



June 2025

More Truth and Light

"Don't speak to me about your religion; first show it to me in how you treat other people. Don't tell me how much you love your God; show me in how much you love all God's children. Don't preach to me your passion for your faith; teach me through your compassion for your neighbors. In the end, I'm not as interested in what you have to tell or sell as I am in how you choose to live and give." -Senator Cory Booker

As spring turns to summer, as the school year draws to a close, and our daily plans and activities anticipate sunshine, vacations, evening walks in the park, picnics and cookouts, the Church also finds itself in a new season, the season of Pentecost. This season is initiated by Jesus' final appearance to his disciples, when he says to them, **"You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."** **Luke 24:49**

In this season, the Holy Spirit amazes us, astonishes us, and sends us out. It is a season in which we celebrate the birth of the Church and where the Body of Christ – you and me – are sent out to preach, teach, witness, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. This is our season of justice and action, righteousness and advocacy, and speaking truth with passion and conviction. This is our time to be disciples sent for the purpose of making our world a place where justice, mercy and humility guide our every action.

We are witnesses to unjust, hateful, and dishonorable people who are making laws and policies that are hurting God's people and God's world. Lives are being shattered, hearts are being broken, our nation and all its goodness is being sold to the highest bidder, and we are living in a time when too many are giving lip service to what some call the golden rule only when it is expedient for their social, economic, or political agenda. This is not a time for the Church and people of the resurrection, inspired by God's Word, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be timid, apathetic or complacent. Today, we, as

disciples of Jesus Christ are being called to speak truth to power, demonstrate sacrificial love in all that we do, and show the world that the Word of God is not for sale. We, "...have been clothed with power from on high..." If this is so, how then shall we live?

When we are clothed from on high, we see the world differently. When we are clothed from on high, we respond to God's people and God's world in faith, in justice, in mercy and with humility. When we are clothed from on high, we do what Senator Cory Booker challenges all Christians to do. We treat the world and its people with honor and respect, each with their own gifts and passions, and each made in the image of God. We show our faith in how we love the stranger, the alien, the foreigner, and how we advocate for God's beloved ones. We show God's love by providing services and programs for the weakest and the most vulnerable among us. And we remind ourselves that the measure of our success is not how much money, property, power, prestige we have, but how, instead, we choose to live and give. This is the Way of Christ and our way too.

On **Sunday, June 8th**, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. In the morning, we invite you to wear red or rainbow colors and come to church, not to absorb, but to experience God's powerful words to be God's witnesses to all the world and to all its people. Come with an open heart and open minds, seeking God's direction for your action in the days, weeks, and months ahead. Ask yourself, where is God calling you? What is God calling you to be and to do? Prayerfully consider God's call. Then, join our evening service, **"Witnessing Out Loud"** as four UCC congregations meet in the spirit of Pentecost for prayers and action. We are witnesses, clothed from on high. This special service will take place at Pilgrim Faith UCC at 7 p.m. Now is the time to be faithful, passionate, and caring as we proclaim our story and live our Pentecostal faith.

Witnessing out loud,
Pastor Dan

From the Desk of Mary Weierman

“For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them- though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” 1 Corinthians 15: 9-11

While we work on the next chapter of Pilgrim Faith, we can look at Saul's transformation on becoming, Paul. Someone who hunted and killed Christians to one who would yell at the top of his lungs about the greatness of our God. I would encourage you to be open to the calling of what God is encouraging you to do. There are a few ways to do this, pray, read the Bible and ask for guidance.

April's report

Deposits	22823
Expenditures	16320
Difference	6503

I would like to give you all the heads up, our air conditioner is old, and we are doing what we can to keep it going. The Ministry of Building and Grounds has been doing great work on how to best approach this issue. I will tell you that I am praying that it is a warm (not hot) summer. We will face this issue like we have always done, with grace and blessing from God.

Pilgrim Faith's commitment to giving a safe place for counselors, AA groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Art groups and the food pantry. We are doing great things in the community and with God's blessing, we will continue to be blessed by God.

