

## Upcoming Sunday Programs (10:15 to 11:30 am)

### May 1 – Community Support Center (CSC)

Every year, Pilgrim House participates in the Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors fundraiser for the CSC (see the article below). What is the organization and what does it do for the community? Iris McGinnis and Karen Meyer discuss the CSC.



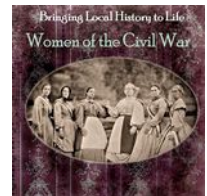
### May 8 – The Good Acre – Rhys Williams and Sarah Libertus

The Good Acre is a nonprofit food hub designed to support several needs in the food community and to advance education and access for all consumers to locally-grown produce in the Twin Cities. The mission of The Good Acre is to enhance how food is grown and shared in the Twin Cities region, to improve marketplace opportunities for diverse independent farmers, and to increase access for all consumers to healthy, locally-grown fresh produce.

Rhys Williams, Executive Director of The Good Acre, has an extensive background in all areas of food production. Sarah Libertus wants to be a matchmaker as she believes that there is a perfect CSA fit for everyone you just have to dig deep enough into your own psyche to find out what matters for you.

### May 15 – Minnesota Women in the Civil War with Rebecca Ebnet-Mavencamp, historian

Since we have done a number of programs on the Civil War, it was requested that we do a program on women in the Civil War.



### May 22 – Suffering: Lessons from Chaplaincy and the Book of Job. Andrea Johnson

The story of Job in the Hebrew Bible is one of the most powerful stories in the Bible, told and re-told throughout the ages, because it wrestles with life's toughest conundrum: The problem of human suffering and God's involvement in the pain of the world. Efforts to find the cause of suffering often lead one to put the blame somewhere – on self, others, God, or Satan. The book of Job asks us to look beyond blame, accept ambiguity and uncertainty, and to surrender to the fact that we are not in control of everything in our life. What can we as Unitarian Universalists learn from this ancient wisdom story if are willing to open our hearts to it.

Andrea Johnson is pursuing her Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. She is a member of First Universalist Church in Minneapolis where she is active on the Pastoral Care Team, facilitating small groups and becoming a Racial Justice trainer. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and three children.

### May 29 – Memorial Day Weekend – no program at Pilgrim House.

### June 5 – Flower Communion, Lunch, and Annual Meeting

Bring a flower from your garden to be joined with flowers from others showing the beauty of our diversity. Hear the origins of this service from 1923 Czechoslovakia that is held annually just before the summer recess of the church. Stay for lunch and the Pilgrim House annual meeting. Please come and hear what is planned for next year, celebrate this year's volunteers and approve the new budget. This is a lay led congregation and this is the time to become informed and participate in decisions. See the article below for the meeting agenda. Members may bring a dessert or side dish for the lunch.

### Pilgrim House has only one program a month during the summer:

### June 19 – Animal Ambassador – Animals from Como Zoo

Other summer programs are July 17 and August 7. The topics will be announced.

**CALENDAR**

**Friday-Sunday, April 29-May 1 – Mid America Regional Assembly in Saint Paul**

**Thursday, May 5, 7:00pm – Great Decisions at Pilgrim House, Korean Choices.** See article below.

**Sunday, May 8, 12:00pm – Program Committee Meeting at PH:** Contact Lollie Jensen

**Thursday, May 12, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House Board Meeting at Pilgrim House – all members welcome.** Contact Kut Erol.

**Saturday, May 14, – Pilgrim House Night Out Dinner in members homes.** Contact Mary Eskelson.

**Sunday, May 15, 9:00am – PH brunch at PH, tickets from youth.**

**Sunday, May 15, 11:50am – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House.** Members share their personal stories. Contact Gary Borg.

**Saturday, May 21, 6:00pm – Pilgrim House Night Out Dinner in members homes.** Contact Mary Eskelson.

**Sunday, May 22, 12:00pm – Connections Committee Mtg. at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Les Rogers.

**Thursday, May 26, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at the King's apartment.** The book will be *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough.

**Monday-Friday, June 6-10, Whalen, MN – Bike trip (includes book club meeting).** Contact Darlene Joyce.

**Wednesday-Sunday, June 22-26 – UUA General Assembly.**

**Sunday, June 26, 11:00am – Pride Parade in downtown Minneapolis.** All are welcome. Contact Fred Green.

**Thursday, July 28, 5:30pm – Annual Book Club picnic at LeBlanc's.**

**Sunday, July 31, 10:00am-2:00pm – Walk a Mile fundraiser at Silverwood Park.** All are welcome. Contact Fred Green. See article below.

