

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

All programs are via Zoom. The Zoom link for these programs will be sent to Pilgrim House members. If you do not receive a link, but would like to participate, please contact pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

October 4 – Exploring Interspirituality – Rev. Kari Kopnick

Exploring Interspirituality: When we move beyond the boundaries of religions, do we find common ground?

Interspirituality embraces an awareness of our interconnectedness which is arising in response to the destructive materialist value system that dominates Western culture. The meaninglessness at the heart of materialism drives us to distraction, consumerism and greed, fueling the fragmentation of society and devastation of the environment. Transformation begins within.



October 11 – Black Lives UU

Black Lives of UU, or BLUU, is an independent organization, fiscally sponsored by the UUA, which provides ministry for, and by, Black Unitarian Universalists, while also working to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith. In the fall they held a national symposium, in St. Paul, to explore what a Black UU theology could look like; it was the first of their convenings to invite white participation. Ellen Shelton attended and found it very moving and very informative. She will give us a briefing on what she observed and learned and what it could mean for PH. See the following pages for more information on Black Lives UU.



ACLU Minnesota October 18 – ACLU – John Gordon

John Gordon, the executive director of the Minnesota ACLU, will talk about LGBTQ community in Minnesota and how the ACLU deals with their condition. He will also discuss other things the ACLU is doing.

October 25 – Minnesota From the Road Part 4 – Doug Ohman

Doug is a photographer who has done the series of books of Minnesota churches, cabins, librarians, courthouses, schools, etc.

Travel with photographer/storyteller Doug Ohman as he photographs many of Minnesota's most interesting landmarks and Icons. Doug will share the stories of how this landmarks became so famous. His pictures and stories will be sure to entertain and bring new interest in more road trips around our great state. Part 4 is the Scenic River Bluff Area.



November 1 – The 50th Anniversary of Pilgrim House!

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 1, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Tom Hanson on Artificial Intelligence.

Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Monday, October 12, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Adam Aanerud.

Sunday, October 18 – Newsletter information due.
Contact Fred Green.

Monday, October 19, 2:00pm – A covenant group meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Tuesday, October 20, 2:00pm – Congregational Care meets via Zoom. Contact Nancy Olson.

Thursday, October 22, 4:00pm – The Thursday book club meets via Zoom. The book is *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Wednesday, October 28, 1:30pm – Novel Exchange Book Club meets via Zoom. Contact Sharon Borg.

Sunday, November 1, 10:15am – Pilgrim House 50th Anniversary Celebration via Zoom. All are welcome. Contact Carol Gross.

BLACK LIVES UU INFORMATION FOR THE OCTOBER 11 PROGRAM

More information will be emailed before the program.



Black Lives of UU presents 7 Principles of Black Lives

The Movement for Black Lives Convening, held in Cleveland, OH July 24–26, brought together over 1,500 Black people from across the country to build, heal, learn & organize.

It was a truly historic gathering. We the Unitarian Universalist Caucus took time that weekend to discuss the various issues we face in our faith as Black people. While many challenges and personal experiences were shared, one thing stood out for us all: Our Unitarian

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: Adam Aanerud

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

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

Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

Universalist faith is what CALLS US to say that Black Lives Matter.

We see a direct link between the 7 UU Principles and the Movement for Black Lives. We — those of us at the Movement for Black Lives Convening, along with other Black UUs — created this document to present to our faith the 7 Principles of Black Lives.

Our hope is that this direct connection between our faith & the fight for Black liberation will make clear the URGENT need for all those who call themselves Unitarian Universalists to declare, without caveat or clarification, that Black Lives Matter.

During the week of 9/14/15 we released one Principle of Black Lives per day outlining the important principles that guide us in the work towards Black liberation, how these principles connect with the 7 UU Principles and how we were able to live out these principles at the Movement for Black Lives Convening.

Principle #1:

ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER

Queer Black lives, trans Black lives, formerly incarcerated Black lives, differently-abled Black lives, Black women's lives, immigrant Black lives, Black elderly and children's lives. ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER and are creators of this space. We throw no one under the bus. We rise together.

The Movement for Black Lives calls on the Unitarian Universalist faith — a faith willing to make the bold proclamation that each person inherently matters — to live up to that claim by working toward a future in

which Black lives are truly valued in our society. We call on UUs to actively resist notions that Black lives only matter if conformed to white, middle-class norms, and to challenge assumptions of worth centered around clothing, diction, education, or other status. Our value is not conditional.

