

PILGRIM'S Progress

May 2024

*"This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you."
JOHN 15:12*

PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org



Dear Beloved,

I continue to be pleasantly surprised by how well attended our retreats have been and how much deeply spiritual healing work we've been able to accomplish.

Thank you to everyone who made time to participate by bringing food, setting up, cleaning up, sharing pictures and memorabilia, and most of all, giving yourselves to tender and vulnerable conversations. I encourage everyone to take a look at the timeline we put together, which is on display in the sanctuary. It will be on the table through May 19th, which is Pentecost. This gives folks time to take home anything they want to keep and to bring any photos or other memorabilia they'd like to add. If you're willing to help put the timeline together in a more permanent installation after Pentecost, please let me know so we can coordinate schedules.

One thing that came up during Saturday's retreat is that there is an untapped resource in our congregation: the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. This team meets on the fourth Thursday of every month to give feedback about how things are going—what we are finding meaningful, what we could do differently, and what new ministry possibilities are springing up within the congregation. You never have to wait for my review season to give feedback, either positive or negative. You can contact me directly or reach out to one of the members of the PPRC: Katie Bridges, Dick Mehlan, Trudy Stoddert, and Joyanna Wyne. We also have room for another member or two, so if you are interested let one of us know! Communication is critical to our ability to thrive as a congregation so I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to be part of the conversation!

God loves you, and so do I.

Courtney



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



Many of you know me well enough to recognize I love a good joke, so here is one that always comes to mind this time of year: *'If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring?'* The answer, of course, is *'Pilgrims!'* I think I am reminded of this joke in the spring of every year because it was one of the first jokes I learned that used a clever turn of phrase to completely change the question into an unexpected direction. Now, as a member of Pilgrimage, I smile to myself as we approach May because I am a "Pilgrim!"

Thank you for allowing me that little walk down memory lane. I love humor because I find it helps take the edge off what can be seen as troubling times. I hear many concerns from the congregation that these are particularly troubled times, and so I thought a reminder that humor and smiles are also a part of our world was important.

I am also a student of history, and I am aware that there are numerous points in recent history where Americans and their leaders thought we were living through a critical moment in time. During all those times it was the action of interested parties that worked hard to prevent tragedy. If we can remember to smile at what we can, recognize the work we have to do, and accept we have an active role in determining the shape of our world and are not simply passengers along for the ride, then we can find comfort in the agency we have in our great nation.

The mission and vision of our church keeps us focused on the work we want to do and the path we want to follow. This path does not eliminate all of the bad acts others may commit which create the need for our good work; those acts will always exist. Our mission and vision give us a means to take control of our future to make the world better. That job is made easier if we can find a way to do it with a smile, so I leave you with this gem: *'Why do all the ships in the Norwegian Navy have bar codes on their sides? So they can Scandinavian!'*

Hopefully that brought a smile to your face, and I will look for you on Sunday!

WORSHIP

Molly Moss & Melissa Fadeley, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



May 12 – Mother’s Day

May 19 – Pentecost – Wear your red!

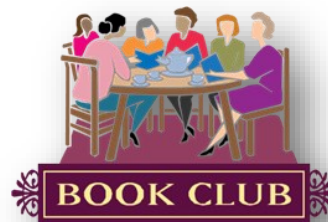
May 26 – Memorial Day weekend – Beginning of our summer series, “Supernatural Summer”. *(Pastor Courtney will explore biblical miracles and wonders until the middle of August.)*

A special “Thank you” to all our greeters, ushers and scripture readers for April. The volunteering of your time and talents is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in being a scripture reader or usher, please reach out to the Worship co-chairs at:

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

Melissa Fadeley
Worship Co-chair



MAY 2024

Book Club will be held on Tuesday, May 7 @ 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rita Mehlan.

The book for discussion is: “Eighty Days” By Matthew Goodman

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

roberthow@aol.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Janet Derby

pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com



Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held this year the week of July 22-26. Registration is available on our website at:

<https://www.pilgrimageucc.org/vacation-bible-school-2020>.

You may also email pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com with your child's name, age, and grade level or with any questions.

VBS Volunteers Needed!

We are still looking for a few adult and youth volunteers. We especially need someone to help with crafts on Tuesday and Thursday, July 23 and 25. If you can help that week, please contact Janet Derby at: derbyjm@gmail.com.

We will again this year be asking for VBS sponsors (who will get Bling nametags) to help to purchase shirts for our many volunteers. Look for information next month on that, mission donations, and our snack wizard program.

