

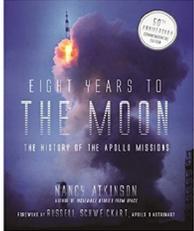
Upcoming Sunday Programs (10:15 to 11:30 am)

All programs are via Zoom. The Zoom link for these programs will be sent to Pilgrim House members. If you do not receive a link, but would like to participate, please contact pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

September 13 – Water Communion – Water is used to purify and sanctify, to nurture, refresh, and restore. Water flows through us; it circulates in our blood, and exits via perspiration from hard work and through tears of joy or despair. Come join in acknowledging the qualities of water that are essential to our lives, both physically and metaphorically. How would you bless our world? What would you wash away? What needs to be revitalized?



Likewise, where do you go to seek rejuvenation for yourself? Is there a body of water that is special to you? Bring your memories of a favorite body of water: a lake, river or ocean, perhaps somewhere you have recently visited. What makes this body of water special to you? We will invite our youth and their families to be the first to share, and then we will cycle through the rest of the participants.



September 20 – Eight Years to the Moon – Nancy Atkinson

The speaker, Nancy Atkinson, is author of *Eight Years to the Moon*. Space journalist and insider Nancy Atkinson weaves together the riveting story of NASA's mission to complete "the greatest adventure on which humankind ever embarked." This incredible account is a keepsake celebrating some of the most important and dramatic events in modern history. Told through over 60 personal interviews and oral histories, as well as personal photographs, this tribute to the men and women who made the Apollo 11 mission a reality chronicles the highs and lows that accompanied the race to the Moon: the devastating flash fire that killed the crew of Apollo 1; the awe of those who saw their years-in-the-making contributions to space exploration blast off from Cape Canaveral; the knuckle-biting descent of Apollo 11 to the lunar surface; a near-catastrophic event on the crew's flight home; the infectious excitement and jubilation across the world after the astronauts returned safely to Earth. These little-known stories of the dedicated engineers, mathematicians and scientists in the 1960s reveal the "hows" of the Apollo missions and bring to life the wonder and excitement of humanity's first steps on the Moon.

September 27 – Black Lives UU

Black Lives of UU, or BLUU, is an independent organization, fiscally sponsored by the UUA, which provides ministry for, and by, Black Unitarian Universalists, while also working to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith. In the fall they held a national symposium, in St. Paul, to explore what a Black UU theology could look like; it was the first of their convenings to invite white participation. Ellen Shelton attended and found it very moving and very informative. She will give us a briefing on what she observed and learned and what it could mean for PH.



October 4 – Exploring Interspirituality – Rev. Kari Kopnick

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13, 10:15pm – The first weekly program of the fall – Water Communion via Zoom.

Monday, September 14, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Tuesday, September 15, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Sunday, September 20 – Newsletter information due. Contact Fred Green.

Monday, September 21, 2:00pm – A covenant group meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, September 23, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, September 24, 4:00pm – The Thursday book club meets via Zoom. The book is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Lisa See will join the discussion. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Thursday, October 1, 7:00pm – Great Decisions meets via Zoom. Contact Al Potter.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WELCOMING COMMITTEE

It's been a long summer and we have faced new challenges almost daily. Masks and social distancing work to keep us safe but it still can be lonely and frustrating until we have other alternatives. This is a reminder for our congregation. If times are getting too hard or you need help with groceries, Dr.'s appointments, etc, please call us. We will help you or find help for you. Please call Nancy Olson or other members listed on our website.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September on Zoom. We have a great year ahead of us!

Nancy

SOCIAL ACTION

Pandemic Fund Distributions

The final Pandemic Fund contribution total was \$11,634, comprising member contributions of \$6,819 and a match of \$4,815 from Paul and Suzanne Hanifl. The board agreed to add \$8,365 from this year's budget surplus for a total of \$20,000. This fund total was distributed evenly to the following organizations: Ralph Reeder Food Shelf, Alexandra House, and the Community Support Center.

Following the death of George Floyd and subsequent events, it was suggested to the board that some money set aside for the PH Community Pandemic Fund might be spent on causes related to recent events.

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

The Board met, and ultimately decided to honor the originally anticipated \$20,000 to the Pandemic Fund, but reserve the remaining budget surplus for the time being and later determine where the funds could have the most impact.

Alexandra House donation in lieu of HopeFest

Pilgrim House has been a sponsor of the Alexandra House HopeFest fund raiser for many years. Since HopeFest was canceled this year due to the pandemic, the Social Action committee decided to send the \$300 we had budgeted for a sponsorship as a donation. That money has been sent.

PILGRIM HOUSE

MEMBERSHIP

We enjoyed welcoming Patricia Zeteluman as an official Pilgrim House member at our annual meeting on May 31, via Zoom. Patricia began visiting Pilgrim House last fall, including a debut in the Pilgrim House Thanksgiving Chorale, and sharing in programs and events. We're pleased that she continued on a virtual route to Membership with us when in-person gatherings at Pilgrim House were idled.

Patricia and her partner Terry live in Roseville with cat Meta. We shared some of her interests at our annual meeting, and she's looking forward to becoming better acquainted with us, albeit virtual at this time.

