



JUNE 2022

More Truth and Light

“This is what you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

-Acts 1:4b-5

“...*Not many days from now...*” is a reference to the Festival of Pentecost that Jesus shared with his disciples just before he ascended to God. The Day of Pentecost marks an important point in the life of the Christian Church. It is that season when the Holy Spirit makes its debut into the Christian faith. The rush of a mighty wind. Divided tongues, as of fire, and all were filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that bridges the chasm of time, brings people and nations together, imagines and re-imagines great and mighty ways in which the work of ministry and mission can happen. The Spirit has inspired and continues to inspire Christians throughout the generations to see God’s good work, love, and grace in new ways. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us faith and meaning today.

As we approach the Day of Pentecost and enter this season of the Holy Spirit, I would invite you to reflect with me on the ways in which the Holy Spirit has blessed our congregation and where the Holy Spirit is challenging us in these days. Certainly, my thoughts are not the only blessings we have known or the challenges that are before us. I would invite you to add your list of blessings and challenges, offer them to God in prayer and find your own way to respond to the tug of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps the most dramatic change has been the improvement of the morale of our congregation and the joy of seeing more people in worship and seeing some whom we have not seen in a while. The Holy Spirit brings us healing and encouragement. Throughout this year, we have been transitioning to a smaller and more effective way to govern and lead our congregation. We have hired musicians for worship, an Office Administrator to take care of the day to day and week to week activities, and we’ve introduced a new concept of ministry and church leadership. The Holy Spirit brings the necessary changes to be a more effective congregation. In the past year, we have brought together youth and four Confirmants to continue their faith journey through the programs we offer. Messy Church has given us an opportunity to learn, worship, and fellowship together. The Holy Spirit gives us food for the

journey of faith that calls multiple generations into a season of change.

Just as the Holy Spirit blesses us with abundant gifts, the Holy Spirit also challenges us to engage in a deeper, more committed response to discipleship. I believe that the Holy Spirit has revealed three challenges that we need address in the coming weeks and months – ***energy, letting go, and innovation.*** We have fewer members and many of us are doing multiple things and the level of activity has taken its toll upon us. In many ways Pilgrim Faith is beginning again. Launching a new church takes energy and work that requires time, talents, and treasures. I do believe that God still has a future for us, and we must find ways to nurture our spirits and give us the strength to do the work God is calling us to do. In addition, we also need to ‘let go’ of the way we’ve done ministry before and adapt to a still, viable ministry with fewer people and fewer resources. The Holy Spirit is giving us an opportunity to let go of what we’ve done and embrace new ministries, new programs, and new experiences that reflect our ministry today. The final challenge follows this notion of ‘letting go’ and that is to allow ourselves to be innovative and creative with new ministries. We need to embrace our progressive vision and our Open and Affirming statement and create programs and ministries that reflect the open and inclusive community we believe we are called to be in this new time.

In this season of Pentecost, this time that is less demanding, a break from the program year, we have time to explore, study, pray, adapt, and prepare for a new time for Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. Yes, the Lord has ‘more truth and light’ to share with our congregation. Use this season to remember where we have been and listen for God’s New Word that is being revealed to us.

With joy and wonder of the Spirit,
Pastor Dan Sather

FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

FROM THE MODERATOR -

Faith by itself is good but it is not the best.

“What good is it, my brother and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have work? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill”, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)

I would like to disagree with that statement James. I understand that the time you wrote this, you need more and more people to share things that others did not have.

Making that connection was needed in the early church but is it needed today? We have Zoom and the internet. We can instantly talk with people and message people. We can order food and water, we pay our bills with either a check or card. We can instantly take care of our needs or our loved ones' needs.

Are you talking about people we don't know? Are you talking about our church? It is similar to saying “I am interested, just not involved.” Is it like “I will forgive but never forget”?

Sister Louise (I don't remember her last name) talked about her mother saying “I will forgive my sister but I will not forget” Sister Louise could not understand if her mother loved her sister, why would she allow the hurt or mistrust to stay in her heart. One can not totally move on. It is like one anchored in a spot that it can not move. How are we supposed to move forward if we are holding hurt, fear, misunderstanding, and bullying?

We don't. We need to walk in faith and do good deeds to help each other grow and move to what God wants us to be.

May God keep you under His wing of love.
Mary W.



Meet Our New Members



On Sunday, June 5th we received two new members into our fellowship. Please welcome Alexis Healy and Kenneth Sebastian. Come and greet our new members and enjoy some cake.

