

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

**May 3 – Rev. Leslie Mills – Stillness in the Storm**

We've covered a lot of ground exploring "Activism in an Age of Compassion Fatigue" this year, from broad-level politics to conversations close to home. To wrap up, we'll review some highlights and try a few new practices to support us in what lies ahead.



**May 10 – White Bear Lake League of Women Voters**

Jackie Reis is president of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of the White Bear Lake area, which includes Arden Hills, and second vice president of the Minnesota LWV.

Jackie will describe the history and current work of the League, at the national, state, and local levels; discuss today's challenges to our electoral system and democracy; and offer some suggestions for ways to be involved.

**May 17 – Ricardo Levins Morales: The Land Knows the Way**

Ricardo Levins Morales is an artist and organizer based in Minneapolis. His work is widely used by grassroots movements, organizations and communities. He's the author of *The Land Knows the Way: Eco-Social Insights for Liberation*, a collection of political medicines – gathered and gleaned from six decades of trickster art and activism, the long history of peoples' movements, and the deep rhythms of our planet's ecology. His Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio features artwork he's "created over years to encourage the laughter, hope, love and anger that move us toward a better world."



**May 24 – no program (Memorial Day weekend)**



**May 31 – Flower Communion and Annual Meeting**

Bring flowers 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 bouquet representing what the fellowship gives back to each of us. The Flower Celebration as it is celebrated today by Unitarian Universalist Congregation was initiated in Prague on 4 June 1923 by Norbert Čapek, who was also the founder of the

Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He turned to the beauty of nature and had a communion of flowers. This will be a short program followed by the Pilgrim House Annual Meeting and lunch (see inside for more information).

*(See inside for summer programs.)*

## 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.*

**2 May, Sat, 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.

**3 May, Sun, 12:15pm – Discussion of the Group Read, "Inner Work of Racial Justice" at Pilgrim House following Soup Sunday.** All are Welcome. Contact Melanie Magidow or Kathy Aanerud. See below.

**9 May, Sat, 10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

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

**12 May, Tue, 7pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Ukraine and the Future of European Security.** All are welcome. Contact Al Potter. See article below.

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

**17 May, Sun, 10:15am – 12pm**

**Sunday Stories – Lisa Ueki at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Mary Eskelson.

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

**23 May, Sat, 10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**28 May, Thu, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at Pilgrim House.** The book is *An Unfinished Love Story A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

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

**31 May, Sun, 10:15am – Flower Communion and Annual Meeting at Pilgrim House.** All are welcome. Contact Dick Shelton.

**6 Jun, 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.

**8 Jun, Mon, 7pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom.** Everyone is welcome. Contact Paul Kirst.

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

**20 Jun, Sat, 10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**21 Jun, Sun, 10am – Monthly Sunday Program: Live stream of the 10:00am Sunday Morning Program from UUA's General Assembly, followed by fellowship time.** Arrive early for coffee and pastries and settle in for the program. Note earlier start time. Contact Mel & Kathy Aanerud.

**25 Jun, Thu, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at various locations.** The book is *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

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

**12 Jul, Sun, 10:15am – Monthly Sunday Program with presenter from Ukrainian American Community Center,** followed by fellowship time. Contact Mel Aanerud.

**16 Jul, Thu, 1pm – Congregational Care meets at Pilgrim House.** Contact Deb Magnuson.

**18 Jul, Sat, 10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**23 Jul, Thu, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at various locations.** The book is *1776* by David McCullough. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

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

**1 Aug, 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.

**10 Aug, Mon, 7pm – Pilgrim House board meeting via Zoom.** Everyone is welcome. Contact Paul Kirst.

**15 Aug, Sat, 10am – Reserved for cleaning.** Contact Al Potter.

**27 Aug, Thu, 1:30pm – Book Club meets at various locations.** The book is *The Foursome* by Christina Baker Kline. Contact Cynthia LeBlanc.

**29 Aug, Sat,**

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

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

## PILGRIM HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING

The Pilgrim House Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, May 31, following the flower communion. 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 Dick Shelton, current Board Chair, for more information ([chair@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto: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 2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

- Opening Words
- Approve Agenda for 2026 Annual Meeting
- Approve Minutes from 2025 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 14-21)
- Presentation of Proposed 2026-27 Budget
- Motion to Approve the Budget
- Other Business and vote, if needed
- Closing Words

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

**Sunday, June 21 – General Assembly Sunday Program – Live from Louisville!**

*Note that this program will begin at 10:00 am rather than our usual 10:15 and concludes at 11:30*

Join us at Pilgrim House for a live stream of the Sunday morning program from the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. There will be wonderful music, greetings from UUA congregations across the country, and a service led by Rev Jen Hongsun Ryu. Her background includes healthcare chaplaincy prior to currently serving a multi-generational congregation in Eugene, Oregon. Arrive early for coffee and pastries and time to settle in.

