

Upcoming Sunday Programs (10:15 to 11:30 am)

December 1 – 19th Amendment (Women's Suffrage)

Join members of the fellowship as we cover the story of the 19th amendment., granting women the right to vote 100 years ago. Special music will accompany the program.



December 8 - Reconstructionist Judaism and Hanukkah

This movement, founded in the United States and based on the writings of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, grew as a response to the challenge of modern life in America; that is, how to effectively live in two civilizations, Jewish and secular democratic. Come learn more about this innovative branch of Judaism. How is the upcoming holiday of Hanukkah viewed in Reconstructionist thought?

December 15 - Holiday Celebration!

Please join us for our always-special intergenerational PH holiday program, complete with group caroling, favorite holiday readings, seasonal music, a performance by the PH Chorale, a special guest (possibly from the far north), favorite foods, and more. Contact Bill Rohde or Mel Aanerud by December 8th if you or the youth in your household have special music or a reading to share. And don't forget to bring that favorite holiday food for our traditional potluck finger foods feast after the program. See you there!



December 22 - No Pilgrim House Program



December 29 - Your Favorite Photograph

This is your opportunity to tell us about your favorite photograph(s). We will project your photo on the screen and you will have several minutes to tell about the image(s). Your photo maybe an artistic shot, or it may reflect your passion or hobby, be a highlight of a trip, or be an old family picture. Your story is as important as the photograph.

Each person can share up to three photos. If you would like to be part of the program, email photos (.jpg file) to Les Rogers by December 23. Contact Les if you have questions or need technical help.

January 5 - Disabilities, Inclusion and Accessibility with Rachel Carson



CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1, 11:30am - Soup Sunday - Join us for Soup following the program. Bring items for the food shelf donation area and/or sign up to bring soup, both in the entryway. All are welcome. Contact Fred Green for Foodshelf, Bob Treumann for Soup Sunday.

Tuesday, December 3, 4:00pm - Book Club holiday party at LeBlancs. Share a book you have been reading. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Wednesday, December 4, 1:30pm - Novel Exchange Book Club meets at the Shoreview Library - poetry theme. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, December 5, 7:00pm - Great Decisions at Pilgrim House - Sri Lanka. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Friday, December 6, 6:30pm - Game night at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Curt Corum. See article below.

Saturday, December 7, 10:00am - The Pilgrim House Chorale will hold its first December Holiday Program practice at Bill and Judy Rohde's home. All adults, high school and college students who like to sing are invited to participate. If you're relatively new to PH and/or haven't sung with the Chorale before, we especially urge you to come and join in the fun. See you there!

Monday, December 9, 7:00pm - Pilgrim House Board meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact John or Shannon Zobitz.

Tuesday, December 10, 10:00am - Knitting and craft group is meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Mary Ryan.

Saturday, December 14, 10:00 am - The Pilgrim House Chorale meets for its final December Holiday Program practice. We'll again meet at Bill and Judy Rohde's home. All adults, high school and college students who like to sing are welcome to join.

Monday, December 16, 2:00pm - A covenant group meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Tuesday, December 17, 2:00pm - Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, December 18, 10:45am - Social Action Coterie Group meets at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact David Conradi-Jones.

Sunday, December 22 - Newsletter items due. Contact Fred Green.

Monday, December 23, 2:00pm - A covenant group meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Nancy Olson.

Pilgrim House

We seek to carry out the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of churches and fellowships, with which we are affiliated. These principles affirm the worth of everyone, freedom and the right of conscience in search of truth, encouragement of one another's spiritual growth, and the wonder and mystery of the web of all life. Membership in Pilgrim House is open to everyone who is in sympathy with our purposes and principles and wants to join.

Phone: 651-631-2582

Internet: <http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org>

Board Co-Chairs: John and Shannon Zobitz

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact:

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

RE CORNER

Children's Religious Education Program

This month the Children's Religious Education Program is partnering with the Social Action Committee to support the Alexandra House Holiday Shop. We are suggesting that each family at PH donate an item for the Holiday Shop. You are encouraged to have your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) help you choose a gift. The Holiday Gift Shop will be open for business on December 13, so your donation must be at PH by Sunday, December 8. An Alexandra House Holiday Wish List is available at Pilgrim House. If you would prefer an electronic copy of the Alexandra House Holiday Gift Drive Information, the web site address is <https://www.alexandrahouse.org/>. The list is included on the last page of this newsletter.

Pilgrim House as an organization is not Participating in Guest At Your Table this year. Participation has been declining each year, but the organizational effort involved does not decline. If you would like to make a donation to the Unitarian Social Service Committee (UUSC) which sponsors the Guest At Your Table, a limited number of Guest At Your Table envelopes are available. They are on the table by the parking lot entrance. Please fill out all of the information on the back of the envelope.

Carol Green

Chair Children's Religious Education Committee

SOCIAL ACTION

Harvest Fest attendees donated 42 pounds of food and \$25 to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf.

Social Action Coterie Group

The group is now evaluating the next topic to address and how to use social media to expand our reach. If you are interested, contact David Conradi-Jones.

GAME NIGHT

Game night is Friday, December 6th at 6:30 pm. Come and bring your favorite game or just come and participate in the games available. We are trying to get a bridge group started. If you are interested contact Mary Ryan. Pizza will be provided.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY PROGRAM!

The Pilgrim House Holiday Program will be Sunday morning, December 15. We're looking for members, children and visitors to participate with stories, music, poetry, dance, or other contributions for this reflective and joyful program. Sign up with Mel Aanerud.

The program will also include our very own Pilgrim House Chorale. We're calling on all adults, high school and college students who like to sing to participate. There will be practices on two Saturday mornings at 10:00am at the Rohdes in New Brighton on December 7 and 14. No experience needed – just come join the fun. Contact Bill Rohde.

