



SEPTEMBER 2022

More Truth and Light

“Let [our] love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” *The Apostle Paul, Romans 12:9-13.*

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” *Augustine of Hippo, 5th Century A.D.*

On Sunday, August 21st, Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. voted to call me as your pastor and teacher. I am humbled by your vote to trust me as your pastor and it is a privilege to accept this invitation and an honor to serve a congregation that through the years has made a difference in the lives of its members, friends, community, and the world. I am looking forward to serving you. As I begin my time with you as your settled pastor, I want to set out three challenges/opportunities that will shape our ministry in the coming months, and it will be the words from Paul and from Augustine of Hippo that will guide our life together in the coming months. With these words of grace from the history and tradition of our Christian faith, I would invite you to join me in a holy conversation around the following challenges/opportunities that are before us.

Working in good faith with the new structure/governance that we’ve agreed to explore:

In March we voted to explore a new Constitu-

tion and a way to govern ourselves. In today’s ‘church world’, there is no perfect solution to how we live together and govern ourselves. The smaller the congregation, the harder it is to live within the vision and constraints of any Constitution and

Bylaws. We are not people who re-tool easily and we’re always more comfortable with the way things have always been. I understand that sentiment. I’ve spent my life moving and readjusting to new ideas and constraints all my life. For every move I made, it was necessary to adapt to something new and adjust along the way. It was not easy, but I am stronger because of it, and so will we be as a congregation. As I begin this position with you, I would ask that each of you, in good faith, work with this new way, let it become normal and familiar to you, and find a way to connect. More than ‘meeting days’ and the business at hand, let us make each opportunity an expression of community and be present with one another in both the business at hand and the importance of each person in our care. In all that we do, community and fellowship are primary, business and agendas are secondary. COVID took this away from us, let us not allow COVID restrictions and irrational fear take this away from us again. After the many storms that we have known over these last four years, let us moor the ship, swab the deck, and rebuild the ministry that we have deferred long enough.

Survive or Thrive – This is the Question

Whether personal or institutional, William Shakespeare gives us the words and the poetry to ask the important questions of our life together. As I reflect on our life together, I find myself asking, do we as a congregation want to survive or thrive? How, we, as a congregation answer this question, will define the work

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More Truth and Light

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that we must do together. What is the difference? A good question. As I understand 'survive' and 'thrive' in the context of church life, survival is about matching our ministry to our income, believing that income and available assets must be conserved to maintain our property and take care of the people who are already here. Surviving is a decision that will maintain a small ministry for a time, but not for long.

Thriving is a different idea. A thriving congregation understands that the 'core' of their life together is to

be true to the message of Jesus Christ and to the mission of their church for as long as the Holy Spirit gives us breath. Consider the Apostle Paul, every one of Paul's many congregations reached its natural end, but the mission and message of his churches thrived to the point that over 2000 years later the Christian faith continues to change lives in new ways all the time. A thriving congregation reshapes its mission and ministry around the message of gospel, fully aware that the current structure and model that has served a congregation for many generations may no longer be relevant. The challenge for a thriving congregation is to discern what shape their ministry and mission will take, to maximize the message of the gospel. I would like to guide the congregation through a Holy Conversation to answer the question – to survive or thrive.

Explore our social, theological differences and, how if able, we are going to bridge the divide.

Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. reflects within its membership the chasm that is dividing America in these days. Like most congregations, there is a plethora of social, political, and theological thought and persuasion, somehow coexisting together. Some, within our congregation, see the mission and ministry of the congregation as being outward, visible, and prophetic, believing that our call to discipleship is to change lives by challenging the systems, policies, attitudes, and laws that dismiss, oppress, and

