



MAY 2022

More Truth and Light

“You are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit be upon you, child of God, disciple of Christ, and member of the church.”

-Baptism per the UCC Book of Worship

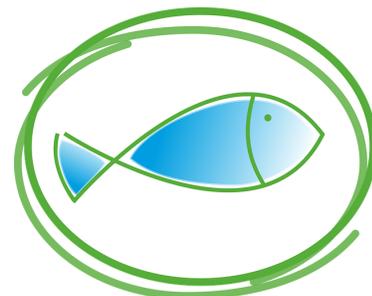
The act of Baptism within the Christian Church is a promise, a commitment to radical discipleship; it is an affirmation of our uniqueness as created by God, and our baptism marks a formal beginning of the Christian faith and offers us a faith community that will nurture us from the cradle to the grave. However, in recent year, the act of baptism has become less a call to radical discipleship and more of an action that is done to our children with no particular interest or commitment to the Christian faith or the local church. Nonetheless, we offer the Sacrament, trusting that God’s grace will be sufficient. Still, we believe, that baptism and our commitment to the promises we make, set us apart from other religions.

Throughout the life and ministry of the Christian Church, images of baptism, renewal, commitment, and promise are a part of our life together. The reason we provide resource for Confirmation is a reminder and affirmation of the act of baptism. Every year, in the season of Epiphany, we remember the baptism of Jesus. The Day of Pentecost is that moment when we are reminded of our uniqueness as God’s beloved creation and that time when we renew our commitment to radical discipleship, and the Holy Spirit calls us out of our isolation to be engaged in the community around us. When there are installations, Ordinations, or the commissioning of lay leaders or governing bodies within the church, we invoke our baptism vows that have shaped us and

our faith community over the generations. Just as images of baptism are incorporated in the rites and traditions of the Church over the centuries, when people choose to become members of a particular congregation, the vows, promises, and prayers of our baptism are the signs and symbols of the liturgy that welcomes others into our faith community.

In the last several months, I have learned that there are individuals who are interested in exploring membership with Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. It is with this interest that during the month of May, we will be offering classes for those who would be interested in learning more about Pilgrim Faith, the United Church of Christ, and the religious traditions of the Christian faith. The classes will be offered on Thursday evenings beginning **May 12th at 7pm** and we will meet in the church parlor on the second floor just off the sanctuary. We will explore a variety of themes that will include our beliefs, the history of our congregation, the United Church of Christ, and reflect on themes such as membership and belonging. *(For more information, see additional article on Membership Exploration)* On **Pentecost Sunday, June 5th** during morning worship, we will receive anyone who would like to covenant with Pilgrim Faith UCC to acts of radical discipleship, responsibilities of church membership, and to formalize a new beginning. Perhaps you are one? Indeed, God, has more truth and light to reveal to us.

Pastor Dan Sather



FROM THE MODERATOR -

I am ok, how are you?

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.”

Ephesians 1:17-20

Powerful words from Paul. Written near the year of 64 (kinda hard to think about that long ago) to help support and spread the word about Jesus Christ. Paul was building the church to have a personal relationship with Jesus, like he had. To create that type of relationship takes time, understanding and facing the truth. The truth can be hard, troubling, and difficult to face. Like the title of this article.

How many times did you want to say something other than “I am ok, how are you”. I think we are programmed not to tell the truth about how we feel.

We can not complain, we can not talk about any problem because it could take up more time than what the other person has. I believe most of all we will need to face the truth coming from us.

We bottle the pain, fear, frustration, questions, and statements up until it explodes. People lash out, yell, we don't answer or we say something that hurts others. Sometimes what appears as the truth hurts. Words can not be taken back, but they can be overcome with a simple word, “sorry”.

It is funny, I can not recall Jesus saying “sorry” to anyone. Why, well he is the Son of God. Jesus has a close relationship with God (like parents with their children) so Jesus knew what to say, how to say it and (I am jealous) knew how the person would react to what he said. Truth hurts but love overpowers that pain.

Some pain that Pilgrim Faith experienced is still around. We had groups about healing, but we never took the next steps. The time for discussion never happened. Questions are not asked, auto-pilot is turned on, and (with Zoom) people can view and be a part of Pilgrim Faith from their armchairs.

We don't need to ask questions, we don't need to take part in meetings we don't want to, but are we really together? I don't think so. Just sitting and waiting is not what Jesus wants.

