

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

All programs are via Zoom. The Zoom link for these programs will be sent to Pilgrim House members. If you do not receive a link, but would like to participate, please contact pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

April 4 – Spring Celebration

Pilgrim House will conduct its traditional Spring Celebration with music, reading, and joy. To be part of this celebration contact Bill Rohde or Mel Aanerud. It takes a community to put on a program like this.



April 11 – One America Movement – We are not as divided as we might think

Chandra Whetstone is the Vice President, Programs and Operations for the One America Movement. The One America Movement works with faith communities across our nation to fight toxic polarization their communities, and across the country. They bring people together across political, racial and religious divides to

work together to address issues in communities across the country. Their vision is a resilient, strong, and united country working together to solve our common challenges.

April 18 – How To Talk With Those With Whom We Disagree

The One American Staff will conduct a workshop with us dealing with “how to talk with those with whom we disagree.” They train and empower religious leaders to resist a culture of division and hate.



April 25 – Climate Reality Project

Sherryl Livingston, Retired from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Climate Reality Project Activist. The Climate Reality Project is a non-profit organization involved in education and advocacy related to climate change.

May 2 – How the Presidents are Rated

Professor Robert Watson of Lynn University of Boca Raton, FL returns. He is one of those Political Science Professors who rank the presidents. How the presidents are rated; who is the on the top; who at the bottom.



CALENDAR

Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Struggles over the melting Arctic. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

Monday, April 12, 2:00pm – Pilgrim House Coffee Hour via Zoom. All are welcome. Contact Nancy Olson. See article below.

Monday, April 12, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Sunday, April 18 – Newsletter information is due. Contact Fred Green.

Monday, April 19, 2:00pm – A covenant group meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Tuesday, April 20, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Friday, April 23, 11:00am-noon – Walk with Glennie at Tony Schmidt Park. All are welcome. Contact Glennie Gilleen or Nancy Olson. See article below.

Thursday, April 22, 4:00pm – Book Club meets via Zoom. The book is *The Night Portrait* by Laura Morelli. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Monday, April 26 – Cookie Cart orders are due for Delivery on April 2. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, April 28, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. The book is *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Contact Sharon Borg.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Pilgrim House is currently looking for a Chair Elect for the 2021-2022 year. The Chair Elect will then serve as Chair in 22-23, and Outgoing Chair the following year.

The Chair Elect assists the current Chair and helps recruit candidates for the following year's officers and committee chairs.

The Chair leads the board of directors, runs the board meetings, and is responsible for helping coordinate committee chairs.

If you have interest or any questions, please contact Adam Aanerud at chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

2021 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION PLEDGE DRIVE

It's that time again for our annual pledge drive! The requests will be mailed out the first week of April, with a requested return date of April 18th.. The process is explained below.

The board of directors thank you for your continued support of Pilgrim House.

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: Adam Aanerud

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

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

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

As an all-volunteer fellowship, we rely on member support in the form of time, talent, and financial contributions.

What is the Process?

- We ask members and supporters to pledge their support for the coming fiscal year (begins June 1,). The board treats these pledges as advisory statements.
- In May, the board develops a budget for the next fiscal year based on pledges received.
- At the annual meeting (May/June), the membership elects a new board of directors and adopts a budget. The approved budget is used to guide expenditures throughout the year.

What does it cost to keep Pilgrim House running?

- Our 2020-2021 budget was \$47,340. We planned \$16,900 for building and grounds, including repairs, utilities, plowing/mowing, cleaning, etc., and \$8,100 for the capital improvement savings account. The remainder was divided among adult programs & speakers, children's programs, social action, and UUA dues & conferences.
- A major expense in 2020 was the partial roof reshingle before installing our solar panels. A major expense planned for 2021 is repair of the driveway and parking lot.

Additionally, we fund a capital improvement savings account for future replacements of furnaces, kitchen

appliances, siding & roofing, and for parking lot and general building maintenance.

Please return your pledge form to Pilgrim House by Sunday, April 18.

Thank you,

Finance Committee

SPRING CELEBRATION – IT’S YOUR ☺ ZOOM COFFEE HOUR ☺

Catch up with your PH friends from “here and faraway” for coffee on **Monday**, April 12th at 2 pm on Zoom. Zoom information will be sent by email on April 11. 📺
Pets and children invited!

