

Volume 56 Number 5

January 2026

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

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

Marcie Rendon is a multiply-awarded playwright, poet, author, and community arts activist based in Minneapolis. She is an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Marcie will discuss her latest book, a national bestseller, which tells of the response of an Ojibwe woman who is deeply unsettled by the disappearance of a woman on her own reservation. Frustrated by the unresponsiveness of law enforcement, she determines to find answers herself.



**January 11 – A Fresh View of Spiritualism**

Linda M. Valerian will introduce us to a new view of spiritualism. She is Licensed Professional Counselor in Practice for 21 years. She attended St. Mary's and the University of Minnesota Graduate School, Graduated 2002. She holds a certificate from International Association of Trauma professionals.

**January 18 – Blind Justice**

Retired Judge David Tatel will present the program via Zoom. You have seen the statue of justice, the woman with the scale who is blindfolded. Judge Tatel takes that image to the extreme; he was the only blind circuit judge in the United States. He wrote a book called *Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice*.



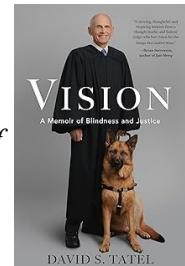
**January 25 – The China I Know – Prof. Duncan J. McCampbell**

Prof. Duncan J. McCampbell is an American lawyer, department chair, and associate professor at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis.

After leaving law practice for legal publishing in 1995, he joined West Publishing Company (now Thomson Reuters Legal). In his last overseas assignment with Thomson Reuters, he was posted to Beijing in 2007–2008 to run the Westlaw China start-up project.

He is a discussion leader in the Great Decisions Program, specializing on China. He is past co-chair of the Minnesota/China Business Council.

He has a forthcoming book: *Sunset Over China*.



**February 1 – Dan Newton is Back**

“Daddy Squeeze” Newton has been dazzling audiences with his creative accordion style for over 40 years; his fresh approach to the much-maligned squeezebox. Daddy Squeeze also enlightens his audiences with stories and colorful anecdotes about the accordion and his experiences making a living playing the instrument he loves.



## 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 the Sunday programs on the preceding page.*

**3 Jan, 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.

**4 Jan, Sun, 7pm – Reserved for member.** Contact Carol Gross.

**11 Jan, Sun,**

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

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

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

**15 Jan, Thu, 1pm – Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House.** Contact Deb Magnusson.

**17 Jan, Sat, 10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**18 Jan, Sun, 7pm – Reserved for member.** Contact Carol Gross.

**22 Jan, Thu, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at Pilgrim House.** The book is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**24 Jan, Sat, 10am – Soul Matters group meeting at Pilgrim House.** Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**25 Jan, Sun, 7pm – Reserved for member.** Contact Carol Gross.

**31 Jan, Sat,**

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

**1pm – Writing group meets at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Bruce

## SOCIAL ACTION

In December the Holiday Giving Tree was teeming with gifts for delivery to Alexandra House, all to benefit their clients with cheer and goodwill this holiday season.

Pilgrim House Fellowship members and friends were very generous and creative with their gift giving. Gifts included -

19 \$25.00 Gift cards = \$475.00

Plus another 88 items that included-winter mittens, gloves, headgear, scarves and socks in assorted sizes. Tote bags, games, puzzles and young reader's books topped off the gift bags.

It was fun to collect and deliver this generous gift to Alexandra House. **Thanks for your generosity to make this happen.**

Marilyn Jones

Harlene Hagen

## OUR HOLIDAY PROGRAM WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

We had a total of 92 attendees: 76 adults (consisting of 69 members/regulars and 16 family friends and PH alumni), 13 youth, 89 Total In person, Plus 3 on Zoom. Ms Claus visited. See pictures below.



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND WELCOMING COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Congregational Care and Welcoming Congregation committee will meet at 1:00pm on Thursday, January 15th. Meeting will be via Zoom. Everyone is welcome! Please connect with Deb Magnuson if you need the Zoom link.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HARM OF DATA CENTERS AND AI

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 7:00 PM

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

2175 1st St, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Cohosted By: Northeast Metro Climate Action & White Bear for Democracy

Kathryn Hoffman is the CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA). Kathryn is leading the organization's work to protect Minnesotans and our natural resources from the threats posed by AI-driven hyper-scale data centers. MCEA has filed five lawsuits challenging the environmental review conducted on hyper-scale data centers proposed in Lakeville, North Mankato, Hermantown, Pine Island, and Faribault. Kathryn graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2006 magna cum laude and earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Humphrey Institute at the same time.

The rise of proposed data centers in Minnesota has been rapid and far-reaching. These hyperscale facilities

pose significant risks to the state's water and energy supplies and may also have serious implications for mining in our state. As enormous consumers of electricity, they could jeopardize the state's ability to meet its urgent climate goals. However, climate impacts are not the only concern. Data centers place substantial strain on water resources and are the infrastructure upon which AI depends. Every use of AI carries an environmental cost. Kathryn Hoffman will discuss current efforts to hold data center developers and AI corporations accountable, as well as practical steps we can take to support this work.

## 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)*

*"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)*