

“Shout loudly; don’t hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their crime, to the house of Jacob their sins.” ISAIAH 58:1

Lent BEGINS

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Lent is fast approaching. In the forty days (minus Sundays) leading to Easter, we are encouraged to enter the wilderness with Jesus. For some of us that means taking on the spiritual practice of fasting, for others of us that means adding some other spiritual practice that helps us ground ourselves in the Divine. In worship, we choose a theme, a lens through which we will explore the ancient stories that are so familiar to so many of us.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, March 5 at 7PM.

Sandwich Club Support Group

The Pilgrimage Sandwich Club is a monthly caregiver’s support group for members and friends that are facing generational challenges and stress in handling relationships with children, parents, and others for whom they are responsible. One of our mantras is, “Caring not curing.” While we can’t solve each other’s problems or change most of our circumstances, it is helpful to have a confidential outlet in which to share frustrations, fears and hopes; to reflect, pray, and lament together; to tell it like it really is.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, March 1st at 3PM.

Email Trish Greeves at trishgreeves@me.com if you have any questions.



Easter Lilies

March 2nd is the deadline for ordering your Easter Lilies.

Our plants will be displayed in the Sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service on April 20th, 2025; after which, you are welcome to take your beautiful flowers home to enjoy.

Two choices are available:

- 6" Single Stalk (\$10.50 each)
- 7" Double Stalk (\$14.00 each)

The price includes tax, green foil, and delivery.

All details and the link for ordering your plants can be found in your weekly Etidings.

If you have any questions, contact Lynne at:

office@pilgrimageucc.org



Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 9, 2025



PUCC Vision Statement

“We are an open and affirming faith community living out Christ’s love through acceptance, learning, service, and action.”

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COUNCIL MODERATOR

Lee Fadeley

pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com



To shed light . . .

The purpose of history is to shed light on the what, why, and how of the past, and often revealed through the stories of the history makers. Kudos to the Workshop Committee, the choir, and Rev. Jess for the brilliant presentations of Black History Month during the February worship services. The stories of the history makers, their words and actions, and their lasting contributions all help us to better appreciate the ways in which so many communities and people enrich this society and reminds us of the United Church of Christ motto “*That they may all be one*” - John 17:21.

The evolving story of Pilgrimage UCC and its members continues to reveal itself month by month. The approval of our 2025 Mission Spending Plan and the Insurance Funds Allocation Plan during the Annual Financial Meeting on January 26th provides the runway for our many steps forward. For example, Treasurer Rochelle Lofstrand is collaborating with Pastor Courtney for submitting the applications for Pastor’s life & disability Insurance and her retirement program.

Also, Assistant Treasurer Stephen Noffke is completing the applications for our first church credit card (a tool to better manage expenses) and for opening the brokerage account where we may invest special funds at higher rates via insured fixed investments.

By now the first service attendees have noticed that we have the AV position filled and extended to both services – progress that can be seen!

During February, the Council approved three new policies and two new procedures to shore up our employment practices and further improve our risk management. These include, “Human Resource Policy & Practices”, the supporting procedures “Procedure for Onboarding New Hires and Separation” and the “Procedure for Adverse Action Process” along with the “Weapons in the Church Policy” (which is the last open task in our Safe Church Policy), and the “Substance Free Policy.” Vickie Zuffoletti’s assistance with all of these documents has been priceless – thank you, Vickie!

The Council also approved the Properties Committee request to hire Randy Young, retired architect, as a consultant for our real property improvement projects. Mr. Young was the architect whose firm provided the designs in 2017 for the Three R’s project.

Thanks to the research by Sven Olensky, as of January 30th Pilgrimage is saving over \$400 per annum for our combined office phone line and internet service while also increasing our internet bandwidth from 300M to 1 GB.

I want to thank the many volunteers who participated in the Properties Committee Nursery renovation in February – sorting, cleaning, demo work, wall prep, painting and flooring – I encourage everyone to check out this new space for our little ones (*see page 3 for photos*). And a special shout out to Sarah Wilson for planning, organizing and directing all these volunteers – from Monday through Saturday she spent about 40 hours in church. She also met with a contractor to review and discuss options for the NGH deck that needs substantial repair.

I also invite everyone to thank Bill and Lois Dischinger for their contribution to finding and repairing a leak in a water pipe in our front lawn; it is estimated that a gallon per minute was leaking.

