



September 2025

More Truth and Light

*It's something unpredictable
But in the end, it's right
I hope you had the time of your life
Green Day, Good Riddance, 1997*

*"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter
under heaven..."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Recently, my brother-in-law took my father's slides from our childhood and put together a memorable slide show. He's been working on this project for awhile and he finally completed it and brought the slides to my mother's house, and he invited Carly and me over to watch a slide show of our childhood. I had no idea how many pictures my father took of us over the years. They were, indeed, plentiful. As we viewed the slides, each one brought up beautiful memories, and it was fun to laugh and talk about these memories with my mother and my younger sister. As Green Day sang in 1997, *I hope you had the time of your life.* I can say that I did.

My safe and happy childhood launched me into the life I now know. I am grateful for my childhood years and the many memories I have of growing up in small towns and villages which were my home. I know that my parents wanted that for us, and it was, indeed, a beautiful childhood. As a father of two boys, I certainly wanted that for my children too, and I believe it was, but I also know that anything that is living and growing cannot remain the same. As the scripture says, *"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven..."* We grow up and we change. We make decisions and important choices. Along the way, we let go of many things that we once cherished to make room for something new. *"For everything there is a season and time for every matter under heaven...."* As Terry Jack sang in 1974, *"We had joy, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun, but the stars we could reach were just starfish on the beach.* Letting go to create something new.

The memories we have made and the ones we have cherished over the years are the memories we can build upon to create a new adventure with Salem United Church of Christ as we answer the call of the Holy Spirit to create something new. *"It's something unpredictable, but in the end, it's right. I hope you had the time of your life"* and the legacy of Pilgrim Faith continues in the lives in the memories of all those who have passed through the sacred halls of our church and we bring all these memories with us as we begin this new adventure. God

is doing a new thing and as the prophet, Isaiah said, *"See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them."* **Isaiah 42:9** It is as Rev. John Robinson so famously said to his Pilgrim congregation as they set out on their journey to America, *"I am confident the Lord has more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy Word."* And I believe this remains as true for us today as it did in 1620. God remains steadfast and true.

As both congregations work diligently toward our new creation that only God can fully see, we are invited to celebrate our legacy and the impact that Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ has had on this community. **On Sunday, November 16th**, we will celebrate our legacy during our morning worship. Please understand that this is not our final service, but an opportunity for us to celebrate what we have done, what we have accomplished, and what we will continue to do in a variety of new ways. This service will take place at our morning service, and a light luncheon will follow in Colonial Hall so that we can celebrate the good work we have done and see, even more clearly, how this congregation impacted lives. We are planning a special day, and we hope that you will join us for our celebration.

God continues to work through us and through this congregation. We have had *'the time of our life'* and we have enjoyed *'seasons in the sun'* doing amazingly good work. We have embraced the unpredictable Holy Spirit and have followed its lead to establish mission and ministries that celebrate God's love and grace in the hands and feet of the members of this congregation who have faithfully put on the mantle of service and have served with wonder and grace, and yet, one more time, Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ answers the call of the Holy Spirit to enter into a partnership with Salem UCC that is preparing their space, their congregation to receive us and to create something new together. See the former things have come to pass, and newness is in the air. *"For everything – everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven."* Let us embrace this new journey with the joy and happiness of childhood memories. God is doing a new thing, and it will be beautiful.

With joy and anticipation,

Pastor Dan Gather

From the Desk of Mary Weierman

September 2025

"Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me" Psalm 86:17

When we consider where we are coming from and what God is calling us to, it can feel overwhelming. In those moments, I invite you to reflect: Have you ever felt overwhelmed? What did you do? Who did you turn to, and how did you move forward?

Just as David called on God for guidance to find peace, we, too, face periods when things change. When David became more popular and successful, the less he looked to God for answers. This offers us a lesson: whether our times are good or difficult, let us keep God in the forefront of our minds.

Here are our July numbers:

Deposits	22,847.74
Withdraws	23,491.71
Different	-643.97

The storm has caused some damage to a tree that needed to be removed.

We all know that while in the darkness, we need to focus on our next steps. We have members donating more to the church, and I am beyond grateful for that. THANK YOU!!!!

I believe that God continues to bless and keep us during this transition.

May you feel God's presence in your life.

PS

We had a problem with the bank and the way we pay out vendors. We have a solution to this problem, and new checks have been issued to everyone who is affected. I cannot sing the praises of the Ministry of Finance and God for the support, insight, and guidance they have given me during this time.

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.



SHEPHERD GROUPS ARE BEING ORGANIZED! As we move closer toward our merger with Salem UCC, members and friends are encouraged to participate in various shepherd groups that are being planned throughout the community. The purpose of the Shepherd Groups is to encourage members and friends of the two congregations to meet and get to know one another better. The Shepherd Groups will be planned geographically and will occur in October and November. Please look for more information as we find ways for our two fellowships to get to know one another better. More information will be distributed through our weekly bulletins and our weekly Mail Chimp.



