

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

September 3 – No Program (Labor Day weekend)

September 10 – Water Communion

This annual welcome back celebration launches our new program year. Join us in song, readings and sharing to revitalize our connections and community. Bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to you. One by one we will each pour our water into a large bowl, explaining why it's significant to us. Our combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming together from many different sources.



September 17 – Spiritual Aspects of Creating Art

Teresa Audet works in wood, creating furniture, utilitarian and decorative items. She recently completed an internship in Japan that has inspired new work.

September 24 – Minnesota Without Poverty

Pilgrim House member Marcie Jeffreys is a researcher, and analyst on a new study of how the state budget process sets up barriers to reducing poverty in Minnesota. See <http://www.amnwithoutpoverty.org/> for more information.



October 1 – Pastoral/Spiritual Care from a UU Perspective

Stephanie McCullough-Cain is a 2016 graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She is working toward fellowship in the UUA as a Chaplain.

VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all who volunteered to work on the upkeep of PH over the summer. Thanks especially to Al Potter for refinishing the shelves near the coat hooks and replacing the light fixture in the entrance hall, to Eric and Mel Aanerud for a major whack at the clutter in the basement, and to Ben, James, and Luke Chiri for power-washing and painting the steps to the entrance. All much appreciated!

The sign-up sheets for volunteer positions are still posted in the entrance way. We still need volunteers for a variety of roles -- please talk to me or another Board member about signing up.

-- Dick Shelton, Chair

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 10, 12:00pm – Program Committee meets at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Lollie Jensen.

Monday, September 11, 7:00pm – Board meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Dick Shelton.

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

Thursday, September 28, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at the Borgs'. The book is a UUA Common Read, *The Third Reconstruction* by Dr. William Barber. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc. See article below.

Saturday, September 30 from 8-11am – Alexandra House Walk for Hope. All are welcome. Contact Fred Green. See article below.

Thursday, October 5, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House – Tom Hanson on Conflict in the South China Sea. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

Saturday, November 4, 6:00pm – Harvest Fest at Pilgrim House -- Potluck supper at 6:00pm; barn dance at 7:00 with live music and a dance caller. Family-friendly event! Contact: Kathy Aanerud.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Welcome back! We are excited to return to our small groups and hear about everyone's summer activities. The youth will be serving root beer floats on Sunday, September 10. We are also collecting school supplies for Alexandra House.

In our classes, Kristin will lead the Sunday Seekers through the Wonderful Welcome curriculum this term: <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome>.

For the youth class, Ben and Katrina will combine material from several UUA curricula and would like to start a book club if there is interest.

For both classes, we need a list of volunteer substitutes. Please contact Katrina, Ben, or Kristin if you would be willing to be a sub.

BOOK CLUB: THE UUA "COMMON READ"

The PH book discussion is open to all in September. We will be discussing the current UUA "Common Read," chosen for its timeliness and applicability to UU principles. It is *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, the leader of the "Moral Mondays" that have so effectively challenged the regressive actions of the North Carolina legislature in the past several years. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Barber comes from a deeply Christian background but

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: Dick Shelton

Pilgrim's Progress

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

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

has used the progressive moral vision of that background to build a far larger coalition of people from many different perspectives to work together towards a more just society.

The book discussion will be Thursday evening, September 28, at the Borgs. Please come for an invigorating conversation.

PILGRIM HOUSE COVENANT GROUPS

There are currently three covenant groups meeting at Pilgrim House. Covenant groups are groups of 6-8 people who commit to meeting on a regular basis for reflection and sharing. Each covenant group meeting has a facilitator and the content for each meeting is based on a theme such as gratitude, forgiveness, friendship or loss just to name a few.

The covenant group committee (Gary Borg, Les Rogers, Mary Carlson and Cynthia LeBlanc) is happy to help other groups form if desired. One of us would also be glad to meet with a new group for the first meeting or two to help them get started. If you have any questions please contact one of the committee members.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – NEW ORLEANS

The annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) congregations was held in June at the New Orleans Convention Center. Pilgrim House members in attendance were Mel and Kathy Aanerud. They joined with over 4,000 delegates, ministers, youth, and on-line registrants to participate in business meetings,



hear guest presenters, enjoy music in a variety of settings, and absorb the camaraderie of fellow UUs from across the country.

While Mel and Kathy attended at their own expense, the Pilgrim House budget has been making funds available for delegate registration fees the past few years. Check out information about next year's General Assembly at the end of this article -- and make plans to attend!

