

PILGRIM'S Progress

September 2019

A monthly publication of
Pilgrimage United Church of Christ

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

Amy Jones

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"Patience is not just about waiting for something... it's about how you wait, or your attitude while waiting." -Joyce Meyer

I struggled to come up with a topic for this month's newsletter. Truthfully, that has always been one of my challenges in the role of President. Coming up with something relevant and worth reading each month. I've sat down to write this a few times and each time, walked away with a blank page.

While Morgan and I were doing some driving practice this morning, I had a glimpse of an idea. Sitting in the passenger seat while your teenager drives, definitely forces you to look at things in a different way. It's funny how something that's so routine becomes completely new when you're teaching someone else how to do it. Things that you do almost without thinking, seem much more complex when you try to explain it to someone new. Being patient while that person learns how to do something you think should be obvious, can be challenging.

The quote above spoke to me, especially the part about "how you wait". As a congregation, we are so hopeful that God is working with us to find the right person to be our new settled pastor. Part of working towards that, is making sure that we're ready to fully welcome them and help them get to know us. What work can we be doing now to make it easy for that person to learn about us? If you

were to think about the top 10 things a new pastor should know about Pilgrimage, what would be on it? What do you wish someone had told you when you were new here? When you think about Pilgrimage and all we have to offer, what are you most excited to share with our new pastor?

As our search committee nears the end of their process, I invite you to let me know what's on your Top 10 of Pilgrimage list. You can email me at president@pilgrimageucc.org. I typically attend the 8:30 service on Sundays so you can find me during coffee time before 10am service. I also plan to be available during Sunday School time most Sundays. Feel free to come over and give me your ideas. Help us as we dream together and prepare for our new pastor's arrival. With a little luck, that will make it just a bit easier to be patient for a little while longer.

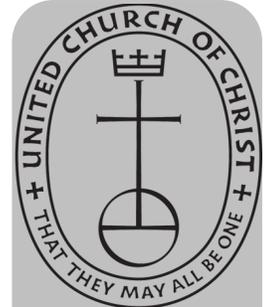


"VIP"
(Variety In Pilgrimage)

Thanks to our talented Director of Music, we are planning a variety show called "VIP" (Variety In Pilgrimage) for November 9, 2019, as a church-wide social event; AND we have an opportunity to succeed in achieving TWO things in a single action: (1) Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the "Raise the Roof" campaign and the music program, and (2) you will have a chance to perform something YOU do well that would fit a talent show. Some examples of talents are: singing, dancing, magic, comedy routine, dramatic monologue, juggling, mime, gymnastics, reciting poetry, or playing an instrument. We invite you to attend an informal meeting on Sunday, September 8 following the 10:00 service. You can also sign up to either perform or help behind the scenes at: <https://forms.gle/V6POP5SOrWePemJU6>.

Questions? Contact Tony Bernard at:

pilgrimageuccmusic@gmail.com



We seek to grow in worship, learning and service as a faithful people of God, bringing hope, comfort and friendship to all, welcoming everyone in Christ.

"Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this."
JOB 38:18

INSIDE THIS MONTH

Stewardship...2
Christian Ed...2
Dr. of Friendship...3
Deacons Offering...3
Sept. Book Club...3
Climate Change...4
Raise the Roof!...4
Worship...5
Parish Life...5
Pastor Search Comm...6
PUCC on Sept. 8...6
Sept. Celebrations...6
Worship Vol. Sched...7
Meeting Schedule...7
Church Calendar...8


Pilgrimage
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

STEWARDSHIP

Matthew Alexander & Anne Mooney,
Co-Chairs
pilgrimageucstewardship@gmail.com



The Stewardship Season for 2019 (supporting the ministry and mission of 2020) focuses on an understanding of our faith as a way and stewardship as our caretaking of that way.

In one of his books, *The Old Ways*, Robert McFarlane, the British naturalist has written:

“that once you begin to notice them, you see that the landscape is still webbed with paths and footpaths Pilgrim paths, green roads, drove roads, corpse roads, trods, leys, dykes, drongs, sarns, snickets –say the names of paths out loud and at speed and they become a poem or rite – holloways, bostles, shutes, driftways, lichways, ridings, halterpaths, cartways, carneys, causeways, herepaths.”

His reflection on these paths of connection and the stewardship of maintaining them, parallels faith as a form of connection and stewardship as the practice that generates and regenerates the connection.

Robert MacFarlane reports that in the 19th century, small sickles were hung on stiles or posts where paths connecting communities began. Walkers would pick up the sickle or hook to lop off branches as they walked. They would then leave the ‘hook’ on the stile or post at the end of the path so a walker going in the opposite direction could do the same. This shared caretaking of the path benefited each individual walker but also the larger community. Similarly, stewardship is a shared caretaking of a shared way.

