

Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. ROMANS 12:12

PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org



Dear Beloved,

Our Lenten theme this year is taken from "The Grief Lectionary," a resource designed by the Rev. Collette Broady Grund. It is a six-week study that uses stories from Scripture and connects them to a part of the grief journey, loosely based on the six stages of grief. Whether you are actively grieving a particular loss or need space to process the more general communal losses we've experienced as a congregation and a global community in recent years, my hope is that this series will speak to each of us wherever we are. Grief is part of being human, and finding ways to make meaning of our humanness is part of the spiritual life.

Beginning on March 5, I will also offer the full Grief Lectionary study for anyone interested. Those sessions will be in the evening on Sundays from 7:00-8:15 p.m. and will be hybrid in-person and online (the link will appear in E-Tidings every Friday).

Our Ash Wednesday worship included a ritual in which we wrote down on water soluble paper a grief we hope to explore this Lent. We dropped that paper into a bowl of water, and then those who wished to, planted a seed. We

combined the water of our grief with some fresh water for the seeds. Those seeds are already sprouting! They are in the sanctuary on a table to the left of the chancel. Throughout Lent, watching the seeds grow will serve as a reminder that even in the depths of grief God is doing something new.

Lastly, I am asking us to try something new in worship during the Lenten season. After celebrating our birthdays and anniversaries we will move directly into a time of prayer. Instead of announcing our joys and concerns, I will lead us in an opening prayer and will then take the mic around the sanctuary. Those who wish to do so will be invited to offer a prayer directly to God in whatever language feels comfortable, still closing with "This is my prayer," so that we together can respond, "This is our prayer." For those who offer prayers on livestream, I will read those aloud when I return to the pulpit before leading us into The Lord's Prayer. We learn new ways to pray by praying in community, and so our prayers of the people will be an opportunity to learn from one another and to practice praying in new ways.

Though the topic we are exploring is heavy I pray that we have a good Lent that helps us fully embrace the hope of resurrection. If you ever find yourself struggling during this season, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, to your deacon, to your spiritual companions within the congregation. We cannot do this alone, nor were we meant to.

God loves you, and so do I.

Courtney



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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CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

By Rochelle Lofstrand

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com



Thanks to everyone for attending our meeting in January to vote on our Mission Spending Plan and our Vision Statement. Over the next couple of months, Council will begin drafting goals that are related to our vision statement:

*An Open and Affirming faith
community living out Christ's love
through acceptance, learning, service, and action.*

We want one goal associated with acceptance, learning, service, and action for a total of 4 goals. These goals will help lead our work over the next five years. An example of a goal might be:

⇒ By 2028, PUCC will increase the learning opportunities for our adults by having a total of five adult classes offered throughout the year.

Once Council has drafted goals with the help of our committees, we will present them to the congregation for review.

It has been a true honor to serve Pilgrimage as President this year. The nominating committee is already hard at work recruiting new members to the team. If you are interested in serving PUCC as a member of the Council and have hesitation or questions, please reach out so we can talk about the different positions. Your voice matters, and I pray that you consider helping lead PUCC into our future!

CHRISTIAN ED

Janet Derby & Darlene Wagner, Co-Chairs

pilgrimageucce@gmail.com



VBS News!

This year's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 17 - 21 with the theme *Gone Fishing*. Information regarding t-shirts, registration, sponsors, and snack wizards will come later, but we have some items you can begin helping with now.

First, we are hoping to create a new banner for the sanctuary, so we are looking for people who would be willing to help design and create it.

Secondly, we have a few mission projects that you can help with, and we wanted to give you lots of time to gather the items. We will be putting together outdoor activity kits for children for MUST Ministries, so we need items to put in the bags. We will also be doing Socks of Love for Simple Needs Georgia to give to the homeless. For those, we need small (to fit in a tube sock) toiletry items such as:

- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- combs
- deodorant
- shampoo
- soap

For the activity kits, we will need toys that will fit in a gallon plastic bag, such as:

- jump ropes
- beach balls (still in packaging)
- outdoor chalk
- bubbles
- squirt guns
- small frisbees

There will be a box in the Narthex from now through July to collect these and other items.

