

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.

April 2 – Christian Nationalism and the State of Trans Rights

Matt Lewellyn-Otten is the Associate Director of Religious Organizing at OutFront MN. As the organization's Religious Organizer, Matt seeks ways to make congregations more affirming of LGBTQ+ Minnesotans, as well as engage them in advocacy and activism. Matt will be sharing their work on a recent research project regarding the ways that Minnesotans think about Christian nationalism and how this far-right movement is deeply impacting the LGBTQ+ community – more specifically how this movement is leading to policy salience across the U. S.



April 9 – Spring Celebration

We will have music, prose, maybe some poetry and dance. But, of course, that is all up to you. Please let Mel Aanerud know if you are willing to share and let Bill Rohde know if you will sing in the Chorale. If you don't have something, but are willing to add voices to the program, Mel will come up with things for you to say. Following the program, the Sunday Hospitality Committee will be serving Brunch Appetizers, Fruit, and Cookie Cart Cookies.

April 16 – Frogtown Green, a project of Health Advocates.

Patricia Ohmans, MPH, is founder and director of Frogtown Green, a resident-driven initiative advocating for environmental equity and sustainability in St Paul's most diverse low-income neighborhood. A 42-year resident of Frogtown, Patricia is a journalist, master gardener and public health professional. <https://www.frogtowngreen.com/>



April 23 – Homegrown National Parks

Marilyn Jones and Les Rogers will introduce the Homegrown National Parks movement and we will hear from Doug Tallamy, the founder, and a professor in the Department of Entomology and

Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. “Our National Parks, no matter how grand in scale, are too small and separated from one another to preserve species to the levels needed. Thus, the concept for Homegrown National Park, a bottom-up call-to-action to restore habitat where we live and work, and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, extending national parks to our yards and communities.” <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>

April 30 – Dan “Daddy Squeeze” Newton

Dan “Daddy Squeeze” Newton has been dazzling audiences with his creative accordion style for over 40 years. His fresh approach to the much-maligned squeezebox and his mind-boggling repertoire of both original and traditional material will change the mind of the most hardened accordion skeptic. Dan draws influences for songs and tunes from such sources as French Musette, Swing, Cajun, Jug band blues, Celtic and Scandinavian music. Daddy Squeeze entertains and also enlightens his audiences with stories and colorful anecdotes about the accordion and his experiences making a living playing the instrument he loves.



May 7 – Lori Sturdevant

Lori Sturdevant will be back to regale us on what is happening in the state and/or nation.

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 1, 5:30pm – MSUS hosts Potluck and Coffee House, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 hybrid Coffee House at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Sunday, April 2, 12:30pm – MSUS Moms Group and their kids in two downstairs rooms. Contact Laura Smitzik (for Diana McLean).

Wednesday, April 5, 7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Economic Warfare. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

Saturday, April 8, 10:00am – The Pilgrim House Chorale will hold a practice for a short performance at the Spring Program the following day at Bill and Judy Rohde’s home, 165 Windsor Ct. in New Brighton. Any and all interested singers, high school through adult, are invited to join in the fun. Contact Bill Rohde if you have any questions.

1:00pm – MSUS class in the fellowship hall. Contact Rev. Diana K. McLean.

6:00pm – MSUS Coming of Age class at Pilgrim House. Contact Contact Laura Smitzik (for Amy Luedtke).

Monday, April 10, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Les Rogers.

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Saturday, April 15, 10:00am – Mission, Vision & Values Workshop at Pilgrim House. Contact Les Rogers.

Wednesday, April 19, 7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Thursday, April 20, 11:00am – MSUS hosts Third Thursday 60+ Gathering, discussion and potluck at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

Sunday, April 23 – Newsletter Information is due. Please include any summer events. Contact Fred Green.

Wednesday, April 26 – 1:30pm – Novel exchange book club meets. Contact Sharon Borg.

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

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

Board Chair: Les Rogers

The Land Acknowledgment

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

7:00pm – MSUS Choir Rehearsal at Pilgrim House. Contact Bruce Van Bronkhorst.

Thursday, April 27, 2:00pm – Book Club meets. The book is *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Saturday, April 29, 2:00pm – Gunilla Montgomery memorial service. All are welcome. Contact Nancy Olson.

