



PUCC Vision Statement

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

Congregational Meeting

Following the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, February 1st, we will have our Annual Congregational Financial Meeting. We wish to share with you the proposed 2026 Mission Spending Plan, after which the members will have the chance to ask questions pending a vote to accept.

In addition to the members of Pilgrimage UCC, we are extending an invitation to our faithful friends who regularly attend worship with us and/or provide their financial support to this ministry, although only 'official' members can vote.

Please view the proposed 2026 Mission Spending Plan prior to the meeting. The link can be found in Friday's *Etidings*

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

What can we learn from Fern?

The storm named Fern blew through last week and upended many plans and expectations.

We had planned that January 25 be my first Sunday at Pilgrimage and would be the Sunday that many of us would meet for the first time. Those plans had to be adjusted as the forecast called for icy conditions such that going to church could be dangerous. The church leadership decided that the "plan" was not worth the risk, so the plan was changed.

Storms happen. We adjust. Life goes on. There is no, "storm free existence." Storms of this kind are not personal. There is no one individual, or group, who "sinned" that is the cause of this storm. Earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods and volcanoes are no longer understood to be actions of the gods, meted out as expressions of anger or punishment.

I am reminded of the storm that the disciples got caught in while crossing a lake. Jesus was asleep in the boat. The faith lesson we learn from that story is that faith is the essential quality that helps us get through the storm, rather than the power to make the storm go away.

Storms happen. Faith is what it takes to get through it.

Here are a few other things that help.

Preparation matters: No matter what storm you are going through, preparation matters. We had about a week's warning on this one. We had time to prepare for power outages. (I got my gen-set ready to go.) We had time to prepare for disruptions in food and gasoline supply. Without equivocation, those who were better prepared, fared better. The Boy Scout motto is a good one.

Flexibility matters: Plans are good, but they are based on assumptions. As what is assumed changes, plan must change accordingly. This is not wish-washy, this is wisdom.

Storms are learning opportunities. Never waste a good storm. They come pre-loaded with advanced level learning opportunities. It is a sad reality that many folks take many storms to learn undergrad level truths and often have to repeat courses that could have been passed either by reading or by a single experience.

Transition time is hardly a storm level experience, but there are some similarities. Transition times happen regularly. There is no one to blame and most times, they are no one's "fault."

Preparation, planning, execution, wise choices, all come into play and very much determine outcome.

Flexibility. The capacity to pay attention to what is happening and to adjust accordingly is crucial.

Having faith. Knowing that we have been called to "get to the other side." This means that no matter what storms we face, we will trust, and we will do what is necessary to fulfill that to which we have been called.

I am very excited about getting to know you, to facing storms together, to celebrating life with you, and to being faithful to our joint call to serve the interests to this church, and the possibility of God's reign on earth!

Blessings,
Pastor Phil

**Family Promise

Locations



Covenant Presbyterian Church

(Where the guests sleep)

2881 Canton Rd.
Marietta, GA 30066



Grace House

(Where the guests eat their meals)

1823 Blackwell Rd.
Marietta, GA 30066
(Transfiguration Church grounds)



EASTER LILIES

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and this month we will begin selling Easter Lilies through March 1st. We will display our lilies at the Easter Sunday service on April 5th, 2026; after which, you are welcome to take your beautiful flowers home to enjoy.

Watch for details and the order link in the **February 5** Etidings.

Parish Life



The Pilgrimage UCC Annual Chili Cook-off and Bake Sale Fundraiser has been moved from Sunday, February 1st to Sunday, February 8th immediately following the 10:00 service. As in the past, you can taste each chili then vote with tickets you can purchase ahead of time to determine the first, second, and third place chili winners.

We will be selling tickets prior to and during the event for \$1 each, and you can use them to vote for chilies and buy baked goods. Cash, check, and electronic payments will all be accepted.

This year we are partnering with Missions to donate all monies collected to Family Promise of Cobb County, an organization we've supported for many years! Here is the link to the SignUp Genius with more information.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094BAEAB2DA6FB6-61673949-pucc>

Susan and Carol welcome any ideas or suggestions you might have for gatherings and good times throughout the year. We also invite anyone to join our committee (AKA 'The Party Committee', we do more than just host parties). Reach out to us if you would like to take part in the festivities!

Missions



It's February and at PUCC that also means Undie Sundays!

Throughout the month we will be collecting new underwear (including thermal underwear) and diapers (size 2 and pull-ups) for the clients of MUST Ministries. Please bring new socks, underwear and t-shirts for all genders and all ages.

Last year we donated over 250 items. Can we top that??

We're also getting ready to host our first Family Promise families of the new year! Host week begins Feb. 1st through the 8th. We still have a couple of slots open for volunteers. Click on the link below if you can help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4CAAAD2BA5FA7-61652765-family/106516880#/>

The guests sleep at Covenant Presbyterian Church** and have their meals at the Family Promise Day Center** (Grace House).