On February 22nd, Vice Moderator Heyward Ottley led the Church Council Retreat at Pilgrimage through very productive working sessions such as:

- Google Chrome, Gmail and applications training by Rochelle Lofstrand.
- File naming structure for Council generated documents & files.
- Creation and use of calendars for Council & Committees, including adding timing to last year’s onboarding documents.
- Heyward and Lisa Toomey leading the process to develop the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the architects; (*Council members and Lynne Buell formed teams to evaluate each of the areas of the church against the input from the congregation.*)

And related to our task to judiciously allocate the insurance funds via the development of a master plan, Ann Baker’s motion at the January 26th Annual Financial Meeting requiring the Council to provide progress updates every three months was unanimously approved. The Council is pleased to announce that the first update will be provided within 60 days, during an informational meeting on March 30th, and the following informational session will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting in June.

...Continued pg. 3

Council Moderator continued...

Allow me to finish this article with some thoughts about Rev. Heidi Schuler's pulpit message in January to "make room for all responses." Your Council recognizes that each and every voice is important and should be given space to be heard by the Council. Every PUC member is invited and welcome to attend any of our monthly Council meetings, to hear about our discussions and a place for you to share your thoughts and concerns. All of our meetings are accessible from your home via Zoom - the link is provided on the Pilgrimage website near the bottom of the page for **Staff and Church Council**.

Shalom,

Lee M Fadeley
Council Moderator



NURSERY RENOVATION PROJECT



THE FINISHED PRODUCT!



MISSIONS

Cindy Westlake, Chair
pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com



March Missions Project

Missions is collecting donations for “Life Safe Resources of Marietta.” This organization has been providing survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault & elder abuse for 100 years.

This year, we are collecting:

- Cleaning supplies for Household and Laundry (Windex, PineSol, toilet cleaners and supplies, laundry detergent pods, stain removers, fabric softener, etc.)
- Children’s and adult over-the-counter meds (Tylenol, Advil, Dayquil, Motrin, Band Aids, etc.)

Properties Work Day



Saturday, March 29

(Rain date will be Saturday, April 12)

The Properties Committee is having a landscaping work day to mulch around the church property.

We need volunteers to do the work, and volunteers to arrange a lunch for the workers.

Please contact Laurie and Sarah at:
pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com

DEACONS

Pat Kask & Rita Mehlan, Co-Chairs
pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com



Deacons Fund

Since March has (5) Sundays, we will be collecting donations for the Deacons Fund on Sunday, March 30th.

This important fund provides temporary relief for our church community during hard times. Remember, you do not have to wait until the fifth Sunday to make a donation. We accept donations any time!



When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), you are light for people in need.

You offer light when disasters strike and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities.

You are not only the light in the immediate future, but also for the long haul.

When you give, you restore not only structures, but you also transform lives.

Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation is, light shines.

We will be receiving this special offering on Sunday, March 30th.

VBS 2025



Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Yes, it's that time of year again, and we have begun planning for VBS. The dates are July 21-25, and our theme this year is *Fruits of the Spirit*. We will look at those qualities in the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Registration forms for children aged 3 through grade 5 are available now, both in the Narthex and online:

(<https://forms.gle/kj89dwMTcBKxKRzm6>)

You can also register by emailing your child's name, age/grade, and t-shirt size to:

pilgrimageucce@gmail.com

VBS T-Shirt Design

Again, this year, we are looking for children or youth to submit ideas for our VBS t-shirts. The design should be in bold outlines – the shirt will be in one color; note, that small details don't show well. If we get multiple designs, we will try to put them together as a collage, so the simpler the design, the better.

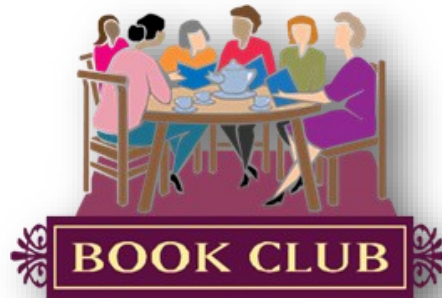
Our theme, *Fruits of the Spirit*, represents love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. They can include all of those or create a design based on just one. If you want to use some fruit in the design, our group names will be bananas, tomatoes, oranges, and mangoes. Drawings can be brought to the church or scanned in and sent to:

derby.jm@gmail.com

Please submit your designs by April 20.

Calling All Volunteers

We are also looking for adult and youth volunteers. If you are willing to help this year, please contact Lily Appleton or Janet Derby. If there is a particular area you want to help in, please let us know.



March 4, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Rita Mehlan

Book for discussion:

“The Housekeeper and the Professor”

by Yōko Ogawa

Lenten Devotional

During Lent, the Christian Education committee will offer an on-line dialogue based on a devotional by Kate Bowler. This will include weekly readings and discussion questions. Details on how to join or access this resource will be coming out soon.