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action Meeting

On March 10, there was a Pilgrim House wide Zoom meeting to discuss future social action direction. The major takeaways from the meeting:

- The annual Community Support Center walk will be held July 25.
- There is concern about the ability of our aging members to participate in activities.
- We will do a membership survey to find what social action activities members are currently doing.
- We will have some programs in the fall about social action activities currently in progress and options for the future.

Donate Unneeded COVID-19 Relief

Many of us have recently received \$1400 per person from the third round of COVID-19 relief. If you are able, consider donating some or all of your relief money to help those less fortunate.

COOKIE CART 🍪

Frequently questions are asked about Cookie Cart and why PH is supporting this organization. Social Action met many months ago to look at an outreach outside of our community to help others in need. We thought this would be an easy and delicious way to support this organization to provide teenagers “with lasting and meaningful work, life and leadership skills through employment and training in urban nonprofit bakeries.”

If you are interested in supporting this organization you can order cookies on-line to pick up or have your cookies delivered. You can also order cookies by contacting Nancy Olson by April 26 to be delivered to your door on April 29. If you don’t want cookies consider ordering a dozen for your friends or family, or make a donation to Cookie Cart (there’s a Donate button on the website).

Check out cookiecart.org

Thanks,

Nancy Olson

SHOULD PILGRIM HOUSE "PILGRIMS" CONSIDER A NAME CHANGE?

During the Sunday, Mar 21, chat after the program, Bill Rohde mentioned the Star Tribune article, "Churches search souls over names." It explains how the "Colonial Church of Edina" and its connotation to "pilgrims" and the "Mayflower Church" think the names carry too much negative baggage and they are considering a name change. Bob Treumann suggested PH consider a name change.

I agree PH should consider a name change. With full respect for the founders, they could not have foreseen the now somewhat negative perception of the word "Pilgrim." Visitors used to come to PH with their bibles looking for a conservative religion, presumably because of the word "Pilgrim." They often left after 10 minutes. I think the group should consider a name change and begin discussion. Here are some key questions:

* How many current members and friends would leave just because the name was changed? (I submit very few if any would leave. I participate because of the people and ideology, not because of the name. So, we probably would lose hardly anybody because of a name change.)

* How many native americans do you think are attracted to the name "Pilgrim?" (I contend it is quite negative to them. The name is a deterrent for them to even think of going to "Pilgrim House.")

* How many blacks do you think are attracted to the name "Pilgrim?" (I contend it is mostly negative to them. The name is a deterrent.)

* Isn't it worth it to at least investigate a name change to improve our image and attract a more diverse group of people? Let's be flexible and innovative. Let's not get stuck in the mud. It seems to me, there is very little downside and a lot more upside to this idea. What do you think?

On the negative side: a name change will require A LOT of effort: bylaws, tax exempt status & legal implications, sign, website, printed material, UUA, and so forth. Plus we have to come up with a good and unique name (Arden Hill Unitarian Universalist Fellowship? [from Bill Rohde who started this discussion]). We also lose the name recognition we have (could be good or bad).

Wayne LeBlanc with last paragraph from Fred Green

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

On June 20 we will have a virtual tour of the Minneapolis Institute of Art – They are asking that we stay around 30 people. That is people and not call-ins. They could add a second tour if we have the interest. So I will need to know if there is significantly more interest in this tour. Please e-mail me ASAP at membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org to let me know if you are interested.



🌀 GLENNIE'S WALK 🌸

Spring is here and nothing beats a nice walk in the park. Glennie Gillean is offering to take us on a comfortable stroll and identify fauna and flora in various parks. We can bring a sack lunch to enjoy with each other after our walk.

Our first walk (weather permitting) will be:

Friday, April 23 11am-12pm at

Tony Schmidt Park (meet in the parking lot)

3500 Lake Johanna Blvd, Arden Hills

Masks and social distancing will be required.

Bring binoculars if you have them.

Questions?

Contact Glennie Gillean or Nancy Olson

<https://www.google.com/maps/place>

GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

April 1 – Struggles over the melting Arctic

U.S. President Donald Trump left many scratching their heads when it was rumored that he was looking to purchase the large island nation of Greenland from Denmark. While any potential deal seems highly unlikely, the event shows the changing opinion within the U.S. government toward engagement with the Arctic region. Because of climate change, large sheets of arctic ice are melting, exposing vast stores of natural gas and oil. With Russia and China already miles ahead with their Arctic strategies, can the U.S. catch up?

