



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

Pilgrim House is open for both in person and Zoom attendance. Our updated COVID attendance policy is below.

September 10 – Water Communion

Come share your water stories from this summer. We especially would like to hear from our youth about their adventures and thoughts on water. Paul Gardner will also share his thought about water in Minnesota as part of this welcome back morning.



September 17 – Freedom To Learn

Chris Williams Vice President of Education Minnesota. There is a national move by the MAGAS to take over our schools. Chris Williams knows more about them, their tactics, and what we might do about it than any one I know. Everyone should hear his presentation.

September 24 – Finding Your Center

Rev. Leslie Mills will be returning to Pilgrim House for another sermon series starting on September 24th as we begin an in-depth exploration of spiritual practices. We will begin by unpacking some straightforward questions – what counts as a spiritual practice? And how might we benefit from such a thing in our lives? The answers may not be what you'd expect. Drawing not only from Unitarian Universalism, but also from her decade of training in Ki-Aikido (often called “the martial art of peace” or “meditation in motion”), she will guide us through an initial overview to provide a framework for the next three sermons in this series.



October 1 – Gun Safety for Children in Our Community: What We Can All Do



Guns are the leading cause of death for children in Minnesota and nationally. Gun deaths and injuries impact children and their families in every racial and socioeconomic group and type of community. But we can all take positive action to address this problem through awareness raising, education, safe gun storage, community conversation, and suicide prevention. Learn how to be part of the cure for this epidemic!

Suzanne Sancilio is a trained Be SMART presenter whose 35 years of professional experience include county case management and administration of services for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Jill Chisholm is a trained Be SMART presenter and licensed parenting educator with over 30 years of teaching experience. Jill and Suzanne have done similar presentations in a variety of educational and community settings.

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 7, 2:00pm – Meeting at Pilgrim House to discuss how we can best provide support for our members when needed. All are welcome. Contact Nancy Olson. See Congregational Care below.

Sunday, September 10, 10:15am – Water Communion at Pilgrim House. Details on page 1.

Monday, September 11, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Sunday, September 17 – Pilgrim House Newsletter information is due. Contact Fred Green.

Thursday, September 21, 11:00am – MSUS Third Thursday 60+ Gathering at Pilgrim House. Join us for an hour of facilitated conversation followed by a potluck. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Wednesday, September 27, 1:30pm – Novel exchange book club meets. The book is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, September 28, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at Don Wahlberg's. The book is *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Saturday, September 30, 9:00am-1:00pm – HopeFest in downtown Anoka. All are welcome. Contact Judy Bloom Martinez. See article below.

SOCIAL ACTION

Results of CSC Walk for Our Neighbors:

Thank you for participating. This year 400 walkers walked over 500 miles and over \$20,000 was raised. This will help CSC assist participants stay in their homes and with other financial issues. PH had 23 walkers walk 26 miles!! Great job walkers!!

CSC – Winter Coat Drive

Saturday, October 21st

PH is collecting winter coats – no lightweight coats.

Also accepted are:

Boots, snow pants, gloves, mittens and new hats.

Please drop off at PH until October 20th

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf

We will be collecting cash and checks on Soup Sunday instead of canned and dry foods.

The reason we have made this change is that the food shelf is able to purchase food at a lower price and they can choose the most needed foods.

Pilgrim House UU Fellowship

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 (leave a message)

Email: pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org

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

Board Chair: Adam Aanerud

The Land Acknowledgment

Pilgrim House acknowledges that we gather on the ancestral land(s) of the Dakota People. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have been stewards throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe.

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

A Social Action Meeting will be planned for September!

HOPEFEST

Each year, Pilgrim House is a sponsor of HopeFest, a fundraiser for the Alexandra House battered women's shelter.



Alexandra House hosts its annual HopeFest event in the fall, as our lead into October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The core principles of the event are to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence, remember those we have lost, and honor the many survivors. The event includes a brief program, a 1+ mile walk, Kidz Dash and Kidz Zone with balloon twisters, face painters, and games, BBQ from The Bones Brothers, and a vendor/exhibitor resource fair. This family-friendly event grows larger every year as more and more people recognize the

impact of domestic and sexual violence and commit to help end it.

