

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



Volume 1, Issue 10

PILGRIM CHURCH A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATION

December 1st, 2020

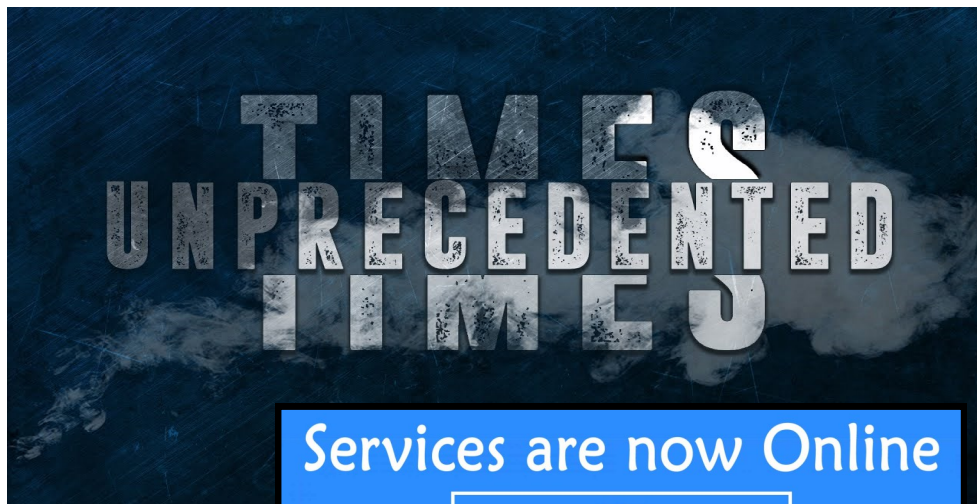
## A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER

By Pastor Paul Eknes-Tucker

Having gone through the year that has been 2020, I would think Pilgrim is ready for almost anything. The word “unprecedented” has been used a lot in 2020. December around the United Church Center will follow suit.

This year December is Stewardship Month for Pilgrim. If you haven't already, you will be receiving a letter from me along with your pledge card for 2021. You can mail your pledge or drop it off at the building. Our Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for January 17th at 11AM via Zoom. I don't believe we have ever had to go this route for a congregational gathering but such is 2020. The good news is that we don't have a great deal of business to handle. The entire Church Council has agreed to stay in place for another year, so the congregation will be asked to approve the slate as a whole. The financial report and 2021 budget will be sent out ahead of time to give everyone a chance to ask questions and we will have an update on our pandemic plans with the changes that are occurring around possible vaccines.

Looking back on 2020, we have not only survived a year unlike any other but we have learned how to thrive. We know that we have the capability to film worship and create a beautiful worship experience that reaches far beyond our building. We have added a second feature



entitled, “*Stump the Pastor,*” that has been a great success of reaching and engaging people who might have otherwise never experienced Pilgrim. Thanks to John Williams and Mark David Jackson, our worship services are creating quite a buzz on the Internet.

The Joint UCC Advent worship is virtual this year with all four Birmingham congregations contributing worship from their locations. Thanks to Dodd Waters from Covenant Community, those four visual experiences will be united as one service that will be available on-line on December 12th. Because of COVID-19, it looks like we won't be able to enjoy the music of the UAB Christmas Concert or the Steel City Men's Chorus this year.

Christmas Eve worship will be a joint virtual worship service with

Covenant Community Church. This year, we'll use the usual Pilgrim liturgy with Rev. JR Finney as the preacher. We'll also enjoy special music from both congregations.

One of the blessings of 2020 has been that we have demonstrated that adversity and difficulty are not enough to diminish the passion and spirit of Pilgrim Church. I continue to be awed and grateful for the ways God continues to use us and work through us to bring

Services are now Online

Click Here 

zoom

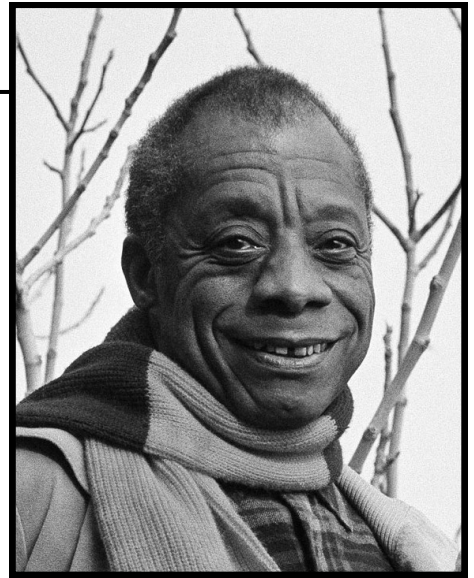
Stay Home & Stay Safe!!!

*“Good News of Great Joy”*

# A Quote By James Baldwin

Shared By Ron Vander Schaaf

*"Salvation is not flight from the wrath of God, it is accepting and reciprocating the love of God. Salvation is not separation. It is the beginning of union with all that is or has been or ever will be. Love opens up the rusted lid of the heart. There is absolutely no salvation without love: this is the wheel in the middle of the wheel. Salvation does not divide. Salvation connects....It is not the exclusive property of any dogma, creed, or church. It keeps the channel open between oneself and however one wishes to name That which is greater than oneself. It has nothing to do with one's fortunes or one's circumstances in one's passage through this world. It is a mighty fortress, even in the teeth of ruin or at the gates of death."*



*James Baldwin was a writer and playwright, born August 2, 1924, in Harlem, New York. One of the 20th century's greatest writers, Baldwin broke new literary ground with the exploration of racial and social issues in his many works. He was especially known for his essays on the black experience in America.*

## Easy Pecan Pie Recipe

[cookiesandcups.com/easy-pecan-pie-recipe/](http://cookiesandcups.com/easy-pecan-pie-recipe/)

Pecan Pie is Southern baking at its finest. It's made from pecans, with a filling that includes butter, sugar, eggs, and Karo® Corn Syrup. The subtle sweetness of the Karo® Corn Syrup is what really sets this recipe apart from the rest.

