

PILGRIM'S Progress

November 2025

*"Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing."
PSALM 98:5*

WORSHIP

Juliann Heilhecker & Joyanna Wyne
Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

It is easy to feel anxious in this time of uncertainty in our church as we go through a search for our interim pastor and eventually a settled pastor. As your worship co-chairs, we want to reassure you that our church leaders are keeping God at the forefront, and we are moving forward with our church ministry.

Our music ministry is in transition as well. Let us take a moment to thank Asa for his energetic and talented gift of service to the church and the choir. Thank you, Asa, for your beautiful voice and your leadership of our music ministry.

With Advent just around the corner, Rochelle Lofstrand, Pat Kask and I were able to interview Jake Daron quickly, and I am thrilled to announce that Jake Daron will be our Interim Music Director. You have seen and heard him substitute as a talented accompanist on Sundays when Anna took time off. Jake is excited to take on this role and take the music ministry through Advent. Mark your calendar that we will celebrate our annual Music Sunday on Sunday, December 14th.

Speaking of Advent, our tradition of Hanging of the Green will be Sunday, November 30. To prepare for Hanging of the Green, we need volunteers to help on Saturday November 29 between

9AM and 12PM to put up the Christmas tree and prepare the sanctuary. We'll provide a light breakfast before we go to work.

Please email us if you can attend at:

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

Worship will also work with the children for our annual Family Christmas Eve pageant. Stay tuned for emails from Janet Derby for more information.

As you can see, with our faith in God and the help and dedication of our staff and volunteers, we are united in keeping our ministries functioning with excitement and intent.

Peace and well-being,

Juliann Heilhecker & Joyanna Wyne
Worship Co-chairs



PUCC Vision Statement

"We are an open and affirming faith community living out Christ's love through acceptance, learning, service, and action."



Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 2, 2025

Remember to turn your clocks back Saturday night!

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Pilgrimage
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

COUNCIL MODERATOR

Heyward Ottley

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com



Moderator's Corner:

Greetings to all. My goodness, October is in our rear-view mirror. We just have a bit more candy to hand out to our little trickier treaters or a little bit more candy to eat. You know who you are. May all our littles have a fun and safe Halloween and may the costumes hold themselves together for one more wearing.

This has been an eventful month. We have said our goodbyes to Courtney, Auggie, "Teddy the Mayor" and wee Charlie. We said our goodbyes to our Music Director Asa. As we reflect on these closing chapters I hope we can hold two things simultaneously, gratitude and anticipation.

For those bibliophiles among us, there is a pull you feel when you are reading a great book. The characters captivate you; the author's skill impresses you, and you can't stop reading until you reach the ending. God has been authoring an amazing story about our little church up on the hill. Full of wonderful characters that are capable of amazing things. As these recent chapters close for us, lean into your faith that our story will be unfolding in new and amazing ways. Who does not love a plot twist!

Let us stroke the fires of anticipation a little bit.

A few of us met with the architect and builder recently to discuss renovation plans for space renovation. The Architect was excited to see that our walls are movable, which opens vast opportunities to rework & better allocate our space. As with most things, when you are spending someone else's money, it is easier to dream big. However, this Architect has done over 250 churches and serves as a council member in his own small church, so he gets it that we need to stretch our dollars. That said, do not be surprised if early plans give us sticker shock.

The first thing we will see is what he calls schematic

drawings. Prior to receiving those we will need to agree to his financial terms. These schematic drawings are what we will use to drive us from concept to a final scope. The builder will use that final scope for quoting.

It is time to start forming a renovation committee. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please email me at pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com. Lisa Toomey will remain as a consultant to the member committee and vendor mediation. The property team will also supervise the decision matrix and timelines for this team.

Members that are interested in serving on this committee may be required to meet weekly (for a period) and have a method for polling the congregation intermittently. To keep the project on track the Architect will have regular calls with the committee to help drive the decision processes so that it does not drag on too long. A condition we are intimately familiar with at this point.

The Interim Minister search committee also has exciting updates. I can't say too much more at this moment, but the team and the Exec committee are giddy over the search findings. I am not sure if any of you have seen Greg Kask giddy but I did, and it is something to behold!! More to follow on this note and I hope we will have more concrete news to share shortly.

Lastly, we have hired our new Interim Music Director who is due to start next month. Jake Daron has been appointed as the Interim Music Director. We are thrilled to welcome Jake into the fold.

Thanks to our Worship Committee: Juliann Heilhecker and Joyanna Wyne. They have acted swiftly and deftly to secure our pulpit supply and Music Director as we continue to navigate our transitions. We could not do it without you.

