



JULY 2022

More Truth and Light

“Will you be faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, in administering the sacraments and rites of the church and in exercising pastoral care and leadership?” [Portion of the Ordination Service, U.C.C. Book of Worship]

Yes, in the middle of summer, the celebration of our nation’s Independence from Great Britain, family picnics, anticipated vacations, and a chance to slow down and enjoy less scheduled days, Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ is gearing up for significant changes in our life together. Recently, the congregation received a letter that the Search Committee had completed their search and extended to me, a call to become the settled pastor of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. On Sunday, July 17th, this call, by an affirmative vote of the congregation, will be formally extended to me to serve as your pastor. Upon an affirmative vote of the congregation, I will be installed as the next settled pastor sometime in the fall.

It has been a privilege to serve this congregation and I look forward to our continued ministry that will transition from a designated interim pastor to the settled pastor. As the congregation considers the recommendation of the Search Committee, it may be helpful to reflect upon Ordained Ministry. As part of the Ordination Service, vows are made by the candidate, the home congregation of the Ordinand, the Association, and the community. Ordination is a celebration of promises and commitments to serve God, provide spiritual support and care for Christians on the journey, and to lead the congregation in such a way that promotes, strengthens, and establishes the realm of God on earth as it is in heaven.

In congregations large and small, there is a desire, perhaps a tendency, for the congregation to see the pastor as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Church or the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Most of us like other people to make big decisions, and

for many of us the corporate model is the most accessible model of how decisions are made. Frequently, congregations will default, or surrender their decision-making authority to the pastor. In none of our vows that we make on our Ordination Day, do we promise or assume the role of CEO or CFO for the congregation. Within our Congregational Polity, it is the congregation who makes these important decisions. There are several promises that we do make, but none is more substantial than the one I printed above. In summary: the pastor is *faithful in preaching and teaching the gospel, administers the sacraments and rites of the church, and exercises pastoral care and leadership*. This is a call to lead Christ’s church with integrity, with grace, faithful preaching, and teaching, and to provide leadership in the care and nurture of God’s people along every path of the pilgrim. These are the guiding principles in which I will lead. In every possible way, I will seek, facilitate, collaborate, encourage, or empower the laity to make important decision in our life together. As an Ordained pastor, I am the spiritual leader of the church, but am not called to be the CEO or CFO of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C.

Should I be affirmed to be your settled pastor, there will be important issues that we will need to face, together, with honesty, grace, and integrity. By God’s grace, we will have this time to explore and collaborate on themes such as stewardship, church growth, Christian nurture, and our invitation to create a just world for all. The role of the pastor is not to make decisions on behalf of the congregation, but to facilitate our life in such a way that, together, we discern the answers. What will be important is how well we work together, how we treat one another, and how we demonstrate God’s love and grace in all that we do. It is this that will bring God’s realm of peace and justice for all. With joy and anticipation, I surrender my candidacy to the will of the congregation and may we, together, be the vision and energy that brings the Spirit of Pentecost to this place.

In anticipation of all that is before us...
Pastor Dan

FROM THE MODERATOR -

Don't be wise in your own eyes.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and so not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing for your flesh and refreshment for your body"
Proverbs 3:5-8

I don't know if your family is like my family with adults saying "stop the questions, I know (whatever they wanted us to stop)". It could have been their way of ending the conversation, trying to stop any future conversations. I noticed myself using a line similar to this to help my students make better choices (drink caffeine instead of a good night's sleep). However, discussions and questions are the way we gain more understanding.

I know we have a longing to develop a deeper understanding of the world around us. Understanding all the small nuances of this world will help us move up, find peace and just have insight. But to what point? We come to the center of knowledge? To the point that we lose our sense of wonder. Are you able to see beyond your own sight or beliefs?

Some people are trapped in their own sight and knowledge of the world. We saw that with Roe vs Wade. They will twist the truth to fit their wants and needs. In doing this God is now less than a comma. God's name is center but not God's will. The needs of the many will outweigh the needs of the few or the one. Removing rights does not equal freedom.

Remember the story of Adam and Eve? If God did not want us to have free will, God would have removed the tree totally or restart the human race over, over and over again until Adam and Eve did not eat the apple. God did not do that. He wants us to pray, reflect and then move.

So now what do we do? Do we still fight the good fight? Most people will continue to house, help and protect the rights of others. We need to have our eyes open to what God is calling us to do. How do we do that? We pray. God will make the path clear. We will have insight that only comes from God. Don't rely on ourselves or our collective knowledge; instead, pray. God will show us the way.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JULY 17th

The Search Committee has concluded its process and have nominated Rev. Dan Sather as our candidate for settled pastor. We will hold a special Congregational meeting after worship on July 17th to vote on his candidacy. I urge all church members who are able to be there for this important meeting to attend.

