

PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org



Dear Beloved,
Summer is upon us! As I mentioned in a sermon a few weeks ago, it's time to play together and get acquainted (or reacquainted) with who we are as a people. Game nights, picnics, time in nature—what helps you feel refreshed, grounded, connected? Let me know, let Parish Life know. We are heading into a season of discernment about our collective future; this work requires a foundation of trust, which is built through relationships. Let's spend the summer having some fun and building community!

Looking forward to it!

Love
Courtney

Pastor's Report for April 8-May 12, 2022

Worked an average of 46 hours/wk
Wrote sermons/preached 8:30 worship (6:45 on Easter), 10:00 livestream, Wrote liturgy for worship weekly.
Led Maundy Thursday worship, spend time holding building open on Good Friday, attended Easter Breakfast, which was a lovely event.
Wrote newsletter article, weekly blurbs for e-tidings
Led Zoom vespers on Palm Sunday (April 10).
Attended choir rehearsal through Easter.

Met with Music Personnel Team to make decisions about the future of staffing for our music program. Met with Worship Team (Diane, Matt, Lynne, and Janet, Anne) weekly except 5/4. We are working on the Easter season and into Pentecost, which will also include search (or searches) for Music Director/Accompanist.

Worked with Diane Reese and Martial Toulouse on music for worship each Sunday, including picking hymns. Worked with Diane to think through coverage for June and July as well.

Attended special Council meeting to discuss purchase of NGH.

Led Inquirer's Class

Held Joining Sunday on Easter for five new members.

Offered pastoral care via phone, text, email, Zoom, and a few in-person visits/appointments (approximately 20 hrs/week).

Planned/officiated two funerals, including meetings with the families.

Attended visitation for Andrew Hutchings, led family in prayer before opening to the public.

Led Breathing Room weekly when able.

I continue to lead Confirmation Class each Sunday with three teens and their mentors.

Finished leading Lenten series on racial justice using *The Racial Healing Handbook*. We had ten regular attendees, and it went very well. We will be considering other learning and service opportunities in coming months.

Attended weekly SECUCC clergy zoom meetings

Met with Susan and Rochelle

Met with Clergy Community of Practice.

Met with Spiritual Director.



**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.**

*"I pray that the
Lord answers you
whenever you are
in trouble. Let
the name of
Jacob's God
protect you."*

PSALM 20:1

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CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

By Susan Volentine

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com

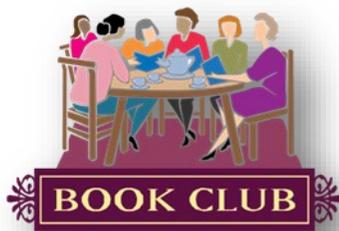


“Two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we take; the larger kind we feel for what we give.”
—Edwin Arlington Robinson

“O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.” —William Shakespeare

This is my last month to be your president and the last month to write a newsletter article as president. I am grateful for my time serving you and I am looking forward to remaining on council as co-chair of Parish Life. I will summarize all that occurred during this year in my report that will be a part of the Pilgrimage UCC Annual Report that will be available in June.

As I reflect over the past 11 months, I am thankful for the support of Courtney, Rochelle, and all the council members. It takes a village to raise a child and to lead the church. We have a wonderful village and I hope some of you will consider stepping into one of the open positions on council. It is a privilege to be able to serve God and Pilgrimage in a leadership role, and I am grateful for my two years as vice president and one year as president.



Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.

At the Church

**The book for review is
“A Woman of No Importance”
by Sonia Purnell**

**For meeting information contact:
Fran Howard or Janet Derby**

roberthow@aol.com

derby.jm@gmail.com

VBS...Very Soon & Very Fun!

“Bling Your Nametag” & “Snack Wizards”

VBS is early this year. . .so with less than 2 months to go, we all have to think “VBS NOW”

Bling Your Nametag

VBS veterans will understand the meaning of the wild name tag decorations dazzling the congregation. Join us in releasing your inner child; wearing an extravagantly-decorated name tag is a fun and childlike way to show you love our PUCC kids, to help welcome neighborhood kids who choose to participate, and to support our hard-working and faithful volunteers!

This year’s blingy nametag distribution is a do-it-yourself event. First, admire the fancy tree sprouting spectacularly unusual “blossoms” and choose a name tag that reflects your personality. As you unclip your new wearable art, clip some green back onto the tree. We suggest \$10 for one tag or \$5 per tag for a family.

(Transfer the paper name insert from your current, plain -Jane badge into your new tag, then just clip the blingy badge onto the empty original. Easy-peasy.) The nametag funds go to support the VBS program and also support the mission project the kids choose every year. Who knows? Once you get attached to the wild and wonderful bling of a name tag, we encourage you to come to Sunday worship with as much additional bling as your clothing will sustain!

Here’s another way to support VBS while still keeping your day job: Become a...

Snack Wizard!