2023 FINANCIAL 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 23rd. The process is explained below:

What is the Process?

- We ask members and supporters to pledge their support for the coming fiscal year (begins June 1st.). 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 2022-2023 operating budget was \$38,018. We planned \$19,240 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.
- Snow removal budgets will have to be substantially increased for the coming year. Our 2022-2023 costs will be nearly \$4,000 higher than planned.
- Capital improvement expenses in 2022-23 were for improvements to our very successful remote and in-house program technology. Additionally, we fund a capital improvement account for future replacements of furnaces, kitchen appliances, siding & roofing, and for parking lot and general building maintenance.

The board of directors thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,

Finance Committee

Time and Talent Opportunities

Pilgrim House is a lay-led, all volunteer fellowship.

We encourage you to deepen your connections to the fellowship by contributing your time and talent to one of our committees.

- Membership
- Social Action
- Connections
- Children's Religious Education
- Program Committee
- Program Facilitation
- Music
- Sunday Hospitality
- Congregational Care
- Technology
- Building & Grounds
- Finance
- Be the featured speaker on Sunday mornings!

Member-provided programs on topics of interest are much appreciated.

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 15th, 10 am – 2 pm.

One of the Pilgrim House initiatives this year is to clarify our mission, vision and values. This workshop is the first step of the process. The workshop is designed to train participants in how to engage members of the congregation in discussion of values, mission and vision for PH. Phillip Lund, UUA Congregational Life Consultant, will lead the workshop.

Description of the workshop:

While COVID-19 is still with us, small congregations have once again opened their doors to visitors. The best way for any congregation to let people know who they are is a Mission, Vision, and Values statement, ideally posted on their website. This workshop will take participants through the process of:

- clarifying their congregational values
- stating explicitly their mission, and
- casting a vision for the future.

Participants will learn how to engage members of the congregation in listening circles, discern what the shared values of the congregation are, and be prepared to begin the process of creating their own Mission, Vision, and Values statement.

It helps to have an explicit understanding of why congregations exist in our communities. Creating and affirming a mission/vision/values statement that reflects new understandings of a congregation's place in their community is essential. The sooner congregations do this important work, the sooner they will be able to fulfill their potential as a force for good in the world that can transform their communities in positive ways.

If you have not already signed up and are interested in participating in the workshop, contact Les Rogers. The workshop will be in-person at Pilgrim House. A light lunch will be provided.

NEW "PROGRESS PRIDE" FLAG AT PH

You will notice a new version of the Pride Flag in the social hall, above the Congregational Care bulletin board (on the north wall by the coffee). It was hung in honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility, celebrated on March 26 this year. A full description of the symbolism of the flag, and the reasons for including the additions to the original six

rainbow stripes, is posted on the bulletin board below the flag. A shortened guide to the symbolism of each of the color stripes and chevrons is shown in the illustration below.



SOCIAL ACTION

We have \$314 discretionary money that's left in our budget. The funds will be sent to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf as our committee feels food insecurity is one of the biggest issues facing families and individuals today.

Fred and Judy have been co chairs of the Social Action Committee for a few years. As Fred is involved in many areas and also a board member, he is asking if anyone would like to take over his role as co chair.

Community Support Center Fundraiser – Save the Date – Thursday April 20th, 11:30-1pm.

Enjoy soup and sandwich and hear how the CSC works in different ways to help participants. Each board member is assigned a table which seats 8 people. If you are interested in attending, please contact Judy Bloom Martinez. Let's show how our small congregation can be represented at this once a year fundraiser.

Cookie Cart

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

GREAT DECISIONS AT PILGRIM HOUSE

April 6, 7:00pm – Economic Warfare via Zoom

What comprises economic warfare? How have these measures been used recently against Russia?

Waging economic warfare consists of a variety of measures from implementing sanctions to fomenting labor strikes. Such tools are utilized by states to hinder their enemies, and in the case of the United States have been used as far back as the early 19th century. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, economic warfare has been the main means for the west to challenge Russia. How effective will

these sanctions be at convincing Russia to cease its war?

Richard Leitch is our terrific repeat speaker.

Dr. Richard Leitch earned his BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College in 1985 and went on to earn an MA in Asian Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign after a two year career on Wall Street. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Illinois in 1995, where he was the recipient of the Harriet and Charles Luckman Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching, and the College of Liberal Arts Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Assistant. He 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. In 2000 he received the Swenson-Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence at Gustavus, and in 2008 the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 2012 he was included in The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Professors.