ALEXIS HEALY is not a new face, but she has decided that it was time to join Pilgrim Faith UCC. Alexis is the wife of Dennis Healy, the mother of Vada Hardin, and the stepmother of Evan and Emma Healy. Alexis was baptized at St. Gerald's in Oak Lawn and married Dennis in 2019. Alexis works at Dairy Queen and decorates ice-cream cakes. She enjoys baking, decorating cookies and cakes, home improvement stores tornados, dragonflies, figure skating, singing, and dancing. Alexis has sung in our Christmas choir and looks forward to serving Pilgrim Faith as we transition to a new way of being together. Please welcome Alexis.

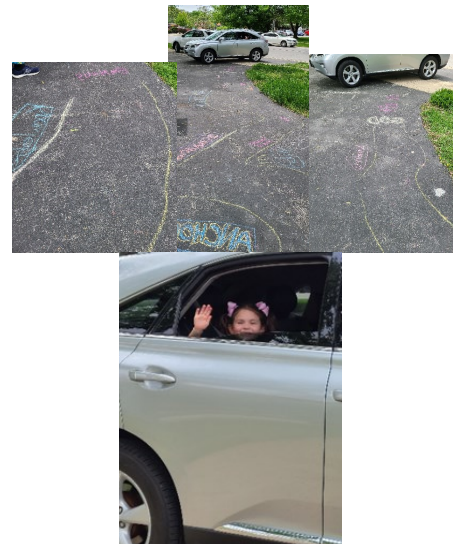
KENNETH SEBASTIAN has been coming to Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. for a long time. He is married to Daune who has been a member of Pilgrim Faith for most of her life. Kenneth has been a dependable helper around Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. and has always been a support for Daune as she engaged in many ministries throughout their married life. Kenneth was baptized a Saint Teresa of the Little Flower. He is a pharmacist. He enjoys gardening, walking the dog, hiking, and working on the house. He is happy to finally claim Pilgrim Faith UCC to be his spiritual home at this point in his life. Please welcome Kenneth.

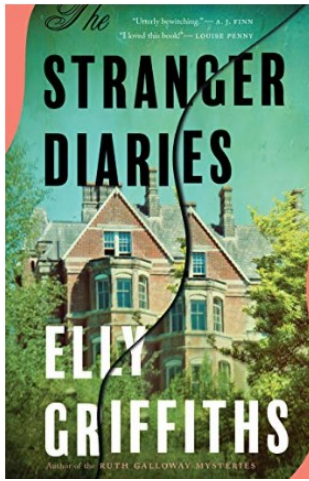


MESSY CHURCH - MAY

What a joyous day was had by all as we traveled down the many roads of the Bible. We made "Stoplights" for God and traveled the path from Emmaus to God, meeting a blind man (a.k.a Luke), a lame man (a.k.a Evan), and a woman at the well (a.k.a Emma). Thanks to Pastor Dan and our teens for leading us! We also explored our Star Words and wrote them along the path. Some of these words like, Anchor, Valor, Grace, Purpose, Transformation, Direction, Knowledge, Caring, Stretch, & Quietness will lead us down some more interesting paths this year. For our final journey until the Fall we sang songs, prayed, ate pizza, chatted, and laughed! **See you in the Fall for a fantastic return of Messy Church!**

FELLOWSHIP - FOOD - FUN & FAITH!





June Book Club Meeting

On June 26th at 7 pm we will meet to discuss "The Stranger Diaries" by Elly Griffiths. The book was recommended by Barb and sounds fascinating.

"Clare Cassidy is no stranger to murder. A high school English teacher specializing in the Gothic writer R. M. Holland, she teaches a course on it every year. But when one of Clare's colleagues and closest friends is found dead, with a line from R. M. Holland's most famous story, "The Stranger," left by her body, Clare is horrified to see her life collide with the storylines of her favorite literature. To make matters worse, the police suspect the killer is someone Clare knows. Unsure whom to trust, she turns to her closest confidant, her diary, the only outlet she has for her darkest suspicions and fears about the case. Then one day she notices something odd. Writing that isn't hers, left on the page of an old diary: Hallo Clare. You don't know me. Clare becomes more certain than ever: "The Stranger" has come to terrifying life. But can the ending be rewritten in time?"

