



**INTERIM PASTOR**

*Rev. Krista Forbes*  
[pastor@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimageucc.org)



Allow me to introduce myself....

What an amazing time for Pilgrimage! It is Spring regardless of the temperature reading outside the pollen on the car has confirmed it. As I have stated before, I am humbled and excited to be journeying with you during this time of your church. I trust fully in the power and omniscience of God that we all will be prepared for the ministry that awaits us in the next chapter of Pilgrimage. My role as your Interim Pastor, in short, is to maintain a pastoral presence in the various ways that impact the church while being led by the Holy Spirit, in fellowship one with another. After our first Sunday together on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, I felt a calm come over me and oh what an awesome feeling it was! So that you may have some sense of introductory peace of this interim process, I wanted to give you 5 Facts of Rev. Krista as an introduction.

- I was raised in Chesapeake Virginia (near Norfolk and Virginia Beach), about 3 hours south of Washington D.C. I was born at Camp Lejeune, NC. So, I have military ties and sensitivities.
- I am the youngest of 4 (Both older brothers are the angels to my sister and I). I have 4 nephews; 1 niece and I am the very proud grand-aunt of the cutest nephew ever! No really, he could be the next Gerber baby!! See me for pictures as proof.
- I love music: all types from Queen to the style of Nina Simone to Gospel to Tupac to Mary J Blige, and yes, Salsa too. I like Kelly Clarkson and will try Blake Shelton, only because he's cute.
- I am a huge NFL fan. My team is the Pittsburgh Steelers (I once saw Franco Harris in

the airport and almost missed my flight because I stopped to stare in amazement), but I do go to the Falcons games. \*They were robbed from Super Bowl -51\*

- I love how God puts me in places to allow me to fully experience the love of God's created people, the full beauty of all that is around me and the joy that the world did not give, and the world cannot take away.

This is who I am. And I look forward to getting to know each of you as well. May God continue to provide you with all that you need to be the light that this world needs.

Peace to you all,  
Rev. Krista

**WORSHIP**

*Diane Reese & Sarah Holliday Co-chairs*  
[worship@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:worship@pilgrimageucc.org)



Welcome Reverend Krista Forbes as our new Intentional Interim Pastor for Pilgrimage UCC! She brings excitement, energy and empathy to all of us as we

continue the journey forward in the life of being a congregation in transition.

Many thanks to Lynne Buell who is so dedicated to helping all of us. We know that Rev. Krista will appreciate her input and encouragement as well.

We thank our musical leaders who include Lidia Kovaleva, our gifted piano accompanist; the choir members who are amazing and dedicated and bring us such a beautiful musical message each Sunday; and we also appreciate the extended temporary choir and bell choir leadership of Victoria Owens and Juliann Heilhecker.

Finally, thanks to the folks who have stepped up to help with the preparation and leading of worship services: Trish Greeves, Rochelle Lofstrand, and Matthew Alexander. We also appreciate the new people who signed up to be on the Worship Committee during the Spring into Action days that were held in early March. We look forward to Pentecost Sunday on May 20th!



**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.**

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."  
Acts 2:4*

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## CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

*Ben Alspach*

[president@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:president@pilgrimageucc.org)



## Reflecting...and Regrouping

**W**ell, the past month has been another very busy one at Pilgrimage.

Conference Minister Rev. Marie Bacchicchi was kind enough to lead worship for us on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Conference Minister Heather Bardole followed up with another inspiring message. That same day, we held a congregational meeting to officially call our new interim minister. A few minutes later, we voted to increase the mission spending plan to make provision for Krista's compensation package.

During that meeting, we also received an update on our 3R's remodeling program. It seems the costs for the third phase have escalated considerably beyond our initial "guess-timates" but the team continues to evaluate options to move things ahead . . . even if that just means "baby steps" for the near future. And, in response to this and some other recent financial challenges, we've rolled out the "Give Me 5" program to help bolster the budget. No surprise here but PUCG members, as always, have already come through with a great response to this appeal.

Two weeks ago, former PUCG member, Art Edwards, manned the pulpit and we enjoyed another excellent service. And now Krista has arrived and has done a wonderful job leading our worship for the past two weeks. Certainly, we've benefited from some outstanding sermons over the past three months (THANKS AGAIN, Trish, Rochelle & Matthew . . . and to Lynne for keeping everyone organized!). And let's not forget the great work of our fine choir (under the capable direction of Victoria Owens, with Lidia dazzling us at the piano).

