

PILGRIM'S Progress

March 2024



*"But I have trusted in your faithful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation."
Psalm 13:5*

PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org



that feels uncomfortable, you can also be in touch with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee; we meet monthly (except when schedule conflicts arise) for them to offer feedback on your behalf and to help me brainstorm ways to meet the needs of the congregation. Any of them would be happy to have a conversation to find ways to address your questions. The members of the PPRC are Katie Bridges, Dick Mehlan, Clay Roth, Trudy Stoddert, and Joyanna Wyne.

There are so many ways we support one another; it's one of the gifts of being church together. If there's ever a way I can better support you, please be in touch.

God loves you, and so do I.

Courtney

Dear Beloved,

Last Sunday, I had a wonderful conversation with the Pastor Review Team to discuss the results of the feedback they received through the congregational survey. Thank you to all of you who responded! I am grateful for all the feedback and enjoyed the opportunity to discuss your ideas in detail with the review team.

My review is an annual reminder to me that I want to remind all of *you* that you never need to wait for review season to offer feedback. If you ever have questions or concerns you want to raise about a decision I make or something I say or do, I really love hearing from folks directly. Even if we disagree, I promise to enter any conversation with love for you and respect for your perspective. If



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

Ken Moss

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com



Happy March, everyone! The temperature has been teasing us recently with hints of the Spring and Summer weather to come, but I am not sure I am ready for the pleasant cool evenings to be gone. The changing weather of March is accompanied by the change in time, too, as we spring ahead to enjoy more sun in the evening. This month, more than any other, reminds us that change is ever-present in our lives. I guess it is only appropriate that Easter is in March this year, too!

This year is likely to see a number of changes in our church: we are beginning the year on a more solid financial footing, and the future looks to be bright. New members are feeling more comfortable joining in activities and committees to make their voice heard, and friends continue to explore Pilgrimage to see if it is the right place to worship for them.

This year, more than most, will be characterized by change. In that light, I ask each of you to consider whether you can be more involved in church committees. After all, when change is happening, you can either standby and wait for that change to impact you, or you can get involved and shape the changes that will impact all of our lives. There will be a lot of opportunities to leave a lasting impact with this church, but it requires your participation.

I look forward to enjoying this month with you, a month of changing seasons, changing time, and the promise of spiritual renewal symbolized by Easter. I hope the coming changes inspire you to embrace Pilgrimage as an agent of change to improve our world and leave our mark!

Hope to see you on Sunday!

WORSHIP

Molly Moss & Melissa Fadeley, Co-Chairs

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



Lent has arrived, and we have many opportunities to celebrate and experience the season here at Pilgrimage.

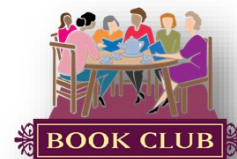
- ⇒ Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday
- ⇒ Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae service at 7:00pm.
- ⇒ Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday!
Sunrise service at 7:30AM
Easter brunch starting at 8:30AM
Easter service 10:00AM (no 8:30AM service)

A special “Thank you” to all our ushers and scripture readers for February. You make each Sunday worship service a little brighter!

If you are interested in becoming a reader or usher please reach out to Melissa Fadeley or myself at:

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

Melissa Fadeley, Co-Chair



March 2024

**Book Club will be held on Tuesday,
March 5 @ 7:00 p.m. at the home
of Laurie Spencer.**

**The book for discussion is:
“The Hate U Give”
By Angie Thomas**

**If you have any questions,
please contact Fran Howard at:**

roberthow@aol.com

DEACONS

Stephen Williams, Chair
pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com



Since March has (5) Sundays, we will be collecting donations for the Deacons Fund on Sunday, March 31. This important fund provides temporary relief for our church community during hard times. You do not have to wait until the fifth Sunday to make a donation. We accept donations any time!

It's that time of year again! Put on your thinking caps and get ready to test your knowledge!

The deacons are hosting their Annual Trivia Night and Potluck on Saturday, March 2nd. Dinner will be at 5:00 and the games will start at 6:00. If you are going to attend the potluck, we ask that you bring a favorite main dish or a dessert to pass.

This year's theme is ***"Travel Around the World"***. So mark your calendar and we hope to see you then!

STEWARDSHIP

Greg Kask, Duke Yaguchi, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com



A new year is the time when we consider ways about how we can make positive changes in our lives, both personally and within our surrounding communities.

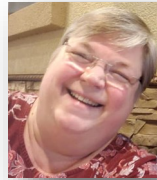
We would like you to begin thinking how you can utilize your talents for the benefit of Pilgrimage UCC; what brings you joy being part of our beloved church?