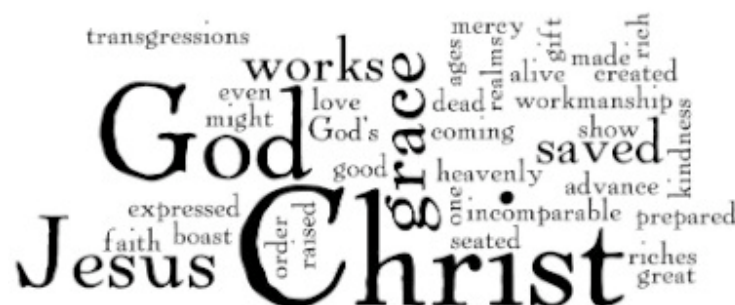
Everyone is welcome to join us in the church lounge or by Zoom. Chris Raap

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Good News

We have received notification from our bank that the "loan" we received under the Payroll Protection Plan 2 program offered by the federal government has been forgiven. None of the \$27,460 we were given through the program has to be repaid. Through both PPP1 and PPP2 programs combined, Pilgrim Faith has been given a total of \$54,920, none of which had to be returned. We are thankful.

Another item of note – the auditors are coming to Pilgrim Faith Thursday and Friday- June 1 and 2. The on-site work should be completed in those two days. However, if an item of question does arise, the work may continue into the following week. Part of the audit is a testing of the accuracy of year end statements sent to members. Only a sample of donors will be contacted. Those selected will receive a letter in the mail with instructions. Please follow them as timely as you can. The audit cannot be completed until the auditor receives all the information he needs. Pilgrim will receive a report once the auditor finishes his work. The church has not had an audit for many years. We look forward to the results to improve our operations and reporting



JOINT PRAYER VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE



In the recent killing of 19 children and 2 teachers in Uvalde, Texas, the tragic killings at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York and a church in Laguna Woods, California, Pilgrim Faith and Salem UCC of Oak Lawn and Immanuel UCC of Evergreen will conduct a special prayer service for the victims of gun violence.

The Prayer Vigil will take place on Tuesday, June 7th at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Faith U.C.C., located at 9411 S. 51st Ave., in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Please and come be a part of this special service. We will remember the victims of gun violence, especially the most recent ones, we'll light candles for the victims of gun violence, offer prayers and share scriptures of lament and comfort in this tragic time.

*Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives
do I give to you. Let not
your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be
afraid.*

John 14:27

The Conference Delegate Report

The Conference is doing very well. They have had a 2 year job working the Conference Finances. They are almost finished with this huge, complicated task and the Conference. They a number of closed churches and have managed to sell a number of them which helps with this year's budget along with the reducing staff.

The Chair of the Conference Nominating Committee attended this week's Cluster 6 meeting and mentioned some opportunities for church members to serve the wider church. Committees that have openings at this time are

The CMA Congregational Life Committee who's mission is responsible for providing opportunities for congregations within the Association to become aware of resources within the UCC at the national and conference level, within our related Institutions, and within other sources so that these congregations are able to be faithful stewards in their mission to proclaim the Gospel as viable and responsive church bodies in their respective neighborhoods, towns, and cities. (From the Constitution of Chicago Metropolitan Association)

CMA CHURCH AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE. Pastor Dan can tell you more about this committee.

CMA ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE.

If you are interested, please feel free to talk to me about the committees.
Chris Raap

FIRST ALL-TEAMS MINISTRY MEETING will happen on Sunday, June 5th, following worship.

This will be our first all-teams ministry meeting and ALL members and friends of Pilgrim Faith UCC are invited to be a part of a team.

The purpose of our first meeting will be to organize around the interest of our members, select a Convenor and a note-taker, meet the liaison for your team and begin to do some initial planning for the fall.

The team will also select the best date and time for a brainstorming and visioning gathering. Please join us. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. All meetings will adjourn no later than 1 p.m.



HELP WANTED

Need some extra summer cash? Elderly lady in Oak Lawn is seeking help to unclutter and reorganize her home. Will pay agreeable rate. Due to severe allergies, candidate needs to be fragrance free. If interested, call Jeri at 708-717-0190.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION!



On Sunday, June 5th, we are looking forward to hearing from our graduates. If you are graduating from 8th grade, High School, College, Trade School, or other institution of higher education, we'd like to hear from you. Come and be a part of our worship service and come prepared to share your story. A



THE
STEADFAST
Love
OF THE
LORD
N E V E R
CEASES

LAMENTATIONS 3:22 (NRSV)

Bible Quiz: Revelation 6:12-17

1. When the sixth seal was opened, there was a great ___ and the sun became ___ as sackcloth.
2. "And the ___ of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree ___ its late figs when it is shaken by a ___ wind."
3. What receded as a scroll?
4. Men tried to hide themselves in the ___ of the ___.
5. "For the great day of His ___ has come, and who is able to ___?"

Solution: earthquake, black, stars, drops, 'mighty, the sky, rocks, mountains, wrath, stand

Attention All Music Fans!



Oak Lawn Public Library is running a program from Thursday, June 23rd through Friday, July 1st that will be devoted to **The Beatles**. This British band had a huge impact on the music scene of their time right up until today.