At Pilgrimage we strive to share the way of Jesus. That way is a way of community, hospitality, and creation. We work to create a community of faith and love while following Jesus’ call to action. Our goal is for our church on the hill to be a light of welcome to all. As we move through the Stewardship season in September and October, we will be talking about what it means to live

the way Jesus lived. You will hear from individuals as they share their testimonies and reflections related to stewardship. We will kick off our Stewardship season with an interaction presentation on September 8, introducing our theme *The Way*. We hope to present a Mission Spending Plan at that time to help inform your tithing commitment to Pilgrimage. Commitment Sunday will be October 20. At that time, we will collect not only pledges of tithes, but we will also seek your renewed (or your new) commitments of time and talents for our missions and ministries.

This is an exciting time in our church. We look forward to coming together to continue to live out our shared commitment to create and sustain a church family that not only loves each other, but reaches beyond our walls to share the love and welcome of Jesus to everyone.

CHRISTIAN ED

By Janet Derby
pilgrimageucce@gmail.com



Sunday School

Our children spent last month in Sunday school looking at their faith family trees and the cloud of witnesses that surround us. September will bring a time to learn about creation and the world around us. Our focus Scripture for the month will be Luke 8:22-25, the story of Jesus calming the sea.

Our confirmation participants have chosen mentors and will meet with them to share stories on September 8.

DEACONS

By Julia Shiver

pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com



Doctor of Friendship Award

The Deacons are pleased to announce that the recipients of the Doctor of Friendship Award for 2018 are Dick and Rita Mehlman! This couple has been an integral part of our church community for over 30 years! They have both held council positions; Dick as president several times, and Rita as our current Financial Secretary. Dick is a former deacon and Rita is a current deacon.

No PUCC Work Day would be complete without these two. And we would be hard pressed to count all of the things that Dick and Rita have done on their own for the church. Just in the past year, they had new gutters put on the NGH and they stained the ramp, stairs, and deck themselves.

We would not have been able to continue our work with Family Promise without Dick and Rita's commitment. And they make our missions at MUST possible by coordinating our Fifth Tuesday lunches.

One person wrote, "We had a series of meetings to educate us on the biblical position on homosexuality and both sides to the Cobb County family values act. Dick was very vocal about human rights and the responsibility we as a church had to speak out against the County Commissions stance. We felt his comments were key to our pursuing Open and Affirming status."

Someone else wrote, "When I found out that this lovely couple had never been selected for this award, I was shocked. Dick and Rita are two of the most caring people I have met. When I see them on Sunday mornings, I am welcomed with smiles and hugs...on any day, for that matter!"

The Deacons are very pleased, indeed, to recognize Dick and Rita Mehlman as our Doctor of Friendship Award recipients!

Who has been Christ to you at Pilgrimage?

Deacons Fund Offering Sunday September 29

The Deacons Fund Offering will be held during worship on Sunday, September 29. The Deacons Fund is used to provide temporary assistance to the members of our church community. We receive this special offering when there are five Sundays in the month. Special envelopes will be provided and we ask that you write "Deacons Fund" in the memo section of your check. If you have any questions, please contact our chair of deacons, Julia Shiver, at:

pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com

September Book Club

Book Club will meet on September 3 at the home of Nancy Donahue. The book for discussion is "Another Place You've Never Been" by Rebecca Kauffman.

A list of books for future meetings is posted in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending book club and have questions, contact Fran Howard.



CLIMATE CHANGE

A Christian Concern *by Hugh Lowrey*

Events related to climate change on this planet don't match up very well with attitudes of the threatened human race or its action to stop the changes. Despite the Paris Accords, carbon emissions are higher than ever; also, Greenland glaciers are melting at a near-record pace; wildfires in Siberia are hastening the melting of Arctic tundra and, most significantly, Brazil's new President Bolsonaro is encouraging deforestation in the Amazon, flouting Brazilian law. He sees foreign opposition to deforestation as meddling and as a likely source of votes.

By some well-informed estimates, cutting of another 3% to 8% of the forest would leave the Amazon unable to generate enough rain to maintain itself as a rain forest, causing it to dry up and be replaced by savannah. This would be a disastrous loss, because a healthy Amazon Basin was the world's biggest carbon sink, continually removing enormous quantities of greenhouse gas from the air.

Bolsonaro's behavior aligns with that of climate deniers in the U.S. for whom profit (or re-election) is the supreme goal. Conservatives see climate change as invented by liberals to justify government take-over of the economy, and because of this mind-set, become easy prey for propaganda produced by fossil fuel interests. It's true, cracks are being opened in the congressional wall of denial, with members of Congress discovering the reality of climate change when they read polls that show majorities in both parties accept it as real. But they may now be deluded by the fossil fuel producers' clever change of tactics, which is to agree the climate is changing, but at a pace much slower than is the reality. They then propose mitigation-at-a-crawl.

