



# PILGRIM FAITH UCC

9411 S. 51st Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

www.PilgrimFaith.org

(708) 422-4200

Rev. James Bowman Harris

## OCTOBER 2020

### From Pastor James!

To say that September has been a whirlwind, honestly is an understatement. Since I arrived on August 31, it feels as if I have not slowed down even while being in quarantine for 14 days. Yet, I would not have it any other way. Being called to a church that is alive and vital in the work and ministry it is called to do, is amazing. The love and welcome that y'all have poured out on me is overwhelming and I am so grateful. On Sunday, September 20, 2020, my heart was truly warmed (said in my best John Wesley tone) as I officially joined Pilgrim Faith UCC not only as your teacher and pastor, but also as a fellow member. So, what does that mean? It means that just like you, I am now a part of this amazing church family. Yes, you read that correctly, I am part of this amazing CHURCH FAMILY right along with each of you.

One of the things that brings me a lot of joy in my job as a minister is to plan meaningful and uplifting worship services. Planning everything from the opening call to worship right down to the benediction. But what makes that even better is when I have a team to help me do it. This is where I need some help, I need to form a Pilgrim Faith Worship Team. As of now, I have a few members already on my team but I need a few more.

What does a Worship Team do? Well, I am glad you asked. Once a month, we get together to find new and meaningful ways to bring worship alive with music, readings and prayers, and by getting our kids and youth involved. So, I need a team who is not afraid of thinking outside of the normal worship box. Now, with that said, I also need some folks that are grounded in sacred worship traditions. If this sounds like a ministry you want to be a part of then email me at [pastorjames@pilgrimfaith.org](mailto:pastorjames@pilgrimfaith.org). My hope is to form the team as we began to plan our (as in mine and your) "first" Advent together.

Pastor James

### PFLAG OAK LAWN

PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. PFLAG has over 400 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters crossing multiple generations of families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas across America. We are the parents, families and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Pilgrim Faith UCC supports PFLAG Oak Lawn by providing a space for chapter meetings on the third Sunday of the month at 2 PM. Currently, because of Covid-19, the chapter is on hiatus, but we look forward to getting together again when conditions allow.



### Please Mail In Your Survey Forms

The Deacons would like to extend thanks to the members of Pilgrim Faith who have completed both sides of the membership survey and returned it to the church office in the self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have not yet completed the survey, it's not too late to do so! The personal information that you provide on the survey is important as we work on updating the membership records in the church office. To communicate effectively with each of our members, we need accurate addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, so please get that information back to the church as soon as possible.



On the back of the survey is a list of ways that you can choose to serve Pilgrim Faith. Please check all that apply. If you are filling out the back for both you and your spouse, please put initials next to the item(s) that each of you is willing to do.

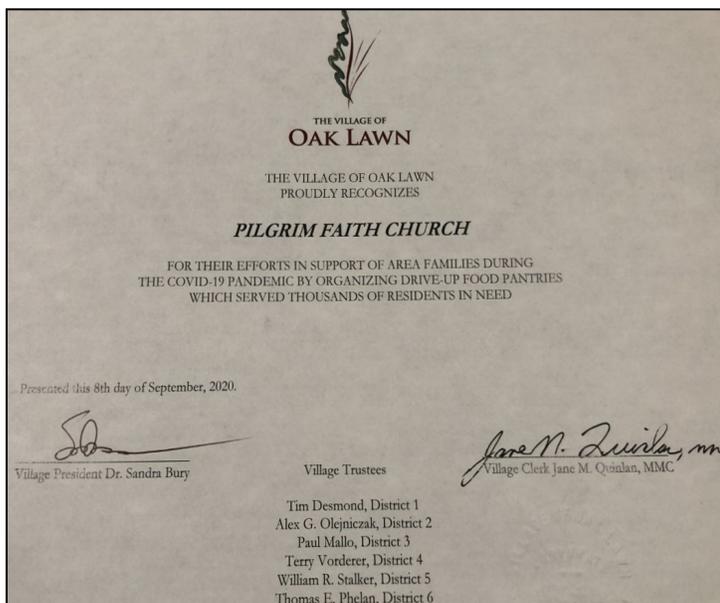
Thanks for sharing your time and talents with your church!

