



MARCH 2023

More Truth and Light

““What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” - Mary Oliver

At our Ash Wednesday Service this year, I invited those in attendance to reflect upon Mary Oliver's question that is printed above. I find it intriguing and particularly appropriate as we make our own journey to the cross of Jesus Christ in this season. The phrase **'plan to do'** and **'your one wild and precious life'** are provocative statements that spark the imagination and call us into a time of prayer and thoughtful reflection. Prayer and thoughtful reflection are a part of this season of Lent. Who am I? Where is God calling 'this one wild and precious life?'

In the gospel song, *"One day at a time"*, we hear and sing the words, *"...Yesterday's gone sweet Jesus and tomorrow may never be mine..."* I think these words put into perspective our time in this world. We have been blessed with many yesterdays and there is no guarantee that we'll see tomorrow and so we have only today to make a difference in our own lives, the lives of those dear to us, and the billions of people that live in this awesome and wonderful world. In his sermon on the mountain, Jesus said, ***"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste how can its saltiness be restored?"*** Matthew 5:13. In the same sermon, he said, ***"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and gives light to all in the house."*** Matthew 5:14-15. All these nuggets of wisdom and grace in this season, is an invitation to each one of us to use our 'one wild and precious life' to make a difference in the time we have.

Ash Wednesday begins that time when the scripture, message, music, and traditions take on, what may seem to be a dark time for Christians. I understand that feeling, but as a gardener, I am very aware that the growth of plants happens because

of the darkness. Seeds germinate buried under the darkness of the soil, the green leaves spend the day soaking up the sunshine and in the morning a gardener will notice that there is a sign of new life. Tomatoes ripen through the night and flowering plants prepare to open up with the first touch of morning sunshine. Lent is a dark time, but this is when growth happens. Yes, Good Friday will come, and we will weep at the foot of the cross, but we have learned from our own scripture that the cross is not the final chapter. No, it is the beginning of an even greater story.

In this season, the Church Universal invites us on a journey to wholeness. We have been blessed with 'one wild and precious life' and all of us want to believe that we are doing our very best to use our 'wild and precious life' to be light in a dark world, salt that brings out our very best person, a lampstand for the pilgrims on a journey, and a city built on a hill that has so much to give, to share, and to lead. The season of Lent brings us through the wilderness and into a promise – a promise of the empty tomb. Let us, together, make this journey and just on the other side of Golgotha is a garden and in that garden is an empty tomb – a rock hewn cave that could not contain the bonds of death, but instead, opened up to a world where life was freely given. May our journey bring us safely through darkness and into the light, and may we use our 'one wild and precious life' to do good and to be God's hands and feet!

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Dan

Work and Church

“Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right” 2 Thessalonians 3:13
Work is tiresome and sometimes even seems pointless. God never gives up on what He created. Of all of His creations. All His children, ones who don't know Him and the ones who choose not to know Him. God does not give up nor does He turn His back.

My belief is that God comes to us in different ways and different religions. All religions have the same two main rules, honor and love.

God encourages us daily to pray, work and help. God's work is never done. So if you are looking at a deadline that seems impossible, come across a person who appears unmovable or that pile of laundry that looks like a mountain, think of the One who understands all.

God is looking for us to pray, talk and look for His love in everything we do. God is here to help you. God will give you insight, peace and guidance. Spend a little time in His presence and the peace that comes, will only come from God.

May God guide you in getting what you need.
Mary W



g a m e
n i g h t

Saturday, March 11, 2023

6-8 p.m.

Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ, Colonial Hall, Lower Level
9411 S. 51st Ave, Oak Lawn, IL.

All ages welcome!
Bring your favorite game and join the fun!

Silent Auction of Theme Baskets, Youth Bake Sale, Snacks and drinks
Admission Cost: \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family of 3 members or more

Limitless Youth Fundraiser and Youth Mission Support for
Feed My Starving Children, Aurora, IL.

YOUTH SUNDAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! We had a wonderful worship experience on Sunday, February 26th as we explored through the youth, skits, and music the theme of *“Lost and Found”*. The youth performed skits that interpreted the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son. Following the service, the youth sponsored a time of fellowship in Colonial Hall! Thank you, Limitless Youth, for a great day for worship!



