



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

### And, That's a Fact!

What is a "fact?" Are facts important? Who gets to decide that a fact is in fact a "fact."

Once upon a time there was this notion that facts were solid indisputable pieces of information. We've always known that opinions could be fluid, they could change, they could be influenced, but facts were facts. They were reliable, didn't change, and they were indifferent to feelings, indifferent to whether they were popular or not, they were simply the facts. Facts were the final arbiter of disputes between opinions. In the hierarchy of believability, uninformed opinion was at the bottom, informed opinion was much, much better, but facts ruled supremely at the top of the hill. Facts mattered.

At that time, facts were established by a rigorous criteria. There needed to be proof. Evidence. Research. Peer review. Facts were not personal. For example, no one could say that water froze at say 30 degrees Fahrenheit for them, while it froze at 32 degrees for everyone else.

It seems that now we have entered a time where facts have outlived their value. Apparently, now, if you don't like the facts, you can simply pull more desirable facts out of thin air. No proof, no evidence, no substantiation, no shared meaning is needed. Just call it an "alternative fact," or claim that facts are "fluid" and these more "desirable facts" can claim the same authority as those

other pesky proof-based facts.

I happen to really like this new creative fluid fact-based world. In this new "anything can be a fact" world, here are my latest issue facts: I am much better looking than Brad Pitt, and I have considerably more net worth than that Buffett guy, and, there were over a thousand people who came to church last week to hear me preach! In the old fact world order, I would be considered delusional, but in this new world order, my facts are as good as anyone else's.

The only problem I have found with this new edition of facts is that they tend to make my world a lot smaller. They are isolating. No-one else believes that I am better looking than Brad, and sadly, no-one will exchange goods or services for the billions I have in made up facts money. In the old days when facts were established by proofs and mutual verifiability, everyone in the world could share the same facts. They connected us across time and space. If something were true for one, it was true for all, and for all time. Facts could not be owned or limited or bent by the rich, the powerful or the well connected. Facts thus understood, were the highest expression of democracy. They applied equally to all. The latest version of facts, where we are free to make them up without evidence or substantiation, means two things: 1. Since I may be the only one who regards these as facts, I am alone in my beliefs. 2. Those with power and influence can promote facts

that are desirable and beneficial to them, and, can simply dismiss the ones that are detrimental to their causes or desires. Facts can be one the highest expression of democracy and connectedness, or they can slip the rails of mutually verifiable proof(s) and inevitably become sources of confusion, and tools of control and oppression.

I for one would be happy to give up my wishful thinking about Brad Pitt good looks and would give up all my delusional Warren Buffett money, to reclaim the former edition of FACTS.

We are solidly in the season of Lent. Lent is a time set aside to ask the hard questions, to face the big questions of life, to get real about the challenges and the possibilities of claiming to be children of God. Please plan to join us for all the special services that lead us toward Easter. As we embody the story it empowers our living.

Blessings and Peace, And may the FACTS be with you,

Phil



## Attention Organizers!

The Properties Committee reserved Saturday, April 11 at 9AM for an indoor church workday.

Tasks to be addressed will focus on purging and organizing the kitchen, the Faith formation room and closet, as well as toys in the nursery.

If there are any other indoor tasks that you think should be addressed, please let the Properties committee know.

We ask that you RSVP Laurie Spencer specifically so we can plan to provide lunch for volunteers. Thank you!

Laurie and Sarah

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

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

### PUCC Vision Statement

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

## Parish Life



Thank you for taking part in the 2026 PUCC Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale! In only one hour of tasting and voting for some fabulous chilies and purchasing baked goods, we raised a whopping \$536 for Family Promise of Cobb County! The 1<sup>st</sup> place chili winner is Karen Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> place is Jeff Durkee, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place is Lynne Buell.

Congratulations!

### MUST LUNCH

On Tuesday, March 31, we will serve the guests of MUST Ministries a nutritious lunch. The location is at the MUST Hope House, 1297 Bells Ferry Rd., Marietta GA 30066. 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 board in the narthex. Cash donations are needed to buy chicken and side items. You can submit payment to the church by check, or you can make your payment through PayPal or Zelle. If you have any questions and want to volunteer, please contact Dick Mehlan or Susan Hintz at:

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

## Missions



### March Projects

This month, we are asking for monetary donations earmarked for Lost 'N Found Youth (serving LGBTQ homeless youth in the Atlanta area). They prefer that we purchase items from their Amazon wish list; so for that reason, the Missions committee will then put in one large order from Amazon on behalf of Pilgrimage using funds donated.

We will publish our total items collected from Undie Sundays month within the next couple weeks.

### FAMILY PROMISE

Our next Family Promise host week is March 22-29. The Signup Genius will go out after March 1st.

