

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

**December 7 – Senator John Marty – Standing up to Christian Nationalism and the Growing Fascism in the Nation**

Senator Marty's program will tie well with the 2025 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness: "Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism, a Call to Action: Reaffirming Our Covenant for Democracy and Freedom.



**December 14 – Rev Leslie Mills – Activism in the Age of Compassion Fatigue Part II**

Join us for the second program of this year's four-part series. Together we will explore ways to stay balanced and connected, even in the face of distress and injustice.

**December 21 – Pilgrim House Holiday Celebration!**

Please join us for our always-special intergenerational Pilgrim House holiday program, complete with group caroling, favorite holiday readings, seasonal music, a performance by the Pilgrim House Chorale, a special guest (possibly from the far north) with a story to read and a big red bag, favorite foods, and more. Contact Bill Rohde or Mel Aanerud by December 15th if you or the youth in your household have special music or a reading to share ... we would like to see and hear your talents as part of the program. And don't forget to bring that favorite holiday food for our traditional potluck finger foods feast after the program. In addition, if you will have children/grandchildren or other young ones attending the program with you, please provide their names and ages on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall or email the information to [congregationalcare@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:congregationalcare@pilgrimhouseuua.org).



**December 28 – The story of Mille Lacs Reservation**

Mel Aanerud will present a history of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe from their movement west, the great Dakota Village of Izatys, the efforts to avoid the Sioux rising, and their struggles to maintain their reservation to the economic powerhouse they have become.

**January 4 – Author Marcie R. Rendon book "Where They Last Saw Her"**

A Native American woman who learns of the disappearance of one of her own and decides enough is enough. Winner of the Minnesota Book Award and the Washington Post calls it the Best Book of the Year and it discloses a real problem in Indian County.



## 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 Mission, Vision, and Value statements <https://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org/our-mission>.

**Phone:** 651-631-2582 (leave a message)

**Email:** [pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

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

**Board Chair:** Dick Shelton [chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

### 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](mailto:newslettereditor@pilgrimhouseuua.org). Newsletter information is always due the next to the last Sunday of the month.

## CALENDAR

*Note: the Calendar this month is in the Google Calendar formatting that appears on our website. The Calendar does not show Sunday programs on the preceding page.*

**4 Dec, Thu, 7pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – The Future of NATO and European Security.** All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

**6 Dec, Sat,**

**10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**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.

**7 Dec, Sun**

**Last day to donate to the Giving Tree for Alexandra House.** Bring your gifts to Pilgrim House for the program. Contact Marilyn Jones.

**7pm – Reserved for member. Contact Carol Gross.**

**8 Dec, Mon, 7pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom.** Everyone is welcome. Contact Dick Shelton.

**10 Dec, Wed, 12:30pm – Book Club meets at Dee Buth's.** Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**13 Dec, Sat,**

**10am – First December Holiday Program chorale practice at Pilgrim House.** All adults, high school and college students who like to sing are invited to participate. For those who haven't sung with the Chorale before, we especially urge you to come and join in the fun. See you there. Contact Bill Rohde.

**10am – Soul Matters group meeting at Shoreview Library Book Club Room.** Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**14 Dec, Sun,**

**12pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House with presenter, TBD.** All are Welcome. Contact: Mary Eskelson

**7pm – Reserved for member. Contact Carol Gross.**

**20 Dec, Sat 10am – The Pilgrim House Chorale will hold its final December Holiday Program practice at Pilgrim House.** All adults, high school and college students who like to sing are invited to participate. For those who haven't sung with the Chorale before, we especially urge you to come and join in the fun. See you there! Contact Bill Rohde.

**21 Dec, Sun**

**Pilgrim House Newsletter information is due.** Contact Fred Green.

**7pm – Reserved for member. Contact Carol Gross.**

**27 Dec, Sat, 1pm – Writing group meets at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Bruce France.

**28 Dec, Sun, 7pm – Reserved for member.** Contact Carol Gross.

## HO! HO! HO!

We are expecting a special Visitor from the North Pole at our Holiday Program on December 21 with a story to read and a big red bag.



If you will have children, grandchildren, or other young ones attending the program with you, please submit their names and ages to our "helpers" at

[congregationalcare@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:congregationalcare@pilgrimhouseuua.org) so they can be properly recognized by our Visitor. Alternatively, you can provide names and ages on the clipboard in the Fellowship Room.

Deb Magnuson

Congregational Care Committee

## SOCIAL ACTION

Thanks for your generosity on Soup Sunday. We have donated over \$700. to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf this Fall from Soup Sunday. Also armfuls of brown paper bags have been collected here and delivered to Ralph Reeder so their Clients can bag their groceries.

