

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

Pilgrim House currently plans to regather in our building for the September programs. A definite decision will be made soon after Labor Day. Programs will also be presented via Zoom (that is we will have "hybrid" programs). Our website will have the latest information.

September 12 – Water Communion

Water is used to purify and sanctify, to nurture, refresh, and restore. How would you bless our world? What would you wash away? What needs to be revitalized? Likewise, where do you go to seek rejuvenation for yourself? Is there a body of water that is special to you? Bring your memories of a favorite body of water: a lake, river or ocean, perhaps somewhere you have recently visited. What makes this body of water special to you? We will invite our youth and their families to be the first to share, and then we will cycle through the rest of the participants.



Braver Angels

September 19 – Braver Angles

This is a program that was requested by a member. Braver Angels work is about building a house united. Their mission is to bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. They want everyone to state their views freely and fully, without fear. They welcome the opportunities to engage with those with whom we disagree. They want all to treat people who disagree with

us with honesty and respect. Teaching everyone to disagree accurately, avoiding exaggeration and stereotypes. Frederick Hotchner, Minnesota director.

September 28 – Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance

Karen Wills, the State Director, will be the speaker. MUUSJA equips you to be skilled, accountable, faithful partners with broad movements working for justice and collective liberation. MUUSJA currently works on opposing Line 3 and climate justice, voting rights, racial justice, immigrant rights, the Pride Festival and LGBTQA+ rights, and supporting social justice activities in UU congregations. See <https://www.muusja.org/>.



October 3 – Bees

Rebekah Golden is the granddaughter of Bill and Carolyn Easter and grew up coming to Pilgrim House. She is a pollination ecologist, beekeeper, educator, and co-owner of Bee & Bloom in Portland, Oregon, and does public speaking surrounding hobbyist beekeeping, and community conservation of invertebrates (mainly bees, and other pollinators). She will talk about the wild bee species of North America, their needs, their struggles, regionally-specific planting suggestions, how to create habitat for wild bees, legislation for protecting pollinators, and citizen science initiatives to support pollinator conservation.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 7, 7:00pm – Reopening group meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Monday, September 13, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Marcie Jefferys.

Tuesday, September 21, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Wednesday, September 22, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. Contact Sharon Borg.

Thursday, September 30, 4:00pm – Book Club meets. The book is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

REGATHERING AT PILGRIM HOUSE

Pilgrim House Regathering (i.e., Reopening) Committee Statement

On July 26, the Regathering Committee held a hybrid meeting at Pilgrim House to finalize plans for the fall. While there has been news since that meeting that causes some concern, we are still hopeful that we will be able to meet in-person again in September.

Safety

At the time of our meeting on July 28, it seemed very likely that state guidelines would allow us to open in September.

In light of recent news, we are assuming that we would require all attendees to wear masks and do not plan to have singing.

At this time we are officially allowing small groups to meet at Pilgrim House.

We are continuing to keep an eye on updates to government guidelines.

Programs

The Program Committee has scheduled programs with speakers with the intention of meeting in-person. If we find that the situation changes, all of our scheduled programs are able to be held remotely via Zoom, like our programs for this past year.

If you are receiving this email, you are on the current email list of Pilgrim House Members, Friends, and Visitors who will continue to automatically receive a weekly email with the Sunday program description and Zoom link. Others may continue to request the Zoom link via the invitation on our website.

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: Marcie Jefferys

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

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

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

Technology

The Technology Committee demonstrated a system that would allow us to hold hybrid programs. Remote attendees' video is able to be displayed on the overhead projector and audio broadcast over our existing sound system. Video of in-person presenters and attendees are able to be broadcast to remote attendees using multiple camera options and audio from Pilgrim House is able to be broadcast using our existing microphones.

Children's Programs

At this time, we are not expecting regular children attendees. However, children are welcome, and we will have programming activities and caretakers available for children age 3 and over who do attend. For toddlers and infants, parents may continue to use our nursery where toys and the audio of our program are available. For the time being, we are asking children age 3 and over who attend to wear masks. We will make masks available for those who need them.

Regathering Committee

The Board of Directors heard a report from the Regathering Committee on August 9 and agreed to move forward with the plans outlined in the report, with the understanding that this is an evolving situation.

The next Regathering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7 at 7pm.

