

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

**April 5 – Our Annual Spring Celebration Program.**

There will be special activities for the children, two short films and a book about spring being here. There will be a short play about the week of Palm Sunday to Good Friday. Some original poetry, some songs and stories presented by Pilgrim House folks. The Pilgrim House chorale will perform. There will be some festive foods along with it being Soup Sunday.



**April 12 – Rev. Leslie Mills – Activism in the Age of Compassion Fatigue – Part IV**

In her previous program, Reverend Leslie Mills provided thoughts and discussion on the conflicting current priorities of personal activism and compassion. She will be continuing with the theme this Sunday.

**April 19 – Earth Day with Richard and Larry**

Essayist/saxophonist Richard Terrill and pianist Larry McDonough return to Pilgrim House with a program of music and the spoken word in honor of Earth Day.



**April 26 – LGBTQI+ topic with Seth Anderson-Matz on Lesbian Visibility Day**

Details to be announced.



**May 3 – Leslie Mills – topic to be announced**

**Other events at Pilgrim House this month**

**Sunday, April 19, 12:15pm – Mel Aanerud presents Will Rogers**

**Friday, April 24, 7:00pm – Earth Day Celebration Concert**

## 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 is in the Calendar formatting that appears on our website. The Calendar does not show the Sunday programs on the preceding page. Also, every Sunday evening is reserved for Carol Gross from 6-7:30pm.*

### 4 Apr, Sat,

**9:30 – 11:30am – Chorale rehearsal at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Bill Rohde.

**5:30 – 9pm – 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.

**10 Apr, Fri, 1 – 3pm – Audit at PH.** Contact Carol Green.

**11 Apr, Sat, 10am – 12pm – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**12 Apr, Sun, 12 – 1pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House with presenter, TBD.** All are Welcome. Contact: Mary Eskelson.

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

**14 Apr, Tue, 7 – 8:30pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order.** All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

**18 Apr, Sat, 10am – 12pm – Soul Matters group meeting at Pilgrim House.** Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

### 19 Apr, Sun

**All day – May Newsletter items are due. Note that this will be the last newsletter before the summer.** Contact Fred Green.

**12:15 – 1:30pm – Will Rogers at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Mel Aanerud. See article below.

**23 Apr, Thu, 1:30 – 3:30pm – Book Club meets at Pilgrim House.** The book is *History Matters* by David McCullough. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**24 Apr, Fri, 6:30 – 9pm – Earth Day Celebration Concert at Pilgrim House.** Doors open 6:30, concert 7:00. All are welcome. Contact Marcie Jefferys or Ken Steffenson. See article below.

### 25 Apr, Sat

**10am – 12pm – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**1 – 2:30pm – Writing group meets at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Bruce France.

**30 Apr, Thu, 11:30am – 1pm – Community Support Center Annual Luncheon at The North Church.** All are welcome. Contact Harlene Hagen. See article below.

## APRIL 24 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION CONCERT AT PH

Ken Steffenson and the Compass Rose String Band will perform Friday, April 24 at Pilgrim House. Music will start at 7 PM with doors opening at 6:30 PM.

Light refreshments will be available. Overflow parking is available across the street at Lexington and Hwy 96. There is a lighted crosswalk at the corner.

Admission is free but donations to the Environmental Defense Fund are encouraged.

For more information, contact Marcie Jefferys or Ken Steffenson.

Hope to see you there!

## 2026 FINANCIAL PLEDGE DRIVE

It's that time again for our annual pledge drive!

The requests will be mailed out the first week of April, with a requested return date of April 28. The process is explained below:

### What is the Process?

- We ask members and supporters to pledge their support for the coming fiscal year (begins June 1st.). The board treats these pledges as advisory statements.
- In May, the board develops a budget for the next fiscal year based on pledges received.
- At the annual meeting (May/June), the membership elects a new board of directors and adopts a budget. The approved budget is used to guide expenditures throughout the year.

### What does it cost to keep Pilgrim House running?

- Our 2024-2025 operating budget was \$59,215. We planned \$32,322 for building and grounds, including repairs, utilities, plowing/mowing, cleaning, etc. The remainder was divided among adult programs & speakers, children's programs, social action, and UUA dues & conferences. In addition, we budgeted \$8,100 to fund our capital investment (CI) account.
- Additional revenue is needed for expected cost increases across our entire program. At present over half our budget goes to mowing, snow removal, heating, repairs, cleaning, insurance, and technology to support our programming. All of these are expected to increase. Especially concerning is our insurance which is expected to rise 22% next year.