Principle #2:

Love and Self-Love is practiced in every element of all we do

Love and Self-Love must be drivers of all our work and indicators of our success. Without this principle and without healing, we will harm each other and undermine our movement.

The Movement for Black Lives seeks to build a society where Black people thrive instead of survive. We seek justice for those we have lost to police violence, we seek equity in housing, education and healthcare, we seek compassion from our fellow UUs for the struggle we are called to be a part of.

Principle #3

Spiritual growth is directly tied to our ability to embrace our whole selves

A principled struggle must exist in a positive environment. We must be honest with one another by embracing direct, loving communication & acknowledgment of all that we are and all that we hope to be.

The spiritual growth of UUs of Color is directly tied to our ability to stand in the truth that Black Lives Matter, that our lives matter, both in the wider world and just as importantly in our UU congregations. We call on our UU congregations and the UUA to support our work towards wholeness as Black people. We must be honest with one another by embracing direct, loving communication.

Principle #4

Experimentation and innovation must be built into our work

Embrace the best tools, practices, and tactics, and leave behind those that no longer serve us. Evaluation and assessment must be built into our work. Critical reflection must be part of all our work. We learn from our mistakes and our victories.

The Movement for Black Lives works daily to expose the truth about Black life in this country and in the world. To uncover the layer of white supremacy that exists in this society. To bring to light the Anti-Blackness that is present in our everyday lives. We call on all UUs to root out the Anti-Blackness that exists within our congregations and our faith.

Principle #5

Most Directly Affected people are experts at their own lives

Those most directly affected by racial injustice & oppression should be in leadership, at the center of our movement, and telling their stories directly.

We stand in the Movement for Black Lives at a time in which voting rights are being threatened at every turn. Black people are being denied the most basic of rights—the right to vote and have adequate representation in our country. We work towards a society in which Black life is valued, in which Black life is not discarded, in which Black Lives Matters, and in which the work of Black people is seen as equal to their white counterparts. Black voices in our congregations, in our faith, and in the world must be valued.

Principle #6

Thriving instead of Surviving

Our vision is based on the world we want, and not the world we are currently in. We seek to transform, not simply to react. We want our people to thrive, not just exist—and to think beyond the possible.

Any work towards peace, liberty and justice must address racial injustice. Black UUs are calling our faith to join us as we work towards justice for ALL Black people and by extension for all people.

Principle #7

360 degree vision

We honor the past struggles and wisdom from our elders. The work we do today builds the foundations of movements of tomorrow. We consider our mark on future generations.

Acknowledging the ways in which a Supremacist society diminishes us ALL is a critical part of the work of the Movement for Black Lives. When the most marginalized of our society is free, then we will ALL truly be free. We call on our faith to affirm the truth that only when Black Lives Matter will All Lives TRULY Matter. As Dr. King said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Source: <https://www.blacklivesuu.com/principles-overview>.

PLEDGE CONTRIBUTION PROCESS

Even though we are not currently meeting at Pilgrim House and therefore unable to drop off pledge checks in the building, we still have expenses to pay and appreciate getting your pledge contributions in a timely manner.

Please mail your financial pledge contributions to the Pilgrim House address below (do not mail them to the treasurer).

Pilgrim House

1212 W. Highway 96

Arden Hills, MN 55112

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The committee continues to meet monthly and exploring ways we can maintain connections with each other between our weekly services. At the beginning of our pandemic you may have made or received calls or emails from our members. At that point in time we thought we would be able to go back to some kind of normalcy in a couple of months. Unfortunately, it may be sometime before we can meet again at Pilgrim House so we are renewing those contacts! Please contact me if you would appreciate receiving calls or emails from members or if you would like to continue in touching base with members. I know I am so excited when I see people on Sundays and when I get emails and calls.

I have some sad news to report. Curt Corum's Aunt, Mary Louise Townsend, passed away on September 11. Curt traveled back and forth to Chicago to assist his mom and Mary. We send our condolences to him and his mother.

Nancy Olson

BOOK CLUBS AND COVENANT GROUPS

Pilgrim House has two book clubs and several covenant groups. All are currently meeting via Zoom due to the pandemic.

The Thursday Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00 at members' homes or at Pilgrim House. Dates may change a few times a year so please check the Calendar for the next meeting. The group is open to all PH members and friends. If you are interested in participating or have questions, contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

The Novel Exchange Book Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We meet at 1:30 pm via Zoom. Check the calendar for the next meeting date. The group is open to all PH members and friends. If you have questions or are interested in joining the group contact Sharon Borg.

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.

If you are interested in joining or starting a covenant group, contact pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org.