Some highlights from this year:

- Susan Frederick-Gray won a three-way race to become the first woman elected as UUA president. She was the lead minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, Arizona where she was active in facilitating the Justice GA in Phoenix in 2012. Election procedures included first time use of instant-run off and electronic voting.
- The President's Annual Award for Volunteer Service was presented to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), which is led by Executive Director Lena K. Gardner of Minneapolis. An outstanding Ware Lecture was presented by Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*, and a widely acclaimed lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. The Sunday morning service was open to the community and a packed house was treated to the outstanding music of the GA choir and a New Orleans jazz band.
- You can read articles at the following link about the three co-presidents who presided over the gathering following the resignation of President Peter Morales, the many business actions of the General Assembly, and summaries of exceptional presenters, including Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-Muslim-American, who is a civil rights activist and organizer of the Women's March in Washington DC.--
<http://www.uuworld.org/articles/2017-ga-summary-coverage>

Save the date: Next year's General Assembly will be held in Kansas City, June 20-24 -- just 6.5 driving hours away. Lots to see and do as a tourist -- there's the WW I museum, jazz, BBQ, fountains and more. (There won't be a separate Regional Assembly in 2018; their business meeting will be held in conjunction with General Assembly.)

QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKER DENNIS JONES

On November 5, we will have a return visit from Dennis Jones, who taught Ojibwe language and culture at the University of Minnesota, and has authored an Ojibwe word and phrase book. He is also a fourth degree

member in the Midewiwin Lodge, which is the highest level of Ojibwe Priesthood. Dennis has requested questions from us to guide his presentation. Please send your questions about Ojibwe language and culture to Lisa Wersal, who will be facilitating the program.

ALEXANDRA HOUSE WALK FOR HOPE

Again this year, Pilgrim House is supporting the Alexandra House Walk for Hope on Saturday, September 30 from 8-11am. Alexandra House is a shelter for abused and battered women that Pilgrim House has supported for several years.

Be sure to sign up for team Pilgrim House! Online registration is available at <https://www.alexandrahouse.org/get-involved/events/walk-for-hope/>

Event Schedule: 8:00 am – Registration, 9:00 am – Event Kick-off, 9:30 am – Run/Walk begins

Bunker Hills Regional Park, Picnic Pavilion #3

Registration (prices increase after 8/31): Adults: \$30, Kids (11-18): \$10, Kids 10 & under are FREE!

Online registration is open until Wednesday, Sept. 27 at midnight. Same day registration will be available.

WALK A MILE FUNDRAISER RESULTS

Sunday July 30 was this year's Silverwood Park "Walk a Mile for our Neighbors" fundraiser for the Community Support Center (CSC –

<http://www.communitysupportcenter.org/>). The CSC brings together several faith-based organizations in New Brighton, Mounds View, North Oaks, Shoreview, and Arden Hills to assist those in need to prevent homelessness, solve financial crises and provide long-term relationships. Pilgrim House is an active member of the CSC, with PH Secretary Mary Carlson serving as a CSC Board Member.

In total, Pilgrim House had 18 walkers, 49.5 miles walked, and 3 door prize winners for this important yearly fundraiser. Each mile walked earned \$10.00 for the CSC.

Overall:

- 482 walkers
- \$12,826 raised from raffle tickets(565); donations from churches, MV/NB Rotary and individuals.

3 PHers won raffle prizes.

It is notable that Pilgrim House had about 20% of its congregation walk and 2 walkers had 5+ miles (Ansel Erol 5 miles and Al Potter 8 miles – a new Pilgrim House record).

WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

Pilgrim House is again participating in the Social Concerns Network Winter Clothing Collection from September 11 – October 15, 2017. Bring your donations to Pilgrim House during the collection.

The Social Concerns Network is collecting the following items to give away free of charge to those in our community who need them:

- Winter Coats (gently used or new)
- Snow Suits or Pants (gently used or new)
- Gloves, Mittens, Scarves (gently used or new – we love handmade items!!)
- Hats (NEW ONLY PLEASE) – we love handmade items.

Please, no indoor-weight clothing or light-weight coats.

We accept all sizes (newborn to plus-size adult)

Clothing with logos or names on them are accepted

Please wash or dry-clean all items before donating, most recipients cannot afford to do it themselves.

We especially need infant/kids and plus-size adult items.

Distributing the clothing:

- Last year we collected 775 coats.
- We've given over 10,000 coats in our history.

Distribution is October 21, 2017, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1900 7th St NW, New Brighton.

GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

October 5 – Conflict in the South China Sea

Our next Great Decisions event will be Thursday, October 5, at 7:00pm. More details to follow, but Tom Hanson will be speaking on Conflict in the South China Sea. Tom is a keen observer of China and we can count on a fascinating program.

Pilgrim House Newsletter

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