So, for now, the bases seem to be covered. We have good people in place and we're "out of the woods" and

back to normal . . . at least for a while. We've reached a sort of temporary equilibrium point and the thought of "coasting" for a bit is pretty appealing. But can we really afford to step back and relax?

I believe you already know the answer to this question. Although summer will soon be here, our PUCG congregation can't expect to take a lengthy vacation! Soon we have to begin the work that will provide the facts, materials, and insights we'll need for our Pilgrimage "profile"—that all important information packet which will define us as we prepare to embark on the search for a new, permanent pastor. This project will require a lot of time, energy and "discernment" from many of our Council members and committee folks along with significant input from our members . . . AND from Krista.

Who are we? Where do we want our church to go . . . what do we want to become? What are we looking for in a new, long term minister? Please keep this important task in mind. Someone will probably be asking for your thoughts and ideas. Your participation and input are vital!

## Volunteers Needed!

**O**ur Sunday Facebook live stream of our sermons have been a real success. This has given access to people who can't make church for many reasons, it connects people who have moved away, and I have personally recommended sermons to family and friends that I think would be inspired, encouraged or comforted by the message. We need 3 or 4 more volunteers to help with the Sunday morning Facebook live stream of the sermon. Trudy has handled this pretty much on her own for the last couple of years and now, with her new responsibilities as VP, we need to step up and help out. All this requires is a smart phone. You do not have to have a Facebook account because we use the Pilgrimage account.

The process is simple and if we can get 4, 5 or 6 people to volunteer, it would only require about 1 Sunday a month. Carol Hill and I are currently doing this but we need a couple of more people. If you can help or have questions, please contact me.

Dick Mehlan  
[re\\_mehlan@bellsouth.net](mailto:re_mehlan@bellsouth.net)  
678-643-2207

## CHRISTIAN ED & VBS

By Janet Derby & Anne Mooney

[ce@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:ce@pilgrimageucc.org)

[vbs@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:vbs@pilgrimageucc.org)



## VBS...the EASY Way!

### *“Adopt a Volunteer” & “Snack Wizards”*

Guess what time it is boys and girls?! And—YES—we’re talking to everyone regardless of age. It’s time to embrace your youthful enthusiasm, quit “adulting” and act like a kid again. It’s time to wear an extravagantly-decorated name badge to show your commitment to PUCC’s Vacation Bible School. It’s time to....

### **Adopt a Volunteer**

When you adopt a volunteer, you’ll not only help the general VBS effort, you’ll show support for a specific individual who commits his or her time and talent to this wonderful summer event. Here’s what you’ll get for your \$10 contribution per person/\$20 per family:

1. A pre-addressed card to allow you to easily write “your” volunteer a note of support;
2. A spiffy badge to wear during the weeks before VBS and then again on VBS Sunday as a proud display of your important role;
3. The satisfaction of knowing you’ve been a part of an important Pilgrimage tradition.

Here’s another way to support VBS while still keeping your day job: Become a....

### **Snack Wizard!**

Wizards make snacks magically appear for the VBS children; no magic wand needed! You’ll be given a specific list of items with instructions for preparation. You’ll drop them at church at the assigned time. Poof! You’ve turned into a Snack Wizard who performs VBS magic—creating happy, healthy children.

**Karen Clark**

(770-973-9297 or [karensclark@comcast.net](mailto:karensclark@comcast.net))

will be the point of contact for these two programs and will be at church for in-person sign-ups.

## VBS Registration Deadline coming up!!!

Vacation Bible School will be here soon (June 11-15). We have an exciting week planned with Bible stories about children, crafts, music, and missions. Please make sure your child is registered by **May 14**. If you would like your child to attend, and need help with transportation, please let us know.

### **Graduate Recognition Sunday**

Christian Education Sunday is May 13, which is also the day we recognize our graduates. If you or your child is graduating this year, please let the office or the CE committee know the graduate’s name and school from which he/she is graduating.

### **Adult Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School will end May 5 with our final Readers Theater lesson. For those who haven’t experienced the Readers Theater, we read scripture-based dramas by taking on characters from the scripture. The characters, author, and narrator provide insight into Bible stories that are often surprising. Each lesson is independent from the others, so everyone is welcome to drop in. Christian Education Sunday is May 12, so the May 5 class will be the last adult Sunday School as we head into summer.

### **Sunday Bible Study**

The 8:30 Sunday morning Bible Study, led by Steve Owens, will continue through the summer. This class focuses on the lectionary scriptures. The discussions are lively and informative. They meet at the table in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!