Thank you as always for your support of this program.

WORSHIP

Diane Reese, Chair

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



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 entire staff, as well as the incredible team of volunteers are very much appreciated because they help with all the details aspects that go into weekly worship.

A special thank you goes to our Associate Minister of the Southeast Conference of the UCC, Rev. Heather Fosburgh, for leading worship for both services on Sunday, February 5, while Rev. Courtney was away visiting family.

Thank you, Ric Reitz, for spending numerous hours after the 10:00 service on January 29th to work out the connections issues that prevented live-streaming that morning. Because of his efforts, we were back on line the following Sunday.

We are in the season of Lent and are reflecting on the many blessings surrounding us at Pilgrimage UCC. Mark your calendars for Palm Sunday on April 2, Maundy Thursday on April 6, and Easter Sunday on April 9.

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:

February 05: Juliann Heilhecker & Monty Wyne
February 12: Amy Jones & Alicia Ottley
February 19: Janet Derby & Molly Moss
February 22: Anne Mooney (Ash Wednesday)
February 26: Sharon Getty & Duke Yaguchi

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

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

If you would like to usher or be a greeter, contact Jamie Durkee at: jjdurkee11@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Anne Mooney, Duke Yaguchi, Co-Chairs

pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com

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

(Pilgrimage UCC Vision Statement)

In January's congregational meeting we made two important decisions that affect the life of our church. We approved our Mission Spending Plan and we also approved the above Vision Statement. The Vision Statement represents our priorities and our identity as we consider who we are. Our Mission Spending Plan is one way we live out Christ's love as we fund the ongoing life of our congregation as we serve each other and the world at large.

But finances are not the only way we support our vision and mission. Many hands make light work, and we have many opportunities for members and visitors to get involved in worship, learning, justice seeking, mission work, communications, property maintenance, leadership, and fellowship.

Throughout the month of March, Stewardship will be inviting you to complete a Time and Talent Survey letting us know ways that you may be willing and interested in living out Christ's love within our faith community. We have several specific leadership needs, but we are always encouraging folks to find other ways to get involved. Please take the time to look over, pray about, and complete the Time and Talent Survey. You can return it to church and place it in the offering plate, turn in to the church office, or hand in to Anne Mooney or Duke Yaguchi.

Below are some specific leadership needs:

- Vice-President (this position rolls over into President the following year)
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Deacons (we need 4-5 new deacons so our hard-working deacons can focus on 10-22 families each)
- Co-Chair for Stewardship Committee
- Co-Chair for Worship Committee
- The Mission Committee would like a member who is interested in focusing on researching and informing the congregation about social justice issues and events.

Thank you for your generous spirits!

Anne Mooney and Duke Yaguchi, Co-chairs



CLIMATE CHANGE – A Christian Concern *by Hugh Lowrey*

Those of us who want to become involved in pushing for more vigorous action to stop climate change may greatly increase individual effectiveness by joining a group organized for that purpose. I will describe some of the more prominent ones that focus on climate alone, omitting those that promote conservation in general.

The best-known climate organization is **350.org**, founded by Bill McKibben, academic, author and organizer of protests. The protest-in-the-street is their tool, and they have used it against new pipelines and against corporations that were perceived as opposing or delaying action on the climate.

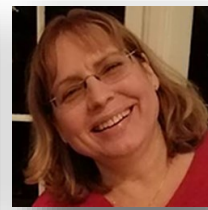
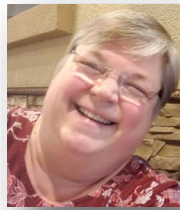
More recently, McKibben has created **Third Act**, for climate advocates who are retired. Members write letters to the editor, register young people to vote, evaluate and, if necessary, change their banks and investment companies to choose environmentally conscious ones, and promote open and fair elections. Members of a chapter or cell may be neighbors or may be geographically scattered, sharing interests or religious belief.

