



OCTOBER 2023

More Truth and Light

*“Because of **YOU** our church changes lives!”*

2023 Stewardship Theme, The United Church of Christ

In a recent worship service, we sang together a favorite praise song that has been around for several years. The name of the song was “Give Thanks”. The congregation enjoyed singing it so much that I was asked if we might sing it again. The tune is fun, and it moves along at a good pace, and it lifts our spirits. In addition to the levity of the song, the lyrics are beautiful.

*“Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, “I am strong” let the poor say, “I am rich.”
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!”*

Yes, this song brings us joy and how wonderful it is that we can express our gratitude to God in this way. For us, singing is a form of worship and good worship also energizes us and sends us into the world to change our lives. As the warm breezes of summer become the chillier, damper winds of fall, I find myself thinking about Stewardship and how we can express our gratitude for the good things that God has done for us. As I continued my reflection of a typical stewardship theme, I realized that ‘because of the people of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C., our church, our presence in this community is changing lives’ and that is a powerful message – ‘**because of YOU our church changes lives!**’ and, I, for one am grateful for **YOU!** I am grateful for this congregation that has and continues to change lives in our community. Yes, over the years, so many of you have volunteered in incredible and amazing ways that lives have been changed and your gifts of time, talent and treasure make it possible for us to con-

tinue to be present here and making a difference in this community.

As each of you make your transition from summer to autumn and then into the season of winter, I would invite you to reflect upon three stewardship questions. These questions, reflect upon your own passion and your own gratitude for all that God has done for you. The **first question**, ‘What is happening at Pilgrim Faith because of you? My **second question**, I would like to invite you to reflect upon why Pilgrim Faith is your church. **Finally**, ‘what difference have you made in life of this church, this community?’ These are questions that I believe will offer an appreciation of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. and it is another way to express your gratitude for all that God has done for you.

As we enter this season of giving and receiving, shaping, and reforming, growing, and imagining, please know that because of **YOU**, and all that you give, we are impacting this community and the lives of our neighbors. Give thanks with a joyful heart! Because of **YOU**, we are making a difference.

Celebrating our Ministry!

Rev. Daniel Sather



PILGRIM FAITH UCC
RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS - AUGUST 2023

	Month of AUGUST 2023		As of AUGUST 31, 2023	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	YEAR-TO-DATE Actual	YEAR-TO-DATE Budget
Receipts				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 5,469.00	\$ 4,054.92	\$ 57,447.47	\$ 45,853.89
Total Receipts (all sou	\$ 11,012.44	\$ 7,470.26	\$ 95,507.28	\$ 67,424.92
Disbursements				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 10,741.54	\$ 11,030.08	\$ 95,516.91	\$ 89,440.62
Expenses	\$ 4,551.35	\$ 4,049.26	\$ 62,969.65	\$ 63,427.15
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 15,292.89	\$ 15,487.67	\$ 161,412.48	\$ 156,134.41
Net Total	\$ (4,280.45)	\$ (8,017.41)	\$ (65,905.20)	\$ (88,709.49)

If you want a list of all checks written for the month, send request to finances@pilgrimfaith.org.

**PLANNING FOR MEMORIAL
SUNDAY!**



For the last several years we've had a special tradition of remembering our members and loved ones who have died in the past year. Once again, we are planning a special service to remember our loved ones on Sunday, November 5th during our morning worship. If you have loved ones that you would like for us to remember, please let the Church office know their names, their relationship to you, their birth date and death date, and we'll include them in this special service. Please submit your names to the Church Office by October 22nd.



Join us for the fun!

Salem UCC is hosting a Trivia Game Night
 Friday, October 27th
 9717 Kostner Oak Lawn
 7 pm – 9 pm
 (Doors open at 6:30)

Get your team together soon!
Minimum # of people on team is 6 - Maximum 8

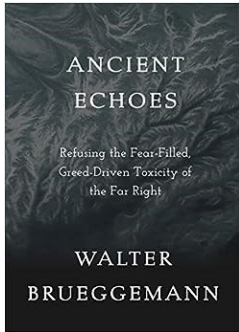
Tickets are \$20 per person and include 2 drinks (wine, soda or water),
 snacks, desserts and 5 raffle tickets.

Raffles, split the pot and prizes for the winning team!
 (And of course, bragging rights for the winners!)

Tickets will not be sold at the door so get them soon!

Questions/need tickets? Call Marge Holoubek at 708-601-0991

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BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY COMING SOON!

