

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

*Pilgrim House is open for both in person and Zoom attendance. Our updated COVID attendance policy is below.*

#### September 11 - Water Communion

Water Communion Sunday with a Bonus! This year we will begin our water communion by learning from Paul Gardner about the status of our state's ground water. This will be followed by our traditional sharing of water and our water stories.



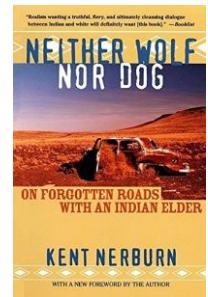
#### September 18 - Amaryllis

Ken Steffenson and Anne Benson as Amaryllis have played at Pilgrim House many times in the past. Ken is a long-time Pilgrim House member. They will include some sing-along opportunities in their program, and will lead or help lead the congregational singing. They will lead one presentation of "All God's Critters" in

honor of Bill Staines who died last year.

#### September 25 – Neither Wolf nor Dog

Ken Nerburn is the author of *Neither Wolf nor Dog* which was turned into a movie. One white man and one Dakota locked in their own understanding yet struggling to find a common voice. It was the winner of the 1996 Minnesota Book Award. He is co-founder of Schoolcraft Learning Community has a PHD in Religion and Art. He is deeply involved in Indian Traditions, and is the author of many books. He said "obviously only for ZOOM unless, by some strange circumstance (and the world is full of strange circumstances) I happen to be back in the Twin Cities."



#### October 2 - Where do we come from?

This overview of Unitarian and Universalist history will cover the evolution of ideologies in these two denominations. Rev. Leslie Mills is a third generation Unitarian Universalist. She was dedicated as a child at First Unitarian Society in Milwaukee, and went through Coming of Age at Unitarian Church North in Mequon, Wisconsin. After college, she joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford, Illinois, where she felt called to ministry. After exploring the 12 UU churches in the Twin Cities during seminary, she was called to serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin, Illinois, where she was ordained in 2016.

#### October 9 - Gun Control in Minnesota

Senator John Marty will present. In Minnesota, a person may not carry a pistol in a public place unless they are in possession of a "permit to carry". Exceptions to the permit requirement include law enforcement officers and other defined instances (Minnesota Statutes, section 624.714). What ought to be and what can a UUA congregation do?

## CALENDAR

**Monday, September 12, 7:00pm - Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom.** Everyone is welcome. Contact Les Rogers.

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

**Wednesday, September 21, 2:00pm – Zoom Coffee Hour.** All are welcome. Contact Nancy Olson. See article below.

**Thursday, September 22, 3:00pm - Book Club meets.** The book is *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* by Mark Adams. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**Saturday, September 24, 9:00am - HopeFest for Alexandra House at Anoka City Hall Plaza.** All are welcome. Contact Fred Green. See article below.

**Wednesday, September 28, 1:30pm - Novel exchange book club meets.** Contact Sharon Borg.

**Thursday, October 6, 7:00pm - Great Decisions meets.** All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

## PILGRIM HOUSE UPDATED COVID POLICY

**Vaccines:** We are still asking attendees to be vaccinated, however there will be an exception for children too young to be vaccinated.

**Masks:** Masks are optional in the entire building.

**Program Room:** Social Distancing is encouraged.

We will continue to run air purifiers.

Beverages are allowed.

**Fellowship Room and nursery:** There is no expectation of social distancing.

We will continue to run air purifiers.

Food and beverages will be provided by Hospitality. Member provided food, Soup Sundays, and potlucks will be reviewed later this fall.

## WEBSITE WORKGROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It's time to update our website's design. The Pilgrim House website has a wealth of information of value to its members and visitors, but it's been in place with the current design for several years. Especially needed is updating the home page, where people curious about us land first.

## Pilgrim House UU Fellowship

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 (leave a message)

**Email:** [pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

**Internet:** <http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org>

**Board Chair:** Marcie Jefferys

## The Land Acknowledgement

*Pilgrim House acknowledges that we gather on the ancestral land(s) of the Dakota People. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have been stewards throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe.*

## Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact Fred Green

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

To begin the process, Marcie Jefferys is asking for a few volunteers to meet for a limited time to come up with ideas about what the new website should contain and look like, as well as potential resources to help us in the effort. If you're willing to share your opinions and/or expertise, please contact Marcie at [pastchair@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:pastchair@pilgrimhouseuua.org). If you can't join the workgroup, but have some ideas, please send them to her.

## SOCIAL ACTION

### Walk 1000 Miles for Our Neighbors

Pilgrim House had 20 walkers who walked a total of 31 miles. We had a great turnout this year. The 2 grand prize winners of the

\$100 VISA gift cards are our friends: Mel Aanerud and Nancy Olson. Congratulations to both of you!!