You see...we started out thinking about closing chapters and now we are looking to the future to see what comes next. Thank you all for sticking it out as our new chapters unfold. It will be quite the story to live into.

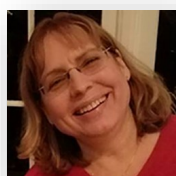
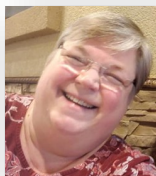
May our journeys continue to intersect at the little church up on the hill.

Love to all,

Heyward Ottley
PUCC Moderator

PARISH LIFE

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



Our **Annual Trunk or Treat** event was held on Sunday, October 26 at 11:30 AM. This has always been one of our congregation's favorite activities! The weather was chilly, but it didn't prevent for some creative trunk decorations and great children's costumes that made the day fun! Thanks go out to our judges, Pat Kask, Diane Reese and Cary Lee, and to all the participants braving the cold! Now, on to the winners!

Kids' Costumes

- Best Overall: Atlas Parker ~ FBI agent
- Spookiest: Eli Scates ~ as Alfredo from Ratatouille with his sweet pet rat Wiggles (as Remy)
- Cutest: Larkin McDuffie ~ Alice in Wonderland
- Honorable Mention: Emory McDuffie ~ Midnight Sorceress

Trunk Decorations

- 1st Place: The McDuffie Family ~ Dinosaur and Americana
- 2nd Place: The Clarks ~ Baseball Games
- 3rd Place: The Olensky Family ~ "Blue"
- Honorable Mention: Juliann Heilhecker & Lynne Buell ~ Morticia and the Graveyard (with candy-bowl holder)



Our **Annual Thanksgiving Potluck 2025** will be held on **Sunday, November 23 at 5:00 PM**. Every year it's a wonderful way to celebrate gratitude, share delicious food, and spend quality time with friends. To ensure we have a variety of foods, please sign up and let us know if you will bring a favorite meat, side dish, drinks, or dessert to share. Reminders will be in the weekly Etidings through November 21st. Click the sign-up genius link below for more details and to add what you will provide:

[Sign-Up for PUCC Thanksgiving Dinner Together 2025!](#)



Parish Life will be sponsoring something new this year! On **Saturday, December 6th** we are offering a special evening designed just for the parents. You can drop off your children at the church between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM so that you can enjoy some well-deserved time to relax, shop, or spend a fun night out...and it's free!

Our caring volunteers will provide fun activities that include making pizza, decorating (and eating) cookies, playing games such as BINGO, and indulging in various craft projects...just to name a few!

So that we can begin planning, we ask that parents and volunteers let Susan Volentine know as soon as possible if you would like to take part by emailing her at:

svolentine@bellsouth.net

Once we know we will have a sufficient number of parents AND volunteers committed to take part, we'll provide additional details and announcements in Fridays' Etidings. Forms will be required from the parents to be completed and signed which will provide emergency contact information and any potential allergens or medical conditions our volunteers should be aware of.

We can't wait to help you enjoy a night out while your children have a blast at church!

November Book Club

Details for the Book Club meeting on November 2:

- *The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett* by Annie Lyones (suggested by Rita Mehlan).
- To accommodate the shortened winter days, the Sunday, November 2 meeting will be held after church. After you've attended the 10:00 service and coffee time, plan to arrive at Karen's house—*not too far from the church* (3165 Oak Crest Trail, Marietta)—between 11:45 and noon.
- For the soup and salad menu, Karen will provide the soups and beverages. Members may bring the "extras" of their choice, including salad, bread, dessert.

The invitation to join Book Club is open to all. We hope to see you on November 2!

MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair

pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who generously donated warm clothing for our October “Warm Up for MUST” missions event. Thank you for being a part of this important effort that truly embodies the spirit of caring and community.

In addition, we want to thank you for your unwavering commitment during our Family Promise Host week with Covenant Presbyterian Church. Whether you donated food or volunteered your time, your support is deeply appreciated. Our next host week will be in February 2026. Until then, Family Promise of Cobb County is looking for volunteers to help at the Day Center during the week. They need folks to answer phones, straighten up the center, etc., and the hours are flexible. See Cindy Westlake or Deb Loche if you are interested.

ANNUAL DEACONS’ THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

In light of SNAP possibly lapsing this month for so many people, we are bringing back the Deacon’s “challenge” to see if we can escalate the amount of our donations for the Thanksgiving Food Drive!

