

PILGRIM'S Progress

April 2025

"They said, 'Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.'"

LUKE 19: 38



Palm Sunday, April 13
Worship @ 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17
Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20
Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.
(Weather permitting, worship will be held on the front lawn. Bring a chair)

Easter Potluck Brunch @ 8:15 a.m.
(Bring a dish to share)

No 8:30 a.m. Service

Traditional Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:30 a.m.



Tuesday, April 22nd is Earth Day - do you recognize these symbols?

Besides paper, newspapers, cardboard, clean food and beverage cartons, steel and aluminum cans, plastic bottles and containers with either the number 1 or 2 inside the triangle may be recycled in Marietta. Glass bottles and jars, plastic bags, Styrofoam, batteries and plastics with the numbers 4 - 7 inside the triangle are not acceptable for recycling and will cause the whole collection from our recycling bin to be added to the landfill.

Please keep God's green Earth Green.

PARISH LIFE

Susan Volentine & Carol Hill, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com

We hope everyone is enjoying Spring! Parish Life will sponsor two events on April 20th, Easter Sunday!

As we've done for a few years now, at 8:15 AM, after the 7:00 AM service and before the 10:00 service, there will be an opportunity to share breakfast with each other. Susan, Carol and the Parish Life committee volunteers will set out plates, napkins, silverware, a toaster and a few food items, and everyone is invited to bring something for breakfast or brunch to share. There is a list of suggested items in the Narthex on the bulletin board. This is always a great time of fellowship with other members and guests for this special day!

We will also have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 service! We're asking the adults to provide small toys, games, and of course candy and chocolates to give to the children after they gather the empty Easter eggs from the property (outside if sunny, inside if raining). There is a box in the Narthex where you can leave your donations until April 13. On April 13, Palm Sunday, between services, we will need some volunteers to help pack 15-20 goodie bags that the children will receive in exchange for their collected eggs. There is a list of ideas for toys and candies in the Narthex on the bulletin board. The bags and Easter grass will be supplied - we just need your hands for the assembly line! Finally on Easter Sunday, we will need a few volunteers to scatter the eggs while the children get to do a craft and have an Easter lesson before we turn them loose. Together we can make this a fun and joyful day for all!!



Any questions? Please contact Carol Hill at:

770-401-6243 (Cell)

or

ilovecondiments@yahoo.com



PUCC Vision Statement

"We are an open and affirming faith community living out Christ's love through acceptance, learning, service, and action."

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Pilgrimage
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

COUNCIL MODERATOR

Lee Fadeley

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com



Mundas Sine Caesaribus

The CEO of the social network Bluesky recently attended the SXSW Conference with the above Latin phrase on her T shirt – translating to “*a world without Caesars*” – an appropriate reminder in this environment that we do not choose to worship golden calves or make sacrifices to earthly kings.

Your church Council and Executive Committee remain committed to advancing the goals and betterment of the congregation while aligned with the tenets of our faith. During the March Council Meeting we addressed the following:

- Approved A. Mooney’s request to upgrade the obsolete software for managing our Offering records with the benefit of interfacing with our QuickBooks software.
- Approved the Professional Services Agreements for our Administrative Assistant and Nursery Attendant.
- Reviewed and discussed the status and next steps in preparation for the Insurance Funds Allocation Plan Update on March 30th.
- R. Lofstrand’s report confirmed that the Pastor’s life & disability insurance and the retirement plan applications were sent to the Pension Boards on March 12th.
- S. Noffke confirmed that both applications for the church credit card and brokerage account are submitted; awaiting acceptance.
- H. Ottley led the review and recommendations for the calendaring of Council and committee activities.
- Confirmed and thanked the 2025 accounting system audit team of Greg Kask and Dick Mehlan.
- Initiated discussion of the Federal and State employment and insurance posters.
- Acknowledged our thanks to T. Stoddert for posting the photos and announcement of our nursery room renovation on Facebook – as of this writing this post received 6 comments and 30 Likes!

The Executive Committee also met to:

- Explore how to best manage and report our financial data via QuickBooks; establish our next steps.
- Discuss the deteriorating conditions of the NGH and deck with Properties; begin the process to identify options and info needed to discuss further with the congregation.

