



## JULY 2023

### More Truth and Light

*“He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the Body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12*

As I reflect on our life together, I am reminded of two significant events in our life together that, I believe, demonstrates, and illustrates what it means to **‘equip the saints for the work of ministry’** that was written by the Apostle Paul in the first Century. What I am remembering is the installation and commissioning of Kurt Kalas as our Volunteer Lay Minister of Visitation and the beginning of five important conversations that we are having around this notion of what we are doing and/or can do to **‘build up the Body of Christ.’**

In this edition of **More Truth and Light**, I also want to recognize all the volunteers at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ who work tirelessly and faithfully on behalf of a congregation to build up the body of Christ. There are volunteers serving this congregation from the food pantry to Sunday morning worship and everything in between. There are kids and adults ringing bells and singing in the choir. We have several nursery attendants, liturgists, ushers, sound, and video technicians and volunteers who plan food and hospitality on Sunday morning. There are several ministry teams, interest groups, and quiet card senders who remember our sick and homebound. All of these and many more make it possible to be a witness to our faith community that we dearly love. Truly, in the spirit of Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus, we are equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ. Without each and everyone of these faithful people, we could not do what Jesus called us to do, to share God’s love from **‘Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.’** Most who are active in the life and ministry of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. know who our volunteers are and continue to be and I would encourage each of you to express your gratitude to the ‘saints’ working diligently and faithfully to be a congregation that truly seeks to make a difference in the world

and the lives of others.

The Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, believed in the ‘priesthood of all believers.’ In light of the phenomenal control of the priesthood in the sixteenth century, Luther’s use of **‘priesthood’** was significant, risky, and a powerful statement that changed the course of history, especially in reference to the role of clergy and laity within the church. Luther dismissed the elitism and the power center of the Catholic and Orthodox priests. His statement removes the role of the priest as intercessor for the sins of humanity and put this authority in the hands of the laity, setting up a dynamic that would continue to disempower the clergy and empower the laity to do the good work of building up the Body of Christ.

When we, as a Congregational Church, commission lay leaders, discuss the future of our ministry, and call special congregational meetings to make important decisions about our life together, we are demonstrating the meaning of **‘the priesthood of all believers’** and acknowledge that the laity, and not the clergy, are responsible for our destiny. In expressing our gratitude to our volunteers, installing and commissioning Kurt Kalas for the Lay Minister of Visitation, and our ongoing World Café conversations, we are celebrating the laity and all that they do to build up the Body of Christ. Yes, even as we have important conversations about our future, we continue to be the Church that is making a difference. Thank you volunteers and faithful members of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. who are the ‘apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers’ who are bearers of more truth and light every day.

Gratefully,  
*Pastor Dan Sather*



# RESULTS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 6/11/2023



Thanks to all who attended and shared your thoughts on June 11, 2023 as we considered whether to proceed with the investigation into Independent Senior Housing. It was a blessing to hear both the voices that were in favor of continuing the process and those who do not think it is the right path for us. I respect all your thoughts and hope that you will continue to be engaged in the process.

After all questions and ideas were shared, we took a vote.

This is what the ballot stated:

*After thoughtful, prayerful, and careful consideration, the Council moves that we contract with Pandion to complete the evaluation of the senior housing proposal that will be paid for with the funds from the Fletcher and Delves bequests.*

Yes - 24  
No - 11

*The majority has voted to move forward with the next phase of the project.*

Please remember, this is NOT the final decision, it is a vote to have Pandion Management Services, continue the research study into this project. They will review the original RFP (Request for Proposal) that was prepared by the Pilgrim Faith team, make any necessary changes, including a plan on how we can move forward, and present us with their findings by the end of summer. The cost for these services is \$12,000, which is a large amount of money, but the congregational affirmative vote represents our commitment to investigating a project that could bring much to our church and to the community.

