



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

Worship *by Juliann Heilhecker*



“winning,” if you damage the relationship. We were still family even if there were hurts, failures, and disappointments.

Here we are in 2026. So many voices clamoring for attention. The noise is deafening and unrelenting. Many of the voices are fear filled, desperately trying to pass their fear on to us. Some are greed based, trying to convince us that we simply must have something that we didn't even know that we lacked. Others are just distractions from all the other loud demanding voices.

I pray that this time in our church will be a place of deep sharing and deep hearing. A place where we can hear that “still small voice.” Jesus said, “my sheep know my voice.” (John 10:27) There is a voice deep inside that is heard when we relax and listen above the static and noise of the agitation around us. That voice has the answers that we seek and offers truth that will set us free. That voice never shouts. It whispers. As you tune into that whisper of life, you are tuning to the voice that spoke creation into being. Listen to that whisper, and soon it becomes all you want to hear, and all that agitation that was so urgent and loud seems distant and of little consequence.

Breathe, smile, relax and listen to the whisper!

Pastor Phil

I remember supper time when I was growing up. It was loud. Everyone was talking at the same time. Eight kids, and most of the time, a friend or two. It usually took an intervention from mom or dad to get attention directed to one person who was telling a story or who might be asking for the potatoes to be passed. The discipline never lasted long and soon stories and requests and objections would be piled on each other like kids playing backyard football. It was a cacophony of sound - laughs, squeals, rebuttals, whines - voices rising to be heard in the midst of intense competition.

Looking back, it turns out that it was good training for life. Disagreements were allowed, insults weren't. The heat of honest emotions were allowed, taking it physical was not. You had to learn the art of gaining an audience; just because you were talking doesn't mean anyone was listening. You had to learn the art of persuasion; just because someone listens, doesn't mean they are convinced. There is no sense in

From Lent to Easter. From contemplation and self-reflection to celebration of life. From death to resurrection. How do we get from death to life? On my own personal journey, I am clinging to the hope and promise of resurrection even more intensely. After the sudden loss of my oldest brother, this road to salvation and resurrection has become even more necessary and real. As we approach Easter, the Lenten season becomes more important and necessary to really appreciate the joy and promise of life after death.

What is your personal Lenten and Easter journey? How does the resurrection story fit into your life? As we approach Holy Week, here are some important dates to put on your calendar:

After the exaltation of Palm Sunday that occurred on March 29th, we will continue with the following services:

Maundy Thursday service will be April 2nd at 7:00 PM. This is an important service that reflects on the love Jesus had for his disciples even among the knowledge that one of them would betray him. What a powerful example of forgiveness and more than anything else: generous love.

Easter Services will be on April 5th at 8:30 and 10:00. The choir will sing at both services.

Parish Life



Once again, Parish Life will host our annual Easter Egg hunt at 11:30 on Easter Sunday April 5. How the Easter Egg Hunt works: The eggs will be scattered across the lawn and playground, and we'll need a few volunteers to hide eggs on Easter morning after the 10:00 service. Then the children will search for and fill their baskets or bags with the collected empty plastic eggs. Next, they will come inside the church to exchange their eggs for a GOODY BAG to take home! It's a fun end to a very meaningful and joyful day with our church family!

Also, Parish Life and Christian Education will host a Parents Night Out on Saturday April 25. Parents are invited to drop their children off at the church at 5:00 PM and pick up by 8:00 PM to allow yourselves some private time to unwind. This is free of charge! Nursery will be provided. Activities for the evening include make your own pizza, decorating (and eating!) cookies, games, music, BINGO, a craft project, and possibly more - a fun evening for the kids! Please sign up for the event by emailing Susan Volentine at svolentine@bellsouth.net

Carol and Susan
Parish Life Co-chairs

Missions



During April and May, we will be collecting donations for our Annual Neva Reitz Memorial Book Drive.

This year we will donate books to "Simple Needs Georgia", who will use the books for their birthday program (children get a new book along with other items). Because the books will be gifts, we are asking for new books only for infants through early teens. The collection cart will be in the Narthex.

Thank you for your help in brightening a child's special day!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Family Promise of Cobb County is seeking volunteers to help at the Day Center – answering phones, straightening up and assisting staff as needed.

Training will be provided.

Volunteers are needed Monday – Friday, 10:00 to 3:00, but even an hour or two would be helpful.

If you are interested, contact Cindy Westlake for more information at:

pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com

Cindy Westlake
Missions Chair

Properties Workday

We're coming together to care for our church home and would love your help!