Parents Night Out

Christian Ed is asking for volunteers for their first “Parents Night Out” event which will take place on Friday, June 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you would like to help and need more information, please email Lily Appleton at:

lilyatonofapples@gmail.com

March Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

03/02 Mariah Durkee
03/02 Tony Hyland
03/04 Melissa Delisle
03/04 Riley O'Neill
03/05 Jemma Nelson
03/07 Deb Loche
03/08 Michelle Brumfield
03/08 Elliott Clark
03/08 Monica Helms
03/08 Joe Martin
03/10 Jake Alexander
03/11 Bill Dischinger
03/11 Rita Mehlan
03/14 Neil Clark
03/15 Jamie Durkee
03/18 Ben Shiver
03/19 Jen Schuck
03/20 Corey Reitz
03/21 Ryan Durkee
03/22 Allison Prahl
03/27 Gavin Roth
03/28 Jennifer Wyne
03/30 Cindy Westlake

ANNIVERSARIES

03/22 Jim & Jean Ward
03/24 Sunny & Matthew Alexander

If we missed someone,
email Lynne at:
office@pilgrimageucc.org

TREASURERS

Rochelle Lofstrand, Treasurer

Stephen Noffke, Asst. Treasurer

pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com

Stephen and I look forward to continued transparency and communication regarding our financial standing. Please email me if you have any questions! We are now 100% integrated with Quickbooks and their Accountant. Our reports are a little different this month because of that. Please let me know what you think and if any other information would be helpful.

January (Month to Date)

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ	
Statement of Activity	
January 2025	
	TOTAL
Revenue	
Contributed Income	20,467.02
Total Revenue	\$20,467.02
GROSS PROFIT	\$20,467.02
Expenditures	
Communications	14.98
Employee Benefits	1,218.98
Legal & Professional Services	300.00
Love Offering	420.00
Ministry Expenses	151.14
Missions Expenses	122.57
Music Expenses	584.15
Nursery Expenses	424.79
Office Expenses	456.55
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	2,601.00
Payroll Expenses	10,516.66
Payroll Service Fees	472.10
Properties	3,988.36
Property Insurance	4,343.25
Security	59.45
Workers Comp Insurance	939.00
Total Expenditures	\$26,612.98
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -6,145.96
Other Revenue	
Interest earned	1,518.40
Total Other Revenue	\$1,518.40
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$1,518.40
NET REVENUE	\$ -4,627.56

