

# PILGRIM'S Progress

February 2023

*You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. MATTHEW 5:13*

## CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

By Rochelle Lofstrand

[pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com)



Last Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, we held our Congregational Meeting to present Council's proposed 2023 Mission Spending Plan for Pilgrimage UCC and to discuss the new PUC Vision Statement.

### Mission Spending Plan

Following a presentation regarding our MSP and how Council came up with this year's budget, questions were addressed, and our financial plan was approved by our members.

We are providing the link where you can view our MSP for 2023:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Od2HiflO5KTixKtUNY9ZPQ87LkksV1rHfbnc-0kia74/edit?usp=sharing>

Our church website will be updated with the revised version under the "Members Information" section.

### PUC Strategic Planning

Starting in the Fall, Council began working on developing a Strategic Plan for Pilgrimage. To begin our work, we had vision listening sessions for our church community both in person and virtually.

While a 'mission statement' defines an organization's business, its objectives, and how it will reach these objectives, a "vision statement" details where the organization aspires to go. Council prepared three vision statements. Prior to our meeting, your feedback was collected and presented during the meeting, which led to an enthusiastic discussion. As a result, a fourth option was established, and

this was the statement the majority of the members approved for our new PUC Vision Statement.

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

As we move forward with establishing Pilgrimage's goals, our new statement will appear on our website, future ETidings and newsletters.

## MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair

[pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com)



It's February which can only mean one thing (at least for Missions!) – Undie Sundays! Please bring new socks, underwear and t-shirts for all genders and all ages to our collection box in the Narthex. You can also leave your donations in the Clothing Bin in the church entryway.

Don't forget the babies with diapers in size 2 and pull-ups. These are all in short supply now at MUST Ministries and are greatly appreciated by their clients! We will collect your donations throughout the month.

Also, MUST is especially in need of these non-perishable food items: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, Ramen noodles, peanut butter and rice (1-2 lb. bags).

Thank you to everyone who helped with our latest Family Promise week! As always, it was a successful and wonderful experience. Our next week is April 2-9 (Holy Week) so please consider helping if you will be in town!



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

**PUC Vision Statement**

### What's Inside

Stewardship...2  
Adult Sunday Sch...2  
2023 VBS...2  
Spiritual Seekers...2  
Worship...3  
Climate Change...3  
Parish Life...4  
Feb. Book Club...4  
Deacons Event...5  
Feb. Celebrations...5  
Sandwich Club...5  
PUC Misc...6

  
*Pilgrimage*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## STEWARDSHIP

Anne Mooney, Duke Yaguchi, Co-Chairs  
[pilgrimageuccestewardship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccestewardship@gmail.com)



<sup>20</sup> "I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. <sup>21</sup> I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. <sup>22</sup> I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me. John 17:20-23 (CEB)

Do you remember *The Three Musketeers* and their famous quote, "All for one, one for all?" When we came together as a church family to reach an agreement on our new Mission Spending Plan, vote on a new Vision statement, and have some fun and fellowship eating chili and baked goods while raising some funds, we put this saying into action. We came together as one family with united purposes. If we had all stayed home and failed to engage in sharing our ideas, opinions, and values, we would have failed to create a working budget and vision and we would have missed out on an opportunity to share fun, food, fellowship while working to meet our church's financial needs. Coming together brings us blessing and helps us to do more than we would on our own.

As we look ahead into 2023, PUCC has now created a Vision statement that represents who we believe ourselves to be. *We are an open and affirming faith community living out Christ's love through acceptance, learning, service, and action.* This statement challenges us to consider how we can live out Christ's love in the world and within our community. In February, Stewardship will be convening a Nominating Committee to begin to make recommendations for future leadership within our church. We will also be providing members with an opportunity to share with Council their thoughts on their talents, gifts, and time available for service. Please prayerfully consider how you can live out Christ's love at Pilgrimage.

Your Stewardship Co-chairs,  
Anne Mooney and Duke Yaguchi

## CHRISTIAN ED

Janet Derby & Darlene Wagner, Co-Chairs  
[pilgrimageucce@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageucce@gmail.com)



## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday school, led by Darlene Wagner, will begin the first Sunday in February. They will be studying the book *Reading the Bible from the Margins* by Miguel De La Torre.