On Saturday, April 11 beginning at 9AM, we'll be cleaning, organizing, and doing any light indoor work in the kitchen, Faith Formation room, toys in the nursery, and the closet.

Cleanup matters for many reasons, especially when we notice new faces every Sunday who choose our church to join us in worship.

Laurie Spencer will provide lunch, so if you can help—even if it's only for an hour—let her know at:

Lauriespencergardens@gmail.com

pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com

PUCC SANDWICH CLUB SUPPORT GROUP

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 in charge.

Their next meeting is Saturday, April 25th at 3:00 p.m.

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

THE SEEKERS

The Seekers Group will next meet on Tuesday, April 28th at 7PM.

If you have been looking to connect with an intimate study group to deepen your connection to the church and be a part of a warm, loving circle of friends, reach out to Laurie Spencer at:

lauriespencergardens@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB



Book Club will meet at the home of Fran Howard on Saturday, April 11 @ 4PM. The discussion will be led by Susan Valentine on the book she suggested, "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. If you would like to carpool or if you would like to be added to the book club email list, contact Karen Clark at:

karensclark@comcast.net

Help Wanted

Greg Kask is looking for two more counters to complete our Sunday morning counting team. Each Sunday two volunteers do the count. Each counter counts about 8 to 9 times a year.

This involves staying after the 10am service to record the offertory and any checks received via mail. One of the counters then is responsible for taking the deposit(s) to a Bank of America location convenient to them. Training is included free of charge!

If you have questions or are interested in signing on, please contact Greg at:

pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com

Congregational Meeting with Pastor Phil

In March, Pastor Phil extended two invitations for meet & greet gatherings on Saturday March 7th and Sunday, March 29th. These gatherings were well attended, and they opened the door for communication between pastor and community with coffee and snacks as a backdrop.

It's obvious that our Interim Pastor is enthusiastic about learning why we love our church; building our trust by letting us know that our voices matter as we begin this journey together.

On Sunday, April 12th immediately following the 10:00 service, Pastor Phil is having a congregational meeting in the Sanctuary. He will explain his role in the current existence of our church by clarifying the basic flow of the transitional time between our former pastor through the Call of a new settled pastor, including the process of selecting a Search Team.

There will be no agenda—just conversation and an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and grow in shared understanding as a faith community.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Janet Derby still needs helpers for Vacation Bible School (July 20-24). If you enjoy spending time with children, helping with crafts or snacks, helping behind the scenes, or simply lending a hand where needed, we would love to have you—even for a day or two, it will make a difference. No teaching experience required—just a willing heart!

We're excited about the plans coming together, and we have two great pictures planned for the t-shirts. Ordering information is forthcoming.

See Janet or contact her at:

derby.jm@gmail.com

Join the
FAMILY !

Church is more than a building—it's a family. Whether you are new to faith, returning after time away, or simply looking for a place to belong, you are always welcome at Pilgrimage UCC.

Pastor Phil is offering to help with the discerning process.

There will be 3-sessions of Inquirer's Classes for anyone interested in learning about the UCC in general and Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in particular. They will be immediately following the 10:00 service on:

- April 26
- May 17
- June 7

Topics to be covered include:
*The history of Christianity from the Reformation until the formation of the United Church of Christ in the 1950s.
*The United Church of Christ today—what it is and what they believe.

*Pilgrimage United Church of Christ—the unique aspects of our faith community, how we are organized, and what are our values and visions.

For folks who would like to join as official members, we will have "Joining Sunday" on June 14.

Please contact Pastor Phil directly or the office at:

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org

office@pilgrimageucc.org



PUCC Vision Statement

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



APRIL EVENTS

- Maundy Thurs. Service 04/02 @ 7PM
- Easter 04/05 Worship at 8:30 & 10:00AM and Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30AM
- Church Workday 04/11 at 9AM-Noon
- Interim Pastor Congregational Mtg 04/12 at 11:30AM
- Sandwich Club 04/25 at 3PM & Parents Night Out at 5PM-8PM.
- Spiritual Seekers Group 04/28 at 7PM

STAFF

- Interim Pastor, Rev. Phil Price
- Music Director, Jake Daron
- Accompanist, Anna Mbiad
- Administrative Assistant, Lynne Buell
office@pilgrimageucc.org

3755 Sandy Plains Rd.
Marietta, Georgia 30066
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BIRTHDAYS

- 04/08 Stephen Williams
- 04/10 Shelby Reitz
- 04/14 Skyra Loche
- 04/14 Nancy Dinger
- 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