



APRIL 2023

More Truth and Light

“The Next is Now....”

Gleaned from The Chicago Theological Seminary Video presented by Minister Kim Grice

Recently, Minister Kim Grice blessed us with good news on Sunday morning and then shared her experience with one of our closely related seminaries, Chicago Theological Seminary. It was a delightful day and we were empowered by her sermon and blessed with her witness of the Seminary. In the video she shared with us, she talked about ‘next’ and what that means. We use that word too. It is a word that reflects something new, something yet to come. Sometimes, what is ‘next’ is very clear and other times ‘next’ remains a mystery for us. Yet, the word ‘next’ feels to me like a future that is calling out to us. It’s a promise that there is a future and it feels hopeful. No, we may not know with complete clarity what that future holds, but it’s an adventure worth taking. Now, that I’ve been with Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. for nearly two years, there is still more truth and light that calls us to the next, and as Minister Kim Grice said, the ‘next is now.’ Our future is not tomorrow, it is not the next, it is now, and we need to hear from you.

In February we commissioned a Thrive Task Force to help our congregation get to the ‘next’ new place where God is calling us now. The process we are using to facilitate a rich and meaningful conversation is one that is called World Café. The process of World Café believes that the most meaningful, significant, and impactful conversations are the ones we have together. World Café believes that the solutions to our questions are found in conversation with one another. World Café is a simple process of bringing people together around questions that matter. The process is invitational and is rooted in the awareness that

everyone is needed to come up with the best possible solution. The model is one of conversation, discussion, listening, and that each voice matters, and each person feels heard. Through hospitality, good questions, and respectful conversation, the Thrive Task Force will facilitate a discussion that will provide a way forward to ‘the next’ chapter in our life together.

Beginning in May, the Thrive Task Force will begin a series of World Cafes around several important topics that will shape our ‘next’. The World Café will provide an opportunity for all the voices to be heard so we can make the best possible decision for our future life together. The topics will include our understanding of thrive, reflect upon our values and mission, how we communicate and treat one another, and discuss the best possible use of our property and the kind of pastoral leadership we need that will serve the future mission and ministry of Pilgrim Faith UCC. The ‘next’ is now and whether you have been active or less active in recent years, we want to hear from you. Please watch for more information on our plans for our upcoming World Café conversations. Yes, there is still more truth and light to be revealed to us.

Pastor Dan





This Photo by Unknown

Reflections From the Moderator:

I found this Bible verse in the UCC Daily Devotions, and it seemed just right as I am starting on this Moderator journey with you.

I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.” – Romans 1:11-12 (NRSV)

While I am not so sure that I have some wonderful spiritual gift to strengthen you, I can relate to the last part- “...that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.”

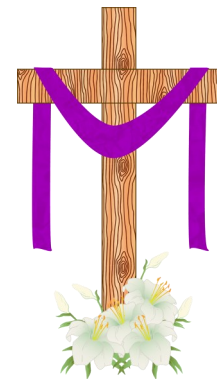
One person's faith can do so much in the world, but imagine what we can do together? As the new Council begins our work for this year, we are focusing on working as a team, each with our own ideas and dreams, but bound together in our love of this church and the ministry that we can do.

As we look to the Easter message of hope, we realize that as a congregation we have so much for which to be thankful. We have a smaller, but dedicated team that are working to make improvements throughout the church (cleaning out classrooms, painting, and organizing all of our historical documents) to name a few. We are doing these things to brighten and clean our space, but it really is to be able to reach out welcoming hands to the greater community. This year we have added more counseling space, the Acorn to Oak Studio fine arts group, as well as maintaining our commitment to our existing support groups. The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry became a 503c non-profit group, which enables it to seek more corporate donations. While working with their own board of directors (several of whom are church members), they are still a ministry that we fully support, and embrace.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your moderator, it is truly an honor to help this church in any way that I can. Filling Mary Weierman's shoes is a tall order, and I am so happy that she is continuing to serve as Co-Treasurer. Her wisdom, faith-filled perspective, and calmness truly make her an asset. We welcome Dennis Healy and Doreen Lopez as new members. I would also like to say thank you to Roger Dykstra for his dedicated service to the church and council. And I must say that the *presence* of Lys Werner, Chris Raap, Ken Langevin, and Tom Aitken continue to be *presents* to me. What an amazing group to serve alongside!

The council is an asset to this church, but we are NOT what makes Pilgrim Faith special. We see our job as guiding, listening, and sharing. You will be asked to join in some discussions this year about our Constitution, and the THRIVE group's discussions about our direction in the next several years. Please join in and share your ideas and dreams with these groups. We also would love your help in any way that the spirit calls you. You might want to help with going through our old records (i.e. baptisms, weddings, church membership), or painting, helping in the office, etc. You are needed and welcomed!

