



NOVEMBER 2023

More Truth and Light

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.”

- Matthew 11:4-5

Lately, I've been thinking about communication and how important it is and at the same time how very difficult it is to communicate today. I remember when the ways to communicate were limited to four options, face to face conversations, the printed word that was handed out in the form of flyers, posters, or the daily newspaper, letters delivered by the United States Postal Service, and an old-fashioned land line for the telephone. I remember when having a twelve-foot cord from the telephone to the receiver was a novelty. Today there are so many more ways to communicate. We can still create posters and flyers, write letters, talk on a land-line, read the newspaper, or talk face to face with people. In addition to all of these, we have access to communication sources 24/7. We have websites, E-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, Facebook, Tik Tok, the internet and hand-held computers we call cellphones. Getting information quickly and in real time couldn't be easier and yet it has been my experience that communicating with church members is so difficult. I cannot tell you how often my E-mails go unanswered, my text messages are ignored, and telephone calls are never returned. Perhaps your experience is like mine.

When I reflect on communication in the context of the gospel, I can see that the difficulty of communicating with people was as perplexing and troubling to Jesus and his disciples as it is for us. John the Baptist had been arrested and was in prison and some of his disciples went to Jesus with a question that perplexed Jesus. They asked, ***“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”*** Even as Jesus lived, taught, and communicated with his disciples, some chose to ignore

the information that was right before their eyes. Jesus responds, ***“Go and tell John what you hear and see...”*** Jesus asks John's disciples to notice what is happening and to take responsibility and tell others -- communicate the story of God's life-giving grace and love and talk about God who is our inspiration, our purpose, and our very being.

It was important to Jesus that John's disciples understood what God was doing in their midst. Communication is important for all churches no matter the size. Through our World Café discussions, effective communication came up several times and monthly I hear the words, *“we need to make sure that we communicate better to our members.”* I couldn't agree more, and I can assure you that we are using all available communication at our disposal. We post on Facebook regularly; the Website is kept up to date. Mailchimp is sent out twice a week to all who have given us their E-mail addresses. I will call, text, and E-mail important information to the people that need-to-know information. We keep regular announcements and a weekly calendar in our bulletin, a monthly newsletter is produced, the church is open from 9 to 2 Monday through Friday, and I have an open-door policy – no appointments necessary. Yes, communication is important, but it is also important for the membership to read their material, read reports, return phone calls, E-mails, or text messages. Yes, communication is important, and we all need to do our part. We all need to do better. Maybe this is a good time to see how we can do better in communicating with one another.

Rev. Daniel Sather

PILGRIM FAITH UCC
RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2023

	Month of SEPTEMBER 2023		As of SEPTEMBER 30, 2023	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	YEAR-TO-DATE Actual	YEAR-TO-DATE Budget
Receipts				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 6,502.00	\$ 3,807.25	\$ 63,949.47	\$ 49,661.14
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 12,415.46	\$ 7,218.16	\$ 107,922.74	\$ 74,643.08
Disbursements				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 10,968.73	\$ 11,130.08	\$ 106,485.64	\$ 100,570.70
Expenses	\$ 10,032.77	\$ 5,362.81	\$ 73,002.42	\$ 68,789.96
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 23,278.79	\$ 16,901.22	\$ 184,691.27	\$ 173,035.63
Net Total	\$ (10,863.33)	\$ (9,683.06)	\$ (76,768.53)	\$ (98,392.55)

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

THANKSGIVING SCAVENGER

HUNT for Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry! It was a cold day last year, but we had a lot of fun collecting canned goods from our neighborhood for the pantry! Once again, we're planning a special Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt for **Saturday, November 4th at Noon!** Come, dressed for the weather and plan to join the adventure as we visit our neighbors and collect food for the pantry. This is a great service opportunity for Limitless Youth. Let's see if we can double our collection this year!



Turkey Drive & Raffle

to support the Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry

The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry will be collecting turkeys (less than 18lbs please) to distribute to our patrons for Thanksgiving. For each turkey donated, you will be entered into a raffle to win a tumbler and gift card to Cork & Bean!

Please drop your turkeys to the office M-F from 9am-2pm or Saturday during pantry hours (10am-12pm) **by November 11th, 2023.**

The winner will be drawn November 18th at 10am!