## Vacation Bible School

It's not too soon to be thinking about this year's VBS. For those new to Pilgrimage, this is an exciting week spent with our children exploring a Biblically oriented theme through stories, music, crafts, snacks, and missions. Each year, we choose a theme and brainstorm ways to explore that theme. Our first planning meeting will take place on Sunday, February 26 following the handbell choir rehearsal. If you are interested in helping design this year's curriculum, please join us. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Janet Derby at:

[pilgrimageucce@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageucce@gmail.com)

## Spiritual Seekers Group

The "Seekers" is a spiritual growth study group that has been meeting regularly at PUCC since 2015. We gather at 7 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month, normally at church. Our next meeting is February 28th. Members of the group have valued our committed participation and taking some risks in the honesty with which we talk about our viewpoints and experiences relating our faith to issues of race, the environment, interfaith matters, and more.

Beginning in February, we'll begin a study of *Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Richard Rohr. If you think you might be interested in joining this group, we'd love to have you. Call Laurie Spencer (770-417-7182) or Trish Greeves (470-268-5561) to learn more.

## WORSHIP

*Diane Reese, Chair*

[pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com)



## CLIMATE CHANGE – A Christian Concern

by Hugh Lowrey

We are always so grateful for Rev. Courtney Jones' inspirational messages every week as she continues to bring comfort and thought-provoking insights to all of us at Pilgrimage UCC and provide exceptional leadership for our community.

The worship committee is indebted and thankful for the large group of folks that stayed after the worship service on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, and quickly and efficiently took down and carefully packed away all of the Advent greenery and decorations. In addition, we would like to express appreciation for the anonymous donor who provided PUCC with a new Christmas tree for our sanctuary after we had to discard the former tree because of wear and tear.

As we will begin to reflect on and contemplate the beginning of the season of Lent in mid-February, our annual Ash Wednesday service is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendar for the following: Palm Sunday on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Maundy Thursday on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and Easter Sunday on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Each week on Wednesday, the Worship Team meets via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. It is our goal to ensure that our services meet and exceed our congregations' expectations through evaluating and precise planning.

Thank you to our Scripture readers for January:

January 01: Cindy Westlake

January 08: Amy & Morgan Jones; Kathleen McNulty

January 15: Anne Mooney & Melissa Fadeley

January 22: Sharon Getty & Noel Reitz

January 29: Michelle Brumfield & Laurie Spencer

If you would be interested in being a scripture reader, usher, or greeter, please reach out to Diane Reese at:

[pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com)

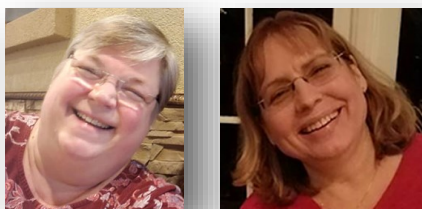
Ever since our climate became a big worry to many scientists, they have talked about possible "tipping points," referring to problems such as sea level rise and melting glaciers, that could blindsides us with irreversible changes. At least two such tipping points have already been passed. No matter what we do, we can't stop or control sea level rise nor the melting of the Greenland glaciers. Other tipping points are believed to be approaching in the next few years or decades – scientists can't say which time scale.

One tipping point concerns the Amazon, world's biggest natural absorber of greenhouse gas. When will it become unable to replenish itself, because of the burning and cutting of trees, and become a savanna that absorbs very little? Another is the fate of the Gulf Stream. It flows near Greenland, and fresh water from melting glaciers dilutes its saltiness, threatening to cause a change in its course. As it is, the path of this warm ocean current takes it near the coast of Ireland. If a change in course took it away, Britain's winters would resemble Denmark's or Norway's.

These threats and more like them add to the urgency of eliminating fossil fuels and stopping the creeping rise in the temperature of our atmosphere. But there's new hope. The Pew organization has completed a poll asking people in four countries, including the U.S., to consider a list of problems and dangers and to place them in their order of importance. In a remarkable turn-around from previous polls, more than seventy percent placed climate change at the top of the list. Of course, far too many members of Congress don't agree, but if an overwhelming majority of their constituents do, then most of them will surely come around.

