



NOVEMBER 2022

More Truth and Light

"O God, my God, known to me in the Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen."

Prayer of the Candidates for Confirmation

As a child who was baptized in infancy approaches adolescence, the local church offers our young people the opportunity to give public assent to the baptismal promises their parents made for them on the day they were baptized. Now, the Confirmands take upon themselves the promises of their baptism. Confirmation celebrates this occasion of affirmation of baptism in the life of the Confirmand, and the local church. For over a year, we have been meeting with several of our young people, and we're excited to be able to celebrate their decision to affirm their baptismal vows and to make a public commitment of membership to Pilgrim Faith UCC. On Sunday, November 27th, the Rite of Confirmation will happen during our morning worship. This will be an exciting and awesome day for our church, and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Although Confirmation is not something that we find in scripture, there are several passages that seem to indicate a time of learning and discernment of God's presence in a young person's life. I am remembering the story of Samuel. Samuel had been left at the Temple at a young age by his mother Hannah, who could not conceive a child and made a promise to God that if God blessed her with a child, at an appropriate age, she would dedicate him to the Temple to learn about God from the priests and rabbis. This happened. Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Temple, and he hears the voice of God. While sleeping Samuel heard his name called three times. Thinking it was Eli, the priest, he approached Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." It took two times, but Eli realized that the voice Samuel was hearing was the Lord's voice and he said to Samuel, **"Go lie down; and if the voice calls you again, you will say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"** He heard the voice and responded, and Samuel grew in wisdom and stature and became a leading prophet in a time when 'the word of the Lord was rare.' Samuel confirmed his call and promised to be a faithful prophet of the Lord.

In the New Testament, we are aware of a similar story

with the young Jesus. We learn that each year his parents went to Jerusalem to participate in the festival of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve, he joined his parents to celebrate the Passover. When his parents left Jerusalem to return to Nazareth, Jesus stayed behind. For three days Mary and Joseph were looking for Jesus and when they returned to Jerusalem, they found him **'sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions.'** Mary was furious with Jesus and asked why he treated them in such a dishonorable way. Jesus said to his parents, **"Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?"** Jesus learned about his faith and confirmed his call and made a commitment to teach about God's love and grace.

So, for the Confirmand, this has been a time of learning, discerning, and listening for the voice of God along their own journey of faith. Now they come before us to make their promise to **'love and serve God faithfully all the days of their lives.'** The Rite of Confirmation is an important time for us as the Church, and for the Confirmands who are making their promises. As we witness again the promises made by our young people, may we also remember our own baptism, our Confirmation promises, and recommit ourselves to **'love and serve God faithfully.'** May this be our prayer in this month of November – a month of gratitude, the beginning of our Advent journey, and the commitment of our life to God, made known to us in Jesus Christ.

Growing along the journey,
Pastor Dan



FROM THE MODERATOR -

Part of the problem or part of the solution

"Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God." 1 Peter 5 :12

Someone once told me that everyone has a choice to be part of the problem or part of the solution. God gives us that choice daily. Sometimes our choices do not change our world but it has an effect on others.

Wanting to sleep in instead of coming to an early morning call for help. Talking about having programs of special interest but not committing to help. Complaining about things the way they are instead of stepping up and being that change they want to see.

All of these things there are two choices. Be part of the problem or be part of the solution.

We have a lot of people who talk about or bring the problem to light and do not see themselves as part of the solution.

My question is "what is your part of the solution?"

You don't need a special background or education to take part in a ministry group. That was something that few created to instill fear if they leave, keep control, stay in power or because situations happened in the past.

The way I see it, we now have an environment where great people cannot or will not step up. People who would be great in the position, feel that they cannot do this position.

You don't need to know the history of the Bible to give witness to the works of God. People feel that they are not worthy to talk about how God walks with them during times of trouble or need.

In the past, people did things that were troublesome; if we keep that motivation as we move forward, the church will not grow. Nothing grows in fear, but paranoia and hurt. We need to start letting go of the past and focus on the future.

You don't need to feel that if you step away everything will collapse. I promise it will not. It will grow in the way God wants it to grow.

If we look at accounts received and accounts payable - yes it looks like we are in trouble, but we are overlooking the truth. We can either give 3 years of trying to grow (in whatever way God is calling us) or we can look at closing Pilgrim Faith while praising God for the years that Pilgrim Faith has been active. Or we can continue to foster fear, bullying and manipulation from a few. Holding the way of the past will not allow us to see what God has in store.