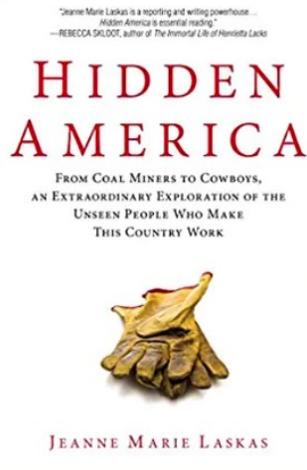
marginalize God's beloved people. There are others in our congregation who see the Christian faith as an inward ministry that is limited to those who attend, participate, and contribute to

the ministry of the church. Both are present in this church, and both have been a source of conflict within our congregation. In my year with you, I know that both viewpoints have been used to threaten and manipulate the congregation by claiming that if we don't change our message and our messaging, to reflect a particular persuasion, they will leave the church, or withdraw their financial support. As I begin my ministry with and among you, I would like this congregation to wrestle with the differences and decide if we can live, worship, and share this ministry together, or if we can't. If we believe we can, how do we nurture a culture where all views can be honored and respected without the threat of becoming less active, leaving the church, or withdrawing their financial support. Will we be either/or, or both/and, and what does that mean for us as we live out our ministry today?

In conclusion, please know that I am aware of the challenges that are before us. What I hope we don't do, is to allow our limitations to define our ministry. The core of the Christian message is about changing lives, showing love, walking with one another through the joys and struggles of life, and to find ways to share the love of God without allowing scarcity to limit our ministry. My prayer is that no matter what the future holds for us, along the way we can have fun with the time that the Holy Spirit is giving us to continue to make a difference in the lives of our members, our friends, this community, and the world. There is still more light and truth that God's Holy Spirit will reveal to us.

With joy,
Pastor Dan

Book Club Sept. 2022



The Pilgrim Faith Book Club will start again on Sept. 25th at 7 PM. Our book for that meeting will be "Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys" by Jeanne Marie Laskas. Watch FB and emails to see if it will be in person or Zoom.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING JOINT CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS:



November 20, Special service at the intersection of faith and healing, Pilgrim Faith UCC, 7 p.m.

December 21, Blue Christmas Worship Service, Immanuel UCC, Evergreen Park, 7 p.m.

December, TBA Christmas Caroling and Christmas Party (watch for details in the future)

January 18 through 25th, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (watch for detail in the future)

Greetings from the Staff and Congregational Relations Committee

The Staff and Congregational Relations Committee, established under our new constitution, consists of 3 members, selected by the Moderator and then approved by the staff. Appointments will serve one-year terms, with no more than 3 consecutive terms.

So, what are their duties? The Staff and Congregational Relations Committee is designed to be consultative and informational. They serve as a confidential resource to staff and congregation by being a "sounding board" for staff members and members of the congregation. They may assist in conflict between parties requesting mediation. If there are areas of concern, it is better to address them early. That may mean having a conversation, or directing a concern to the appropriate staff, Ministry team, Church officers, or external agencies to receive clarification and assistance.

The committee will meet several times a year with staff to establish a positive rapport and seek information on their job satisfaction. They may assist with setting goals for the year, in coordination with the staff person's direct supervisor. They will also help evaluate these goals and make a recommendation to the council.

Currently, as Vice-Moderator, I am the chair of this committee. Kurt Kalas and Cari Stevenson have also agreed to serve on this committee, so if you have any questions or concerns, you may contact anyone on our committee. We do have one opening on this committee, so if you are interested in joining us, please give your name to our Moderator, Mary Weierman.

Daune Sebastian
Vice-Moderator
Chair of Staff and Congregational Relations



FROM THE MODERATOR -

Lost

“For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost” Luke 19:10

Have you ever been lost? Physically, emotionally, or even mentally. I have been thinking about this for a while. When I was younger, I remember watching “The Lost Boys” and reading “The Outsiders”. The small group of us decided to be friends like that. We hung out together and had fun but it was only for that moment in time. As time went on, we lost the special connection we had. We still say “hi” on Facebook, wish each other a “Happy Birthday” and congratulate each other when needed. It is not the same as the past. Even for a while, we lost contact with each other. While we can sit back and reminisce, we just cannot go back.

