



October 2025

More Truth and Light

"It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

Luke 13:19

"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life."

1 Timothy 6:18-19

"*Rooted in Love. Growing in faith. Welcoming all*" is the proposed mission statement for the new congregation that Salem UCC and Pilgrim Faith UCC are giving life to as we continue to journey to the new thing that God is creating in our midst. As I think of our proposed mission statement, I am thinking of the parable of the mustard seed – a plant rooted deeply in love, grows much larger than anyone imagined, and welcomes the birds of the air to nest in its branches. The gift of the mustard seed is a lens in which we can imagine the new church that the Holy Spirit is creating with the merger of our two congregations.

As members of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. enter this season of Autumn, we are looking forward to a celebration of our mission and ministry in November. In addition to the beautiful parable of the mustard seed, I'm also thinking of the words from Timothy, "...*take hold of the life that really is life...*" What could this mean for Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. whose good foundation has supported multiple missions throughout the years and continues to be '*rich in good works, generous and ready to share...*'? Like the mustard seed, our roots run deep in love, our faith has grown and so has our mission. We have been innovative with our outreach and motivated by the importance of welcoming all. No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We are leaving a legacy that is honorable, faithful, and empowered by a desire to help others take hold of the life that really is life.

As we consider our financial resources and anticipate the sale of our building, we will be able to continue a legacy of love that serves God's people and welcomes all. As the song writer John Ylvisaker wrote in the final verse of his hymn, "**I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry**", "... *When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.*" Even in the dissolution of our congregation and the beginning of something new, Pilgrim Faith can gift a portion of our financial resources to ministries and missions that reflect our values and provide yet one more surprise. Our legacy can continue to serve others even after the doors of our congregation close and makes a way for something new – one more surprise.

The Council would like to invite members to consider various mission and ministries that you believe reflect our values, our hopes, and the years that we've been together doing the work of Jesus Christ. As a congregation, it would be such a gift to the United Church of Christ and our community if we could share a portion of our financial resources to live on as a living legacy in even more surprising ways. There are so many possibilities. If you are interested in serving on a Legacy Task Force, or you have ideas for a living legacy, please let Pastor Dan or a member of the Council know. We'd love to hear from you.

How can the closing of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ continue to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share? What can we do as a church to take hold of the life that really is life? Our legacy, like the mustard seed, can grow and become a tree and the birds of the air can find rest and shelter in our love and our commitment to all God's people. *Rooted in love. Growing in faith. Welcoming all.* That's who we are. We are servant people, and we have this wonderful opportunity to endow a ministry or ministries that can give life in our name. Let our legacy continue to be a witness to God's love and grace that has blessed our congregation over the years and now gives us this incredible opportunity to share our treasure for a good foundation, giving hope and life to a future that is our gift of gratitude for all that God has done.

Living in hope, possibility, and gratitude,
Pastor Dan Gather



From the Desk of Mary Weierman

October 2025

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over new wine” Proverbs 3:9-10

I have no words with the generosity that you have shown, THANK YOU!

We have met once with the finance team with Salem (to review and update all job descriptions). As we move forward, I ask for prayers. We are working on a budget for next year. Our plan is to be sharing this information with the congregation in November.

Our numbers from August 2025

Credits	24,371.85
Debits	30,306.85
Difference	-5,935.00

One thing that I overheard someone say, after looking at this report, “we are in the negative”.

Numbers are showing one thing; we are very small in donations with a big building that needs a lot of work. While we are going through money, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

We are moving to what God wants us to do (I truly believe this).

I believe we are, and have been, sharing our wealth and our cups are overflowing. It will continue to overflow if we allow God to guide us.

May God bless you and keep you.
Mary Weierman

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOMELESS THAT DO NOT HAVE A WAY TO REFRIGERATE OR COOK FOOD.

