



## **AUGUST 2022**

### **More Truth and Light**

**“The day we find the perfect church, it becomes imperfect the moment we join it.**

***Charles H. Spurgeon***

The month of July marked two significant events in my ministry. On July 26, I celebrated 35 years of ordained ministry, and I completed my first year with Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. as your designated interim pastor. Both my many years of ministry and my time with the members of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. have been a blessing to me and has reaffirmed for me the ‘cost and joy of discipleship.’ In my experience, every pastor wants to serve the perfect church and every seeker is looking for the perfect church. I cannot speak for the seekers who are looking for that perfect church, but as a pastor who has served many congregations and many people, I’ve learned that the perfect church is the one that is filled with imperfect people doing imperfect work for God’s perfect world.

I am reminded of Paul’s beautiful letter to imperfect people in the city of Corinth. He writes: *“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed always carrying in the body the death Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.” 2 Corinthians 4:7-12.* As members, active or inactive, settled or seeking, we need to be clear about the perfect church. The perfect church is the one that in spite of all our weaknesses and imperfections, we can set aside our selfish ambitions, our tired excuses, and our unholy grievances and

make visible the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in our beautiful and broken bodies. In just this way, we inspire, transform, and empower others with message of God’s transforming love and grace that feeds our spirits and brings us hope.

Pilgrim Faith has known some lean years, but the tide, I believe, is changing and our ultimate destiny will depend upon our commitment to Pilgrim Faith, and our understanding of the perfect church. There is not a perfect church in this world, but there are many perfect opportunities to engage one another in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Whether our span of life is one year, or 150 years, the work of Jesus Christ must go on. The various ministry teams of our congregation have many good ideas, designed to grow our church, but all of them depend upon a deeper commitment from our members than what is currently being demonstrated. Each of us need to be more fully engaged in the ministry of our congregation in the years to come. We are looking at starting a Pre-K Nursery and Sunday School and we’ll need teachers and caregivers. In the fall, we are hoping to restart the Bell Choir, and offer other musical opportunities to express our joy and love for the God who gives us life. If this is to be, we need men and women, boys, and girls to make this joy complete. We will continue to explore creative ways to shape and form Christian disciples who believe that they can make a difference. Instead of looking for the perfect church, I would invite you to come and help us to be more than what we believed or imagined we could be. Truly, the perfect church needs more imperfect people.

Imagining the possible,  
Pastor Dan

## FROM THE MODERATOR -

Calling and forcing

“Look at the birds of the air: they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Matthew 6:26-27

I believe everyone understands that I am stepping down as moderator to run for treasurer of Pilgrim Faith. It has come to my attention that many people do not understand why. Am I being pushed to step down?

This has never happened before, we had never needed to make a choice like this. I know and I understand. But look at my actions through the reading above. I would encourage you to read it, think and read again.

I am not being pushed out. I have received suggestions that I keep one foot in the moderator role and the other as a candidate for treasurer. I am going on record to say that is not me. To hold the moderator position and run for treasurer ensures that I stay active in the council. That is not the message I am trying to send.

For the past three years we had lived in a bubble of fear. Fear of a virus, fear of change, fear of the unknown. That is not a reason to stay in the same state of mind. I am stepping down to break the idea that “you can have your cake and eat it too”. I am stepping down to change the dialogue of this church.

It appears that the congregation is of the mind set of privilege over trying something new. Let me explain it like this, remember the first time you moved away from your parents house. For some, the room might have been kept “just in case” you needed to come back. If you lived in the Weierman house, the room was called “dibs” before packing started. I knew I had love, and a place I could stay at if something went wrong, but that did not stop me from moving everything out. Completely and fully away from the “safety” of something old to trying something new.

I think everyone knows I am a “Big Bang Theory” fan. This theme played out not once but twice. Once after two main characters (Howard and Bernadette) got married and he had to move out of his mother house. Second when Sheldon’s room was offered to Raj (Raj could not pay for his apartment). Both in a hilarious way talked about what we are facing now. Being able to run back to a safe place because it is familiar. This should not stop us from trying something new.

Try someone new in this position. Try someone new in any position.

I do not have the same background as people who have held this position, but it does not stop me and it shouldn’t stop anyone.