The situation is discouraging. The world needs many more committed activists. If this could mean you, please pray about it.

PROPERTIES

By Chris Shiver

pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com



PUCC Roofing Fund Raising Campaign "Raise the Roof"

As recommended after professional roof inspection we are planning to replace the main building roof in two sections since the front half (sun exposed) and the rear half (mostly shaded) are aging at different rates. The recommendation is to try & replace the front portion as early as the end of this year and the rear section in 2 to 3 years.

We will plan to replace the front section as soon as we have raised sufficient funds to cover the full cost, currently quoted at \$11,366 (could increase to up to \$12,162 depending on varying material prices) though we are working on more bids that perhaps might lower the cost. Therefore, our current fund raising target is \$12,000 – please note that if our fund raising exceeds our true cost then the excess will be applied to the later rear roof section project.

Fund raising commenced with our successful chili cook-off earlier this year & we have our variety/talent show fund raiser planned for later this year. However, most of the funds will need to be raised through donations. Please see our display in the narthex where you will be invited to add a "shingle" to the roof whenever you make a donation by cash or check (please make checks payable to the church & put "roof campaign" or "raise the roof" on the memo line).

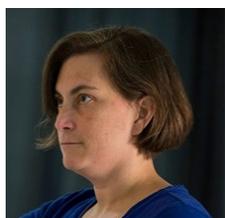
Please contact Chris Shiver at:

chrisshiverpe@bellsouth.net or 770-587-5054

...with any questions or suggestions or if you have the name for a quality roofer you can recommend that we can ask for a quote.

WORSHIP

Diane Reese & Sarah Holliday Co-chairs
pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com



Pilgrimage UCC has been blessed by the leadership of many gifted supply pastors this summer. In August, we were led by Haley Lerner on August 4th, Tom Query on August 11th, Trish Greeves on August 18th and Pamela Y. Cook on August 25th. We continue to hold the pastoral search committee in prayer as they interview and make decisions about a new pastoral candidate for Pilgrimage UCC.

Eleven folks were involved in the Worship Brainstorming Session on Saturday, August 3rd. Input was given on a variety of worship issues and very positive interaction took place. Many thanks to those dedicated folks who came out that day.

A survey will be created based on that brainstorming session in addition to other thoughts and ideas regarding worship. Every member of the congregation will have a chance to write ideas and we will compile those thoughts and do our best to keep folks involved.

We are adjusting the order of worship to recognize Birthdays and Anniversaries before Joys and Concerns instead of after Announcements. This decision resulted from member feedback including input received at the Worship Brainstorming Session. The reasoning behind this is so these special dates have a focus within the worship service.

We appreciate the support of the inspirational piano gifts of Lidia Kovaleva as she enriches our worship services with beautiful music. Also, we thank the choir for their lovely musical additions to the worship service at 10:00. All of these musical offerings bring such meaning to many members and visitors.

As always, we would like to thank the many volunteers who step up as liturgists, scripture readers, ushers and greeters every week.

PARISH LIFE

Katie Simmons, Chair
pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com

Parish Life—
What is it? Honestly I didn't know much about it except it was PARTIES! Which Amy and I love, so I was very happy to be asked to serve on the committee last year. We learned a lot in a short while and everyone was super grateful for our decorations.

In becoming the Chair of Parish Life, and in turn, serving on the Church Council, it occurred to me that Parish Life needed to be about more than parties. So with the direction of our former Chair, Jamie Durkee, I was given a fantastic resource guide to read and learn from. This led me to many deeper questions and prayers about the direction I thought Parish Life was in and where it should go. Just like my own spiritual journey, I don't have all those answers yet. I'm still listening to our Still Speaking God, so in the meantime, I will be praying and pondering on what I feel like Parish Life should be in our Church Community.

With all that said I am confident in keeping the events we had in the past such as Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 27th. Thanksgiving Family Potluck on Sunday Nov 24th, The Chili Cook Off possibly on Sunday Feb 2nd, Deacon Trivia on Sunday Feb 23rd, the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday April 12th, and a School's Out Cook Out on Sunday May 24th. I am open to new ideas and would love, if anyone is interested in being on the Parish Life Committee, to reach out to me so we can chat, my email is:

katie@letscelebrateevents.com

or

pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com





PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastor Search Committee has concluded our in-person interviews with three leading candidates. Our committee is now in a prayerful discernment process. The committee has had an initial meeting; and our next meeting will be September 10. It is our goal to make a decision at that meeting. We will update the congregation again after that meeting.