We place our lights on in our house to have light throughout the room. We don't place our lights into the closet and close the door.

Let your light shine at Pilgrim Faith. If God is calling you to be part of the solution, do not let anyone stop you. For what God is moving you to do no one will stop you.

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

Onward and upward.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Late in October, Pilgrim Faith received a letter from the CMA about the complaints and concerns of Pastor Harris. Unfortunately, due to the time that it took for CMA to truly investigate these issues, most people moved on. The lack of communication between the parties involved led the CMA to do nothing.

The council wrote a letter to CMA stating that we respectfully disagree with their decision.

The good thing out of all of this - it is over!

We can focus on God's calling for Pilgrim Faith. We can focus on what God has planned for Pilgrim Faith.

May God bless you and always keep you close.

Mary

Turkey Drive



The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry is holding a turkey drive. We'd like to invite church members and friends to donate a turkey for our annual pantry give-away this year. We would ask that you drop off your turkey donation at the church between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, or you can bring your donation to the Food Pantry during the pantry hours from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Please bring your donation to the church before Saturday, November 19th. November 19th will be our turkey give-away. If you would rather make a financial donation toward the purchase of a turkey, this would also be appreciated. Thank you for your generosity and support of the pantry.

Remember Our Homebound

Mary Brehm

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

Ruth Hook

Aperion Care
9401 S. Ridgeland
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Grace Pluhar

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

Linda Aitken

The Pointe at Kilpatrick
14230 Kilpatrick
Crestwood, IL. 60418

Donna Twichell

10032 Harnew Rd.
East
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Marlene Anderson

9525 S. Parkside
Oak Lawn, IL. 60453

Mildred House

Clarendale of Mokena
#2221
21536 S. Wolf Rd.
Mokena, IL 60448

Darlene Wank

10942 S. Oak Ave
Chicago Ridge, IL
60415

Bob Salveson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629



LIMITLESS YOUTH NEWS!

OCTOBER WAS A BUSY MONTH! Limitless youth enjoyed CROP Walk, fun at Salem UCC with other UCC families, and a wonderful evening of Trunk or Treat! What a great fall it has been and now we are looking forward to some winter fun. If you or someone you know is in the 6th grade and older, you are invited to join the Limitless fun! We are looking forward to a wonderful year and we hope you will join us for the fun!

SERVICE DAY AND SCAVENGER HUNT FOR LIMITLESS YOUTH! On Saturday, November 19th, Limitless Youth will assist the Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry with their Thanksgiving Day Give-Away from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Following our service, we will enjoy lunch together and then we'll participate in a Scavenger Hunt for food items for the Pantry. We will divide our youth up and send them to various neighborhoods to collect food for the pantry. Any youth in the sixth grade or older are invited to join us for this fun event.

DECEMBER OPPORTUNITIES: Limitless Youth will visit the Brookfield Zoo December 29th! We'll enjoy the lights, the animals, and good fellowship. More information will be available later in November. In addition, the Youth will hold a Christmas party with a gift exchange on Sunday, December 18th! This will be a fun evening. Please watch for more information in the future.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP: The Youth have been asked to help with the set-up of our Christmas Craft Workshop that will be held on Sunday, December 4th! The youth are asked to arrive at the church at 1:30 p.m. to help with set-up. Following set-up, youth are encouraged to join their families in create wonderful Christmas mementos. The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary with Christmas Carols and followed by crafts in Colonial Hall. During the time the youth will draw names for those who will be joining us for our Limitless Youth Christmas party! Come! Have fun and lend a helping hand!

Delegate's Report

I was pleased to be your delegate at this year's Illinois Conference Annual Celebration. It was four days of Zoom meetings that included the Conference's necessary business but also a number of inspiring workshops and even some social time.

The reports from the Conference were very upbeat. When Molly Carlson became Conference Minister, she found an accountant who works with churches who spent over a year finding out exactly what the Conference has in it's accounts and what the money is allocated for. A huge job for the accountant but the Conference now knows what it has in each account. I am happy to report that the camps are doing well even with all the challenges in dealing with Covid.

The workshops were excellent this year, even with the Zoom format. The one that I found most thought provoking was entitled "When God Becomes Real: Lay Spiritual Life and Development". The UCC, including Pilgrim Faith, is very mission oriented and it's important to remember that we work for mission and social justice in God's name. My hope is that we work on developing our spirituality along with our commitment to mission.