**Thursday, August 25, 5:30pm – Book Club meets at Judy Rohde's.**

**RE CORNER**

The school-age students offered a Sunday Brunch as an auction item. It is scheduled for 9:00 am on Sunday, May 22. Tickets are still available, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets may be purchased from any of our school-age students, Katrina Edenfeld or Carol Green. Those who purchased tickets on Auction Sunday will receive an email reminder.

**Pilgrim House**

We seek to carry out the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of churches and fellowships, with which we are affiliated. These principles affirm the worth of everyone, freedom and the right of conscience in search of truth, encouragement of one another's spiritual growth, and the wonder and mystery of the web of all life. Membership in Pilgrim House is open to everyone who is in sympathy with our purposes and principles and wants to join.

**Phone:** 651-631-2582

**Internet:** <http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org>

**Board Chair:** Kutluhan Erol

**Pilgrim's Progress**

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact:

Fred Green

[newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

**This is the last newsletter until September. Material for the September newsletter is due Sunday, August 21 (always the next to the last Sunday). Emails will be sent during the summer about events.**

The RE students will be going to Alexandra House on Sunday, May 22. We will be planting a vegetable and herb garden, so that the cook will have fresh produce to use in preparing meals.

We are excited to announce that the curriculum plan for 2016-17 is Neighboring Faiths! The PH school-aged class will learn about numerous religions and visit local churches to experience different services and talk to the youth there. We will need support to complete these plans, both in the classroom and on field trips.

Please consider volunteering as you are able, to assist in the classroom on a regular, irregular, or substitute basis, and also to help chaperon and drive on field trips.

Thanks,

RE Committee

**PILGRIM HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING:****JUNE 5 – SAVE THE DATE!**

June 5<sup>th</sup> is our traditional Flower Communion program, followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity for members to elect officers for the coming year and to vote on a budget. This event sets our course for the coming year at Pilgrim House. Please plan to attend.

## PH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

This is the proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting. Note that any proposed changes to either the agenda or the budget (which will be sent by email to members in May) must be submitted to the board by May 22 to be included in the versions to be presented at the annual meeting.

**June 5, 2016**

**Opening Words – Kutluhan Erol**

**Approve Agenda for Annual Meeting – Kutluhan Erol**

**Approve Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting – Kutluhan Erol**

**Chair comments/summary of the year – Kutluhan Erol**

**Treasurer's Report – Susan Setter**

Review the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2016.

**Committee Reports**

Building and Grounds

Membership

Social Action

Children's Religious Education

Finance

Program

Congregational Care

Technology

**Outgoing chair, Kutluhan Erol, passes the gavel to new chair, Carol Green**

**Board Membership for Coming Year – Carol Green**

Nominating committee – Present the slate of officers: Chair-elect, Secretary, Treasurer.

Nominations from the floor

Vote

Present candidates for the Standing Committee chairs (for approval at next board meeting).

At Large

Committees

**Call for/Nominations for Delegates to the UU General Assembly Columbus, Ohio, Jun 22-26, 2016**

**Treasurer – 2016/2017 Budget**

Review the proposed budget for 2016 – 2017 year.

Motion to approve new budget

**Closing Words – Carol Green**

## GREAT DECISIONS

**May 5 – Korean Choices**

At the end of World War II, Korea was divided. The northern half of the Korean peninsula was occupied by the Soviet Union, the southern by the United States. Today, North and South Korea couldn't be further apart. The North is underdeveloped, impoverished and ruled by a corrupt, authoritarian regime, while the South advanced rapidly to become one of the most developed countries in the world. With such a wide gap, some are asking if unification is possible, even desirable, anymore?

Our speaker is Dr. Hangtae Cho, founding Director of the Korean program at the University of Minnesota. After completing his BA and MA at Korea University, Dr. Cho came to the University of Minnesota, where he earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics. For the last 19 years, he has led the University of Minnesota's effort to establish its Korean program from scratch.

## PILGRIM HOUSE NIGHT OUT

Night Out dinners are an opportunity to visit with your friends and to meet members of the PH community you may not know. PH Night Out dates for this spring are as follows.

Saturday May 14, 2016

Saturday May 21, 2016

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Please extend a welcome to new members of Pilgrim House:

**Nancy Olson:** Nancy and her husband live in Roseville, and are neighbors to Kut. She has attended some of our programs over the years. With her recent retirement from a nursing career, Nancy looks forward to becoming more involved with Pilgrim House activities. The Olsons have three adult sons, one of whom is Jake, our Pilgrim House preschool teacher.