In his book, *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America: A Recent History*, the author Kurt Andersen identifies eight “truth claims” made by the political right that champion aggressive self-

sufficiency and self-security at the expense of the community. In his book, “*Ancient Echoes*”, Dr. Walter Brueggemann responds from a biblical perspective to the eight ‘claims’ of the political right. He asserts that the echoes of biblical faith reveal that right-wing ‘truth claims’ contradict our scripture. Pastor Dan will begin our five-week, in person discussion using Brueggemann’s book, *Ancient Echoes*, on **Sunday October 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** in the lounge. In preparing for the class, you may want to read both books. Andersen’s book will give you the context in which Dr. Brueggemann responds.



Bingo and Gumbo Fundraiser

Back Bay Mission Trip

October 15, 2023

Noon to 2 p.m. in Colonial Hall, Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. Oak Lawn, IL.

Preacher & Keynote Presenter, Rev. James Pennington, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi

Funds raised from this event will be used to subsidize the cost of our Mission trip to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS. , July 7-12, 2024



Enjoy fun food, Bingo, information, and Fellowship



Donation includes gumbo, drink, dessert, 1 Bingo Card

Individual: \$20.00

Family (3 or more) \$30.00

Additional Bingo Cards, \$1 per card

Consider joining the mission team and make a difference! Your participation in the Mission Trip will change you and the lives we touch! Sign up today to be a missionary to Back Bay, Biloxi, Mississippi!

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

Doris Seitz

11237 S. Normandy
Worth, IL 60482

Grace Pluhar

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

Donna Twichell

10032 Harnew Rd.
East
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Linda Aitken

The Pointe at
Kilpatrick
14230 Kilpatrick
Crestwood, IL. 60418

Bob Salvesson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

Barbara Dresdem

5133 W. 79th St.
Burbank, il 60459



BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO
ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH
OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FOR-
GAVE YOU.
EPHESIANS 4:32



Here I sit at my rather untidy desk, thinking about what makes me love Pilgrim Faith UCC. I am all about sharing hope wherever possible, and always looking for the good in people. I love the people here, I love doing mission work alongside some incredible friends! I love the joy and laughter we share.

Sometimes though, I may say something thoughtless, or harsh. Life is not always tidy, in fact more times than not, it is downright messy! I wouldn't like to have everyone agree with me all the time (sometimes is good). I need to hear your ideas, to see how you feel about the important issues of "being the church". When we don't openly share our different ideas, it can be hurtful to the health of Pilgrim Faith. Disagreeing in silence only brings you frustration and perhaps anger. You and I need to remember that even when we don't agree, we can still share our thoughts with LOVE. We profess to be "Open and Affirming" but what does that really mean? The UCC definition is we make a "covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions". But shouldn't we extend that to include ALL people? What about people of color, immigrants, the homeless, are we open to them? I would guess we would all say yes to those groups.

But what about your fellow congregants who say something disrespectful or even ignorant about another church member? What about the times we focus on the small differences and forget to lift up the good that we do?

We are a small, but still lively congregation who still has a mission to bring hope to a broken world. But kindness starts at home, and we

cannot afford to lose members who feel unheard or disrespected. If the "Me Too Movement" taught us anything it is that we need to listen when people are feeling mistreated.

So, I will challenge each of us to stand up for anyone that seems to need our support. If you hear someone speaking negatively about someone else, please step up with a few loving, but firm words. All any of us wants is to be treated respectfully and appreciated. Maybe we need to LEAD with what is right, and not focus on our short-comings.

Just to answer your unspoken question about where this is coming from, it is just weighing on my heart. Perhaps in our day-to-day busy lives we lose sight of our BIG mission which is to spread hope and love to all that we encounter, every single day.

I will close with a quote from CROP Hunger Walk:

*Do Justice
Love Kindness
Walk Humbly*

Love from your humble moderator,
Daune

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.



THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER

HUNT for Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry! It was a cold day last year, but we had a lot of fun collecting canned goods from our neighborhood for the pantry! Once again, we're planning a special Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt for **Saturday, November 4th at Noon!** Come, dressed for the weather and plan to join the adventure as we visit our neighbors and collect food for the pantry. This is a great service opportunity for Limitless Youth. Let's see if we can double our collection this year!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to contribute to our monthly newsletter? The deadline for the November edition is Friday, October 27, 2023. Please submit any articles or announcements for our monthly newsletter by that date and we will be sure to include it.