If there are other Visitors and Friends who are ready to consider the next step of becoming a Member of Pilgrim House, we'd enjoy talking with you -- phone, email, or



Zoom. We'd be happy to schedule a virtual Orientation-Introduction to Pilgrim House. Topics include our history, how we're organized and funded, our Unitarian Universalist Connection, children's program, and the volunteerism that energizes Pilgrim House. Plenty of time for your questions.

We are a lay-led congregation of currently 81 members. Feel free to call on us with your Membership questions.

Kathy and Mel Aanerud

Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org

A SUCCESSFUL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) holds an annual meeting with its congregations, known as General Assembly, at various locations around the United States in June. This year's event, originally scheduled for Providence Rhode Island, successfully went virtual via Zoom.

Participating from Pilgrim House were our voting delegates Mary Ryan and Nancy Olson and attendees Mel Aanerud and Kathy Aanerud. Total attendance was 4,925, with 2,359 voting delegates from 635 congregations in 49 states.

At the Bridging program that honors high school graduates, Dianna Jones participated with a video. Other Pilgrim House members attended the virtual Sunday morning program made available to all and enjoyed the 140-member virtual choir.

The main theme of General Assembly was the impact of 400 years of colonialism on indigenous people -- highlighted by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's presentation, author of *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*. (She has accepted an invitation to speak to Pilgrim House via Zoom on November 8!!)

A multitude of workshops were available on topics that included Having Anti-Racist Conversations; Gratitude as a Spiritual Practice; Why Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Matter to Your Congregations; and topics relating to congregational organization and leadership. Additional Pilgrim House invitations for Sunday program speakers have been extended to some favorite workshop presenters.)

Business items included adopting two Actions of Immediate Witness: (1) 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism, calling on congregations to be in solidarity with indigenous people, and (2) Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action, responding to police violence. Also presented was the report, Widening the Circle of Concern, to support long term cultural and

institutional changes to redeem ideals and promises within Unitarian Universalism. Future Pilgrim House programs and/or actions could be arranged to support these issues.

Save the Date! Next year's General Assembly is scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, WI on June 23-27.

PILGRIM HOUSE COVID PREPAREDNESS PLAN – 19 AUG 2020

In compliance with State and Federal Guidelines, the Pilgrim House Board has adopted the following COVID Preparedness Plan, effective immediately.

Access to the building

In light of the virus's persistence in our communities, and since the PH membership includes a large number of people at high-risk for the pandemic, we are suspending all meetings in the PH building, including Sunday services and small group meetings. Access to the building is restricted to necessary maintenance functions: cleaning, servicing equipment, repairs as needed, planned physical plant upgrades, access to documents. The number entering should be limited to 2 or 3 at a time. We ask all people to refrain from entering the building for other purposes, including use of the kitchen or the restrooms. Use of the library is suspended for the time being.

The Safety Committee will monitor the progress of the pandemic on a monthly basis for the Board to review whether conditions warrant relaxing these guidelines. Criteria suggested by UUA include:

- Reduction of infections over several weeks
- Availability of adequate testing
- Availability of vaccinations

We will maintain a sign on the south door outlining these restrictions, and will supply disinfectant supplies, masks, and gloves near the entrance for use by those who need to enter the building. A sign-in sheet (name, date, and amount of time spent inside) will be maintained near the entrance to facilitate contact tracing if someone becomes infected. We ask people who enter the building to use masks, and to disinfect hands and frequently touched surfaces (especially light switches and door handles).

Small group gatherings

Currently small groups are meeting outdoors in parks and in our parking lot with social distancing and/or masks. We suggest the following guidelines for safe meetings:

- People should bring their own chairs and drinks.
- Six feet or more social distancing should be maintained at all times.



- We strongly recommend that people wear masks, even with social distancing, as recent evidence suggests the virus readily travels more than the recommended 6-ft distance.
- We discourage bringing food, as people have to remove masks to eat. We recommend food not be shared unless it is commercially prepackaged in individual portions.
- Communal singing or chanting should be avoided, as these are high-dispersion activities.

Contact for more information

General information:

pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org

or contact Dick Shelton, Nancy Olson, or Al Potter via the PH Directory.

PILGRIM HOUSE GREAT DECISIONS

Save the date! The first Great Decisions meeting of the fall will be Thursday, October 1, 7:00pm via Zoom. The

topic will be announced. If you would like to participate in this discussion of a foreign affairs topic and do not receive a Zoom link, contact Al Potter.

NEWSLETTER INPUT NEEDED

Do you have an idea to improve the newsletter? Is there anything you'd like to see that isn't being included? Do you have a topic that motivates you to write an article?

As newsletter editor, I feel that the newsletter is getting a bit stale. We're missing opinion articles, poetry, and other things that have made Pilgrim's Progress special over the past 50 years (Yes, we're starting our 51st year!) So let me know your ideas, and send in some original articles, poetry, essays, and whatever. (Don't forget, however, that we're a tax exempt organization and cannot accept articles criticizing or endorsing political candidates.)

Thanks for your support.

Fred Green (newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org)