

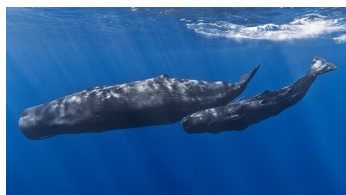
Volume 55 Number 9

May and Summer 2025

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

May 4 – Ticks – Gary Averbeck

PH member Gary Averbeck shares his knowledge of ticks at the time of year when they are most active.



May 11 – Mother's Day – Family Connections

Share your connections to family and others by sharing photos and readings. Join in our small group discussions. Let Lollie Jensen know if you would like to share a reading or photo.

May 18 – Being Ellen: Gleaning Authenticity 2.0

With this talk, Ellie (Ellen) Krug describes what has happened in the fifteen-plus years since she got the chance at the age of 52 for a complete do-over, a second chance, to live as her true self following a transition from male to female. This is a story of finally finding one's voice and resonating with the Universe. Isn't that what we each yearn for? Expect to learn what true allyship involves; the importance of keeping one's heart open despite pain; the importance of compassion for self and others; and the suffering we risk when we don't live truly authentic lives. Ellie Krug has spoken at PH before – you will likely remember her well-received talk last spring, "Being Transgender: Living with a Target on My Back."



May 25 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Program

June 1 – Flower Communion followed by the Annual Meeting

Bring a flower from your garden to add to the fellowship bouquet, reflecting the beauty of our diversity and what each of us individually brings to it. Take home a flower from the fellowship representing what the fellowship gives back to each of us. This is a program begun in Czechoslovakia that has been held annually before our summer recess for many years. This will be a short program followed by the Pilgrim House Annual Meeting. *See inside for information on the Annual Meeting.*



There is one program a month in the summer. Childcare is not provided during summer programs.

Sunday, June 22, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Central Time – Live from Baltimore

Join us at Pilgrim House for a live stream of the Sunday morning program from the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly -- this year being held in Baltimore, Maryland. There will be music by the General Assembly Choir, greetings from UUA connections across the country, and a service led by Rev. Dr. Nichole Kirk. She will weave together storytelling and a passion for our faith's global connections. Arrive early for coffee, pastries, fruit and time to settle in.

July and August program dates are being finalized and will be announced via email and the website.

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: Marcie Jefferys

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. Newsletter information is always due the next to the last Sunday of the month.

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 1, 7:00pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – U.S. Leadership in a Changing Global Economy. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

Friday, May 2, 1:30pm – Financial Audit at PH, Contact Carol Green.

Saturday, May 3, 5:30pm – MWUUC 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.

Monday, May 5, 7:00pm – Budget planning at Pilgrim House. Contact Marcie Jefferys.

Saturday, May 10, 10:00am – Reserved for cleaning. Contact Al Potter.

Monday, May 12, 7:00pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Contact Marcie Jefferys.

Thursday, May 15, 1:00pm – Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Judy Rohde.

Saturday, May 17, 1:30pm – Soul Matters meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Sunday May 18, 11:30am – Today's fellowship time will include cake and refreshments in celebration of the special arrival due for Elissa and Michael Louks in June. All are invited! Contact Kathy Aanerud.

Thursday, May 22, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at Pilgrim House. Our book is *James* by Percival Everett. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

Saturday, May 24, 10:00am – Reserved for cleaning. Contact Al Potter.

Wednesday, May 28, 12:30pm – Novel exchange book club meets at a local library. Contact Les Rogers.

Sunday, June 1, 10:15am – Flower Communion at Pilgrim House followed by our Annual Meeting, a short board meeting and lunch. All are welcome. Contact Marcie Jefferys. See article below.

Sunday, June 22, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Central Time – Live from Baltimore at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Kathy Aanerud.

Other summer events are listed on the website.

PILGRIM HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING

The Pilgrim House Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, June 1, following the flower communion and Welcoming of New members. It will be hybrid (in-person and zoom). A Zoom link and agenda will be sent via email closer to the meeting date. A quorum is needed to conduct business. Please plan to attend!

At the meeting, members will elect the board officers for the upcoming year, vote on the Pilgrim House budget, and have an opportunity to briefly review the past year and discuss goals for the next year. Per the bylaws, a proposed slate of officers will be presented; nominations from the floor will also be accepted. Contact Marcie Jefferys, current Board Chair, for more information (chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org).

Lunch will be provided by the Hospitality Committee following the Annual Meeting. A short Board meeting will follow to approve standing committee chairs, at large members and set future board meeting dates.

Pilgrim House 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda

Opening Words

Approve Agenda for 2025 Annual Meeting

Approve Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting

Chair comments / summary of the year

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Outgoing Chair passes gavel to new Chair
 Board Membership for coming year
 Present the slate of officers for Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer
 Nominations from the Floor
 Vote
 Present candidates for Standing Committee Chairs (to be approved at next board meeting)
 Present At-Large candidates (to be approved at next board meeting)
 Nominations for Delegates to UU General Assembly (virtual and in person, June 18-22, 2025)
 Presentation of Proposed 2025-26 Budget
 Motion to Approve the Budget
 Other Business and vote, if needed
 Closing Words

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Wishing you a summer with gatherings and events to renew and refresh you. During the summer when we do not see each other as often, please remember that the Congregational Care Committee is still active. If you or a member are in need of support, please reach out. Congregational Care would like to know of happy times as well as those more difficult times.