Thank you for your support!



Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry

Remember Our Homebound

Mary Brehm

Bridgeview
Healthcare Ctr.
8100 S. Harlem Ave.
Bridgeview, IL 60455

Darlene Wank

10942 S. Oak Ave
Chicago Ridge, IL
60415

Doris Seitz

11237 S. Normandy
Worth, IL 60482

Grace Pluhar

8824 S. 55th Ct.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Donna Twichell

10032 Harnew Rd.
East
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Linda Aitken

The Pointe at
Kilpatrick
14230 Kilpatrick
Crestwood, IL. 60418

Bob Salveson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

Barbara Dresdem

5133 W. 79th St.
Burbank, il 60459



MONTHLY MOMENT OF CLIMATE HOPE!

Breathe and remember that every breath you take came from somewhere, and every exhale will feed life.

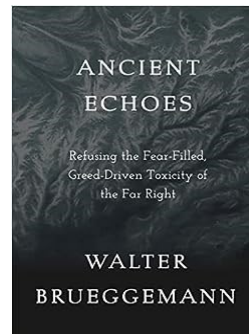
Oxygen from the ocean and land gives your heart its beat, and you return carbon dioxide as a fair exchange. This transaction happens effortlessly. Your life is interconnected.

Isaias Hernandez

The World Meteorological Organization released a very hopeful report stating that humanity and all life on Earth dodged a bullet. The Montreal Protocol, an international agreement signed in 1987, regulated the consumption and production of almost 100 chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that created a hole in the ozone layer and endangered the planet's entire ecosystem. More than three decades later, the use of CFCs has decreased by 99%, and the Earth's ozone layer is on track to recover in the coming decades.

We will keep looking for the bright spots!

Daune Sebastian



BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER TIME! It seems that meeting in person on Sunday morning at this time

of year is difficult for those who would be interested. Instead of canceling the book and bible study, we'll move it to a January evening, and we'll conduct the book and bible study on Zoom. In the meantime, you may want to plan to purchase this book and read Kurt Andersen's book, *Evil Geniuses*. This will give you time and we'll get more out of our time together. Please look for an article in the December and January newsletter for the rescheduled time. In the meantime, enjoy this season and the upcoming holidays and we'll get back together soon and continue our book and bible study.

THANK YOU FOR
supporting the



Here are three ways to support the pantry:

Donate goods or host a food drive

Donations may be dropped off M-F 9am-2pm

Volunteer your time

Please email pffoodpantry.com to volunteer in the pantry!

Make a monetary donation

Scan the QR code, write a check payable to "Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry," or deliver cash donation at the office.



To make an electronic donation:

- 1) Open your smart phone's camera
- 2) Scan the QR code
- 3) Click the link
- 4) Make a donation through PayPal.



Grant Writer Wanted

The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry is in search of a grant writer! We would love this person(s) to have the experience and time to apply for grants to help support the pantry. If this is something you are interested in, please email the pantry at pffoodpantry@gmail.com. Thank you!



Pilgrim Faith
United Church of Christ

Please *let us know if you would be interested in offering a coffee hour.* We are looking for more participants.

Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts

November 5 Kay Gibson and Charlene Wagner
November 12 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan
November 19 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus
November 26 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

December 3 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack
December 10 Kay Gibson and Charlene Wagner
December 17 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan
December 24 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus
December 31 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

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



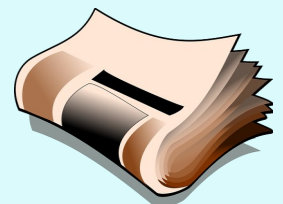
**YOUTH TO HELP
MAKE CHRISTMAS
CARDS!** On Sunday,
December 10th, fol-
lowing worship, Lim-
itless Youth Group
will help to make
Christmas cards for

our sick and homebound mem-
bers. The card making party will
take place in Colonial Hall after
worship. Please come and bring
your creativity and enthusiasm
and help us make Christmas a lit-
tle more special for those in our
congregation who can no longer
be with us on Sunday morning.
For additional information, please
reach out to one of our youth advi-
sors or Gail Siwek.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to contribute to our monthly newsletter? The deadline for the November edition is Friday, November 24, 2023. Please submit any articles or announcements for our monthly newsletter by that date and we will be sure to include it.



