

# PILGRIM'S Progress

December 2025

*"You will have joy and gladness, and  
many will rejoice at his birth."  
LUKE 1:14*

## WORSHIP

Juliann Heilhecker & Joyanna Wyne  
Co-Chairs  
[pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com)



In this season of Advent, let us look to the 4 weeks of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we anticipate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I know it is hard to see anything positive in the world today, but all we have to do is look with Christ's eyes, spirit, and heart. Here are some words of comfort from Sanctified Art.

*I feel hopeful when we gather together. I know hope, deep in my bones, when we dream of a better world. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. May the flicker of the Candle of Hope help us remember that we have reason to hope.*

*I see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together. Even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.*

*I see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. I see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. I see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.*

*I see love all around us. I see love when people hold open the door. I see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. I see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Love*

*is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it."*

This Advent Season, let us be the people that God wants us to be; sharing our love and bounty with each other, with our community, with the world.

Please note some minor changes in our worship calendar.

- There will be one service on Music Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM so that we can worship as one congregation. Jess Cusick will preach.
- Matthew Alexander will preach Blue Christmas, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- The children will present a Christmas Play for the Family service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.
- The candlelight service will be at 9:00 PM.
- There will be only one service on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

Remember that Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are always near with God.

Peace and love to you all,

Juliann and Joyanna



## 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)



Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. We trust that you had time with folks that you love and enjoyed watching football or whatever your tradition may be! We have much to be grateful for and we have much to be in prayer about...may we be present with both needs.

Fortunately, there is not too much new news to share. As you know, the interim Pastor has been selected: Phil or Philip Price. He is moving here with his wife from Indiana. They plan to settle in Canton, GA near children and grandchildren that also live there. We don't have a final start date but we expect mid-January. We'll send out a separate announcement once this is known.

The worship committee has done an awesome job of filling our pulpit supply with wonderful pastoral placements as we move through advent and into the new year. Please plan to be in community with us during this time so that we can continue to strengthen our bonds and invite the creator into our spaces and hearts.

It is now time for the Council to focus on our Mission Spending Budget for 2026. If you have not submitted your written pledges, PLEASE DO SO! We need this information to see what we have to work with. If you can complete this online, that is the fastest and simplest way to get that information to us or you can certainly put it in the offering plate.

Please be safe during the upcoming Holiday Season. We pray for you and your families daily.

Heyward

## MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair

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



It's holiday time, so our beloved Angel Tree is back! The kids supported by Simple Needs GA would love it if you would take a tag or two off of the Angel Tree in the Narthex. (Approximate cost of item is on the back of the tag).

Please return your unwrapped gift (tag not necessary) to the collection box in the Narthex by Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

THANK YOU!

## December Book Club



We will not have a book discussion during December. (We will resume our discussion group on Sunday, January 7th. The book for discussion is "The Music of Bees" by Eileen Garvin.)

All are invited to the Annual PUCC Ornament Exchange. Bring a wrapped Christmas tree ornament and an appetizer or dessert to Rita Mehlan's home (3507 Nantucket Drive, Marietta) at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to carpool should let Karen Clark ([karensclark@comcast.net](mailto:karensclark@comcast.net)) know that you'd like a ride and meet in the PUCC parking lot at 1:35.

It's always a rollicking good time as we exchange and steal each other's beautiful, fun, or silly ornaments, so mark your calendar now.



## Join KnightSong for our Christmas Concert "Christmas Through Music"

"The 1808"  
1237 Cherokee Street  
Kennesaw GA

December 6th at 7:00 pm at The 1808

*"Our program will include carols and music you already know, and love; along with other beautifully performed compositions you may not yet know but will love. It is our goal to bring you joy and imbue your heart and soul with the spirit of Christmas!"*

Two of our Pilgrimage Sanctuary choir members are also members of the KnightSong A Capella group: Juliann Heilhecker and Helene O'Neill. This evening will be a delightful way to begin the Christmas season and support two of our Pilgrimage singers.

