

Rev. James Bowman Harris

## NOVEMBER 2020

### The Mission Board will be offering three special giving options this year.

The **Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross** is a denomination wide Christmas Offering. The funds gathered are used to help ministers and their families in emergency situations.

We will be supporting **Project Heifer International**, again this year. Finally, we are entering a new relationship with School **District 123** to provide gifts to their very neediest students, as identified by the school community service officer.

Articles on each of these giving opportunities can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Be aware, that if you choose to provide a gift to a student the commitment must be made by **Nov. 8th**. The gifts are to be purchased later, but the commitment **MUST** be made by November 8th.



### All Saints Day

On Sunday, November 1, Pilgrim Faith will pause to remember and honor the memory of the following members of our congregation who we lost in 2019 and 2020:

#### 2019

Gerald Delves  
Richard Lindvall  
Carolyn Sparling  
Kay Woody  
Eric Ruthenberg  
Bob Gates

#### 2020

Laverne Horvath  
Elsie Salvesen  
Melinda Kosvick  
Betty Neumann  
Catherine (Kay) Siemeck  
Janette Talsma  
Russ Pluhar



Please join us virtually on **November 1** as we remember our departed members of the Pilgrim Faith family.



## CHRISTMAS FUND

For as long as anyone at Pilgrim Faith can remember, we have contributed to **The Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross**. The Christmas Fund is one of the **4** Seasonal giving opportunities in which we band together with other UCC Congregations to make a difference, accomplishing more together than we could as individual churches. Pilgrim Faith supports all four of the Seasonal Special Denominational offering opportunities.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years.

The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties.

Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas **"Thank You"** Gift Checks.



# STEWARDSHIP

Friends,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent when we eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, we find ourselves in turbulent times. 2020 has been a difficult year for all as we have faced the many challenges presented by a deadly pandemic, the loss of jobs, isolation from those we hold dear, and civil unrest within our country. For many this year has been one of the worst they have ever experienced, but through it all we have had our faith in God and our church community to sustain us.

In the United Church of Christ, we respond to life's challenges by embracing Three Great Loves: Love of Children, Love of Neighbors, and Love of Creation. Our actions reflect the scripture, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). Even in times of hardship, Pilgrim Faith UCC continues to share God's love in the community by offering programs and activities that help young people develop their faith in God; by offering food and emotional support to our neighbors who are struggling to feed and provide shelter for their families; and by offering nature's bounty from our gardens to those who need it most. God's work at Pilgrim Faith is most necessary in times of struggle like those we have experienced in 2020!

It is with this in mind, that we ask you to consider making a financial commitment to Pilgrim Faith that will allow us to continue sharing the love of God throughout our community in 2021. Won't you please help us to continue providing these services in 2021 by making a pledge to your church? Your monetary gifts to the church will allow us to continue spreading the word and love of God to our church family and the broader community. Realizing that some families may be struggling financially during the pandemic, we encourage you to also consider giving of your time and talents to support the church as an alternative if you are not in a position to give financially at this time.

You will soon be receiving a stewardship packet which contains a pledge card for 2021. We ask that you pray about your ability to support Pilgrim Faith UCC financially before completing your pledge card and returning it to the church sealed in the enclosed envelope on or before Commitment Sunday, November 22, when those pledges will be dedicated. If you would like to pledge but did not receive a stewardship packet, you may pick up a packet from the church office on weekdays or from the narthex on Sunday. We pray that you will give generously to support the continued work of your church.

In these challenging days, it is often difficult to focus on the blessings God has bestowed on us. The stresses of daily life may cloud our thinking and draw our attention away from the true blessings that God has given us – our families, our friends, and our relationship with God. We ask you to remember that "with God all things are possible" (**Matthew 19:26**) as you consider making a financial commitment to Pilgrim Faith UCC for the coming year.



*Sincerely,*

*The Stewardship Committee,*

*Ken Langevin, Chris Raap and Peggy Martin*

## Pilgrim Faith Constitution Revision

The Constitution of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ was last revised in 1996! After twenty-four years, it is time to examine the document that details the vision, beliefs, mission, and organizational structure of our church.