We are now at a tipping point. I am willing to walk away from council because I believe I can, and will, be a good transparent treasurer who is willing to listen, grow and share the information with the congregation. If the congregation believes the same, it will show at the time of voting. This is not feelings, popularity or anything else then what God is calling you to do. Whatever the end is, I will still stand and be a member of this church. I will not walk away due to what God is saying to the congregation. I love this church because it is the voice of the congregation that makes the choice. Not the pastor, a select few or policies from far away. It is Pilgrim Faith UCC of Oak Lawn, Illinois members that have the power.

We can grow the church; you just need to believe that God loves you more than the birds of the air. Once you are in that state of mind, you will take off and fly.

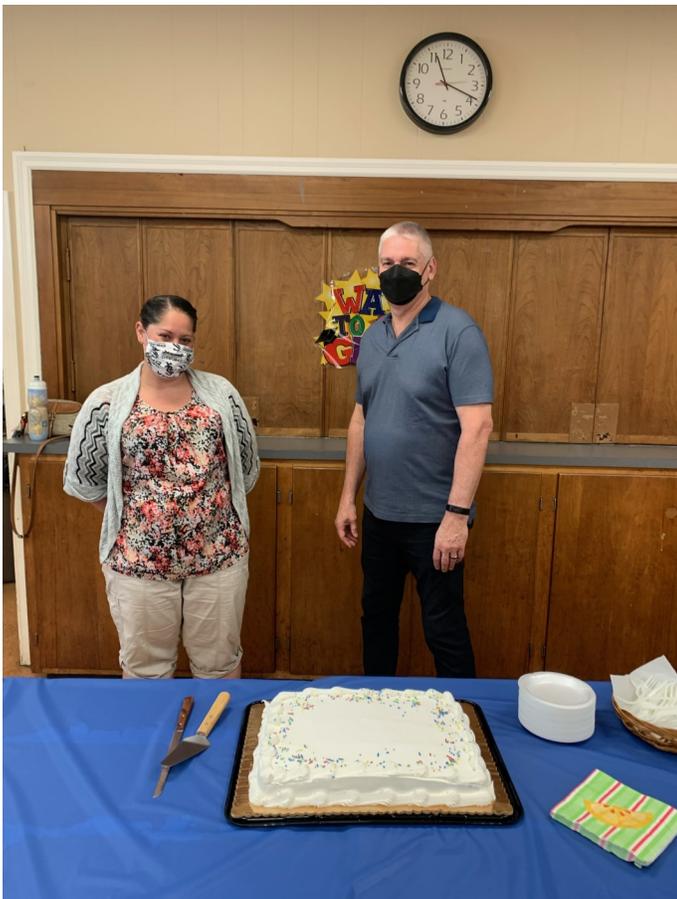
May God bless you and keep you under his Wing of love. - Mary Weierman

## Welcome New Members!

### LIMITLESS YOUTH NEWS!

#### **STARTUP AND PLANNING MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>!**

There were twelve young people who participated in Limitless Youth activities this past program year, and we had a lot of fun. In addition to our twelve, we will be inviting youth in the seventh grade to be a part of Limitless Youth. Last year, we met some new friends, enjoyed time with our church family, provided food for BEDs, packed food nutrition for Feed my Starving Children, led an inspiring and beautiful youth service, and many more activities that defined our year. Now, we have an opportunity to participate in such fun again. If you are in the seventh grade or older, you are invited to join us on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 as we meet new friends and get reacquainted after a wonderful summer. In addition, we will plan our upcoming year. We will meet in Room 25 on the third floor. Pizza and soda will be provided. Come with your great ideas and bring a friend! Limitless Youth is not limited to Pilgrim Faith Youth members only! All are welcome!



Having  
Food  
and  
Clothing  
Let Us Be  
**CONTENT**

1 Timothy 6:8

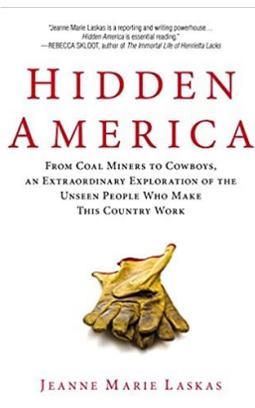
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**CO-YOUTH LEADERS WANTED!** As we begin to plan for Limitless Youth, Pastor Dan is looking for co-leaders to help provide for positive, Christian fellowship with youth in the seventh grade and older. If you have an interest in our youth, enjoy having fun, and being a positive role model for youth, I'd love to hear from you. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in helping, please let Pastor Dan know as soon as possible.

