



Pilgrimage United Church of Christ is thrilled to announce and welcome our newest member to our church family!

Theodore Stevenson Jones was born Monday, October 27th just in time for lunch at 11:40 a.m.! He weighed in at 8 lbs. 15 oz, and he was 21" long!

Courtney's and Auggie's families have been in town to help the new family settle in, and the fur babies are assisting in any way they can—Huck stays close for protection during those fussy moments and Bumper helps during diaper changes.

We recently sent out an E-Blast with a link to "Take Them A Meal". Also, we ask for prayers for continued healing for Courtney while she adjusts to being a new mommy, as well as for Auggie and the pups during their transition time as well.

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

By Rochelle Lofstrand

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com



On September 10, October 2 and October 3, 2022, members of Pilgrimage United Church of Christ met to start the process of strategic planning. As

you review the questions and responses, you will see themes that should guide our future goals. We have a diverse, generous, and caring congregation. When we think about who we want to be in the future, we know that we want mission work, charity and social justice to be our priority. This work should be prioritized in our local community and then in the broader communities around us. In order to grow our membership, we should have a clear identity which we market in a variety of platforms including social media. As a congregation, we believe our Christian education and community building is also essential to our growth. We want to see our children, youth, and adult ministries grow and flourish.

One other recommendation is to consider a way to communicate with the congregation on a regular basis outside of the eBlast. This could include a 'group chat' or online bulletin board. Services such as *Realm* are designed to bring congregations together for social events as well as financial tracking.

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ Mission: "We seek to grow in worship, learning and service as a faithful people of God, bringing hope, comfort and friendship to all, welcoming everyone in Christ."

With the values identified in our sessions and the above mission statement, Council will now begin the process of drafting a vision statement. This will direct our work as a faith community over the next three to five years. Our vision statement should be one to two sentences, motivating and inspirational which is also reflective of PUCC's culture and values.

Once we have a vision statement, Council will then draft three to five objectives or strategic priorities. These will be presented to the congregation for editing and approval. These priorities and vision statement will help the Council and congregation make sure future decisions are aligned to our beliefs as a Christ-centered faith community.

Here is the link to the entire report - [HERE](#).

It is a pleasure to serve PUCC. Please let me know if you have any questions about this process.

Rochelle



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in worship,
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and friendship to
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in Christ.**

*"Simon Peter
said, 'You are
the Christ, the
Son of the living
God.'"*

MATTHEW 16:16

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STEWARDSHIP

Anne Mooney, Duke Yaguchi, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageucstewardship@gmail.com



We have been blessed with a spirit-filled Commitment Season this year. Our theme, ***From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*** has been demonstrated in shared testimonies, communion, creativity, and celebration. We have heard from new and old friends how their faith and experiences have prompted them to give and serve our church. We have been challenged by Rev. Courtney's sermons to consider how we can live out our church's mission to help build the kin-dom of God. We have been further challenged to consider how we can best do that as a church family by beginning a visioning process. Now we are looking ahead to how we can effectively prioritize and live out our mission.

With this in mind, we are so grateful for those who have donated and pledged their time, talents, and treasures to Pilgrimage. Special thanks go to the following for their assistance in providing a Stewardship Moment, participating in our presentation videos, assisting in Communion and preparing our Celebration: Syd Bowcott, Diane Reese, Lee Fadeley, Laurie Spencer, Courtney Williams, Reba Rice, Chris and Julia Shiver, Janet Derby and the children, Rochelle Lofstrand, Pat Kask, Lidia Kovaleva, Joyce Baker, Carol Hill, Amy Bridges, Cary Lee, Ken and Molly Moss, Cindy Westlake, Trudy Stoddert, Jackson Nichols, Trish Greeves, Kathleen McNulty, the Deacons, Rev. Courtney, the A/V team, the Worship Team, and Parish Life.

While our season of Commitment is ended, we will continue to welcome and collect pledges for our 2023 Mission Spending Plan. In addition to your pledge of money, we encourage you to consider how you can serve with your gifts of time and talent. We continue to need a Chairperson for our Mission ministry. Missions and social justice have been identified as a priority in our visioning, but we need someone to coordinate plans for moving forward. Our ministry committees need members in order to be successful. If you feel called to join a Ministry Team, please reach out to Rev. Courtney, the Stewardship Chairs (Anne Mooney and Duke Yaguchi) or any Council member.

If you have made your pledge, thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider doing so. Wishing you many blessings!



CLIMATE CHANGE – A Christian Concern

By Hugh Lowrey

Last month I wrote about climate-related disasters in various parts of our world, but not yet in Atlanta, emphasis on the “yet”. As the century proceeds, Georgia expects unfamiliar diseases and summer temperatures that prevent working outside in daylight. If means can be found to farm in the heat, the state will lose less population, but either way, an exodus is expected to impact the state's economy. God's help and protection, through His people, will be essential as always, especially for those who can't move.