VBS T-Shirts

Again this year, we will have fabulous t-shirts for our children and volunteers with a design created by one of our children. These shirts will again be available for purchase. A picture of the shirts will be available soon. They will be light orange with the PUCG logo on the front and the drawing on the back. Shirts will be \$12 each (\$14 for XXL or XXXL). Order information will be coming soon.

Graduate Recognition

Graduate Recognition Sunday is coming up. If you or a member of your family is graduating this year, please email the office as soon as possible with their name and the school from which they are graduating. Thanks!

Community Voices Series

The Christian Education committee is planning the second in our Community Voices series which we hope to have later this summer. If you know of a specific topic or person who might make for an interesting session, please contact the committee at: pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com.

PUCG Voting Rights Initiative Update As of April 11, 2024

PUCG's postcard writing party on April 3 was an enormous success with 12 people at the church writing postcards, using a variety of colored pens, talking, and laughing together. We had such good turnout that we ran out of names, addresses, post cards, etc. Such a wonderful problem to have! I ordered more of everything we need and as of today, it has all arrived.

I will be writing an email to everyone who signed up to work on this exciting PUCG Voting Rights Initiative updating them. If I don't have your name, or if you aren't sure, and you want to get involved, please let me know ASAP. I'll add you to our contact list and keep you posted. Just email me, Ann Baker, at:

annbaker5@verizon.net

So far, PUCG members will be sending out over 300 postcards encouraging GA voters to vote in the primary on May 21 and passing along information about what they need to vote.

P.S. PUCG Voting Rights Initiative Partner is the outstanding national, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, The Center for Common Ground. Click below for more information:

<https://www.centerforcommonground.org/reclaim-our-vote>



Regardless of your skill level, we encourage you to come and sing with us! See below for rehearsal dates & times:

- Wednesday, May 1 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 5 @ 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 15 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 19 @ 11:30 a.m.

Feel free to contact Asa Bradley at:

abradd47@aol.com

Look for Summer Choir Plans in next month's issue.

MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair

pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com



Our next special collection drive will be in July, when we have our Annual Betty Roth Backpack Drive.

In the meantime, please remember our on-going food and clothing collections for MUST Ministries.

Requested food items:

- peanut butter
- jelly
- canned fruit
- Jello
- oatmeal express cups
- canned corn and green beans
- canned and dried beans
- all varieties of pasta
- pasta sauce
- canned tuna and chicken
- cereal
- 1 and 2 lb. bags of rice



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.** As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024.

May Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

05/02 Ella Dorsey
05/02 Juliann Heilhecker
05/02 Nick Shiver
05/03 Pat Kask
05/04 Danny Schnitzlein
05/05 Kerry Schnitzlein
05/11 Launa Richardson
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

TREASURERS

Amy Jones, Treasurer
 Rochelle Lofstrand, Asst. Treasurer
pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com



This month, we have reports for March and YTD 2024 income and expenses. We have now migrated our processes to Realm Accounting, so the format of the reports is different. Feedback is welcome.

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ			
Monthly P&L Summary			
Date Range: Mar 1st 2024 - Mar 31st 2024 Filtered by: Fund			
Accounts	Actual Mar 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024	Budget Mar 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024	Budget Over/Under Mar 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024
Revenues			
General Fund	18,368.66	19,846.99	(1,478.33)
Total Revenues	\$ 18,368.66	\$ 19,846.99	(\$ 1,478.33)
Expenses			
Staff Compensation	11,493.91	11,393.07	(100.84)
Pastor Expenses	208.33	467.50	259.17
Properties	6,939.29	3,760.00	(3,179.29)
Worship Expenses	170.23	1,021.66	851.43
Communications, Admin & Office	849.18	790.67	(58.51)
Christian Education	0.00	216.66	216.66
Other Expenses	36.86	63.33	26.47
Total Expenses	\$ 19,697.80	\$ 17,712.89	(\$ 1,984.91)

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ			
Statement of Activities			
Date Range: Jan 1st 2024 - Mar 31st 2024 Filtered by: Fund			
Accounts	Actual Jan 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024	Budget Jan 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024	Budget Over/Under Jan 01, 2024 - Mar 31, 2024
Revenues			
General Fund	68,031.73	59,540.97	8,490.76
Total Revenues	\$ 68,031.73	\$ 59,540.97	\$ 8,490.76
Expenses			
Staff Compensation	32,807.39	32,724.88	(82.51)
Pastor Expenses	3,066.20	1,402.50	(1,663.70)
Properties	16,486.57	15,415.21	(1,071.36)
Worship Expenses	820.23	3,064.98	2,244.75
Communications, Admin & Office	3,189.28	5,372.01	2,182.73
Missions	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Christian Education	165.00	649.98	484.98
Other Expenses	43.14	129.99	86.85
Total Expenses	\$ 59,577.81	\$ 61,759.55	\$ 2,181.74
Net Total	\$ 8,453.92	(\$ 2,218.58)	\$ 10,672.50