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

Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts

October 1 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack
October 8 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan
October 15 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus
October 22 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke
October 29 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack

November 5 Kay Gibson and Charlene Wagner
November 12 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan
November 19 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus
November 26 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

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



COMBINED FALL YOUTH RETREAT AT TOWER HILL COMING IN NOVEMBER! Who am I? is the theme of our retreat for our upcoming youth retreat with the youth from Salem U.C.C. and Immanuel U.C.C. We are anticipating so much fun and we hope that you will join us for the weekend. The retreat will take place at Tower Hill, November 10th, 11th, and 12th! We'll leave the parking lot of Salem U.C.C. at 4:30 p.m. and make our way to Tower Hill. We're planning to stay the weekend. The cost of the retreat will be \$53.00 per person and includes the lodging and the meals for the weekend. Games, Lake Michigan, fun, campfire, Smore's and more are a part of this great weekend. Come and explore the theme, "Who am I?" For more information, please talk to our youth leaders!



What's Hope Got to Do With It?



Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

I had an idea that came to me as I reflected on our recent retreat to Tower Hill. As any of you know, if you have been to Tower Hill Camp, it really does take you “Out of the Ordinary and Into the Sacred.” It is in these woods that we experience how we are connected to each other and our beautiful Earth with all God’s creatures.

Much of what we hear about the climate is about the disastrous effects of climate change and how bad things are in God’s creation. In a book called Hope Matters by Elin Kelsey we are given a broader view of real possibilities to improve things on our planet.

As one famous reviewer states: “Like Elin, I have met countless people who have lost hope in many countries. Most were apathetic. Some were angry. Others depressed. Because, they told me, their future has been compromised and there was nothing they could do about it. But there is something they can do. This book brings a message of hope to help curb the negativity, the gloom and doom we are confronted with each day. It is NOT too late if we get together and take action, NOW.”

JANE GOODALL, PhD, DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace

One of the things that I have read in Kelsey’s book is that without HOPE, there is no desire to make things better. So, I am going to put a monthly article into the newsletter that will highlight something hopeful for our world, both globally and right here at Pilgrim Faith.

Today’s Positive Environmental Moment:

More than 127 countries have already imposed restrictions and bans on plastic bags, and even more action is happening at the level of cities, provinces, and states. The African continent leads the world in bag regulations, with thirty-four countries adopting taxes or bans. Thirty-one of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa, the world’s poorest region.

Do you think that we can start to use more reusable cloth bags?

Daune’s Change:

We switched from using big plastic bottles of laundry detergent- we now use small washing machine sheets!

PILGRIM FAITH CHANGE: We are encouraging people to bring their own refillable water bottles whenever possible, instead of using bottled water!

I would LOVE to include any changes that you have made/would like to make next month- so let me know!!!

Daune Sebastian





JUSTICE AND PIZZA ARE PLANNING TO MEET on Sunday, October 22nd at 2 p.m. at Barracco's Pizza in Evergreen Park. Barracco's Pizza is located at 3701 95th Street in Evergreen Park. Our conversation will continue our planning for our November 15th event, "Who are we: Are you thankful for your white privilege?" This event will take place at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ at 6:30 p.m. Please come and join us as we make plans for this important gathering. In addition, we will discuss the workshop that Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff and Rev. Dr. Waltrina Middleton, director of Community Church Renewal, will be offering at the Illinois Conference Celebration. The title of the workshop is "*The Bias's amongst Us.*" Join us for the afternoon and help us make a difference.

THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER

HUNT for Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry! It was a cold day last year, but we had a lot of fun collecting canned goods from our neighborhood for the pantry! Once again, we're planning a special Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt for **Saturday, November 4th at Noon!** Come, dressed for the weather and plan to join the adventure as we visit our neighbors and collect food for the pantry. This is a great service opportunity for Limitless Youth. Let's see if we can double our collection this year!



RETREAT SEPTEMBER 2023

Thank god for this world,
Randomness yet comforting
This majestic gift

Although endangered
With ignorance and liter
It is beautiful

We must do our part
Enlightening and teaching
With learning and love.

Together we can
Unite as god's protectors
Gods world is our world

A circle of life
Harmonious serenity
Thank god for this gift.