Food for our unhoused friends in our food pantry is quite depleted. The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry needs food items that can provide nourishment for those who do not have a way to cook or store food. On your next trip to the grocery store, please consider items that can be provided for the unhoused population in our community and bring them to the church. A partial list is below. There may be other items that you find that would also be helpful to our unhoused friends.

- Bumblebee snack on the run chicken salad***
- Bumblebee snack on the run tuna salad***
- Hormel completes***
- Protein drinks***
- Shelf stable milk***
- Mac and Cheese in microwave cups***
- pouches of chili or beef stew***



Thank you for your thoughtfulness and helping our food pantry meet the needs of our unhoused friends.



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF PILGRIM FAITH!

Please join us for a special service of celebration, recognizing the many mission outreach programs that have been a part of Pilgrim Faith over the years. We will celebrate our legacy during worship and enjoy a meal following the service in Colonial Hall. If you are planning to attend the meal, please RSVP by November 2nd by contacting the church office. You can call the church, 708-422-4200, or you can E-mail the church office, office@pilgrimfaith.org by November 2nd. Join us for a wonderful celebration.

On **Sunday, October 5th**, the Limitless Youth will be going to the CROP Walk. This event helps raise money to combat hunger, famine, and other important issues every year. This event is being held at Lake Katherine, and the event will start at 2:00pm. We hope to see you there, and any questions about CROP Walk can be directed to Daune Sebastian.

On **Friday, October 10th**, the Limitless Youth will be going to a Haunted House Event at Midnight Terror Haunted House, located at 5520 W 111th St in Oak Lawn, IL 60453. This event is open to all youth 7th-12th grade, as well as any peer leaders, and their families. We are asking for all RSVPs by September 26th to secure numbers and payment. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to Dennis Healy or Kevin Holt.

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED ON TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT!



The Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life are planning a special service on **Sunday, November 2nd** during our morning worship. On this Sunday, we will remember those who have died and now rest from their labors. If you would like a loved one included in our service, please contact Pastor Dan by Sunday, October 26th and provide the full name of your loved one, his/her birth and death day. As part of the liturgy for Sunday morning, we will light candles for our loved ones who have died in the past year. Please join us for this special service.

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 our online page 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

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



ORGANIZING A LEGACY TASK FORCE!

The Council has met with Tom Aitken and has approved of a Legacy Task Force that would review our investments and the proceeds from the sale of our building to consider a substantial gift in the name of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ that represent our core values, our mission, and our commitment to the United Church of Christ. There are many, many possibilities and the Council would like to hear from the members of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. and discern how we would like to distribute our financial assets upon the dissolution of our congregation. This is an opportunity for our congregation to continue to support mission initiatives that reflect the values of our church. The Council is looking for individuals to serve with Tom Aitken and representatives from the Ministry of Stewardship and Finance to provide legacy options that will be presented to the congregation for their approval. If you would like to serve on such a task force, please let Kevin Holt, Mary Weierman, or Pastor Dan know of your interest as soon as possible. We would like to have our first meeting in October and have a recommendation for the congregation at a future Congregational Meeting. Imagine the possible! What more can we give to the good work of the gospel?



A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

has been called by the Church Council for **Sunday, October 12th** following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to approve of the Mission and Vision Statement (see below), and to discuss staff transitions. In addition, we will share a brief report on the work and hope of the Legacy Task Force. Mark your calendars for this important meeting.

PROPOSED MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT OF THE NEW CHURCH

Members and friends, the Combined Transitional Team met recently and created both vision/purpose statement and a mission/marketing statement for the new church. Both define what our hopes and dreams are for this 'new thing' that God is creating in our midst. This is proposed and will not be the official Mission and Vision statement until both congregations approve of the statements at a duly called Congregational Meeting. Please review the statement and imagine how the good news of Jesus Christ and the promises of God can be embodied in our new congregation.

