

PASTOR

Rev. Courtney Jones

pastor@pilgrimageucc.org



Dear Beloved,

On June 24 and 25, the Southeast Conference of the UCC convened the 2022 Annual Meeting in Montgomery. It's the first Annual Meeting with an in-person component since 2019. In 2020 and 2021, we met online only; this year, there was an online option as well. Diane Reese attended online, and I attended in person. It's difficult to express how delightful it was to be physically present to worship, fellowship, dream, and scheme together!

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for the UCC, preached at worship on Friday night and offered a keynote session on Saturday morning. Her inspiring sermon, well worth your time, can be found on the Southeast Conference's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcXQNf0HpYw&t=76s>

There was a delay of about 20 minutes before the service began. So you will have to place your mouse at the bottom of the video screen and position it on the time line and move it to

21:00 (worship begins) or around 43:00 (for Rev. Blackmon's sermon).

The Saturday morning session was not posted to YouTube, but during that session we had an opportunity to get together with the folks from our states to strategize around a single issue affecting our people. In the Georgia delegation, we agreed that access to voting was an issue impacting many of our communities, especially rural/poor communities and/or communities of color.

The Conference Minister will be convening interested Georgia UCC-ers who would like to mobilize around the issue of voting in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout for that.

I had the opportunity to attend two breakout sessions that seemed of interest to our congregation's current justice outreach: one on community partnerships and one on the myths of poverty and homelessness. We don't know where our mission/vision work will lead us, but it was exciting to be in the presence of others who were asking similar questions about where God is calling and how to follow faithfully when we can't do everything. If you have questions or want to hear more, I hope you'll be in touch. And I hope more of us will attend some of these amazing gatherings in the future, as they have the power to spark some powerful ministry opportunities for us to spread God's love, peace, and justice in the world.

Love,

Courtney



**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 am the Alpha
 and the Omega,"
 says the Lord
 God, 'the one
 who is and was
 and is coming,
 the Almighty.'"*

REVELATION 1:8

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CHRISTIAN ED

Janet Derby, Chair

pilgrimageucce@gmail.com



VBS Thanks!

A huge thanks to our sponsors (those with the bling on their nametags) who helped support us financially. There is a box on the table for you to return those blinged name tags so we can use them again next year.



Thanks also to our snack wizards and those who donated items for missions. Our children lovingly prepared the following gifts for God's children:

- 26 bags of a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches
- 21 school supply kits
- 53 indoor/outdoor activity kits
- 12 socks of love hygiene kits for homeless men

Just like the leftovers from the loaves and fishes, there were surplus hygiene and food items which were also donated to MUST ministries. The children poured love into these gifts and prayed for the people to whom they would go.



They also decorated sticks for the lending library and bird feeders for our property, some dog biscuits for our

furry friends, and onesies for Reverend Courtney and Auggie's baby.



Lastly, thank you to our fabulous VBS volunteers who ensured that the week ran smoothly and that the ten children who attended had a wonderful time.



Steve Owens Memorial Handbells

During Vacation Bible School, we were able to make use of the new children's handbells made possible by donations to the Steve Owens memorial fund. We appreciate this appropriate legacy from the Owens family.



Mark Your Calendars

The summer has just begun but we are already planning for Rally Sunday. This year, we hope to make an entire multi-generational weekend of it. Stay tuned for more information, but **mark your calendars for the week-end of September 9-11.**

STEWARDSHIP

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



From Bread & Cup to Faith & Giving

Stewardship, simply put, is what we do with what we have. Stewardship is what we do with the resources over which we control or which we can influence. In stewardship, we manage the resources at hand in light of God's purpose for all to experience abundance. Resources range from material things through relationships to feelings. Stewardship is a management function. Stewards manage their part in the resources in their worlds. As stewards we can be faithful or unfaithful or somewhere in between.

"Stewardship, simply put, is what we do with what we have."

In the broad sense, stewardship involves everything we do in life. God gives to the whole world and to the whole church to offer the possibility of blessing to every arena of life. God intends for every person and community in every moment and circumstances to live in love, peace, justice, freedom, dignity, mutuality and abundance. We are called to be stewards in every situation of the resources for love, justice, freedom and the many other things that make for blessing. We are stewards in every moment of the resources at hand. Indeed, we are stewards in and of every moment.

As we start off Pilgrimage's fiscal year, we take stock of the time and talents we offer to do the work of the church. New leadership is sought, and members are encouraged to join a ministry in its mission. We are grateful to the following who have agreed to serve on Council and the Executive Committee for 2022-2023.

Please note that we still have some openings. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to a new role of stewardship. Blessings to us all.