INVITATION TO A RAMADAN DINNER

Interfaith Community Meals are being arranged throughout the metro area by the Minnesota Council of Churches. Several Pilgrim House members are planning to attend an open house and dinner at **Rabata Cultural Center in Arden Hills on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30 pm.**

These meals are a traditional Ramadan Iftar, or a fast-breaking meal. People of any faith or no faith are invited to experience one or more of the Ramadan open houses and meals organized as part of the Taking Heart partnership between Minnesota Council of Churches, the Muslim American Society, and participating mosques in Minnesota.

The events are free and open to the public, but registration is required. You may register yourself on the Minnesota Council of Churches website by reviewing the list of locations at www.mnchurches.org -- or you can be part of a group registration from Pilgrim House by letting Mel and Kathy Aanerud know of your interest by Monday, March 27, if you haven't already registered at Pilgrim House.

GUNILLA MONTGOMERY MEMORIAL SERVICE

All are invited to join Gunilla Montgomery's service on April 29 at 2pm at Pilgrim House.

Gunilla's sons, Johnathan and Paul are honoring Gunilla's request to have her memorial service at

Pilgrim House. Gunilla was 92 when she passed away in a care facility. Friends recall Gunilla's sharing of her Swedish heritage, her work experiences with the Mn Dept of Health, sharing in the many topics of our Sunday programs, and her volunteer contributions. We would like to hear from and/or involve those who have recollections to help us plan for this memorial service. Contact Nancy Olson.

IT SOON WILL BE JUNE – AND THAT'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY TIME FOR UUS

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country. Attend virtually -- or at the convention center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Engage in workshops, enjoy wonderful music, be inspired by keynote speakers and discussions, and participate in business meetings that make decisions affecting the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

This year one of those business items will include reviewing **changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws** which currently contains our Principles, Sources, and Purposes.

The General Assembly is open to all -- but note that **Pilgrim House will reimburse the registration fees for our two voting delegates.** Read more about General Assembly here: www.uua.org/ga. For questions related to Pilgrim House attendance, contact Mel or Kathy Aanerud / Membership Committee

New Information! The Ware Lecture will be presented to Imani Perry -- an American interdisciplinary scholar of race, law, literature, and African-American culture. At Pilgrim House, we did a group read of her book, *Breathe: A Letter to my Sons*.

GIBBS FARM DAKOTA TRAIL JULY 15TH

Save the Date

Restricted to 25 people.

Not as intense as the Jim Bear Jacobs tour last summer, but another view, even closer to home.

This tour focuses on the life ways of the Dakota, Minnesota's first people, in the early nineteenth century. It includes an introduction to Cloud Man and his village, the travois and gardens, maple sugar camp, summer bark lodge, wild rice



camp, and tipi. Some Dakota language is incorporated as well.

There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Room at Pilgrim House. Although we are limited to 25 people for this event, if we get more than 25 we will arrange for a second tour. If you don't sign up in person let Mel Aanerud know.

CURRENT PILGRIM HOUSE 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.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME HERE!

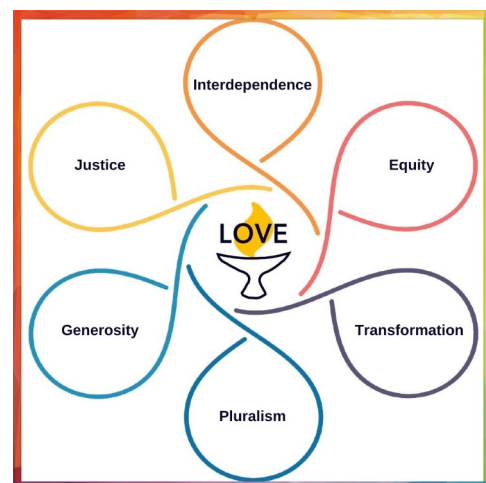


We enjoy the visitors and friends who join us for Sunday programs. If you're interested in taking the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we'd would enjoy talking with you and sharing a short, live Power Point introduction – in person or via Zoom.

Kathy & Mel Aanerud

Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org



From the new proposed Article II.