Our speaker will be Andrew Latham:

Professor Latham's primary scholarly interests are in the areas of international relations and political thought. He regularly teaches courses on international security, Chinese foreign policy, regional conflict in the Middle East, regional conflict in the Asia-Pacific, medieval political thought, US foreign policy, and conservative

political theory. His most recent publication is *Theorizing Medieval Geopolitics: War and World Order in the Age of the Crusades*. He has also recently published a novel about the Third Crusade entitled *The Holy Lance*.

PH ZOOM & ZOOM OPPORTUNITIES

How are we doing on PH Program Recordings? So far, from Feb 14 to Mar 14, we have had 38 views of the recordings. I can only get a count, but that number exceeds my expectations.

These were all excellent programs from professors and experts all over the country. We thank the talent of the Program Committee on reaching those speakers! These recordings are available to all PH members and friends in the member area of the website. It's also available to visitors who ask via

PilgrimHouse@PilgrimHouseUUA.org. (If there are any questions on accessing the recordings, contact, Wayne LeBlanc.) These recordings are edited and only contain program related content. Here are the recordings we have so far.

March 21 – Turnout – Making Minnesota the State That Votes

StarTribune columnist and author Lori Sturdevant will talk about her new book *Turnout* with Joan Growe. The book is the story of Joan's time as Secretary of State and why Minnesota has such a good voting record.

Note: if you haven't seen this, Mel Aanerud and famed columnist Lori Sturdevant interactive spontaneous 1/2 hour exchange, you can see our own political "Chuck Todd, Meet the Press" personality, Mel, in action on the recording!

March 14 – What Happened to the News?

Daniel Hallin is a Professor at the University of California San Diego/La Jolla. Hallin's research concerns journalism, political communication, and the comparative analysis of media systems.

March 7 – What Happened in the Election and its Aftermath?

Professor David Schultz of Hamline and Saint Thomas Universities in Saint Paul is a regular national commentator and a presenter at Pilgrim House.

The presenter actually discussed the trial of Derrick Chauvin and a little bit on election aftermath.

February 28 – The Decline of American Democracy and the Rule of Law

Professor Austin Sarat is Associate Provost and Associate Dean of the Faculty, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence & Political Science at Amherst College, Amherst Massachusetts. As

part of UUA series on "Our Democracy Uncorrupted" Professor Sarat is a national expert.

February 21 – Creating a future for an Inclusive Democracy

Doctor Sylvester Johnson is the founding Director of the Center for Humanities and professor of religion and culture at Virginia Tech. This is the program that most of us at UUA General Assembly attended. We then unanimously decided that we wanted him to speak at Pilgrim House. This presentation examines structural disparities caused by race, wealth and technology. What do we need to do to transform ourselves to chart a bold future in an inclusive democracy?

February 14 – Freedom for Mother's Day – Reverend Kayla Parker

This program is inspired by a project called Mama's Day Bail out, that helps to bail black mothers and caregivers out of prison for Mother's Day. In the sermon, Kayla will talk about the theological grounding for this work as Unitarian Universalists, and discuss an event that was organized by BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists)

February 7 – Can Truth Save Democracy – Use of Science Courts

Professor Ellad (Brad) Tadmor of the University of Minnesota has developed Science Courts as a way to save Democracy – a thing only truth can do. He is a speaker of national fame.

PH was not able to record this program directly but there are links to the professor's talk that was on the Internet. It includes a transcript. The Internet had a talk that was very close to the talk given at PH. See <https://youtu.be/T9IVw8Fxfj-0>.

FUTURE PH PROGRAM IDEAS

The Mar 21 Sunday program saw StarTribune columnist and author Lori Sturdevant talk about her new book with Joan Growe. The book is "Turnout" about Minnesota voter turnout. Mel Aanerud and Lori did a fantastic job Sunday with an opening back and forth discussion and then opened it up for general discussion. Members who were in Arizona and Florida participated too!

This kind of nationwide attendance of a PH Sunday program was never possible before. Virtually everyone in the country now knows how to use Zoom. Even after we begin to meet in person again, we should try to maintain that capability to allow anyone who is out of town, unable to meet in person for various physical reasons, or unable to meet at the designated time, to see the PH programs. I believe it would help everyone keep more closely connected broaden PH reach.