May God continue to bless you and keep you safe.
Mary Weierman

May Newsletter Clarification

This is the same message that I sent through our email system last month. I understand that not everyone has received this note. I am making sure that everyone has a chance to read this message.

Dear Pilgrim Faith Members,

I received feedback on the last newsletter article I wrote. It is not directed to anyone who has held this position. If anyone took it as a personal attack, it was not meant to be and I am sorry. I am just reporting on how bills are being handled with our limited donations.

Once again, I am sorry that I offended anyone. It was not my intention.

May God Bless You and Keep you.
Mary Weierman

THANK YOU FOR
supporting the



Here are three ways to support the pantry:

Donate goods or host a food drive

Donations may be dropped off M-F 9am-2pm

Volunteer your time

Please email pffoodpantry.com to volunteer in the pantry!

Make a monetary donation

Scan the QR code, write a check payable to "Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry," or deliver cash donation at the office.



To make an electronic donation:

- 1) Open your smart phone's camera
- 2) Scan the QR code
- 3) Click the link
- 4) Make a donation through PayPal.



WITNESSING OUT LOUD: SPEAKING TRUTH THREE WAYS

Four Congregations Joining our Voices to Speak Truth with Love

Christ Memorial UCC, Immanuel UCC, Pilgrim Faith UCC, Salem UCC



Solidarity Summit: A People's Agenda

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10-3 p.m.

SEIU Healthcare

2229 S. Halsted St.

Chicago, IL. 60608

Community Pentecost Prayer Service

Sunday, June 8, 2025, 7 p.m.

Pilgrim Faith U.C.C.

9411 S. 51st Ave

Oak Lawn, IL. 60453

No Kings Rally

(Register online to attend)

Saturday, June 14, 2025, 12-2 p.m.

Chicago Daley Plaza

A list of additional rallies will be available at the Community Pentecost Prayer Service



TEN YEARS OF PRIDE!

We, the members of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ, an Open and Affirming Congregation, recognize the diversity of human nature as part of God's creation and are committed to being inclusive and embracing of people of every age, race, gender, cultural or faith background, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, marital status, economic circumstances, or political affiliation, and affirm all families and relationships founded on love, respect, responsibility and trust. We also affirm that part of our mission is to work for a just and loving world, giving recognition to all human needs in this unique time and place. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Open and Affirming (ONA) statement approved by the Pilgrim Faith UCC congregation on February 8, 2015, affirmed by the United Church of Christ ONA coalition on February 11, 2015.

This past February marked ten years that Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ declared themselves an Open and Affirming Congregation. We want to celebrate our milestone. If you would like to plan a special event for **Sunday, June 29th**, please contact a member of the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life or Pastor Dan. Even in times of transition, it's important to celebrate the good news that Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. has shared with the Oak Lawn Community over the years. Please join us in planning a special Open and Affirming Sunday.



Church and Sunday School Cleaning

Day: On **Saturday, July 19th**, we will be having a church cleaning day, as well

as a Sunday school cleaning day. We will be meeting at Pilgrim Faith from **8:00 am-12:00 pm**, and we will help with various cleaning around the building, as well as the Sunday school room. Reach out to Daune Sebastian or Kevin Holt if you are interested and available to help. Come help us out, and we'd love to have you there!

Online Giving Now Available

A number of you have asked that we make it possible for you to give your donations through an online option. We are pleased to inform everyone that you can now do that. Simply scan the QR code below with your phone or tablet and you will be directed to PayPal where you can make a donation. Thank you!



Remember Our Homebound

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

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

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

Barbara Dresden
5133 W. 79th St.
Burbank, IL 60459

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



Statement Correction – May Newsletter

The treasurer's report in the May church newsletter contained a section which I feel requires clarification and correction/retraction. The section is:

March's numbers are still showing more expenses than income.
Incoming 25,147
Expenses 27,504
Difference -2,357

Looking at the differences between them, we are trying to move small amounts from our savings to our checking. This practice has been happening for years by previous treasurers who did not make it public to the members. I refuse to sugarcoat what is currently happening with the church's money.

