

# PILGRIM'S Progress

November 2021

A monthly publication of Pilgrimage  
United Church of Christ

## PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

[pastor@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org)



**D**ear Beloved,  
How can it be that it's already November?! The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting chillier, and we are barreling toward the holiday season.

But as we sit in this liminal (in-between) space, in the trinity of days that are Halloween—All Souls Day—All Saints Day, I invite us to pause. To be in this moment rather than thinking ahead. Breathe deeply, and drink in the crisp air. Feel how fast and slow time seems to move all at once: somehow, an hour can feel like an eternity, and a year passes in the blink of an eye.

In these holy days, we honor the thin veil between life and the realm of the eternal (which we might call Heaven, or the Realm of God, or the vastness of the Universe, or something else). Throughout history, the Church has used these “thin” days to reflect on the unending relationship between the living and the dead, which is sometimes referred to as the “communion of saints.” In October, one of our living saints, Steve Owens, died to this life and entered into God's eternal communion. And yet, death is not the end of our relationship with Steve, nor with any of our beloved ones who have slipped this life. At the same time, we get to recognize this life, and this moment, for what it is—a single moment that will fade into memory, another moment when the

future becomes the present and the present becomes the past. I hope this inspires awe and wonder more than fear or regret! We are called to notice God's movement in the world and to join our energy with the energy of the Divine; in these liminal days, there is no better time to tap into the aspects of the Sacred that are mysterious, unable to be fully known. What wisdom comes to us from beyond the veil when we open ourselves to the lessons of this liminal time?

There will be time to prepare for Thanksgiving. There will be time to prepare our homes and our sanctuary and our hearts for God's miraculous entry into the world. But for today, our only job is to be present, to breathe, to understand that we are part of the divine mystery that is ever-unfolding. I pray that God's peace will be with you this season and always.

Love,

Courtney



**SERVING MEALS  
TO THE HOMELESS**

**MUST Lunch**

**O**n Tuesday, November 30, we will serve the guests of MUST Ministries a nutritious lunch. We will need 3 -5 volunteers to help cook and serve starting about 10:15 a.m.

Cash donations will be needed to buy chicken and side items since we can't pick chicken up at church. Donations can be sent to the church by check, or you can make your payment through PayPal or Zelle. If you would like to help cook and/or serve, please contact Dick and Rita Mehlan at:

[re\\_mehlan@bellsouth.net](mailto:re_mehlan@bellsouth.net)

or

[rmehlan@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmehlan@bellsouth.net)



**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.**

*“Give thanks to  
God because he  
is good, be-  
cause his faith-  
ful love en-  
dures forever.”*

*1 CHRONICLES  
16:34*

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

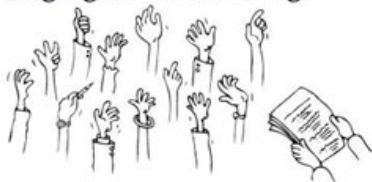
## CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

By Susan Volentine

[pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com)



### Special Congregational Meeting



On Sunday, November 14, we will have a Congregational Meeting following the 10:00 service when we will discuss and vote on approving Pilgrimage's Safe Church Policy.

The Pilgrimage Safe Church Policy was developed by members of our church in 2012 to offer guidelines for keeping our congregants, especially our children, safe from harm. In 2019 a Safe Church Task Force was formed to review and upgrade that policy as well as to look at other safety issues within the church. The previous Safe Church Policy was never officially ratified by the congregation. The updated Safe Church Policy can be viewed from an email blast which was sent on Thursday, October 28. There will also be copies in the Narthex.

Anyone who was on the original committee, please let me know so I can thank you for your hard work and maybe you can share some of the history of the policy.

Those of you who attend the 8:30 service can log into Facebook live around 11:00 in order to participate in the meeting, and those who attend the 10:00 service on line can stay on Facebook live after the service. The voting will occur after the discussion. I will announce that you can enter your vote yes or no in the comment section.

Please contact Susan if you have any questions prior to the meeting at the email address above.

## STEWARDSHIP

Anne Mooney, Duke Yaguchi, Co-Chairs

[pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com)



Our Commitment Campaign formally ended at Sunday's service on October 24. I want to thank those of you who have already turned in your pledges for next year. For those who intend to pledge but haven't turned in your pledge cards yet, please do so by dropping them into the offering plate during an upcoming Sunday service or by mailing them to the church office:

Pilgrimage UCC  
Attn: Financial Secretary  
3755 Sandy Plains Road  
Marietta, GA 30066



With your collective pledges we can continue the good work of our church.

I want to thank all of those who provided testimonials in support of our campaign. At our 8:30 a.m. services, I thank Bill & Lois Dischinger, Michele Brumfield, Morgan Jones and Sharon Getty. At our 10 o'clock services, I thank Darlene Wagner, Joe Martin, Joyanna Wyne and Ric Reitz. Thank you to Sharon Getty for coordinating the 8:30 testimonials. Thank you to Polly Yaguchi and Joyce Baker for their written testimonials. Thanks to my co-chair, Anne Mooney for kicking off and closing the campaign at the 8:30 services. And thank you in memoriam to Steve Owens who had volunteered to deliver his testimonial.