Alex Overland

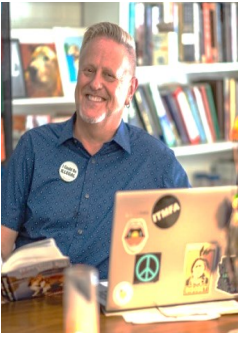


Intergenerational Retreat



It was a beautiful weekend earlier in September when 23 people from PF gathered at Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI for the Intergenerational Retreat. Our theme was "Seeking God in Nature". We laughed and played, prayed and discussed, worshiped and created, splashed and hiked, sang and enjoyed s'mores. We deepened friendships and developed new ones too. As we were seeking God, it became clear that God was with us the whole weekend, helping us rediscover His glorious creation. If you've never been on the Intergenerational Retreat (and there were 9 newbies this time), please consider joining us for the next one, hopefully in May 2024. The retreat committee thanks all who participated and helped make the weekend wonderful.

Chris Raap, Pam Cusack, Jimmy Werner, Daune Sebastian, and Libby Langevin



DIRECTOR JAMES PENNINGTON OF BACK BAY MISSION

to speak at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ on Sunday, October 15th during morning worship. In addition, Rev. Pennington will provide inspiration and encouragement to sign up for our Mission Trip to

Back Bay Mission during the week of July 7-13th in 2024! This is a fund raiser to help us finance our trip to Back Bay next summer. Please join us for southern hospitality, good cooking, gumbo, Bingo, fellowship, and more information about Back Bay. The cost for this event will be \$20.00 per person and \$30.00 for a family of 3 or more! The donation will include gumbo, drink, dessert, and 1 Bingo Card. Additional Bingo Cards can be purchased for \$1.00 per card. Come and hear! Come and listen and consider joining us for our mission trip next summer. Below is some additional information about Rev. James Pennington.

Rev. James Pennington is the Executive Director of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Rev. Pennington, a Mississippian, has most recently served as Senior Pastor at UCC churches in Phoenix, Arizona, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. His accomplishments in these two ministries included providing extensive services for feeding people experiencing homelessness; being an advocate for migrants at the border; and conducting recovery groups, transgender support groups, and racial reconciliation groups. He was recognized by the Minnesota Conference Office for exemplary leadership. Particularly notable in his body of work is merging Spirit of the Lakes, a predominantly LGBT congregation with a historic church of mostly older members, and Minnehaha UCC to create a new church, Living Table, which became wildly successful and provided ministry to a diverse congregation. Rev. Pennington will be our guest preacher and resource person for worship on October 15th and Gumbo and Bingo which is fundraiser for our mission trip in the summer of 2024.



Pilgrim Faith
United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Service Ushers:

1st Sundays - Libby Langevin & Maureen Hutton

2nd Sundays - Pam and Mike Cusack
(this is usually messy church)

3rd Sundays - Pat and Ron Stancik

4th Sundays - David Faulkner and Dave Kosvick

5th Sundays - David Faulkner & Dave Kosvick

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

CROP Hunger Walk 2023 Is Coming! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8th AT 2:00 PM!



Here is the Pilgrim Faith crew from 2022- won't you JOIN us this year? We are again walking at the beautiful Lake Katherine Nature Center in Palos Heights, IL. If you can't walk that day, would you consider making a donation? Your support can change the lives of those in need. Also, 25% of the donations will be given to local food pantries, including our own Pilgrim Faith Pantry.



Pilgrim Faith
United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Liturgy Leaders

October 1 Jimmy Werner
October 8 Kevin Holt
October 15 Jacques Lopez
October 22 Chris Raap
October 29 Kevin Holt

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

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/pilgrim-faith-ucc>

A fun and relaxing approach to the Crop Walk

Crop Walk News-2023 Lake Katherine - Palos Heights



- 1) Southwest Suburban CROP Hunger Walk
- 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 8th - 2:00 P.M.
7402 Lake Katherine Dr. Palos Heights, IL



OCTOBER 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Food Pantry
10:00 AM-
Noon

8 **10:00 AM**
Worship 9 10 11 12 13 14


Food Pantry
10:00 AM-
Noon

Crop Walk
Lake Katherine
2 PM

**Worship
Team Mtg**
6 PM via
Zoom

Food Pantry
10:00 AM-
Noon

Pumpkin Bash
4:30-7 PM



15 16 17 18 19 20 21

8:30—9:30 AM
Book & Bible Study **Food Pantry**
10:00 AM-
Noon

Food Pantry
10:00 AM-
Noon

10:00 AM
Worship
Rev. James Pen-
nington

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

10:00 AM
Worship **Food Pantry**
10:00 AM-
Noon

**Trivia Game
Night**
Salem UCC
7:00 PM


Food Pantry
10:00 AM-
Noon

29 30 31

10:00 AM
Worship

Food Pantry
10:00 AM-
Noon

Trunk or Treat
3-5 PM





Pilgrim Faith UCC
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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

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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