### **Volunteer Opportunity**

The CE committee is continuing to look for help in the nursery. While our numbers of children are limited, they are an important part of our church and we need to be sure they are well cared for. At this point, the nursery is staffed every week, but we would love to have additional staff, particularly to ensure that visitors with children are welcome. If you know of anyone who might be interested in periodically working in the nursery or if you would be willing to be on call for weeks when the nursery is unstaffed and we have children to care for, please contact the Christian Education committee at [ce@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:ce@pilgrimageucc.org).

## YOUTH GROUP

By Wayne Scott

[Youth@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:Youth@pilgrimageucc.org)



We had a spiritually fulfilling “Last Walk” experience on Good Friday. “The Last Walk” consisted of 11 stations reflecting on the last moments and events in Jesus’ life - starting with the last supper and ending with his crucifixion. Each station invited worshippers to take some kind of action related to that moment in Jesus’ life. There were stations that reminded us of issues that still exist today - like religious persecution and people that are wrongfully accused and sentenced to death. There were stations that invited us to reflect on our own lives through the lens of Jesus’ experience at that time. And there were stations that called simply for prayer.

I received many positive comments from some of the 29 people that participated in the worship event. Some of the adjectives they used to describe their experience were spiritual, educational, personal, meaningful, deep, relevant, and profound.

“The Last Walk” would not have been possible without the great spiritual work of the PUCG community. For several weeks leading up to Good Friday, some of our youth met to discuss the stations and make changes for this year. Not only did **Danielle Cahn, Mariah Durkee, and Emily Stoddert** come up with great ideas for changes this year, they also designed and created some of the displays that were used at the stations.

We had volunteers - youth and adult alike - show up to help set up on Thursday evening and to take everything down on Friday evening. Thanks to **Layla Armstrong, Emily Stoddert, Jamie Durkee, Sarah Holliday, Trudy Stoddert, Ugena Whitlock, and Stephen Williams** for giving up their evenings to help with set up and take down.

We had even more volunteers that served as hosts throughout the day. These individuals were present for 1 hour at a time so we could keep the church open throughout the day. As hosts they greeted guests, showed them how to get started, and answered any questions that our guests may have had. Thanks to **Cathi Cahn, Jeff Cahn, Juliann Heilhecker, Carol Hill,**

**Greg Kask, Kathleen McNulty, Victoria Owens, and Rochelle Lofstrand** for donating their time to this meaningful event.

I am truly blessed to be part of a spiritual community in which youth and adults work together to create such meaningful worship experiences like “The Last Walk.”

Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

Wayne

## CLIMATE CHANGE – A Christian Concern

By Hugh Lowrey

One good reason for Congress to enact a carbon tax is that it would make climate-related research potentially profitable, thereby enlisting the enormous power of private R&D to find ways to mitigate climate change or to adapt. The good news today is that the private sector is forging ahead without waiting for Congress.

Hydrogen generators designed for 18-wheel trucks are on the market, and at least one truck line is installing them, expecting major fuel economy and reduced pollution. In a diesel engine a significant portion of the fuel fails to burn and exits the exhaust as smog-producing pollution. Hydrogen injection into engine cylinders along with the fuel raises the combustion temperature, burning nearly all the fuel. This reduces fuel usage, cost and generation of both smog-producers and greenhouse gases. Presumably, if it works well in the real world, hydrogen generation could become standard on big trucks and on trains. Generators are too expensive for smaller vehicles.

Another application of hydrogen generators is not as far along but holds promise as an alternative to batteries for storage of electric power to overcome the problem that solar cells only work when the sun shines. In theory, a hydrogen generator operated by solar cell power could store hydrogen during the day for use in fuel cells to generate power at night. Both fuel cell technology and safe, compact hydrogen storage have been worked out already to provide electric power on space craft. Fuel cell use in cars has been discouraged by their demand for platinum, which does not exist on earth in the necessary quantity, but presumably electric power generation would require far fewer fuel cells and less platinum.

## STEWARDSHIP

*Matthew Alexander & Victoria Owens,  
Co-Chairs, [stewardship@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:stewardship@pilgrimageucc.org)*



**T**he spiritual discipline of stewardship is foundational to every ministry in which we engage, foundational to our growth as Christian disciples, and foundational to our identity as followers of Jesus.

So what exactly is stewardship? It's not only, or even primarily about money. The way we use our money reflects our values and thus impacts every facet of our lives. But we steward other things as well. We steward our physical energy. We steward our possessions. We steward our time. We steward the use of our gifts, our talents, our skills—everything!