Activities will include live music and food, a trivia night, a movie, lecture and exhibit. Visit the Oak Lawn Public Library website at www.olpl.org for more details or you can call them at 708-422-4990.

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



LIMITLESS YOUTH GROUP NEWS:



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:

On Saturday, May 14th, three youth and four adults ventured to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, Illinois. During our session, we were able to pack 36 boxes. The 36 boxes held 7,776 meals and enough was packed to feed 21 starving children for one year. We had an awesome time.

LIMITLESS YOUTH END OF THE YEAR BBQ!

Limitless will gather for an end of the year BBQ at the church on Sunday, June 12, from 5 -7 p.m. Since this is the last meeting of the school year, youth who are entering seventh grade next year will be invited to join us for the BBQ. We will cook hot dogs and smores at the firepit and enjoy them along with chips and other snacks. Be prepared for some outdoor fun as we play ladder ball, bags, and other outdoor games. We will end our evening with recognition of the youth of our church who have graduated in 2022. Limitless Youth will not meet in July or August, but will resume activities on Sunday, September 18th! What a busy and wonderful year it has been. Please join us for our BBQ and our September meeting.

LOOKING FOR YOUTH LIMITLESS YOUTH LEADERS! If you love our youth, have a willingness to share fun, fellowship, and friendship with youth in the seventh grade through twelfth grade, Limitless Youth will welcome you. You do not have to lead alone; Pastor Dan will plan to coordinate youth events and activities with the leadership. We typically meet once a month with our youth and Pastor Dan will meet with the leadership as needed throughout the year at an agreeable time and place. We are grateful that the Martins will be with us through June, but by September, it would be great to have our new leaders ready to meet with Limitless Youth on Sunday, September 18th. If you are interested in helping with Limitless Youth Group, please contact Pastor Dan.

HEARTFELT THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO CHUCK AND PEGGY MARTIN! Limitless Youth appreciated the leadership, creativity, and the sincerity of Chuck and Peggy Martin who served as our Limitless Youth Leaders for the year. As is true with all of us throughout our lives, we travel on to new places. This summer the Martins will be moving closer to son and grandchildren and will be leaving as our youth leaders. I have truly appreciated both Chuck and Peggy and wish them all the best as they continue their commitment to our youth and their spiritual journey in a different community. They will be missed.

Children's Worship
Bulletins™

SUMMER CRAFT: prayer jars



SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- mason jar
- paint
- paint brushes
- water cup
- big popsicle sticks
- hot or tacky glue
- decorations (glitter, stickers, ribbon, or anything you want to add!)

HOW TO MAKE A PRAYER JAR

- ① paint your mason jar
- ② add decorations
- ③ write prayer ideas on popsicle sticks
- ④ add prayer sticks to your mason jar

STEP 2



STEP 3



- specific prayers for yourself or others
- inspirational quotes or verses
- things that you're thankful for
- thank God for His creation
- pray for someone you don't get along with
- give God all your worries today

STEP 1



STEP 4



PRAYER VERSES

- Romans 12:12
- 1 Thess. 5:17
- Matt. 26:41
- Phillipians 4:6
- James 5:16
- Matt. 6:9-13



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

Search Committee Update

Last month I reported that we had received more profiles. We have interviewed some good prospects and hope that we can make a decision over the summer.

Chris Raap, Chair Search Comm.






Church Receipts as of April 30, 2022

	Month of APRIL 2022		As of APRIL 30, 2022	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
<u>Receipts</u>				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 17,983.67	\$ 5,664.40	\$ 39,546.98	\$ 24,903.15
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 21,345.02	\$ 8,468.72	\$ 48,518.59	\$ 34,371.69
<u>Disbursements</u>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 7,305.66	\$ 10,866.67	\$ 45,343.84	\$ 43,568.68
Expenses	\$ 4,365.66	\$ 4,087.08	\$ 34,160.60	\$ 27,064.95
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 11,958.52	\$ 15,353.75	\$ 80,591.32	\$ 72,133.63
Net Total	\$ 9,386.50	\$ (6,885.03)	\$ (32,072.73)	\$ (37,761.94)

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!!!

Contributions to Ukraine relief now total \$1,550.00

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10:00 AM Worship		Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	I 	2	3	4 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
5 10:00AM Worship	6	7 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	8	9	10	11 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
12 10:00AM Worship	13	14 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon Scout Round Table 6-9 PM Colonial Hall 	15	16	17	18 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
19 10:00 AM Worship	20	21 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	22	23	24	25 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
26 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Book Club Mtg.	27	28 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	29	30 		



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Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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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!