The board of directors thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,

Finance Committee

## GREAT DECISIONS VIA ZOOM

Contact Al Potter for a Zoom link.

### April 14 – Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order

Can multilateralism survive amid shifting global power and rising nationalism? This program explores the future of global cooperation across trade, public health, and international finance.

Our speaker is Tanisha Fazal, the Arleen C. Carlson Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. Her scholarship focuses on sovereignty, international law, armed conflict, and the global politics of climate change. She is the author of two

award-winning books and a frequent media commentator on international security issues.

Professor Fazal has held fellowships at Harvard, Stanford, and the Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs. From 2021 to 2023, she served as an Andrew Carnegie Fellow.

## SOCIAL ACTION: COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER ANNUAL LUNCHEON

April 30, 2026 at 11:30-1pm

At The North Church

5151 Program Avenue

Mounds View 55112

CSC is a network of faith partners, community organizations and business working together to prevent homelessness by connecting neighbors to resources and providing long term support.

The need is great in our community. At any given time over a 100 students in Mounds View School District are homeless. The CSC has worked with over 450 families in our community with help. All this work is funded entirely by contributions from our community.

Please plan to attend the luncheon and fill a table with fellow Pilgrim House guests!

## CIRCLE SUPPERS AND LUNCHESES

We're bringing back this popular activity for springtime,. We will be preparing sign-up sheets for small group gatherings in members' homes, or at Pilgrim House, for a casual meal. The host provides a main dish and will have you sign up for a side dish to round out the meal. A relaxing time to enjoy each others company.



Hosts and dates will be arranged – likely Saturdays April 25 and May 2. Watch for the finalized sign-up sheets. But in the meantime let us know if you'd like to host a group of 4 or 6. We'd love to have you help us circle round for food, fun, and fellowship! Email [connections@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:connections@pilgrimhouseuua.org).

**Young Families Version** – We will have a sign-up sheet at Pilgrim House to determine if there's an interest for young families to gather in the above format on a Saturday at Pilgrim House or at a home – and identify a host. We look forward to helping you make connections.

*Kathy Aanerud for the Connections Committee*

## THE LIFE, WIT AND WISDOM OF WILL ROGERS AS PORTRAYED BY MEL AANERUD

### April 19 after the program

A cowboy, champion roper, star of the wild west shows, Broadway and the movies; a lecturer, humorous, syndicated columnist and the most recognized man in the world in the early 1930's, some say he is the third most quoted source in the English language, after the King James Bible and Shakespeare.

The life, wit and wisdom of Will Rogers in his own words – covering his life; his views on the issues of his day, which mirror, very closely, those of our own.

As Portrayed by Mel Aanerud – in Will Rogers' own words.



Mel Aanerud as Will Rogers  
Celebrate an American Icon  
Before television and internet,  
Americans were



entertained and informed by guest lecturers. One such attraction was Will Rogers. His wry humor and reflections on American and world events in the 1920s and 30s still have a ring of truth to today's experiences.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

We are pleased to welcome Barbara Cornelius as the newest member of Pilgrim House. Barbara lives in Roseville. She began visiting Pilgrim House in January and has been appreciating the community and the volunteer opportunities she found here. We look forward to learning more about the business that she and her late husband ran in Texas and their move from Texas to Minnesota. If you've not already met Barbara, be sure to introduce yourself.



## SADLY MISSED – BILL EASTER

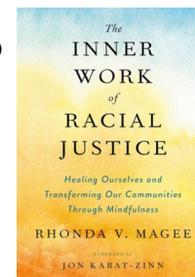
Bill Easter, along with his wife Carolyn, were long time active members of the Pilgrim House UU Fellowship of Arden Hills. Although not founding members, Bill and Carolyn joined Pilgrim House shortly after the Fellowship's formation in the early 1970's. Bill was a distinguished agricultural economist, holding faculty positions at the University of Minnesota for more than fifty years and making lasting contributions to water policy guidelines at the World Bank. He often shared his international expertise in

water management and agricultural issues both informally and as a featured speaker at various Pilgrim House programs on related subjects. He also served as a sounding board and mentor for the organization and served as a past board chair. His friendship and wise counsel will be deeply missed by the Fellowship.

