



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



Now that we have celebrated Pentecost, the story of HOPE that started in Advent is complete. The yearning expectation of Advent leads to the manger. The manger of Christmas takes us to Epiphany, those moments where we “see” the divine presence with particular attention paid to Jesus’ baptism.

Epiphany leads to Ash Wednesday where we confront and accept our mortality. We are going to die. We accept this as good news. We come to understand that God’s presence extends beyond our flesh and blood existence. Ash Wednesday is the doorway to Lent, that period of self-reflection and self-knowing.

In the wilderness of Lent, we face the temptations that would take us off the path that leads to hope. These include self-indulgence, preoccupation with our own safety and well-being, and the lust to control the actions/thoughts/beliefs of others. During Lent we discover the differences between the “Glory of Rome” and the “Kingdom of God.” The Glory of Rome and the hope that it offers is built on war and protecting the privileges of the rich and powerful. The Kingdom of God is built on a foundation of healing, teaching, feeding and serving the needs of the poor.

The Glory of Rome is seen in Caesars palace and throne. The glory of the Kingdom of God is seen on the cross and in an empty tomb. Rome has the power to take life. God has the power to give life. The choice offered by the experience of the empty tomb is, “who will we serve?” Those who threaten our lives, or the one who gives life?

The mystery of the resurrection finds its fulfillment in Pentecost. The spirit-filled church IS the body of Christ! We become the true proof of the resurrection as the risen Christ continues to minister through us! The same spirit that filled Jesus at his baptism is available to us as we immerse ourselves in Spirit. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter all lead to the exciting world-changing culmination of YOU BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!

There is HOPE, and it is YOU, filled to the brim, with GOD!

### JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION

The final of three **Inquirer’s Classes** led by Pastor Phil is on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM. These sessions explore the history and beliefs of the United Church of Christ and the life of Pilgrimage UCC. Lunch will be served.

Those wishing to become official members can do so on **Joining Sunday, June 14.**

Please contact Pastor Phil directly or the office at:

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

## Christian Education

### Mentors Wanted

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.

### VBS Opportunities

This year you will again be able to “bling” your name tag during June and July to show your support for VBS. Blingy nametags will be in the Narthex, along with a donation box. Any donation is welcome and will enable us to provide t-shirts for our fabulous volunteers.

You can also volunteer as a “Snack Wizard”. Details are forthcoming in a separate email on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Lastly, don’t forget to order your VBS t-shirt. Orders will be taken through June.



## Parish Life

We've been so grateful for everyone who helped organize and host the luncheons for our first two Inquirers' Classes! Using the online sign-up forms made it easy for our in-house "caterers" to pitch in, and we truly appreciate all the wonderful food contributions. **We have one more Inquirers' Class coming up on June 7.** If you'd like to help, please sign up here:

[Pilgrimage UCC: PUCCL Inquirer's Classes 2026](#)

As always, thank you to everyone who volunteers to help. We appreciate you so much!

## Join Us for a Welcome Celebration!

Everyone is invited to come together on **Sunday, June 14**, for a **Sloppy Joe Potluck** as we welcome our new official members! The celebration will take place **after the 10:00 a.m. service.**

You can sign up on the link below to let us know what you would like to bring. Suggested items include **sloppy joes, buns, side dishes**, or a contribution toward a **welcome cake.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAEAB2DA6FB6-64296071-june>

## Big Love from Our Little Church

Last week, our church was able to provide shelter, meals, and care for three homeless adults and four children. We are so thankful to everyone who helped make that possible.

Here is what it took to make this happen: A total of 23 volunteers served in multiple roles, including overnight hosting, meals, laundry, setup, breakdown, coordination, and gift card support. Volunteers also covered an estimated \$638 in out-of-pocket costs for meals, snacks, and transportation. Together, volunteers contributed 244 hours to meal preparation and delivery, overnight hosting, setup, coordination, and laundry.

A special thank-you to these wonderful volunteers who stepped up and took on multiple tasks:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| ✓ Jean Ellis           | ✓ Cindy Westlake     |
| ✓ Anne Mooney          | ✓ Deb Loche          |
| ✓ Melissa Delisle      | ✓ Diane Reese        |
| ✓ Kyndall Thiessen     | ✓ Susan Volentine    |
| ✓ Lynne Buell          | ✓ Jamie Durkee       |
| ✓ Amber McDuffie       | ✓ Jerry VanVickle    |
| ✓ Carol Hill           | ✓ Henry VanVickle    |
| ✓ Nancy Harrison       | ✓ Ezra Loche         |
| ✓ Bonnie Martin        | ✓ Cary Lee           |
| ✓ Dick and Rita Mehlan | ✓ Laurie Spencer     |
| ✓ Karen Roberts        | ✓ Juliann Heilhecker |

God's work was successfully executed by this church's humble servants. Their kindness and service meant so much to these families, and we are truly grateful. If you are new to volunteering or have not signed up in a while, we would love to have you join us during our next hosting week in November. Thank you for sharing your time, generosity, and care.

Peace and love,  
Cindy Westlake and Deb Loche

## Congregational Meeting June 28

We will assemble in covenant on June 28 for our Annual Congregational Meeting/Council Elections following the 10AM worship service. An email with the 2026 Annual Report will be sent **two weeks prior to our meeting.** Our most noteworthy agenda item is the election of our Officers and other Council members for the 2026–2027 term. You can share your comments and questions with the Council via: [pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com). As a reminder, anyone can attend this meeting, but only official members can vote.