If you have questions or concerns, please email pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

SOCIAL ACTION

HopeFest for Alexandra House

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021

Time: 9 AM – 1 PM

Location: Anoka City Hall Plaza (2015 1st Ave, Anoka, MN 55303)

Early Bird Admission (by 8/31/21) Paid admission includes a HopeFest wristband for games and activities, meal ticket, option to participate in the 1+mile Walk, and/or Kidz Dash (Ages 3-10), and a HopeFest t-shirt. Students/Adults (14+) – \$30, Youth (Ages 3-13) – \$10, Children (Ages 0-2) – Free

If you would like to attend HopeFest on Saturday morning, September 25, you can register through the Alexandra House website at <https://www.alexandrahouse.org/event/hopefest/>. For the Team, just type in Pilgrim House. If you register by August 31, you get early bird rates. There is an option to attend virtually – that is donate the price of admission and get a tee shirt.

If you would like to just donate to Alexandra House, we have set up a Pilgrim House donation page at <https://give.mn/9a6c3f>.

Social Concerns Network Winter Coat Drive

The Social Concerns Network and the Community Support Center are sponsoring a winter coat drive on October 16, 2021. 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.

Drop off items at PH through October 10th. They have given away over 15 000 coats in their history!!!

Results from the Walk for the CSC

The results from the Community Support Center 2021 Walk are in:

It was a hot day, but we still had 224 Walkers who chalked up 338 miles!

We collected \$8,958 for the Walk and that is matched by contributions from



the CSC Board members, so total receipts are \$17,916. That is more than 2019.

Pilgrim House members walked a total of 16 miles. Pilgrim House also staffed a checkpoint at the event.

Cookie Cart 🍪

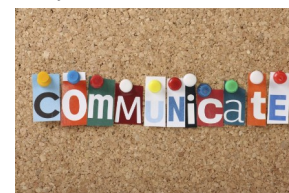
Cookie Cart provides teenagers “with lasting and meaningful work, life and leadership skills through employment and training in urban nonprofit bakeries.”

If you are interested in supporting this organization you can order cookies on-line to pick up or be delivered. 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.

If you have questions, contact Nancy Olson.

WE HAVE A CHAIR FOR OUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE!



There are many communications activities that keep us connected at Pilgrim House – and now we have a volunteer to help connect those activities and lend some additional technical expertise. Thank you to Carlos Martinez who answered the call for committee chair at our Annual Meeting.

At an orientation meeting with Carlos in August where we inventoried current communications activities, Carlos identified our website and our Facebook/social media presence as areas he’d like to learn more about – and he will team up with Fred for learning. See the agenda and information for that orientation meeting in the Members section of our website

Contact Carlos Martinez, communications@pilgrimhouseuua.org, if you’d like to be involved with Pilgrim House communications in such areas as expanding our social media presence, search optimization for our website, photography and videos, and other ways to inform our communities and members about the programs and activities of Pilgrim House.

Kathy and Mel Aanerud
Membership Committee

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

The most recent new members of Pilgrim House may already be familiar to you. They’re all *Friends* of Pilgrim



House who have decided to “upgrade” to being *Members*. We’re very happy to have their expanded role at Pilgrim House.

- **Carlos Martinez** of Shoreview has been attending Pilgrim House the past few years with wife Judy Bloom-Martinez. Many of us have enjoyed some great conversations with Carlos. He’s recently volunteered to be the chair of our Communications Committee, and we’re very happy to have him sharing his expertise with us.
- **Steve White** of Arden Hills has been a long-time Friend of Pilgrim House and a volunteer with our children’s program. In fact his wife and current board chair, Marcie Jefferys, said they hadn’t really realized that Steve’s status was still Friend. Glad to make this official update!
- **Rita Lafferty** and **Fred Bailey** of Shoreview have been attendees and volunteers at Pilgrim House for the past few years. Fred has been an accomplished member of the Pilgrim House chorale, Rita has assisted with Harvest Fest, and they’ve welcomed Sunday morning attendees as Greeters.

Kathy and Mel Aanerud
Membership 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

PILGRIM HOUSE IN ATTENDANCE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) held a successful virtual version of General Assembly – the annual national gathering of congregations -- with workshops, business meetings, fellowship, music and future planning. Originally scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, virtual sessions



highlighted some of the UU social justice and other efforts there.