Al Gore, former vice president, founded the **Climate Reality Project**. He is probably the best-known climate alarmist, for his 2006 film “An Inconvenient Truth.” Climate Reality describes its activities as accelerating energy transition and promoting change with vigor, justice and concern for public health as green communities are built and other aspects of climate mitigation are addressed. Neither this organization nor the following one ordinarily engages in public demonstrations.

Citizens Climate Lobby emphasizes lobbying legislatures to adopt climate mitigation legislation, and lobbying cities, publications and prominent citizens to promote vigorous action to counter climate change. Historically, the main purpose of Citizens Climate Lobby was promotion of a carbon tax with distribution of proceeds to citizens, and with border adjustment. A carbon tax has become political poison and Citizens Climate Lobby has deemphasized it, adopting other approaches that are more like those of Climate Reality Project. Both organizations are international in scope, with local chapters that take specific actions. Both offer extensive training for members.

PARISH LIFE

Susan Volentine & Carol Hill, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com



Happy March! April will be here before we know it, and your Parish Life co-chairs are happy to host our second Annual Pilgrimage Easter Brunch on Easter Sunday, April 9! This will take place after the sunrise service and before the 10:00 service. Come when it is convenient for you, and please bring a dish to share. If you need suggestions, please contact Carol or Susan for ideas. Carol: (770-401-6243) Susan: (770-380-5630).



Also, we will have the Annual Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 service! Instead of filling the plastic eggs with candy, the children will search for and collect the empty eggs around the property—rain or shine—

if it rains, we will hide the eggs indoors!), and then turn them in for a goodie bag to take home. Please bring a basket or bag for your child to collect eggs in. You can help us by donating individually wrapped candy and small items like toys, stickers, coloring pages, mini activity books, etc. to fill the take-away bags. There will be a marked box in the Narthex where you can drop your goodies beginning March 5th. You may make your donations until April 2. Thank you in advance!

If you would like to get your feet wet with a Parish Life activity, Easter is a fun one! We will need people to help fill the goodie bags on April 2nd (between services), scatter the eggs on April 9th, and help set out the food for the brunch. Please see Carol or Susan to volunteer!



MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair

pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com



Thanks to everyone who made our Undie Sundays collection so successful! The clients at MUST Ministries will truly appreciate it.

Our next collection will be our Annual Neiva Reitz Book Drive in April and May. Stay tuned for more details.

MUST also is especially in need of these non-perishable food items:

- Cereal
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Ramen Noodles
- Peanut Butter
- Rice (1-2 lb. bags)

They are also in need of shampoo (travel and full size) as well as new bath towels.

Our next Family Promise Host Week is April 2-9 (Holy Week). It is a wonderful experience, so please consider helping if you will be in town!



**Our next meeting is Tuesday,
March 7 at 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Rita Mehlan.**

The book for discussion is:

**“The Island of Sea Women”
by Lisa See**

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

roberthow@aol.com

COMMUNICATIONS

Trudy Stoddert & Helene O'Neill

Co-chairs

pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com



Website Refresh

We are still looking for volunteers to provide statements of why they are members/why they love PUCC for our website. We'll also need a photo of you. You can either send your own photo in, or we can take photos at PUCC. If you are interested in being featured on our website, please email office@pilgrimageucc.org, or chat with Trudy in person.

How Do You Like to Communicate?

Some people love to talk on the phone. Others would rather eat dirt than answer a call -- "Text me please!"

In order to better serve the community, we are collecting info on how you prefer to be contacted, especially in terms of pastoral care (would you like Rev. Courtney to check in with you by phone, by email, or by text)?

This info will also be helpful to the PUCC community at large since it will be noted in a column in our directory.

Please reach out to Lynne at office@pilgrimageucc.org and let her know your preference, and she will update our member directory. Also, make sure she has your accurate personal and contact information.