## MUST Lunch

On Tuesday, June 30, we will serve lunch to about 130 guests at MUST Hope House, 1297 Bells Ferry Rd, Marietta, GA 30066. We need 4–5 volunteers to cook at 10:15 a.m. and 4–5 volunteers to serve at 11:30 a.m. (If you can help with both tasks, please sign both sheets on the poster in the Narthex.) *Volunteers should enter through the front door and clear security before going to the kitchen.*

Cash donations are also welcome to help purchase chicken and side dishes, since all cooking must be done on site at MUST. You can give by check to the church, PayPal, or Zelle. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Susan Hintz at:

[susanjhintz13@gmail.com](mailto:susanjhintz13@gmail.com)

or Dick Mehlan at:

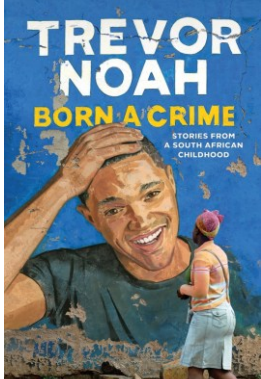
[re\\_mehlan@bellsouth.net](mailto:re_mehlan@bellsouth.net)

## Strengthen the Church UCC Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church offering is a beautiful way of how people within the UCC community help build up the Body of Christ. Your gifts are shared equally between conferences and the national setting. They help nurture leadership, support new churches, strengthen youth ministry, and encourage fresh ideas in existing congregations.

We will receive this offering on Sunday, **June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## Book Club



The next Book club meeting will be at the church on **Tuesday, June 2 at 7PM**. Please meet in the sanctuary since another group will be using the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you bring a snack and set it on the counter in the kitchen. The discussion will be led by Janet Derby about the book, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah.

Be prepared to decide if *We All Live Here* by JoJo Moyes should be considered for future discussion.

Because of summer plans, we won't be meeting in July and will resume meeting in August. Take care and happy reading!



## THE SEEKERS

The Seekers Group will meet next on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:lauriespencergardens@gmail.com)

## Smiles in the Sanctuary

On Sunday, May 10, Lee Fadeley, as the 10AM Liturgist, presented the reasons why he and his wife, Melissa, give to Pilgrimage UCC which takes place prior to the taking of the weekly offering. I'm sure folks in our congregation agree that Lee has a reputation for giving presentations that are witty and engaging, using clever humor that makes him a remarkably compelling speaker. **Once again this charismatic presenter made his dialog enjoyable by using lyrics or lines.** Below, is his presentation, with the artists, song titles or movie in order. We thought it was worth repeating and that you enjoy reading what follows:

### ***Name That Tune!***

**"...in the name of love..."** – U2, *In the Name of Love*.

**"Come as you are, as you were, as I want you to be as a friend:"** - Nirvana, *Come as You Are*.

**"Can you pay my bills? Can you pay my telephone bills?"** -Destiny's Child, *Bills, Bills, Bills*.

**"The time has come to say fair's fair, to pay the rent now, to pay our share"** – Midnight Oil, *Beds are Burning*.

**"But we're never gonna survive, unless we get a little crazy"** – Seal, *Crazy*.

**"Baby did a bad, bad thing"** – Chris Issak, *Baby Did a Bad, Bad Thing*.

**"I'm not bad. I'm just drawn this way"** – Jessica Rabitt, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

**"Someday we'll figure all this out, try to put an end to all our doubt, try to find a way to make things better now that maybe someday we'll live our lives out loud, we'll be better off somehow, someday"** – Rob Thomas, *Someday*.

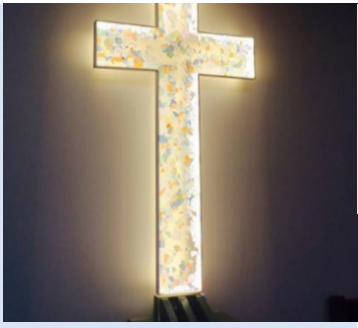


## PUCC SANDWICH CLUB SUPPORT GROUP

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, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Email Trish Greeves at [trishgreeves@me.com](mailto:trishgreeves@me.com) if you have any questions.



## PUCC Vision Statement

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



## JUNE EVENTS

- Book Club 6/2 @ 7PM
- Inquirers Class 6/7 @ 11:30AM
- Joining Sunday 6/14 & Sloppy Joes Potluck @ 11:30AM
- Primary Runoff Election Day 6/16
- Father’s Day 6/21
- Seekers Group 6/23 @ 7PM
- Sandwich Club 6/27 @ 3PM
- Congregational Meeting 6/28 @ 11:30AM

## STAFF

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

**Music Director, Jake Daron**

**Accompanist, Anna Mbiad**

**Administrative Assistant, Lynne Buell**  
[office@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org)

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Ph: 770-971-0007

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## BIRTHDAYS

- 06/01 Greg Kask
- 06/05 Trish Greeves
- 06/05 Wade Jones
- 06/06 Maddie Alexander
- 06/11 Fran Howard
- 06/13 Jim Ward
- 06/18 Quinn Schnitzlein
- 06/21 Joyce Baker
- 06/28 Trudy Stoddert
- 06/29 Lynne Buell
- 06/29 Lisa Toomey

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 06/07 Bruce & Michelle Brumfield
- 06/22 Tony & Gabriela Mills
- 06/22 Chris & Julia Shiver

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