Thank you to everyone who help care for each other, our little church on the hill, and the greater church community. May your giving be blessed by the hand of God.

Gratefully submitted,

Duke Yaguchi, Co-chair Stewardship

## CHRISTIAN ED

Janet Derby

[pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com)

## DEVOTIONS

Our daily devotions have been on hiatus for a couple of months, and we would like to bring them back for the Advent season. To do that, we need some writers. You would be given a short passage from Scripture to use to guide you in sharing a connection to that passage. You can tell a story that relates to the passage or simply put down your thoughts about the Scripture. There is no need to be deeply theological or intellectual. It should be kept short and to the point. If you are willing to try this out for one or two days this December, please let Janet Derby know at [derbyjm@gmail.com](mailto:derbyjm@gmail.com).

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Christian Education committee is hoping to restart Adult Sunday school in Advent. Reverend Courtney will be conducting Sermon Talk-backs during the month of December. Prior to that, we are planning a time for discussion about options and ways for the adults to connect on Sunday, November 14 after the 10:00 worship service. We will do this remotely, or possibly in combination with an in-person session. Please contact Janet Derby ([derbyjm@gmail.com](mailto:derbyjm@gmail.com)) or Rev. Courtney ([pastor@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org)) if you are interested in joining that session.

## CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

After our remote Christmas Eve last year, we are looking forward our children again leading us with an in-person musical pageant this year. I am happy to incorporate a video of children who do not want to attend in person. Acting parts are available for our children with no lines, a few lines, or a fair number. Any youth who want to be a part are welcome to play a role or simply help from the sidelines.

We will have at least one rehearsal session in November to walk through the play before the Thanksgiving break. This could be either the 7th or the 14th or possibly on the 21st. We will do our best to keep the children socially distanced during the rehearsals. In December, there will be rehearsals on the 5th and 12<sup>th</sup>, and probably one the week of December 19. The Christmas Eve service is scheduled for 5 PM on Friday.

Please contact Janet Derby ([derbyjm@gmail.com](mailto:derbyjm@gmail.com)) if your child or youth would like to take part, either in person or remotely.



## The deadline for ordering a Poinsettia is November 7, 2021.

Each 8" plant will have a green foil cover for the pot, and you will have the choice of red or white flowers. The cost is \$14.75 each.

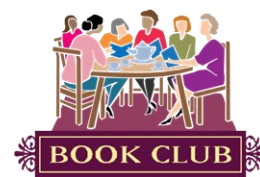
Click on this link to place your order:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJPsxPn4uv9zB5EDcq8CS-KPSYH8qRLbrFaBObp9tMeLKtQ/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJPsxPn4uv9zB5EDcq8CS-KPSYH8qRLbrFaBObp9tMeLKtQ/viewform?usp=pp_url)

Payment can be made through PayPal, Zelle, or simply mail a check to Pilgrimage UCC. We are asking that you reference "Poinsettia" in the memo section of your payment.

If you have any questions, contact Lynne at:

[office@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org)



**Book for Review:**

***"The Midnight Library"*  
By Matt Haig**

**Meeting:  
Tuesday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Fran Howard**

***For more information contact:  
Fran Howard***

[roberthow@aol.com](mailto:roberthow@aol.com)

## WORSHIP

*Diane Reese, Chair*

[pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com)



**T**hank you to Rev. Courtney Jones for your inspirational messages during Sunday morning services and for communication opportunities for everyone. During October, we continued to be inspired by messages from members about their love and commitment to Pilgrimage UCC.

We also had a very enjoyable morning with the Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday morning, October 9<sup>th</sup>. On the lawn in front of the church were one cat, eight dogs, and quite a few very kind humans.

Thank you to the scripture readers for the month of October. They were:

- October 3 – Laurie Spencer and Trish Greeves
- October 10 – Sharon Getty and Jaime Fulsang
- October 17 – Syd Bowcott and Becky Nelson
- October 24 – Michelle Brumfield and Duke Yaguchi
- October 31 – Amy Jones and Darlene Wagner

If anyone would like to read scripture on a rotation schedule or just at times and dates you prefer, please email the worship committee at:

[pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com)

Last, but not least, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who help in our weekly worship services from the tech support folks, to other adults who fill in as volunteers when needed; and also to the children and youth who help make worship a peaceful experience.

### **Change in Worship-COVID Guidelines:**

***Wearing masks during worship is now recommended but not mandatory.***

***Please see your email from Friday, October 29, regarding how we arrived at this decision.***



**W**e will observe All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or Feast of All Saints, in the Christian church, is a day commemorating all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven.

On Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Advent 1 with the Hanging of the Green service. The congregation will join in hanging wreaths, placing the poinsettias, hanging the Chrismons on the tree, and placing the Creche during this special ceremony.



