



## MARCH 2022

### More Truth and Light

*“From the muddy ground comes a green volunteer.  
In a place we thought barren, New life appears.” -  
Carrie Newcomer, Christian songwriter*

As we stand on the threshold of the Lenten season, I'm thinking about the hard things that this congregation has faced in the last seven months. It's been hard to trust a pastor when your pastoral trust had been broken. You barely knew me when I came to Pilgrim Faith as your designated interim. It was hard. Both the leadership of the Church and the congregation have had to work hard at trusting one another again. It was hard thing. We've been working with the Food Pantry to set up their non-profit status and we've diligently and faithfully worked at writing a new Constitution and creating some badly needed policies. It's been a hard thing. We've talked about property, real estate and how best to utilize the assets to sustain the ministry we would like. These are hard conversations to have. Many are not sure what to think and regardless to which Constitution we settle upon, the way we govern ourselves will change. It's a hard thing. Over the years our needs, and our available resources have changed, but our hopes and our expectations have not. The Lenten Season is the right time to reflect on the hard things. What has been hard for you, your spirit, for our life together? What will we do with the hard things? Will we be able to do what we know must be done?

The season of Lent begins with the familiar words, **'...remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return...'** These are hard words for us to hear. The ashes we receive reminds us of our mortality and invites us into a season of discernment. In this season we are reminded that there are beginnings and endings to our life and our life together. As the scripture says,

**'...there is a time for every matter under heaven...'** There is a beginning for every good thing and there is also an ending. From dust God breathes life into our fragile spirits, and in time, we breathe our last breath, and we drift into the endless breath of God's grand and wonderful Spirit.

This is our time for our mortal souls to make hard decisions. While we stand at the foot of the cross, our eyes blurry and our cheeks damp from the tears we've wept, we decide what we'll leave at the foot of the cross and what we'll carry into the wilderness where new life is always possible.

Carrie Newcomer, a Christian songwriter wrote the song, **"You can do these hard things"**. She writes, *"From the muddy ground comes a green volunteer. In a place we thought barren, New life appears"* and God will see us through. For now, for a little while, let us just kneel at the cross and know that the dawn will always break through the darkness and where the cross of Jesus stands against the darkening sky, there is an empty tomb. You – we, can do these hard things and God's Spirit will see us through and there will be joy in the morning.

There is still more truth and light to come!

Pastor Dan Sather



## FROM THE MODERATOR -

Sound in mind and all parts of the body.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!” Matthew 6:22

I would like to use this article as a confession. I find it hard to keep the focus on God during the day. Things like bills, deadlines, music, shopping and meal planning gets in the way. Like when you become overwhelmed and just go on a small “zone out”. Then something happens and I find myself looking for God’s words, God’s work, and God’s people.

Even in Englewood, I can find God’s hand helping others at the same time someone is yelling at people because they are crossing the street (legally). We at work become overwhelmed with just the position we hold. So my supervisor has placed a puzzle in the room so we can walk away and take a break. The puzzle table was a place to talk, eat, look and solve the puzzle.

Since things are reopening and more people are coming in, the puzzle was moved to a place that is not seen. Since we moved it, we very rarely work on it. The puzzle was a place that we all worked on the picture. But now, with the puzzle in the other room, we do not sit around the puzzle like before.

It is truly out of sight and now out of mind. Do we do that with God?

Jesus talks about keeping our eyes on God so we can be healthy. I know that God understands that our world gets in the way, but is that really an excuse?

In times of fear, we pray to God; in times of trouble we turn to God. We thank God but what about the times in between? I know I can personally do better.

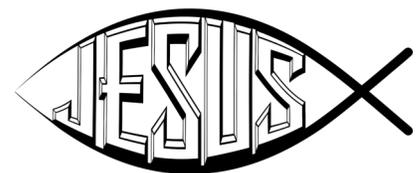
We keep our eyes on God’s word, God’s plan, and God’s hands. If our eyes are healthy our body will be healthy. If we don’t keep our eyes on God’s plan, we will become unhealthy.

How do we know if we are healthy? We focus on God and Pilgrim Faith, not from one person’s point of view. We are powerless without God’s help.

Like the puzzle in the office, we all have a part in shaping Pilgrim Faith. We just need to come together, sit down at the table and work together on the puzzle so we can all see the picture that God has.

