

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

### February 5 – Buddhism

Professor Paul Rouzer – a historical scholar, will talk about how attitudes toward Buddhist practice have changed over the centuries, especially in terms of the Zen movement. This is part of our series on neighboring religions for the youth and adults.



### February 12 – The Awesome Universe: Humanistic Religious Naturalism – Andrea Johnson

Over 100 years ago, Friedrich Nietzsche's madman jumped into a crowd of people in the market place and cried: "Whither is God? I will tell you. We have killed him – you and I." Where do we turn when our religious ideas have lost their validity and our concept of God has failed us? For many humanists their faith turns to humanity, a celebration and a promise of the integrity of human reason, responsibility and compassion; the recognition that human beings are the source of meaning and values. Could our response also be expanded to see nature as the source of life and everything that is and the proper object of reverence and awe?



### February 19 – Minority Relations, Social and Economic

Gary Cunningham has a master's degree from Harvard University – joined his uncle and others in founding the South Minneapolis grocery store Bryant-Central Co-op. Chief program officer of the Northwest Area Foundation, an eight-state grant-making organization concentrating on communities of color. MEDA's seventh chief executive officer. MEDA (Metropolitan Economic Development Association) is the largest and oldest of the organizations in Minnesota dedicated to assisting Minority own businesses start and thrive.

### February 26 – What is Atheism with August Berkshire

Berkshire is currently a director-at-large on the Minnesota Atheists board of directors and serves on the national board of directors of American Atheists. He is the author of numerous pamphlets, is the owner of the ATHEIST car license plate for Minnesota, and is proud to be listed in the reference book "Who's Who in Hell".



### March 5 – Arctic Habitat Preservation with Lois Norrgard

The program will be followed by Soup Sunday and the Annual Pilgrim House Auction. See article below.



## CALENDAR

**Thursday, February 2, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House: Latin America's Political Pendulum.** See article below. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

**Sunday, February 5, 12:00pm – Introduction/Orientation to Pilgrim House for visitors and friends seeking to know more about our congregation.** Contact Mel or Kathy Aanerud – [membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org). See article below.

**Sunday, February 12, 12:00pm – Program Committee meets at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Lollie Jensen.

**Sunday, February 19, 11:50am – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Les Rogers.

**Sunday, February 19 – Newsletter information due.** Contact Fred Green.

**Thursday, February 23, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at Darlene Joyce's.** The book is *The Senator Next Door* by Amy Klobuchar. All are welcome. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**Sunday, March 5, 12:00pm – Annual Auction after the program at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Carol Green. See article below.

## ANNUAL PH AUCTION

The PH auction is scheduled for March 5 after Soup Sunday. The auction, held each year at Pilgrim House, accounts for the largest single influx of dollars after the pledges by individual members.



**We need items to be donated to auction** – current items can be viewed and new items entered on the Auction page of the PH website. A user id is required to view the auction page – any valid PH user id will work – contact Fred Green if you have questions. There is also a signup sheet at PH.

Auction volunteers are also needed – contact Carol Green or sign up at PH if you are interested.

The best items generally are services or homemade – babysitting, tours, making furniture, dinners in your home, baked items, performances, and crafts. If you have other things about the house that still have value, they may have value to someone at the auction. There will be a table of “buy it now” items on auction day. Items may be brought to Pilgrim House on Sundays prior to the auction or on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> between 10:00am and noon.

It is Soup Sunday – our meal will be homemade soups with the addition of fruit, veggies and desserts provided by some wonderful volunteers.

## 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 Chair:** Carol Green

## Pilgrim's Progress

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

Fred Green

[newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

**Material for the March newsletter is due Sunday, February 19 (always the next to the last Sunday).**

If you have any questions about the auction, please contact Carol Green.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

We are seeking volunteers for the 2018-19 Religious Education program. Please talk to Ben or Katrina if you are interested in helping in any capacity, such as a one-time volunteer in a class, teaching regularly, helping to plan curriculum, or co-chairing the committee. We are also seeking a regular teacher, volunteer or paid, for the Sunday Seekers class. Please refer any potential contacts to Katrina or Ben.

The PH Youth continued their study of world religions along with the PH community this month by attending the program on Lutheranism and visiting Incarnation Lutheran Church. In February, we will plan a youth auction item and study Buddhism, Humanism, and Atheism.