We are excited to see you all, to create community awareness around domestic violence, and raise critical funds for the survivors who need YOU to help them thrive as they remain on their journey to safety and self-sufficiency. For more information and tickets:

<https://www.alexandrahouse.org/hope-fest/>.

WHEN:

Saturday, September 30

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WHERE:

Anoka City Hall Plaza

2015 1st Ave

Anoka, MN

EVENT SCHEDULE:

9:00 am – 10:00 am — Check In

9:00 am – 1:00 pm — Kidz Zone

10:00 am — Program

10:30 am — Kidz Dash

11:00 am — 1+ Mile Walk

10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Vendor/Exhibitor

Fair, Activities, Music & Food

Early Bird Rates End After Thursday, August 31!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Join us on Sept 7 at 2 pm at Pilgrim House to discuss how we can best provide support for our members when needed. We would like suggestions from YOU on what you feel is supportive to friends wanting company or need assistance after an illness or crisis.

Thank goodness our regular schedule is just around the corner and we can enjoy the great programs and visit with our friends. Some members have not been able to join us this summer except by Zoom (thank you tech people!) and would appreciate visitors.

We have a some fun folks who would love to see you in person:

Bill Easter

David Conradi-Jones

Alan Carstens

Thank you,

Congregational Care

Nancy Olson, Judy Rohde, Judy Bloom-Martinez,
Dianne Wolf,

NEW MISSION, VISION AND VALUE STATEMENTS FOR PILGRIM HOUSE

This fall, we will be embarking on an effort to develop new mission, vision and value statements for Pilgrim House. We have a good foundation on which to build this work. (See statements at the end of this article.)

There are three key reasons to develop new mission, vision and values statements.

- Update our mission, vision and value statements to represent current members' ideas and goals for the future. A lot has changed in the years since our current statements were drafted. New members have joined our fellowship. We need to learn more about what people want and need from PH, and what they may want to bring to our fellowship.
- Clarify our values and guide our social justice activities. The 21st century confronts us with multiple challenges, as well as promising solutions. The current PH statements focus on individual well-being. While certainly important, we believe these times call for us to expand our mission and vision to also include actions beyond the walls of PH.
- Let the outside world know who we are and what we are about, and encourage people to visit and get to know us. Like nearly all 'faith communities,' PH faces challenges attracting new and younger members. We believe as people learn more about PH, they may be interested in joining us. The messages developed through this process will be important elements in revamping our website, work currently being carried out by a small team of volunteers.

Pilgrim House-wide Input is needed.

To develop the new mission, vision and values statements, we are proposing the following process:

1. Gather all willing members and interested others in small groups for facilitated discussions about their hopes for their experiences at PH and ideas for its mission, vision, and values going forward.
2. Synthesize the results and draft statements for the Board of Directors to review.
3. Present the draft to the full fellowship for final consideration and adoption.

As we say in our programs and on our website, "*we ask all alike to think, not all to think alike.*" We hope you will join us in thinking about our future, and that the process will generate new ideas and enthusiasm.

For more information, please contact Les Rogers, Ellen Shelton or Marcie Jefferys.

Current statements about Pilgrim House

We ask all alike to think — not all to think alike.

Pilgrim House is an LGBTQIA+ welcoming congregation, a place of joyful play and work where individuals can explore, develop and apply their beliefs, with acceptance and encouragement of friends of all ages.

Like most Unitarian Universalist congregations, Pilgrim House is a spiritually diverse community. Our members identify themselves as Jewish, humanist, Christian, pagan, atheist, agnostic, monotheist, and "none of the above." In general, though, we believe that there is no exclusive single religious truth and that life is a spiritual journey best experienced with others. We welcome those of any race, ethnicity, or affectional orientation.

Seven Principles

The seven principles below are in the UUA bylaws and shared by many UU fellowships. The UUA is in the process of considering revising the Bylaws (Article II), for a final vote at the 2024 General Assembly. Pilgrim House includes them in our Sunday program flier.