Here are some notes on the March YTD expense variances:

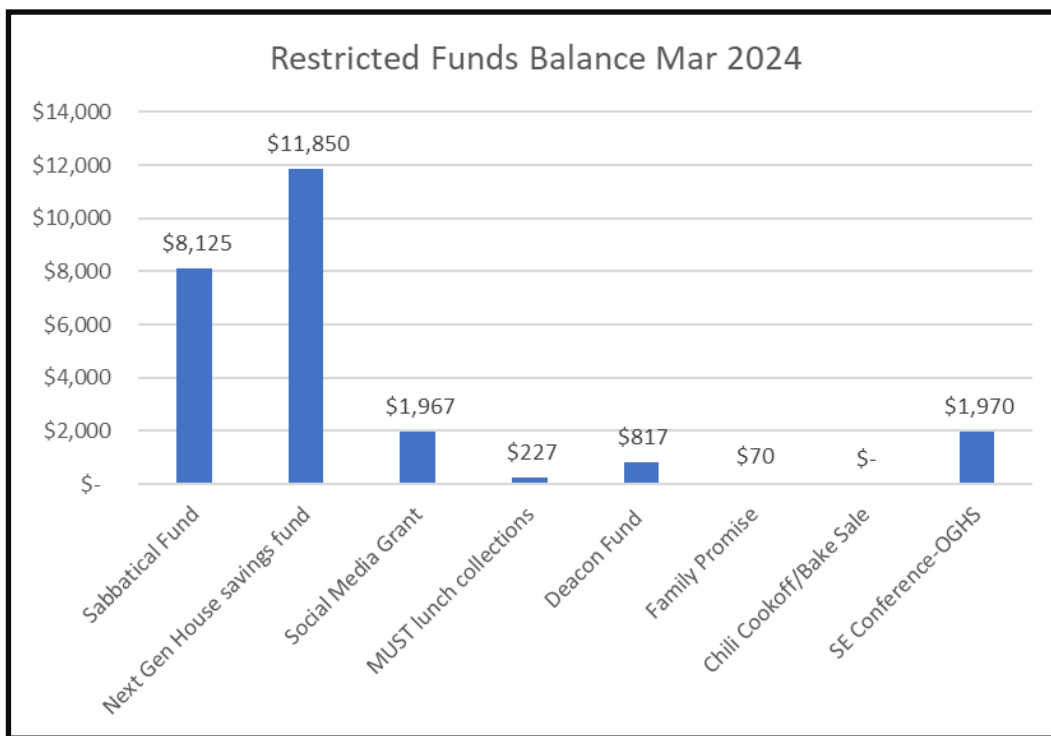
Through March, giving is roughly \$8,500 ahead of schedule. There may be other months that come in lower but so far, we're doing quite well.

Pastor expenses are high due to the full program fees for her study program coming due in February. Those expenses were planned evenly through the year.

Properties expenses are high due primarily to work done in March to repair the front sidewalk. Worship expenses are low primarily due to not yet staffing for the planned A/V role. Communications, Admin & Office expenses are low due to the computer purchase coming in lower than planned.

Staff Compensation is a little over due to vision insurance for the pastor. That cost hit in March and was planned evenly throughout the year.

At the end of March, we had \$54,248 in our bank accounts. Our restricted funds account balance is \$25,000 leaving us with a balance of \$29,248 in our Operating Funds. Our Restricted Funds Balance details are shown below:



The insurance payments have been deposited into interest bearing accounts in the month of March. Our initial deposit was \$542,460.98. We earned \$243.94 of interest in our first month so our current balance is \$542,704.92.

Update on our IRS penalty issue: We received another letter from them indicating that we still need to pay the penalty. On April 15, we sent a check to the IRS for \$4,183.01 by certified mail. It's not the outcome we wanted, but it will close this issue out so we can move forward.

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, Treasurer

STAFF

<p>Pastor</p> <p>Music Director</p> <p>Accompanist</p> <p>Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>Rev. Courtney Jones</p> <p>Asa Bradley</p> <p>Anna Mbiad</p> <p>Lynne Buell</p>
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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:	abradi47@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

May	5	<p>Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Communion (Both Services) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)</p>
May	12	<p>Mother's Day Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Missions Comm. Mtg (9:15 a.m.)</p>
May	19	<p>Pentecost Sunday UCC Offering: "Strengthen the Church" Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.) Piano Recital (1:30 p.m.)</p>
May	26	<p>Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.)</p>