Peace,

Lee M Fadeley, Council Moderator

WORSHIP

Juliann Heilhecker & Vickie Zuffoletti

Co-Chairs

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



Lent is a time for meditation, contemplation and anticipation of what is to come. I can’t help but see the parallels as we anxiously await the birth of our Pastor’s baby boy. We look forward to the rebirth of nature coming out of hibernation while we are awaiting the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As we prepare for Easter, the worship team of Rev. Jess, our music director, Asa, and our volunteers of Anne, Lynne, Vickie, Janet and I have prepared a Holy Week full of deep contemplation, beautiful music and meaningful worship services.

Palm Sunday is April 13, and we will have our usual 8:30 and 10:00 service. The children will sing and play bells at the 10:00 service. Maundy Thursday service is on April 17 at 7:00 PM. It will be a solemn service to prepare our hearts and minds for the crucifixion of Jesus. Finally, we will have a sunrise service on April 20th at 7:00 AM. Bring your own chairs as we will begin with outside worship, and we will bring the light into the sanctuary for communion. Parish Life is hosting a potluck brunch beginning at 8:15 a.m. The 10:00 service will be a joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We hope you can join us for some if not all our Holy Week services.

Thank you,
Your worship co-chairs, Juliann and Vickie

VBS 2025



Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Yes, it's that time of year again, and we have begun planning for VBS. The dates are July 21-25, and our theme this year is *Fruits of the Spirit*. We will look at those qualities in the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Registration forms for children aged 3 through grade 5 are available now, both in the Narthex and online:

(<https://forms.gle/kj89dwMTcBKxKRzm6>)

You can also register by emailing your child's name, age/grade, and t-shirt size to:

pilgrimageucce@gmail.com

VBS T-Shirt Design

Again, this year, we are looking for children or youth to submit ideas for our VBS t-shirts. The design should be in bold outlines – the shirt will be in one color; note, that small details don't show well. If we get multiple designs, we will try to put them together as a collage, so the simpler the design, the better.

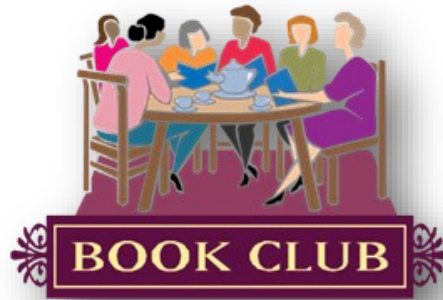
Our theme, *Fruits of the Spirit*, represents love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. They can include all of those or create a design based on just one. If you want to use some fruit in the design, our group names will be bananas, tomatoes, oranges, and mangoes. Drawings can be brought to the church or scanned in and sent to:

derby.jm@gmail.com

Please submit your designs by April 20.

Calling All Volunteers

We are also looking for adult and youth volunteers. If you are willing to help this year, please contact Lily Appleton or Janet Derby. If there is a particular area you want to help in, please let us know.



April 1 @ 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Fran Howard

Book for discussion:

"Once I Was You"

by Maria Hinojosa

In addition to enjoying a lively book discussion, the March 4 book club meeting honored 6 members who celebrated March birthdays with cake and a potluck!



Deb Loche, Melissa Delisle, Rital Mehlan,
Ann Baker, Cindy Westlake and Jamie Durkee





April Choir Rehearsals

April 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
 April 6 @ 11:30 a.m.
 April 16 @ 7:00 p.m.
 April 27 @ 11:30 a.m.



April 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair
pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com



The Missions Committee will be collecting books for elementary aged children by sponsoring the Neva Reitz Memorial Book Drive.

Additional information will be forthcoming, but if you have any questions, please contact Cindy Westlake.

A collection box will be located in the church Narthex.

Sandwich Club Support Group

The Sandwich Club Support Group provides relief from stress and offers resources that are available for caregivers of loved ones.

This group meeting, led by Trish Greeves, will be held on Saturday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m. in Rev. Courtney's office. If you would like additional information or would like to join this group, contact Trish Greeves.