Wizards make snacks magically appear for the VBS children; no magic wand needed! You’ll be given a specific list of items with instructions for preparation. You’ll drop them at church at the assigned time. Poof! You’ve turned into a Snack Wizard who performs VBS magic—creating happy, healthy children.

Karen Clark

(770-973-9297 or

karensclark@comcast.net)

...will be the point of contact for these two programs and will be at church most Sundays in May for in-person sign-ups.

CHRISTIAN ED

Janet Derby, Chair

pilgrimageucce@gmail.com



Graduate Recognition 2022

Pilgrimage has a terrific group of youth who will be graduating this year, some whom we have seen grow from small children. Here is a partial list of those who will be graduating this year.

Morgan Jones



Graduate of Campbell High School International Baccalaureate



Plans for next year: Attending the University of Kansas and majoring in Elementary Education.

Favorite memories of Pilgrimage: "Working with the kids at VBS and seeing them grow over my time here." It is unclear how we will do VBS without Morgan.

Jemma Nelson



Graduate of Roswell High School

Plans for next year: Attending NOVA Southeastern in Ft. Lauderdale to study Marine Biology



Favorite memory of Pilgrimage: All the times we sang (Christmas Eve) in front of the sanctuary with our simple wardrobe. I was an angel, donkey shepherd... so fun.

Carson Stoddart



Graduate of Lassiter High School



Plans for next year: Carson plans on attending Chattahoochee Tech to get his core/pre-req courses completed and then transfer to KSU for a Bachelor of Science in Computer Game Design and Development.

Favorite memory of Pilgrimage: His favorite memory is attending the Winter Youth Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center. Some of us remember Carson best in his appearances as the star in the Christmas Eve services.

Joshua Puente



Graduate of Lassiter High School

Plans for next year: Attending Florida State University

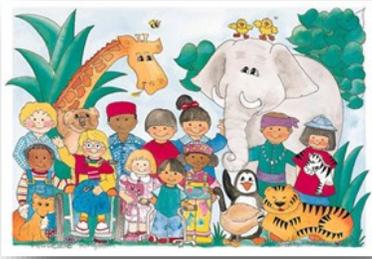
Favorite memory of Pilgrimage: We have always appreciated Joshua's talents which added to our worship music program.

Nursery Help Needed

We are going to begin the process of providing nursery workers to ensure that our littlest ones have a place to be during worship. If you know of anyone who would be interested in helping in our nursery, either as a paid position or a volunteer, please contact Janet Derby at pilgrimageucce@gmail.com.

The Christian Education Committee Input

The CE Committee will meet on Sunday, June 26, following the 10:00 Worship service. Anyone who would like to help make plans for the 2022-23 CE year is welcome to join us. If you cannot or do not wish to attend, but have thoughts about next year, please email us at pilgrimageucce@gmail.com.



VBS Volunteers Needed!

We are still in need of a few adults or youth to lead our children through a fun week of missions, crafts, snacks, and music. If you are willing to help the week of June 20-24, please contact Janet Derby at: derbyjm@gmail.com.

VBS Donation Opportunity

One more way you can contribute to our VBS children is by providing items for their mission projects for the week. A box will be in the narthex for donations. Any of the following items are welcome:

Play items: 12 count pack of Crayons, Markers, Glue sticks, Playdough, Card games (Old Maid, Go Fish, Memory Game, Uno), Sidewalk chalk

Breakfast/Lunch Items: Mac & Cheese Cups, Ramen Noodles, Microwave Pasta, Rice Cups, Noodle Bowls, Slim Jims, Cereal Cups, Breakfast Bars, Pop Tarts, Oatmeal or Grits Packets, Bags Of Chips/Cookies, Fruit Snacks/ Fruit Roll-Ups, Raisins, Pretzels, Sandwich Crackers

VBS T-Shirts

For those of you who cannot volunteer, our fabulous VBS T-shirts are available for purchase. They will be royal blue with the PUCC logo on the front and a drawing done by Eli Scates on the back. Shirts will be \$15 each (\$17 for XXL or XXXL). Order forms are available on the table in the narthex or you may email the office (office@pilgrimageucc.org) or Janet Derby (derbyjm@gmail.com) with your order information. Orders must be received by June 5.



WORSHIP

Diane Reese, Chair

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



For the month of June, we will have the Sunday of Pentecost on June 5th and other special things at that service which include recognition of our graduates.

Rev. Courtney's messages throughout the Easter season inspired us with interesting and thoughtful plans for the summer months. We have ushers and greeters back in place and have the leadership from the Safe Church Team to help us with the process. Please reach out to worship or members of the Safe Church Team or Worship if you are interested in being a worship helper. Scripture readers during May were:

- May 1 – Anne Mooney and Katie Bridges
- May 8 – Michelle Brumfield and Kathleen McNulty
- May 15 – Amy & Morgan Jones and Trish Greeves
- May 22 – Sharon Getty and Duke Yaguchi
- May 29 – Laurie Spencer and Molly & Ken Moss

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

The music search committee is moving forward with the process of developing job descriptions for two positions: A Part Time Music Director and a Part Time Piano Accompanist. We have been working together with a team of at least 8 volunteers to finalize these job descriptions. The hope is to post by early June and will keep everyone informed as things progress. Please let us know if anyone is interested in helping out with these music searches or if you know of someone who might be interested in either position.

