



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

Missions *by Cindy Westlake*



"Get real. . ."

"You've got to face reality. . ."

"Be realistic, you've got to get your head out of the clouds. . ."

Every one of us has heard these words in a scolding, disapproving tone.

What I like about being a follower of Jesus is that we don't have to listen to or be judged by these words. We are not called to be "realists", and we are not a part of a story where the realists are the heroes.

Moses was hardly being realistic when he decided to go and to tell Pharaoh to let all the slaves go after he had had a conversation with a burning bush.

Abraham and Sarah were not being realistic when they had a conversation about starting a family and they were both in their eighties.

David was not facing reality when he decided to go toe to toe with that giant.

History is shaped not by realists, but by dreamers; people who do not bow to the limits and boundaries of reality.

Cynicism is often presented as more rational and realistic than faith but it puts us in the role of spectators of reality rather

than in the role of co-creators of reality.

Faith is a creative force that is able to see a college graduate, where cynics see someone statistically destined for prison. Faith sees wellbeing and peace and climbs the mountains to create it, where cynics see perpetual cycles of destitution and violence and sigh knowingly and shake their heads in apathy.

Faith looks at reality and says, "That can be improved upon."

Cynicism looks at reality and says, "That's the way it is, nothing you can do about it."

As followers of Christ, we are not called to bow to reality—we are called to shape reality.

When reality is allowed to be "the way it is," and we cede to its power, it has become the most dangerous of the false gods.

Reality is to be bent and shaped by the faith of those who dare to see beyond what is and see into being what is yet to be!

I feel so blessed to be here with you during this time. Have a wonderful summer! Be amazed and be amazing!

Blessings,
Phil

It's time to think of back to school – yes, already! This year the Betty Roth Backpack and School Supply drive began in June and will continue through July 12th. It's a bit earlier this year because we will be giving our donations to "Backing the Need" – a yearly event sponsored by Kids Care and the Cobb County Police Department. Their big event - complete with fun activities and free backpacks/supplies - is July 18th at the Cobb Civic Center. Last year they gave away over 1,100 bags to Cobb County Students!

If you would like to help even more, they need volunteers for their big give-away, July 18th 9:00-2:00. More information and registration at:

www.kids-care2018.org

Kids Care (*Kindness In Doing Service, Connecting And Respecting Everyone*) was started by an 8-year-old girl in 2018. She wanted the world to know that kids do care!

You hear about the UCC "5 for 5" special offerings throughout the year, but we want you to know just how much of an impact you make. Your generosity in 2025 totaled:

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$1605
Strengthening the Church - \$817
Neighbors in Need - \$1380
Christmas Fun - \$750
Our Churches Wider Mission (*this is a budget item*) \$15,000

Thank you for the care and generosity you continue to show the United Church of Christ. Your support helps us reach more people with compassion, hope, and a welcoming spirit.

Joining Sunday July 19

If you have been prayerfully considering making this church your home, we warmly invite you to officially join our church family on Sunday, July 19.

We already have two members who will be joining, but this doesn't mean it is limited to folks who have already decided to become members of Pilgrimage UCC. Whether you attend the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. service, this will be a special opportunity to take the next step in faith, connect more deeply with our community, and be welcomed into the life and fellowship of the church. We would be honored to celebrate this meaningful moment with you!

Last minute questions?
Contact Pastor Phil at:

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org

Worship by Juliann Heilhecker

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."

We have heard and read this passage many times. It is a reminder of how we come together as a church community to make our church life easier and help our fellow members. I want to take this time to thank all the volunteers who have helped with worship services with ushering, reading scripture and being liturgists. No one person can coordinate all that goes into our Sunday services. I am humbled and grateful to all my volunteers. I also want to thank Jake and Anna for making worship meaningful and joyous through our music ministry.

If you would like to become a volunteer reading scripture, being a liturgist, or ushering, please let me know and send an email to pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com.

We have had a challenging and productive year with our settled pastor moving and bringing in an interim pastor. We could not have kept going without our entire community coming together to help church continue with meaningful, careful, and fulfilling services, social events, and mission work.

Now, we begin the work of finding a settled pastor.

May God bless our search committee and our congregation with wisdom and grace so that we will find a new pastor that will lead us into the next chapter.

With grateful hearts,
Juliann and Joyanna

Installation of Council Officers

On Sunday, July 12, our church family will gather during worship for the Council Installation of Officers, a meaningful time to recognize those called to serve and to pray for their leadership.

These services remind us that leadership in the church is a shared ministry. Our officers serve with faithfulness and care, and they need the encouragement and support of the whole congregation.

Please plan to attend either the 8:30 or 10:00 service as we give thanks, offer our prayers, and stand together in support of those who have said yes to serving Christ and our church.

