



Interim Pastor's Message *by Rev. Phil Price*



Why do people come to church?

I don't think it is for the music. This is in no way intended to slight our very talented musicians or our dedicated choir members. It's just that if any of us want to listen to music, any kind of music, we all have access to the greatest choirs, orchestras, organists, soloists, in history, at our fingertips.

I don't think it is for the preaching. I try to be relevant, thought provoking and insightful, but again, I'm well aware that all of you have access through, books, TV, and the internet, to the greatest preachers in the world.

I don't think it is for the praying. We all understand that God is present and hears our voices and our hearts anywhere we are.

So, why do so many still feel a desire to leave where they are, and drive sometimes considerable distances to come to church? The only thing that makes any sense to me is that there is something special about being together. Somehow in togetherness, Christ, God, truth, is revealed. It is one of the few non-paradoxical truths - the only way to experience togetherness is to be together.

Christian spirituality is not a solitary journey into the self, nor is it a personal relationship with God. Christian spirituality has always been best understood as a social/covenantal relationship with others, as God is experienced through connection in what the Apostle Paul calls "the body of Christ." He tells us straight up that "the body has many members." We can't experience the body in aloneness.

It is in togetherness that the risen Christ is revealed and experienced. It is in togetherness that we experience the grace of connectedness.

In Christ, life is not a game of solitaire, rather it is to be a joy filled journey into FAMILY!

Blessings and Love,
Pastor Phil

JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION

Whether you are new to faith, returning after time away, or seeking community, you are welcome at Pilgrimage UCC. Pastor Phil is leading three Inquirer's Classes after the 10:00 service. The first session was on April 26, but there are two more classes on May 17 and June 7. These sessions explore the history and beliefs of the United Church of Christ and the life of Pilgrimage UCC. Those wishing to become official members are invited to Joining Sunday on June 14.

Please contact Pastor Phil directly or the office at:

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org
office@pilgrimageucc.org

Stewardship *by Cary Lee*

Effective July 2026, the Church Council will have three vacancies: Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Assistant Treasurer. Brief descriptions of each position are provided below.

The Moderator presides over congregational meetings and monthly Council meetings, works closely with the Pastor regarding congregational needs and concerns, and signs contracts. In the absence of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, the Moderator is also authorized to sign checks.

The Vice Moderator serves in the Moderator's stead when the Moderator is unavailable and provides coverage for the Financial Secretary as needed. The Vice Moderator typically succeeds to the office of Moderator.

The Assistant Treasurer supports the Treasurer by recording deposits reported by the Financial Secretary, entering those deposits into the financial records, and issuing disbursements as directed by the Council. The Assistant Treasurer maintains accurate records of all receipts, disbursements, and balances.

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact Cary Lee:

pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com

or reach out to any current or former Council member.



Missions

Dr. of Friendship



Congratulations! 2026 Graduates



Cindy Westlake, Missions Chair

Donate books through the end of May for the Neva Reitz Memorial Book Drive.

The books will support *Simple Needs Georgia's* "My Birthday Matters" program, which gives homeless children in Cobb County a new book on their birthday. Please donate **new books only** for infants through early teens. The collection cart is in the church Narthex. Thank you for helping to brighten a child's special day!

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

We're preparing to host Family Promise of Cobb County families, May 17–23. There are many ways you can help!

Guests sleep at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Two overnight hosts are needed each night, plus laundry volunteers to wash bedding after the week. Meals are served at the Family Promise Day Center (Grace House). Help is needed to provide dinners, serve as dinner hosts, and donate gift cards for breakfast/lunch items.

Questions? Contact Cindy Westlake or Deb Loche and watch for the upcoming signup link in ETidings.



It's time to award the Doctor of Friendship to a deserving member of Pilgrimage UCC—someone who consistently shows generosity, love, and kindness through simple acts of care (listening, giving rides, delivering food, and more).

To nominate someone, please email your recommendation and reason to Pat Kask (Chair of Deacons) at:

pjo5359@bellsouth.net

or Pastor Phil at:

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org.

Nominations are due Sunday, May 17th.

Thank you for taking the time to consider a nomination!

Pat Kask
Chair of Deacons

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet Saturday, May 2 at the home of Laurie Spencer at 4PM. Diane Reese will lead the discussion about the book she recommended called "An Unfinished Love Story" by Doris Kerns-Goodwin.

PUCC SANDWICH CLUB SUPPORT GROUP

A caregiver support group offers a space to connect with others who are also navigating stress and complex family responsibilities. The Pilgrimage Sandwich Club is a recurring monthly gathering that can help foster ongoing relationships and a sense of belonging.

Their next meeting is Saturday, May 23rd at 3:00 p.m.

Email Trish Greeves at trishgreeves@me.com if you have any questions.