## FOOD PANTRY News

On September 8, the Village of Oak Lawn presented Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry with a certificate of appreciation!

This certificate was for our participation in coordinating the 5 drive-up food pantries from the months of April through August. These events delivered over thirty tons of foods and helped feed thousands in our community. These events could not have taken place without our faithful congregation and over sixty volunteers. Without our church taking on and coordinating/hosting the first 2 of these events, needy families would have gone without.

**Thank you, Pilgrim Faith UCC!**



## PILGRIM FAITH BOOK CLUB OCTOBER 25

The Pilgrim Faith Book Club will continue to meet by Zoom in October. We are reading "Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah.



Being born to a white father and black mother was a crime in South Africa. The book tells his journey through apartheid South Africa. Join us on Oct. 25 at 7:00 pm to discuss the book, please contact Chris Raap at [shoehouses@yahoo.com](mailto:shoehouses@yahoo.com), for Zoom details. Hope to see you on-line.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As our church family has been separated since March, we have found new ways to "do" church. While we ALL miss being together, we are still connected to God and each other.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

In Sunday School, we have experimented with a number of ways to keep the kids feeling close to their church family. We have done Facebook Watch parties to receive God's message, we have had guest story-tellers (thank you, Libby Langevin & Emily Cook), short videos that share Jesus' stories, and we even had a re-enactment of Mary Magdalene finding the empty tomb, thanks to Jimmy, Lys, and their little angel, Payton.

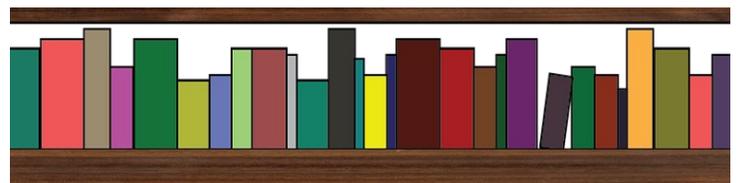
We will continue to reach out to all ages in the church, and do a variety of programming in the Fall, so stay tuned, we have some new plans in the works! May God bless us with the creative spirit to reach our congregation, of all ages.

### ADULT STUDY

There have been a few groups that have popped up, designed around books that we have read. These started with a book that I found, *Chaos and the Kingdom* by Nathanael Vissia & Michael T Bush, two UCC pastors. It is a very readable book that helped us to see that, "The kingdom of God is wherever we let God be king...and it can be shared right here, right now, while we are alive. The kingdom of God is different than heaven," as it is not about after we die! This book turned out to be a good read, especially with all the chaos that we have felt these last six months.

Another group sprung off of this first book and has in turn labeled ourselves as the Social Justice group led by Cari Stevenson. We read *White Fragility-Why It Is So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo. As Christians, we feel a calling by God to help those in need, but as a mostly white congregation, it helped us to examine the effect systemic racism has on people of color and how we can be part of the solution. The book we are reading now is *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Kendi states, "...an antiracist world can become real if we focus on power instead of people, on changing policy instead of groups of people". I know Cari has invited all of you that have a need to learn more about how we can be a more just world to join our group.

Daune Sebastian & the CE Board



## Come Home to Pilgrim Faith - Sunday, October 4th, 2020

Fall is a season when we traditionally celebrate school Homecoming gatherings, so after a six-month hiatus from worshipping in the sanctuary our church is putting on a Homecoming celebration on Sunday, October 4. Pastor James will lead our worship, and we will celebrate communion, as well as collect donations for Neighbors in Need.

After the service we will enjoy a box lunch catered by The Corner Bakery.

Participants will enjoy lunch in either Colonial Hall or outside on the lawn. Members who plan to stay for lunch will need to contact the church office by e-mail at [office@pilgrimfaith.org](mailto:office@pilgrimfaith.org) or by phone at [708-422-4200](tel:708-422-4200) to reserve a place at the luncheon and choose one of the four menu options.