As we begin forming committees for next year, please consider joining this committee to help and support Pilgrim House members and families.

Judy Rohde

Deb Magnuson

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT)

On May 17, 1990, the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its *International Classification of Diseases*. Since then, May 17 has been observed each

year as an occasion to raise awareness of the violence and discrimination that is still being directed, not only towards homosexuals, but also transgender and bisexual people and all others whose sexual and gender identities are non-mainstream.

The theme for 2025 celebrations is “The power of communities.” It draws attention to the rich diversity within LGBTQIA+ communities, and the strength and resilience that arises from the collective solidarity among these different groups and with their allies and



supporters. These varied backgrounds, identities, and experiences all bring additional strength to the essential efforts to secure equal rights and representation for all.

How should we celebrate? “Go rainbow” for the day; host or join an event in the area; educate yourself or someone else about the need for ongoing efforts to promote equal rights; fundraise or support an organization that works on behalf of LGBTQIA+ people and issues. Resources at www.idahobit.org.au, including a colorful [guide to many of the flags](#) for general and specific identities within the broader LGBTQIA+ community.

June is Pride Month!

The Pride celebration commemorates and continues the fight against discrimination and the struggle for equality, for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons and their families. There are lots of options in the Twin Cities, including especially:

- The [St. Paul Pride Festival June 14-15](#), centering at Dual Citizen Brewing Company. Hours are 12-8 pm each day. It includes worldwide food options, live music, 5 cultural performances, break dance performances, a youth and family music section, and a featured presentation by Circus Juventas.
- The [Minneapolis Pride Festival June 28-29](#) in Loring Park, featuring entertainment on four stages, hundreds of vendors, and information booths for a huge variety of resources in the community – including UUs.

Take some time also in June to reflect on two major anniversaries:

- The **Stonewall Riots**, which began June 28, 1969, was the birth of the international gay rights movement, as bar patrons chose to resist arbitrary and capricious – and violent – police actions against them. The [Stonewall National Monument](#) was established by President Obama in June 2016, only two weeks after the Pulse Nightclub shootings in Orlando, Florida. The current administration has removed all references to transgender and queer identities from the Monument’s website, sparking a new resistance movement.
- The [Pulse Nightclub shooting](#), June 12, 2016, is commemorated by a Memorial and Museum in Orlando, and by smaller observances hosted in various locales. The commemoration serves as an ongoing reminder of the need for continued efforts to defend against the erosion of dearly won LGBTQIA+ rights.

GREAT DECISIONS VIA ZOOM

May 1, 7:00pm – U.S. Leadership in a Changing Global Economy

Under President Biden, the U.S. has introduced new approaches to trade, technology, industrial policy, and strategic competition with China, signaling a shift from the cooperative, open-trade agenda that defined much of the postwar era. What does this mean for America's future as a global economic leader? How will a "foreign policy for the middle class" and intensified rivalry with China reshape the world order? Can the institutions and rules of the postwar system adapt to a world of economic nationalism and great power competition?

Our speaker, Dr. Richard Leitch, brings deep insight to these questions. He earned his B.A. in East Asian Studies from Colby College in 1985, followed by an M.A. in Asian Studies and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His career includes time on Wall Street and numerous teaching awards, including the Swenson-Bunn Award for Teaching Excellence and the Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching at Gustavus Adolphus College, where he has taught since 1996. He was also featured in The Princeton Review's The Best 300 Professors in 2012. Dr. Leitch's research focuses on Japanese politics and foreign policy. We've always enjoyed his engaging, insightful presentations.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Elissa and Michael Louks of Lino Lakes to Pilgrim House membership. Elissa and Michael began visiting Pilgrim House in December. They've been enjoying the Sunday programs and the community they've found here. Be sure to introduce yourself.

In the article below, note that on May 18 we will be celebrating the anticipated arrival of the Louks special delivery in June.

CELEBRATING A SPECIAL ARRIVAL!

Join us for cake and refreshments following the program on May 18. We will be celebrating the special arrival due in June for Elissa and Michael Louks. Be part of sharing good wishes for health and happiness.



COMING IN JUNE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country. There are workshops, music, keynote speakers, discussions, and business meetings that make decisions affecting the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).



Attend virtually or in person. Dates are June 18-22. For in-person, this year's location is the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, MD. The event is open to all, but note that Pilgrim House will reimburse the registration fees for our two voting delegates.

Read more about General Assembly here: www.uua.org/ga Let Mel or Kathy Aanerud know if you have questions or are thinking of attending. Registration fees increase April 1 and again after May 15.

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@pilgrimhouseuua.org



"If you think you are too small to make an impact, you have never spent a night with a mosquito." Fransiska Kangombe, University of Namibia (via the Back Yard Biology blog)