## PARISH LIFE

Susan Volentine & Carol Hill, Co-Chairs  
[pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com)



### Chili Cookoff & Bake Sale Fundraiser

What an amazing time of food, fellowship and fundraising for our PUCG General Fund during the Chili Cook Off and Bake Sale on January 29th! The event was a great success! It was so wonderful to have this occasion after a long absence.

There was a large variety of **15** chilis and just as many sweet treats! Thanks to everyone who participated by bringing your delicious homemade chilis, tasty baked goods, drinks, and, of course, your generous voting and donating dollars.



Together we raised \$345 in the Bake Sale, and \$375 from the Chili Cook Off for a total of \$720!

Congratulations to the Top Three Vote-getters for the Chili Cook Off:

**Third:**  
Lynne B. - Cowboy Chili Stew

**Second:**  
Monica and Darlene - Impossible Burger Vegetarian Chili

**First:**  
Trudy S. - Smokey Wagyu Beef & Maple Chili



The next Parish Life event will be on **April 9th**:

Our Annual PUCG Easter Egg-stravaganza—We will host an Easter Brunch and the traditional egg hunt for the children. Details will be forthcoming.

As always, Parish Life welcomes volunteers for any event. Please see Carol H. or Susan V. for details about future events and ways you can help out!



**Our next meeting is Tuesday,  
February 7 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Karen Clark.**

**The book for discussion is:**

**“Jubilee”  
by Margaret Walker**

**If you have any questions,  
please contact Fran Howard at:**

[roberthow@aol.com](mailto:roberthow@aol.com)

## DEACONS

By Juliann Heilhecker & Stephen Williams  
Co-chairs  
[pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com)



### DEACONS' TRIVIA NIGHT!



It's that time of year again! Put on your thinking caps and get ready to test your knowledge!

The deacons are hosting their Annual Trivia Night and Potluck on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be at 5:00 and the games will start at 6:00. If you are going to attend the potluck, we ask that you bring a favorite main dish or a dessert to pass.

This year's theme is **"Blast from the Past: Trivia through the Decades: 60's, 70's, 80's, 90', and 2000's"**.

So, get out your disco dancing shoes, or tease your hair and get those thin ties back out and dress according to your favorite decade. Be there or be square!

## February Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

02/03 Lorelle Mills  
02/04 Donna Farrar  
02/05 Jaime Fulsang  
02/07 Devin Scott  
02/08 Ezra Loche  
02/17 River Simonson  
02/17 Matthew Wyne  
02/28 Eli Scates

### ANNIVERSARIES

02/22 Jeff & Jamie Durkee

If we missed someone,  
email Lynne at:

[office@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org)



We Are Here For You

## 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, February 25 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 at:

[trishgreeves@me.com](mailto:trishgreeves@me.com)

## STAFF

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Pastor</b></p> <p><b>Music Director</b></p> <p><b>Accompanist</b></p> <p><b>Administrative Assistant</b></p> | <p><b>Rev. Courtney Jones</b></p> <p><b>Asa Bradley</b></p> <p><b>Anna Mbiad</b></p> <p><b>Lynne Buell</b></p> |
|--|--|

### 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 President:         | 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:                     | pilgrimageuccmusic@gmail.com     |                      |                                       |

### Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Book Club via Zoom (Fran Howard) .....             | 1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.  |
| Pilgrimage Council (Rochelle Lofstrand, Pres.).... | Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m.  |
| Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves) .....        | Quarterly Meetings—3:00 p.m. Saturday   |
| Spiritual Seekers' Group (Trish Greeves).....      | 4th Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.  |
| PFLAG .....  | 4th Sunday of the month—1:00 p.m. <a href="https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta">https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta</a> |

*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](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org).*

## The Month in Sundays

|      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| Feb. | 5  | <p><b>Worship (8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.)</b><br/> <b>Rev. Heather Fosburgh Preaching</b><br/> <b>Communion</b><br/> <b>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</b></p> |
| Feb. | 12 | <p><b>Worship (8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.)</b><br/> <b>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</b></p>   |
| Feb. | 19 | <p><b>Worship (8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.)</b><br/> <b>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</b></p>   |
| Feb. | 26 | <p><b>Worship (8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.)</b><br/> <b>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</b><br/> <b>PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)</b></p>                             |