We are beginning to research how PH might, with every program, provide a "Zoom-like" capability to expand reach. If anyone would like to help with research in this area, contact Wayne LeBlanc, who will be collecting information. THANKS!

MY LIFE FROM MARY RYAN

Hi everyone,

I just want to announce that Bob and I are splitting up and each of us is going in our own direction. I'm happy with this decision and looking forward to my new life. I will be living in St. Louis Park and I plan to continue participating at Pilgrim House.

I've really appreciated all the support I have received from friends and family. Take care everyone and I'm looking forward to a time when we can meet in person once again.

Sincerely and with love,

Mary Ryan

ANN BUSHNELL MEMORIAL SERVICE

The following was sent by Ann Bushnell's daughter:

Dear Pilgrim House friends:

As you may know, my mom, Ann Bushnell, passed away on January 18 at the age of 94 of natural causes. She had been in a nursing home since 2016 following a stroke. Her husband, Bill was at her side daily throughout and John, Mary and I were allowed in to see her several times as she neared the end.

Please join us for Ann's memorial service which will be held on Saturday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m.

The service will be on-line and done by Zoom Meeting, hosted by Rev. Sara Goodman of White Bear Unitarian Church.

Please share this with members of Pilgrim House, all are welcome.

[The Zoom info will be sent a few days before the service.]

In case you are not set up to be seen and heard on Zoom, please know that it is not required. Your computer, tablet or smartphone can be used to see and hear the service.

If you would like to say something during sharing time, which will be held at the end, you will need the webcam and microphone to participate, otherwise it's not necessary.

If you are unable to attend, a YouTube link will be made available where you can watch the service at a later date. Please email and let me know if you would like that link when it's available.

I will send a reminder email along with the written program when the date gets closer.

Please do join us if you are able to!

Maria Foley

SIGN UP TO JOIN THE 2021 SCIENCE COURT JURY

Remember Professor Ellad (Brad) Tadmor of the University of Minnesota who spoke to us about his Science Courts? – He sent this message to us:

Hello,

As you may have heard, the 2021 Science Court case (<https://scicourt.umn.edu>) is focused on mandatory service and whether or not it has the potential to fight polarization in America. The students in Science Court are hard at work researching mandatory service and polarization, as well as formulating the pro and con arguments for mandatory service that they will present to the Science Court jury at the April trial.

Do you want to help us decide the polarization case? You can sign up at z.umn.edu/scicourt-jury to be considered for the 2021 Science Court jury. Upon signing up, you'll be asked to complete a short survey to help us build a heterogeneous jury. Selected jury members will hear the evidence presented by students and deliberate with fellow jurors to render a verdict. All selected jurors must attend the full day virtual trial on Saturday, April 24 and a virtual deliberation session on Sunday, April 25.

Thank you in advance for considering signing up for the Science Court jury. You can follow the Science Court students' progress on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/scicourt/>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SciCourt>) and Twitter ([@SciCourt](https://twitter.com/scicourt)). You can also submit your feedback, questions, and suggestions on our mandatory service case at any time on our public comment form (<https://scicourt.umn.edu/content/public-input-current-case>).

Sincerely,

The Science Court Team

GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- THE ANNUAL MEETING OF OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Save the date --June 23-27



Attend virtually from the comfort of your home Gather with Unitarian Universalists from across the country. A wide array of workshops, music, keynote speakers, discussion and sessions to act on business decisions affecting our association. More info here: www.uua.org/ga

Open to all! The virtual arrangements make attending more affordable without travel and lodging expenses. Pilgrim House reimburses the registration fee for our two voting delegates.

THE COMMON READ FROM THE UUA

BREATHE; A LETTER TO MY SONS

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Association chooses a book title to help build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

In this year's selection, *Breathe: A Letter to my Sons*, author Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find inspiration in Black tradition.

Watch for more information about a future Zoom group discussion at Pilgrim House. In the meantime, the book is available at the local county library systems and also from Beacon Press. Copies of the book will also be ordered to be available for pick-up at Pilgrim House.

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 and sharing a short orientation/introduction with a Power Point chat.

Kathy & Mel Aanerud

Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org