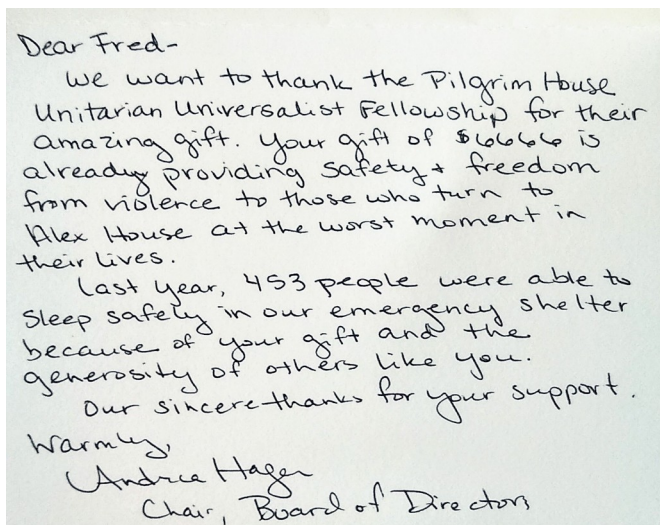
SOCIAL ACTION

Black Lives Matter Response

Following the Black Lives UU program on October 11 a Social Action Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss what Pilgrim House should be doing to work with Black Lives Matter.

Pandemic Fund Distributions

Thank you from Alexandra House:



Dear Fred-

We want to thank the Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for their amazing gift. Your gift of \$6666 is already providing safety + freedom from violence to those who turn to Alex House at the worst moment in their lives.

Last year, 453 people were able to sleep safely in our emergency shelter because of your gift and the generosity of others like you.

Our sincere thanks for your support.

Warmly,
Andree Hager
Chair, Board of Directors

Since HopeFest was canceled due to the pandemic, Alexandra House is asking that we celebrate Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. See the HopeFest web page <https://www.alexandrahouse.org/get-involved/events/hopefest/> for more information.

PILGRIM HOUSE GREAT DECISIONS

October 1 – Artificial Intelligence with Tom Hanson via Zoom

Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution.

Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the U.S. follow suit?

Tom is one of our favorite speakers. He is a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State whose diplomatic postings included East Germany, France, Norway, the Soviet Union, Sweden, and the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. He also participated in the opening of new U.S. embassies in Mongolia and Estonia, worked on the Foreign Relations Committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and served as Director for NATO and European Affairs at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, D.C.

He currently is Diplomat in Residence at the Alworth Institute for International Affairs at the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He serves as Chair of the Minnesota Committee on Foreign Relations and as Co-Chair of the China-Asia Business Association.

PILGRIM HOUSE SOLAR POWER INSTALLATION IS NOW COMPLETE

The new solar panels on our roof are now providing more power than the building currently needs. You can view the power generation and consumption on line: This URL will give you tons of information on the operation of our solar panels. You can see the steady-state draw from our furnace fans and dehumidifiers is just over 1 kilowatt. Peak generation capacity is about 6.5 kw, interrupted by cloud movements. Les changed a single light bulb and observed the blip in draw.

https://egauge54504.egaug.es/5E668/1/en_GB/classic.html.

TO THE EDITOR

from Mel Aanerud

We have politicians today who like to rewrite history. I am an amateur historian and have studied some of these things. I have heard that this is a Christian nation

divinely inspired and created by devotedly religious founding fathers.

The founding fathers were actually a diverse lot. The biggest denominational group who were the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Congregationalist, then and now a liberal religion. Next in numbers came Presbyterians followed by Unitarians. There were also Baptists, Episcopalians, Quakers, Roman Catholics and Universalists.

John Adams, paying tribute to those who fought in the Continental Army, was proud to relate over twenty four different religions represented including Jews, Arians, and Atheists.

This republic was not born through an Immaculate Conception. Its laws and constitutional principles are human contrivances not divinely revealed edicts. It's legal and political foundations were accomplished through compromise. Our founders were people of many faiths who were mainly disciples of tolerance, freedom and science. They did not try to impose their beliefs, but rather were a progressive force; uniting people of varying beliefs in an allegiance to a shared quest for justice and the common good.

IN SEPTEMBER SKY

A migrating flock
of wild geese write
a gigantic letter "V"
up above;
such majestic synchronicity,
an unequivocal sign,
a parting message...
in September sky.
Even they know
the importance
of voting...
in 2020 election!

Date written: 09/16/2020

Copyright © Edward Ibeh used with permission