Thank you to all who participated and for supporting the work the CSC does to prevent homelessness.

### Cookie Cart

Check out the cookie choices, as well as special packaging for your cookies at <https://cookiecart.org/>.

### Concerned about the War in the Ukraine?

You can see more information and donate to help at <https://www.uusc.org/ukraine/>.

## HOPEFEST

*Each year, Pilgrim House is a sponsor of HopeFest, a fundraiser for the Alexandra House battered women's shelter. From an email from Alexandra House:*

Alexandra House hosts its annual HopeFest event in the fall, as our lead into October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The core principles of the event are to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence, remember those we have lost, and honor the many survivors. This family-friendly event grows larger every year as more and more people recognize the impact of domestic and sexual violence and make a commitment to help end it.

<https://www.tinyurl.com/HopeFest22Tickets>.

### WHEN:

Saturday, September 24

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### WHERE:

Anoka City Hall Plaza

2015 1st Ave

Anoka, MN

### EVENT SCHEDULE:

9:00 am – 10:00 am — Check In

9:00 am – 1:00 pm — Kidz Zone

10:00 am — Program

10:30 am — Kidz Dash

11:00 am — 1+ Mile Walk

10:00 am – 1:00 pm — Vendor/Exhibitor

Fair, Activities, Music & Food

### VIRTUAL ATTENDEE:

Can't make it on event day but want to contribute to the cause? You can be a VIRTUAL ATTENDEE!

Virtual Attendee admission is \$30 which includes an event shirt and shipping! Available if purchased by August 31st!

Shirts will be mailed after the event, to the address given when purchasing your ticket(s).

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 through HopeFest to ensure Alexandra House is here when a victim/survivor turns to us for safety, support, and hope.

## COAT DRIVE

The Social Concerns Network is collecting the following items to give away free of charge to those in our community who need them: Collection is from September 11<sup>th</sup> - October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Bring items to Pilgrim House.

Distribution - October 15th 10- 2pm

If you would like to volunteer October 14 or 15th, please contact Judy Bloom Martinez.

Items needed:

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 (No fleece or vests)*

## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

**Our Next Virtual Coffee Hour is September 21, 2:00-3:00pm.**

Hello friends!

We will start our virtual coffee hour on Sept 21st at 2 pm. Looking forward to hearing from out-of-town folks & our community. It is a great time to share stories & keep up to date with Your PH. friends. Look for the Zoom invite from Pilgrim House and join us! Nancy Olson



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

A reminder to our PH community that our Congregational Care Team is available to support friends in a time of special needs or cares.

If you or someone you know could use our assistance, contact Nancy Olson.

If you are interested in helping others as a volunteer please contact

Nancy Olson

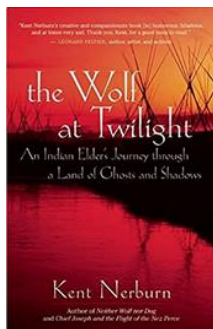
[congregationalcare@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:congregationalcare@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

## COMMON READ ON A NATIVE AMERICAN TOPIC--

### Coordinated by Connections Committee

In conjunction with the September 25 program at Pilgrim House that will be presented by author Kent Nerburn, the Connections Committee is organizing a Common Read of one of his books, *The Wolf at Twilight*, followed by a book discussion in **October**. There's time to check your library or bookstore -- and we will acquire a few copies to rotate among readers at Pilgrim House. Plan to join us for this discussion.

Summary: A note is left on a car windshield, an old dog dies, and Kent Nerburn finds himself back on the Lakota reservation where he traveled more than a decade before with a tribal elder named Dan. The touching, funny, and haunting journey that ensues goes deep into reservation boarding-school mysteries, the dark confines of sweat lodges, and isolated Native homesteads far back in the Dakota hills in search of ghosts that have haunted Dan since childhood.



## SACRED SITES TOUR ON AUGUST 21



Pilgrim House UU, along with friends from the Groveland UU Fellowship and Michael Servetus UU, spent Sunday afternoon visiting sites sacred to local indigenous peoples around the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers near Fort Snelling. Rev Jim Bear Jacobs, Co-Director for Racial Justice for the Minnesota Council of Churches, conducted the tour for over 40 participants. Pictured above is a lecture area marking where a stockade had confined some 1700 indigenous people in the 1800's. We also visited

Pilot Knob, a sacred indigenous burial site nearby. Jim Bear can be seen presenting in the pictures. I think all will agree it was a powerful experience, albeit with sometimes-difficult messages that are important to be heard ... a highly-recommended experience.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



We are delighted to welcome Harlene Hagen of Shoreview and Paul and Suzanne Hanif of North Oaks to Pilgrim House membership in June. These Friends of Pilgrim House have been great supporters of our congregation over recent years. We appreciate now counting them among Members of Pilgrim House.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

As this year's PH delegate, I was one of approximately 1,900 people attending the hybrid UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) General Assembly (GA) virtually last June. Another 1,300 or so were on-site in Portland, Oregon.