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

Mary Weierman



# One Great Hour of Sharing

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** is one of the five for five special offerings we take for the work of the United Church of Christ as we send volunteers and missionaries to do disaster recovery around the world. We will be collecting this special offering on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>! Here is a Mission Moment I hope will inspire you to give generously to this special offering.

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***Mission Moment Myanmar Love is determined*** . . . Daw Aye May is a 56-year-old widow who lives alone in the village of Sar Phyu Su, 40 miles north of Yangon, Myanmar. When she lost her husband in 2019, she thought her future was gone too. But she managed to maintain a living selling herbs at market.

Then came COVID-19. Restrictions curtailed public gatherings at large markets and travel, disrupting an already limited economy by reducing farmers ability to sell products in distant and larger markets. Although Daw Aye May received some additional support from family, she knew she needed to find another way to earn money when selling herbs was no longer a possibility.

Soon she learned that **One Great Hour of Sharing** partners through Church World Service were sharing chickens with families who had great need and training them in animal care and husbandry. Within weeks of picking up two hens and a rooster from a hatchery delivery truck, Daw Aye May had eggs!

At first, “I didn’t have any idea about how to raise chickens, but just wanted to try. I just fed the chickens and let all the eggs hatch,” she said. In fact, she let the first 12 eggs hatch into young chicks. Shortly afterwards, she collected another 13 eggs from the first two hens and sold 10 eggs in the village to earn \$1.81. That’s nearly half the official daily minimum wage of \$3.53. “I was so happy as this was my first-time making money from my chicken raising business,” she said proudly.

Local partners sourced a local breed of hens and roosters for villagers because they are easier to raise free-range style. In less than five months, Daw Aye May had 30 hens and five roosters – with no prior experience in raising poultry. “I learned that chicken meat from the local breed earns more money.” She expects to soon gather 30 eggs per day, earning up to \$5.42/day in sales within a cluster of walkable villages.

The newly inspired chicken farmer shared her joy and gratitude. “I thank CWS for sparking the light of a more hopeful future for me. Honestly, I wasn’t initially interested in chicken raising. Now, I want to be a poultry businesswoman. With a flock of 35 hens and roosters already, I will expand the flock further. My plan is to collect and sell more eggs in neighboring villages where I am allowed to travel. Also, I will use chicken manure in my home-gardening as organic fertilizer.”

Daw May Aye’s determination is an inspiration to anyone who hears her story. Though it would have been understandable for her to give up, she found a way to not only survive, but thrive. This new beginning is made possible by the love you share through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing!

In a time that will forever be marked by the tragedy of a global pandemic, your determined generosity makes stories like Daw May Aye’s possible, showing the world once again that, even amid our most difficult struggles, “faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love.

## ¡Despedida! nos vemos en Mayo

Pastor Dan will be walking the El Camino with his wife on their way to the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago, Spain from March 20<sup>th</sup> through April 24<sup>th</sup>!

While he is away, the **Rev. Jim Benzing** will provide Sunday morning leadership and offer a special Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week.

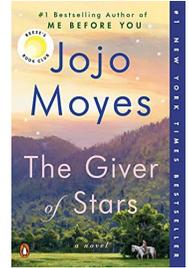
In the event of a pastoral emergency, the **Rev. Dr. Marietta Hebert-Davis** will be on call. In such an emergency, please call Candace at the Church Office and she will be in touch with Pastor Marietta.

You can follow along with Pastor Dan on the pilgrimage by going to his blog, [www.babbleondaniel.blogspot.com](http://www.babbleondaniel.blogspot.com). He will be writing and sharing pictures, thoughts, insights, and reflection along the pilgrimage.



## Book Club Meeting

The Pilgrim Faith Book Club is reading “Giver of Stars” by Jo Jo Moyes for the March 27, 2022 meeting. The book is described as “Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt’s new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. She will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky.”



Remember, Book Club is open to all church members.

We will be meeting at 7 PM by Zoom. I am happy to send the link by email to anyone who is interested. I will also post it on the Members Facebook page.