**John and Shannon Zobitz** and their three children: The Zobitz family lives in Hugo. We enjoyed getting to know them this winter as regular attendees of Pilgrim House. Shannon teaches at the same school as Lollie Jensen, and John teaches college mathematics.

If you haven't already done so, please introduce yourselves to our new members.

## WALK A MILE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS to prevent homelessness in our community

Sunday, July 31, 2016 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

(Silver Lake Rd and County Road E)

The Community Support Center (the subject of the May 1 Pilgrim House program, see the front page) helps families in our community stay in their homes by:

- Providing (one time) assistance with rent
- Providing long-term relationships to help families achieve stability
- Referring families to other places to receive help

Walk a Mile for Our Neighbors is a fund raising event to provide resources. Last year 400 people walked 775 miles. \$12,000 was donated. Many businesses offered door prizes. More than 35 families received help!

Pilgrim House participates in this annual event. Mark your calendars and save the date.

## UUA COMMON READ

Every year the UUA has a common read suggestion for members and this year it is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. The description of the book on the UUA website (<http://www.uuabookstore.org/Just-Mercy-P17700.aspx>) is as follows:

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (2014, Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House) is this year's selection. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system – poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on recent Common Reads, such as *The New Jim Crow* and *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness*, and responds to recent statements passed by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly.

Sharon Borg, Lisa Schlotterhausen and Cynthia LeBlanc are organizing a discussion of this title on Thursday October 20, 2016 at 7:00 at Pilgrim House. We anticipate discussion taking place for 1 to 1.5 hours and will serve some light refreshments. Depending on the number of participants we will probably break up into groups of 6-8 to talk about the book. The book is owned by the public libraries in several formats (book, e-book, audio) but may be on a waiting list. It is a \$16.00 trade paperback (\$9.87 on Prime) and is also available as a Kindle book.

We look forward to having others join this discussion. It is an excellent book and very readable.

If there are any questions please contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

## SMALL COVENANT GROUPS

Several of us have been participating in a small group covenant meeting the last few months (Gary Borg, Les Rogers, Mary Carlson, Kathy Sallee, Cynthia LeBlanc). This is an idea that has been put into practice at some other UU groups and we believe there are more members at Pilgrim House who might be interested. As a group we have found the experience to be rewarding and enriching to our lives and would like to offer to help form more groups in the fall if there is interest.

Covenant groups are groups of 6-8 people who commit to meeting on a regular basis for reflection and sharing. Each covenant group meeting has a facilitator and the content for each meeting is based on a theme such as gratitude, forgiveness, friendship or loss just to name a few. Members of the group make a commitment to share

deeply, build connections, practice deliberate listening and to respect each other's sharing and thoughts. The group is not meant to be a support group focused on a particular issue but we find the group is supportive of each other in the process of sharing our thoughts on these larger themes.

As a starting point we have been using a book entitled *Heart to Heart: Fourteen Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins, both of whom have been involved with the Unitarian church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There is a covenant or ground rules that we all agree to and each meeting follows a preset format. Our meetings have been lasting about 1.5 hours. Members are expected to commit to coming to the meetings, doing the assigned reading in the book (short chapters) ahead of time, and to be respectful of the format and each other's thoughts. Groups may decide to use other books or readings as they wish.

We will follow up on this idea in the late summer or early fall and welcome any questions you may have about these groups at this time or later.

Please contact one of us if you would like more information or have questions.

Gary Borg  
Mary Carlson  
Les Rogers  
Cynthia LeBlanc  
Kathy Sallee

## CAREGIVERS CLASS

Sara Barsel, who recently did a program on Roseville A/D (a Alzheimers/Dementia organization), shared this information with us. This course has been described as "life saving" by caregivers in the Rsvl A/D group.

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers

What: This 6-week evidence-based program provides caregivers with tools to gain better communication techniques, increase self-care and build confidence while managing emotions.

When: Thursdays, May 12 – June 16 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Where: Episcopal Homes: 490 East Lynnhurst Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104

Cost: \$40 per person per series. Scholarships available.

Register: (651) 280-CARE (2273)

Questions: (651) 280-CARE (2273)

Register by Tuesday, May 10, 2016

## PILGRIM HOUSE GOVERNANCE

With Annual Meeting approaching, this information about the governance structure of Pilgrim House may be useful. It is taken from a document under review by the Pilgrim House Board.