Sunday Seekers, the preschool class, has been having fun with seasonal activities, crafts, and exercises.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Orientation/Introduction to Pilgrim House

We've enjoyed meeting visitors who have been attending Pilgrim House this fall and winter. For those who may be considering membership in Pilgrim House, or who just want to know more about our congregation, we have an Orientation/Introduction to Pilgrim House scheduled

for Noon on Sunday, February 5. It's Soup Sunday, so bring a second bowl of soup or snack into the meeting room for an informal information session. It will be about 30-45 minutes in length, depending upon group size and discussion. Topics include:

- A brief history of Pilgrim House
- Our Unitarian Universalist Connection
- The Fellowship Experience
- Getting Involved as a Volunteer
- Our Finances
- Children's Religious Education
- Being a Member or Friend of Pilgrim House

If the above date/time doesn't work for you, just let us know your interest, and we'd be happy to schedule a convenient alternative.

Mel and Kathy Aanerud

Membership Co-Chairs

[membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

## GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

### February 2: Latin America's Political Pendulum:

The pendulum of Latin American politics is swinging rightward once again. Yet as the "pink tide" recedes, the forces of change have more to do with socioeconomics than ideology. Dramatic economic and political crises have coincided in countries like Brazil and Venezuela. Still, the final result for Latin America may be the emergence of centrist, pragmatic modes of governance, and with them, opportunities for the U.S. to improve relations. The new administration must look beyond the neoliberal model of the 1990s, and develop an approach to relations fit for the 21st century.

Our speaker will be Bruce Campbell, Professor of Hispanic Studies at the College of Saint Benedict's and Saint John's University.

## UUA NEWS ALERT

Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,

We're writing with what we expect is the same urgent sense of concern you're feeling about the results of the presidential election and what will follow. Based on the many conversations we've had with each other, people of our communities, our partners, and those most likely to face looming threats, we've concluded that in these extraordinary times we must be united in purpose to protect the values of our democracy and those vulnerable populations among us.

To that end we have undertaken an unprecedented degree of coordination between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. There is a sense of urgency, and a

need for vigilance. And there is clarity that we must act, not alone, but together. We need everyone-including you, your congregation, your friends, and your colleagues.

As a first step, we have prepared a Declaration of Conscience [see next page] stating in the strongest possible terms our commitment in these troubling times. By signing the declaration, individuals and congregations will be affirming our core values and declaring our willingness to put them into action. Please read it and, with your signature, join us in standing on the side of love, protecting the most vulnerable among us, and defending core values that are under attack.

We will be vigilant of administration actions, policies and verbal assaults that undermine the principles of our declaration or disparage, threaten or attack innocent people. We will respond by speaking truth to power and mobilizing support for those who are under siege. To be successful, your support and that of your congregants will be critical.

This is not about partisan politics. It is a principled response to the potential targeting of people not for what they have done, but for who they are. It is a commitment to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. We will keep you informed of the progress of this effort and of further opportunities to advance our cause together in the coming weeks and months.

We cannot predict what the future will bring, and we do not pretend to have all the answers, but we can and will be ready for the struggle ahead of us. If you feel the same, please join us. Join us in transforming faith into action, sign the Declaration of Conscience [at <http://connect.uusc.org/1/103112/2017-01-17/gpgn2>] today, share it with your own networks and please encourage others to sign as well.

Thank you for your concern, vigilance, and willingness to act.

In Faith and Solidarity,

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Hon. Thomas Andrews, president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

P.S. If you serve Unitarian Universalism as a minister of a congregation, we strongly encourage you to read the declaration during this Sunday's service and ask your attendees to sign it.

This message is also available on <http://www.UUA.org>.

**DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE**

At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society.

In the face of looming threats to immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community and the rise of hate speech, harassment and hate crimes, we affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

In opposition to any steps to undermine the right of every citizen to vote or to turn back advances in access to health care and reproductive rights, we affirm our commitment to justice and compassion in human relations.

And against actions to weaken or eliminate initiatives to address the threat of climate change - actions that would threaten not only our country but the entire planet - we affirm our unyielding commitment to protect the interdependent web of all existence.

We will oppose any and all unjust government actions to deport, register, discriminate, or despoil.

As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.

We welcome and invite all to join in this commitment for justice.

The time is now.

**Pilgrim House Newsletter**  
**1212 W. Hwy 96**  
**Arden Hills, MN 55112**

