

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.

December 3 – Presidential Wives

Professor Robert Watson of Lynn University will talk with us via Zoom about the Presidential Wives. He has talked with us a number of times before and there is always a request for him to return. <http://robertwatson.net/>



December 10 – Spiritual Practices Part 3

As part of an ongoing series of programs, Rev. Leslie Mills will present more approaches to personal spiritualism and practice. She has invited members to contact her directly with their experiences and questions at revlesliemills@gmail.com.

December 17 – Pilgrim House 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 10th if you or the youth in your household have special music or a reading to share. We would like to see and hear your talents as part of the program and we would like to hear about the greatest gift you ever received – it doesn't have to be something material.



And don't forget to bring that favorite holiday food for our traditional potluck finger foods feast after the program. See you there!

December 24 and 31 – no program



January 7 – Barbara McAfee

Barbara McAfee will provide us with music and good talk – entertainment with a purpose. <https://www.barbaramcafee.com/>

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 2, 5:30pm – MSUS Coffee House and art show, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 hybrid Coffee House at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. To be on the list for Coffee House, contact Chad Synder.

Sunday, December 3, 1:00pm – MSUS Art Show at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik. See article below.

Monday, December 4, 7:00pm – Great Decisions meets via Zoom. The topic is What does the emergence of various left-wing governments mean for countries in Latin America? All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Wednesday, December 6,

6:30pm – MSUS Soul Matters small group meets in the social hall. Contact Laura Smidzik.

7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Thursday, December 7, 1:00pm – Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Nancy Olson.

Saturday, December 9,

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. For those who haven't sung with the Chorale before, we especially urge you to come and join in the fun. See you there!

10:00am – MSUS book conversation with Melvin Carter, author of *Diesel Heart*. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Sunday, December 10,

12:00pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House with presenter Marilyn Jones. All are welcome. Contact Mary Eskelson.

2:30pm – Doug Woods book release party at Pilgrim House for his new memoir, *A Wild Path*. All are welcome. Contact Mel Aanerud. See poster below.

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Thursday, December 14,

1:30pm – Book Club meets for a Holiday gathering at LeBlanc's. The book is *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

4:00pm – MSUS Blue Christmas. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik

Saturday, December 16,

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

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.

10:00am – MSUS cookie/crafts fair. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Sunday, December 17, 1:30pm – MSUS Mom's Group meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Thursday, December 21,

11:00am – MSUS Third Thursday 60+ Gathering at 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. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

6:00pm – MSUS Winter Solstice. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Wednesday, December 27,

1:30pm – Novel exchange book club meets. Contact Sharon Borg.

7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

SOCIAL ACTION

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf: For all those who attended the Harvest Fest/Coffee House, thank you for your generosity to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf*. The donations allowed us to deliver four bountiful bags of groceries and \$186 in cash contributions. We continue to collect cash and checks on Soup Sunday.

*A letter from the food shelf states that they are providing 1200 families each month and giving out over 80,000 pounds of food.

Homeless Survey: Bruce France and Judy Bloom Martinez participated in the Wilder research study interviewing homeless folks living in shelters. The information gathered in this study is essential to planning and funding development for future activities

Holiday Giving: Thank you to all who have donated items for the Homeward Bound shelter and financial donations for Avenues for Youth

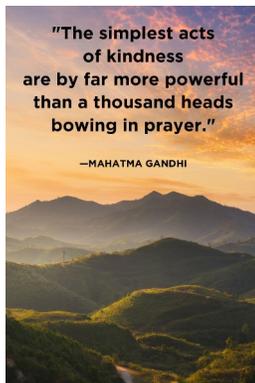
December 3rd – last Sunday to donate money for the Avenues for Youth

December 17th – last Sunday to donate giving tree items for the Homeward Bound Native American Homeless Shelter – adult men and women

Affordable Housing: Pilgrim House members attended the November 1 Rice Creek Commons Community Open House, put on by Ramsey County and the City of Arden Hills. The new proposal, developed since the election of three new city council members, includes more affordable housing units than previously proposed. This is a long-term effort which we will track to see if PH involvement may be useful.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

This is a joyous season but can also be demanding. Don't let the stress of the season overrule your day...use deep breaths and smiles when you need some calm. Take care to



be kind and thoughtful to people around you, especially yourself!