A free will donation of \$5.00 per person is suggested to defray the cost of the meal. Those donations will be collected on the day of the event. Of course, all Homecoming attendees will be required to wear masks and adhere to social distancing requirements.



### Luncheon Menu

Please call/email the office with selections:  
708-422-4200 [Office@PilgrimFaith.org](mailto:Office@PilgrimFaith.org)  
Boxed Lunch include, salad or sandwich, chips, fruit and a cookie.

A good will donation of \$5. will be collected.  
Lunches are individually packaged for safety.

- Ham & Swiss sandwich
- Mom's Turkey sandwich
- Tomato Mozzarella sandwich (vegetarian)
- Chopped salad

NAME \_\_\_\_\_



## Neighbors in Need (NIN)

**Sunday, October 4**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

## RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

Beautiful counter tops  
have finally arrived!



## Dear Pilgrim Faith Members,

On September 20 Pilgrim Faith welcomed Pastor James Bowman Harris into membership. Seventy-five people gathered on the church lawn for the service which also included the official signing of the pastor's call agreement. It was a beautiful day for a church family reunion followed by a tailgate style social gathering. Please take a minute to reflect on how much has changed for good since the announcement of our new pastor. While some things are already changing, our work still needs to go forward to make Pilgrim Faith Church a destination for anyone seeking a church home.

Looking forward, the next big task ahead of the church is a stewardship campaign. Each fall our church begins its annual campaign to collect giving commitments for the new year from members of the congregation. Without a successful Stewardship campaign, it becomes difficult to maintain a vibrant church. A Stewardship committee is currently being formed. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Ken Langevin, the chair of the Trustees. In September the Deacons and the Church Council approved a change in time for Sunday worship. Beginning on **October 4 Sunday worship will begin at 10:00am**. Please help us spread the word about this time change, and, most importantly, invite someone who you have not seen at church in a while to join us any Sunday. Let's keep our Sunday attendance numbers growing. *Charles Martin, Moderator Pilgrim Faith Church*

## CROP Hunger Walk 2020

**It's VIRTUAL and the NEED is GREATER THAN EVER!**

**Sunday, 10/11/2020 at 2:00 PM** (or anytime that weekend)

This year CROP Hunger Walk is being re-imagined! We will be walking together, but apart! You will choose WHERE you walk, WHO will walk with you, even WHEN you want to walk (if you can't make it at 2 PM on 10/11/2020). You will get a copy of CROPwick to print out and take along with you! Please pose for pictures and post them to our **Instagram** account "**swsurbancrophunger**". It is easy, just follow us and share! If you don't have Instagram, please join/post pictures to our "**SW Suburban CROP Hunger**" **Facebook group**! Or you can always just send pictures to the church! **WE DESPERATELY NEED WALKERS AND DONATIONS!** WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? Join our Pilgrim faith team or make a donation at: [www.crophungerwalk.org/palosparkil](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/palosparkil).

Call me if you need help signing up! Daune 708-567-8692



MEET  
CROPWICK



## **COMMUNION**

### **During the Pandemic**

Since Pilgrim Faith has now returned to in-person services on Sunday mornings, the Deacons have carefully considered steps that we can take to keep communion a meaningful, yet safe, part of the first church service of each month. To protect all members of the congregation, the



Deacons have decided to use pre-packaged communion until the health threat from COVID-19 has passed. The pre-packaged communion will contain juice (not wine) and a piece of regular bread or gluten-free bread.

When you arrive at church on October 4, you will find a communion server stationed in the narthex. That gloved communion server will use tongs to provide you with your pre-packaged communion elements (your choice of regular or gluten-free bread). You will take the communion elements with you to your seat in the sanctuary. At the appropriate time in the service,

members of the congregation will open their pre-packaged communion and consume the elements at their seats in the pews. Afterwards, the ushers will walk up the aisles with bags in which to collect the empty packaging.

Those who are still choosing to worship within the safety of their own homes via Zoom or Facebook will need to continue to provide their own communion elements.