BLESSED BY EACH OF YOU AND THE PILGRIM FAITH UCC CONGREGATION!

I was pleasantly surprised by the kind words, gifts, and cards that many of you shared with me in the month of October – that time of year when churches appreciate their pastors. I am truly blessed to serve Pilgrim Faith UCC and I am touched by your kindness and appreciation. Thank you so much!

Pastor Dan Sather

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND TACO COOK-OFF!

The five UCC congregations in the area are planning a special Thanksgiving service and Taco Cook-off on **Sunday, November 19th at 5 p.m.** We'll gather to worship at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Evergreen Park and then enjoy tacos and fellowship after worship. Please come and bring your favorite taco recipe and enjoy an evening with our sister congregations! Please watch the bulletin and MailChimp for more information.



PLANNING FOR ADVENT! This year, our Advent theme is entitled, “How does a Weary World Rejoice?” In a time when the world is fighting, our democracy is threatened by cultural wars and extreme ideological views that are distorting and disrupting our nation, we are in need of rejoicing. Advent can be that season of rejoicing for us. This year, we are creating our own Advent Devotional booklets and want to limit the amount of paper that we use. If you are interested in an Advent Devotional please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office by Sunday, November 26th of your interest and a copy will be available for your taking on Sunday, December 3rd. Advent calendars will also be printed for youth and children. May Advent be for us, a time of preparation and rejoicing.





BACK BAY MISSION OPPORTUNITY! We had a wonderful day on October 15th as we welcomed the Executive Vice President, Rev. James Pennington to our church. Rev. Pennington provided our sermon for Sunday morning worship and shared with us the ministry, history, and

volunteer opportunities at Back Bay Mission. We'd also like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Ministry of Christian Formation and Mission for providing this opportunity and we want to thank Leece, Daune, and Chris who planned the meal. Everything was marvelous! Many of our members were interested in our mission trip to Back Bay July 7th through 13th. We are still open to anyone who may be interested in participating. If you would like to be included, please let Pastor Dan know as soon as possible. In addition to construction work, painting, and landscaping, there are other volunteer opportunities that we can participate in while we are at Back Bay. Please see additional flyer of mission opportunities at Back Bay in this publication of our newsletter. The cost for each person is \$250.00 and we are planning fund-raisers to help subsidize the cost. Currently, there are funds available for any youth planning to attend Back Bay. In addition to those working at the sites, we do need individuals willing to plan and prepare meals for our volunteers. Please consider this wonderful opportunity.



IT'S NOT ALL NAILS AND PAINT!

As you recruit work campers for your mission trip to Biloxi, do keep in mind that this is a mission experience that goes beyond hammers and paint brushes!

Here are some ideas to provide a change of pace or to keep non-construction participants busy:



MICAH DAY CENTER

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays volunteers assist staff with serving the needs of our homeless guests who come during the morning for showers, laundry, use of the telephone and computer, and to sign up for other services offered.

Volunteers help run the laundry equipment, clean the showers between each use, and monitor the supply room. In between tasks, you get a chance to chat with our guests, too!



FOOD PANTRY

This small room in our Administration Building is where we stock food items which can be given to persons who stop in during the week for emergency assistance. Volunteers can assist our guests with shopping and food choices, can help us restock shelves, keep them in order, sort for expiration dates, and generally help with related tasks. Monday, Wednesday and Friday (9-11:30), and Wednesday, (1-3pm).

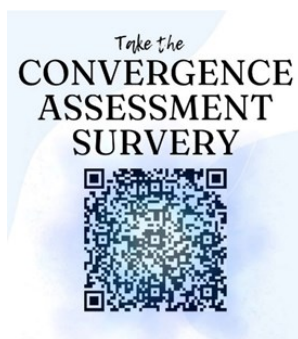
LOAVES & FISHES

Back Bay Mission has a long history with the Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen. Volunteers are needed Tuesday thru Friday to assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean up. Volunteers must wear long pants, no tank tops, and if group includes anyone under the age of 18, must be accompanied by an adult.