A 2nd usher/greeter training will take place on Sunday, June 5th following the 10:00 worship service led by Jamie Durkee.

Thank you to all the many volunteers who help in our weekly worship services and fill in when needed; and to the children and youth who help make worship a peaceful experience.



DEACONS

By Juliann Heilhecker & Stephen Williams
Co-chairs

pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com



CLIMATE CHANGE – A Christian Concern

By Hugh Lowrey

Bad news and more bad news dogs the footsteps of those reporting on the climate. An example is the current condition of south Asia and especially India. Folks there are accustomed to extreme heat as early as May, which in itself has been a departure from their past experience. But this year it began in March, and temperatures in some areas are reaching 120 degrees. The majority of the population works outdoors or in factories that have no cooling facilities. Few homes or businesses have air conditioning. They hang wet rags in doors and windows and use electric fans. With deaths from heat exhaustion increasingly common, more than a billion people are at risk across South Asia.

India runs mostly on coal. Heavy demands on electric power, by cooling devices, are over-taxing the coal-hauling capacity of the railroads. Passenger rail cars are being converted so they can carry coal. Nevertheless, there are rolling blackouts.

This is a critical time for India's wheat farmers, and just when they expected high demand because of the war in Ukraine, the heat is impacting the wheat harvest and shriveling the grains of wheat. Heat is expected to cause food shortages worldwide, eventually.

The rest of the world needs to realize that the present heat wave is a forerunner of the day when large areas of south Asia, as well as Central America and other locations, will become uninhabitable because the summer heat kills. Masses of people, of necessity leaving hot spots, will look to the rest of us for a place to live. Today's influx of migrants, that upsets so many of us, is child's play compared to future migrations, and there will be no livable homeland to send them back to. This is food for thought for those who resist the extreme measures urgently needed to put a stop to warming.

Colossians chapter 3 quotes... *“clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*

Many of our members of PUC are shining examples of these qualities. Every year, the deacons ask for nominations for Dr. of Friendship. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge a member who has humbly given of themselves to our community through generosity, love, and kindness. These can be acts of helping a family who is grieving, helping a person who needs some temporary help with food, giving rides, lending a kind ear, just to name a few ways of showing compassion.

If you know of someone who stands out in your mind, please send that nomination to the deacons. Please, do NOT just give a name. Please give a description of how this person has helped and why you think they should be nominated. Just a few rules: please don't nominate a chairperson on council or anyone who has received this acknowledgement in the past 10 years. These past recipients are:

- Ric Reitz/The Heilheckers
- Beth & Jimmy Loyless
- Ben & Janet Alspach
- Sally & Tony Prahl
- Kathy Mateer
- Neil & Karen Clark
- Lynne Buell
- Dick & Rita Mehlan,
- Sarah Holliday
- Karen Cox

Thank you,

Juliann Heilhecker and Stephen Williams
Deacon Co-chairs



Congregational Meeting

June 19

Pilgrimage UCC will have a congregational meeting on Sunday June 19 immediately after the 10:00 service.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect our church officers for our upcoming church year which begins July 1. We will provide a Zoom option.

Please mark your calendars and be ready to welcome our new Slate of Officers. The meeting should be short and we hope it won't interfere with anyone's Father's Day plans.

Watch your email for more information about who we will be nominating for the coming year's Council.

June Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

06/01 Greg Kask
06/05 Trish Greeves
06/05 Wade Jones
06/09 Jan Nally
06/11 Fran Howard
06/13 Maddie Alexander
06/13 Jim Ward
06/18 Quinn Schnitzlein
06/21 Joyce Baker
06/21 Joshua Puente
06/28 Trudy Stoddert
06/29 Lynne Buell
06/29 Dan McMahill
06/30 Andalyn Farrar

ANNIVERSARIES

06/07 Bruce & Michelle Brumfield
06/10 Geoff & Juliann Heilhecker
06/22 Tony & Gabriela Mills
06/22 Chris & Julia Shiver
06/26 Sarah Holliday & Ugena Whitlock

If we missed someone, please let Lynne know at: office@pilgrimageucc.org

STAFF

Pastor
Administrative Assistant

Rev. Courtney Jones
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 (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. 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

June	5	Worship—Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00AM Communion (both services) Usher & Greeter Training (11:30 AM)
June	12	Worship 8:30 & 10:00AM
June	19	Worship 8:30 & 10:00AM Congregational Meeting (11:45AM)
June	26	VBS Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. CE Meeting (11:15 AM) PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)