### Board of Directors

**Board of Directors** is the governing body of PH consisting of five officers, the chairs of the Standing Committees, up to four at-large members (two adult and two youth members), as established in the bylaws. The Board of Directors has final approval over major budgetary, funding, and policy issues. Board meetings are scheduled monthly (usually the second Thursday evening of the month), and they are open to all members.

**Board Officers** are Chair, Past-Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. At the annual membership meeting, the Chair and Chair-Elect automatically move to Past-chair, and Chair roles respectively, and a new Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected. At-large members are appointed by the Board, and take on responsibilities based on current needs.

- **Past-Chair:** Acts as a mentor and trusted advisor to the Chair. Presides over board meetings in the absence of Chair and Chair-Elect. Maintains the mission/vision/goals statement of Pilgrim House.
- **Chair:** Leads the board of directors, runs the board meetings. Responsible for keeping the committee chair roles filled during the current year, and accountable that the officers and the committee chairs perform their duties in alignment with mission/vision/goals of Pilgrim House.
- **Chair-Elect:** Assists the Chair and presides in the absence of the Chair; Appoints and leads the nominating taskforce to recruit candidates for the following year's officers and committee chairs.
- **Secretary:** Records, archives, and distributes minutes of Membership and Board meetings to members. Ensures that corporate bylaws and other agreed upon procedures and legal obligations are adhered in corporate proceedings. Maintains corporate documents at a safe location.
- **Treasurer:** Creates the draft annual corporate budget for board review and membership approval at the annual meeting, manages the budget and financial accounts; Collects and disburses all funds, tracks pledges and donations; handles payroll and taxes, maintains financial records, provide periodic financial reports prior to board meetings as well as annual membership meeting. This role requires significant training to become familiar with the bookkeeping machinery.

### Standing Committees

Certain committees are identified by the Bylaws and by Board resolutions as Standing Committees. The chairs of these committees are automatically members of the Board of Directors. **Additional volunteers are needed** to serve as members of these committees.

**Committee Chairs** are responsible for maintaining the mission/vision/goal statement of their committee in alignment with that of Pilgrim House, recruiting their respective committee members, and keeping key committee roles filled during the current year. They are accountable that their respective committee members perform their duties in alignment with committee vision/mission/goals. Standing committees are specified in the bylaws, and their chairs serve as board members. Other committees are formed as needed, at the discretion of the chair and the board.

In order to ensure continuity, all officers, committee chairs, and other volunteer positions must maintain the documents pertaining to their job function, and assist in the recruitment and training of their potential successors.

Below are the standing committees, and their missions:

- **Membership Committee:** Coordinate activities to welcome visitors and new members; connect members to congregational care resources and to social, volunteer, and leadership opportunities; and maintain the official list of members.
- **Program Committee:** Plan and facilitate Sunday programs with a diverse set of speakers and topics that match the spiritual, intellectual, and artistic interests of the fellowship.
- **Finance Committee:** Sustain Pilgrim House operations via fundraising, and ensure fiduciary compliance in bookkeeping, collection and disbursement of funds
- **Building and Grounds Committee:** Provide a safe, comfortable, and inviting place that meets the needs of Pilgrim House gatherings and activities
- **Children's Religious Education Committee:** Provide a broad, pluralistic religious education to children, expose them to core values and principles of Unitarian Universalism, and guide them in their journeys to become open minded, well-adjusted members of society.
- **Social Action Committee:** To foster worth and dignity of people by promoting social justice and community service.

### Other Board Members:

- **Adult At-large Directors:** The Board appoints up to two.
- **Youth At-large Directors:** The Board appoints up to two.

The [Newsletter Editor](#) is typically appointed an At-large Director unless serving on the Board in another capacity.

**Other Committees**

Here are additional committees (non-board positions) and their missions:

- **Connections Committee:** Support activities that strengthen bonds within our fellowship to promote mutual understanding and a sense of community.
- **Congregational Care Committee:** Support the spiritual, emotional, and other needs of the fellowship by harnessing community resources.
- **Music Committee:** Enhance the quality of Sunday Programs by promoting communal singing with uplifting musical performances that amplify each week's program message.

- **Sunday Hospitality Committee:** Enhance the quality of Sunday programs by coordinating snacks, setup and cleanup activities to promote community spirit.
- **Technology Committee:** Improve the quality and efficiency of Pilgrim House activities by providing technical support.
- **Communications Committee:** Publicize what Pilgrim House has to offer to keep membership informed and engaged, and also as a venue to recruit new members.

**Pilgrim House Newsletter**  
**1212 W. Hwy 96**  
**Arden Hills, MN 55112**