PLEASE COMPLETE THE CONGREGATIONAL ASSESS- MENT:

We are partnering with Conver-
gence, and three UCC congrega-
tions within our area to get a better
understanding of where our congre-
gations are and if there is a possibil-
ity to share ministry in meaningful
and impactful ways. In addition to
the World Cafe information, the as-
sessment will provide a snapshot of
our current situation and recom-
mendations about our best way for-
ward. ***IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL
MEMBERS AND REGULAR AT-
TENDERS*** participate in this as-
sessment. Please [click on this link](#)
or the QR Code and complete the
assessment. To better serve those
who are uncomfortable with surveys
on computers, do not have internet,
or do not have access to a comput-
er, several Council members will be
available on Sunday November
12th and 19th to help you with the
survey. We have until Sunday, No-
vember 26th to complete the sur-
vey. Thank you for your participa-
tion.



COMBINED FALL YOUTH RE- TREAT AT TOWER HILL COMING IN NOVEMBER!

Who am I? is the
theme of our retreat for our up-
coming youth retreat with the
youth from Salem U.C.C. and Im-
manuel U.C.C. We are anticipat-
ing so much fun and we hope
that you will join us for the week-
end. The retreat will take place at
Tower Hill, November 10th, 11th,
and 12th! We'll leave the parking
lot of Salem U.C.C. at 4:30 p.m.
and make our way to Tower Hill.
We're planning to stay the week-
end. The cost of the retreat will
be \$53.00 per person and in-
cludes the lodging and the meals
for the weekend. Games, Lake
Michigan, fun, campfire, Smore's
and more are a
part of this great
weekend. Come
and explore the
theme, "Who am
I?" For more in-
formation,
please talk to
our youth leaders!



News from the Worship Team

Much planning has gone into the worship experiences that will surround our Advent Season. We'll have our annual Christmas Craft Workshop, Music Sunday, and Pageant Sunday. The candles on the Advent wreath will be lit each week to celebrate the coming of the Christ child. The sanctuary will be festively decorated! Seeing that Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, we will celebrate together with **ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 ON CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING**, leaving the remainder of the day open to spend with family and friends!

Pilgrim Faith is also bringing back the **CHRISTMAS GREETING** tradition! Your name can be added to the church Christmas greeting that will be mailed out mid-December for a minimum of \$10 (or whatever you would traditionally spend on postage). All money collected, minus the actual postage, will be donated to the Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry. Please turn in your money along with how you'd specifically like your name to appear on the greeting to the church office no later than Sunday, December 10th.



Christmas Greeting

Amount: \$ _____

Greeting: _____



MISSION OPPORTUNITY! Beverly Unitarian Church located at 103rd and Longwood would like to invite members of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ to help cook and serve breakfast for migrants being held at the police stations. They are looking for help each Saturday morning at 7 a.m. If you are interested or would like more information, please be in touch with Mike Wolf. His email is wolfer43@yahoo.com. If you are interested, please let the Ministry of Christian Formation and Mission know of your interest and perhaps individuals could carpool to the church. Thank you for considering this mission opportunity.



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

Sunday Service Ushers

November 5 Rick Wank
November 12 Kevin Holt
November 19 Daune Sebastian
November 26 Ron Stancik

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

TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

Despite the cold and rain, the Trunk or Treat Halloween event was a great success. Lots of church members and organizations came out to give all of our trick or treaters candy. A good time was had by everyone.



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

Sunday Liturgy Leaders

November 5 Rick Wank
November 12 Kevin Holt
November 19 Daune Sebastian
November 26 Ron Stancik

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

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>SO MANY BLESSINGS</p>			1	2	3	4 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
5 10:00 AM Worship	6	7 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	8	9	10 Youth Retreat Tower Hill	11 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
12 10:00 AM Worship	13	14 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	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 Thanksgiving (Church Office Closed)	24 Church Office Closed	25 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
26 10:00 AM Worship	27	28 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	29			



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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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M
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MONDAY

12:00pm AA 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

FRIDAY

8:00pm AA 2nd Floor

SATURDAY

10:00am Food Pantry
10:00am AA 2nd Floor

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