Sending love and strength to all who cannot be with us in person.

HO HO HO!!! 🧸 🚂

We are expecting a guest from the North Pole visiting PH on December 21 with a story to read and a big red bag.

Please contact Carol Green if you have children/grandchildren, along with their names and ages, if you plan on joining us on the 17th.

GREAT DECISIONS

December 4, 7:00pm via Zoom: What does the emergence of various left-wing governments mean for countries in Latin America?

Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called “Pink Tide” that swept the area some 20 years ago. But how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy have for the region?

Rob Scarlett graduated from Carleton College in the mid-1960s and spent much of the past 50 years working and living in various countries in Latin America. In the community, he is a former Chair of Global Minnesota and currently serves as Board Vice President of the Brazil-Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

THANKSGIVING MEAL THANKS

Thanks so much to the many helpers that put in their time & efforts towards the PH Thanksgiving Pot Luck. There were volunteers who helped on Sat., Nov. 18 with set-up, on Sunday with cutting, plating and organizing, and carving the ham. To all who brought so many delicious food items to share at our Thanksgiving meal, your contributions & talents were gratefully accepted. The many hands that helped with food/ kitchen clean-up and storing decorations – it made that process so much easier. Many hands make light work and all of you are very much appreciated and thanked for your many contributions.



THE NEW PILGRIM HOUSE WEBSITE

We are excited to announce that the updated Pilgrim House Website is expected to be launched in January. The updates will primarily affect the public-facing

website and should make it easier to learn about Pilgrim House. For the time being, members will still be able to access the old website--which has served PH very well--to obtain information that will not be immediately transferred to the new website. More information will be provided in January.

Stephanie Lica has been chairing the group developing the new website. Stay tuned.

PILGRIM HOUSE LIBRARY

The Pilgrim House library now has the most recent UUA Common Read, *On Repentance and Repair* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. The September newsletter had a nice description of the book <https://pilgrimhouseuua.org/pmwiki/uploads/PH/pp2309.pdf>. If you would like to check it or any other book out please enter your name and date checked out in the notebook on the table in the library and enter the date returned when you are done.

NATIONAL UPDATE: UUA HAS RELEASED “FINAL PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ARTICLE II”

Background: Last year the UUA released a draft revision to the national UUA charter and bylaws. In particular, the revisions replaced older sections about the 7 Principles and the Sources. Delegates to the General Assembly in June voted to approve a handful of these amendments, and those have now been incorporated by the UUA and released as the “Final Proposed Revisions.” A copy of this document will be posted on the bulletin board to your right as you enter the Fellowship Hall at PH, and the electronic version is available at

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>.

What now: There is a process by which congregations can band together to propose further revisions by February 2024. These will be voted on at the June 2024 General Assembly, which will end with the delegates voting on the final amended version. If at least 2/3 of delegates vote to accept that final version, it will be officially adopted. If fewer than 2/3 of the delegates vote to approve, the revision process will end, and comparable revisions will not be entertained for about 15 years.

Implications for PH: Based on the discussions we had last year at PH when the original revisions were being considered, we do not expect to propose any amendments to this final proposal. However, as members review this information, if anyone feels strongly that we should, they should email the PH Board via pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org. Absent

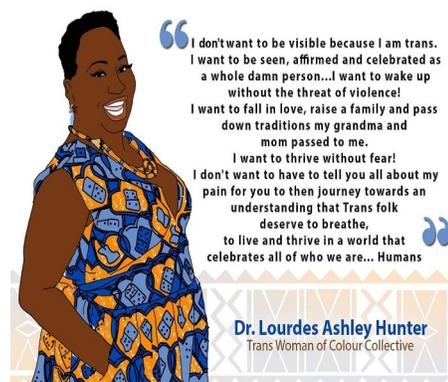
any such suggestion, the next action will be an optional discussion (not at a Sunday program) sometime in the spring, so that our GA delegates can be grounded in the members’ views when they vote at GA about the final adoption.

PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG AND TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Progress Pride flag is now hanging proudly in the meeting room! The graphic below explains the meanings of each colored stripe and chevron.



The triangular insert in this flag is particularly timely for the end of November, which includes **Transgender Day of Remembrance** (Monday, Nov. 20). As its founder, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, said, this day "seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."



Source: *Trans Women of Color Collective* (twocc.us)

DOUG WOODS BOOK EVENT AT PH

Concert, Book Reading/Signing Event
with Douglas Wood



Douglas Wood "Minnesota's renaissance man". Artist, musician, naturalist, wilderness guide, and Author of forty-one books for adults and children, with over two and a half million copies in print. His book, "Old Turtle", won the American Booksellers' and International Reading Association Children's Book Awards, and he has written many books about his life and his association with the nature and the wild

Join us for a launch of his newest book, "A Wild Path"

A soul-satisfying journey through the wilderness that uncovers hope, healing, and the abiding grace of wild things

Sunday December 10 at 2:30 pm
Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (www.pilgrimhouseuua.org)
1212 Hwy 96 in Arden Hills
With music, and coffee, hot cider and cookies

DECEMBER 2023 MSUS EVENTS

MSUS Art Show at Pilgrim House

CHARLES MARTIN
presents paintings



Wood Duck

"Something old and Something new"

showing at

Pilgrim House Unitarian Fellowship
1212 W Highway 96
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Sat, Dec 2, 5-8pm Sun, Dec 3, 1-5pm
(Reception 1-2)

Charlie Martin taught high-school art for decades here in the Anoka-Hennepin district, and continues making beautiful art in a wide variety of media. This show will include approximately 50 of his works, some recently completed and others from years past.

Potluck and Coffeehouse, December 2, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 performances begin, Pilgrim House

We always have a good time at this gathering. Join us for a shared meal and then enjoy the coffee house. Performers of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. If you would like to perform, contact Chad Snyder at chadasnyder@msuu.org

MSUS Cookie Buffet and Holiday Craft Sale, Saturday, December 16th, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Pilgrim House

Mix and match dozens of holiday cookies and treats at the MSUS cookie buffet. We supply the "to go"

containers and you choose the cookies of your liking to make up the dozen. We will also have some crafts for purchase. Join us for this sweet (pun intended) event!

Blue Christmas Saturday, December 16, 4:00 pm, Pilgrim House

Rev. Laura Smidzik and Bruce VanBronkhorst

It is hard to find places where we can speak openly about grief amidst the joy that surrounds us during the holiday season. Join us at this annual service for those who are entering the Christmas holiday with grief of any kind and no matter how old.

Third Thursday 60+ Group, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Pilgrim House

Each month the 60+ year olds at MSUS and Pilgrim House gather to reflect on MSUS' monthly theme and share a meal together. It's always a friendly and engaged group. All are welcome!

Winter Solstice Thursday, December 21, 2023, 6:00 pm, Pilgrim House UU Fellowship

Rev. Laura Smidzik, David Weiss, MSUS Congregant

We will get together on the winter solstice for a gathering and ritual that honors our precious planet and the reflective nature of this sacred night. We will use a ritual written by David Weiss and members of St Paul's UCC. The service is framed in the "Spiral of Active Hope" as described by Joanna Macy in her book "Active Hope". Join us for a night of silence, reflection, music, and renewed hope.

UPDATED COVID-SAFETY CRITERIA WE FOLLOW AS OF 9/11/2023:

- Masks are optional – Masks and hand sanitizer are available.
- Attendees are vaccinated, with exception for children too young to be vaccinated.
- Air purifiers will continue to be run in Program and Fellowship Rooms.
- Food and beverages are provided by our Hospitality Committee.

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

