.

BROTHER CLIFF

Clifford the pirate, Clifford the clown,
Clifford the actor, all about town.
Clifford the scholar, Clifford the soldier.
Clifford the fighter, winning the crown.

Author Lorraine Rogers

TASTE OF JAZZ CONCERT

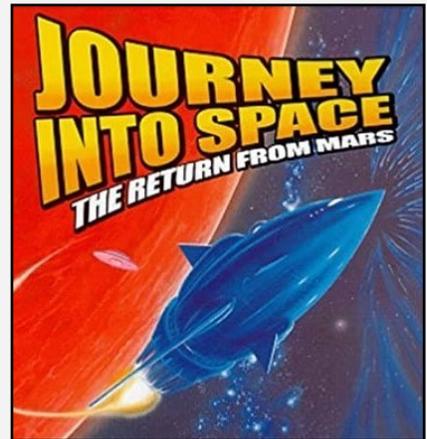


Mountainside Master Chorale's November 1st parking lot concert "Pro's Taste of Jazz" was a big success and attracted a lot full of music-lovers!

Steve O'Donnell (pictured left) was one of several featured singers who performed.

FACT AND FANTASY

In the 1950's I used to listen to "Journey into Space," a radio serial drama, and I read many space fantasy stories – not expecting that any of it would happen in my lifetime. Now astronomers have found so much "stuff" out in space that it really isn't *space* anymore. Those spaces my fantasies were dreamed in are now filled. The space itself was fantasy. Now that is a scientific fact!

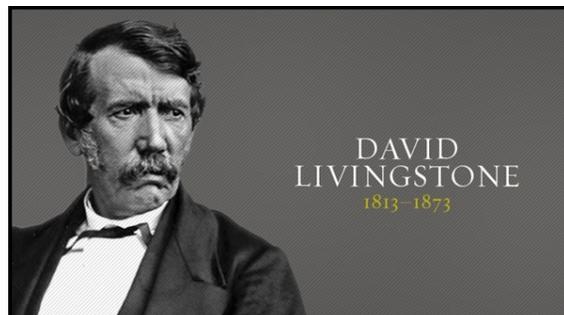


Cedric Rogers
Pilgrim's Science Correspondent
(self-appointed)

SHARING HISTORY

Did you know David Livingstone...

David Livingstone was a minister, physician, missionary, explorer, and abolitionist. He was Scottish and was sent to Africa on a mission. His idea was to Christianize the natives and establish trade that would replace the East African Arab-Swahili slave trade. Much of the interior of Africa was unknown to Europeans. Travel there was difficult for anyone, but the malaria, dysentery and sleeping sickness especially affected Europeans and their animals. Livingstone became obsessed with mapping it and finding the routes of the Zambezi and Nile rivers so they could be used in trade that would end the slave trade. He was among the first to make a trans-continental trek across southern Africa. On one of his last trips to the interior of Africa he seems to have disappeared for six years. The American newspaper, The New York Herald sent a correspondent to find him. Henry Morton Stanley found him, was not certain it was Livingstone so he greeted him, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"



...was a Congregationalist?



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

600 N. Garey Avenue | Pomona, CA 9176

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

10AM - 4PM

Please schedule an appointment online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org
or on the American Red Cross Blood Donor App and enter sponsor code: **PilgrimChPom**
or call **1-800-RED-CROSS**.

Red Cross is now testing all blood donations for COVID-19 ANTIBODIES.

ALL DONORS AND STAFF WILL BE SCREENED BEFORE ENTERING.
Only healthy donors will be allowed inside. Picture ID Required.

2021 Blood Drives

January 6 ~ February 10 ~ March 10

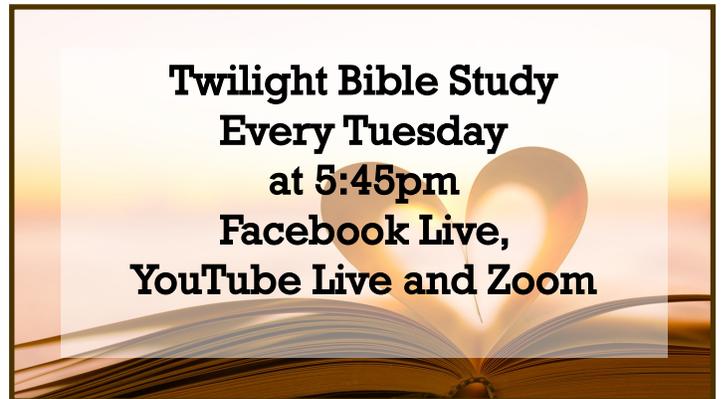


redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

PILGRIM CHURCH - LIVE ONLINE

Campus may be closed to protect the safety and well-being of our members however, Pilgrim Congregational Church is definitely open ONLINE.