Easter had the people God called to be there. It was not like the service 10 years ago. There was plenty of room, great music and a great message. It was small, intimate and still shared the joy of knowing Jesus.

Why? Why does there need to be a change? Because one thing that is constant is change. The change that comes with open discussions of our feelings, our plans and our place in Pilgrim Faith. Being there to hear how we hurt each other, how we feel now and most importantly asking for forgiveness. Unlike Simon Peter who could not ask Jesus to forgive him (after denying Jesus three times), we have the time and the ability to ask.

My question is, are you ready to hear what others have to say without judgment? Are you ready to say sorry (and mean it) if the pain is coming from you? We will need to do this part. Only then can we focus on the future of Pilgrim Faith.

May God bless us all and give us the hearts for forgiveness when it is needed.

Needing God

“Instead, strive for His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”

Luke 12:31

I have a condition of diverticulitis. I have had it since college. Doctors (at the time) started talking to me about my diet. My diet is simple, I see food and I eat it. As time moves on, I need to become more aware of what I am doing. Why am I sharing this with you? Because I simply do not do what is good for me all the time if my routine is changed.

The week leading to Easter, my routine was changed. The campus was closed for spring break and I was told to work from home.

I do not work well from home. My supervisor knows this, my co-workers and my family. So I ate, without drinking enough water to stop the condition from starting. I am in pain, and now I need to eat things that my family hates. All because I was not focused on the right thing to do.

What is the right thing with God?

I have had some conversations with people who say they “don’t need God”. They know that Jesus has their back. But coming to worship is just, not in the routine. Some people are afraid of Covid 19, some people like to sleep in and watch services from their homes and others simply do not want to be bothered.

To know Jesus on a personal level is to spend time with Jesus. Listening to the word of God, the message of Jesus and developing a deeper relationship with Jesus. I find it hard to understand that people can not fit God into their week. How can one say that they are Christian without the help of fellowship? For hundreds of years, people met in secret to read the Bible, talk about Jesus and develop a better understanding of what God is calling them to do.

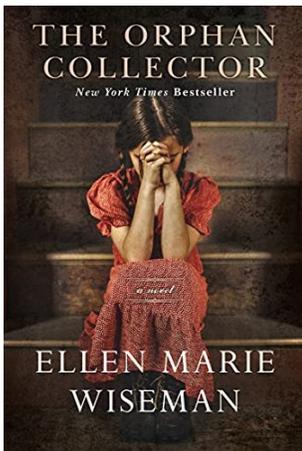
Where did God become only something to think about on your time?

Everyone will have a different relationship with God and Jesus. I enjoy being the hands and feet of Jesus at this time and space. I know that everyone has their own relationship with God and Jesus.

Is it a relationship if God is not even part of the conversation? I am just wondering. It takes time and our mind needs to be on it. Not just only on Sunday, but everyday. Like it or not, to keep a healthy relationship with God is to visit with Him daily, no matter what your daily routine is.

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

Mary Weierman



May Book Club Meeting

For the May 22nd meeting, we choose ‘The Orphan Collector’ by Ellen Marie Wiseman. The novel is very timely as it is about the 1918 pandemic. We hope to meet in person at 7 PM but will decide closer to the date.

The SWAN database describes it as:

Ellen Marie Wiseman, weaves the stories of two very different women into a page-turning novel as suspenseful as it is poignant, set amid one of history's deadliest pandemics. In the fall of 1918, thirteen-year-old German immigrant Pia Lange longs to be far from Philadelphia's overcrowded streets and slums, and from the anti-German sentiment that compelled her father to enlist in the U.S. Army, hoping to prove his loyalty. But an even more urgent threat has arrived. Spanish influenza is spreading through the city. Soon, dead and dying are everywhere. With no food at home, Pia must venture out in search of supplies, leaving her infant twin brothers alone . . . Since her baby died days ago, Bernice Groves has been lost in grief and bitterness. If doctors hadn't been so busy tending to hordes of immigrants, perhaps they could have saved her son. When Bernice sees Pia leaving her tenement across the way, she is buoyed by a shocking, life-altering decision that leads her on a sinister mission- to transform the city's orphans and immigrant children into what she feels are "true Americans." As Pia navigates the city's somber neighborhoods, she cannot know that her brothers won't be home when she returns. And it will be a long and arduous journey to learn what happened- even as Bernice plots to keep the truth hidden at any cost. Only with persistence, and the courage to face her own shame and fear, will Pia put the pieces together and find the strength to risk everything to see justice at last.