Host week is April 13 through April 19
Volunteers needed!

Click the link below to volunteer as a host, donation of meals, or donation of gift cards for breakfasts and lunches.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054BADAC23A4FC1-47245093-family#/>



MUST Lunch

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025 we will serve the guests of MUST Ministries a nutritious lunch. The location is MUST Hope House, 1297 Bells Ferry Rd Marietta, GA 30066. We are expecting about 130 guests for lunch. We will need 4 -5 volunteers to help cook starting at 10:15 a.m. and 4 -5 volunteers to help serve starting at 11:30 a.m. If you are going to help cook and stay to serve please sign both sheets on the poster in the Narthex.

Cash donations can be made to buy chicken and side items since we must do all cooking on site at MUST. Donations can be sent to the church by check, or you can make your payment through PayPal or Zelle. If you have any questions or want to volunteer please contact Dick or Rita Mehlan at:

re_mehlan@bellsouth.net



Pilgrimage Probability Group

April 26, 2025 6:00 pm

Dick Mehlan's house
3507 Nantucket Dr.
Marietta, GA 30068

678-643-2207

April Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

04/08 Stephen Williams
04/10 Shelby Reitz
04/14 Skyra Loche
04/15 Gabriela Mills
04/18 Teresa Scates
04/19 Marc Mills
04/23 Syd Bowcott
04/27 Olivia Roth
04/29 Karen Clark

ANNIVERSARIES

04/24 Ric & Noel Reitz
04/30 Adrian & Rachel Puente

If we missed someone,
email Lynne at:
office@pilgrimageucc.org

TREASURERS

Rochelle Lofstrand, Treasurer

Stephen Noffke, Asst. Treasurer

pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com

Stephen and I look forward to continued transparency and communication regarding our financial standing. Please email me if you have any questions! We are now 100% integrated with Quickbooks and their Accountant. Our reports are a little different this month because of that. Please let me know what you think and if any other information would be helpful.

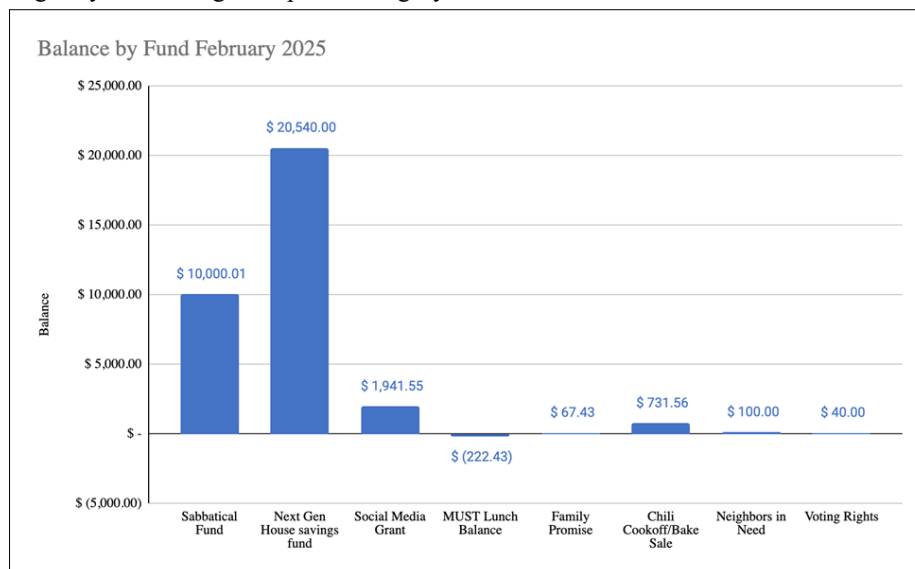
February (Month to Date)