**July 12 – Ukrainian American Community Center**

Oleksii Nedovba, Executive director, will share how the Ukrainian American Community Center unites and empowers the community through humanitarian aid, community services, and the advancement of Ukrainian history, culture, and heritage.



## August [date to be announced] – The Mooncoin Ceili Dancers

Join us in a presentation of Irish dance and culture featuring three members of Pilgrim House. The dances they share have brought people together for celebrations of all kinds throughout Irish history and infused with a modern performance spirit.



## SOCIAL ACTION

**Change: No CSC fundraiser walk this summer.** The CSC Board decided to move the Walk to September 27 with the hope it will be cooler. The past two summers the Walk happened to be on the hottest summer days!

**The HopeFest Walk is September 26th Anoka City Hall Plaza.** Pilgrim House will continue to be a Friends Sponsor for this event.

**Please continue to support Ralph Reeder Food Shelf with your outreach over the summer.** Thanks for your generosity on Soup Sunday.

Harlene Hagen

## WELCOMING CONGREGATION

It is time once to remind ourselves that May 17 is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. It seems we are always being asked to think about these special days, but it is good to remember that for people who suffer from prejudice, repression and violence just because of their intrinsic beings, a few days every year of heightened awareness is the least we can do.

You could use the reminder to tell a loved one how much they mean to you; or you might write a letter to the editor or to an elected representative to underscore the importance of protecting equal rights for all.

In June, change gears and celebrate! June is Pride Month with celebratory festivals in St. Paul (including a Circus Juventas performance) June 13-14, and in Minneapolis on June 27-28. A flier with more information will be available at our Flower Communion and Annual Meeting on May 31.

## GREAT DECISIONS VIA ZOOM

Contact Al Potter for a Zoom link.

### May 12 – Ukraine and the Future of European Security

With reduced U.S. support for NATO and Ukraine, Europe faces strategic uncertainty. The Trump administration has signaled an intention to reduce its security role in Europe. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas, and how

might Europe respond?

Norma Noonan is Professor Emerita of Political Science and Leadership Studies at Augsburg College. The former director of the Master of Arts in Leadership Program at Augsburg, Noonan still teaches in the graduate leadership studies program.

## CIRCLE SUPPERS AND LUNCHES

We're bringing back this popular activity for springtime. We have 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.

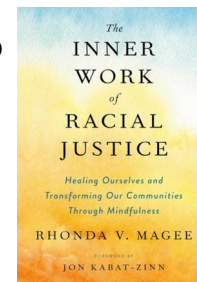


**Young Families Version** – We have a sign-up sheet at Pilgrim House to determine if there's an interest for young families to gather in the above format on a Saturday at Pilgrim House or at a home – and identify a host. We look forward to helping you make connections.

*Kathy Aanerud for the Connections Committee*

## 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. McGee.



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@pilgrimhouseuua.org](mailto:pilgrimhouse@pilgrimhouseuua.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*

## APRIL PILGRIM HOUSE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The board met to discuss financial updates, facility logistics, and the draft budget for the upcoming 2026-27 fiscal year. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

### Financial & Audit Updates

- **Treasurer's Report:** Revenue is higher than expected (~\$65,000), with a projected surplus of \$10,000. Some miscategorized P&L items and pledge totals will be corrected next month.
- **Audit Results:** The financial audit is complete and favorable. The board is verifying worker's compensation requirements for the childcare contractor (Paul to investigate).

### Operational & Facility Matters

- **Parking:** Negotiations with Arden Hills are ongoing. While the Earth Day concert is cleared, the board needs to secure a long-term agreement for Sunday morning overflow parking.
- **Maintenance:** The driveway signage needs repair; Building and Grounds will handle this.
- **Technology:** The board decided against a proactive \$2,000 projector replacement. Instead, Wayne will recommend a specific model to be purchased as a capital expense only if the current unit fails.

### 2026-27 Budget Planning

- **Insurance:** AI is researching a UUA insurance quote, though the current policy is active until next March.
- **Social Action:** There is a need to clarify the fixed contribution amount to CSC versus individual member donations.
- **Outstanding Items:** The Connections and Social Action committees must submit their budget breakdowns. Les will distribute the updated draft budget following the meeting.

### Committee & Administrative News

- **Membership:** Attendance saw a slight dip due to a recent Zoom-only program.
- **Next Month:** Kathy will present revised committee lists, and Mel is assigned for opening/closing words.

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.

## 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.

Our voting delegates will be nominated and elected at the Pilgrim House Annual Meeting on May 31.

## 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)