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Pilgrim Faith U.C.C.
9411 S. 51st Ave., Oak Lawn, IL.

Saturday, April 1, 2023

3 p.m. until all eggs have been collected

Sections divided by age level
Infant to age 3; age 4 to 6 & age 7-9

Hunt rain or shine
Dress for the weather
Bring your own basket
Grand prize for each age group!
Open to the community. Join us!



February totals FOR THE Pilgrim Faith Food 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

Darlene Wank
10942 S. Oak Ave
Chicago Ridge, IL
60415

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

Donna Twichell
10032 Harnew Rd.
East
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Bob Salveson
6146 S. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629

Doris Seitz
11237 S. Normandy
Worth, IL 60482



ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT! March 11th, 6-8 p.m.

THE LIMITLESS YOUTH GROUP WILL SPONSOR AN ALL-CHURCH GAME NIGHT FUND RAISER!

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF PILGRIM FAITH UCC are invited and encouraged to join the youth on Saturday, March 11th from 6-8 p.m. for our first all church game night and fund raiser. There will be games for all ages, theme baskets for our silent auction, baked goods for sale, food, and fellowship. All proceeds from the ALL CHURCH GAME NIGHT will benefit the youth of our church. Ten Percent of the proceeds will be given to the Youth spring mission, ***Feed My Starving Children***. The youth are asking for \$5 per person or \$10 for a family of 3 or more for admission. Your donation will allow each person to access the game floor and to participate in the silent auction. Please come and join the fun and help our youth raise funds for their group and for this year's mission, ***"Feed My Starving Children."*** Please come with your family and invite some friends to join you for an evening of fun. It will be a wonderful evening!

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT! On Saturday, April 1st at 3 p.m. Limitless Youth Group will sponsor a Community Easter Egg Hunt for infants through age 9! Let families and friends know about our Easter Egg hunt. There will be plenty of candy and some additional prizes for each age group. Please bring a basket for your candy and dress for the weather. Rain or shine, the hunt will take place outside. The church yard will be divided into three age groups, infant to age 3, ages 4-6, and ages 7-9! By separating the ages, we feel there will be a fairer distribution of eggs! Join us!

THE YOUTH NEED YOUR HELP!

EASTER CANDY AND PLASTIC EGGS NEEDED! Please consider purchasing plastic easter eggs and individually wrapped candy for the Community Easter Egg Hunt! Since this is a new community outreach for the youth of Pilgrim Faith UCC, we do not know how many families and children to expect. If you can help the youth out with this project, please consider purchasing some plastic Easter eggs and candy and bring them to the church before Sunday, March 26th! There are baskets marked easter eggs and candy in the Narthex. If you can help stuff eggs for the Community Easter Egg Hunt, please join the youth after worship on Sunday, March 26th in Colonial Hall and help us get ready for the children! Thank you for your support of Limitless Youth Group.

JUSTICE AND PIZZA! Our second gathering of Justice and Pizza take place at Fox's Restaurant and Pub in Oak Lawn on Sunday, March 5th at 4 p.m.! If you have a passion for social justice and would like to participate in this new group, we'd love for you to join us. We are specifically looking at racial relations and the rights of LGBTQ individuals. We'd love for you to join us and help us plan educational experiences to address the issues of justice. Come for good food and passionate conversations about justice. We divide the cost of the food equally between all who are eating or drinking.

Limitless Youth Activities Spring 2023

March 11

All Church Game Night and Fundraiser, 6-8 p.m.

Bake something for our Youth Bake Sale
Bring games, your family, and friends to join the fun
10% of the funds raised will be given to our spring mission, Feed My Starving Children in May
Consider creating a themed basket for a silent auction
Come and help coordinate our game night.

March 26

Stuff Easter eggs after worship for Community Easter Egg Hunt

Encourage parents to donate plastic Easter Eggs and candy
Stuff Easter eggs in Colonial Hall after worship

April 1

Community Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m. at PFUCC

Be at the church by 1 p.m. to put Easter Eggs out
Supervise children in your appointed area, there will be three different locations for hunting Easter eggs and youth will need to be present
Encourage and assist children and families to empty their eggs in their basket and return the plastic eggs for next year.
Assist in distributing prizes for each age group
Watch and make sure that every child finds at least 1 Easter Egg

May 6

Feed my Starving Children, 2-4 p.m., Aurora, IL.