Then, let us know by sharing your talents and putting your inspirations in motion for the betterment of both you and Pilgrimage by filling out the Stewardship survey by clicking the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDY73TW>

PARISH LIFE

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



Parish Life was happy to be a part of the Community Voices series sponsored by Christian Ed. Approximately 35 folks attended and We had a wonderful selection of food at the potluck before the poetry reading. We are positive everyone was well fed. We are looking forward to working with Christian Ed on the next Community Voices series event.

Parish Life will host a brunch on Easter Sunday between the Sunrise Service (which begins at 7:30AM) and the 10AM traditional worship service—or about 8:30AM. Please bring a dish to share if you are planning to attend.

Also, we will have the Annual Easter Egg hunt after the 10AM service. More information about both of these events will be sent out in E-tidings.

MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair
pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com



Once again, thank you for your generosity in donating to our Undie Sundays. The clients and staff of MUST Ministries are so grateful!

In March, we will be collecting for a new (to us) organization. Lost-n-Found Youth is an Atlanta based organization that seeks to end homelessness for LGBTQIA+ youth, ages 18-25. <https://www.lnfy.org/>

Since 2011, they provide a crisis hotline, emergency and transitional housing, a youth center, food and clothing, and other services to young adults.

Our March drive will focus on personal hygiene items – both travel and regular size – anything that a young adult in a shelter or those still unsheltered might need. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!



One Great Hour of Sharing

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the One Great Hour of Sharing special Lenten offering. OGHS is one of 4 special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

Part of Our Church's Wider Mission is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Specifically, the UCC supports sustainable development and refugee needs internationally and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-fifth of the UCC's OGHS offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugees, and disaster programs worldwide.

We will receive this special offering on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

You can also make donations through the UCC's website at:

<https://www.ucc.org/>

or

Mail a check to Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, 3755 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta GA 30066. Write "OGHS" in the memo section of your payment.

March Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

03/02 Mariah Durkee
 03/02 Tony Hyland
 03/04 Riley O'Neill
 03/05 Jemma Nelson
 03/07 Deb Loche
 03/07 Emma Roberts
 03/08 Michelle Brumfield
 03/08 Elliot Clark
 03/08 Monica Helms
 03/08 Joe Martin
 03/10 Jake Alexander
 03/10 Michael Gula
 03/11 Bill Dischinger
 03/11 Rita Mehlan
 03/14 Neil Clark
 03/15 Jamie Durkee
 03/16 Duke Yaguchi
 03/18 Ben Shiver
 03/19 Jen Schuck
 03/20 Corey Reitz
 03/21 Ryan Durkee
 03/22 Allison Prah
 03/27 Gavin Roth
 03/28 Jennifer Wyne
 03/30 Clay Roth

ANNIVERSARIES

03/09 Duke & Polly Yaguchi
 03/22 Jim & Jean Ward
 03/24 Sunny & Matthew Alexander

If we missed someone,
 email Lynne at:

office@pilgrimageucc.org

TREASURERS

Amy Jones, Treasurer

Rochelle Lofstrand, Asst. Treasurer

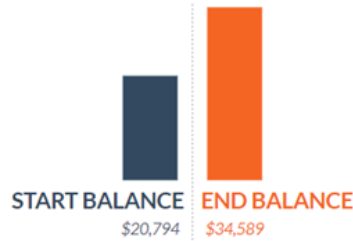
pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com



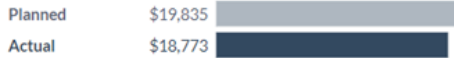
This month, we have reports for January 2024 income and expenses.

**January 24 Actual vs Budget
Operating Fund Account**

Starting balance: **\$20,794**



Expenses



Income



Expenses

	Planned	Actual	Diff.
Totals	\$19,835	\$18,773	+\$1,062
Utilities	\$1,217	\$402	+\$815
Properties	\$1,753	\$1,494	+\$259
Communications	\$0	\$0	\$0
Staff compensation	\$8,531	\$8,531	\$0
Pastor dues, travel & learning	\$259	\$1,141	-\$882
Payroll taxes	\$531	\$531	\$0
Pastor health insurance	\$876	\$867	+\$9
Family health insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payroll Processing	\$292	\$421	-\$129
Nursery Staff	\$208	\$75	+\$133
Office Supplies	\$375	\$211	+\$164
Insurance	\$3,640	\$3,607	+\$33
SE Conference	\$0	\$0	\$0
SE Conference-Special Gifts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Worship	\$1,022	\$425	+\$597
PayPal Fees	\$0	\$5	-\$5
Legal Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Deacon Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Realm	\$124	\$65	+\$60
Sabbatical Funds	\$208	\$208	\$0
NGH Funds	\$790	\$790	\$0
Christian Ed	\$8	\$0	+\$8
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$0