April blessings to you all!
Daune Sebastian



Worship Opportunities for Holy Week:

MAUNDY THURSDAY & SEDER MEAL at Salem United Church of Christ. The service will begin in the Sanctuary and will process to Fellowship Hall to participate in a Passover Meal. The service begins at 7 p.m. and is located at 9717 S Kostner Ave.

A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will take place at Immanuel UCC in Evergreen Park. The service begins at 7 p.m. and will include a combined choir. Immanuel UCC is located at 9815 S Campbell Ave, Evergreen Park, IL. May your Holy Week be meaningful and inspiring as we prepare for Easter.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION will take place for Nicki and Kennedy Hilliard on Sunday, May 7th. This will be a wonderful day of celebration as Nicki as Pilgrim Faith UCC affirms their Christian journey and they join our fellowship. Please come and join us for this special day. The girls will share their Confirmation papers and we'll Confirm them as growing disciples in Christ. In addition, we are excited to baptize Nick, Kennedy, and James (Bubba) on Sunday, April 30th during our morning worship! Join us and be a part of their journey of faith.

Nursery Helpers Needed!



Please consider helping once every month or two. Right now, we have 3 volunteers that are in the Kids' Club nursery on Sunday mornings. There is a wonderful paid nursery attendant, who is there every week, so you would not be alone. Contact Daune Sebastian if you are willing to share God's love with our youngest members.

We would also encourage ALL members who are involved in the ministry of Pilgrim Faith, to ask Daune about getting the Safe Church training that is offered online through our insurance carrier,



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

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

Bob Salveson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

Doris Seitz

11237 S. Normandy
Worth, IL 60482



LIMITLESS YOUTH NEWS!

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF PILGRIM FAITH UCC

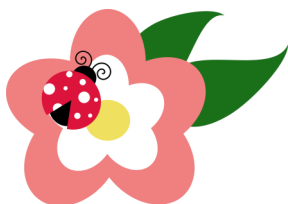
GAME NIGHT & FUNDRAISER: Limitless Youth had a great time hosting game night at Pilgrim Faith in March. We would like to thank all those who joined us for the evening, those who purchased baskets and our baked goods. We would also like to thank all who donated baskets for our Silent Auction. The night was a big success and we made over \$800.00 for the youth and for our mission, Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, Illinois. Thank you all for your support. It would not have been as successful without the congregation's help and participation.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT: In addition to our successful Game Night, Limitless Youth Group would like to express our gratitude to the members who donated plastic eggs, lots of candy, and various prizes. We stuffed over 300 eggs and at this posting, we're hoping for a great day and lots of kids to claim their prizes.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN mission day will take place on Saturday, May 6th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Feed my Starving Children is located at 555 Exchange Ct, Aurora, IL 60504. This is our second year to participate in the preparing and packing

food for this special mission. We are encouraging youth in the sixth grade through twelfth grade to join us in this mission. This year we are able to make a donation to Feed My Starving Children from our fundraiser in March. Our shift begins at 2 p.m. Please meet at the church by 12:30 p.m. if you need a ride. If you are planning to meet us there, please be at the location by 1:45 p.m. We have reserved 10 spots for Limitless Youth. Please let Pastor Dan know by April 28th, if you are planning to attend. Parents and friends are invited to participate. Come with us and make a difference!



END OF THE YEAR COOK-OUT AND CELEBRATION!

On Sunday, June 4th, Limitless Youth will host their end of the year picnic at Wolf Wildlife Park at 109th and

Laramie in Oak Lawn. This is our opportunity to celebrate our Seniors and welcome our rising seventh graders. The picnic will be open to family and friends. Please watch for details in the near future! The event will likely take place in the early afternoon!



Update From the Co-treasurers

Dear Members of Pilgrim Faith,

The past two months have flown by. While there have been setbacks, we still move ahead. Tom is very dedicated to training me in all aspects of being the treasurer. We have talked at length about the congregation timeline for us to work together.

I can say that normally I wouldn't ask for reconsideration about what the congregation has set, this time I must.

The time limit for Tom and myself is causing stress that is truly not necessary. I believe, without a doubt, that Tom and I are feeling pressure that could have adverse effects.

With the time limit removed, I know that it will be easier to focus on growing Pilgrim Faith. I understand that we are on unfamiliar grounds, I understand that the newest of this situation may cause people to become more concerned; please rest in the fact that both Tom and myself are dedicated to ensuring that the money is accounted for.

Please reach out to me if you are truly opposed to removing the time limit.

I thank you for your understanding and continued patience with this.