Today I'll try to offer the conclusions of the experts on the choice of a new home in our warmer future, and to point out decisions that may best be made long before moving north. As living conditions deteriorate, we can surely expect more to be done at the national and international levels, to stop the warming, so I'm guessing that it will be unnecessary to move as far as Canada. Here is the advice I've found on where to relocate in the states. The most promising places are the Pacific Northwest and the states surrounding the Great Lakes. Many smaller areas, generally in foothills (example Denver), will be livable, too. The reason for these selections is water supply, which Atlanta should also continue to enjoy but which much of our country likely will not. The northeast expects to have drinking water, too, but beware moving to a coastal city that will be partly inundated by sea level rise.

Suppose you plan to sell your home or business, at retirement, to help finance your move to a retirement community farther north, but when the time arrives, loss of population has left no market for your property. This is an example of why we all must be alert to what is coming and make plans that will still work when the moment arrives.

CHRISTIAN ED

Janet Derby & Darlene Wagner, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com



Christmas Eve Family Service

Preparations have begun for our Christmas Eve service. For those who are new to Pilgrimage, the children and youth lead our afternoon family Christmas Eve service each year. This involves reading of Scripture, music, and a short presentation of the Christmas story. If your child would like to be a part of this service or if you have any questions about it, please contact Janet Derby at: pilgrimageuccCE@gmail.com

The Story Behind the Communion Tables

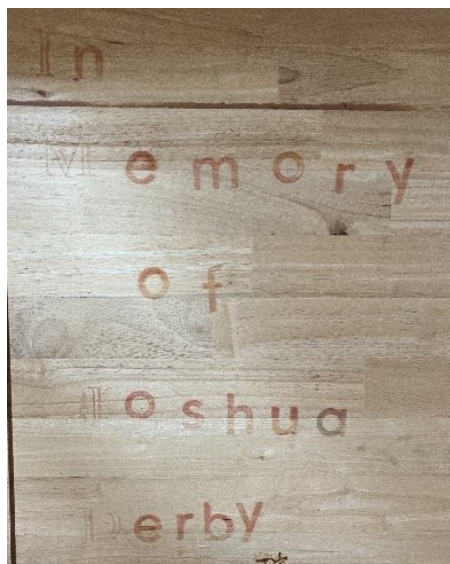
As many in our congregation are aware, but some are not, my husband Ken and I had a son named Joshua, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2014. After many months of ups and downs, including an unsuccessful bone marrow transplant, Josh died in April of 2016 at the age of 29.

Both Pilgrimage and Northbrook UMC provided an unbelievable amount of support to our family throughout Joshua's illness and death. Josh was a faithful Christian and a life-long Sunday School attendee. Communion was extremely important to him. Because the cancer attacked his intestines, he was unable to eat for three months after first being diagnosed, and the first meal Josh wanted when given permission was Communion. For those reasons, Ken and I chose to use some of the money given in his memory to purchase Communion tables for the Sunday school rooms.

Ken stained the tables and at VBS that summer, the children stained and glued the letters on the front. If you crawl under the table, you can see where they also stamped the words "In memory of Joshua Derby, VBS 2016". In addition, Morgan Jones and her grandmother created altar cloths for them using the handprints of the children. They have been used for worship time at the

end of Sunday school classes since then when the children share their joys and concerns and light candles to remind them that God's light shines in them.

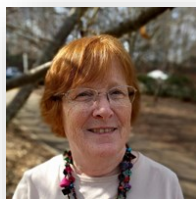
We used them this year for World Communion Sunday, to hold our breads from around the world. They will be used again on All Saint's Day to hold pictures of our saints on November 6.



WORSHIP

Diane Reese, Chair

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



We are grateful to the leadership team of liturgists and other worship leaders who are helping with worship during Rev. Courtney's family leave. Special thanks to the Stewardship team who played a huge part in providing meaningful worship experiences to PUCC throughout stewardship season especially including Commitment Sunday. Thank you to Trish Greeves and Rochelle Lofstrand who were so generous of their time as Pastoral Worship Leaders during the last three Sundays of October.

In November, we will be led by some guest pastors including Kimble Parker Sorrells, Tim Downs and Tom Query. On November 27th, for the first Sunday in Advent, Rochelle Lofstrand will lead the services.

The outdoor service for Blessing of the Animals was held on Saturday, October 1st at 10:00 a.m. It was well attended, including at least 10 humans and 11 animals, and remembrances of some very special pets who had passed on.

We will need many volunteers as we prepare for Hanging of the Green on Saturday, November 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. As always, many hands make light work, and we will be delighted to have as many folks as possible to participate in this worship work day. The large tree will need to be assembled in the sanctuary, so it will be ready for the Chrismons and the celebratory lighting the next day. This workday is in preparation of the staging for Advent 1 on November 27th when both services will celebrate Hanging of the Green.

Our new Part Time Music Director, Asa Bradley, began his position at Pilgrimage during the week of September 20th. Choir rehearsals began on Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30 p.m. Under Asa's leadership, we will move forward with a vibrant and exciting music ministry.

The position for the Part Time Accompanist may be filled very soon. The search committee conducted interviews and auditions in mid-October. We thank the many interim and substitute accompanists who had a huge part in leading the music of worship during the last several months.

