



## FAITH IN ACTION: TRACING A LEGACY OF LOVE

<sup>9</sup> The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps. **Proverbs 16:9**

<sup>4</sup> Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. <sup>5</sup> Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all day long.

**Psalms 25:4, 5**

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

January 5, 2025

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Praise God for blessing us to see another year. As we understand how fragile life is, we do not take lightly the blessing of life that God has granted to us.

We are excited about 2025 and anticipate the awesome ways that God will be revealed and participate with us as we begin this journey of transition.

Our theme for 2025 is: **Faith in Action: Tracing a Legacy of Love**

Indeed, this year of transition is a Faith Journey. Why is it a faith journey? It is a faith journey because we have not gone this way before. Yes, some of us have experienced and even participated in pastoral transitions. However, none of us have ever experienced or participated in a pastoral transition like this. Although we have not gone this way before, God knows the way. Therefore, it is important for us to follow God.

In **Joshua 3:3, 4**, as the Children of Israel were preparing to move forward on their journey to the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, he shared, *When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, [the ark represented the presence of God] then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before.* As they followed the ark, they were following God – who knew the way.

This journey is not only a journey of faith, it is also a journey of love. Our theme also reflects the need for us to Trace the Legacy of Love that brought Pilgrim Rest to where it is and embrace that love as we move forward on this journey. Pilgrim Rest was established in love as our first pastor and family, Pastor C. V. and Mother Susie Harrington laid the foundation for this church. It was love that brought Pastor Leroy and Sister Georgia Mixon to Pilgrim Rest and it was love that led Pastor Mixon pray for God to reveal to him his successor. It was love that brought me and Sister Thressessa Childs to Pilgrim Rest and it was love that led me to likewise pray for God to reveal to me my successor. More will be shared as we trace our legacy of love in February.

Additionally, on the first Sunday of each month, we will share a scripture and emphasis for the month that will assist us in tracking key stages along this journey. Our Emphasis for January is: **Affirming Dr. Demetria McCroskey as the next Pastor of Pilgrim Rest.** Our scripture is **Numbers 27:15-18**, <sup>15</sup> *Moses spoke to the Lord, saying,* <sup>16</sup> *“Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint someone over the congregation <sup>17</sup> who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep without a shepherd.”* <sup>18</sup> *So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; (NRSV)*

As we put our Faith in Action on this journey, we, like the Children of Israel, want to follow God – who knows the way. Consider God as our compass. As we follow God – our compass – we will not get lost along the way and our journey will end where God desires us to be.

# PASTORAL TRANSITION

## PASTORAL TRANSITION SCRIPTURES:

<sup>9</sup>The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.

**Proverbs 16:9**

<sup>4</sup>Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. <sup>5</sup>Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all day long.

**Psalm 25:4, 5**

## PASTORAL TRANSITION PRAYER:

Dear God, In my mind, I make my plans, But I desire You, Lord, to direct my steps.

So, show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You, I wait all day long.

As you show me, teach me and lead me, I will seek your will, I will trust your leading and I will follow your directing as I pray regarding our next pastor. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen

## PASTORAL TRANSITION TIMELINE



## BIBLICAL SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

**NUMBERS 27:15-18, <sup>15</sup>MOSES SPOKE TO THE LORD, SAYING, <sup>16</sup>“LET THE LORD, THE GOD OF THE SPIRITS OF ALL FLESH, APPOINT SOMEONE OVER THE CONGREGATION <sup>17</sup>WHO SHALL GO OUT BEFORE THEM AND COME IN BEFORE THEM, WHO SHALL LEAD THEM OUT AND BRING THEM IN, SO THAT THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD MAY NOT BE LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD.” <sup>18</sup>SO THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, “TAKE JOSHUA SON OF NUN, A MAN IN WHOM IS THE SPIRIT, AND LAY YOUR HAND UPON HIM; (NRSV)**

**PILGRIMRESTMILWAUKEE.ORG**



## *The Pilgrim Rest Oasis*

*Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today!  
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current



*Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.*

	<b>Educational Enrichment</b>	<b>Technology Literacy</b>	<b>Athletics &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>Facility Innovation</b>
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 iPad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 basketballs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 art sets for aspiring artists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe</li> </ul>
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 tennis rackets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camera security system to keep everyone safe</li> </ul>
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 computer for graphic design and website creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 sets of golf clubs for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school</li> </ul>
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best</li> </ul>
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light</li> </ul>