Get your tickets by clicking on the link below:

<https://knightsong.ticketspice.com/knight-song-christmas-through-music>

## Sandwich Club

Sandwich Club will not meet during December. They will resume their meeting on Saturday, January 24th at 2:00 PM at the church.

Please let Trish Greeves know of anyone you think should also be invited or if for any reason you'd like your name removed from this mailing list for the time being.

[trishgreeves@me.com](mailto:trishgreeves@me.com)



## Special Advent Services

### MUSIC SUNDAY

December 14—1 Service @ 9AM—Rev. Jess Cusick preaching

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 18—7:00PM—Rev. Dr. Matthew Alexander preaching

### FAMILY SERVICE—CHRISTMAS EVE —CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

December 24—4:30PM—Rev. Dr. Matthew Alexander preaching

### SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS— CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24—9:00PM—Rev. Tom Query preaching

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28—1 Service @ 9PM



On Tuesday, December 30, 2025, we will serve the guests of MUST Ministries a nutritious lunch. The location is:

MUST Hope House,  
1297 Bells Ferry Rd  
Marietta, GA 30066

There are usually about 130 guests for lunch. We will need 4 -5 volunteers to help cook starting at 10:15 a.m. and 4 -5 volunteers to help serve starting at 11:30 a.m. If you are going to help cook and stay to serve please sign both sheets on the poster in the narthex. Volunteers must enter through the front door and clear security before coming to the kitchen.

Cash donations can be made to buy chicken and side items since we must do all cooking on site at MUST. Donations can be sent to the church by check, or you can make your payment through PayPal or Zelle.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer please contact Dick Mehlan or Susan Hintz at:

[re\\_mehlan@bellsouth.net](mailto:re_mehlan@bellsouth.net) or [susanjhintz13@gmail.com](mailto:susanjhintz13@gmail.com)



## SPIRITUAL SEEKERS GROUP

The Seekers is a spiritual growth group that has been meeting for several years each month and has studied a wide range of books.

They will not meet in December, but will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00PM. They will be reading the last chapters of their current book, and will discuss new book ideas. It will be a good time to join as new members are always welcome. If you are interested, please can contact Laurie Spencer at:

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

## December Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

12/02 Patrick Prah  
12/02 Emory McDuffie  
12/03 Chris Shiver  
12/07 Amy Jones  
12/15 John Roth  
12/23 Noel Reitz  
12/24 Bill McNulty  
12/25 Rochelle Lofstrand  
12/28 Hannah Alexander  
12/28 Nancy Donahue  
12/30 Stu Gillespie  
12/31 Katie Bridges

### ANNIVERSARIES

12/05 Bill & Lois Dischinger  
12/21 Fran & Bob Howard  
12/21 Monty & Joyanna Wyne  
12/26 Carol Hill & Eden White  
12/30 Neil & Karen Clark

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

## STAFF

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

**In Discernment**  
**Jake Daron**  
**Anna Mbiad**  
**Lynne Buell**

## Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

Pilgrimage UCC Website:	<b>www.pilgrimageucc.org</b>	Music-Jake Daron:	<b>jakedaron3@outlook.com</b>
Pastor-Rev. Courtney Jones	<b>pastor@pilgrimageucc.org</b>	Worship:	<b>pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com</b>
Office-Lynne Buell:	<b>office@pilgrimageucc.org</b>	Christian Education:	<b>pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com</b>
Council:	<b>pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com</b>	VBS-Janet Derby:	<b>pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com</b>
Council Moderator:	<b>pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com</b>	Communications:	<b>pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com</b>
Treasurer:	<b>pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com</b>	Missions:	<b>pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com</b>
Council Fin. Secretary:	<b>pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com</b>	Properties:	<b>pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com</b>
Deacons	<b>pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com</b>	Stewardship:	<b>pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.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

Dec.	7	Advent 2 Communion Both Services Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)
Dec.	14	Advent 3 MUSIC SUNDAY Worship (9:00 a.m.) - ONE SERVICE
Dec.	21	Advent 4 Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)
Dec.	28	Worship (9:00 a.m.) - ONE SERVICE PFLAG (1:00 p.m.)