May God bless you and keep you.
Mary Weierman & Tom Aitken

Status report from the Senior Housing Development Committee

Most of the last few months have been spent responding to questions about our published Request for Proposal. (See 2023 Annual Report for details.) One specific response from Plymouth Place (a large senior living facility affiliated with the U.C.C. in LaGrange, Ill.) suggested that we undertake a more complete market analysis of the senior living market in the Oak Lawn area. They suggested we use the PMD Market Research firm out of Cincinnati, that completed the research for Plymouth Place's recent \$100 million expansion project. Recognizing our Church's funding limitations, PMD proposed a limited demographic study of the Oak Lawn area (by zip code). Using their proprietary data-base, they will identify the ability of residents to afford various price points for senior residence rentals. In addition, from in-depth phone calls, they expect to identify all the current and potential competing senior living centers in the area. At the conclusion of their 4-week analysis, PMD will prepare a written report of their findings. Then, in a Zoom meeting in Colonial Hall, they will present their recommendation to the Church membership about the market viability of our proposed facility. Obviously, if their report is negative, that will be the end of the project. If not, it will be important to ask your questions before we proceed further. On-site for the Zoom presentation (and at no cost to us) will be Daniel Collins, the overall project manager and consultant for the Plymouth Place development. He will answer questions and if we vote to proceed, tell us what comes next. Tentatively, the meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m. (No, football or basketball.)

At a special meeting of the Church Council on March 15th, this proposed market research project was discussed in detail and subsequently approved. With \$2,500 in anonymous donations, the Council authorized the co-Treasurers to take an additional \$1,500 from the Undesignated Memorial funds, to pay the balance of \$4,000. Pastor Dan reported that his wife, Pastor Carly at the First Congregational of LaGrange, was on the Plymouth Place Board of Trustees when their PMD contract was approved. She reported that they were well pleased with PMD's efforts.

PILGRIM FAITH UCC					
RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS					
	Month of FEBRUARY 2023		As of FEBRUARY 28, 2023		
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	YEAR-TO-DATE Actual	YEAR-TO-DATE Budget	
Receipts					
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 6,595.00	\$ 4,710.82	\$ 12,129.85	\$ 9,756.50	
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 7,707.82	\$ 6,103.51	\$ 15,939.26	\$ 15,112.73	
Disbursements					
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,091.34	\$ 12,648.57	\$ 26,716.70	\$ 22,869.40	
Expenses	\$ 7,262.88	\$ 7,101.14	\$ 19,747.83	\$ 14,241.70	
Total Disbursements (all expense)	\$ 19,012.76	\$ 20,158.04	\$ 47,123.17	\$ 37,927.76	
Net Total	\$ (11,304.94)	\$ (14,054.53)	\$(31,183.91)	\$ (22,815.03)	

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

WIDER CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES!

Christian Nationalism: Threat to Christianity and Democracy

Lecture with Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 7:00 PM

Elmhurst University, Hammerschmidt Chapel

Please join us on campus as we host the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, in a public lecture/conversation on this growing reality in our nation, Christian Nationalism - what it is and what it is not.

Congregations and members of the Illinois Conference are invited and encouraged to attend this timely evening with Dr. Dorhauer, who is a distinguished advisor to the National Council of Churches, the Interfaith networks in the nation, and a recognized national leader in the religious landscape. **The evening is open to all and free of charge.**

We are planning to carpool from the church to this event at Elmhurst College. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the Narthex and be at the church parking lot by 4 p.m. on April 11th. We'll Carpool to Simons for dinner. Simons is located at 2 W. Roosevelt Road, Villa Park. The event is sponsored by the Ministry of Christian Formation and Missions. For more information, please talk to Pastor Dan.

LOOKING AHEAD! The Chicago Metropolitan Association Spring Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 6th. This meeting will be in person and more information is forthcoming. Any member of Pilgrim Faith UCC is invited to attend this meeting. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact our UCC delegate Chris Raap or Pastor Dan.



Earth Day MESSY CHURCH ON THE GO! **April 23rd, 2023 @ 10 AM**

As part of loving God's world, we are planning a special Earth Day Messy Church! Join us on April 23rd as we gather to clean the Columbus Manor Park in Oak Lawn. It is located at 99th Street and Moody (near the Stony Creek Golf Course). This park includes an All-Inclusive playground, so maybe the little ones will get a chance to play while we are there! Please bring gloves for the clean-up (but I will have extras, too). We will meet there, clean the park, and then head back to church for a delicious lunch.



For anyone not involved in the park clean-up, we have a something special for you back at the church (more details to follow).



APRIL 2023



Sun

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Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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							Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal		Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon				Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal	
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10:00AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal		Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon				Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
10:00AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal		Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon				Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal		Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon				Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal	
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10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal							



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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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