Vision/Purpose Statement

Rooted in the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, we are a faith community committed to living out the Gospel through compassionate service, inclusive welcome, and purposeful outreach. Our mission is to share God's love by embracing all people—regardless of race, background, gender identity, or life's circumstance—and by working together to meet the spiritual and practical needs of our neighbors. We strive to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, building relationships across boundaries, standing for justice, and serving with humility. Through worship, discipleship, and community engagement, we seek to create a church where everyone belongs, and every life is transformed by the power of God's grace.

Mission/Marketing Statement

Rooted in Love. Growing in Faith, Welcoming All



Moderator's Article:

Hi everyone! I hope and wish you all the best in the beginning of the fall season. As we start this season, I wanted to share with you some important updates, which you have probably read or heard, but just want to share again:

- As of a few weeks ago, our property is on the market for sale. Any questions about this can be directed to a member of the Council, Ken Langevin, or Kevin Holt.
- We had our first combined worship service a few days ago, and had such a great turnout and service. We hope you all can join us at Salem on **October 19th**, for our next combined worship service.
- Next, we will have our next transition meeting on **September 28th** with both teams to go over name suggestions, mission/vision statements, and other important conversations. More details on the names, mission/vision to come soon.
- Don't forget to invite all you know to our **November 16th** Legacy service- this should be very memorable, as we will celebrate our time and each other that day. We hope you can come, and more details on RSVP/save the date coming soon.
- We will have a congregational meeting for all members on **October 12th** immediately after worship to discuss staff, name and mission/vision, merger updates, ending timeline at Pilgrim Faith, and other important business.
- We are waiting for the name to be finalized, and then we will meet with the lawyer, Ken Friker, to start paperwork for dissolving both congregations, and starting the newly merged congregation.
- Finally, thank you all for helping out at the various clean-up days, and anything else you do, including attending worship. We couldn't do it all without you.

Before I end this, I wanted to share something with you. If you are someone who is unsure about coming to the new church, know that I understand. Change is hard, but so is going somewhere new, new people, or even experiences you may have had before. All that being said, I wanted to share something I heard someone say about the new church and worship the other day. When talking to someone about the worship service, they said they felt uplifted. Even as I write that, it makes me smile to hear the word of God is alive, well, and makes people today still feel uplifted.

I am very grateful for you all, thank you for all you do, and together, we can do anything.

Cheers,

Kevin Holt | Pilgrim Faith UCC Moderator



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

Sunday Liturgy Leaders

- October 5 Jimmy Werner
- October 12 Keith Stevenson
- October 19 N/A
- October 26 Daune Sebastian

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



TRUNK OR TREAT IS ON ITS WAY! Trunk or Treat will take place at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ on **Sunday, October 26th** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This year, Salem United Church of Christ will join us for Trunk or Treat, and we are looking forward to another great event. In the past, this event attracted over 300 families from Oak Lawn and surrounding communities. We anticipate that this will also be true for this year. Please sign up to bring your car, decorate it for the season and be a part of this wonderful outreach. If you are bringing a car for the event, please be at the church by Noon on Sunday, October 26th and be ready for the big event by 1 p.m. If you cannot attend, please consider donating candy for our event. There is a basket in the Narthex where you can place your donation of candy.

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

Sunday Service Ushers

- October 5 Libby Langevin & Maureen Hutton
- October 12 Brett Arnold
- October 19 N/A
- October 26 Ken Sebastian

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



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 5 Sue Arnold & Pam Cusack
- October 12 Libby Langevin & Amanda Sullivan
- October 19 N/A
- October 26 Sue Arnold & Pam Cusack

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



A fun and relaxing approach to the Crop Walk

Crop Walk News-2025 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

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/palosheightsil>



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.








(Scan me!)

Southwest Suburban Crop Walk
Sunday, October 5th - 2:00 P.M.
7402 Lake Katherine Dr. Palos Heights, IL



October 2025

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



Pilgrim Faith UCC
9411 S. 51st Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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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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