SALEM/PILGRIM FAITH RALLY DAY

Ready for a Road Trip?? Put Sunday, September 21st on your calendar! That's the date of our Salem/Pilgrim Faith Rally Day this year. The event will take place at Salem UCC. Our theme is Road Trip: Journey of Faith. Plan to set out on the adventure ahead with a day of festivities with family and friends. There will be a special craft (bring a small head shot photo of yourself if you like for the craft), a Kona Ice truck, a bounce house, good food and fun games. You won't want to miss it!

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

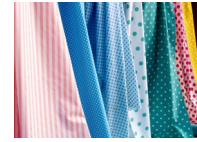




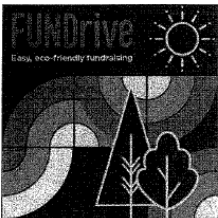
Welcome back to Limitless Youth! This year, we are taking the youth group in an exciting new direction. On **Sunday, September 7th**, the Youth Group will meet at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ at

12:15pm (after bells). This year, we will all be collaborating to create a year of fun, fellowship, service, and creating memories for a lifetime. This group is open to all youth from 7th-12th grade, and even peer mentor roles for those beyond 12th grade. Reach out to Kevin Holt if you are interested or have any questions, and we are excited for a fall/winter of fun times and fellowship!

Collecting all Textiles



We are going to be starting a collection for all textiles of various kinds. We will be collecting them for a Savers Donation in the next few weeks. We are asking for all donations (including clothes) to be dropped off at Pilgrim Faith by **September 23rd**, as we will work with Savers to pick up all items on **September 25th**. A flyer with more details will be shared soon. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ken Langevin or any member of the Church Council.



FUNDrive® Coordinator
Ken Langevin
(708) 601-5351
kenlangevin66@gmail.com

Our Goal: \$800
200 Large Yard Bags (avg. 20 lbs.)
60 Medium boxes (household goods)
Fundraiser Dates:
08/18/2025 - 09/23/2025

Clean out your closets for Pilgrim Faith United Church of and Salem Christ!

Pilgrim Faith UCC 9511 s 51 ave along with Salem UCC 9717 s
Kostner
To help us with our merger and to expand our community outreach
Please bring your donations of old cloth and or unused small
appliances to either church by sept 24 thank you

We Are Collecting

Clothes

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves,
handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen,
tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses,
serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative
items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books & Media

paperback, hard cover - all genres
*media needs to be boxed separately
*no encyclopedias or text books

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small
household goods. Separate books from household goods and media.

FUNDrive® is an eco-friendly fundraiser for nonprofit organizations.
Collect gently-used items in your community and FUNDrive® will buy them.

Visit <https://FUNDrive.savers.com> to learn more.

FUNDrive®



JAZZ NIGHT SEPTEMBER 27

BY
JAZZ 24/7

Tickets \$20 sold at Salem

Or call (708)423-9717 to reserve

SPECIAL
ENTERTAINMENT
BETWEEN SETS!

WINE, POP, WATER,
SNACKS ALL PART
OF THE PRICE!

SPLIT THE POT!

ENJOY CLASSIC AND
MODERN JAZZ

DOORS OPEN
6:30PM

SALEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
9717 S. Kostner
Oak Lawn, IL

August Moderator's Article

Hi everyone! As I write this letter, I get torn in writing it, and I will tell you why. In Council, I shared with the team that I don't like writing things to complete a task, but to help you all feel informed, up to date on what's happening, and making sure any questions/concerns are being addressed. As a Council, and even our Transition Team too, we are doing our best to make sure we're moving forward, as well as giving space to feel all of the feelings we are feeling from all of the time we have spent at Pilgrim Faith, whether a few weeks to a whole lifetime. You are all incredible people who have dedicated time, talents, and tithes into this special place, and that makes me happy to look at and to marvel at the dedication you have given to this remarkable place.

As we move forward, we also want to let you know what we've done, and where we are going:

- We have secured legal counsel- **Ken Friker**- and are finalizing some details needed to start the legal process with Salem and Pilgrim Faith to make the new church.
- We have secured real estate agents to help us with the sale of the property- **John Kmeicik and Bill Erdman**- we have started taking pictures and the process of this- more on this to come soon!
- We are planning to worship the third Sunday of every month at Salem UCC starting in September
- We met with the combined transition team (both Pilgrim Faith and Salem combined) and we will be finalizing mission/vision statements, as well as names for consideration to be presented at a joint congregational meeting. Anticipate this happening in October/November
- We have tasked some individuals to investigate some options for a legacy, as this concern has been brought up by some. We are hoping for recommendations for this to be shared with the Council/Transition Team by **September 25th** (the deadline we gave them). Recommendations for this will also be brought forth to a congregational meeting.
- Next, I wish to let you know that the Council/Transition Team is working with a tentative start date at the new church (which is located at 9717 S Kostner Ave Oak Lawn, IL 60453) on **January 1st, 2026**. We realize not everything will be done, but our teams will figure out what will still need to be done at the new church and prioritize that.
- Finally, I wish to stress any concerns/thoughts/feedback needs to be brought to the Council/Transition Team, as they are the individuals actively working on this merger and are the best source of information. You can always talk to me as well!