As we work to grow Pilgrim Faith's membership, a committee of volunteers has been assembled to work on revising this document so that it accurately reflects who we are as a church. The committee consists of Tom Aitken, Vicki Brooks, Bob Cook, Don Lagerstrom, Libby Langevin, Charles Martin, Peggy Martin, Diane Millar, Chris Raap, Keith Stevenson, and Pastor James. The Constitution Revision Committee is meeting every Thursday evening in hopes of completing the proposed Constitution revision by the end of the year so that it can be presented to the congregation before the 2021 annual meeting where a vote will be taken on its adoption.

If you have input about ideas that should be included in the revised Constitution, please contact one of the committee members.

Submitted by Charles Martin, Moderator



## BOOK CLUB

Following our habit of reading a light Christmas book at this time of year, our next selection is **"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson.**

We are not meeting in November but will meet the first Sunday in December, Dec. 6th. We won't meet again until January 2021. The Pilgrim Faith Book Club will continue to meet by Zoom at 7:00 PM.

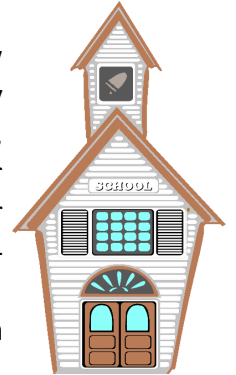
**All are welcome.**



## MISSION BOARD & DISTRICT 123 NOVEMBER 8

For the first time ever, the Mission Board, in partnership with School District 123 will be providing local children with Christmas gifts.

We need to tell the schools how many gifts we will provide and they need to have roughly the same value, of \$50 per child. You may provide for one child, more than one child or partner with other generous members for a gift.



**Commitments can be made through November 8th.**

On November 9th we will inform the contact person of the number of gifts we can supply. The school contact will then identify the neediest students in the district. The teachers will interview students and present a list of 3 things the student would like. No gift on the list will be more than \$50, but several smaller gifts may be on the list equaling \$50. The \$50 price is PRE-Sale. That is: The item may have a \$45 price/value, but you find it on Black Friday for \$19.95 **YOU ONLY PURCHASE THAT ITEM, YOU DO NOT SPEND \$50.** This is because more than one child in the family may have requested the item and you found it on sale, but someone else did not. We need gifts to be equitable for each child in the family.

On November 15th you will receive a list of 3 possible gifts, which you will shop for.

If, for any reason, doing the shopping is not practical for you, someone else will shop on your behalf.

You may donate any amount of cash to be combined with other smaller donations and gifts will be purchased on your behalf.

If you are making a cash donation, clearly mark it **"Gift for a Child"** and mail it to the church office.

If you are making a commitment to purchase for one or more children, PLEASE contact Diane Millar and leave a voicemail 708-508-5527 or email Diane at [di-anemillar17@outlook.com](mailto:di-anemillar17@outlook.com). Do Not call the office with your commitments.

After you have purchased your gift(s) bring them to church, **unwrapped before Dec. 15th** so the schools can distribute them before the December break. We can pick up the gifts from your home if you cannot bring them to the office during regular hours. Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.

# November 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ZOOM Virtual Worship 10:00AM	2	3 Election Day  SJ Group 7:30	4	5 CE Mtg. 7:00 ZOOM	6	7
8 ZOOM 10:00 AM Virtual Worship COMMUNION	9 Mission 7:00 ZOOM	10 Trustee Mtg. 6:00 ZOOM Girls Scouts 6:00	11 Deacon Mtg. 7:00 ZOOM Scouts 6:00	12	13	14
15 ZOOM 10:00 AM Virtual Worship	16 Board Minutes due to office	17 Girls Scouts 6:00 SJ Group 7:30	18 Council Mtg. 7:00pm ZOOM Scouts 6:00	19	20 Pledge Cards due to office	21
22 ZOOM 10:00 AM Virtual Worship Stewardship Commitment	23 Newsletter Articles due to office by noon	24 Girls Scouts 6:00	25 Scouts 6:00	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING Office Closed 	27 	28
29 ZOOM 10:00 AM Virtual Worship  1st Sunday of Advent	30					

Zoom Meeting ID # 811 1497 7543  
Passcode: 320513



## *From Pastor James*

My favorite holiday, Thanksgiving is fast approaching. I have fond memories of times that arrive at my oldest sister's house the night before to begin to prepare for the big family gathering the next day. She and I would stay till the wee morning hours cooking, laughing, and just being big sister and little brother. The big day would come and the rest of the family would arrive, stories were told, food was eaten, desserts were devoured, and lots of love was shared.