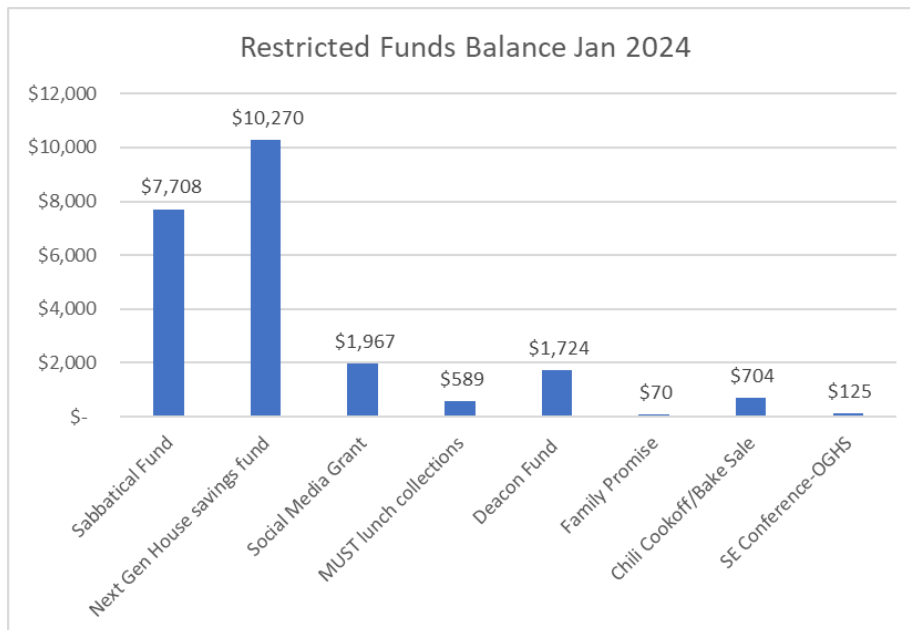
Income

	Planned	Actual	Diff.
Totals	\$19,847	\$32,568	+\$12,721
Offering Deposit	\$19,847	\$29,298	+\$9,451
Paypal	\$0	\$177	+\$177
Zelle	\$0	\$3,093	+\$3,093
Dividend	\$0	\$0	\$0

Here are some notes on the January expense variances:

- ◆ Our payment for the January electric bill actually hit in late December which is why we look favorable for that item.
- ◆ Office Supplies is missing the Great America Financial Services bill which hit on February 1. That amount is \$135.54. We will see that picked up in February reports.
- ◆ Pastor dues, travel & learning is high due to Courtney's travel to Dallas this week coupled with a lost payment to her in December. We have received the \$700 back from the bank as of February 1 so we'll see a credit there in February reports.
- ◆ Payroll Processing is high due to year end work related to W-2 reporting.

At the end of January, we had \$57,747 in our bank accounts. Our restricted funds account balance is \$23,157 leaving us with a balance of \$34,590 in our Operating Funds. Our Restricted Funds Balance details are shown below:



Update on our IRS penalty issue: I called them back in early February and determined that we needed to send our request to waive the penalty to a different address than where I sent the documentation in December. I created another letter and attached all previous correspondence and documentation and sent it out certified mail on Friday February 2. If the penalty is not waived, we will still owe approximately \$4,045. We have received a letter dated February 13, 2024 that states they haven't resolved the matter and will contact us within 60 days with our reply. I will update everyone once more information is available.

2024 Tax Reporting update: All employees have been provided with their W-2s and those have also been filed with the IRS. We have also filed the one required 1099 through a service called Tax1099.com. We have confirmation that the IRS has accepted our electronic filing, and the individual also received their 1099 before the end of January.

We are working to implement a new accounting tool called Realm. This tool will be used for Giving reports as well as Income/Expense reports once we have it all up and running. This means there may be changes in the reporting formats as we move through the next few months. We will do our best to explain changes as they are rolled out. This month's reports were completed using the old method. The new tool will allow for easier oversight of our funds. It's a cloud-based tool so it won't reside on just one person's computer. This should make it easier for us to transition the work as people move in and out of our financial roles at the church.

All treasurer related requests should be sent to pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com. Both Rochelle 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.

Amy Jones

STAFF

Pastor Music Director Accompanist Administrative Assistant	Rev. Courtney Jones Asa Bradley Anna Mbiad Lynne Buell
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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:	abradl47@aol.com		

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club via Zoom (Fran Howard)	1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Ken Moss, 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.

The Month in Sundays

March 3		Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Communion (Both Services) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)
March 10		Daylight Saving Time Starts Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) UCC's Special OGHS Offering Missions Comm. Mtg (9:15 a.m.)
March 17		Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)
March 24		Palm Sunday Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.)
March 31		Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (7:30 a.m.) Easter Brunch (8:30 a.m.) Traditional Worship (10:00 a.m.) Easter Egg Hunt (11:30 a.m.)