SERMON SERIES: *Faith and Spirituals*

Beginning this month, Pastor Sather will present a Sermon Series, entitled, Faith and Spirituals. With the help of four African American spirituals, we'll explore theological and faith themes such as death, resurrection, freedom, and justice from the lens of the spiritual. Through word and music, we hope that you will find encouragement, comfort and strength for this journey of faith.

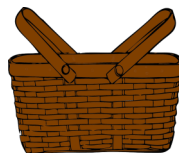
July 3: Christian Hope in Dark Times
Spiritual: Swing Low Sweet Chariot

July 10: Strength for the journey
Spiritual: Jesus walked this Lonesome Valley

July 17: Courage in the struggle for justice and peace
Spiritual: Wade in the Water

July 24: Reaching others in difficult times
Spiritual: The Gospel Train

LIMITLESS YOUTH NEWS!



The End of the Year Picnic was a lot of fun!

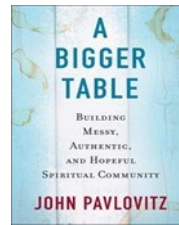
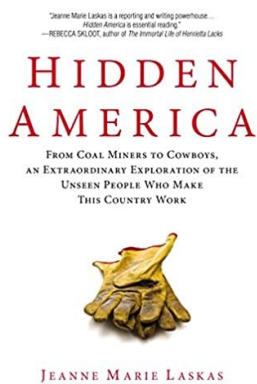
Seven youth and six adults enjoyed yard games, good food and fellowship. We celebrated our year and we welcomed two rising seventh graders, Nicky and Kennedy Hilliard into our group. In addition, we said thank you and farewell to our leaders, Chuck and Peggy Martin who have moved to their new home in North Aurora. We will miss them! They were a wonderful part of our team. We wish them well in their new home. Our next meeting will be our fall organizational meeting for September 18th! This will be our kick-off event and we'll gather with pizza from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you are in the seventh grade and older, you are welcome to participate in Limitless Youth!

YOUTH LEADERS NEEDED! We have a wonderful group of 11 youth and are looking forward to several rising seventh graders to join us in the fall. As we look forward to the fall, I would like to be able to continue to offer monthly fun and fellowship with our youth! If you love our youth, enjoy laughing, hanging out, mentoring, and like to have some fun with our youth, you are the right person for Limitless Youth! Pastor Sather will continue to be involved in the youth ministry program and it would be great to share this joy with you. Please let Pastor Dan or the Ministry of Christian Formation and Mission know of your interest in helping with our youth as soon as possible. Dennis Healy is the convenor of this ministry team! Thank you for considering this great opportunity.

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. 25th. Our book for that meeting will be "Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys" by Jeanne Marie Laskas.