I am sure the people that at one time or another called themselves religious, Waiting for the Messiah, but as time went on, they got lost. Waiting for the son of man that looks like, acted like and leads like King David. When Jesus came preaching peace and acceptance, people really left. While Jesus was connected to the house of David. Jesus was not David. The Jewish people were looking for a David type Messiah but they got a quieter, peace-filled, Jesus. At one point there were a large number of people following Jesus. Then the time was changing. As Jesus became more inclusive of all people; less and less people walked with him. Jesus at the high point of his ministry had a large number of people helping, singing, and walking with him. Then came the calling of a tax collector, eating at the Pharisees house and welcoming everyone. People started walking away, finding reasons to stay away and just finding something new to do.

Is Pilgrim Faith at the same place?

I can count on Facebook reporting that we have over 100 people who watch the service. We have about thirty come to church and everyone receives the same message. But we are still having the same small group of people willing to walk with ideas to help grow the church. I simply do not know why. I have my ideas (long meetings, asking for donations, time commitment) on why this continues to happen, but is it the way God wants Pilgrim Faith to be?

I don't think so. I believe that people are part of groups to help the church to grow. We have a smaller group, bigger plans and asking for YOU to pray about your role in everything.

I had found (for myself) to be lost in a group is better than sitting by myself, lost in my thoughts.

What is your role?

May God bless you and keep you under His wing of love.
Mary Weierman

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FROM THE MODERATOR

Modeling

“The lips of the righteous feed many:but fools die for want of wisdom” Proverbs 10:21

If the lips of the righteous feed many what does modeling do? I am not talking about “strike a pose” and “walking down the runway”. I am talking about the actions we do to show others who we are, how we work and what we want.

If you are (or were) a teacher, to model to your students. Parents model to their children. Sometimes it does not work out. We teach what we think should be right, talk about our feelings and look at things in a special way that we think the message is being understood. Problem is it is not being heard or it is being misunderstood.

I am in the misunderstood group. You see, I was trying to show others that you don't need to be retired to be moderator. That a moderator can be fair and walk the line of faith and disagreement. You don't need to have a CPA to be the treasurer. You can do anything to help the community that Pilgrim Faith is and what God wants Pilgrim Faith to be.

I am now seeing that no matter what I say or do, some people will simply just sit, watch and wait. Maybe they are waiting for the “I told you” moment. Or maybe they simply are feeling like they cannot do anything because they will be drained of all their energy. Whatever the reasoning behind it is, it simply needs to be broken and rewritten.

While we wait until later in the year to look for people who are willing to answer the call of service- I feel like I can not wait.

I am stepping away from the council during the annual congregational meeting in 2023. I am going to help the best I can with video taping but I simply can not be “the one” who does it so well that no one is willing to step up. I can not be the “one” that will answer the call in fear of someone else not hearing their call to do this job.

I am hoping that this will lead to your hearts and help you see that it is not a few or the one who creates what Pilgrim Faith does. It is all of YOU. It takes YOU to be Jesus's hands. Like the statue that was damaged in a war, you are now the hands of Jesus for Pilgrim Faith UCC..

What is God calling you to do?

May the Peace of God fill your heart.
Mary Weierman



Treasurer's Comments

The finance department received some good news at the beginning of the month. The audit report from Dugan & Lopatka was excellent in all aspects. You should have received a copy of the two-page report by e-mail. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please call the office. I want to thank all of you who provided the information the auditor's needed to complete their work. This report reflects nicely on the finance area within the church. However, it is not "the finance area" that does the work, solves the problems, pays the bills, counts the money, keeps the books, and issues paychecks. It is church members who do the work and do it voluntarily. We have been blessed with congregational volunteers who have done their jobs, completed their tasks, and accomplished the mission under, at times, very trying conditions. And most of these volunteers have been doing it for years. This nice audit is a reflection on the professionalism, dedication, and integrity of these volunteers not just over the past couple of years but over the last six, eight, ten or more years they have been on the job. So please give a thanks to these workers – Pat Stancik, Don Lagerstrom., Chris Raap, Roger Dykstra, Vicki Brooks, and Peggy Martin (moved but still remembered) the next time you see them. If you have any questions concerning the audit or any church financial subject, please do not hesitate to ask.