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's UUA General Assembly (GA) was held in-person in Pittsburgh PA and online. Ellen Shelton and I, the PH delegates, attended virtually. Next year, GA will be all virtual.

The main issues this year were the election of a new president and the proposed Article II Bylaw changes. The out-going president, Rev Susan Frederick-Gray (the first woman to hold that position) will be replaced by Rev Sofia Betancourt, who ran unopposed. I was quite impressed by Reverend

Betancourt's thoughtfulness, knowledge and experience in the sessions I observed. She is the first African American and openly queer woman to be elected president.

A good deal of time in the General Assembly sessions was taken up with the proposed Article II bylaw changes. After many amendments and much discussion, the Article II Study Commission was authorized to bring back a final draft next year for adoption or rejection by the 2024 GA. See the following article for more details.

There were other controversies as well. A delegate petition added an agenda item to immediately fully divest UUA funds in fossil fuels. Although a 2014 resolution already requires divestment, some members, including a large contingent of young people, do not believe the organization is moving fast enough. The resolution also would have taken the money from the sale of the investments and used them to make reparations to people of color. The resolution did not pass but was supported by almost a third of the voting delegates, a substantially greater proportion than on the other unsuccessful resolutions and amendments. UUA leadership indicated they heard the message and will continue to work on reducing reliance on these funds.

The GA also votes on Actions of Immediate Witness each year. These are statements submitted by delegates regarding "a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups." Below are the results for 2023:

- Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) with a Pathway to Permanent Residence
- Organize for Health Equity
- Rise Up to Stop Cop City [in Atlanta, Ga]

In addition to the business sessions, there were many on-line and prerecorded sessions, covering a wide range of topics including organizing for social justice, fellowship governance and inclusion, and conflict resolution. Imani Perry was the keynote speaker. She is the author of the UU common read, *Breathe*, which was discussed at PH a couple of years ago.

The music was excellent and the speakers generally very good and inspiring. Issues of racial justice, LGBTQIA+ rights and climate change in particular were held up as places where UU members and fellowships should be actively promoting justice. I was impressed by the diversity of the UUA

leadership and presenters at GA, although a scan of the audience indicated that most of the attendees looked a lot like the PH fellowship.

I appreciated the opportunity to participate in GA again this year. Although PH does not conform to many of the more traditional practices used by the UUA and many fellowships, it was encouraging to see that the organization to which PH belongs is actively engaged in the issues of today.

If you'd like more information about GA or are thinking about being a delegate in future years, please feel free to contact me. More information about the 2023 GA can be found on the UUA website (uua.org). Here is a link to the conference agenda: https://www.uua.org/files/2023-05/2023_General_Assembly_Program_Book.pdf.

Marcie Jefferys

UUA ARTICLE II AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UUA General Assembly action on the proposed new Article II (principles and purposes section of bylaws)

As we discussed on a few occasions this past year, the UUA has been working on updating the section of the national bylaws that contains the organization's statement of purposes and values. At General Assembly in June, the proposed new Article II was amended in minor respects, and by a vote of 86% in favor it was approved for continued discussion during the 2023-24 year.

Nearly 20 amendments were considered at GA. These included proposals to retain the existing seven principles in the new Article II, positioning them as the historical precedent to the new statements of "Values and Covenant." This was rejected based on a desire to keep the new Article short and simple. There was also a proposal to keep the existing list of six specific sources of "our living tradition," but GA delegates chose to keep the proposed new section on "Inspirations," which is more general but also more inclusive. Otherwise, a handful of amendments were adopted that mainly made relatively minor wording changes.

I will post at PH a version showing how the GA-approved Article II compares to the proposal that we discussed at PH last May. The national Study Commission is charged with drafting a final proposal for the member congregations' continued discussion, putting all the adopted amendments into a consistent and coherent form. Further amendments are still possible this year, if at least 15 congregations agree to submit a proposal jointly. A final decision will be

made at the 2024 General Assembly, where a 75% vote will be needed to accept the new Article II.

Watch for an announcement of date later this fall when we will meet for a congregational debriefing.