Thank you for everything you all do, from showing up for worship, to ministry team meetings, youth events, music/worship, mission work, building work, helping with building partners, finance team, and so much more. No matter what you do, thank you for being YOU! We couldn't do it without you, and we are here for you if you ever need anything.

Cheers,

Kevin Holt
Pilgrim Faith UCC Moderator

“Imagine” Intergenerational Retreat 2025

“Dear God, help us to stay humble and open to the call of the unimaginable. Guide our hearts to unity, our words to healing, and our steps toward peace. Amen”

Our second combined Salem/Pilgrim Faith retreat was a huge success! We had 50 campers who laughed, prayed, and communed with God, nature, and each other!





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



Pilgrim Faith 2024 Walkers

Southwest Suburban CROP Hunger Walk 2025

56 years of walking. 56 years of ending hunger together.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

For 56 years, average Americans have come together to fight hunger in exceptional ways through the CROP Hunger Walk. These aren't politicians or celebrities – they're passionate (and compassionate!) farmers, students, members of the faith community, volunteers and more who care that the people they see on a daily basis are struggling. And for over five decades, they have moved to make a difference.

The story of the CROP Hunger Walk goes back to 1969. Teens in Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania decided it was time to do something for families who had to walk miles for food and clean water. So, they walked...and, because they took that first step, hunger has forever been changed.

Today, millions of people across nearly every state have participated in what is now called the CROP Hunger Walk. Our walks of life may look different, but we move forward with the same vision: a world where every child has enough healthy food to survive each day.

For over half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States. Tens of thousands of CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to building a hunger-free world.

Join the movement! OCTOBER 5, 2025

Sign up or donate online or click the QR Code:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/pilgrim-faith-ucc>



↑ Scan me!

Our 1-mile WALK/RUN is on **Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 2:00 PM** at the beautiful **Lake Katherine Nature Center in Palos Heights, IL!** Please check in between **1:30-1:45 PM** in the parking lot at Lake Katherine, with a group picture at **2:00 PM**. As a reminder, if you are unable to attend, you still can financially participate and support the local families in need of help.



COME AND CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF PILGRIM FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

Friends, and especially members, past and present are invited to join us for a celebration of the legacy of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ over the years. We will celebrate the ministry and mission of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ on **Sunday, November 16th at 10 a.m.**, followed by a light luncheon in Colonial Hall. In the context of praise and worship, we'll celebrate the many mission initiatives that have been a part of our legacy. We'll remember our ministry from the Preschool to our Open and Affirming declaration. We'll celebrate our Food Pantry, various community groups that continue to use our building and so much more. Please Join us for this wonderful day.

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



Pilgrim Faith
United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Liturgy Leaders

September 7 Kevin Holt
September 14 Chris Raap
September 21 N/A
September 28 Kevin Holt

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

SEPTEMBER 7- BIG WELCOME SUNDAY & RALLY DAY



Join us for WELCOME SUNDAY! It is a great day to get back in the swing of things after summer travels and the **perfect time to invite some friends to church!**

Sunday School will kick off that day with the kids participating in 10:00 AM worship service as greeters. After the Children's message, the kids will head to their Sunday School room to start a new year of active learning about God, Jesus, and how we need to love each other. Be sure to come and bring FRIENDS! There are classes for students age 4 through 8th grade.

Sign your kids or grandkids up during coffee hour.

Following worship on 9/7, all ages will gather on the front church lawn (weather permitting) for ice cream sundaes and some FUN games! Rain or shine, we will play games and eat ice cream!!!

Who do you know that would love to hear about how Jesus teaches us to live with kindness and love for everyone? And who loves ICE CREAM??? Be sure to invite them!

All kids should arrive by 9:45 AM in the Narthex, so we can greet everyone and pass out bulletins.

Any questions? Feel free to contact me.
Daune Sebastian
daune14@gmail.com
708-567-8692

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

Sunday Service Ushers

September 7 Libby Langevin & Maureen Hutton
September 14 Brett Arnold
September 21 N/A
September 28 Ken Sebastian

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



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

September 7 Doreen Lopez & Carol Burke
September 14 Libby Langevin & Amanda Sullivan
September 21 N/A
September 28 Sue Arnold & Pam Cusack

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



September 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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



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

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

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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