## Book Club Summer Break



The Pilgrim Faith Book Club is taking a summer break with no meetings in July and August. We will start again on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Our book for that meeting will be "Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys" by Jeanne Marie Laskas.



## CONFIRMATION NEWS!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS TO START UP!** The month of August is that time of year when school, school activities, and new programs start up for the fall. Just as this is true for school, it is also true for our Confirmation class. On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 a.m., our Confirmation class will start up again. The next three months will go by so very quickly and before you know it, we will be celebrating the Confirmation Day for four of our young people. We will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for our current class on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> during our morning worship. If you have been attending the Confirmation class, we are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>! Enjoy the rest of your summer! See you soon.

**NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS ORGANIZING FOR THE FALL!** Pilgrim Faith UCC is blessed with a number of older youth, and we are eager to begin another Confirmation class this year. If you are in the sixth grade and older and would like to be confirmed, please contact Pastor Dan Sather by Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested, the Confirmation class will begin in late September and will be Confirmed in May of 2023. If you have specific questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact Pastor Dan Sather

## Council Meeting Summary & Updates:

- The council continues to discuss and brainstorm creative ways to utilize our church space. The Real Estate committee continues to work hard gathering data and creating plans to best utilize our property.
- The audit is not yet complete. When the audit is complete, the congregation will be notified. At that time, we will reschedule the congregational meeting to elect a Treasurer and Moderator.
- A Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will be formulated. If this sparks your interest, please let a member of the council know!
- We will welcome Rev. Jim Benzing to our pulpit on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and August 7<sup>th</sup> while Pastor Dan is on vacation.

## Church On The Lawn

## Messy Church & Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us for our traditional Church On The Lawn worship service this year on August 21st at 10:00 in the courtyard. We will enjoy an uplifting message and lively music for worship, followed by a brief congregational meeting. The congregational meeting is to vote on the Search Committee's recommendation to call Pastor Dan Sather as Pilgrim Faith's settled pastor. After this quick meeting we will all enjoy ice cream! Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on (folding chairs will be available too).

Libby Langevin  
Co-coordinator for the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life



Join us for a super-fun and "messy" church experience on September 11th at 10:00 in the courtyard. We'll be taking worship outside (weather permitting) to celebrate new beginnings with songs, prayer, a spiritual message, boat races, sand art, and DONUTS!

We will also be blessing backpacks that day, so all students and teachers will have the opportunity to have their school year and backpack blessed by Pastor Dan and receive a small token from the worship ministry team. Also on this day we will be wrapping-up our school supply drive.

Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on (folding chairs will be available too), and come dressed to PLAY!

Church Receipts as of June 30,, 2022

	Month of June 2022		As of June 30, 2022	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
<b>Receipts</b>				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 5,338.67	\$ 7,228.81	\$ 53,105.42	\$ 36,374.34
<b>Total Receipts (all sources)</b>	<b>\$ 6,733.14</b>	<b>\$ 8,538.81</b>	<b>\$ 65,168.63</b>	<b>\$ 48,432.88</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 9,394.33	\$ 9,016.67	\$ 60,032.59	\$ 64,502.02
Expenses	\$ 9,153.42	\$ 12,047.43	\$ 48,122.30	\$ 44,836.61
<b>Total Disbursements (all expenses)</b>	<b>\$ 18,828.02</b>	<b>\$ 22,914.10</b>	<b>\$ 109,522.04</b>	<b>\$ 111,638.63</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ (12,094.88)</b>	<b>\$ (14,375.29)</b>	<b>\$ (44,353.41)</b>	<b>\$ (63,205.75)</b>

Please remember to use Amazon Smile when ordering to benefit Pilgrim Faith Church.

If you want a list of all checks written for the month, send request to [finances@pilgrimfaith.org](mailto:finances@pilgrimfaith.org).