The Assembly's theme was "Not Business as Usual." There was a very full agenda, with multiple live and taped workshops available online (see <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2022>).

Speakers introduced themselves with their pronouns, the native land on which their congregations are located and described their physical appearance for those who may be visually impaired. Many of the speakers and preachers were people of color and/or young people.

In addition to Board elections (Susan Frederick-Gray continues as President) and approving the budget, a proposal to rewrite the bylaws was one of the items on the agenda. The case was made that the static and often confusing procedures that characterize many organizations' bylaws and meeting rules flow from, and continue to support, a culture based in white supremacy. (The 2021 Assembly passed a Statement of Conscience entitled "Undoing Systematic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action" <https://www.uua.org/action/statements/undoing-systemic-white-supremacy>.)

The proposal to rewrite the bylaws is intended to make decision-making more transparent and ensure active efforts and accountability to UU values. The UUA is also working on new ways to convene gatherings that rely more on consensus than majority voting.

The importance of clarifying and using values to define mission, guide collective action and promote accountability was repeated throughout the conference. A speaker observed that, because Unitarian Universalists don't have a canon, it can continue to evolve and respond to current societal issues and challenges. But, as a result, it is important that there be a shared sense of values among its members. An in-depth review of UU values is part of the nationally convened Bylaws Article II Study Commission's work, the results of which will be presented to congregations for approval in 2024.

(See <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>).

The 2022 GA also affirmed the following "Actions of Immediate Witness:

- AIW 1: We Do Not Consent: Rejecting Legal Challenges to Abortion
- AIW 2: Anti-Racism and Reparations
- AIW 3: Stop Privatization of Medicare

I continue to be impressed by the UUA's efforts to be critically self-aware, as well the variety of activities in which the UUA engages and the resources available to member congregations. This includes some original music that was performed live as part of the 2022 GA programming.

Next year's conference will be in Pittsburgh, and will be hybrid.

--Marcie Jefferys

## HOW ARE MN UU'S WELCOMING REFUGEES AND NEW IMMIGRANTS?

### SOME EXAMPLES:

*From an email from MUUSJA:*

UU's across Minnesota teamed with the 3 federally funded resettlement agencies in our state (Alight, Lutheran Social Services, and Catholic Social Services) in a variety of ways and created congregational teams to fill ongoing needs.

**First Unitarian Society (Minneapolis)** committed to assist 10 families being resettled by Alight in Minneapolis. Several congregations, including the Saint Cloud and Minnesota Valley (Bloomington) fellowships, invited speakers from Alight to their

Sunday services and contributed financial donations to Alight (<http://wearealight.org/>).

**White Bear WBUUC** Hazara Assistance Committee is assisting three Afghan refugee families in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul as they continue to settle into life in Minnesota since leaving their homeland suddenly last August. They're inviting volunteers short term in one of several capacities -- giving a ride once a month for a family of four, take a 19 year-old to a community college to visit, or visit with three young women living together in St. Paul.

**The UU Congregation of Duluth** teamed with the Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice of the Twin Ports for World Refugee Day on Monday, June 20, 2022 from 5 - 7 pm at 12 E. 4th St (One Roof Community Housing) to welcome asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants into the Duluth community which is situated on Anishinaabe Territory. The most recent asylum seekers come from Mexico, Russia, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Venezuela. More information here.

**Unity Unitarian (St. Paul)** donated the plate on January 2, 2022 to the International Institute of Minnesota Afghan Refugee Program and hosted an exhibit by Emel Sherzad, successful artist, former Afghan refugee, and owner of the Khyber Pass Cafe in St. Paul. He has a compelling life story and shared about his powerful paintings on display in the Parish Hall.

**First UU Church in Rochester** formed a Refugee Services Team who've worked with folks in their community resettled by Catholic Social Services (which holds the contract for southern MN). Michael Servetus UU Fellowship (Fridley) and Minnetonka UU Church (Wayzata) teamed up to sponsor and support a Guatemalan refugee family.

**First Universalist (Minneapolis)** has a new team considering how best to accompany an Afghan refugee family in addition to ongoing sanctuary and resistance work with ICOM and south Minneapolis sanctuary network.

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