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION CLASSES PLANNED!

Pastor Dan will be providing Membership Exploration Classes beginning on Thursday, May 12th beginning at 7 p.m. We will start on time and wrap the classes up by 8 p.m. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring membership at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ, please let Pastor Dan. We will receive those who choose to become members during our morning worship on Sunday, June 5th. The purpose of this class is to explore membership and attending the classes does not obligate you to become a member of the congregation. If after you attend the classes, you decide to join, we will welcome you on June 5th. If you choose not to join at this time, you will not be required to attend classes in the future. Instead, you can continue to participate in the life and ministries of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. Please let Pastor Dan know of your interest by Sunday May 8th. The topics we will cover in class are as follows:

- May 12 Who are we? (**Getting to know one another, mission, and history of Pilgrim Faith**)
- May 19 Tell us about the United Church of Christ (**History, polity, beliefs, mission**)
- May 26 How can I get involved? (**Governance, Plans for the reception of membership**)
- June 2 Dinner with Pastor Dan (**local Oak Lawn Restaurant TBA, 6 p.m.**)
- June 5 Reception of New Members, 10 a.m. worship

SENIORS WHO WILL BE GRADUATING THIS YEAR:

As our program year ends, **Limitless Youth** would like to recognize graduating Seniors this year. If you are graduating this year from High School, please let Pastor Sather know and we will recognize you. Please include the following in a paragraph that we'll include in our June Limitless newsletter:

Your Name. The High School you are Graduating from. A sentence about your greatest High School memory. Let us know if you are planning to attend a college, a technical school, or trade school and let us know the name of the program. If you are taking time off to work before making plans for more education, let us know this too.

Please let us celebrate with you. If you could send an Email, text, or note to pastor Dan about your plans by May 22nd, it would be appreciated. My Email: pastordan@pilgrimfaith.org



Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has received more profiles recently. We are reading them and hoping to do some interviews shortly.

LIMITLESS YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Feed our Starving Children Plans! On Saturday, May 14th 2-3:45 p.m. we will be volunteering at Feed my Starving Children in Aurora, IL. This is a mission that packs healthy meals and ships nutritional food around the world to alleviate hunger for millions of children. What a thrill it is to know that for giving so little time to helps so many of God's children have a healthy meal for a day. We will be packing as many bags of grains and vitamins that we can pack as a group in the time that we are there. We will plan to leave from the church at 1 p.m. and we'll drive to Aurora to volunteer for an hour and 45 minutes. Here is the link to their website and it would be helpful to go to the page and review the mission and work of Feed my Starving Children.

Website address: <https://www.fmssc.org/about-us>. Please note that as volunteers we are to wear no jewelry, including watches, fit bits, and pierced earrings into the plant. Yes, we will be wearing a hairnet, but the agency makes it very clear that we will still have to remove all jewelry.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We are limited to 10 individuals. If you are planning to attend this event, it is important that you let **Pastor Sather know of your interest by Saturday, May 7th**. Thank you for your help and your timely response. This is a popular mission for the area and youth, children and adults from suburban Chicago have found much meaning and purpose in this simple act of caring and discipleship. Please join us!





MESSY CHURCH



MAY 15 11:30-1:00 PM

BIBLE TRAILS

Come for

**FAITH, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP,
FUN!**

There are so many Bible stories about traveling- join us as we explore many kinds of roads!



shutterstock.com - 218609560



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

- ◆ CANNED MEAT
- ◆ BAKED BEANS
- ◆ CANNED STEWS
- ◆ PEANUT BUTTER
- ◆ CANNED SPAGHETTI
- ◆ JELLY
- ◆ SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- ◆ CANNED FRUIT
- ◆ PASTA
- ◆ HEARTY SOUPS
- ◆ GREEN BEANS
- ◆ ONE CAN DINNERS
- ◆ PEAS
- ◆ MACARONI AND CHEESE
- ◆ TOILET PAPER
- ◆ DIAPERS

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

Real Estate Meeting Re- minder



Just a friendly reminder to let you know that the next Real Estate Meeting will be happening on Saturday, May 21st at 2PM here at Pilgrim Faith Church. We hope to see you there!