Daune Sebastian- Moderator



**Pilgrim Faith**  
United Church of Christ

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](mailto:pamcusack@gmail.com)



**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:

June 25<sup>th</sup> - Daune Sebastian

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ron Stancik

July 9<sup>th</sup> - Messy Church

July 16<sup>th</sup> - Keith Stevenson

July 23<sup>rd</sup> - Jimmy Werner

July 30<sup>th</sup> - Jacques Lopez

August 6<sup>th</sup> - Chris Rapp

*Please contact Pam Cusack*, Worship and Spiritual Life Team at: [pamcusack@gmail.com](mailto:pamcusack@gmail.com)



**PILGRIM FAITH UCC**  
**RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS - MAY 2023**

	Month of MAY 2023		As of MAY 31, 2023	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	YEAR-TO-DATE Actual	YEAR-TO-DATE Budget
<b>Receipts</b>				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 19,283.00	\$ 5,817.33	\$ 41,740.19	\$ 33,870.23
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 24,902.64	\$ 7,262.99	\$ 58,829.15	\$ 45,446.84
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,423.50	\$ 11,839.32	\$ 58,569.63	\$ 57,059.63
Expenses	\$ 4,515.41	\$ 4,530.88	\$ 44,788.18	\$ 45,536.09
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 16,202.49	\$ 16,778.53	\$ 104,809.93	\$ 101,637.37
<b>Net Total</b>	\$ 8,700.15	\$ (9,515.54)	\$ (45,980.78)	\$ (56,190.53)

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



## JUSTICE AND PIZZA

We had a productive gathering at the home of Daune & Ken Sebastian on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> as we viewed and discussed together the documentary, *“Who we are: A Chronicle of Racism in America.”* Following the viewing we had a lively discussion with wonderful food. Thank you, Daune, and Ken, for your hospitality and providing space and a light dinner for us. Out of the event, we’ve decided to rejoin Community Renewal Society, a justice ministry begun by the United Church of Christ and is in the city of Chicago.

Through the network of the Community Renewal Society, some of us participated in a conversation with the Chicago Police Department around Gender Based Violence and the kind of networking and training that could assist the officers responding to Gender Based violence. In addition, we will be able to participate in the monthly volunteer meetings of the Community Renewal Society that will provide opportunities for us to advocate and respond to issues of justice in our communities, the State of Illinois, and the Federal Government.

In the Fall the Justice and Pizza group will plan an opportunity for others to view and discuss the documentary, *“Who we are: A Chronicle of Racism in America”*. In addition, we will invite participants to take the Harvard Implicit Association Test (HIAT), around issues of race. We will continue to seek out and invite others to participate as advocates for justice in our communities. Stay tuned for more details on this event.

There is also an opportunity for anyone to attend a free public film screening at Catholic Theological Union entitled, *“Birthing Justice.”* Please see the flyer in the news-

letter concerning this event. The film captures the experiences and challenges of Black women, their families, caretakers and advocates around the injustice and disparate rates of mortality around black women and childbirth. Please feel free to register on your own for this event if it is of interest to you. If there are several of us interested in attending this viewing, we could consider car-pooling to the Seminary. Advocate Health Care and several other organizations are sponsoring this informative event.

The next meeting for **Justice and Pizza will be Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.,** and we will meet at Barraco’s Pizza, located at 3701 95<sup>th</sup> St., Evergreen Park, IL. We will meet to discuss our experiences with various events, webinars, and informational meetings that we have attended since last month, and we’ll begin to plan our fall event. Please join us! Bring your own money for food and drink.

## **WORSHIP UPDATES**

Worship on July 9th will be outside in the courtyard (weather permitting) and we will celebrate holy communion with Pastor Dan.

In August our holy communion celebration will be postponed one week as pastor Dan will be on vacation and Kurt Kalas will graciously preach on August 6th. We will come together on August 13th to worship outdoors in the courtyard again, enjoy some jazz music, celebrate holy communion, and have students and teachers alike get their backpacks blessed in time for the upcoming school year.

## LIMITLESS YOUTH NEWS!

**LIMITLESS YOUTH HOSTED A WONDERFUL PICNIC!** We couldn't be more fortunate with the weather on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. What a gorgeous day it was for a picnic. Many thanks to our grillers and for all the wonderful food that was shared. It was fun to play, talk, and share this meal together. Thank you, Limitless Youth, for thinking about the rest of the congregation and inviting them to join us for the afternoon. In other news, we celebrate with our graduating Seniors, MOLLY McGINNIS, EMILY COOK, AVERY & SKYLAR STEVENSON, and IVORY CASTILLO. Please plan to get together in mid-September as we come together and plan next year. Watch for e-mails, bulletins, and newsletters for specific information. Have a wonderful summer and best of luck to our graduating seniors as they make plans and begin their college careers!