This is truly a missions project that provides an opportunity for many of us to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please see Cindy Westlake or Deb Loche if you have any questions.

Seekers Group



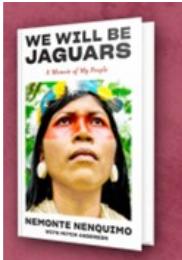
If you have been looking to connect with a small group to deepen your connection to Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, NOW is a great time to consider joining our monthly Seekers Group! The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 24 at 7 PM at the church.

The Seekers is an intimate study group. Over many years, we have forged deep friendships as we have studied books with a wide range of topics. We have tackled Christian and Buddhist authors, and many social justice themes, such as racial equality, climate change and poverty.

We welcome new members to join us as we choose our next book. We take several months to read one or two chapters at a time so there's no pressure!

Join us at the next meeting! Bring along some book suggestions or just come to see what it feels like to be a part of a warm, loving circle of friends who have curiosity and a yearning to make the world a more loving and inclusive place. Reach out to Laurie Spencer with questions.

lauriespencergardens@gmail.com



Book Club

February Book Club will meet on February 7th at 4PM at the home of Susan Valentine. Susan will provide beverages, and attendees are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Trish Greeves will lead the discussion on the book she suggested; *We Will be Jaguars* by Nemonte Nenquimo.

Please contact Karen Clark (karensclark@comcast.net; 770-330-3180) if you would like to meet at 3:45 p.m. at the church and carpool to Susan's home.

2025 TAX STATEMENTS

2025 tax statements will only be sent to you if you request one. To keep costs down, this decision will save paper and postage costs. If you need the pledge/giving recap for your taxes, please contact Greg at the above Gmail address.

Yours in Christ,

Greg Kask
Financial Secretary
pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com

WORSHIP by Juliann Heilhecker

Welcome Reverend Phil! After a delayed start, no thanks to the weather, we are excited to welcome you on your first preaching Sunday. Our congregation has been looking forward to having a consistent spiritual leader at the helm to lead us in Sunday Worship and to help with pastoral care.

I want to take this moment to thank all the pulpit supply who filled in during the time between Pastor Courtney and Pastor Phil. Thank you Tom Query, Jess Cusick, Matthew Alexander, Kimble Sorrells, Becky Nelson, and Heidi Schuler. You have all added your passion, intellect, and sensitivity to each Sunday.

I would like to offer this prayer as we move forward as one congregation:

Dear God, grant us unity and harmony as we move into a new period of growth and transformation. May we work together with love, integrity, and compassion. Amen.



Deacons' Potluck & Trivia Night

The Annual Deacon's Trivia Night and potluck has been scheduled for Saturday night, February 21st, with dinner beginning at 5PM and Trivia to follow at 5:45PM. Choose your favorite appetizer, main dish, dessert or drink to share. You will also have the opportunity to meet with your deacon family and take part in an evening of friendly competition and laughter!

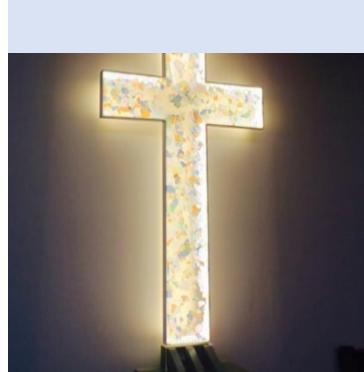
We look forward to seeing all you Trivia buffs there!!!

Trivia for Singles

A group of Pilgrimage singles are going to team up for trivia night on the third Tuesday of each month at Allesio's, Restaurant & Pizzeria in Roswell.

If you are single and would like to join us, please email Susan Valentine if you want to be added to the email list at:

svalentine@bellsouth.net



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Congregational Meeting
SUNDAY, Feb. 1 – Feb. 8

Family Promise Host Week
SUNDAY, Feb. 1 – Feb. 8

Parish Life Chili Cook-off & Bake Sale
SUNDAY, Feb. 8 @ 11:30AM

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18

Deacons' Potluck & Trivia Night
SATURDAY, Feb. 21 @ 5PM



STAFF

Interim Pastor, Rev. Phil Price

Interim Music Director, Jake Daron

Accompanist, Anna Mbiad

Administrative Assistant, Lynne Buell
office@pilgrimageucc.org

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

02/03 Lorelle Mills
02/04 Larkin McDuffie
02/05 Jaime Fulsang
02/07 Devin Scott
02/08 Ezra Loche
02/17 Matthew Wyne
02/28 Eli Scates

ANNIVERSARIES

02/22 Jeff & Jamie Durkee

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

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

pilgrimageucc.org