| Statement of Activity | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| February 2025 | |
| | TOTAL |
| ▼ Revenue | |
| Channel sales | 180.00 |
| Contributed Income | 14,091.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$14,271.00 |
| GROSS PROFIT | \$14,271.00 |
| ▼ Expenditures | |
| Dues & subscriptions | 5.06 |
| Employee Benefits | 1,218.98 |
| Legal & Professional Services | 300.00 |
| Music Expenses | 441.36 |
| Office Expenses | 830.10 |
| Payroll Expenses | 10,659.14 |
| Properties | 2,600.32 |
| Worship | 2,400.00 |
| Total Expenditures | \$18,454.96 |
| NET OPERATING REVENUE | \$ -4,183.96 |
| ▼ Other Revenue | |
| Dividend revenue | 3.02 |
| Interest earned | 1,362.54 |
| Total Other Revenue | \$1,365.56 |
| NET OTHER REVENUE | \$1,365.56 |
| NET REVENUE | \$ -2,818.40 |

| Statement of Financial Position As of February 28, 2025 | |
|--|---------------------|
| | TOTAL |
| ▼ ASSETS | |
| ▼ Current Assets | |
| ▼ Bank Accounts | |
| Business Economy Checking - 7773 - 1 | 100.00 |
| Business Economy Checking - 7796 - 1 | 103.02 |
| Live Oak 4340 | 183,010.55 |
| Operating Funds - 0154 | 25,718.54 |
| PayPal | 0.00 |
| Premium Business Money Market (4966) - 2 | 382,127.99 |
| Restricted Funds Account - 0170 - 1 | 32,108.57 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$623,168.67 |
| ▼ Other Current Assets | |
| PUCC Deacon Fund (not managed by church) | 6,811.01 |
| Undeposited Funds | 0.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | \$6,811.01 |
| Total Current Assets | \$629,979.68 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$629,979.68 |

Based on the February 2025 financial statement for Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, here are three key highlights:

1. **Net Loss of \$2,818.40**—The church experienced a deficit in February, with expenses exceeding income despite supplemental revenue from investments.
2. **Strong Investment Returns**—Investment income (\$1,365.56 from dividends and interest) significantly offset the operating deficit, reducing what would have been a \$4,183.96 operational loss.
3. **Payroll as Major Expense** - Payroll expenses (\$10,659.14) represent approximately 58% of total expenditures, making it by far the largest expense category for the church.



All treasurer-related requests should be sent to pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com. Both Stephen and I have access to that account, so we will each be able to respond. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Rochelle Lofstrand, Treasurer

STAFF

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Courtney Jones |
| Interim Pastor | Rev. Jess Cusick |
| Music Director | Asa Bradley |
| Accompanist | Anna Mbiad |
| Administrative Assistant | Lynne Buell |

Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Pilgrimage UCC Website: | www.pilgrimageucc.org | Worship: | pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com |
| Pastor-Rev. Courtney Jones | pastor@pilgrimageucc.org | Christian Education: | pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com |
| Office-Lynne Buell: | office@pilgrimageucc.org | VBS-Janet Derby: | pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com |
| Council: | pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com | Communications: | pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com |
| Council Moderator: | pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com | Missions: | pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com |
| Treasurer: | pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com | Properties: | pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com |
| Council Fin. Secretary: | pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com | Stewardship: | pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com |
| Deacons | pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com | Parish Life: | pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com |
| Music-Asa Bradley: | abradl47@aol.com | | |

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

| | |
|--|---|
| Book Club via Zoom (Lisa Toomey) | 1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m. |
| Pilgrimage Council (Lee Fadeley, Moderator)..... | Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m. |
| Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves) | Monthly—3:00 p.m. Saturday |
| Spiritual Seekers' Group (Laurie Spencer) | 4th Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m. |
| PFLAG | 4th Sunday of the month—1:00 p.m. https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta |

This listing includes the group name, followed by the coordinator or director in parenthesis then the meeting days and times. If your group should be added to this list, please e-mail office@pilgrimageucc.org.

The Month in Sundays

| | | |
|-------|----|--|
| April | 6 | Communion Both Services Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.) |
| April | 13 | PALM Sunday Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Missions Comm. Mtg (9:15 a.m.) Family Promise Host Week Begins |
| April | 20 | EASTER Sunrise Service (7:00 a.m.) Easter Potluck Brunch (8:15 a.m.) Traditional Worship Service (10:00 a.m.) Easter Egg Hunt (11:30 a.m.) |
| April | 27 | Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.) |