Scripture readers for the month of October were:

- Oct. 02—Janet Derby & Reba Williams
- Oct. 09—Amy Jones & Katie Bridges
- Oct. 16—Juliann Heilhecker & Ken Moss
- Oct. 23—Laurie Spencer & Duke Yaguchi
- Oct. 30—Duke Yaguchi; Kathleen & Bill McNulty

If anyone is interested in being a scripture reader, usher, or greeter on a rotation schedule or just at times and dates you prefer, please email the worship committee at pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who helps PUCC as needed every Sunday.

DEACONS

By Juliann Heilhecker & Stephen Williams
Co-chairs

pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com



How You Can Help Others

"Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace." 1 Peter 4:10

Our team of deacons is just one of the many ways that we serve our community, following Christ's example, and answering God's call. Rochelle recently gave an example of how her deacon, Rita, brought her and Jen a Lenten bag to help them celebrate Lent and Easter during Covid so they wouldn't feel so isolated. This is just one example of how deacons have helped. We also help members in many other ways: Sending cards, giving rides, providing meals, visiting members, just to name a few. The deacons also help with Communion and get the fun job of hosting trivia night!

The result of this ministry is significant, and you are invited to be a part of something with such a positive impact.

If being a deacon sounds like it is up your alley, please contact the deacon co-chairs (email address is above), and we will be happy to discuss how you can join this amazing ministry.

PARISH LIFE

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



Parish Life enjoyed hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 30th. We had a good turnout, and we hope it was a fun time for all. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a success.

Our next event is hosting the Annual Pilgrimage UCC Thanksgiving Potluck this year!

It is scheduled for Sunday, November 20th. We will set up at 5:30 and eat at 6:00 p.m.

Set-up and tear-down is an important part of the event planning, so if you are willing and able to assist us in this way, please contact Carol or Susan.

We will send out a Signup Genius closer to the date for people to indicate what they will bring as their side dishes and desserts.

Mark your calendar and we'll see you there!



**Our next meeting is Tuesday,
November 1, 7:00 p.m. at the church.
The book for review is
"The Children on the Hill"
by Jennifer McMahon**

**If you would like to meet for dinner at
O'Charlie's at 6:00, please contact
Fran Howard at:**

roberthow@aol.com

MUST Ministries

Serving Our Neighbors in Need

On Tuesday, November 29th, we will serve the guests of MUST Ministries a nutritious lunch. The new location is at:

MUST Hope House
1297 Bells Ferry Road
Marietta, GA 30066

We need 3-5 volunteers to help cook starting at 10:15 a.m., and 3-5 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 in the church Narthex. Volunteers must enter through the front door and clear security before coming into the kitchen.

We are accepting cash donations needed to buy the chicken and side items since we are required to do all cooking on site. Donations can be sent to the church by check, or you can make your payment through PayPal or Zelle.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact Dick or Rita Mehlan at:

re_mehlan@bellsouth.net

rmehlan@bellsouth.net

Meet Our New Accompanist



The accompanist search committee has completed the hiring process and is happy to announce that we have hired Anna Mbiad as our part-time accompanist. Anna has been playing for us throughout the summer, so many of you have had the pleasure of hearing her play during Sunday worship. Welcome Anna!



WORKDAY

At Pilgrimage, we have a tradition of gathering on Saturday morning, the weekend after Thanksgiving—the day before Advent 1—to begin to prepare for our Annual Hanging of the Green service.

- When: Saturday, November 26 at 9:30 a.m.
- Where: The church Sanctuary

Volunteers will be needed to unwrap the Chrismons, help to assemble the large tree (which involves climbing a ladder), hang the large wreaths, carefully unwrap the Creche, and remove the cellophane from the poinsettias.

Please let Diane Reese know if you can come and help us at:

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

November Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

11/05	Reba Williams
11/07	Dick Mehlan
11/09	Megan Collins
11/10	Sydney Schnitzlein
11/12	Michelle Kozak
11/12	Hugh Lowrey
11/16	Matthew Alexander
11/18	Courtney Williams
11/19	Anne Mooney
11/23	Carol Hill
11/24	Sylvia Nelson
11/26	Helene O'Neill
11/29	John O'Neill

ANNIVERSARIES

None that we are aware of.

If we missed someone,
email Lynne at:

office@pilgrimageucc.org

Spiritual Seekers Group

The Spiritual Seekers Group will be taking a break for November and December. We will start the new year with a one-meeting discussion of *Miracles* by C.S. Lewis on Tuesday, January 3. Beginning in February, we'll begin a longer-term study of *Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Richard Rohr.

This would be a great time to give Seekers a try; we meet at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. If you think you might be interested in joining us, we'd love to have you. Call—

Trish Greeves (470-268-5561)

or Janet Derby (678-763-1349)

...to learn more.

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Courtney Jones
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 President:	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

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club via Zoom (Fran Howard)	1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Rochelle Lofstrand, Pres.)...	Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m.
Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves).....	Quarterly Meetings—3:00 p.m. Saturday
Spiritual Seekers' Group (Trish Greeves)	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

Nov.	6	All Saints' Day Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Communion (both services)
Nov.	13	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)
Nov.	20	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Thanksgiving Potluck
Nov.	27	Advent 1—Hanging of the Greens Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)