UPDATE ON OUR PARTICIPATION IN WEBINARS FOR SMALL CONGREGATIONS

We've been having some good experiences with the webinar series presented by the UUA Regions. There have been seven and eight attendees at the two sessions to date.

Two more webinars remain in the series – January 15 and February 12, both at 6:00 pm. Save the dates to join us. We gather in the meeting room with snacks and beverages, view the webinar on the big screen and participate in discussion of the content.

As part of the fee paid by Pilgrim House, we have access to recordings of the past webinars. Let Mel Aanerud know if you'd like the access information:

- The October 16 webinar was entitled "Small Making a Big Difference", featuring four congregations making significant differences with their community engagement. The Unitarian Universalist Church in Willmar, MN was one of the featured congregations, showing their work with immigrants.
- The November 13 webinar was "Right Sizing Your Congregation's Operations". The content applauded small congregations as the backbone of the Unitarian

Universalist Association, encouraged congregations to pick the things they do well, and not try to do it all. Pilgrim House is doing very well by the prescriptive suggestions offered in this webinar.

PILGRIM HOUSE GREAT DECISIONS

December 5 - Sri Lanka

Bill Davnie will discuss Sri Lanka as a special topic. He has visited the island frequently over the past three years, including a seven-month stay in 2018-19. Bill is a retired Foreign Service officer.

Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, lies off the southeast coast of India, and is often forgotten there, despite a population of 20 million -- larger than, say, The Netherlands. Yet it has a complex colonial history, a recent ethnic-civil war, and a new-found place in China-US rivalry. Best known first for cinnamon, then for tea, and more recently as a surfing destination for Europeans, it represents several of the challenges confronting many countries today -- ethnic tensions, economic growth, ecological change, and great-power politics.

2020 Issues for future programs:

India and Pakistan
 Red Sea Security
 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
 U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle
 China's Road into Latin America
 The Philippines and the U.S.
 Artificial Intelligence and Data

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME HERE!

We enjoy the friends and visitors who join us for Sunday programs. If you're ready to consider going the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we would enjoy talking with you

Membership in Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is open to all who would like to support and share in the life and programs of Pilgrim House. If you haven't yet been offered a Membership Card, or have a card and want some additional information, let us know.

We'd also be happy to schedule an Orientation-Introduction to Pilgrim House with you. There's prepared information about our history, how we're organized and funded, our Unitarian Universalist connection, our children's program, and the volunteerism that energizes Pilgrim House. Plenty of time for your questions too.

Feel free to call on us with any membership questions.

Kathy and Mel Aanerud, Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org

PARKING AT PILGRIM HOUSE

With holiday programs at Pilgrim House, there is always concern about parking with our small lot. When we have a popular program, here are some things to consider:

- Try to carpool if you can.
- We are not permitted to park along Highway 96. An additional 6 or 7 cars can be parked parallel to the curb on the east side of our driveway. Please avoid blocking cars.
- Overflow Parking: Both Arden Hills City Hall and the Armory on the north side of Highway 96 permit parking for Pilgrim House in their lots. The Armory lot is closer to our driveway. (Please be careful crossing Highway 96 on foot; there are no pedestrian crossings except at the stop lights at Hamline and Lexington.)

ALEXANDRA HOUSE HOLIDAY WISH LIST

DEADLINE:

Gifts to Pilgrim House by Sunday, December 8.

Gifts delivered to Alexandra House by December 13.

Babies

- Alphabet, Color & Shape Toys
- Soothers & White Noise Machines
- Rattles, Teethers & Pacifiers
- Bottle Sets & Bibs
- Baby Monitors
- Sensory Mats & Play Mats
- Diaper Bags
- Onesies, Sleepers & Socks

Teens & Tweens

- Headphones & Bluetooth Speakers
- Portable Chargers
- eReaders (Kindle or Nook) & Tablets
- DVDs & Video Games (age appropriate)
- Electric Razors
- Clothes & Hats with Sports Logos
- Fortnite & Marvel Themed Toys

Toddlers

- Playskool Plastic Toys
- Push & Pull Toys
- Bilingual Toys that Speak or Sing
- Sesame Street Toys

Younger Kids

- Ride-on Toys

- My Little Pony & Accessories
- Dramatic Play Sets (tools, kitchen, doctor, etc.)
- Short Books with Strong Female Characters
- Doll Houses & Furniture
- Craft & Science Sets
- Surprise Dolls (LOL & Hatchimals)

All Ages & Family

- Wrapping Paper, Tape, Ribbon & Bows
- Winter Coats, Scarves, Hats, Mittens & Winter Boots
- Pajamas & Slippers
- Tool Boxes & Home Repair Kits
- Photo Albums & Cookbooks

Gift Cards

- Target & Walmart
- Department Stores (JCPenney, Kohl's, etc.)
- Restaurants (Chipotle, Panera, Noodles & Company, etc.)
- Coffee Shops (Caribou, Starbucks)
- Spas, Salons, Beauty Supply Stores
- Entertainment (Movie Theaters, GameStop)
- Clothing Stores
- Gas & Grocery Cards

Considerations

- All donated gifts must be NEW.
- No gifts depicting violence or weapons.
- Multicultural, multiracial, multilingual toys are appreciated and encouraged.

Visit

alexandrahouse.org/contribute-goods/ for more information.

UUA COMMON READ 2019-20

[Excerpts from the UUA website]

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time.

The Common Read Selection Committee is pleased to announce that *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015) and *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019) are the new Common Read.

Upending myths and misinformation that have been promulgated by leaders and media, it asks readers to reconsider the origin story of the United States taught to every US school child.