

# PILGRIM'S Progress

September 2025

*"How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
how great is the sum of them!"*  
PSALM 139:16

## PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

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



Dear Beloved,

It's a weird thing, this saying goodbye. I'm grateful we have time to reflect on what a wild, strange time it's been. I take great joy in hearing the hopes you have for your future. And I'm glad for the time to say what needs to be said to one another, one on one and as a people. My hope is that you, too, want to take time to make this time count. We have a holy opportunity to make meaning around what our work together has meant to us and to God and to God's Kingdom.

To that end, please make time with me in the coming weeks. Come to worship, have me to your home, schedule time for coffee, or meet me at church. Because we get more than two weeks' notice, we have an opportunity to say goodbye in ways that are sacred. If you're harboring resentment or frustration, voice it. If you're grieving, don't keep it to yourself. We can be all the ways we need to be and find God's grace in the midst of it. I can't wait to hear from you.

This is true today and always: God loves you, and so do I.

Love,  
Courtney

479-264-5151  
[pastor@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org)



## Faith Formation

Beginning in September, there will be a slight change to the 10:00 worship service's children's ministry, "Faith Formation."

We will no longer escort the children out for Faith Formation following Children's Time during the 10:00 service on the first Sunday of the month. Prior to this proposed change, we always brought the children back to the Sanctuary in time for Communion. There will be Faith Formation the remaining three Sundays of the month.

We chose the first Sunday because the sermon is generally shorter on those Sundays.

Our goal is to ease the children into the practice of remaining in worship for the entire service as they grow older. This change will also give our volunteers one week off a month. We will provide extra coloring and activity sheets for the children on those Sundays.

## SPIRITUAL SEEKERS GROUP

The Seekers gather to share and support one another through life's joys and challenges. This group has been meeting for several years each month and has studied a wide range of books.

Their next meeting is September 23rd at 7:00PM. They welcome new members, so if you are interested, you can contact Laurie Spencer at:

[lauriespencergardens@gmail.com](mailto:lauriespencergardens@gmail.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

Heyward Ottley

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



Greetings to all,

First of all, let us reflect on the significance of Sept 1st, Labor Day. This is a day to thank our service members and to remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. Given who we are, let us also lift up all of those who are in service to a better world, a living God, and have paid with their lives so that we may worship freely.

Now, onto the updates from the Council for the month of August:

Based on overwhelming support from the congregation, we had a majority vote on the Council to proceed with the installation of a digital sign at our driveway. We've selected a vendor and are now finalizing paperwork to get them started with the permitting process and then the installation. Hallelujah! One step forward to enhance our visibility on the street. It will also relieve the sign messengers from climbing to that hilltop and move this task to our Communications Chair (Fernando Moncayo) who will be able to manage the sign by phone.

As we all know, we have quite the list of action items in the wake of Courtney's resignation. This process will progress one step at a time. Right now, we are looking for two volunteers to sit on the interim pastor search committee. The main objective is to write a final scope of work for the incoming interim. If writing a job description falls within your wheelhouse, we need you. This will be a relatively short-term assignment. It will be critical to setting the correct expectations for the interim, which will help us in our future search for a settled Pastor position.

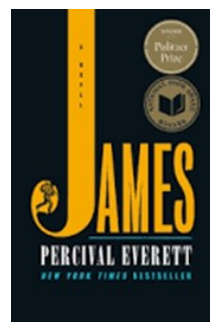
The Council reached another decision that we want to communicate out to all of you. We had a majority vote not to attempt to restore the NGH house and to make plans for its end of life. This decision was supported by feedback from the congregation albeit only a few made their voices known. The logic is that any funds spent to revive that structure would not provide a long-term cure for what ails it. For the moment, the building will remain where it is until disposal plans are finalized. Please be

assured that we are aware of needs that the NGH served, and we are committed to finding a solution. Stay tuned for more updates here.

Our Vice Moderator (Amy Bridges) has planned a "PUCC Council Retreat" at the church on Sat Sept 6th. This is our time to build our bonds and to layout longer term plans for this Council Team. Please be in prayer for us as we prepare to address your needs, the needs of our facility and indeed the ministry for PUCC. May God's wisdom be upon us. Via this monthly newsletter and other communications, we will keep you in the know as we move forward.

Thank you for your attention, and please consider volunteering for the interim pastor search committee. Your contribution will be invaluable.

Heyward Ottley  
Moderator, PUCC



## September Book Club

Due to the Labor Day weekend, the Book Club meeting has been shifted to Sunday, September 7 at 4:00 at Susan Volentine's home (2688 Tritt Springs Drive). The book for discussion is the Pulitzer Prize winning novel "James" by Percival Everett. A list of books for the following months will be developed, so please bring your ideas and suggestions of books from all genres.