- ◆ President: Rochelle Lofstrand
- ◆ Vice-President: Ken Moss
- ◆ Treasurer: Geoff Heilhecker
- ◆ Financial Secretary: Rita Mehlan
- ◆ Clerk: Carla Martin
- ◆ Deacons: Juliann Heilhecker and Stephen Williams
- ◆ Christian Education: Janet Derby and Darlene Wagner
- ◆ Communications: Helene O'Neill and Trudy Stoddert
- ◆ Missions: **OPEN**
- ◆ Parish Life: Susan Volentine and Carol Hill
- ◆ Properties: Chris Shiver and Clay Roth
- ◆ Worship: Diane Reese and **OPEN**
- ◆ Stewardship: Duke Yaguchi and Anne Mooney

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Mooney and Duke Yaguchi
Stewardship Co-Chairs

July Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

07/09 Sean Brumfield
07/09 Mary Hyland
07/10 Susan Volentine
07/11 Angela Gula
07/12 Darlene Wagner
07/13 Wayne Scott
07/15 Carson Stoddert
07/19 Kathleen McNulty
07/21 Lois Dischinger
07/28 Matthew Gula
07/29 Emily Stoddert

ANNIVERSARIES

07/23 Stu & Jeanette Gillespie

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

WORSHIP

Diane Reese, Chair

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



Rev. Courtney provided inspirational leadership on Pentecost Sunday including recognition of our graduates. Her thoughtful and provoking messages continue to help all of us during our worship services at Pilgrimage UCC. She also continues to provide many opportunities for folks to reach out to her and to one another.

We are so glad to have ushers and greeters back in place and to have the leadership from the Safe Church Team to help us with this. Thanks to Jamie Durkee who has led two training sessions for ushers and greeters. Please reach out to worship or members of the Safe Church Team or Worship if you are interested in becoming involved with this.

The positions for both Part Time Music Director and Part Time Accompanist have been posted on the PUC website (thanks to Lynne Buell), and our PUC Facebook page (thanks to Trudy Stoddert). Both job descriptions have also been posted on INDEED. We have reached out to many music organizations and universities in the greater Atlanta area to get the word out about these openings. The committees will meet again in a few weeks to evaluate the applications and will plan to schedule interviews in the month of July.

Thank you to our Scripture Readers in June:

June 05: Anne Mooney & Dana Martin
June 12: Laurie Spencer & Reba Williams
June 19: Michelle Brumfield & Melissa & Lee Fadeley
June 26: Janet Derby & VBS Children

If anyone is interested in reading scripture during worship on a rotation schedule or just at times and dates you prefer, please email the worship committee at:

pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com

Last, but not least, we would like to thank 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 including the joyful celebration of VBS Sunday on June 26th.

Pastor's Report for May 13-June 9, 2022

Worked an average of 42 hours a week, took one Sunday off for illness/injury

Worship Related Responsibilities

- ⇒ Wrote sermons/preached 8:30 worship, 10:00 livestream, Wrote liturgy for worship weekly.
- ⇒ Wrote weekly blurbs for e-tidings
- ⇒ Met with Search Committee twice to discuss hiring process, job description, etc for music positions.
- ⇒ Met with Worship Team (Diane, Lynne, and Janet, Anne) weekly.
- ⇒ Celebrated our graduates on Pentecost!
- ⇒ Worked with Rochelle, Susan, Lynne, and Becky to ensure coverage for week I was out. Huge thanks to all of them for working so hard on a moment's notice.
- ⇒ Worked with Diane Reese and our accompanists on music for worship each Sunday, including picking hymns.
- ⇒ Secured a substitute (Heather Fosburgh) for my next Sunday off, 7/31.

Various Commitments

- ⇒ Attended Town Hall meeting.
- ⇒ Co-facilitated training for usher/greeter/liturgists with Jamie Durkee and Dana Martin—a very well attended event!
- ⇒ Wrote newsletter article
- ⇒ Wrote annual report

Pastoral Care

Offered more pastoral care than usual, via phone, text, email, Zoom, and a few in-person visits/appointments (approximately 25 hrs/week).

Edification/Instruction

- ⇒ Led Breathing Room weekly when able.
- ⇒ Confirmation Class is on summer hiatus.
- ⇒ Attended weekly SECUCU clergy zoom meetings

Meetings

- ⇒ Met with PPRC
- ⇒ Met with Safe Church Committee
- ⇒ Met with Susan and Rochelle
- ⇒ Met with Heather Fosburgh to discuss maternity leave and possible resources for the mission/vision work ahead of us.
- ⇒ Met with Clergy Community of Practice.
- ⇒ Met with Spiritual Director.

STAFF

Pastor
Administrative Assistant

Rev. Courtney Jones
Lynne Buell

Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

Pilgrimage UCC Website:	www.pilgrimageucc.org	Worship:	pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com
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Office-Lynne Buell:	office@pilgrimageucc.org	VBS-Janet Derby:	pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com
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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

July	3	Worship 8:30 & 10:00AM Communion (both services)
July	10	Worship 8:30 & 10:00AM
July	17	Worship 8:30 & 10:00AM
July	24	Worship 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
July	31	Worship 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Deacons Fund Offering