Essentially, these statements imply, directly and indirectly, previous treasurers were less than completely ethical while in office. By using questionable practices, by not being completely truthful in their reporting to the congregation about these practices, and by sugarcoating financial information, these previous treasurers had not fulfilled their fiscal responsibilities and obligations very well. As a result, the church members were not fully informed about the church's financial position.

Previous treasurers are not able to refute such a characterization of their tenures in office. They have all passed. However, I feel I can bring my perspective (as a past treasurer holding the office for some 13 years) to evaluating their body of work. Having known the treasurers for the last 40+ years, I know they did their very best in the job. Each treasurer set a high bar regarding timely, fact checked, accurate, and complete reporting to the congregation. When errors of commission or omission happened and they did occur, they acknowledged the problem and made all necessary corrections. Full disclosure – nothing unsaid or hidden. Totally diligent in and to their treasurer's work. Business transactions were honest,

legal and ethical. To my knowledge, there was never a question raised as to any of their actions or decisions. Nothing to see here.

The issue at hand is not one of "hurt feelings". I believe it is an issue of statements, unfortunately made, that are not factually correct. They infer an untrue characterization of the previous treasurers and their work. They cast aspersions that are unfounded. Long-term members who knew these treasurers know the truth. Younger members, not having the honor or pleasure of knowing and working with these men and women, are left with unanswered questions and unwarranted doubts. I think a retraction of these statements is in order. The previous treasurers are due nothing less. We owe them.

Tom Aitken

FIVE FOR FIVE OFFERING



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH is our last Five for Five offering this year program year and we will be collecting for this offering on Pentecost **Sunday, June 8th**. Strengthen the Church offering provides and supports leadership training for local congregations, providing programs for youth and young adults, provides workshops and seminars to strengthen lay leadership in the church. Although it may not provide direct support to individuals or communities experiencing a natural disaster, it is nonetheless an important offering that seeks to strengthen and empower lay leadership within the church. Thank you for your generosity. Your gift is appreciated.

LIMITLESS YOUTH HAPPENINGS



LIMITLESS YOUTH packed over 30,000 meals on Saturday, May 3rd at Feed My Starving Children. Nineteen youth and adults volunteered at Feed My Starving Children for the third year in a row. We continue to increase our volunteer work each year, and our volunteer efforts are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children throughout the world. In addition to our volunteer hours, Pilgrim Faith and Salem United Church of Christ donated \$155.00 that was raised at our March game night or collected from generous members of our congregations. We are proud of our youth for their commitment to serve all God's children. Thank you, youth, and thank you to the members of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ. who supported Limitless Youth efforts to raise money for Feed My Starving Children.

END OF THE YEAR LIMITLESS YOUTH CELEBRATION!

As our youth program for the year winds down, we'd like to enjoy one more Limitless Youth bash at Dave's and Buster in Orland Park on **Saturday, June 7th** from 1-3 p.m. Come and enjoy fellowship, games, and fun food. As part of the afternoon, we'll celebrate the fun we've had this year, affirm our Seniors and share great memories together. Youth in the seventh grade and older from Salem U.C.C. and/or Pilgrim Faith UCC are invited to be a part of the event. Come and enjoy the afternoon with friends.



GRADUATION SUNDAY

will be **June 8th** during our morning worship. If you are graduating from High School, College, or Trade School, please join us on Sunday, June 8th for a special recognition of our graduates. Please let Pastor Dan know by **Sunday, June 1st** if you would like to be included in our celebration. Please include your name, what High School, College/University you are graduating from and what your plans are for the future. If you are a college or trade school graduate, please identify your certification or degree(s) that you have earned. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Intergenerational Retreat Announcement:

On **August 8th-10th, 2025**, we will be having our Intergenerational Retreat at Tower Hill. See the attached flyer for more information. If you have any questions or wish to pay for the retreat, please talk to Daune Sebastian or Chris Raap after church. We hope you can come out on this retreat!