Chris Raap, Delegate





CONFIRMANDS ENJOYED TOWER

HILL! The weekend of October 21-22 was a great time with our Confirmands as they enjoyed the beauty of fall at Tower Hill, collected stones for STAR Words in January, reflected on our SHAPE, and completed our Confirmation papers! God blessed us with an exceptionally beautiful Autumn Day, and we all enjoyed this Holy Space! On Sunday, November 20th, our Confirmands will present their Confirmation papers and on Sunday, November 27th, we'll participate with our Confirmands in the Rite of Confirmation and welcome them in full Christian Community at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ!



Spend the afternoon singing Christmas carols & creating several crafts!

Sunday, December 4th, 2022 @ 2pm
Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ
9411 S. 51st Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

**Admission: Canned Goods for The Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry
& Free Will Donation**



If you'd like to make a gingerbread house, please register to help our elves prepare. Call the church office at 708-422-4200

Church Receipts as of September 2022

			Month of SEPTEMBER 2022		As of SEPTEMBER 30, 2022	
			MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
Receipts						
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving			\$ 5,372.00	\$ 5,947.25	\$ 70,051.09	\$ 63,771.89
Total Receipts (all sources)			\$ 6,920.11	\$ 7,257.25	\$ 88,475.81	\$ 81,131.72
Disbursements						
Salaries & Benefits			\$ 11,076.89	\$ 11,816.67	\$ 95,424.50	\$ 97,684.03
Expenses			\$ 6,686.53	\$ 13,791.74	\$ 67,673.88	\$ 66,076.31
Total Disbursements (all expenses)			\$ 17,940.17	\$ 26,008.41	\$ 164,709.65	\$ 167,260.34
Net Total			\$ (11,020.06)	\$ (18,751.16)	\$ (76,233.84)	\$ (86,128.62)

Please remember to use Amazon Smile when ordering to benefit Pilgrim Faith Church.

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

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, October 30th, during our morning worship, we welcomed three new members into our faith and community. Please welcome our new members!

KEVIN HOLT comes to Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ by Affirmation of faith. Kevin has been coming to Pilgrim Faith for over a year with his girl-friend Alex Overland. Although his family professed the Catholic faith, he does not remember being particularly active with the Catholic Church Besides sharing Sunday morning with Alex, Kevin loves attending Pilgrim Faith UCC. He enjoys the people, loves the welcoming and inclusive vision of Pilgrim Faith and the United Church of Christ. Kevin lives in Palatine, Illinois and is a music teacher for grades K-6. Kevin is a recent graduate of Elmhurst College. He enjoys Yoga, band, reading, meditation, nature walks, journaling and is open to anything else. He looks forward to participating in the music ministry of Pilgrim Faith and anywhere else where he feels he can offer expertise, a hand, or his time. Please welcome Kevin!



ALEX OVERLAND is not a new face at Pilgrim Faith UCC! Alex joins by affirmation of faith. Although her family was not particularly involved in the Catholic Church, she was baptized at St. Gerald's in Oak Lawn. Alex was active in the drama ministry that was hosted by Pilgrim Faith UCC, during her younger years. During that time, she attended worship with her family, and she would often return to Pilgrim Faith UCC to sing with choir, play in the bell choir, or help with drama. Alex is a recent graduate of Elmhurst College. Today, Alex is our song-leader and choir director and we're happy that she has finally joined our fellowship. Alex is a General Music Teacher in District III, and she enjoys theater and painting. Please welcome Alex into our fellowship!



DANIEL SATHER joins Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ by affirmation of faith. He has served as a settled pastor for four congregations in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, and Indiana. He has spent the last eight years as an interim pastor and has served congregations in the Chicago area and in Ohio during that time. Dan's spouse is the pastor at First Congregational Church of La Grange, and he has two adult sons, Andrew and Aaron and enjoys his fur-babies, Calypso, Pippin, Gaelin, and Igmu. When he is not taking care of the spiritual work of Pilgrim Faith UCC, he enjoys running, reading, and gardening. Please welcome Pastor Dan to our fellowship.



OFFERTORY ENVELOPES will be available in both weekly and monthly boxes located in the narthex.

November 2022

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 10:00AM Worship 11:30AM Messy Church	14	15 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	16	17	18	19 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
20 10:00AM Worship	21	22 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	23	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25	26 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 
27 10:00 AM Worship	28	29 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	30			



Pilgrim Faith UCC
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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

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



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