Jesus talked about this—a lot. In Matthew 22 the Pharisees, those tithers who would impose their view on everyone, and their buddies, the Herodians, who compromised their religious views when it was pragmatic, try to trap Jesus on the issue of taxes. His reply sent them away shaking their heads, defeated.

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s”, he said. The problem, spiritual in nature, is that nothing actually belongs to Caesar! “Give to God what is God’s”, says Jesus, and the truth is it’s ALL God’s!

Where does this leave us? Frankly, with some very hard questions of our own to answer. If everything we think we own belongs to God, what does that mean? Can I claim ownership of anything at all? What do we do? How does—or should—this notion change us?

In most Protestant churches the offering is essentially a collection of money. This makes it hard to see the spiritual significance of this worship act. In other churches the “offertory” is retained as a liturgical act in which the bread and wine are brought forward to the person celebrating communion. These are then prepared by the celebrant. For what? Giving it back to the people to eat. God returns what is offered. The ritual is embodied trust that God is faithful to God’s character as a giving God.

PUCC is a giving church. We give in so many ways. Is our giving grounded in the intention to grow spiritually? If it is, we just might double our level of giving and surpass our budget. If it is, we just might continue to be a place of acceptance for all, fully open and affirming. If it is, we just might do more mission ministry than ever before. What a future to live into!

Thanks be to God.

## DEACONS

*By Julia Shiver  
[deacons@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:deacons@pilgrimageucc.org)*



**H**opefully by now everyone has had a chance to meet our Interim Minister, Rev. Krista Forbes. It was a great delight to be on the search committee to find our Interim. As she gets settled in, please remember that your deacons are available for any concerns you may have.

## DR. OF FRIENDSHIP AWARD

Don't forget to fill out a Doctor of Friendship nomination form and leave it in the box in the Narthex, or you can email me at [jyshiver@bellsouth.net](mailto:jyshiver@bellsouth.net). Nominations are due by **May 20**.

## MUST Lunch: May 29

**M**ark your calendar for our next MUST Lunch which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29 at MUST Ministries. Soon the sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for serving volunteers and chicken-baker volunteers. If you have any questions, contact Dick and Rita Mehlan at:

[re\\_mehlan@bellsouth.net](mailto:re_mehlan@bellsouth.net) or 678-643-2207

Stay tuned for more details to follow.

## PARISH LIFE

By Jamie Durkee

[parishlife@pilgrimageucc.org](mailto:parishlife@pilgrimageucc.org)



What a welcome we had for Rev. Krista! On her first Sunday we had great attendance at both services and at the reception afterward. Thanks to everyone on the Hospitality team who offered to bring food and cake. It was both a treat and a wonderful chance to meet and welcome Rev. Krista!



Our next event will be **June 3rd** after the kiddos are out of school. Parish Life will organize our Hot Dog and Ice Cream Pot Luck Cook Out. We cook the dogs and churn the ice cream and you bring the sides. Last year the kids churned in the rain with Jeff Durkee while Susan Volentine grilled hot dogs—hopefully this year we'll have sunshine!

See you there!

## May Book Club

The May Book Club is meeting Tuesday, May 1, 2018, at the home of Karen Clark to discuss **Love Wins: The Lovers and Lawyers Who Fought the Landmark Case for Marriage Equality** by Debbie Cenziper & Jim Obergefell. It promises to be an interesting evening! If you have not finished the book—no problem—you will find a way to add to the evening. Looking forward to seeing you!

## May Celebrations!

### BIRTHDAYS

05/02 Nick Shiver  
05/02 Juliann Heilhecker  
05/03 Pat Kask  
05/04 Danny Schnitzlein  
05/05 Kerry Schnitzlein  
05/11 Launa Richardson  
05/17 Donald Stoddert  
05/26 Jeff Durkee  
05/28 Paula Roberts  
05/28 Joyanna Wyne  
05/28 Joshua Oleksiak

### ANNIVERSARIES

05/15 Helene & John O'Neill  
05/16 Kellyn & Jan Nally  
05/17 Hugh & Mary Lowrey  
05/20 Holly & Landon Drake  
05/29 Kerry & Danna Schnitzlein

Family Promise Host Week May 20—May 26

It's time to begin planning for our 3rd week of hosting the families of Family Promise. We will set up following the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 20 and break down prior to worship on Sunday, May 27. The Sign-Up Genius is now available where you can volunteer for any given task. Go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4baef2ca4fc1-family6>