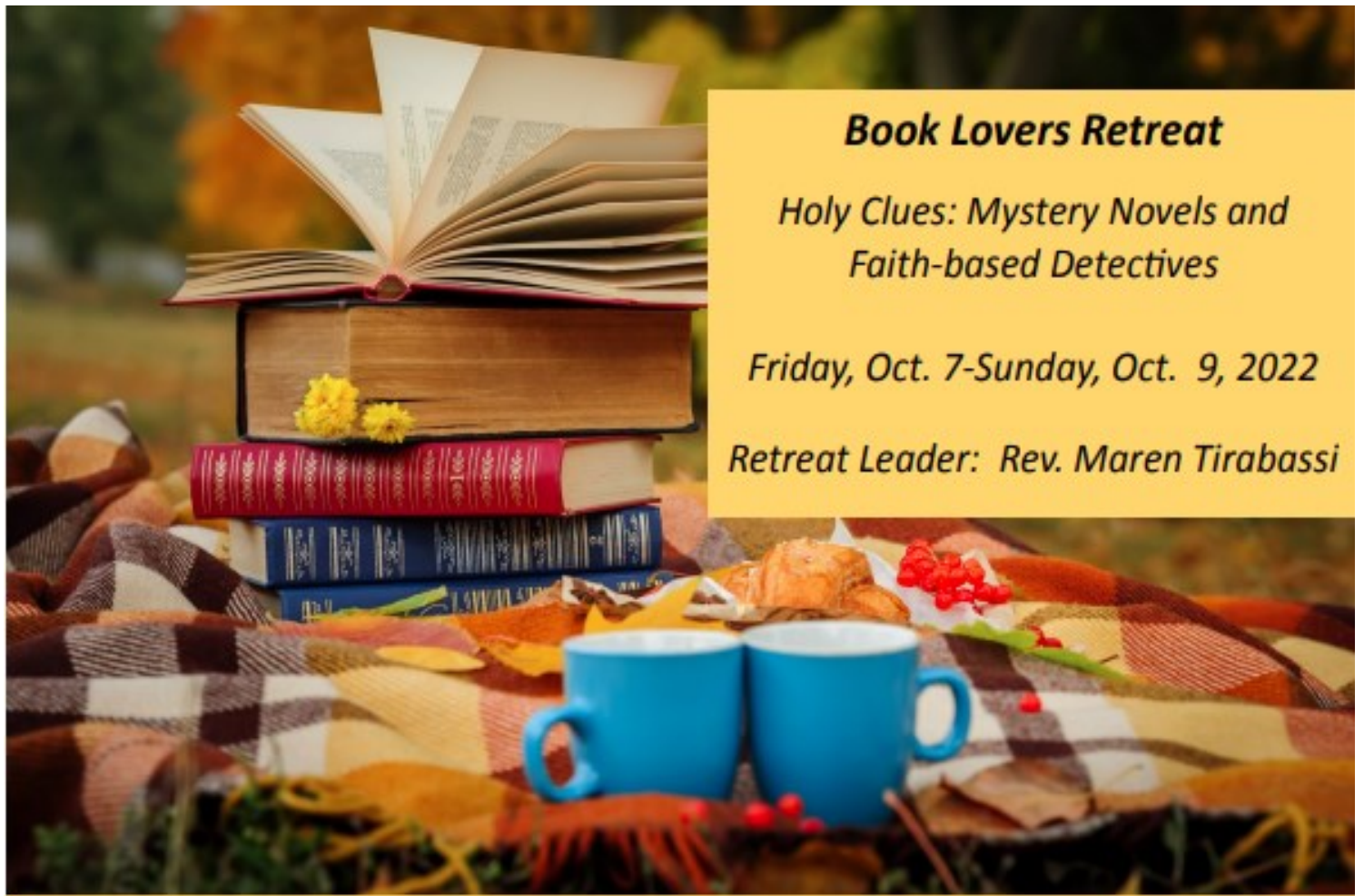


BOOK STUDY beginning Thursday, July 21st! As a follow-up to Pride Sunday, Pastor Dan will be offering a four-week book study online, beginning July 21st at 6:30 p.m. Together we will explore the book, **"A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community"** by John Pavlovitz. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Dan know as soon as possible and share your E-mail so you can receive a link for the discussion.

Discussion Plan:

July 21	Part 1: Big God, Small Table
July 28	Part 2: Building the Bigger Table
August 4	No Discussion
August 11	Under Construction (Chapters 11-14)
August 18	Under Construction (Chapters 15-18)

Church Receipts as of May 31, 2022					
			Month of May 2022		As of May 31, 2022
			MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual
Receipts					Year-To-Date Budget
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving			\$ 8,220.67	\$ 4,242.39	\$ 47,766.75
Total Receipts (all sources)			\$ 9,916.80	\$ 5,522.38	\$ 58,435.49
Disbursements					
Salaries & Benefits			\$ 5,294.42	\$ 10,466.67	\$ 50,638.26
Expenses			\$ 4,808.29	\$ 5,724.23	\$ 38,968.88
Total Disbursements (all expenses)			\$ 10,102.70	\$ 16,590.90	\$ 90,694.02
Net Total			\$ (185.90)	\$ (11,068.52)	\$ (32,258.53)
Please remember to use Amazon Smile when ordering to benefit Pilgrim Faith Church.					
In March the church received \$49.10 from Amazon Smile. Keep up the good work!!!					



Book Lovers Retreat

*Holy Clues: Mystery Novels and
Faith-based Detectives*

Friday, Oct. 7-Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022

Retreat Leader: Rev. Maren Tirabassi

Rev. Maren Tirabassi, author of “Death at Fair Havens” will be our leader and guide for a weekend retreat where we look at the mysteries in our lives, the clues we find to God’s presence, and the people who are ‘sidekicks’ or ‘Watsons’, friends who have seen us through the toughest ‘detecting’ we’ve known.

Our time together will include games, campfires, hikes in the woods and walks on the beach. And of course, plenty of time to read! Each participant will receive a copy of “Death at Fair Havens.”

Guests will have double rooms (some singles available), shared bathrooms, large gathering spaces, sunny front deck and private fire circle. Meals begin with heavy appetizers on Friday evening and conclude with lunch on Sunday. The Tower Hill Staff are vaccinated and follow Berrien County Health Department guidance. All guests must be fully vaccinated to attend.

Registration is \$300/person

Register at <https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>

Hearing from those who are seeking elected positions on Council.

Hello Pilgrim Faith,

I will be stepping away from the Moderator's role to run for Treasurer. My vision for this position is simple; to show the money coming in, the money going out and to find ways to grow the church. Please realize, Pilgrim Faith has money, and how we use it is important. Perhaps we could look at our financial resources like the *Parable of the Talents*, found in Matthew 25:14-20. We need to look at ways in which the money can grow our church rather than burying our resources in various accounts. We need to pray for ways we can use our money to share the great news of Pilgrim Faith UCC and God's love for all.

