



AUGUST 2023

More Truth and Light

*“In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty,
In all things Charity”*

Rev. Rupertus Meldenius (Circa 1627)

This summer has been for me, one that has caused me to reflect on such ideas as ‘unity’, ‘liberty’, and ‘charity.’ In June Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. began five important conversations about how our church and our members can continue to be relevant in such a time as this when people of the world are trying to see how religion of any flavor enriches and strengthens our society. In addition to these rich conversations, I had the privilege of being a delegate for the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ at our Biannual General Synod meeting in Indianapolis this summer. Any General Synod meeting of the United Church of Christ is a testimony to unity, liberty, and charity. The theme for General Synod this year was *“Making all things New”* as reflected through the eyes of the prophet, Isaiah. In the context of our World café conversations, what ‘newness’ is the Holy Spirit revealing to us?

The quote by a Lutheran theologian, Rev. Rupertus Meldenius in the early 17th century, reflects upon unity as the essentials of our faith that will likely be different by community. Within the context of community, there is liberty, or the freedom to exercise your faith in ways that help you grow deeper into the meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. In every incident, it is important to be about acts of kindness, charity, and caring for one another. The motto of the United Church of Christ, *“...that they may all be one”* echoes a similar sentiment and one that has been a guiding principle of our life together for nearly seventy years. *“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity”* is what, I believe,

can keep us focused on the meaning of what ‘makes all things new.’

In our first two conversations the overall themes have been on what are the essentials that are reflected in our life together at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ. There are some recurring themes in our conversations that will likely shape our future destination. The recurring themes seem to be around five ideas and they are community, connection, justice, personal growth, and service. I am wondering how the five recurring ideas are shaped into the ‘new thing that God is doing’ with Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ? This is the ‘how’ of our call in this new time. We have identified what seems to be the essentials of our life together and through the next three conversations, we’ll begin to answer how our essentials will shape our life going forward.

So far, we have conducted three of the five conversations and those who have joined us have shared so much. There are, however, many more of our members who have been active over the years that have not been a part of our conversation and if you have not, please join us for our final two conversations that will be held on Sunday, September 24th, and October 1st. You can register for the conversations by going to www.pilgrimfaith.org or calling the church office to let us know that you will be joining us. We’d love to hear from all our members. These are important conversations, and it is important that everyone can share their thoughts and ideas. Come and help us plan to make all things new!

In the spirit of unity,
Pastor Dan Sather

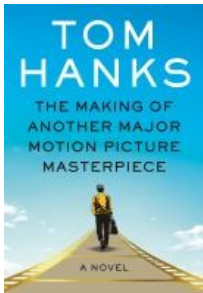
JAZZ ON THE STEPS OUTDOOR WORSHIP



Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ will continue with the tradition of outdoor worship in the summer. On Sunday, August 13th, the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life is planning a special outdoor worship service with a little taste of jazz! Come and join us for this worship experience and enjoy worship in a different way. During this service we will be offering blessings for children and teachers returning to school and this year, we'll offer blessings for anyone who would like prayers and a blessing as we anticipate the changing of the season and the busyness that comes with the season of fall. We will also invite members and friends to join us at the table of Communion. Please bring chairs, backpacks, your spirits and come and enjoy "Jazz on the Steps!" Worship begins at 10 a.m. Join us!



Book Club



We had a great discussion in July about "The Last Thing He Told Me". Please join us on Tuesday Aug. 22, 2023 at 6:30 PM for "The Making of Another Motion Picture Masterpiece" by Tom Hanks. It is fiction and Tom Hanks should know everything about making motion master-

piece.



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

Sunday Service Ushers:

- 1st Sundays - Libby Langevin & Maureen Hutton
- 2nd Sundays - Pam and Mike Cusack
(this is usually messy church)
- 3rd Sundays - Pat and Ron Stancik
- 4th Sundays - David Faulkner and Dave Kosvick
- 5th Sundays - David Faulkner & Dave Kosvick

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



Please let us know *if you would be interested in being a "stand-by Liturgist,"* our upcoming Liturgists are:

Sunday Liturgy Leaders:

- June 25th - Daune Sebastian
- July 2nd - Ron Stancik
- July 9th - Messy Church
- July 16th - Keith Stevenson
- July 23rd - Jimmy Werner
- July 30th - Jacques Lopez
- August 6th - Chris Rapp