Marcie Jefferys and Nancy Olson were our voting delegates, and additional attendees were Mel Aanerud and Kathy Aanerud. **A complete report by our four attendees is in the Documents section in the Members Section of our website.** If you need assistance locating Documents, send an email to pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

In the meantime, here are a few notes to share;

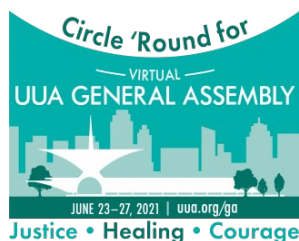
- **There were noteworthy workshops and program ideas:** See our report.
- **The Ware Lecture** was presented by *Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade* with messages about fighting voter suppression, and being especially watchful of restrictive voting laws that disproportionately affect people of color.
- **Three Actions of Immediate Witness** for congregational action were approved:
 - Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy
 - Defend and Advocate with Transgender, nonbinary and intersex Communities
 - Covid-19 Pandemic: justice, Healing and Courage
- **A Statement of Conscience** entitled “*Undoing Systematic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action*” was passed; see www.uua.org/action/statements/undoing-systemic-white-supremacy

UUA President’s Report by Susan Frederick Gray emphasized UUA key priorities: ●supporting congregations in navigating the pandemic and post-pandemic realities ●implementing Commission on Institutional Change for living into anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural aspirations in the practices of the UUA and our congregations ● continuing to build on UU the Vote.

Next year’s General Assembly is June 22-26. It will be a hybrid – with the live event being held in Portland, Oregon and full opportunities for virtual participation.

WHAT’S THIS ABOUT AN ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION?

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws contains our seven Principles and our Purposes. It’s the foundation for the work of UUA and its member congregations and is the covenant to which



congregations pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

The current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies over the years suggesting revisions – the most recent proposal being the 8th principle to address racism.

The UUA board has decided it's time for a comprehensive review – and has established the Article II Study Commission.

The commission is charged with engaging congregations for their input by January 2022 so that they can be considered for the Commission's draft to the 2022 General Assembly. Watch for opportunities to provide input.

More info here:

www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission

FANTASTIC PH PROGRAM RECORDINGS

PH is recording excellent programs from professors and experts all over the country. If you missed any of these programs, you can still partake. These recordings are available to all PH members and friends in the member area of the PH website. It's also available to visitors who ask. There is a newly created area in the PH website just for that purpose. Just send a request to pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org. Here are the recordings we have so far.

May 23 – Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Business, Professor Bobby Donaldson

May 16 – Bill and Kate Isles

May 9 – This is Mother's Day – Extraordinary Women, Kate Roberts

May 2 – How the Presidents are Rated, Professor Robert Watson

April 25 – Climate Reality Project, Sherryl Livingston

April 18 – How To Talk With Those With Whom We Disagree, Samuel Englander

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

April 4 – Spring Celebration (Participation from Finland and Turkey!), Many Participants!

March 28 – More Than Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Accordion, Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton

March 21 – Turnout – Making Minnesota the State That Votes, Lori Sturdevant and Mel Aanerud

Note: Don't miss Mel Aanerud and famed columnist Lori Sturdevant interact spontaneously in a 1/2 hour amazing exchange. You can see our own political "Chuck Todd, Meet the Press" personality, Mel, in action on this recording!

March 14 – What Happened to the News? Daniel Hallin

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

(Presentation was mostly on the Derrick Chauvin trial.), Professor David Schultz

February 28 – The Decline of American Democracy and the Rule of Law, Professor Austin Sarat

February 21 – Creating a future for an Inclusive Democracy, Doctor Sylvester Johnson

February 14 – Freedom for Mother's Day (Covered some Bail Topics), Reverend Kayla Parker

February 7 – Can Truth Save Democracy – Use of Science Courts, Professor Ellad (Brad) Tadmor

(PH was not able to record this program directly but there are links to the professor's talk.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Marianna Corum-Edenfeld

Marianna Corum graduated with high honors from Mounds View High School and will attend Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, in the fall. She plans to study languages including Spanish and Chinese while also exploring interests in linguistics and environmental science.

Alexi Landretti

Alexi Landretti graduated from Academy for Science and Agriculture.

He completed his HS senior year as a PSEO student at St. Paul College and will study at St. Paul College in September 2021. He is unsure of his career plans, but is considering Nursing (for now.)

A gift card from PH was sent to our bright young grads! A very rough year for studying... We are so proud them. They will certainly succeed in their future endeavors.