

PILGRIM'S Progress

May 2025

"Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus."

JOHN 21:4



pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com

A time of renewal...

A birth, the Resurrection celebration, and the renewal plans gaining momentum – all signs of hope and optimism for the future. April blessed us with the birth of baby Charles Jones into the Rev. Jones family (and our Pilgrimage family), the joy of the resurrection celebration of Jesus Christ, and the on-going progress with our Insurance Funds Plans.

How wonderful the juxtaposition of a newborn and the Risen Son. Both bring joy and hope, and a sense of relief that all is well with the world at the moment.

And as all of us do our best to support the ministry and mission of this church, we do it looking forward to the renewal of this congregation through our goals for our spiritual growth and the renovation of our sacred spaces.

Your Church Council and Project Champions provided a much welcomed update to our Insurance Funds Plans on March 30th. In addition to being wowed by Lisa Toomey's concepts presentation, we learned about the status of the five approved projects since our January 26th Congregational Meeting:

- Reserve Funds – *complete*.

- Pastor's "True Up" Compensation – *Pending*. (Rev. Courtney's Retirement plan application submitted 3-12-2025.)
- Electronic Entrance Sign – TBD – *need quotes*.
- Engagement Programming & Activities – TBD: (*Awaiting Rev. Jones' return.*)
- Real Property Improvements – In process: (*Council approved architect consultant 2/13/2025; RFP input developed at Council Retreat 2/22/2025; NGH Study Project to Executive Committee 3/20/2025; PUCC Facilities Use Questionnaire completed by the committees and church groups in April.*)

We are pleased to report that the momentum continued throughout April.

- The Pension Board approved Pastor's retirement plan for 2025 and the first special contribution (True Up Compensation) will be paid by our Treasurer in 2nd quarter.
- April 10th congregation email confirming: (*Upcoming next steps; pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com address for submitting comments & questions; and Lynne's link to her folder on the Pilgrimage website for viewing our various Insurance Funds Plan documents such as Lisa's concept illustrations.*)
- 1st. Another company submitted their equipment proposal on April 18th; as of April 23rd we have two sketches/mockups.
- Lisa Toomey is finalizing our RFP (Request for Proposal) for the renovations and has identified architects and potential contractors for Properties to contact for interviews and bids.
- In other news, your Council continues to make progress in April:
- A Zoom meeting with G. Kask and R. Mehlan on Apr. 3rd with your financial officers to kick off the annual internal audit.
- Stephen Noffke confirmed our credit card application has been approved and the initial cards are issued.
- We obtained signed acknowledgement forms by all lay employees for our new HR Policy.
- Properties seeking quotes for building inspections of the church & NGH.
- Laurie Spenser provided costs for finding leaks in our irrigation system so repairs may be planned.
- Anne Mooney reviewed the Transforming Lives Grant and presented her recommendations.
- Stewardship is organizing efforts to fill Council positions for our June elections.

Peace,

Lee M Fadeley
Council Moderator



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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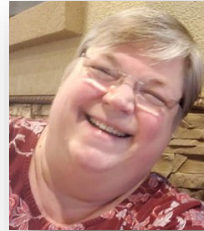

Pilgrimage
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

VBS 2025



PARISH LIFE

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



This year's VBS will run July 21-25, and our theme this year is *Fruits of the Spirit*. We will look at those qualities in the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Registration forms for children aged 3 through grade 5 are available now, both in the Narthex and online:
(<https://forms.gle/kj89dwMTcBKxKRzm6>)

You can also register by emailing your child's name, age/grade, and t-shirt size to:
pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com

VBS T-Shirts

Each year, we have VBS t-shirts for our children and volunteers with a design from one or two of our children or youth. We are super excited this year that the design will contain pictures drawn by nine of them! Details about the shirt and information about how to order one will be available soon. Of course, the easiest way to insure getting a shirt is to volunteer!



Hello all! Your Parish Life committee hopes everyone enjoyed the Easter Sunday activities! We'd like to thank everyone who participated, supplying us with toys and candies the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday, those who helped Susan stuff the take-away goodie bags for the kids in exchange for their baskets of collected eggs, the grown up kids who scattered the eggs from the east end of the front lawn to the playground, all those who brought delicious food to the Easter brunch, everyone who helped set up before and clean up afterward, and a special thank you to Janet Derby, who took charge of the children's activity this year while the eggs were being strewn about. I believe these kids did a clean sweep this year! But if anyone finds a plastic egg outside between now and next Easter, Miss Carol will give you a special prize!



Pictures will be printed from the day's events and displayed in Fellowship Hall by May 4th. A shoutout and photo credit to Amy Bridges who had the marvelous idea of taking a picture (see below) of all the adults together outside after the 10:00 service. Thank you, Amy!

Stay tuned for dates and details of our next event!

Yours, *Carol and Susan*



EASTER 2025



May 6 @ 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Lisa Toomey
And Heyward Ottley

The book for discussion:

Mrs. Quinn's Rise To Fame

by Olivia Ford

WORSHIP

Juliann Heilhecker & Vickie Zuffoletti
Co-Chairs

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Thank you to Rev. Jess, our staff, and all our volunteers who helped make Lent, Holy Week, and Easter a deep and meaningful season. When I think of the passion, love, and grace that exists in our church, I like to imagine how we are spreading that love, grace, and generosity into the world as Jesus would have us do.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the worship team. Contact the worship chairs for more information if you are interested.

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Greg Kask, Cary Lee, Co-Chairs

pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com



Stewardship Opportunities Await!