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

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF OAK LAWN
100TH & CENTRAL, OAK LAWN, IL 60453**

PRESENTS

African Day



**SUNDAY, August 13, 2023
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
FAMILY FRIENDLY FREE EVENT
AFRICA STYLE OF WORSHIP AND SONGS
DELICIOUS AFRICAN FOOD, EXHIBITION OF
AFRICAN ARTS AND FASHION
CULTURAL DANCE
SPEECH ABOUT CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

**COME AND EXPERIENCE
AFRICA IN AMERICA!**

PILGRIM FAITH UCC
RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS - JUNE 2023

	Month of JUNE 2023		As of JUNE 30, 2023	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	YEAR-TO-DATE Actual	YEAR-TO-DATE Budget
Receipts				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 4,439.28	\$ 3,783.73	\$ 46,179.47	\$ 37,653.96
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 9,796.61	\$ 5,202.11	\$ 68,625.76	\$ 50,648.95
Disbursements				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 10,692.28	\$ 10,320.83	\$ 69,261.91	\$ 67,380.46
Expenses	\$ 9,971.93	\$ 11,395.32	\$ 54,760.11	\$ 53,931.41
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 21,488.01	\$ 22,124.48	\$ 126,297.94	\$ 123,761.85
Net Total	\$ (11,691.40)	\$ (16,922.37)	\$ (57,672.18)	\$ (73,112.90)

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

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 Salvesson
6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629



WORLD CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE



How wonderful it has been to get our congregation together to talk about our ministry and our life together. We've completed three World Café Conversations around the meaning

of thrive, values, mission, and ministry and how well we communicate and address conflict in our life together. There have been so many wonderful ideas shared and so much energy that will guide the Thrive Task Force to prepare several recommendations for Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ as we look forward to sharing them with the members.

Please note that there are two more World Café Sessions and if you have not attended, please, it is important that we hear from you as well. You can register for the World Café Conversations on September 24th and October 1st by going to our website,



www.pilgrimfaith.org and signing up for the sessions. The

remaining topics will be: *“Ministry models that could fulfill our mission”* and *“How can we best use our property to fulfill our mission?”* Please join us. Food and beverages are always available.

Please join us for the annual

BLESSING of the WATERS



at Waterfall Park in Blue Island
Fulton and Chatham Streets.



**SUNDAY
AUGUST 27
3 PM**

Reverend MaryBeth Ingberg will be officiating.
2023

A PRAYER FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS AS THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL



For our students: Ryan & Emily Cook, Ivory Castillo, Aiden & Molly McGinnis, Rylie Overland, Colby, Avery & Skylar Stevenson

God of grace and aspiration, as our students begin their college year, we ask for grace, peace, and love. We pray for their safety, their happiness, and their fulfillment. Challenge them in their comfort, encourage them in their doubt, walk near them as they find their passions and their joy. May they act in love, live in faith, stand in solidarity with the marginal, advocate for the vulnerable, and stand confidently for what is right and good. May they be sensitive to your voice, and may they know that they are your beloved children and our pride and joy. We pray for this in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

A fun and relaxing approach to the Crop Walk

Crop Walk News-2023 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



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.



Southwest Suburban Crop Walk
Sunday, October 8th - 2:00 P.M.
7402 Lake Katherine Dr. Palos Heights, IL

LIMITLESS YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF MEETING!



JOIN LIMITLESS YOUTH If you are in the seventh grade or older, you are invited to join Limitless Youth at their Fall Kick-off meeting on **Sunday, September 17th at 5:30 p.m.** We'll meet in the youth room on the third floor, Room #25. We'll plan for some fun, pizza, and listen to the wonderful ideas that you have that would like to plan this year. We are already we are looking at a Fall Retreat with the youth from Salem United Church of Christ, a joint-Christmas party with youth from the other UCC churches, and the CROP Walk in October. Every fall is a great beginning, and we hope you'll want to be a part of Limitless Youth this year. In addition to some planning, we will welcome some new leaders and most of all we want to enjoy being together with other youth from Pilgrim Faith UCC. Please join us for this special meeting.

TRUNK OR TREAT!