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS** to help plan our first shared Youth Retreat with Salem UCC, Immanuel UCC, and Christ Memorial UCC. Whether you are an adult or an interested youth, we'd love to have interested members from Pilgrim Faith UCC to help plan this fall retreat. Our first meeting will be held in the lounge of Pilgrim Faith UCC on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Please let Pastor Dan know of your interest in helping us plan our shared youth retreat!

## Book Club



The group met Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup> and chose the next 2 books and dates for our meetings. On Tuesday July 25, we will discuss "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave.

For Tuesday Aug. 22, our selection is "Making of Another Motion Picture Masterpiece" by Tom Hanks.



Please let us know *if you would be interested in hosting a coffee hour*, we are looking for additional participants.

### Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts:

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

July 9<sup>th</sup> - Pam Cusack and Libby Langevin

July 30<sup>th</sup> - Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan

August 6<sup>th</sup> - Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack

August 13<sup>th</sup> - Daune Sebastian

August 20<sup>th</sup> - Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus

August 27<sup>th</sup> - Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

*Please contact Pam Cusack*, Worship and Spiritual Life Team at: [pamcusack@gmail.com](mailto:pamcusack@gmail.com)



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to contribute to our monthly newsletter? The deadline for the August edition is Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please submit any articles or announcements for our monthly newsletter by that date and we will be sure to include it.



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**

## WORLD CAFÉ UPDATE



**FIRST WORLD CAFÉ CONVERSATION GLEANED SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION!** On

Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Thrive Task Force held their first conversation around the theme, *Thriving and what this means for Pilgrim Faith UCC*. We explored various questions around the more general topic of thriving and discussed our perception of the meaning of a thriving congregation to changes that Pilgrim Faith UCC could consider as we plan for a thriving future. A total of 26 members ranging in age from mid-20's to 70 years of age. Our next World Café conversation will take place on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> around the topic, *Values, mission, and ministry of Pilgrim Faith UCC*. You can register this event by going to our website, [www.pilgrimfaith.org](http://www.pilgrimfaith.org), click on events and you will see a registration button for World Café registration. Please come and be a part of the conversation.

This program is sponsored by the Courage to Love in Action, a collaborative that is working to improve the health and well-being of women, pregnant people, and babies by building healing-centered, restorative justice skills and practices in organizations that serve families.

**BIRTHING JUSTICE**  
 Every Woman Deserves A Beautiful Birth Story

A Free Public Film Screening  
**Wednesday, July 12th**  
**2pm-5pm**  
**Catholic Theological Union**  
**5416 S. Cornell Ave**  
**Chicago, IL 60615**  
**Doors Open at 1:30pm**  
[Click Here to Register](#)

**BIRTHING JUSTICE**  
 Every Woman Deserves A Beautiful Birth Story

Join us for a film that captures the experiences and challenges of Black women, their families, caretakers and advocates, and examines the structures and systems that determine disparate rates of mortality. Afterwards we will come together for a powerful discussion.

**Sinoi Chicago** | Sinoi Community Institute | **Courage to Love** | Advocate Health Care | **The HAP Foundation** | **EVERTHRIVE ILLINOIS**

**UIC HEALTHY START** | **USE YOUR VOICE** | **The Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative** | **HEALTH & MEDICINE** | **BECOME** | **KIDS ABOVE ALL** | **FAITH ON THE JOURNEY**

This project is Funded by The Chicago Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention.  
 For more info contact [darlena@courage2love.org](mailto:darlena@courage2love.org)

# JULY 2023

**Sun**

**Mon**





**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

							1 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
							
2 10:00 AM Worship	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	
9 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship with Holy Com- munion	10	11 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	12	13	14	15 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	
16 10:00 AM Worship	17	18 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	19	20	21	22  Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	
23 10:00 AM Worship	24	25 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	26	27	28	29 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	
30 10:00 AM Worship	31						



Pilgrim Faith UCC  
9411 S. 51<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

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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**

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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