Members of Pilgrimage, the Church Council is the "governing body" of our Congregation in all matters that do not require a vote of our membership. It has responsibility for the overall planning of the life and programs of the Church; including strategic planning, policy making and oversight of policies. All Committee members have one-year terms. Council meets via Zoom the second Thursday of the month.

We are actively recruiting for open positions for the 2025-2026 church year (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026).

We are in need of volunteers to fill the following positions:

- **Vice Moderator** (To replace Heyward Ottley, who will succeed the Moderator for the 2025-2026 church year.) This position will be transitioned to Moderator for the 2026-2027 church year.
- **Communications Chair** (Position currently open.) This position shall, with the advice and counsel of the Minister, make recommendations to Council and its Committees concerning all communication activities of Pilgrimage. It will also manage and assign Council Gmail accounts.
- **Worship Co-Chair** (With Julianne Heilhecker).
- **Assistant Treasurer** (With Steve Noffke who is moving to the Treasurer position).
- **Stewardship Co-Chair** (with Cary Lee).

Please feel free to talk to the Committee member listed above if you have questions regarding Committee responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration to be of service to Pilgrimage.

Greg Kask, Cary Lee Stewardship Co-Chairs

pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com

Faith Formation

The children who attend Faith Formation during the 10:00 worship service celebrated both a Passover seder meal and Easter this month. We are blessed to have so many wonderful children in our congregation!

We would love to have a few extra hands help during Faith Formation time. No preparation or specific skills necessary, just a willingness to help.

Please see or contact Lily Appleton if you would like to be a helper.



TREASURERS

Rochelle Lofstrand, Treasurer

Stephen Noffke, Asst. Treasurer

pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com



Stephen and I look forward to continued transparency and communication regarding our financial standing. Please email me if you have any questions! We are now 100% integrated with Quickbooks and their Accountant. I will now share the reports with you so you can keep track of our financial health. Click on the links below to access:

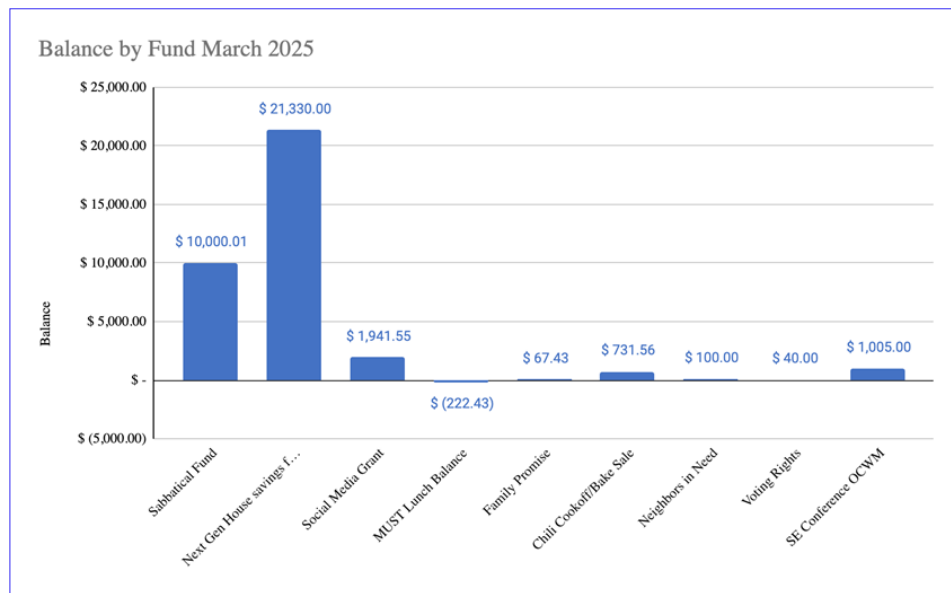
[January 2025](#)

[February 2025](#)

[March 2025](#)

Based on the March 2025 financial statement for Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, here are three key highlights:

1. The church is operating at a deficit of \$4,113 for Q1 2025.
2. There are new significant expenses this year, particularly "Pulpit Supply" at \$4,400.
3. Our overall financial position remains strong with over \$626,000 in bank accounts and minimal liabilities, despite the current operating deficit.



All treasurer-related requests should be sent to pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com. Both Stephen and I have access to that account, so we will each be able to respond. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Rochelle Lofstrand, Treasurer

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Courtney Jones
Interim Pastor	Rev. Jess Cusick
Music Director	Asa Bradley
Accompanist	Anna Mbiad
Administrative Assistant	Lynne Buell

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 Moderator:	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-Asa Bradley:	abradi47@aol.com		

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club via Zoom (Lisa Toomey)	1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Lee Fadeley, Moderator).....	Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m.
Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves)	Monthly—3:00 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. 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.

May Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

05/02	Ella Dorsey
05/02	Julianne Heilhecker
05/02	Nick Shiver
05/03	Pat Kask
05/04	Danny Schnitzlein
05/05	Kerry Schnitzlein
05/23	Jeanette Gillespie
05/24	Carla Martin
05/26	Jeff Durkee
05/28	Paula Roberts
05/28	Joyanna Wyne
05/31	Tom Query

ANNIVERSARIES

05/15	Helene & John O'Neill
05/16	Kellyn & Jan Nally
05/29	Kerry & Danny Schnitzlein

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

The Month in Sundays

May	4	Communion (Both Services) Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)
May	11	Mother's Day Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Missions Comm. Mtg (9:15 a.m.)
May	18	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Private Piano Recital (2:00 p.m.)
May	25	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.)