Once again, we will plan a Trunk or Treat event for the Community. If you are interested in serving on this team, please ask Pastor Dan for a Zoom link to the planning meeting on Sunday, September 10th at 6 p.m. We are tentatively looking at Sunday, October 29 for our Trunk, or Treat event. The time and the length of time is yet to be determined. Please join the team if you are passionate about community outreach, Halloween, or children!



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

Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts

August 6th Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack
August 13th Daune Sebastian and Pam Cusack
August 20th Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus
August 27th Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

September 3 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack
September 10 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan
September 17 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus
September 24 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

Please contact **Pam Cusack**, Worship and Spiritual Live Team at: pamcusack@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to contribute to our monthly newsletter? The deadline for the August edition is Friday, August 25th, 2023. Please submit any articles or announcements for our monthly newsletter by that date and we will be sure to include it.



THANKS FROM THE MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION and MISSIONS



The congregation has stepped up to be heard in the **CLIMATE HOPE** Postcard campaign. We are quickly approaching the August 15th deadline when I will be sending all of our postcards to the UCC office in Washington DC.

I am sharing an article by Rev. Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister of Environmental Justice, concerning WHY we are doing this campaign and HOW it can help. We have currently collected **99** postcards! Please see me if you haven't signed a postcard this week!

HUGE THANKS FOR CARING ENOUGH TO SPEAK OUT!

by **Brooks Berndt** | published on Jul 13, 2023
In 2023, the United Church of Christ launched a campaign rooted in **a history of calling for action at the federal level of government** to address the overlapping crises of climate and inequality. Through the **Climate Hope Cards** campaign, churches across the country are presently collecting thousands of postcards as part of an effort to save thousands of lives, address societal inequities, and get our nation on track to meet its climate goals. The postcards address decision-makers in Washington, DC during a rare period of opportunity as the Environmental Protection Agency reviews and updates a number of protections that could significantly impact our environment and public health. The vision and strategy behind the campaign can be captured as follows:

Why We Need a National, Faith-Rooted Campaign for Climate Hope

- **We need solutions that match the scale and the urgency of the crisis faced.** While we need actions at all levels and in multiple settings, ultimately, the federal government is the institutional system in the United States that can mobilize with the scope and speed required.
- **For goals that are national in scope, we need organizing that is national in scope.** From the Montgomery bus boycott to Standing Rock, movements are driven and

inspired by local actions. But movements never stop at the local, they expand and connect to affect societal change.

- **One of our greatest strengths is that our churches have deep roots in communities throughout our country.** The body of Christ has many parts, but in answering this call, we are realizing a desperately needed potential that cannot be realized alone but can only be realized as a collective body.
- **The Climate Hope Cards campaign provides a vehicle for churches to come together to take action.** Through our actions, we both find hope and give hope.
- **Our love, action, and hope will transform the Church as we transform the world.** As declining membership numbers prompt conversations about the future of the Church, vibrant relevancy and life can be found with a calling and a purpose that is rooted in love: a love of neighbor, a love of children, and a love for all God's creation.

Why Postcards Are a Great Vehicle for Action

There are three strategic reasons for why postcards are an effective vehicle for action:

- (1) **They give us something tangible and meaningful to deliver to decision-makers.** More than an online petition can convey, these postcards say that thousands of people throughout this country took the time to write a message to express how much they care.
- (2) **A postcard opens the door to further opportunities for action.** Those who give their email address on the postcard and check the box for updates have the additional opportunity to make official comments on EPA protections as they come up for review. They will have not just one opportunity to make a difference but multiple opportunities. We know the EPA and the White House are going to be hearing from the fossil fuel industry. We need them to hear from us as well.
- (3) **The process of having someone sign a card is better than any online action because it creates an opportunity for a conversation.** Conversations change hearts and minds in a way that mass emails (often to the already converted) cannot. Collecting postcards takes more work, but it is worth it.



August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	2	3	4	5 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
6 10:00 AM Worship	7	8 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	9	10	11	12 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 
13 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship—Jazz on the Steps	14	15 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	16	17 Q&A, Constitution Mtg 6:30 PM	18	19 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
20 10:00 AM Worship	21	22 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon Book Club 6:30 PM	23	24	25	26 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
27 10:00 AM Worship	28	29 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	30 	31		



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

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