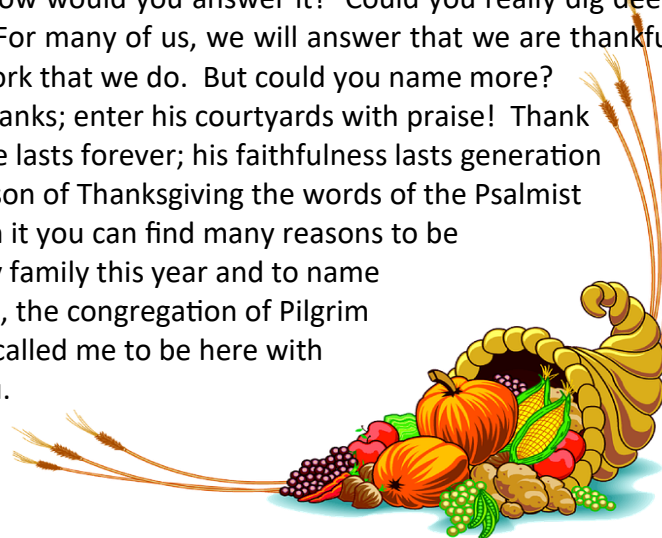
Thanksgiving 2020 will look so different and the memories will be so different than the memories that I have, that you have of the ones in our past. This year with COVID, we are being asked to limit our gatherings to just the ones who share the same home with us. Leaving us to visit with extended family via phone calls, text messages, Facetime, or Zoom chats. How are we to begin to speak of or show that we are thankful with all of the ways that COVID has changed our lives? How are some able to even begin to be thankful when there is a place that is now empty in our hearts?

One of the memories that I hold dear is the time right before the blessing was asked. Each of us would name something that we were thankful for. With everything happening in our world, what are you thankful for? Have you stopped for a moment to ask yourself that question? How would you answer it? Could you really dig deep into your heart to truly say what it is you are thankful for? For many of us, we will answer that we are thankful for our family, for our own health, for our church, and the work that we do. But could you name more?

The Psalmist in chapter 100 tells us, "Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name. Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation." My prayer for each of you during this season of Thanksgiving the words of the Psalmist you will be reminded that God's love for you is faithful and in it you can find many reasons to be thankful. One thing I know, if I were able to stand among my family this year and to name something that I am thankful for, I would say you. All of YOU, the congregation of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ and that on June 28, 2020 you called me to be here with you, to minister you, and to serve this community beside you.

*With a heart full of Thanksgiving,*

*Pastor James*



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

### **Mildred House**

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

### **Grace Pluhar**

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

### **Ada Hook**

404 Root St.  
New Lenox, IL 60451

### **Ruth Hook**

Aperion Care  
9401 S. Ridgeland  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

### **Dolores Trezise**

15133 Royal Georgian Rd.  
Orland Park, IL 60462

### **Donna Twichell**

10032 Harnew Rd. East  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

### **Darlene Wank**

10942 S. Oak Ave  
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415





## COVID-19 TASK FORCE FORMED

At the October meeting of the Church Council, a task force was formed to make decisions regarding church services and activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council feels that it is very important for the safety of our church family to have a small group of people who will be committed to monitoring the recommendations of the public health department in regard to large group gatherings. Keith Stevenson, Daune Sebastian, and Chris Raap have generously volunteered to be on the task force that will collaborate with Pastor James in deciding if it is safe for church members to meet in person in the sanctuary.