Please continue to decorate our “Giving Christmas Tree” with winter hats, mitts, games, \$25 gift cards is amount suggested (see article below). These items will be delivered to Alexandra House in early December.

Thanks Marilyn and Lisa.

Harlene

## HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

### Gifts For Alexandra House Shelter

Last Date to donate will be **Sunday, December 7th** to meet the Alexandra House final delivery date.

All donated gifts must be NEW. No gifts depicting violence or weapons.

Wish List: All Ages & Family

Pajamas

Bathrobes & Slippers

Board Games & Puzzles

Winter Accessories (gloves, hats)

Squishmallows

Gift Cards \$25 Target, Walmart, & Amazon \$25

Grocery Cards (ALDIs & Cub) \$25

Gift Cards Restaurants (Chipotle, Panera, Noodles & Company, etc.)

The “Holiday Giving Tree” is a project of the Pilgrim House Social Action Committee. Our PH members have always supported this project generously and your participation is sincerely appreciated.

## DECEMBER 1 IS WORLD AIDS DAY

Since the U.N. first established it in 1988, this day has been an occasion to unite the world in the fight against HIV and AIDS, and to show solidarity against HIV stigma. It is estimated that around 38 million people around the world are living with the virus. Medical advances



have made it possible for people with the virus to live long and healthy lives, but drastic cuts in funding from international donors have greatly reduced the programs providing such help.

According to UNAIDS, the UN’s public health initiative working to end AIDS, “In 2025, a historic funding crisis is threatening to unravel decades of progress. HIV prevention services are severely disrupted. Community-led services, vital to reaching marginalized populations, are being deprioritized while the rise in punitive laws criminalizing same-sex relationships, gender identity, and drug use is amplifying the crisis, making HIV services inaccessible.”

Locally, the major providers of support for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment were the African American AIDS Task Force and Rainbow Health. Both of these nonprofits were forced to close in 2025 due to lack of funding. With help from the MN Department of Human Services, most of the patients and clients of these two organizations have been transferred to the Aliveness Project (<https://aliveness.org/>) for at least some ongoing service. The Program Committee is hoping to be able to arrange for a presentation from them later this year about the AIDS situation currently in Minnesota and also about the national and international context.

## GREAT DECISIONS VIA ZOOM

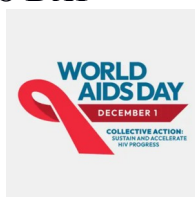
Contact Al Potter for more information about Great Decisions.

### December 4, 7:00pm – The Future of NATO and European Security

Join us for a timely discussion on the challenges and choices facing NATO and Europe’s security landscape. This month’s topic explores key questions shaping transatlantic relations:

- Can Europe be made secure without U.S. involvement?
- Can the U.S. remain secure and prosperous if Europe’s security collapses?
- How would China’s military and economic support for Russia shift the balance of power if the U.S. reduces its role in Europe?
- What is the value of European strategic autonomy—does it strengthen or weaken the transatlantic security relationship?

We are delighted to welcome Norma Noonan, Professor Emerita of Political Science and Leadership Studies at Augsburg College, who has previously given us engaging conversations on NATO and Russia.



She is the former director of Augsburg's Master of Arts in Leadership Program and continues to teach in the graduate leadership studies program. An expert in comparative and international politics and leadership, Professor Noonan's research focuses on Russia, women in society, and leadership theory. She is a frequent lecturer and commentator in the Twin Cities and has authored over fifty articles and contributions to anthologies and readers.

Her works include *The Encyclopedia of Russian Women's Movements* (Editor, 2001) and *Russian Women in Politics and Society* (Co-editor, 1996). Professor Noonan earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science and a Certificate in Russian and Eastern European Studies from Indiana University, and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. An avid traveler, she has recently visited Russia and Central Europe.

### SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE



This committee supports activities at Pilgrim House to promote a sense of community among Members and Friends. Activities this summer and fall have included a Mississippi River cruise on the Jonathan Paddleford, organizing a Sharing Circle with the new Soul Matters curriculum, resuming monthly Sunday Story presentations, updating the Pilgrim House library, and supporting Sunday child care.

Do you have ideas for additional activities? (And there are bonus points if you'd like to lead it 😊.) Activities could include things such as a movie/potluck gathering at Pilgrim House, host a game night/afternoon, resume our Circle Lunches/Suppers, organize a group to attend a play or concert, offer a book title for a common read that concludes with a discussion and supper...

Let us know your ideas!

Kathy Aanerud for the Connections Committee

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

### WHALECOAST ALASKA – A MORE AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 32 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! Details: [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org) Questions: [info@whalecoastak.org](mailto:info@whalecoastak.org)

### 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](mailto:membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org)

