

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

February 2 - Science and Politics of Stem Cells and Cloning

All humans start life with only one cell, the zygote, from which arises our brain, heart, liver and every other organ in our body. This one cell contains all the information necessary for making some incredibly complex structures. Stem cells are akin to that original zygote in that they have the ability to divide and generate an array of different tissues and structures. This presentation will focus on the past, present, and future of stem cells and the hope that they can possibly provide treatments for heart disease, specific types of cancer, and other common diseases. We will examine where stem cells exist in adults, and also dive into some of the politics surrounding stem cell research.



Murray Jensen an associate professor, College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota.



February 9 - Climate Based Immigration – Professor Joe Underhill

Augsburg College Unitarian Universalist general Assembly passed a resolution that congregations should inform themselves on how climate change has effected and will continue to affect world immigration patterns Professor Underhill teaches courses in Environmental Politics, International Relations, and Political

Methodology and regularly takes students off campus for experiential and interdisciplinary learning on the theme of “seeking justice where we live”

February 16 - Women's suffrage and the 19th Amendment

A speaker from St Thomas University will give a history of women's suffrage in the U.S.



February 23 - Compassion and Choices: Expanding End-of-Life Options in Minnesota

As public support grows for expanding end-of-life options, communities of faith have the opportunity to engage in this important conversation. Dr Rebecca Thoman, Campaign Manager for Doctors for Dignity, will discuss legislation that has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature. Medical aid in dying (sometimes called death with dignity) allows a terminally ill, mentally capable adult who has a prognosis of six months or less to request and obtain from their doctor a prescription medication they may self-ingest for a peaceful death if their suffering becomes unbearable. Medical aid in dying includes strict eligibility criteria and effective safeguards. Dr. Thoman has worked in health and public health policy for more than 20 years advocating for such issues as gun violence prevention, tobacco control and health care access.

March 1 - The Pillsburys

Political commentator and former Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant is scheduled to speak about her book on the Pillsburys but she reserves the right to talk about something else if something better comes along and needs talking about.



CALENDAR

February 2, 11:30am - Soup Sunday - Join us for Soup following the program. Bring items for the food shelf donation area and/or sign up to bring soup, both in the entryway. All are welcome. Contact Fred Green for Foodshelf, Bob Treumann for Soup Sunday.

Thursday, February 6, 7:00pm - Great Decisions at Pilgrim House -The Philippines and the U.S.: Change with Continuity? All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

Sunday, February 9, 11:30am - Baby shower. Contact Shannon Zobitz.

Monday, February 10, 7:00pm - Pilgrim House Board meeting at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact John or Shannon Zobitz.

Tuesday, February 11, 10:00am - Knitting and craft group is meeting at Judy Bloom Martinez's. All are welcome. Contact Judy.

Wednesday, February 12, 6:00pm - UUA Webinar "Being a Beloved Community" at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Mel Aanerud.

Monday, February 17, 2:00pm - A covenant group meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Tuesday, February 18, 2:00pm - Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, February 19, 10:45am - Social Action Coterie Group meets at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact David Conradi-Jones.

Monday, February 24, 2:00pm - A covenant group meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, February 26, 1:30pm - Novel Exchange Book Club meets at the Shoreview Library. The book is *At the Wolf's Toe* by Rosalina Postorino. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, February 27, 4:00pm - Book Club meets at Carol and Fred Green's. The book is *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

ANNUAL PILGRIM HOUSE AUCTION

The Pilgrim House (PH) auction is scheduled for Sunday, March 8.

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 – There is a signup sheet at PH. Or you can send your information (include a photo, if appropriate) to Fred Green.

Current items can be viewed 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.

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 best donations generally are services or homemade items: 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 9th between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

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

This year the auction is not on Soup Sunday – but a lunch menu will be planned.

If you have any questions about the auction, please contact Les Rogers.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action Meeting Held

A Social Action Committee meeting was held on January 19:

The UU the Vote kickoff webinar was January 12 with 12 Pilgrim House people in attendance. The areas discussed for possible Pilgrim House action were:

- Volunteering to be election judges
- Voter registration, working with other organizations. The New Brighton League of Women Voters has been contacted.

- Making our building available for voting-related activities.
- Encouraging everyone to vote.
- Census participation is important for Minnesota in the future.

More details below.

The next social action event is Sing for Our Neighbors on January 26.

Outfront Minnesota is distributing backpacks to homeless people and would like donations. After much discussion, we decided to donate \$150 to Outfront and \$100 to area Planned Parenthood clinics.

Concern was expressed about the aging Pilgrim House volunteers at the food shelf. We need to be aware that this could become a problem.

We will have a meeting in late March to propose a budget for next fiscal year and to discuss activities.

OUR DEMOCRACY UNCORRUPTED

“Our Democracy Uncorrupted” is the UUA Statement of Conscience for 2019-2021. Committees involved are: Programs, Social Justice, Connections and the Political Coterie. (See some actions below)

We will conduct the adult education portion of “Our Democracy Uncorrupted” in late winter and early spring. Exact dates and times will be worked out

UU the Vote

The UU the Vote webinar was held January 12 with 12 people in attendance. The next UU the Vote webinar will be February 6th. A lawyer will discuss how to insure that any actions we take do not affect a congregation’s 501c3 status. Other topics will be presented as well.