The COVID-19 Task Force will keep the congregation informed of its decisions in a timely manner. Submitted by Charles Martin, Moderator

## November Word Search

E	B	H	Q	U	T	T	J	W	T	M
L	U	F	A	I	T	H	F	Z	U	C
E	V	E	T	E	R	A	N	S	R	H
C	P	G	B	W	U	N	Q	K	K	R
T	I	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	E	I
I	L	G	A	O	L	F	N	J	Y	S
O	G	Z	W	D	X	U	T	Z	N	T
N	R	J	J	U	V	L	B	X	Y	M
D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	A	A	A
Y	M	X	Y	T	O	S	N	F	M	S
P	S	M	X	S	A	I	N	T	S	Q

Advent  
Turkey  
Discover  
Pilgrims ✓

Election  
Christmas  
Saints  
Thankful

Pumpkin  
Faith  
Veterans  
Yams



## STEWARDSHIP FUNDS SEPTEMBER 2020

### OPERATING

Received: \$105,254.06

Spent: \$95,279.85

### MISSION

Received: \$9,985.32

Spent: \$0.00

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Pledges \$356,100.00  
Donations Rcv'd \$362,493.75



## 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!



## Reverse Advent Calendar for Our Food Pantry

This year, during advent, we will be giving out bags with our church logo on it, to fill up for the Pantry. Each day a different item will be on the list to put in the bag to be brought in when it's most convenient.

**We will have a table set up for the items to be placed, and this will be an awesome thing to watch the table fill up when we all work together toward feeding the hungry!**

Bring your bags into the office during between 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

December 1 - Box of Cereal

December 2 - Box of Spaghetti

December 3 - Pasta Sauce (Can/Jar)

December 4 - Canned Beans

December 5 - Canned Fruit

**DECEMBER 6** - Canned Tuna

December 7 - Canned Chili

December 8 - Canned Pork & Beans

December 9 - Canned Mixed Veggies

December 10 - Canned Peas

December 11 - Chicken Noodle Soup

December 12:- Instant Mashed Potatoes

**DECEMBER 13** - Rice-A-Roni

December 14 - Tomato Soup

December 15 - Peanut Butter

December 16 - Canned Tomatoes

December 17 - Canned Green Beans

December 18 - Canned Corn

December 19 - Box of Macaroni & Cheese

**DECEMBER 20** - Ramen Noodles

December 21 - Box of Individually Packaged  
Oatmeal

December 22 - One Can Meal (Chef Boy-ar-dee)

December 23 - Box of Jell-O

**DECEMBER 24** - Granola Bars/Pop Tarts

**\*Sundays and  
Christmas Eve  
bolded as days  
to bring in items**



## Help Feed the Homeless!

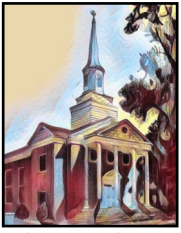
The BEDS Plus homeless shelter that is usually hosted by Pilgrim Faith each Thursday night from October 1 through April 30 is **not** operating in its usual way during the 2020-21 season. The BEDS guests are currently being housed in an alternative setting which is much safer for them during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. **Despite the alternative setting, Pilgrim Faith has prepared, packaged and delivered approximately 580 meals to BEDS guests on Thursdays between June 4 to October 22!**



We have been able to provide those meals because of the generous financial contributions which have been provided to Pilgrim Faith's BEDS Plus mission over the past few years. However, as Pilgrim Faith's food team continues to provide a meal for 60 guests at least once a month, the team needs additional monetary donations to off-set the cost of the meals which cost at least \$200 each month. If you can help the food team by providing a monetary donation, please send a check in any amount to the Pilgrim Faith office at 9411 S. 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Oak Lawn. Please make your check payable to *Pilgrim Faith UCC* and write *BEDS Meals* on the memo line of the check. **The South Suburban BEDS Plus guests really appreciate your on-going help!**

Since the BEDS Plus shelter is **not open** at Pilgrim Faith right now, **PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF CLOTHING, COATS, SHOES, SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, OR PERSONAL TOILETRIES AT PILGRIM FAITH.** We currently have an abundance of these items and will let you know when the shelter is in need anything else.  
Submitted by Charles and Peggy Martin





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  
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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## Sunday School

In-person Sunday School had just started again! Due to Covid19 numbers, the church has decided to go back to virtual services.

While this is disappointing to us, church is still in session! We are evaluating what is the **BEST** way to reach our kids, so look for Sunday School updates very soon!

