



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

Pilgrim House is open for both in person and Zoom attendance. Our COVID attendance policy is on our website..

February 4 – Minnesota State Parks – Doug Ohman

Doug Ohman has been a frequent presenter at Pilgrim House. He is a photographer and author who has documented Minnesota with stories, photographs and books. His program this year will feature the sights and history of Minnesota's State Parks. There will be some of his books available for purchase after the program.



February 11 – What's Wrong with Journalism

Mary Stucky, founder and director of the Peabody Award-winning Round Earth Media, will speak on "What's wrong with journalism, what's right and how to know the difference." Stucky is a veteran journalist with more than 30 years of experience reporting from the United States, Mexico, Central and South America and North Africa, primarily for National Public Radio. <https://www.iwfm.org/people/mary-stucky/>

February 18 – Homespun Storytelling with Noel & Peggy

Noel LaBine, storyteller & Peggy Larson, singer: Performing stories and songs that are funny, touching, engaging and uplifting. Their shows include a variety of homespun storytelling by Noel LaBine and complimentary music by vocalist Peggy Larson. Noel LeBline, author of "Lessons Learned Through Chaos and Mayhem from Northwest Minnesota" and other books, with music by Rocky Mjos & Peggy Larson.



They were here in 2008 and were well received. <https://youtu.be/mcbvd4zACVY> https://youtu.be/-O_Yn7u1IU



February 25 – Another Look at Climate Change

Bill Middlecamp is a Software Engineer/Architect: Master of science in computer science, U of WI, Madison. He studied Geography, Climatology, Meteorology, and Computer Science at U of MN and U of WI, retired from Quantum Corp, Emerson Process Management, Caspian Networks, Nemadji Research, Cray Research, and AT&T Bell Labs. He is presently board member for Dakota Electric Association and a member of the Climate Reality Project <https://www.climaterealitymsp.com/>.

March 3 – Best Reads

Our periodic review of the best books enjoyed by Pilgrim House readers.



CALENDAR

Saturday, February 3, 5:30pm – MSUS Coffee House, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 hybrid Coffee House at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. To be on the list for Coffee House, contact Chad Synder.

Sunday, February 11, 12:00pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House with presenter Bruce France. All are welcome. Contact Mary Eskelson.

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

Thursday, February 15,

11:00am – MSUS Third Thursday 60+ Gathering at Pilgrim House. Join us for an hour of facilitated conversation followed by a potluck. This is an opportunity for people from Pilgrim House and MSUS to gather! It is a great way to connect and share a good meal. All are welcome. Contact Laura Smidzik.

1:00pm – Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Nancy Olson.

Sunday, February 18, Newsletter information is due. Contact Fred Green.

Thursday, February 22, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at Pilgrim House. The book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Wednesday, February 28, 1:30pm – Novel exchange book club meets. Contact Sharon Borg.

SOCIAL ACTION

Remember cash or check donations to **Ralph Reeder Food Shelf** on Soup Sunday.

Save the Date – **Community Support Center** fundraiser and luncheon – April 18th

Moms Demand Action – February 12th – Welcome Congress back to their new session and show support for gun-sense members – Contact Bruce for more information

We will be purchasing new lawn signs showing support for ALL PEOPLE as our lawn signs have been broken from the weather and our lawn service.

Working on **Get Out The Vote** – more information to follow.

PREVIEW OF COMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION IN 2024

The national and state UU social justice organizations are fully aware of how big the stakes are in the 2024 elections. The results this year will have profound

Pilgrim House UU Fellowship

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 (leave a message)

Email: pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org

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

Board Chair: Adam Aanerud

The Land Acknowledgment

Pilgrim House acknowledges that we gather on the ancestral land(s) of the Dakota People. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have been stewards throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe.

Pilgrim's Progress (Pilgrim House Newsletter)

If you have any items for the newsletter, please contact Fred Green

newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org

effects on the values that are central to Unitarian Universalists, including but not limited to: the democratic process itself in the US and in many states; justice, equity, and compassion in our communities; the extent to which our fellow Americans are prepared to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people; and the likelihood of social policies respecting and promoting the health of the interdependent web on which our existence depends.