PROPOSED 2026-2027 PUCC COUNCIL OFFICERS

Executive Committee

Moderator: Sharon Getty
Vice Moderator: Ross McDuffie
Treasurer: Dani Wilson
Asst. Treasurer: Nancy Harrison
Financial Secretary: Greg Kask
Clerk: Anne Mooney

Committee Chairs

Christian Ed: Janet Derby
Deacon Co-Chairs: Pat Kask and Rita Mehlan
Communications: Fernando Moncayo
Missions: Cindy Westlake
Parish Life: Susan Volentine and Carol Hill
Properties: Laurie Spencer and Sarah Wilson
Stewardship: Cary Lee and Jaime Robards
Worship: Juliann Heilhecker

Commissioning & Installation Pastoral Search Committee

Soon the Pilgrimage community will come together in prayer and discernment as we begin the search process for a settled pastor. The church Council selected 7 members (plus 2 back-up members) for our "Pastoral Search Committee". The UCC (United Church of Christ) provides resources to help guide us through the process. During the June 28 Congregational Meeting, the committee was approved via a majority vote and will be installed and commissioned on Sunday, July 19 during both worship services. This moment marks a significant step in the future of the congregation. Here is the list of committee members: Melissa Delisle, Jeff Durkee, Lee Fadeley, Sabrina Heller, Ross McDuffie, Anne Mooney, and Stephanie Parker. Back-up members are Bill Dischinger and Clay Roth. (Sabrina Heller and Stephanie Parker will be joining as official members on July 19 prior to the installation.) Your presence will show prayerful support for those entrusted with seeking God's guidance in identifying the next settled pastor, and we hope you will plan to attend.

VBS



Bling Your Name Tag!

This year you will again be able to “bling” your name tag during June and July to show your support for VBS. Blingy nametags will be in the Narthex, along with a donation box. Any donation is welcome and will enable us to provide t-shirts for our fabulous volunteers.

With Gratitude for Our VBS Snack Wizards!

A special word of appreciation goes to our snack wizards: Susan Volentine; Carol Hill and Nancy Harrison; Kyndall Thiessen; Diane Reese; and Juliann Heilhecker. Because of their willingness to serve, our VBS children will be cared for in a very practical and meaningful way.

Thank you again to each snack volunteer for blessing our Vacation Bible School children and supporting this special ministry of our church. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!

Christian Ed *by Janet Derby*

Book Club

There will be no meeting in July as we take a holiday break. Book Club discussions will resume on August 4 at 7PM at the church. The book for review is “*We All Live Here*” by Jojo Moyes.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will begin in August for students in grades 7-12. The plan is to meet once a month after the 10:00 worship service. It will be a 2-year program which will run through May of 2028. Please let Janet Derby know if you have any questions and if you think your youth would be interested in being a part of it.

Rally Sunday

Rally Sunday is August 9. We will have several events happening that day:

- The choir will return!
- Bibles will be presented to children and youth
- *So What?* Sunday school will be offered following the 10:00 worship service
- Potluck celebration sponsored by Parish Life

Bible Presentation

Please let the office know of your child or youth who has not yet received a Bible from Pilgrimage. <mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org>

So What? Sunday School

For those who wish to have a further discussion about what was heard during worship – here is your chance. Pastor Phil will lead a Sunday school class during August and September which will focus on the Scripture and sermon of that day. A brief introductory meeting about this opportunity will take place on Rally Sunday before the potluck.



THE SEEKERS

The Seekers Group will meet next on Tuesday, July 23rd at 7PM.

Looking for a welcoming small study group to grow in faith and form meaningful friendships? We’d love to have you—please reach out to Laurie Spencer for more information.

lauriespencergardens@gmail.com



PUCC SANDWICH CLUB SUPPORT GROUP

A caregiver support group offers a space to connect with others who are also navigating stress and complex family responsibilities. The Pilgrimage Sandwich Club is a recurring monthly gathering that can help foster ongoing relationships and a sense of belonging.

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

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



PUCC Vision Statement

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



JULY EVENTS

- 07/4 Independence Day
- 07/12 Council Installation
- 07/19 Joining Sunday & Pastoral Search Comm. Installation
- 7/20-24 VBS Week
- 07/26 VBS Sunday
- 07/28 Seekers Group

STAFF

Interim Pastor, Rev. Phil Price
<mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org>

Music Director, Jake Daron

Accompanist, Anna Mbiad

Administrative Assistant, Lynne Buell
office@pilgrimageucc.org

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

pilgrimageucc.org



BIRTHDAYS

- 07/09 Sean Brumfield
- 07/09 Mary Hyland
- 07/10 Susan Volentine
- 07/12 Darlene Wagner
- 07/13 Wayne Scott
- 07/19 Kathleen McNulty
- 07/21 Lois Dischinger
- 07/23 Vinay Chilaka
- 07/27 Anna Mbiah

ANNIVERSARIES

- 07/23 Stu & Jeanette Gillespie

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