If you would like to make a donation electronically, scan this code or go to:  
[www.PilgrimFaith.org](http://www.PilgrimFaith.org)



## **Remember Our Homebound**

### **Mary Brehm**

Bridgeview Healthcare Ctr.  
8100 S. Harlem Ave.  
Bridgeview, IL 60455

### **Ada Hook**

404 Root St.  
New Lenox, IL 60451

### **Donna Twichell**

10032 Harnew Rd. East  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

### **Mildred House**

Clarendale of Mokena  
#2221  
21536 S. Wolf Rd.  
Mokena, IL 60448

### **Ruth Hook**

Aperion Care  
9401 S. Ridgeland  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

### **Darlene Wank**

10942 S. Oak Ave  
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

### **Grace Pluhar**

8824 S. 55th Ct.  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

### **Dolores Trezise**

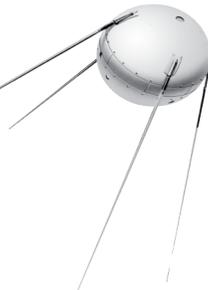
15133 Royal Georgian Rd.  
Orland Park, IL 60462





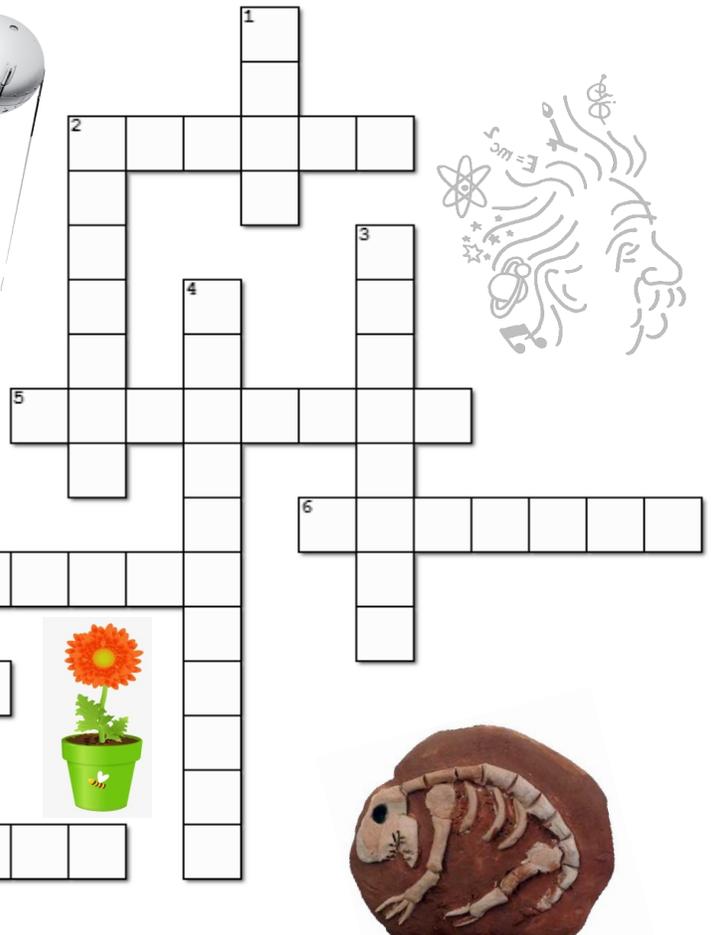
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <u>CE Mtg. 7:00</u> ZOOM	2	3
4 10:00AM COMMUNION Service Homecoming Luncheon NIN Offering	5	6 Girls Scouts 6:00	7 Scouts 6:00	8	9 	10
11 10:00 AM Service Virtual Crop Walk <u>Deacon Mtg.</u> ZOOM	12 <u>Mission</u> 7:00 ZOOM	13 <u>Trustee Mtg.</u> 6:00 ZOOM Girls Scouts 6:00 SJ Group 7:30 ZOOM	14 Scouts 6:00	15	16	17 10:00 Pet Blessing 
18 10:00 AM Service	19	20 Girls Scouts 6:00	21 <u>Council Mtg.</u> 7:00pm ZOOM Scouts 6:00	22	23	24 
25 10:00 AM Service 7:00 Book Club ZOOM	26	27 Girl Scouts <b>Halloween</b> <b>Party</b> SJ Group 7:30 ZOOM	28 Scouts 6:00 	29 	30 	31 