Church Receipts as of JULY 31,, 2022						
			Month of JULY 2022		As of JULY 31, 2022	
			MONTH	MONTH	Year-To-Date	Year-To-Date
			Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts						
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving			\$ 5,850.67	\$ 16,928.64	\$ 58,956.09	\$ 53,302.98
Total Receipts (all sources)			\$ 9,132.49	\$ 19,609.93	\$ 74,301.12	\$ 68,042.81
Disbursements						
Salaries & Benefits			\$ 9,698.29	\$ 10,466.67	\$ 69,730.88	\$ 74,968.69
Expenses			\$ 4,288.52	\$ 3,593.41	\$ 52,410.82	\$ 48,430.02
Total Disbursements (all expenses)			\$ 14,054.18	\$ 14,460.08	\$ 123,576.22	\$ 126,098.71
Net Total			\$ (4,921.69)	\$ 5,149.85	\$ (49,275.10)	\$ (58,055.90)

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.

Mission Updates

PILGRIM FAITH IS A FIVE FOR FIVE CONGREGATION AND NEIGHBORS IN NEED IS COMING IN OCTOBER! Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. is proud to be one of the congregations in the United Church of Christ that give generously to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and to an additional four denominational offerings, Neighbors in Need, the Christmas Fund, Strengthen the Church, and One Great Hour of Sharing! On Sunday, October 2nd, we'll collect our third of four special offerings, Neighbors in Need. Neighbors in Need provides funds to support various initiatives of justice and compassion within the local congregation. A portion of the funds are used to advocate for justice and equality for all and one third of the contributions to Neighbors in Need are used to support various Native American Initiatives through the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) with such tribes as the Lakota, Dakota, Nekota, Mandan and other tribes located in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Please consider a generous gift to Neighbors in Need this year!

PLANNING TIME TOGETHER WITH OUR SISTER CONGREGATIONS:

PILGRIM FAITH, IMMANUEL, SALEM, AND CHRIST MEMORIAL UCC congregations are joining together to provide opportunities for our congregations to fellowship, worship, and serve together. The first of our events will happen at Salem UCC, located at 9717 S. Kostner in Oak Lawn on Saturday, October 8th! The four congregations will sponsor a FALL FESTIVAL! The Fall Festival is an intergenerational family event. The day will begin at 4 p.m. and will include a Chili Cook-Off, hayride, games, karaoke, and dancing. Participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food for Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry! **PASTOR DAN** would like to challenge members and friends of Pilgrim Faith to join him in fixing your favorite chili soup recipe for the chili contest. Pastor Dan will be making his favorite recipe, Aloha Chili! Come and join us for this fun event!



A new and enjoyable approach to the Crop Walk

Crop Walk News-2022 Lake Katherine - Palos Heights

- 1) Visit crophungerwalk.org/palosparkil
- 2) Start or Join a team or register as an individual
- 3) Meet everyone in the parking lot of Lake Katherine



Lake Katherine Trail is a 1 mile loop trail in Palos Heights, Illinois. It also offers the chance to see some beautiful wildlife. Pets are welcome when they are on a leash.



Southwest Suburban Crop Walk
Sunday, October 2nd - 2:00 P.M.
7402 Lake Katherine Dr. Palos Heights, IL

Pilgrim Faith Youth News

LIMITLESS YOUTH ORGANIZATONAL MEETING will happen on Sunday, September 18th from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Youth enter seventh grade or older are invited to be a part of Pilgrim Faith Limitless Youth Group. You are encouraged to bring friends to any of our meetings. On Sunday, September 18th, we'll check in, greet new people, brainstorm ideas that you would like the youth to do in the coming year, and enjoy pizza. We are asking the parents to join our group at 6:15 p.m. so that we can update contact information. See you on Sunday evening, September 18th! We are looking forward to another wonderful year with the youth of Pilgrim Faith UCC!

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE! Our current Confirmation class is finishing up their Confirmation year. We are meeting this fall and are planning a Confirmation Retreat at Tower Hill Conference and Retreat Center on Friday and Saturday, October 21st and 22nd. The Confirmands will explore their SHAPE (spiritual gifts, hear, abilities, personality, and experience), and complete their Confirmation papers. In addition, we'll have the kind of fun that a Tower Hill Experience can provide for us. The Confirmands will present their papers during morning worship on Sunday, November 20th and we'll celebrate the Rite of Confirmation with our Confirmands on November 25th! What a wonderful year it has been.

