Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Pilgrim's Progress

Pilgrim House Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

1212 W. Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112

pilgrimhouseuua.org

Volume 57 Number 3 **November 2026**

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



November 1 – Connecting to Your Ancestors

Reverend Leslie Mills – The lives of our ancestors shaped who we are today. Does feeling a connection to your ancestors make you feel more grounded? Or is it not important to our modern lives? Please bring an object, photo, story or piece of writing that helps you connect to your ancestors. We will create an altar of remembrance as we reflect together on All Souls Day, honoring the relationships that stretch across time and make us who we are.



November 8 – Songs of War

Songs of War in its first configuration was presented at Pilgrim House in 2005. By 2012 five other Minnesota UU congregations had modified presentations of this program: three by Mel Aanerud and two by their congregation members. For this year, all the stories have a Minnesota connection and many of the stories have been changed or are updated.

November 15 – Ho-Chunk First Nations History – Jeffrey B. Ryan

When the whites arrived in the area, there were three tribes of indigenous peoples, the Dakotas, the Ojibwa and the Ho-Chunk. The Ho-Chunk were the smallest of the three and we know very little about them, but they are a major tribe in Wisconsin.



November 22 – Thanksgiving program

Our program will feature various Pilgrim House speakers, readers, musicians, dancers and others around the theme of thankfulness, geared for all ages. Contact Mel Aanerud if you would like to be part of the morning's sharing. The Pilgrim House Chorale will also be presenting two or three musical selections. Contact Bill Rohde for the Chorale (see another article). And you're invited to bring a dish to accompany the provided ham for our potluck feast immediately following the program.

November 29 – Love, Gratitude, and Reciprocity: On the Value of Gift Economies

Macey Forsyth is the Director of Lifespan Faith Formation at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato. She will explain how, amid today's environmental challenges, we can reimagine what is worth striving for and how we can authentically cultivate gratitude as we grow and move forward together.





December 6 – Music Together

Linda Brasaemle is a veteran master teacher and workshop leader with Music Together Worldwide. She will lead research-backed music and movement activities that inspire joy and connection.

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

Internet: http://www.pilgrimhouseuua.org

Board Chair: Paul Kirst 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. 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 Nov, Mon, 10am – 12pm – Reserved for cleaning. Contact Al Potter.

7 Nov, Sat,

10am – 12pm -Soul Matters meets at Pilgrim House. Contact Cynthia Leblanc.

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.

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

10 Nov, 7-8:30pm – Great Decisions via Zoom – Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation. All are welcome. Contact Al Potter.

14 Nov, Sat, 10am – 12pm – Choral Practice at Pilgrim House. Be part of the Annual Thanksgiving program. All singers, high school through adult, are welcome to join in the singing fun. No tryouts, no pressure, just a good time gathering and singing together as we prepare for the Thanksgiving program on November 22. Contact: Bill Rohde.

15 Nov, Sun, 12 – 1pm – Sunday Stories at Pilgrim House. Presenter: Deb Magnuson. All are welcome. Contact Mary Eskelson.

16 Nov, Mon, 10am – 12pm – Reserved for cleaning. Contact Al Potter.

19 Nov, Thu, 1 – 3pm – Congregational Care/Welcoming Committee meets via Zoom. Contact Deb Magnuson.

21 Nov, Sat, 10am – 12pm – Choral Practice at Pilgrim House. Be part of the Annual Thanksgiving program. All singers, high school through adult, are welcome to join in the singing fun. No tryouts, no pressure, just a good time gathering and singing together as we prepare for the Thanksgiving program on November 22. Contact: Bill Rohde.

22 Nov, Sun,

All day – Newsletter items are due. Contact Fred Green.

10:15am – Thanksgiving Celebration at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Mel Aanerud. See first page.

28 Nov, Sat, 1 – 2:30pm – Writing group meets at Pilgrim House. All are welcome. Contact Bruce France.

30 Nov, Mon, 10am – 12pm – Reserved for cleaning. Contact Al Potter.

Social Action

Thanks for participating in the fund raising events for Alexandra House HopeFest and the Community Support Center Walk a Mile for our Neighbors in September.

October Soup Sunday raised $180.00 for Ralph Reeder Food Shelf which was delivered along with a stack of recycled paper grocery bags. Please donate paper grocery bags to PH which will be delivered to the food shelf.

November first is our next Soup Sunday to support Ralph Reeder Food Shelf.

And soon it will be December when we decorate the Holiday Giving Tree with gifts to brighten the holiday season for others.

Harlene Hagen

Ideas for the Connections Committee?