In addition, we need to look at ways to update and strengthen our stewardship. Stewardship is not asking for money once a year, but it can be a joyful time for members and friends to share stories of how Pilgrim Faith has touched their lives. We can choose to worry about running out of money, or we can look for creative and fun ways to raise money such as game nights, pizza parties, ice cream socials, or other ways that can raise funds for our church. I believe I can bring transparency to the position of Treasurer.

Sincerely,
Mary Weierman

Tom Aitken

Why I am running for Treasurer

As Pilgrim Faith realigns and revises itself to be a sustaining institution of faith and mission for us and the community, the financial aspects and requirements for achieving this transition are critical. The church is certainly at a pivotal time in its history. The challenges are tough. The environment in which we live, work, and worship are constantly being challenged. Resources are dwindling and institutional sustainability is being questioned. The position of treasurer is and will continue to be instrumental during these times. I feel the position, especially now, needs an experienced hand through both education and/or training and experience to be able to contribute to the dialogue in a knowledgeable financial manner. The treasurer must be able to clearly explain in detail all the financial implications – all the consequences (intended and unintended) of options and alternatives being discussed. Believing I am capable of fulfilling all these requirements for the position, I am seeking re-election as treasurer. Having an advanced degree in finance, having held senior operational and management positions in organizations exceeding \$20 million in billings, and having been treasurer for about 10 years, I am ready to continue for a while longer. I welcome all your questions concerning the past, the present, and the future. We continue to wait for the audit report which will hopefully be good. I would like to be able to respond to the findings and make improvements as suggested.

Savers Truck Fundraiser

If you are cleaning out your closets, cabinets, garages, and storage areas, Pilgrim Faith wants you to know that a Savers Truck Fundraiser is planned! We will be cleaning out the closets, cabinets, garage and storage areas at the church too. We would love to have your participation for both elements of the fundraiser.

The Savers Truck will be packed up on Thursday, July 21st. Donations can be made any-time between July 1st – July 21st, but we would like items here by July 15th so that truck space and number of bags and boxes can be estimated for the fundraiser. Please use large trash bags to donate clothing and household textiles. Please use boxes to donate books, decorative items, and small appliances. We also need help bagging up the un-needed items from around the church, as well as loading the truck on Thursday, July 21st. If you bag up or box up your donations and need help getting them to the church by July 15th, please call me at (708) 601-5351.

No furniture, large items, or TVs. This is a big undertaking for our church and will need much participation from our members. Please call me with how and when **YOU** can help! Thank you in advance for your support of this fundraiser.

Ken Langevin
(708) 601-5351



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 Salvesson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629



Welcome Alex!

Alex Overland has been hired as the new Music Director at Pilgrim Faith Church. She will be working closely with Joy and Pastor Dan to bring special music to the congregation. Alex grew up in Oak Lawn and attended Oak Lawn Community High School. She has preformed in many theater productions at Pilgrim Faith and at the Oak Lawn Park District. She graduated from Elmhurst University with a bachelor's degree in music education. Alex will be teaching music at the Burbank School District 111 starting this August.



Alex will be directing Pilgrim Faith's choir and bell choir starting this fall. All ages are welcome to join and no experience is needed. Bell choir and choir will be performing music during church on selected Sundays during the year. If you are interested in making music at church, please see Alex for further details.



DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO
Prayer.
C O L O S S I A N S 4 : 2

The World's Funniest Church Bulletin Typos

"This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."

"Next Thursday, there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get."

"The choir will meet at the Larsen house for fun and sinning."

"The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our Church and community."

"Church office will be closed Monday. Halleluia. Halleluia."

"A song fest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday."

"Life groups meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM for food, fun, and fellow-whipping."

"The beautiful flowers on the altar this morning are to celebrate the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer."

"Illiterate? Write to the church office for help."

"Ushers will swat the latecomers."

"The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience."

"The peace making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict."

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

"The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Ralph Green, who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens."

"When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel."

"Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary."

Lay Leaders

Here are the upcoming lay leaders:

June

5 TBA
12 Peggy Martin
19 Peggy McGinnis
26 Emily Cook

July

3 TBA
10 Jacques Lopez
17 Rick Wank
24 Aidan McGinnis
31 Daune Sebastian

Let the Fun Times Roll!



**Remember the FUN of
Acting out a Bible Story?**

Or Sharing our Talents?




Or Sweet Smiles?

Maybe it's RETREAT time again??? Let's talk!

Daune Sebastian

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
3 10:00 AM Worship	4 Happy Independence Day! 	5 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	6 	7	8	9 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
10 10:00AM Worship	11	12 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	13	14	15	16 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
17 10:00AM Worship	18	19 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	20	21	22	23 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
24 10:00 AM Worship	25	26 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	27	28	29 	30 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
31 10:00 AM Worship						



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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!