# OCTOBER



## Across

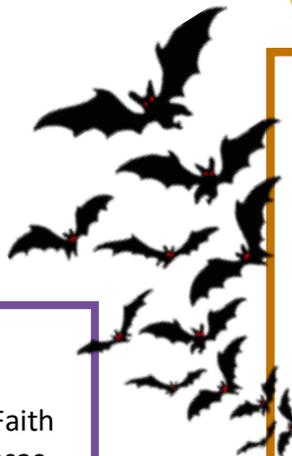
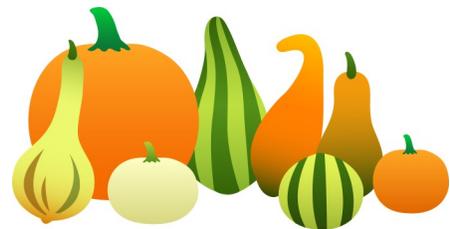
2. What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?
5. \_\_\_\_\_, famous physicist once worked as an electrician and helped set-up beer tents in 1896
6. October 4 is International Ships in \_\_\_\_\_ Day
7. If October was a shape, what shape would it be?
9. Oct. 16: National \_\_\_\_\_ Day
10. In the early Roman calendar October was originally the \_\_\_\_\_ month



## Down

1. One of the two birthstones of October.
2. In October 1957 the Russians launched \_\_\_\_\_ satellite
3. October birth flower \_\_\_\_\_.
4. October 23 is national \_\_\_\_\_ pie day!
8. Oct. 8 1871 The Great \_\_\_\_\_ Fire, burned 3.3 square miles of the city killing over 250 residents, the cow didn't do it.

Eight - Bottles - Einstein - Sputnik - Sputnik - Boston Cream - Chicago - Opal



### Amazon Smile

Shop on AMAZON Smile and select Pilgrim Faith UCC as your charity of choice. For each transaction you make, AMAZON donates a percentage back to Pilgrim Faith. Donate to Pilgrim Faith every time you shop!

### STEWARDSHIP FUNDS AUGUST 2020

#### OPERATING

Received: \$94,775.43

Spent: \$86,865.59

#### MISSION

Received: \$9,275.32

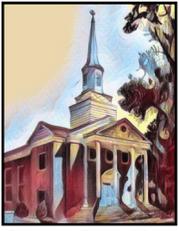
Spent: \$0.00

#### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Pledges \$356,100.00

Donations Rcv'd \$362,493.75





Pilgrim Faith UCC  
 9411 S. 51<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
 Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Non-Profit  
 PRSRT STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Oak Lawn, IL  
 Permit No.7

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**SATURDAY**

10:00am Food Pantry  
 10:00am AA 2nd Floor

**MONDAY**

12:00pm AA 2nd Floor  
**NEW** 7:30pm GA 2nd Floor

**TUESDAY**

10:00am Food Pantry  
 10:00am AA 2nd Floor  
 6:00pm Girl Scouts  
 7:00pm AA District 6 & 21  
*Next meeting March 2021*  
*(3rd Tues-Every odd mo.)*

**WEDNESDAY**

10:00am AA 2nd floor  
 1:00pm Al-Anon  
 6:00pm Boy Scouts  
 7:00pm AA 2nd floor

**THURSDAY**

10:00am AA 2nd Floor  
 6:00pm AA *Cancelled*  
 7:00pm *BEDS Shelter*  
*(Discontinued until further notice)*

**FRIDAY**

8:00pm AA 2nd Floor

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**~ SAVE THE DATE ~  
 PET BLESSING SERVICE  
 Saturday, October 17 — 10:00 a.m.  
 On the Green**

**(next to parking lot NE corner)**

Bring your fur baby to the outdoor service, if they are socially anxious please bring a picture, Pastor James will bless the picture in lieu of your pet being there. Please keep your pet secured at all times during the service, on a leash or in a crate.

The service will be approximately 30 minutes, please bring your lawn chair, wear a mask and maintain a social distance of 6'.