SECOND CONFIRMATION CLASS ORGANIZING! There are several families interested in Confirmation for their children and on Sunday, September 11th, Pastor Dan and Amanda Sullivan will offer Confirmation Orientation for youth entering sixth grade and older who would like to have a Confirmation experience. The orientation begins at 7 p.m. in the Lounge. Come and learn about the plans for Confirmation this year. We are looking forward to beginning a second class and we'll have an opportunity to share the Confirmation journey with the Confirmands at Salem UCC in Oak Lawn this year. Please join us!



UPCOMING YOUTH AND FAMILY OPPORUTNITIES:

October 2, CROP WALK at Lake Katherine, 2 p.m.

October 8, Fall Festival, Salem UCC, starting at 4 p.m.

October, TBA, Trunk or Treat, Pilgrim UCC (watch for details)



Bible Seasides Theme

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



Also, on this day we will be wrapping-up our school supply drive.



Music and Worship Opportunities:

INFORMATIONAL MUSIC MEETING: On Sunday, September 25th, following worship, Alex Overland will be holding an informational music meeting to find out who would be interested in participating in a music ministry at Pilgrim Faith UCC. If you enjoy singing, playing bells, or have an interest in a praise band, you'll want to join us for this special meeting. All are welcome and the only requirement is that you enjoy music and have a willingness to learn about music. This is a great opportunity for us, and we hope that you will be a part of this informational meeting. For more information, please contact Alex Overland.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY PLANS ARE BEING MADE: The pastor and the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life will once again observe Memorial Sunday. This special service will remember our members who have died in the last year. If you would like a member, family member, or friend included in this service, please let Pastor Dan know by Sunday, October 23rd so that we can plan for the memory of your loved one. Please provide the full name, birth date and death date of your loved one. The Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life will invite family members to light a candle in memory of their loved one and you will be invited to take a flower in memory of your loved one. The service will happen on Sunday, November 6th during our morning worship.

LAY READERS, SOUND AND TECH, AND USHERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED! If you have been looking for ways in which you can volunteer or participate in the ministry of Pilgrim Faith UCC that does not require a lot of time, you might consider helping as an usher, a sound or tech person, or a lay reader. If you are interested in any of these service opportunities, please talk to Pastor Dan or a member of the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life Ministry team! We can always use willing volunteers to help with Sunday morning worship.

Remember Our Homebound

Mary Brehm

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

Ruth Hook

Aperion Care
9401 S. Ridgeland
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Grace Pluhar

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

Linda Aitken

The Pointe at Kilpatrick
14230 Kilpatrick
Crestwood, IL. 60418

Darlene Wank

10942 S. Oak Ave
Chicago Ridge, IL
60415

Mildred House

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

Donna Twichell

10032 Harnew Rd.
East
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Marlene Anderson

9525 S. Parkside
Oak Lawn, IL. 60453

Bob Salveson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629





SALEM UCC

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH

9717 S KOSTNER

STARTING
AT 4:00

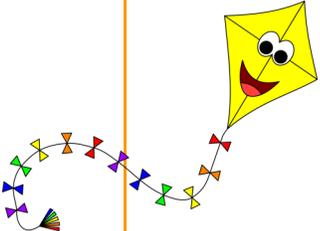


Donations to
Pilgrim Faith Food
Pantry will be
accepted. Thank
You.

HAY RIDE, CHILI COOK OFF, GAMES, KAROAKE,
DANCING FELLOWSHIP



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
4 10:00 AM Worship	5	6 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 	7	8	9	10 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
11 10:00AM Worship	12	13 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	14 Worship & Spiritual Life Zoom Mtg. 7 PM	15	16	17 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
18 10:00AM Worship 5-6:30 PM Limitless Youth Mtg.	19	20 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	21	22	23 	24 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
25 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Book Club	26	27 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	28	29 	30	



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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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