Here in Minnesota, our state-level UU organization focused on social justice (MUUSJA, the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance) is partnering with several dozen other organizations with similar values, including many that are BIPOC and low-income-led, to plan and organize actions to promote UU values relating to participation in the democratic process.

Individual congregations including Pilgrim House will be able to benefit by being able to help with activities they are planning and organizing. Our Social Action committee is exploring what opportunities will be available that we can help with. This is likely to

include helping people register to vote and encouraging them to get to the polls.

Stay tuned for more information to come. This will be a way we can focus our attention and intention so as to put our values into action in this consequential year.

WELCOMING NOTE FOR FEBRUARY

The first Wednesday of February (February 7 this year) is nationally recognized as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) (really 😊). Its purpose is to encourage HIV testing and treatment, for a group of Americans who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, this disparity is only increasing over time. Although they only represent 12% of the US population, 43% of those living with HIV/AIDS are Black. This reflects well-known and yet unresolved inequities in multiple social support systems including education, testing, access to healthcare including disease prevention resources, and supports for those in socioeconomic stress. NBHAAD efforts focus on supporting Black GLBTQ+ led organizations in efforts to promote HIV/AIDS awareness in their communities and encourage testing, treatment, and increased involvement by members of the community.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

We are so happy that Mel Aanerud has been able to return home. Sending healing vibes from our congregation.

♥ Happy Valentine's Day!

“Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.” Frank P Jones.

Our next Congregational Care and Welcoming Congregation meeting is on February 15th at Pilgrim house at 1 PM. All are welcome.

FEBRUARY 2024 MSUS EVENTS

Potluck and Coffeehouse, February 3, 5:30 potluck, 6:30 Coffeehouse Pilgrim House UU Fellowship

It has been so fun to watch folks from Pilgrim House perform on the coffeehouse “stage!” If you are interested in performing in February, contact Chad Snyder at chadasnyder@gmail.com. We start the night with a potluck and start hybrid the coffeehouse at 6:30. Performers of all skill levels are encouraged to participate and can perform in person or online through the MSUS zoom room.

Third Thursday 60+ Group and Potluck, February 15, 11:00-1:00 pm, Pilgrim House UU Fellowship

Each month the 60+ year olds at MSUS and Pilgrim House gather to reflect on MSUS' monthly theme. February's theme is Justice and Equality. liberating love. Rev. Laura will lead the discussion prior to the potluck. It's always a friendly and engaged group. All are welcome!

MSUS Service Auction, February 24, 6:00 pm, United Church of Christ, New Brighton

MSUS' annual service auction offers meals, gift baskets, services, and more! Join us if you'd like to gather for a meal, fun, and a chance to bid on some awesome items! NOTE: all items will be listed online prior to the auction. If you want to receive that information, sign up for the MSUS enews at msuu.org.

MUUSJA WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

MUUSJA is hosting an online workshop on Thursday, February 1 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am via Zoom to talk about how congregations can be supportive of intimate partner and sexual abuse survivors. We hope that there will be at least a few people from Pilgrim House who can attend on behalf of the congregation. Here is a link to where people can register (for free):

<https://www.muusja.org/workshops/>

The Shared Pulpit will also start on Feb 1 and runs through May. We're limiting attendance to 8 people as it's an intensive seminar where folks will be coached in writing a social justice sermon about an issue close to their heart. Our own Rev. Leslie Mills is leading it.

<https://www.muusja.org/what-we-do/classes/>

UPDATED COVID-SAFETY CRITERIA WE FOLLOW AS OF 9/11/2023:

- Masks are optional – Masks and hand sanitizer are available.
- Attendees are vaccinated, with exception for children too young to be vaccinated.
- Air purifiers will continue to be run in Program and Fellowship Rooms.
- Food and beverages are provided by our Hospitality Committee.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME HERE!

We enjoy the visitors and friends who join us for Sunday programs. If you're interested in taking the next step of becoming a member of Pilgrim House, we'd would enjoy talking with you and sharing a short, live Power Point introduction – in person or via Zoom.

Kathy & Mel Aanerud, Membership Committee

membership@pilgrimhouseuaa.org