Of the 12 people who attended their reactions included

- Having members volunteer to be election judges. Each city is looking for judges and they are a paid position for Election Day.
- We encourage our members to work with partner organization on voter registration efforts now and get out the vote efforts latter.
- The board has agreed that, as long as members were involved, our building could be used for voter registration or training and caucus events or training.
- Encourage everyone to vote

More information about the UU the Vote campaign at www.uuthevote.org.

Census

The Census needs census takers. The work would go from late April to early July - Anoka County will pay \$22.00 an hour. Ramsey County will pay \$16.50 per hour and Hennepin County will pay \$27.00.

A Census form will first be mailed March 12. Reply early or you will get four more notices. Encourage snowbirds to register in Minnesota and encourage your family, friends, and relatives to respond. It determines how over \$15 billion dollars of federal money is distributed and will decide if we keep eight Representatives in Congress or be reduces to seven.

SMALL CONGREGATION WEBINARS

Six members attended the small congregation webinar on the 15th - the subject was sustainability and stewardship. Pilgrim House seems to have their financial house in order, but we could use more people doing more volunteering. We also looked at the age of the leadership and we have to begin grooming younger people to take over some of those rolls. UUA has developed some leadership training on the UUA website.

The next small congregation webinar is February 12 "Being the Beloved Community", 6:00pm on the big screen at Pilgrim House.

PILGRIM HOUSE GREAT DECISIONS

February 6 - The Philippines and the U.S.: Change with Continuity?

From colonial rule, to commonwealth, and finally ally, the relationship of the Philippines and the United States is enduring but oftentimes quixotic. Rodrigo Duterte has legitimized populism in Philippine politics and distanced himself from the United States. How will our relationship evolve?

Our speaker will be Dr. Richard Leitch, who earned his BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College and went on to an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Illinois and has been a member of the Political Science Department at Gustavus since 1996, where he teaches courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Asian Politics, Environmental Politics, and the Politics of Poverty. His research interests include Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy, and he is the co-author of Japan’s Role in the Post-Cold War World.

**MIDAMERICA
REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY**



Registration is now open for the 2020

MidAmerica Regional Assembly. This year, our Regional Assembly will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockford, IL on Saturday, April 18.

UUA GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT

Hello! My name is Davis Senseman (they/them, she/her), and I am honored to be supporting the important work of UU the Vote by providing legal counsel regarding how congregations can engage in bold, effective electoral work fully within your rights and IRS status as 501c3 religious organizations.

I'm collaborating with the #UUTheVote team to provide comprehensive guidance around the issue throughout the campaign.

Here are four key questions that we've already heard from several congregational leaders:

Question 1: Can we openly preach, teach, or act about being opposed to war, or supporting the Green New Deal? Have these become partisan issues?

Response: YES YOU CAN. Unless you are persuading people to vote for/against a specific candidate, you are absolutely allowed to take a definitive stance on issues, including issues regarding actions of the current administration. Opposition to war, combating climate change, resisting oppression in all forms—these are foundational UU beliefs. They can and should be at the center of sermons and congregational work.

Question 2: Can we partner with an organization if they are not a 501(c)3?

Response: YES YOU CAN. Congregations can partner with c(4) organizations or unions to carry out charitable, nonpartisan activities consistent with the church's 501(c)3 status and mission. For UU congregations, that includes activities advocating for foundational UU beliefs.

Question 3: Can Individuals from the congregation (especially the minister) publicly endorse candidates?

Response: YES THEY CAN. So long as the individual is not speaking at an official church function, in an official church publication, or otherwise using the church's assets, and does not claim to speak as a representative of the church, they are free to endorse and speak publicly on behalf of any candidate.

Question 4: Can we ever host partisan activities in the congregation?

Response: YES YOU CAN, as long as the event is consistent with pre-existing space use policies (i.e. - you don't charge for space use and aren't charging the folks holding the partisan event, or you only allow groups invited by a member to use the building). Furthermore, your policies can include a requirement that any group using the space hold similar values to UU principles to avoid having to host groups whose partisan activities are contrary to UU beliefs.

The UU the Vote team is here for your questions and looks forward to helping all UU congregations engage in prophetic, nonpartisan work in support of our values in 2020.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME HERE!

We enjoy the friends and visitors who join us for Sunday programs. If you're ready to consider going the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we would enjoy talking with you

Membership in Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is open to all who would like to support and share in the life and programs of Pilgrim House. If you haven't yet been offered a Membership Card, or have a card and want some additional information, let us know.

We'd also be happy to schedule an Orientation-Introduction to Pilgrim House with you. There's prepared information about our history, how we're organized and funded, our Unitarian Universalist connection, our children's program, and the volunteerism that energizes Pilgrim House. Plenty of time for your questions too.

Feel free to call on us with any membership questions.

Kathy and Mel Aanerud, Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Please check our updated site <http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=PH.CongregationalCare>. We have contacts listed for various services and information provided by congregational care. Call Nancy Olson for more information.

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