And, this is the perfect pie recipe for beginners, or for kids to get involved in the holiday meal prep.

### Ingredients:

- 1 Cup Karo® Light OR Dark Corn Syrup
- 3 Eggs
- 1 Cup granulated sugar
- 2 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 Teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 Cups (6 ounces) coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 (9-inch) Unbaked OR frozen deep-dish pie crust

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix Karo® Light Corn Syrup, eggs, sugar, butter and vanilla using a spoon or a rubber spatula. Stir in pecans and pour the mixture into pie crust.

Bake on center rack of oven for 60 to 70 minutes. Cool for at least 2 hours on wire rack before serving.

### Notes:

- *If you are using a prepared frozen pie crust, place cookie sheet in oven and preheat oven as directed. Pour filling into frozen crust and bake on preheated cookie sheet.*
- *The pie is done when center reaches 200°F. Tap center surface of pie lightly – it should spring back when done. If pie crust is over-browning, cover edges with foil.*

Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Cook Time: 60 minutes  
Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes  
Yield: serves 10



# The Centerpiece

By Jim Ball

Hopz...pzacz...joy...and love,  
All coming, from God above.

Each, can most surgly bę done,  
If wę trust in God's only Son.

By following Jęsus' commands,  
God lifts us, in His loving hands.

He wraps us in a blankęt of love,  
One so seęurz, truly from above.

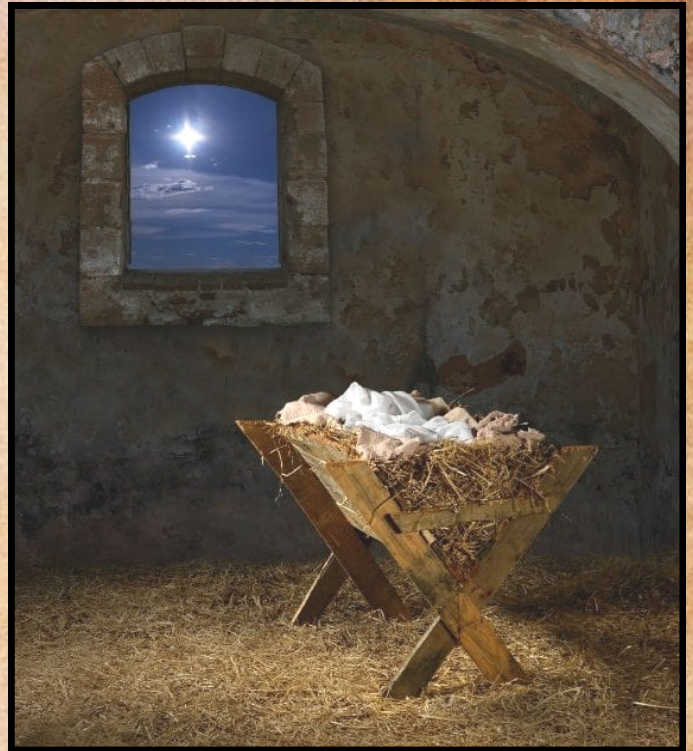
Being loved gives us gręat hopz,  
Which covers us likę Pastor's copz.

To others, our love brightly shines,  
Then joy, with our soul aligns.

Pzacz, swęzt pzacz then comz our way,  
Leaning on Jęsus, it's here to stay.

Jęsus, you seę, is the cęterpizęcz of it all,  
He's always waiting, listęning for our call.

Thank you, Lord Jęsus,  
our swęzt heavenly dove,  
For only, thru you,  
wę have hopz, pzacz, joy and love!



## ***Inspiration:***

~ Finney, J.R., Senior Pastor,  
"Preparing for Hope",  
Sermon of December 1, 2019,  
Covenant Community Church,  
Center Point, AL.

~ Isaiah 9:6

~ Psalm 62:1-8; 71:14; 85:10; 116:1-2

~ John 15:1-17

~ Romans 8:24-25

~ 1 Corinthians 13



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# Merry Christmas!

**Pilgrim would like  
to wish you ALL a  
Very Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year!**

## Bible Math Puzzle

The following statements contain information about Jesus' life when He was here on earth.

In order to complete the puzzle, you'll need to use math and your Bible knowledge. (IF you get stuck, the Bible references will help.)

1. Start with how old Jesus was when He began His ministry. (Luke 3:23)\_\_\_\_\_
2. Divide the answer for #1 by the number of hours of darkness when Jesus was crucified. (Luke 23:44)\_\_\_\_\_
3. Add the age Jesus was when His parents found Him in the temple with the teachers. (Luke 2:42)\_\_\_\_\_
4. Subtract the number of New Testament gospels.\_\_\_\_\_
5. Add the number of generations from the Hebrew exile to the coming of Christ. (Matthew 1:17) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Add the number of times Peter denied Jesus. (Luke 22:61) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Add the number of letters in the name, JESUS. \_\_\_\_\_
8. If you have done everything right, you should now have the number of days Jesus was tempted in the desert. (Luke 4:2)\_\_\_\_\_

**Yesterday is HISTORY  
Tomorrow is a MYSTERY  
Today is a GIFT from GOD  
that is why they call today  
the PRESENT.**



## PILGRIM BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



There are no  
December Birthdays!  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!



## PILGRIM ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

John & Libba Owen  
December 13th

**IF WE HAVE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY, WE APOLOGIZE!  
PLEASE LET US KNOW & WE WILL GLADLY ADD IT!**