What's Happening At Pilgrimage On Sunday, September 8

- **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKOFF:** Stewardship's campaign theme is "*The Way*", and next Sunday Stewardship will begin their commitment season with an interaction presentation during worship. Also at that time, our goal is to present the 2019-2020 Mission Spending Plan.
- **VIP MEETING:** "*VIP*", or "*Variety In Pilgrimage*" is a church-wide event scheduled for November 9. It is not only a time where we can show off our talents, but all proceeds will go toward the "Raise the Roof" campaign and music ministry. Join us for an information meeting next Sunday following the 10:00 service if you would like to be a part of this fun event—as a performer or behind the scenes.
- **COUNCIL RETREAT:** The Pilgrimage Council will hold its Annual Retreat next Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
- **YOUTH EVENT:** Those attending the Project Escape youth event will leave the church at 12:45 and should return no later than 3:00. Parents/youth should turn in their payments to the church office (\$18.00). Contact info is Project Escape Atlanta, 1395 South Marietta Parkway, Building 200, Marietta. Phone : 844-372-2731.

September Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

09/02 Riley Maulden
09/05 Matthew Ward
09/05 Colleen Ganzer
09/06 Morgan Jones
09/08 Ric Reitz
09/09 Kimberley Ortiz
09/12 Noah Ortiz
09/13 Evelyn Gloria Ward
09/14 Dawn Martin
09/15 Janet Derby
09/16 Tony Mills
09/16 Victoria Owens
09/17 Ugena Whitlock
09/18 Bob Howard
09/18 Isaac Martin
09/23 Jessica Ward
09/24 Sam Heilhecker

ANNIVERSARIES

09/04 Jaime & Jason Fulsang
09/11 Andy & Paula Roberts
09/18 Tony & Sally Prah
09/18 Donald & Trudy Stoddert
09/19 Angela Gula & Michelle Kozak
09/19 Dan & Sarah Wilson
09/28 Dick & Rita Mehlan

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

8:30 Worship	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Liturgist		Matthew Alexander	Wayne Scott		
Scripture Reader	Morgan Jones	Amy Jones	Sharon Getty	Amy Jones	Morgan Jones
10:00 Worship					
Welcome	Matthew Alexander	Julia Shiver	Amy Jones	Susan Volentine	Geoff Heilhecker
Liturgist	Kathleen McNulty	Matthew Alexander	Wayne Scott	Kathleen McNulty	Gabriela Mills
Ushers	Diane Reese & TBD	Sunny Alexander & TBD	Carla & Joe Martin	Monty Wyne & Paula Roberts	Diane Reese & Greg Kask
Greeter	Susan Volentine	TBD	Stephen Williams	Lois Dischinger	Susan Volentine
Scripture Reader	Becky Nelson	Ric Reitz	Joyanna Wyne	Noel Reitz	Ugena Whitlock
Children's Time	Duke Yaguchi	Anne Mooney	Angela Gula	Janet Derby	Jaime Fulsang
Acolyte	Aiden Scates	Matthew Gula	Jake Alexander		Jackson Nichols
Little Lambs	Sunny Alexander	Carol Reed	Susan Volentine	Helene O'Neill	Amy Nichols
Nursery	Teresa Scates		Teresa Scates		Teresa Scates
Counter	Clay Roth	Carla Martin	Kathleen & Bill McNulty	Sarah Holliday	Greg Kask
Audio System	Chris Shiver	Monica Helms	Jeff Durkee	Ric Reitz	Chris Shiver
Facebook Live	Julia Shiver	Dick Mehlan	Carol Hill	Dick Mehlan	Dick Mehlan

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club (Fran Howard)	1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Sanctuary Choir (Tony Bernard)	Wed. at church (7 p.m.) - August Thru May
Pilgrimage Council (Trudy Stoddert, Pres.)	Second Thurs. of the month at church (7 p.m.)
Pilgrimage Youth	Monthly meals & quarterly events.
Sandwich Club Support Group	Quarterly Meetings
Spiritual Seekers' Group	4th Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
PFLAG	4th Sunday at the church (1-3 p.m.)

This listing includes the group name, followed by the coordinator or director in parenthesis then the meeting days, locations and times. If your group should be added to this list, please e-mail office@pilgrimageucc.org.

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We're on the Web!
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President
Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Accompanist

Amy Jones
Tony Bernard
Lynne Buell
Lidia Kovaleva

Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

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Parish Life:	pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com		

The Month in Sundays

- September 1** **Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)**
Tom Query Preaching
Communion (both services)
Ritual of Healing (8:30 service)
Connection Fellowship Time (9:15 a.m.)
- September 8** **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**
Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)
VIP (Variety In Pilgrimage) Meeting (11:30)
Youth Event (12:30)
Council Retreat (12:30)
- September 15** **Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)**
- September 22** **Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)**
PFLAG Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- September 29** **Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.)**
Deacons Fund Offering