Bible Trivia

1. Which Gospel is written by a doctor?
2. How many books are in the New Testament?
3. Who is the author of the Book of Revelation?
4. To what city was Saul traveling when he encountered a great and blinding light?
5. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?
6. After Jesus fed 5,000+ people with two fish and five loaves of bread, how many baskets were left over?
7. According to the Beatitudes who will be filled?



ANSWERS: 1. Luke 2. 27 3. John 4. Damascus 5. Simeon 6. 12 7. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Church Receipts as of March 31, 2022

	Month of MARCH 2022		As of March 31, 2022	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
Receipts				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 7,898.67	\$ 6,896.96	\$ 21,562.41	\$ 19,238.75
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 8,723.08	\$ 8,176.96	\$ 27,173.57	\$ 25,902.97
Disbursements				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,428.42	\$ 12,166.67	\$ 38,038.18	\$ 32,702.01
Expenses	\$ 16,643.26	\$ 11,578.47	\$ 29,794.94	\$ 22,977.87
Total Disbursements (all expense)	\$ 28,395.68	\$ 24,245.14	\$ 68,632.80	\$ 56,779.88
Net Total	\$ (19,672.60)	\$ (16,068.18)	\$ (41,459.23)	\$ (30,876.91)

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 totaled \$760.00.



...camps have shaped and formed lives

overheard at camp...

"Camp matters as a vital introduction to our stewardship of creation"

...come, rediscover your camps, we're changing the world, one camper at a time.





Week 9, "...camp, a vital introduction to Stewardship" was overheard from one of our guests. For decades Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park have been here to help **change a young person's life**, and your financial gifts to **uplift, shape and spiritually form our campers** is a wonderful blessing. Please consider donating a needed scholarship directly at: <https://outdoorministries.campbraingiving.com/>

Many retreats, camp offerings and **special events are happening in 2022** promising to all a joyful experience. Call Tower Hill at 269-426-3881 or Pilgrim Park at 815-447-2390 for details or log-on to see what is **available this year**: [Camps and Retreats Information \(il-outdoorministries.org\)](http://il-outdoorministries.org)

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:9



Register TODAY!



MDFPA.COM

THE DUNWORTH FOUNDATION is hosting a 5K walk for the arts on May 14th at Lake Katherine Nature Center, Palos Heights. They will be collecting non-perishable food and their board has graciously chosen our food pantry to be the recipient of this food. Please share the event details with friends and family.

<https://www.dunworthfoundation.org/new-products>

Lay Leaders

Here are the upcoming lay leaders:

May

1 TBA
8 Keith Stevenson
15 Rick Wank
22 Cari Stevenson
29 Chris Raap

June

5 TBA
12 Peggy Martin
19 Peggy McGinnis
26 Emily Cook



MESSY CHURCH - APRIL



Easter Messy Church was so-o-o much FUN! We learned what Jesus' path from Palm Sunday to the cross means to Christians.

We made egg people, did the chicken dance (and bunny-hop), and heard the Easter story through "Resurrection Eggs". Then we finished off with an Easter Egg Hunt on the back grass!



We definitely experienced the 4 F's:

FELLOWSHIP - FOOD - FUN & FAITH!



**JOIN us - May 15 Messy Church
11:30-1:00 PM**



Fun and Games for Limitless

Limitless Youth gathered on Sunday afternoon, April 24, for a fun-filled trip to "In the Game" at Hollywood Park in Crestwood where they played video games, rode bumper cars, and ate pizza. Five teens from the Pilgrim Faith group were joined by five teens from Salem UCC, as well as three younger siblings and friends who had a great time playing games and winning prizes! Their only disappointment was that it rained, so the giant slide and miniature golf course were both closed; we might need to schedule miniature golf for a future meeting. In the absence of Pastor Dan and Pastor Steve, the Martins are grateful for the five parents who chaperoned the event including Pilgrim Faith's own Dennis and Lexi Healy.



May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Worship	2	3 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	4 	5	6	7 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
8 10:00AM Worship 	9	10 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	11	12	13	14 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
15 10:00AM Worship 11:30AM-1 PM Messy Church 	16	17 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	18 FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON	19	20	21 Food Pantry 10:00 AM-Noon Real Estate Mtg. 2 PM
22 10:00 AM Worship	23	24 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	25	26	27	28 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 
29 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Book Club Mtg.	30	31 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon				



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

Non-Profit
PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oak Lawn, IL
Permit No.7

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

C
O
M
M
U
N
I
T
Y

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

S
U
P
P
O
R
T



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!