On Sunday, March 1st, Deb Loche and Cindy Westlake (volunteer coordinators for FP) will be in Fellowship Hall between services and after the 10:00 service giving out information, answering questions and signing people up to volunteer.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are not only the light in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but you also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation is, light shines. This year's suggested offering date is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

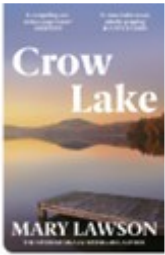
### PUCC SANDWICH CLUB

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 responsible. Their next meeting is Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Email Trish Greeves at [trishgreeves@me.com](mailto:trishgreeves@me.com) if you have any questions.

### SEEKERS GROUP

The Seekers Group will next meet on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lauriespencergardens@gmail.com)



## Book Club

March Book Club will meet on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 4PM at the home of Susan Volentine. Susan will provide beverages, and attendees are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Cindy Westlake will lead the discussion on the book she suggested, *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson

Please contact Karen Clark ([karensclark@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## VBS 2026

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School which will take place the week of July 20-24. Our theme is *The Story Telling Man* (we will look at a different parable of Jesus each day). Registration forms for children aged 3 through grade 5 are available now, both in the Narthex and on-line. We are, of course, looking for adult and youth volunteers. If you are willing to help this year, please contact Janet Derby. If there is a particular area you want to help with, let us know that also.

## VBS T-shirt Design

Again this year, we are looking for children or youth to submit ideas for our VBS t-shirts. The design should be in bold outlines – note that the shirt it will be in one color and small details don't show well. If we get multiple designs, we will try to put them together as a collage, so the simpler the better.

The theme is *The Story Telling Man*. So, have them think about a design that incorporates the idea of stories. You can also read them some of the stories we are going to hear, and they can draw a picture of one of them. The list is below. You will notice that all of them are related to seeds and plants, so they can go with that idea as their image as well.

- Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31)
- The Sower and the Seed (Matthew 13:3-9)
- Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-19)
- Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)
- The Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)

<mailto:derby.jm@gmail.com>

## Worship by Juliann Heilhecker

*"Humble my heart. Quiet my ego. Let your worship flow."* This prayer was written by Kaji Dousa taken from this year's devotional from The Pilgrim Press. Devotional booklets will be available via a link as well as written copies in the Narthex. As we navigate through this season of Lent, can we take the time to be quiet, to self-reflect, to listen to the spirit, and awaken to a new beginning of righteous living?

Thank you Rev. Phil for leading us through this season of Lent. Many of our lives are filled with anxiety, grief, and uncertainty. If we take the time to stop and be calm for just a little bit each day, we can become closer to God and be more at peace and find the path on which we should follow.

As PUC navigates its new path toward a permanent pastor, let us contemplate who we are as a congregation and who we want to be and what we want to accomplish. Rev. Phil will be meeting with small groups to get to know us, and we can get to know him and ask questions. There will also be a brunch on Saturday, March 7 from 10-12 for anyone who wants to meet Phil and discuss our future.

Peace and well-being to all,  
Juliann and Joyanna



## March

### BIRTHDAYS

03/02 Mariah Durkee  
 03/02 Tony Hyland  
 03/04 Melissa Delisle  
 03/04 Riley O'Neill  
 03/05 Jemma Nelson  
 03/07 Deb Loche  
 03/08 Michelle Brumfield  
 03/08 Elliott Clark  
 03/08 Monica Helms  
 03/08 Joe Martin  
 03/10 Jake Alexander  
 03/11 Bill Dischinger  
 03/11 Rita Mehlan  
 03/14 Neil Clark  
 03/15 Jamie Durkee  
 03/18 Ben Shiver  
 03/19 Jen Schuck  
 03/20 Corey Reitz  
 03/21 Vicki Hodges  
 03/21 Ryan Durkee  
 03/22 Allison Prah  
 03/27 Gavin Roth  
 03/28 Jennifer Wyne  
 03/30 Cindy Westlake

### ANNIVERSARIES

03/22 Jim & Jean Ward  
 03/24 Sunny & Matthew Alexander

If we missed someone, email Lynne at:

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SATURDAY, Mar. 7:

Pastor Meet & Greet  
Brunch @ 10AM  
Book Club @ 4PM

McNulty Celebration of  
Life Service

SATURDAY, Mar. 14

OGHS UCC Offering

SUNDAY, Mar. 15

Fam. Prom. Host Week  
Mar. 22 - 28



## STAFF

**Interim Pastor, Rev. Phil Price**

**Music Director, Jake Daron**

**Accompanist, Anna Mbiad**

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

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

[pilgrimageucc.org](http://pilgrimageucc.org)



Daylight Saving Time  
Begins

Sunday, March 8, 2025