The Connections Committee supports activities at Pilgrim House to promote a sense of community among Members and Friends. Activities this summer included picnic at Hansen Park in New Brighton and a Welcome to Summer gathering at Ruth and Ray Kreps. This fall a monthly Soul Matters discussion group is underway led by Cynthia LeBlanc, as well as monthly Sunday Stories led by Mary Eskelson.

We will be having a committee gathering to plan for upcoming months. Do you have ideas for activities you'd like to help organize -- host a special music group or speaker at Pilgrim House, arrange a group to attend a play or concert, offer a book title for a common read that concludes with discussion and supper, organize a game night/afternoon at Pilgrim House, help resume our Circle Lunches/Suppers this spring -- just to name a few ideas?
Let us know your ideas!
Kathy Aanerud for the Connections Committee
connections@pilgrimhouseuua.org

In Memoriam



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Rich Garret in September. Rich had been a member at Pilgrim House prior to his move to Rochester several years ago. We reconnected with Rich via our Zoom programs during COVID. Joining him on Zoom was his significant other, Theresa Leko. We now count Theresa as a welcome regular attendee at our Zoom programs.

Link to Rich's obituary here:
https://cremationsocietyofmn.com/tribute/details/84216/Richard-Garrett/obituary.html#tribute-start

Great Decisions via Zoom

November 10, 7pm – Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation

U.S. skepticism toward its alliances may lead countries such as Japan and South Korea to reconsider their own nuclear options. What are the implications of the Trump administration's reassessment of the U.S. alliance system for regional and global security? Will this uncertainty change how U.S. allies and rivals in different regions approach security and nuclear weapons?

Our speaker is Andrew Latham, Professor of International Relations and Political Theory at Macalester College. He regularly teaches courses on international security, Chinese foreign policy, regional conflicts in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, medieval political thought, U.S. foreign policy, and conservative political theory.

American Indian College Fund

Twin Cities EATSS

At EATSS, we are proud to spotlight the local Indigenous artists. Explore their work. Meet the artists. Hear their stories. Ask questions. And if a piece speaks to you, take it home. 100% of proceeds from art sales go directly to the artists, supporting their education, creative practice, and journey toward a future in the arts.

You can purchase tickets using at https://collegefund.org/events/. If you have any issues, feel free to reach out to Dana Bunker at dbunker@collegefund.org with questions or if you'd like to be guided through the ticket-buying process.

EATSS (Epicurean Award to Support Scholars) is a vibrant one-night celebration where Indigenous cuisine, art, music, storytelling, and community come together to support Native American scholars.

Tuesday, December 1, 2026 Guthrie Theater

818 S 2nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55415

A Table of Indigenous Culinary Excellence

Alongside cuisine from lndigena by Owamni, guests will enjoy signature dishes from nationally recognized Indigenous chefs.

Andrea Condes • Nathan Davis • Anthony Bauer • Crystal Wahpepah

Raye Zaragoza Featured Musical Talent

Award-winning singer-songwriter bringing powerful music and storytelling to the EATSS stage. Live at 8:00 pm

Reserve Your Place at the Table

Three Easy Ways to Register

1. Scan the QR code at right
2. Visit collegefund.org/events
3. Call 303.426.8900

EATSS + Concert $155, Concert Only $35

October 12 Pilgrim House Board Meeting Summary

Minutes & Administrative

- Approvals: The agenda and the September 14, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.
- Opening/Closing: Dick provided labyrinth-themed opening and closing words. Lollie volunteered for the next meeting.

- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Paul at 7:56 PM.

Old Business

- **Air Conditioning:** A proposed heat pump would cost ~$40,000 (potentially ~$30,000 with DIY labor). Al is waiting for a response.
- **ChurchTrac & Grants:** Les and Fred are seeking alternatives after ChurchTrac failed. Paul reported no update yet on the Munroe Husband Fund grant.
- **Board Calendar:** Members must send recurring board events and dates to Paul within the week.

Financials & Committee Reports

- **Treasurer's Report:** The P&L is in good shape. Susan resolved a double-charging issue with QuickBooks. The board discussed Zelle but kept PayPal for the website due to compatibility. A recent $1,000 donation was noted.
- **Committees:** The Membership Committee had no new updates. The Program Committee added two new facilitators, and Les has also facilitated.

New Business

- **Physical Gifts:** The board approved accepting an easel from Charlie Martin. The board established a formal rule that all physical donations must be approved by the board beforehand.
- **Parking Lot:** Plans are set for crack filling and re-striping, which should extend the lot's life by 15–20 years. Al and Elissa are monitoring contractor issues, and Al will check on a highway-related soft spot.

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.

COVID Safety Criteria We Follow

- 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