Thank you,

Trudy
Co-chair

DEACONS

By Juliann Heilhecker & Stephen Williams
Co-chairs
pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com



Trivia Night Update

As promised, there were no Golden Girls questions at this year's Trivia Night and Potluck. 😊

Here is what the final Bonus Question was:

“A very popular novel of 1970 quickly became a very popular movie, also in 1970. The tag line of the movie was, “*Love means never having to say you're sorry.*” Name that movie. See, now wasn't that an easy one? 😊

Our winning team was the “90's” Team which included, Michelle, Angela, Matthew, Michael, Lynne, Trish, Trudy, Courtney, Auggie and of course, Teddy.

A fun time was had by all, and I want to thank everyone who brought food and participated. I especially want to thank the deacons, Stephen, Carol, Rita, and Katie, for coordinating the event and decorating their tables according to their decade. I also want to thank Michael and Matthew for being the runners who were passing me the answers from each table.

If you have never been to a Trivia Night potluck event, please don't miss the next one. What's not to enjoy; great food and friendly competition makes for great fellowship!

Spirituality Retreat

This year's Spirituality Retreat will take place April 21, 2023 in Ellijay, GA.

The theme for this year is "Planted By God". Please let Rochelle Lofstrand know if you would like to attend.

Details such as cost, cabin specifics, registration, and other information can be found by clicking on the link below.

Please consider joining us for a weekend of prayer, community, and learning.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTrn_79vc2V48C9Fuf5Q1tI5ONDO3S7Eay--cGJ6Egugggvw/viewform?usp=sf_link



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world.

The UCC correlates in mutual partnership with churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks. Your contributions to OGHS help meet immediate needs, and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

We will receive this special offering on March 27, 2022.

March Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

03/02 Mariah Durkee
03/02 Tony Hyland
03/05 Jemma Nelson
03/07 Deb Loche
03/07 Emma Roberts
03/08 Michelle Brumfield
03/08 Elliott Clark
03/08 Monica Helms
03/08 Joe Martin
03/10 Jake Alexander
03/10 Michael Gula
03/11 Bill Dischinger
03/11 Rita Mehlan
03/14 Neil Clark
03/15 Jamie Durkee
03/16 Duke Yaguchi
03/18 Ben Shiver
03/19 Jen Schuck
03/20 Kolby Holliday
03/20 Corey Reitz
03/21 Ryan Durkee
03/22 Allison Prah
03/27 Gavin Roth
03/28 Jennifer Wyne

ANNIVERSARIES

03/09 Duke & Polly Yaguchi
03/22 Jim & Jean Ward
03/24 Sunny & Matthew Alexander

If we missed someone,
email Lynne at:

office@pilgrimageucc.org



Daylight Saving Time

The annual ritual of changing our clocks to daylight saving time is coming at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 12.

By the way...

The correct term is daylight "saving" (not savings) time. However, the incorrect term "daylight savings time" is commonly used, especially in Australia, Canada and the United States. It's also supposed to be lowercase, not uppercase, according to the Associated Press stylebook. Just thought you would like to know.

Anyway, remember to mark your calendar for Saturday evening, March 11, to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

STAFF

<p>Pastor</p> <p>Music Director</p> <p>Accompanist</p> <p>Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>Rev. Courtney Jones</p> <p>Asa Bradley</p> <p>Anna Mbiad</p> <p>Lynne Buell</p>
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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. https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta

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.

The Month in Sundays

Mar.	5	<p>Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)</p> <p>Lent 2</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</p>
Mar.	12	<p>Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)</p> <p>Lent 3</p> <p>Missions Committee Mtg (9:15 a.m.)</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</p>
Mar.	19	<p>Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)</p> <p>OGHS Special Offering</p> <p>Lent 4</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</p>
Mar.	26	<p>Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)</p> <p>Lent 5</p> <p>Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</p> <p>PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)</p>