An obituary can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/uu9j9zey>.

## JOIN US FOR A GROUP READ AT PILGRIM HOUSE!

When Melanie Magidow shared her Sunday Story last fall, she mentioned a book that several of us thought would be a good group read for Pilgrim House: *The Inner Work of Racial Justice – Healing Ourselves and Transforming our Communities through Mindfulness*, by Rhonda V. Magee.



Melanie has agreed to be our discussion leader. A supply of books is now available for check-out at Pilgrim House and alternatively we have a list of libraries with copies. A group discussion is planned for May 3, following Soup Sunday.

To enrich the reading experience, Melanie has prepared an optional schedule of weekly email discussion questions, leading up to the May 3 in-person discussion. Consider this opportunity to provide a little structure over the course of your reading, or feel free to read however works best for you. Pick up a copy of this optional email guide, or request one from Melanie via an email to [pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuu.org](mailto:pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuu.org).

Briefly, Melanie describes: "In this group read, we have the opportunity to tune our ears and our hearts to see ourselves and others more clearly, less clouded by biases, and more open to acknowledging inequalities and our own blind spots." So make plans to read, reflect, and join the group discussion on May 3.

*Kathy Aanerud for the Connections Committee*

## MARCH PILGRIM HOUSE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

*Meeting Summary: PH Board*

**Date:** March 9, 2026

### 1. Financial & Budgetary Updates

- **Treasurer's Report:** The board has received **83% of pledge income**. Notable items include an electricity refund and a refund from Church Mutual.

- **Insurance:** A **22% rate increase** is expected from Church Mutual. Les and Susan will investigate cost-saving measures, such as increasing deductibles.
- **2026-27 Budget:** Committee budgets are due to Susan by **March 23**. The final budget will be presented at the May meeting.

## 2. Pledge Drive & Annual Meeting

- **Pledge Drive:** The pledge letter will be finalized by a subcommittee and mailed around **April 1**. Key changes include adding a "\$2000+" category and emphasizing the importance of returning forms even without a pledge.
- **Annual Meeting:** Scheduled for **May 31, 2026**.

## 3. Operations & Facilities

- **Parking:** Concerns were raised regarding the Earth Day Concert and high-turnout events. Dick will investigate using the Arden Hills city lot and promote carpooling.
- **Volunteering:** A proposal regarding volunteer terms and board roles was tabled to avoid bylaw changes. The board is currently seeking a **Volunteer Coordinator**.
- **Audit:** A finance audit is scheduled for **April**.

## 4. Membership & Community

- **New Member:** The board approved the membership of **Barbara**.
- **Attendance:** Weekly attendance is up by approximately five people compared to last year.
- **Memorial:** A newsletter announcement for Bill Easter is pending. [It's in this newsletter.]

All Pilgrim House members are welcome to attend board meetings, which are held at 7pm the second Monday of the month via Zoom. Contact Fred Green, board secretary, for the Zoom link.

## TABLE TENNIS AT PILGRIM HOUSE!



Welcome to Table Tennis at Pilgrim House!. A table tennis table is now ready at Pilgrim House in the big room downstairs for anyone to enjoy. Some Table Tennis balls and some paddles are available. You can play singles or doubles. I think I can make a bucket of balls available for individual practice and make available a cool pickup device too. Games are normally played to 11 with serves alternating every 2 points. If there are any questions, see Wayne LeBlanc or others that play which includes Les Rogers and Eric Buck. ENJOY!



## COMING IN JUNE – GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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



The event is open to all, but note that Pilgrim House will reimburse the registration fees for our two elected voting delegates. This year's event will be fully virtual. Participants join from home, unless you'd choose to travel to the studio site in Louisville, Kentucky or to a site that's hosting registered attendees. The event will be conducted in three segments offered over the dates of June 14-21.

Read more about General Assembly and view the schedule here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Questions? Check with Dick Shelton or Mel or Kathy Aanerud. We can also direct you to past Pilgrim House attendees.

## 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!

Contact [membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:membership@pilgrimhouseuua.org)