### HANGING OF THE GREEN WORKDAY

This year, we will resume this Pilgrimage UCC tradition to prepare for our special HOG service the day before Advent 1. But it isn't considered work for those who have assisted in the past, AND we will provide breakfast too!

- When: Saturday, November 27 at 9:30 a.m.
- Where: The church Sanctuary

Volunteers will be needed to unwrap the Chrismons, help to assemble the tree, and (carefully) unwrapping the pieces of our Creche. Lynne prepares the wreaths, but she will need some help hanging the larger Sanctuary wreaths.

We are looking forward to preparing the Sanctuary in person for Advent 1! Masking and careful social distancing is recommended.

Let Diane know if you will be attending at:

[pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com)





## Volunteering: Fostering A Mission

*From Amy Nichols*

**V**olunteering your time to support a cause you are passionate about is something you will never regret. It will enrich your life, familiarize you with your community, and connect you to people and ideas that will positively impact your perspective for the rest of your life. Helping your community is an opportunity for you to grow as a person, to better understand how you fit into the world around you.

Why is it so important to give back to your community?

Why is it so important to find a cause you love and volunteer your time?

Spending time enriching your community is a great way to broaden your perceptions of the world. By immersing yourself in a community and surrounding yourself with people who are dedicated to bettering the world, you can learn so much about how the world works. You gain a unique sense of purpose by serving those around you, one which often manifests in other areas of your life.

Of course, it's also important for your community! Without volunteers, many of the services and events we enjoy in our communities would not be so readily available. Spending time helping out at local shelters or food banks provides an important service to less fortunate neighbors. Giving back to the place you call home helps to unite the community and bridge some of the social, economic and political gaps.

## CLIMATE CHANGE – A Christian Concern

*By Hugh Lowrey*

**R**ecently, I reported on China's efforts to slow climate change. Now I have found an excellent article from *Foreign Affairs*, on that subject. It only expresses opinion but is well researched and thoughtful – a worthy effort. I will summarize its message. An important consideration from other sources is that Xi Jinping's term in office has been extended. He may become a life-long autocrat.

We know that, in our country, personal ambitions and party loyalties of powerful people often dominate, leaving us at the mercy of climate change. So it isn't hard to accept that a similar situation might exist in China. The opinion in *Foreign Affairs* is that the primary focus of Chinese leaders is to keep their enormous population satisfied and compliant with their rule, to maintain their power. A smoothly functioning economy is a necessity for this purpose.

The hundreds of coal-fired power plants in China are, unlike ours, their lowest cost source of power. These plants, many new, have a 40-to-50 year lifespan. I previously reported that China has this year established a cap-and-trade emission control system for coal plants, but it applies to a disappointingly small number of them.

The *Foreign Affairs* authors' position, as stated above, is that China, earth's largest greenhouse gas emitter, will not conduct meaningful negotiations on climate control. Unified action by nations with significant trade volumes with China, however, could apply heavy economic pressure. If China's trading partners each adopted a carbon tax with border adjustment, China's carbon-containing exports would be taxed by each trading country an amount equal to its carbon tax, at its border. Carbon taxes increase annually. This would continue until China adopted a similar carbon tax. Several countries already tax carbon, and such a tax is reportedly under consideration for inclusion in the Democrats' reconciliation bill.

## STAFF

**Pastor**  
**Music Director**  
**Administrative Assistant**

**Rev. Courtney Jones**  
**Matthew Raisky**  
**Lynne Buell**

## Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

Pilgrimage UCC Website:	<a href="http://www.pilgrimageucc.org">www.pilgrimageucc.org</a>	Worship:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com</a>
Pastor-Rev. Courtney Jones	<a href="mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org">pastor@pilgrimageucc.org</a>	Christian Education:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com</a>
Office-Lynne Buell:	<a href="mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org">office@pilgrimageucc.org</a>	VBS-Janet Derby:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com</a>
Council:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com">pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com</a>	Communications:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com">pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com</a>
Council President:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com</a>	Missions	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com">pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com</a>	Properties	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com</a>
Council Fin. Secretary:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com</a>	Stewardship	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com</a>
Deacons:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com</a>	Parish Life:	<a href="mailto:pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com">pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com</a>

## **Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups**

Book Club via Zoom (Fran Howard) .....	1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Susan Volentine, 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. <a href="https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta">https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta</a>

*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](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org).*

## The Month in Sundays

Nov.	7	<b>Worship—All Saints Sunday</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:00AM</b> <b>Communion (both services)</b> <b>Confirmation Orientation (11:30AM)</b>
Nov.	14	<b>Worship</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Congregational Meeting (11:30AM)</b>
Nov.	21	<b>Worship</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.</b>
Nov.	28	<b>Worship—Advent 1</b> <b>8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Hanging of the Green</b> <b>PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)</b>

## **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

We are not aware of any anniversaries this month.

If we missed someone, please let Lynne know at: [office@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:office@pilgrimageucc.org)