Contact Deb Loche if you need help signing up or if you have any questions at:

**678-910-9943 or 770-672-6733**  
**d\_loche@yahoo.com**

Pilgrimage Field Trips May 21 & June 18

You will have two opportunities to get your week off to a peaceful start by joining Victoria Owens on a field trip (or two) to St. Philip's Episcopal Cathedral in Atlanta for a labyrinth walk and Taizé prayer. The first trip is scheduled for Monday, May 21 and the second for Monday, June 18. We will meet at Pilgrimage at 6:00 p.m. and return by 10:00 p.m. For questions, contact Victoria Owens at:

**vhowens@yahoo.com or 404-944-0304.**

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

8:30 Worship		May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
Scripture Reader		Sharon Getty	Ben Alspach	Amy Jones	Morgan Jones
10:00 Worship					
Welcome		Angela Gula	Wayne Scott	Julia Shiver	Cathi Cahn
Liturgist		Matthew Alexander	Dick Mehlan	Wayne Scott	TBD
Ushers		Greg Kask & Susan Volentine	Sunny & Matthew Alexander	Layla Armstrong & Isaac Martin	Dana Martin & Stephen Williams
Greeter		Noel Reitz	Diane Reese	Greg Kask	Susan Volentine
Scripture Reader		Ric Reitz	Joyanna Wyne	Morgan Jones	Noel Reitz
Children's Time		Rev. Krista	TBD	TBD	TBD
Acolyte		River Simonson	Aiden Scates	Emily Stoddert	Hannah Alexander
Little Lambs		Helene O'Neill	Carol Reed	Helene O'Neill	Sunny Alexander
Nursery		Teresa Scates	Teresa Scates	Michelle Kozak	Teresa Scates
Counter		Sarah Holliday	Jeff Durkee	Bill & Kathleen McNulty	Susan Volentine
Audio System		Jeff Durkee	Chris Shiver	Ric Reitz	Monica Helms

### Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

<b>Book Club (Fran Howard)</b> .....	<b>1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Pilgrimage Sanctuary Choir</b> .....	<b>Wed. at church (7 p.m.) - September Thru May</b>
<b>Pilgrimage Handbell Choir</b> .....	<b>First &amp; third Wed. of the month (8:30 p.m.)</b>
<b>Pilgrimage Council (Ben Alspach, Pres.)</b> .....	<b>Second Thurs. of the month at church (7 p.m.)</b>
<b>PFLAG</b> .....	<b>4th Sunday at the church (1-3 p.m.)</b>
<b>Pilgrimage Youth (Wayne Scott)</b> .....	<b>Monthly meals &amp; quarterly events; see the website for details.</b>

*This listing includes the group name, followed by the coordinator or director in parenthesis then the meeting days, locations and times. If your*

### Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

Pilgrimage UCC Website:	www.pilgrimageucc.org	Music	music@pilgrimageucc.org
Rev. Krista Forbes	pastor@pilgrimageucc.org	Parish Life:	parishlife@pilgrimageucc.org
Office—Lynne Buell:	office@pilgrimageucc.org	Worship:	worship@pilgrimageucc.org
Whole Council:	council@pilgrimageucc.org	Christian Education:	ce@pilgrimageucc.org
Council President:	president@pilgrimageucc.org	VBS—Janet Derby:	vbs@pilgrimageucc.org
Council Fin. Secretary:	finsec@pilgrimageucc.org	Communications:	communications@pilgrimageucc.org
Deacons:	deacons@pilgrimageucc.org	Missions	missions@pilgrimageucc.org
Youth Director—Wayne Scott:	youth@pilgrimageucc.org		

**3755 Sandy Plains Road  
Marietta, GA 30066  
Phone: (770) 971-0007**

**Interim Pastor  
President  
Youth Director  
Music Director  
Office Admin.  
Accompanist**

**Rev. Krista Forbes  
Ben Alspach  
Wayne Scott  
Position to be Filled  
Lynne Buell  
Lidia Kovaleva**

**We're on the Web!  
[www.pilgrimageucc.org](http://www.pilgrimageucc.org)**

## The Month in Sundays

May	6	Worship Communion (Both services) Ritual of Healing (8:30 service)
May	13	Worship CE Sunday
May	20	Worship (Pentecost Sunday) Youth Lunch (12:30 p.m.) Family Promise Week Begins
May	27	Worship

Please note:

**Worship Times: 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**