SUMMER AT PILGRIM HOUSE

In June – Live Stream of the Ware Lecture and Sunday Morning Program From General Assembly

Well received, enjoyable music, some infrequent PH attendees were present, vibrant coffee hour conversations followed.

In July – The Dakota Trail at Gibbs Farm

A pleasant Saturday morning outdoors with our tour guide, lots of interaction with questions from participants, and opportunities for the children to be involved. Among other things they explained how the Dakota lived while still woodland Indians and moved to how they lived as Prairie Indians.

22 adults and 3 children took part. Some of our members were surprised that this excellent historical and kid friendly site existed and so close to most of them. Some have gone back to explore how the settlers lived in this area.

In August – The Bakken Museum – at Pilgrim House

An informative and enjoyable presentation of this museum that nurtures science, technology and the humanities -- descriptions of partnerships with schools for STEM education, activities that are available for persons of all ages, and the grounds that nurture native plants.

MidAmerica Region annual business meeting was held virtually on June 8, attended by Mel and Kathy Aanerud as Pilgrim House delegates.

General Assembly was held multi-platform from Pittsburgh on June 21-25. Our delegates, Marcie Jefferys and Ellen Shelton, attended virtually. Mel and Kathy Aanerud also attended virtually at their own expense.

Summer FunFest for all ages in July that was led by Marcie Jefferys. Adults and Children had a full day of activities.



OUR NEWEST MEMBER

We were very happy to welcome Bruce France of Roseville to our congregation this spring. Bruce shared with Pilgrim House one Sunday that he wasn't a joiner, but said he was compelled to make an exception when he found such compatibility with the purpose, action, and people of Pilgrim House. When we welcomed our new members in June, Bruce was attending a social action event -- so we will schedule a compatible welcome date with Bruce for a fall program.

SEPTEMBER 2023 MSUS EVENTS

Potluck and Coffee House

NO COFFEE HOUSE on Saturday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend)

Regular Coffee House's will resume on October 2 (5:30 pm Dinner, 6:30 pm Coffee House-Hybrid) All welcome to attend or perform at the monthly MSUS coffee house. If you'd like to perform in October, contact Chad at chadasnyder@gmail.com. People can perform in person or online.

Third Thursday 60+ Gathering

Thursday, September 21, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Pilgrim House

Join us for an hour of facilitated conversation followed by a potluck. This is an opportunity for people from Pilgrim House and MSUS to gather! It is a great way to connect and share a good meal.

UUA COMMON READ

from the UUA Newsletter

Making mistakes is human and most of us can name a harm we have directly caused another person. Yet, even as people of faith, we can struggle to accept our responsibility. It can be hard! Even when we wish to make amends, we can get stuck on how to make things right.

At a time when Unitarian Universalists are striving to widen our circles, to improve our relationships across the interconnected web of life, and to become better builders of Beloved Community, *On Repentance and Repair* by Rabbi Danya Rutenberg (Beacon Press, 2022) is a powerful choice for the next UU Common Read.

On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World taps 12th century writings from the Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides, for a fresh perspective on how we make ourselves accountable to others. Rabbi Rutenberg applies Maimonides' five-step process to a variety of modern circumstances. As a UU Common Read

selection, this book gives a glimpse into Judaism, one of Unitarian Universalism's foundational sources, and invites us to follow our own faith into practices of transformative atonement.

"The work of repentance, all the way through, is the work of transformation... It's about ownership – owning who we have been and what we have done, and also owning the person that we are capable of becoming." ~ Rabbi Danya Rutenberg

CURRENT PILGRIM HOUSE COVID POLICY

Vaccines: We are still asking attendees to be vaccinated, however there will be an exception for children too young to be vaccinated.

Masks: Masks are optional in the entire building.

Program Room: Social Distancing is encouraged. We will continue to run air purifiers.

Beverages are allowed.

Fellowship Room and nursery: There is no expectation of social distancing.

We will continue to run air purifiers.

Food and beverages will be provided by Hospitality.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME HERE!



We enjoy the visitors and friends who join us for Sunday programs. If you're interested in taking the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we'd would enjoy talking with you and sharing a short, live Power Point introduction – in person or via Zoom.

Kathy & Mel Aanerud

Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org