JOIN US FOR AN

INTERGENERATIONAL

RETREAT

**TOWER HILL RETREAT CENTER
SAWYER, MI**

AUGUST 8-10, 2025



Cost:

\$155 for individuals

\$400 for families (parents + dependent children)

See Pastors for Scholarship Assistance from Outdoor Ministries

Sign up Now!

\$50 deposit

Balance due

July 6



Summary of Council Meeting Minutes

May 21st, 2025

Opening Prayer - Serenity Prayer

Attendance: Kevin, Dennis, Doreen, Kurt, Susan, Pam, Alyssa, Pastor Dan, Mary

Open Session:

Old Business Items:

1. Approval of Council Minutes from April Meeting

Doreen made a motion to approve the minutes as written from April. Susan second. All in favor. The motion is approved.

2. Policy/Procedure Tracking

Will ~~will~~ address at the next Meeting: "Social Media/Church Communications" and "Safe Church and Building Use" policies

New Business Items:

1. Liaison Updates:

- Worship & Spiritual Life: Pastor Steve will be preaching on Sunday, May 25th. Kevin will be the liturgist.
- Mission & Christian Education: All the monies have been sent out. A whole church clean out will be tentatively scheduled 7/18 at 8am-12pm.
 - Alyssa met with Advocate's Food Farmacy & Pastor Steve. Salem is planning to host the Food Farmacy every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
 - Alyssa talked with Mary from the Food Pantry to understand their intention. If we merge with Salem, the pantry plans to move with us.
 - **Alyssa will ask Ken for a list of things around the church that needs to be completed.**
- Buildings & Grounds: No updates.
- Stewardship & Finances: A zoom meeting will be scheduled soon.

2. Building Usage/Leases

- There is a leaking toilet that needs a new gasket.
 - **Doreen will ask Jack if he can replace the gasket.**
 - **Air Conditioning Update**-The council is in agreement to wait to purchase/fix the air conditioning pending the merger.
 - **Parsonage Walkthrough Update** - The walkthrough did not happen when planning, however, it will be rescheduled. Kevin will send the tenant a letter expressing our expectations (paying rent, late fees, need for repairs, etc.)
-
- **Recycling**: We are currently not recycling. Pastor Dan will look into our contract with Waste Management to see what they can offer.

- **Mama Bear Salem UCC/Pilgrim Faith UCC Collaboration-** Mama Bear is a film for the LGBTQ+ community. Following the film at Salem, Pastor Dan recommended a follow-up debrief session at PFUCC.
 - The cost of airing the film is a \$1,000 donation. Pastor Steven recommended \$500 from each church.

Alyssa made a motion to approve \$500 for the viewing of Mama Bear in collaboration with Salem. Mary second. All in favor. Motion approved.
- **Village of Oak Lawn- June 28th 4th of July Parade-** Daune has been in touch with Salem to combine our efforts and presence.
- **Finance Office Door Conversation-** Doreen recommended Kevin reach out to the people that have not turned in their keys to the financial office before spending money to change the locks/keys.
- **Worship Service YouTube Live Follow-Up-** Mary has looked into this. Youtube is not an option because of the subscription fee. The council recommended a zoom link be included in the Mail Chimp that's sent on Friday with the bulletin as we are currently going through Zoom to log into Facebook.
- **Treasurer Updates-**
 - Mary will check with Amanda regarding the water bill. Is the church's bill fixed? Is our usage up/down
- **Staff Relations Committee Evaluation Check-In-** The committee is going to start with Pastor Dan then meet with the other employees (Alex, Zach, Curtis, Candace)
- **Pastor's Report-** Pastor Dan
 - Troop #652 Car Wash - likely a Saturday in June
 - Bentley's Helping Hand is looking to rent Colonial Hall. Council was in agreement this would not work in the midst of a transition and recommended referring to Salem.
 - May 25th Absence: Steve will be preaching and Kevin will be the liturgist.
 - Resolution Document: Salem is voting on a merger with PFUCC on June 22nd. It has been recommended to share the resolution with Salem's council as written; **Pastor Dan will share with Salem.**
- **Organ Selling Follow-Up-** Daune looked into selling the organ. Maybe we should look into bringing it to Salem if we merge. We should ask if Salem has someone who can play the organ. We can also ask Lisa & Ray S.
- **Sunday School Start-Up:** Plan for Sunday school to start up in September.