Sunday worship services, youth groups, Bible studies, daily devotionals and frequent group meetings are all available online.



- Visit our website at www.pilgrimchurchpomona.com to find general information, lists of programs, view a calendar of events and sign up to receive the Pilgrim's Progress via email.



- Visit, like and follow our Facebook page: **Pilgrim Congregational Church Pomona** <https://www.facebook.com/Pilgrim-Congregational-Church-Pomona-105373002833758/> to view up-to-date information on programs and to participate in live events.



- Visit and subscribe to our YouTube Channel: **Pilgrim Congregational Church Pomona** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVkJ2ZClOILuucAT5j0KuFTQ> to view daily devotionals, Twilight Bible Study and Sunday Services.



- Arrange conference call / shared video events through Zoom to meet with your Pilgrim Boards, Guilds and small groups. **To set up a Zoom event call Karli Gordon at 909-622-1373.**

Mission: Pilgrim Congregational Church is an independent community of Christian faith which glorifies God through worship and service to others, respects individual spiritual growth, and inspires compassionate fellowship.

Vision: Pilgrim Congregational Church is the spiritual home of our community where all people are welcomed, known, and loved.

To Listen to the Sunday Service on Your Phone: Dial +1-669-900-9128. Then when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 330 195 900, followed by the pound (#) sign.

Church Office: The church office is temporarily closed to non-members and open by appointment only to church members. Please call the church to arrange an appointment or for assistance.

Sanctuary Flowers: Flowers are to be picked up by the following Wednesday.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Patrick Horn.....	Senior Minister
Dr. Lowell Linden.....	Consulting Minister
Jon Olson.....	Licensed Minister
Rev. Donald B. Keepers.....	Minister Emeritus
Dr. Douglas Lobb.....	Minister Emeritus
Sarah Campbell.....	Youth Director
Susan Winckler.....	Director of Music
Bruce Jones.....	Organist
Karli Gordon.....	Administrative Assistant
Nancy Newell.....	Bookkeeper
Megan Parnell.....	Librarian
Edmund P. Perea.....	Custodian
Judy Perea	Assistant
Ramses Flores.....	Assistant

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE



Visit our link

<https://pushpay.com/g/pilgrimchurchpomona>

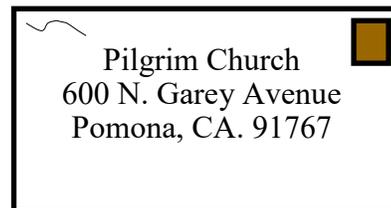
MOBILE



Text

PILGRIMCHURCH
To 77977

MAIL



Send a Check

 When you send "PILGRIMCHURCH" to 77977 you will receive a one-time reply containing a link to give to PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (1msg/request). Please be aware that Msg & Data rates may apply. For full Terms & Conditions please visit <http://pushpay.com/terms>. For the Privacy Policy please visit <https://pushpay.com/privacy>. For help reply HELP or STOP to cancel. **If you have any questions please call the church office at 909-622-1373.**



EVERY SUNDAY

Worship Service

10:00am via Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

Sunday School - via Zoom

High School Breakfast Bible Study

Celebrate Wonder (2nd - 6th grade)

Be Bold (7th - 8th Grade)

EVERY MORNING

Daily Devotional

9:00am via Facebook Live and Zoom

EVERY TUESDAY

Twilight Bible Study

5:45pm via Facebook Live & YouTube

*Merry
Christmas
AND
Happy
New Year*

To: Pilgrims and Friends

From: The Staff of Pilgrim Congregational Church

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.
Truly, it is our pleasure. We appreciate your
continued support during this challenging year
and we look forward to great things in 2021!*



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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