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ

Statement of Financial Position

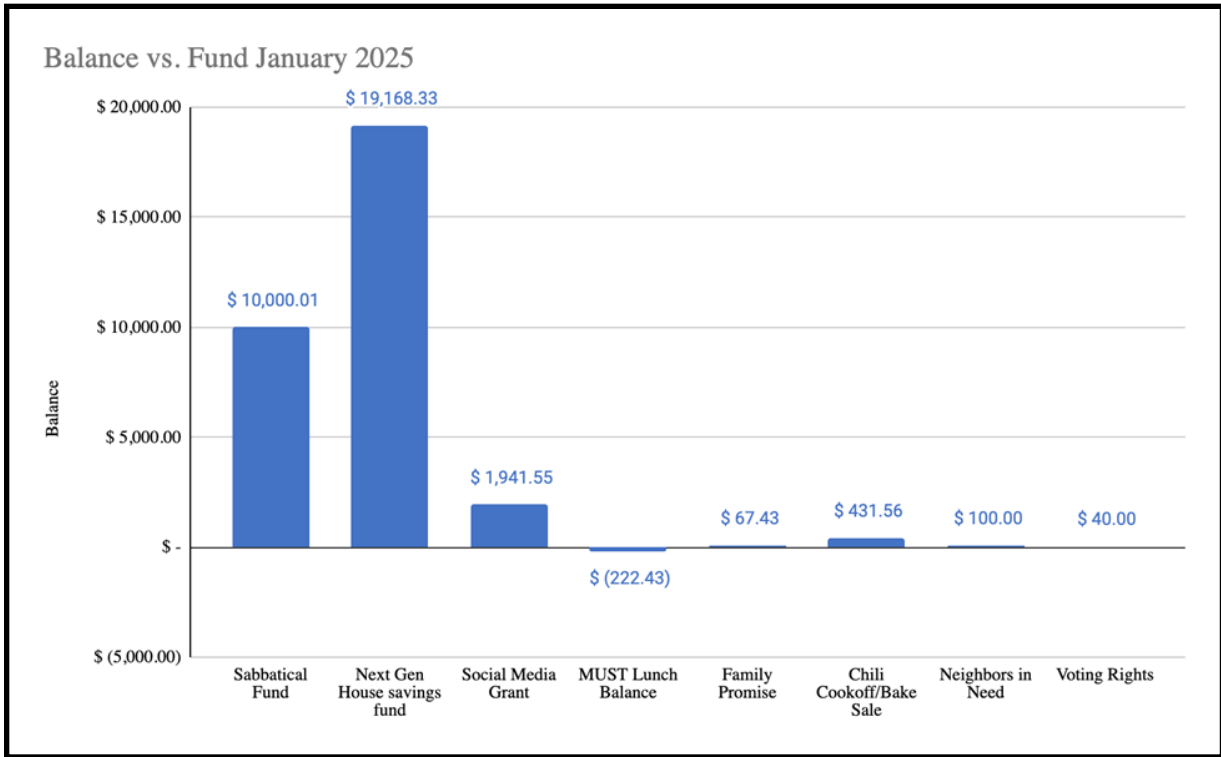
As of January 31, 2025

	TOTAL
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
Business Economy Checking - 7773 - 1	100.00
Business Economy Checking - 7796 - 1	100.00
Live Oak 4340	182,513.73
Operating Funds - 0154	30,491.58
PayPal	0.00
Premium Business Money Market (4966) - 2	381,262.27
Restricted Funds Account - 0170 - 1	32,270.81
Total Bank Accounts	\$626,738.39
▼ Other Current Assets	
PUCG Deacon Fund (not managed by church)	6,216.01
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$6,216.01
Total Current Assets	\$632,954.40
TOTAL ASSETS	\$632,954.40

Based on the financial reports provided, here are some key trends for Pilgrimage United Church of Christ for January 2025:

1. The church received a substantial contributed income of \$20,467.02 but experienced a net operating loss of \$6,145.96 before other revenue sources.
2. The most significant expenditures were concentrated in three areas: Payroll Expenses (\$10,516.66), Property Insurance (\$4,343.25), and Properties (\$3,988.36), which together account for about 71% of total expenses.
3. Despite earning \$1,518.40 in interest revenue, the church ended January with a total net loss of \$4,627.56, indicating current expenses are outpacing incoming contributions.

During the financial meeting, I updated everyone on our Restricted Funds and our Insurance Money. This report combines all of our assets in one place. As a reminder, the PUCG Treasurer does not manage the Deacon Fund, but we report it as the money we have transferred out based on your donations. If you are interested in how this account is handled, please reach out to the Deacon Co-Chairs.



All treasurer-related requests should be sent to pilgrimageuctreasurer@gmail.com. Both Stephen and I have access to that account, so we will each be able to respond. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Rochelle Lofstrand, Treasurer

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Courtney Jones
Interim Pastor	Rev. Jess Cusick
Music Director	Asa Bradley
Accompanist	Anna Mbiad
Administrative Assistant	Lynne Buell

Pilgrimage UCC's Emails

Pilgrimage UCC Website:	www.pilgrimageucc.org	Worship:	pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com
Pastor-Rev. Courtney Jones	pastor@pilgrimageucc.org	Christian Education:	pilgrimageuccce@gmail.com
Office-Lynne Buell:	office@pilgrimageucc.org	VBS-Janet Derby:	pilgrimageuccvbs@gmail.com
Council:	pilgrimageucccouncil@gmail.com	Communications:	pilgrimageucccommunications@gmail.com
Council Moderator:	pilgrimageuccpresident@gmail.com	Missions:	pilgrimageuccmissions@gmail.com
Treasurer:	pilgrimageucctreasurer@gmail.com	Properties:	pilgrimageuccproperties@gmail.com
Council Fin. Secretary:	pilgrimageuccfinsec@gmail.com	Stewardship:	pilgrimageuccstewardship@gmail.com
Deacons	pilgrimageuccdeacons@gmail.com	Parish Life:	pilgrimageuccparishlife@gmail.com
Music-Asa Bradley:	abradl47@aol.com		

Meeting Schedule for Committees & Small Groups

Book Club via Zoom (Lisa Toomey)	1st Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
Pilgrimage Council (Lee Fadeley, Moderator).....	Second Thurs. of the month—7:00 p.m.
Sandwich Club Support (Trish Greeves)	Monthly—3:00 p.m. Saturday
Spiritual Seekers' Group (Laurie Spencer)	4th Tuesday of the month—7:00 p.m.
PFLAG	4th Sunday of the month—1:00 p.m. https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-marietta

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

The Month in Sundays

March	2	Communion Both Services Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)
March	9	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Missions Comm. Mtg (9:15 a.m.)
March	16	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)
March	23	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) PFLAG (1:00 p.m.)
March	30	Worship (8:30 & 10:00 a.m.) Deacons Fund Offering OGHS Special Offering Choir Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.)