Please let us know *if you would be interested in being a "Stand-by Liturgist"*.. Our upcoming liturgists are:

Sunday Liturgy Leaders

June 8 Kevin Holt
June 15 Chris Raap
June 22 Jack Lopez
June 29 Jimmy Werner

Please contact Pam Cusack, Worship and Spiritual Life Team at pamlcusack@gmail.com

Please let us know *if you would be interested in serving as an usher*, the usher team needs more participants.

Sunday Service Ushers

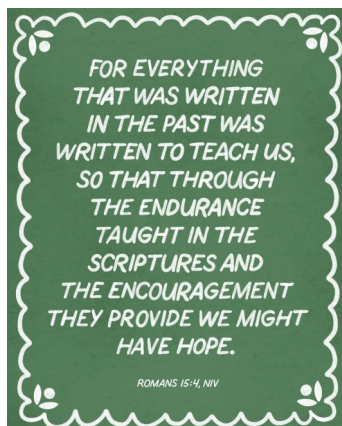
June 8 Mike and Pam Cusack
June 15 Rick Wank
June 22 David Faulkner
June 29 TBA

Please contact Pam Cusack, Worship and Spiritual Life Team at pamlcusack@gmail.com



Sunday Nursery Helpers

June 8 Sue Arnold
June 15 Amanda Sullivan
June 22 Libby Langevin
June 29 Pam Cusack



JOIN US IN THE OAK LAWN PARADE- Saturday, June 28th, 2025 @ 4:00 PM



Pilgrim Faith UCC, along with Salem UCC will be participating in the Oak Lawn Independence Day Parade held on June 28th at 4:00 PM (Not on July 4th). We are walking and spreading our message of welcome and love to the community! We hope to have a great turnout to let everyone in Oak Lawn know that we believe in love and justice for ALL people. We will hand out bags of candy with information about what is happening at both Pilgrim Faith and Salem. Come wearing your rainbow tees, or your patriotic gear, because truly "ALL ARE WELCOME HERE"!

If it follows the parade route from last year, it will be approximately 1 mile in length. Staging is at 94th & Cicero Avenue (Northwestern College campus/ Fifth/Third Bank). The parade route starts at 95th St. & 49th Ave and proceeds west to 95 th St. and 55th Ct. (Premo's).

Parking is available at the Village Hall lot at 9446 Raymond Avenue; shuttle service will be provided. Or we can park in our Pilgrim Faith lot and walk back to 49th Ave. More details to follow.



Please *let us know if you would be interested in offering a coffee hour*. We are looking for more participants.

Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts

June 8 Kay Gibson and Charlene Wagner
June 15 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack
June 22 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke (Messy Church)
June 29 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan

To volunteer, please contact Pam Cusack, Worship and Spiritual Life Team at pamlcusack@gmail.com



JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon	4	5	6	7 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon
8 10:00 AM Worship Service	9	10 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon	11	12  SHINE YOUR LIGHT. SHARE GOD'S LOVE!	13	14 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon
15 10:00 AM Worship Service 	16	17 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon	18	19	20	21 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon
22 10:00 AM Worship Service	23	24 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon	25	26	27	28 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon
29 10:00 AM Worship Service	30					



Pilgrim Faith UCC
9411 S. 51st 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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MONDAY

12:00pm AA 2nd Floor
5:30pm Girl Scouts
7:30pm GA 2nd floor

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

10:00am AA 2nd Floor
7:00pm Crew Scouts

FRIDAY

12:00pm AA Basement
8:00pm AA 2nd Floor

SATURDAY

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

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