Another change: Since the Rally Sunday potluck is also scheduled for September 7, the tea-party menu will be postponed. With all our culinary effort going into making a dish for the potluck, making an additional item for the tea party would be a bit much. Also, knowing the extravaganza of food that that always appears at a PUCC potluck, we anticipate that we will be too full to need additional refreshment. Instead, Susan will provide the beverages such as tea, lemonade, and soft drinks. If your southern manners don't allow you to show up without food in hand, simply bring along your potluck leftovers for a little nibble.

Those wishing to car-pool should meet at the church at 3:40. ([karensclark@comcast.net](mailto:karensclark@comcast.net))



## September 7, 2025

Rally Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 7th which is the official kick-off of the Christian Education year. During our 10:00 service, the children will perform, and we will present Bibles to our 4th and 5th graders.

After the 10:00 service, everyone is invited to join in for a time of good food and fellowship for a Parish Life sponsored potluck picnic! A Sign-Up Genius link is provided below with some suggestions for what you can bring or how you can help out. Please sign up by September 6th. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAEAB2DA6FB6-58085311-rally>

## PUCC SANDWICH CLUB

The Pilgrimage Sandwich Club is a monthly caregiver's support group for members and friends that are facing generational challenges and stress in handling relationships with children, parents, and others for whom they are responsible. One of our mantras is, "Caring not curing." While we can't solve each other's problems or change most of our circumstances, it is helpful to have a confidential outlet in which to share frustrations, fears and hopes; to reflect, pray, and lament together; to tell it like it really is.

### MEETING TIME CHANGE

Our next meeting is on the calendar for Saturday, September 27th. We will begin meeting at 2:00 p.m. instead of 3:00 p.m.

Email Trish Greeves at [trishgreeves@me.com](mailto:trishgreeves@me.com) if you have any questions or would like to be added to their monthly email list.



## Pilgrimage Sanctuary Choir

If you want to "add your voice" to this talented group, contact Asa Bradley, our Music Director at:

[abradl47@aol.com](mailto:abradl47@aol.com).

Choir rehearsals for September are:

- Wednesday, Sept. 3 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 10 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 17 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 21 @ 11:30 a.m.

## MISSIONS

*Cindy Westlake, Chair*

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



Just a reminder that our next special drive will be in October, when we will collect gently used or new warm clothing items (coats, hats, etc) for the clients of MUST Ministries. It's not too early to start looking for fall sales!

In the meantime, our collection boxes for MUST in the entryway are always available to drop off food and clothing donations. At this time, they are especially asking for new underwear and socks (children and adults) and men's clothing. Current food item needs include oatmeal, grits, cereal, powered milk, as well as canned meats, chili, vegetables and beans.



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. It is a Pilgrimage tradition to have our members provide their favorite/ethnic breads to share.

Whether you bake or purchase, there is plenty of room on the table!

We will be posting a sign-up genius for you to let us know what type of bread you will be bringing. So keep an eye out for that!

Please plan to drop off your bread before 8:30 for the early service or at 9:30 for the 10:00 service.

We look forward to sharing our bounty with you!

Pat Kask  
Deacon Co-Chair  
[pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com)

## September Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

09/06 Morgan Jones  
09/08 Ric Reitz  
09/15 Janet Derby  
09/16 Tony Mills  
09/17 Ugena Whitlock  
09/18 Bob Howard  
09/22 Gary Dorsey  
09/23 Rev. Courtney Jones  
09/23 Jessica Ward  
09/24 Sam Heilhecker

### ANNIVERSARIES


09/04 Jaime & Jason Fulsang  
09/17 Syd & Betty Bowcott  
09/28 Dick & Rita Mehlan

If we missed someone, email Lynne at:  
[office@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org)


**LENA'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE, ATLANTA, GA 30329**

**ONLINE OR IN PERSON CONCERT**

**SUPPORTING**




**PATHWAYS**  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION



**6PM POTLUCK: BRING A DISH TO SHARE**


**AUCTION: WEEK AT VACATION HOME IN MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN MAINE**



**MATTHEW & MAUREEN**

**13 Sept 2025 7PM**

**CONCERT**



**MOCKINGBIRD'S WING**

**CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL UCC - 2676 CLAIRMONT RD NE ATLANTA, GA 30329**

PATHWAYS is a theological education program of the SE Conference UCC that is an accessible, asynchronous, and affordable online progressive theological education for church leaders, faith explorers, pastors, and those discerning various vocations and callings within and outside the church community.



## STAFF

**Pastor**  
**Music Director**  
**Accompanist**  
**Administrative Assistant**

**Rev. Courtney Jones**  
**Asa Bradley**  
**Anna Mbiad**  
**Lynne Buell**

## Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

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

## Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club .....	1st Sunday of the month—4:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Heyward Ottley, Moderator)	Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m.
Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves).....	Monthly—2:00 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. <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

Sept. 7	Rally Sunday! Communion (Both Services) Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Picnic Potluck (11:30 a.m.) Book Club (4:00 p.m.) <i>Hosted by Susan Volentine</i>
Sept. 14	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Missions Comm. Mtg (9:15 a.m.)
Sept. 21	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)
Sept. 28	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.)