## THE ALL MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

**THE ALL MINISTRY TEAM MEETING** is set for Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> in Colonial Hall following worship. Every member of Pilgrim Faith UCC is encouraged and invited to join one of our four ministry groups. As Pilgrim Faith UCC reinvents itself for the sake of gospel, it is important that we see Christian discipleship as more than Sunday morning worship. Certainly, our spirits need to be fed and nurtured, but we also need everyone to be fully engaged in the ministry so that God's Word is not compromised, and the stories of Jesus Christ are passed on to a new generation of believers. Please consider one of the following ministries and join us in planning an exciting, dynamic, and relevant ministry. All meetings will conclude their work on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, by 1 p.m. Below are short descriptions of the various ministry teams that need you! Please prayerfully consider which team is best suited for your skills and interests. Many hands make for light work. *Ministry of Building and Grounds* plans for, manages, and oversees the care and maintenance of land and property of Pilgrim Faith UCC. It is within the context of this team to plan for and supervise repairs and improvement of all property. This team oversees and manages the shared space with our community partners and organizations that use the space.

*Ministry of Christian Formation & Missions* oversee Christian formation for all ages and mission education and interpretation of various missions supported by Pilgrim Faith. It is also within the context of this team to explore new missions and needs within the community and the world where we can make a difference.

*Ministry of Stewardship and Finance* is responsible for the financial stewardship of the congregation. They manage the funds, plan stewardship drives, budgets, and create financial policies and procedures as they relate to the finances of the congregation.

*Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life* is responsible for all things related to worship. It is also the responsibility of this team to provide ongoing care and nurture of church membership and friends. In addition to worship, music, and the spiritual care of our members, this team is also exploring ways to attract and keep visitors.

## We're Collecting School Supplies



During the month of August we will be collecting school supply donations for disadvantaged youth. You can bring your donation to the church narthex where everything is being collected.

Some ideas that you might like to consider for what to donate include pen, pencils, crayons, paper, notebooks, markers, sharpeners, pencil cases, compasses, rulers, post it notes, etc.

Thank you so much for your generosity in helping our young people start the school year out right.

# LOVE

one another,  
for love  
is of God  
1 John 4:7



## Saver's Truck Update

Thank you to everyone who helped declutter the church building of 4,592 pounds of goods. We were able to convert that into money for the church as an impromptu fundraiser with the Saver's Store in Orland Park. The fundraiser netted \$439.70. I would like to specifically thank Alyssa and Jimmy Werner, Mike and Pam Cusack, Pastor Dan, David Faulkner, Brian Langevin, Libby Langevin, Alex Overland and Kevin Holt. Also, thanks to Boy Scout leader Rick Kelly and Boy Scouts Cyrus McElrath, Christian and Ayden Richter.

Even though many spaces around our church building were decluttered, there's still MUCH MORE WORK to be done! Be on the lookout this fall for more decluttering work days and another Saver's Truck Fundraiser opportunity.

Many thanks,  
Ken Langevin



## Remember Our Homebound

**Mary Brehm**  
Bridgeview  
Healthcare Ctr.  
8100 S. Harlem Ave.  
Bridgeview, IL 60455

**Darlene Wank**  
10942 S. Oak Ave  
Chicago Ridge, IL  
60415

**Ruth Hook**  
Aperion Care  
9401 S. Ridgeland  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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

**Grace Pluhar**  
8824 S. 55th Ct.  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

**Donna Twichell**  
10032 Harnew Rd.  
East  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

**Bob Salveson**  
6146 S. Karlov Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60629

**Linda Aitken**  
The Pointe at Kilpatrick  
14230 Kilpatrick  
Crestwood, IL. 60418

**Marlene Anderson**  
9525 S. Parkside  
Oak Lawn, IL. 60453



## In the spirit of transparency...

The council hired a song leader two months ago. A member of the Stewardship committee asked me to write this. Right now we have five people working for Pilgrim Faith. If you have any questions, please see Mary Weierman.



## The Food Pantry Needs Your Help

The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry is seeking volunteers and donations. Pantry hours are from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Saturdays. You don't have to volunteer every Tuesday or Saturday. Right now, we're looking for volunteers to fill in when the regular volunteers need to take a day off. We also are seeking monetary donations as well as goods such as canned fruit and non-condensed soup cans. The pantry also is in need of food drives, so if you know of any businesses, organization, school or people willing to conduct food drive contact the church. You can reach the Food Pantry by calling the church office at (708) 422-4200. We also would like to thank those who help the Food Pantry in the past. We appreciate all of your help.