Volunteer with us to prepare nutritional bags of food for Feed my Starving Children
We need to fill 10 spots. Please let Pastor Dan know by April 30th if you will be joining us.

June 2023

End of the Year Family Picnic

We are renting a shelter in the Nature Preserve for this event. Watch for more details in the future.

You're Invited
**Messy Church/
Scout Sunday**
3/12/2023
10:00 AM
Faith Fun Food
SHARING IS CARING!

Pilgrim Faith
United Church of Christ
9411 S 51st Ave. Oak Lawn, IL
60453

One Great HOUR OF SHARING
One Great Hour of Sharing

BINGO
SHARE BINGO + Prizes!

Puzzles

Planting

CELEBRATE

TEAMWORK
Troop #652

Cub Pack #3652

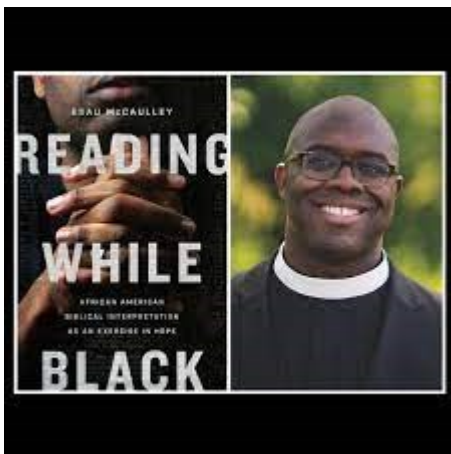
Calling All Kids
2nd Grade - High School

Join the Fun & Games, as we learn more about ourselves!

Kids' Explorer Team

Where we figure things out together!

SUNDAY 3/19/23
(COME TO CHURCH AT 10 AM AND WE WILL GO TO THE LOUNGE RIGHT AFTER THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE- SNACKS AND FUN INCLUDED, OF COURSE!)



BOOK DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY! Growing up in the American South, Esau McCaulley knew firsthand the ongoing struggle between despair and hope that marks the lives of some in the African American context. A key element in the fight for hope, he discovered, has long been the practice of Bible reading and interpretation that comes out of traditional Black churches. This ecclesial tradition is often disregarded or viewed with suspicion by much of the wider church and academy, but it has something vital to say. Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. will offer a book discussion on the book entitled, **“Reading while Black”** written by Dr. Esau

McCaulley. The discussion will take place on Tuesday evenings beginning on **Tuesday, March 7th at 6:30 p.m.** via Zoom. Bob Cook will be facilitating this discussion. If you would like to join us, please let Pastor Dan know and he’ll make sure that you get a Zoom link and other pertinent information to prepare for the discussion.




The proposed schedule is as follows and can be flexible to accommodate schedules:

- March 7:** Chapters 1-2
- March 14:** Chapters 3-4
- March 21:** Chapters 5-6
- March 28:** Chapter 7-conclusion

PILGRIM FAITH UCC						
RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS						
			Month of JANUARY 2023		As of JANUARY 31, 2023	
			MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget
Receipts			\$ 5,534.85	\$ 5,045.68	\$ 5,535.85	\$ 5,045.68
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving			\$ 8,231.44	\$ 9,009.22	\$ 8,231.44	\$ 9,009.22
Total Receipts (all sources)						
Disbursements			\$ 15,625.36	\$ 10,220.83	\$ 15,625.36	\$ 10,220.83
Salaries & Benefits			\$ 12,485.05	\$ 7,140.56	\$ 12,485.05	\$ 7,140.56
Expenses			\$ 28,110.41	\$ 17,769.72	\$ 28,110.41	\$ 17,769.72
Total Disbursements (all expenses)			\$ (19,878.97)	\$ (8,760.50)	\$ (19,878.97)	\$ (8,760.50)
Net Total						

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

MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal
5 10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	6	7 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	8 	9	10	11 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal
12 10:00AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal
19 10:00AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	20	21 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	22	23	24	25 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal
26 10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	29	30	31 	



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

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

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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