At the same time we demonstrate our love and support for the clients of MUST Ministries, we can show our appreciation for our deacons! Start shopping now and place your non-perishable food donations in your deacon’s box in the Narthex from now through November 23rd. Which Deacon Family will bring in the MOST food and earn bragging rights until next Thanksgiving??

SPECIAL NOVEMBER MISSIONS PROJECT

So many of our neighbors are in need, following the decision to end SNAP benefits starting in November. Jesus implores us to take care of those who need our help and here is another chance to step up to that call. Throughout the month of November we will be collecting funds specifically to help those in need of food. Please note “Food” in the memo line of your checks or in your on-line donations. All funds collected will be donated to either MUST Ministries or the Atlanta Community Food Bank (we can decide on one of these or split it, or to donate to another, if someone has another idea). We are a generous congregation – thank you in advance for your support!



PUCC SANDWICH CLUB

The Pilgrimage Sandwich Club is a monthly caregiver’s support group for members and friends that are facing generational challenges and stress in handling relationships with children, parents, and others for whom they are responsible. One of our mantras is, “Caring not curing.” While we can’t solve each other’s problems or change most of our circumstances, it is helpful to have a confidential outlet in which to share frustrations, fears and hopes; to reflect, pray, and lament together; to tell it like it really is.

Our next meeting is on the calendar for Saturday, November 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

Email Trish Greeves at trishgreeves@me.com if you have any questions or would like to be added to their monthly email list.

SPIRITUAL SEEKERS GROUP

The Seekers gather to share and support one another through life’s joys and challenges. This group has been meeting for several years each month and has studied a wide range of books.

Their next meeting is November 25th at 7:00PM. They welcome new members, so if you are interested, you can contact Laurie Spencer at:

lauriespencergardens@gmail.com

Election Day, Tuesday November 4

Our church is a polling place for East Cobb, and there will be an election on Tuesday November 4.

The code for the key box will be changed from Sunday November 2 to Friday November 6, which will allow the election workers to have access to our building. If you need to access the key to enter the church, please contact Susan Volentine or Sarah Wilson for the temporary code.



Time to Get Ready for Advent!

Our poinsettias have been ordered, and we will take delivery the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Advent 1 is Sunday, November 30th, which is also our traditional Hanging of the Green service. The Worship Committee needs volunteers to help prepare for the service on Saturday, November 29th. As Juliann mentioned in her article on page 1, help is needed to set up tables in the back of the sanctuary where we will place poinsettias, Chrismons, the creche and wreathes for the sanctuary doors. We're hoping to have 1 or 2 folks who can climb the large ladder to put our tree together and hang the larger wreathes over the pulpit. This workday will begin at 9AM until around noon, and a light breakfast will be provided. Please email Juliann to let her know who would like to help at:

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

Janet Derby has begun to plan for our Christmas Eve Family Service. Traditionally, the children present a pageant including singing, playing bells, in addition to acting out the Christmas story. Children and youth are invited to become involved.

We will begin rehearsing during Faith Formation time on Sunday and occasionally after worship in November.

If your child would like to be a part of this special service, please contact Janet at:

derby.jm@gmail.com

November Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

11/03 Heidi Schuler
 11/05 Reba Williams
 11/06 Matthew Alexander
 11/07 Dick Mehlan
 11/10 Sydney Schnitzlein
 11/12 Ross McDuffie
 11/15 Diane Reese
 11/17 Jean Ellis
 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

11/01 Joe & Carla Martin

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

STAFF

Interim Pastor	In Discernment
Interim Music Director	Jake Daron
Accompanist	Anna Mbiad
Administrative Assistant	Lynne Buell

Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

Pilgrimage UCC Website:	www.pilgrimageucc.org	Music-Jake Daron:	jakedaron3@outlook.com
Pastor-Rev. Courtney Jones	pastor@pilgrimageucc.org	Worship:	pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com
Office-Lynne Buell:	office@pilgrimageucc.org	Christian Education:	pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com
Council:	pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com	VBS-Janet Derby:	pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com
Council Moderator:	pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com	Communications:	pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com
Treasurer:	pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com	Missions:	pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com
Council Fin. Secretary:	pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com	Properties:	pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com
Deacons	pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com	Stewardship:	pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club	1st Sunday of the month—4:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Heyward Ottley, Moderator)	Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m.
Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves)	Monthly—2:00 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

Nov.	2	All Saints Sunday Communion Both Services Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.) Book Club & Lunch (12:00 p.m.)
Nov.	9	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Handbell Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)
Nov.	16	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir (11:30 a.m.)
Nov.	23	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.) Thanksgiving Potluck (5:00 p.m.)
Nov.	30	Hanging of the Green Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Deacons Fund Offering