Chris Raap

## 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

### Bob Salveson

6146 S. Karlov Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60629

### Darlene Wank

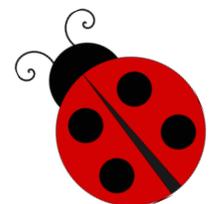
10942 S. Oak Ave  
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

### Mildred House

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

### Donna Twichell

10032 Harnew Rd. East  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453



## Lenten Opportunities



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** will occur on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. and will include both the imposition of Ashes and Communion.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** will be led by Rev. Jim Benzing, on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

This service will include Communion and a time of reflection as we encounter the last hours of Jesus. Please plan to attend this special service.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL** books are available in the Narthex for the purpose of enriching your Lenten walk. Please pick up your copy of Henri Nouwen's Lenten Reflections.



## Limitless Youth are on the Move

We had such fun on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Arena Bowling Alley. Six youth and five adults enjoyed two wonderful games at Arena Bowling Alley. Our next event will be Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> with the youth at Salem United Church of Christ in Oak Lawn. Watch for details in the March Youth Newsletter.



## Other Youth Happenings

**PICTURE GOD** was a great success! Through drama, choral readings, upbeat music, and thoughtful liturgy, the kids led a wonderful worship service. Thank you so much Limitless Youth! You were awesome.

**SOUPER BOWL** was a great success! Thank you, Limitless Youth, for being our collectors. We raised about \$270.00 for the Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry and collected about ten pounds of canned and boxed foods. Even though this was our first Sunday back after COVID kept us out of the sanctuary for the month of January, you were there! Thank you for your help.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** will be a service project that we will do as a group on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:45 p.m. in Aurora, IL. Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and undernutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of death in children under 5 years old. This means that probably 6, 200 children each day from causes related to undernutrition. This is heartbreaking! But we can make a difference. Please plan to join us. Watch for more information as we get closer to this special mission trip. I hope you will want to join us.

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## WISH sends valentines to homebound members, others

WISH sent out 17 valentines to homebound members and others who needed cheering up. I would like to thank Laura Stanton for helping me make the valentines and those who gave me the names of people who needed cheering up.

Gail Siwek

### Lay Leaders

Here are the upcoming lay leaders:

#### March

6 Chris Raap  
13 Peggy Martin  
20 Peggy McGinnis  
27 Emily Cook

#### April

3 Jacques Lopez  
10 Jimmy Werner  
17 Aidan McGinnis  
24 Daune Sebastian



**JOIN JOSHUA AS WE BRING DOWN THE WALL OF JERICO WITH LOUD TRUMPETS AND SHOUTING!**

With all ages coming together in Messy Church, Joshua reminds us that even when we don't see any way through our problems, ask God for help, and you might be surprised at what happens!

Come to *Messy Church* on Sunday, **MARCH 13TH** from **11:30-1:00** PM downstairs in Colonial Hall! Bring the **WHOLE** family- **ALL** ages! **AND** bring your friends!  
Come for the 4 F's-

## SECOND REAL ESTATE CONVERSATION:

ALL ARE INVITED to the second Real Estate conversation that came out of a good discussion at our February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m., we will continue this rich discussion and develop actions plans for rentals, senior housing, and saleable property. Your insights and ideas are wanted, and we hope that you will join us and share your ideas. If you would like to read the minutes from the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, please contact the Church Office and Candace can send you a copy of the minutes.

**FELLOWSHIP  
FOOD  
FUN  
FAITH**

### Church Receipts as of January 31, 2022

		As of January 31, 2022	
		Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget *
<b>Receipts</b>			
Pledges		\$ 6,950.21	\$ 5,850.26
Non-Pledged Giving			
Total Receipts (all sources)		\$ 10,723.43	\$ 9,954.48
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Salaries & Benefits		\$ 13,335.29	\$ 10,268.67
Expenses		\$ 6,487.28	\$ 5,775.09
Total Disbursements (all expenses)		\$ 20,038.96	\$ 16,393.76
<b>Net Total</b>		\$ (9,315.53)	\$ (6,439.28)

\* 2022 Budget not approved yet - 2021 Budget figures used for reference

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

# March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	2 Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Worship	3	4	5 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
6 10:00AM Worship	7	8 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	9	10	11	12 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
13 10:00AM Worship	14	15 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon		17	18	19 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
20 10:00 AM Worship	21	22 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	23	24 	25	26 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
27 10:00 AM Worship  7PM Book Club Mtg.	28	29 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	30	31		



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

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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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### **Amazon Smile**

Shop on AMAZON Smile and select Pilgrim Faith UCC as your charity of choice. For each transaction you make, AMAZON donates a percentage back to Pilgrim Faith. Donate to Pilgrim Faith every time you shop!