Morgan Jones is graduating from the University of Kansas with her degree in Elementary Education. She will be working for the Lawrence, KS public school system starting in August.



Michael Bryce Marcuzzi, the grandson of Trish Greeves, will graduate from the University of South Carolina.



Jemma Nelson is graduating from Eckerd College with a BA in Environmental Studies and a minor in Sustainability & Management.

THE SEEKERS

The Seekers Group will meet next on Tuesday, May 26th at 7PM.

Looking for a welcoming small study group to grow in faith and form meaningful friendships? We'd love to have you—please reach out to Laurie Spencer for more information.

lauriespencergardens@gmail.com.

13 When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.

JEREMIAH 29:13

2026 VBS T-shirts



Get this year's VBS t-shirt!

Volunteering is the best way to guarantee one, but anyone may order even if they can't attend VBS. Shirts are black with neon green lettering and children's artwork on the front and back. Cost is \$15, or \$17 for XXL. Order by emailing the office, completing the online form by clicking: [form](#) or placing a paper form from the church Narthex in the offering plate.

Worship In May *by Juliann Heilhecker*



He is risen indeed, Alleluia! What a generous, glorious gift that is beyond comprehension. Now, what shall we do with this gift? Shall we put it away for another day, let it get lost with all the other discarded gifts, or shall we live it every day and be who Christ wants us to be? Our journey from Christmas to Easter is so full of anticipation, hope, love, faith. Let us not waste this selfless and bountiful gift and spread that love, hope, and faith to all those around us.

May is full of special Sundays. Mother's Day is May 10, and it often brings families together at church by connecting spirituality with gratitude and reverence; reinforcing the bond between faith and family.

The church observes the Ascension of Christ on May 14th. After Jesus visited his disciples several times after the resurrection, He ascended into heaven on the 40th day. Can you imagine witnessing that glorious moment when Jesus ascends into heaven to be next to God? Jesus is preparing a place for all of us in heaven. Let that sink in. He is preparing a place for all of us.

On May 24th, we celebrate Pentecost. Quoting Cassidy Rush, *"The holiday celebrates empowerment, unity, and a divine connection that transcends language and culture. The biblical account describes a sudden rush of wind, tongues of fire, and the ability to speak in new languages. These events forever changed the followers of Jesus, giving them the courage to share their message with the world."* On Pentecost Sunday, it's a tradition at Pilgrimage to wear red to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit, which descended upon the apostles as tongues of fire. Red represents the fire and passion of God's spirit, reminding us of the transformative power that inspired the early Church. By wearing red, we honor this sacred tradition and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Let us celebrate yet another lavish gift from the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to unite people by giving back to our community in practical ways through charity and community service.

*³¹ but those who wait for
the LORD shall renew their
strength,
they shall mount up with wings
like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
ISAIAH 40:31*

Confirmation

The Christian Education Committee will offer a Confirmation class starting in August for youth in grades 7–12.

A parent information meeting will be held Sunday, May 31, after the 10:00 worship service (youth welcome). For more information, contact Janet Derby.

We Are in Search of...

The Christian Education Committee is seeking members to mentor a confirmand over the next two years.

Core Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Spiritual Guide:** Helps students connect faith to daily life.
- **Active Listener:** Offers a safe space for questions and growth—no need to have all the answers.

Expectations:

- **Relationship Building:** Build a meaningful connection for the duration of the program.
- **Prayer Partner:** Pray for your confirmand throughout the process.
- **Engagement:** Join some class sessions or activities with your mentee.



PUCC Vision Statement

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



MAY EVENTS

Book Club 5/2 @ 4PM

Inquirers Class
5/17 @ 11:30AM

Confirmation Parents Mtg
5/17 @ 11:30AM

Family Promise Host Week
5/17 – 5/23

Primary Election Day
5/19

Sandwich Club Support
Group 5/23 @ 3PM

Memorial Day 5/25

Seekers Group
5/26 @ 7PM

STAFF

Interim Pastor, Rev. Phil Price
<mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org>

Music Director, Jake Daron

Accompanist, Anna Mbiad

Administrative Assistant, Lynne Buell
office@pilgrimageucc.org

3755 Sandy Plains Rd.
Marietta, Georgia 30066
Ph: 770-971-0007

pilgrimageucc.org



BIRTHDAYS

- 05/02 Ella Dorsey
- 05/02 Juliann Heilhecker
- 05/02 Nick Shiver
- 05/03 Pat Kask
- 05/04 Danny Schnitzlein
- 05/05 Kerry Schnitzlein
- 05/23 Jeanette Gillespie
- 05/24 Carla Martin
- 05/26 Jeff Durkee
- 05/28 Paula Roberts
- 05/28 Joyanna Wyne
- 05/31 Tom Query

ANNIVERSARIES

- 05/15 Helene & John O’Neill
- 05/29 Kerry & Danny Schnitzlein

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