Also, you have probably wondered why the Food Pantry set up its own 501©3. That's a reasonable question. For years the pantry has been a mission of Pilgrim Faith begun by faithful people in our congregation who felt called to feed the hungry. For years, this is what happened. As time progressed, more people found themselves hungry and in need of food. In short, the pantry has grown and there is more demand for food in our community. By filing for its own nonprofit status, the pantry is free to seek food resources from organizations from our community that were previously unable to give donations because the pantry was a mission of a particular congregation and did not have its own 501©3 status. With its own nonprofit status, the food pantry can solicit financial support and qualify for grants that will enable the Food Pantry to plan bigger and better and continue to meet the needs of the people in our community. Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry bears the name of our church, and it still sees itself as a partner in the ongoing mission of Pilgrim Faith UCC. Even though it is its own agency and is planning for its own future, the pantry still needs the support of the Pilgrim Faith Church. Please continue to support the Food Pantry with canned goods and financial support.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AUGUST 21, 2022

The Search Committee has concluded our process and have nominated Rev. Dan Sather as our candidate for settled pastor. With the necessity of cancelling the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will hold a special Congregational meeting after worship on Aug. 21st to vote on his candidacy. I urge all church members who able to be there for this important meeting.

If you are unable to attend in person, please call the church office and ask for a ballot. All votes are confidential.

Chris Raap, Chair Search Committee

### Lay Leaders

Here are the upcoming lay leaders:

August

7 Jimmy Werner

14 Jacques Lopez

21 Cari Stevenson

28 Rick Wank

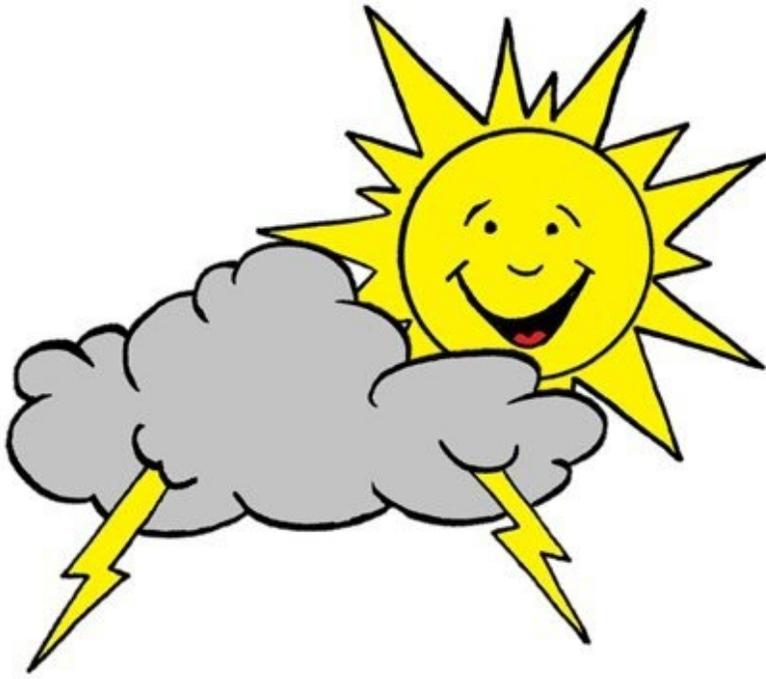


### Meet Our Usher in Training

Recently we had an usher in training visiting us. Libby was gracious enough to play host. She broke her in and showed her the ropes. Thanks Libby Langevin!

To  
God  
*be the*  
GLORY  
  
*Great Things He Hath Done!*





He makes His sun  
rise on the evil  
and on the good,  
and sends rain on  
the just and on  
the unjust.  
Matthew 5:45

**A Belated Congrats to Our Recent  
Graduates. We are so proud of you!**



# August 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
7 10:00 AM Worship	8	9 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 	10	11	12	13 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
14 10:00AM Worship	15	16 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	17	18	19	20 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
21 10:00AM Worship	22	23 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	24	25	26 	27 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
28 10:00 AM Worship	29	30 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	31			



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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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### **MONDAY**

12:00pm AA 2nd Floor

### **TUESDAY**

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

### **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

### **FRIDAY**

8:00pm AA 2nd Floor

### **SATURDAY**

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

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### **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!

