



## SEPTEMBER 2023

### More Truth and Light

*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”*

*Isaiah 2:3*

As warm summer days give way to a season of learning and growing and our children, our youth, and young adults return to school, I'm thinking about the Christian faith and the formation of our own children, youth, young adults, and adults into a faithful life of Christian discipleship. As I think of faith formation and teaching the way of Christ, I'm remembering a conversation I had with a member of the first church that called me as their pastor. It was a small, rural congregation in western Pennsylvania. The membership at the time was right around 200 with an average attendance of 50-60 people. We didn't have many children, but we had some. There was no youth program when I started my tenure with the congregation. Within the congregation was an older member and in many ways a mentor to me. I appreciated his openness, his commitment to the United Church of Christ, and his grounded-ness in rural America. While I was there, we got to talking about youth ministry and Christian formation and he said to me, ***“In this town, there is really very little that will keep our children in the community. I think as a small, rural Christian congregation, perhaps the best we can offer our children is to teach a faith that will enable them to make good choices when they are no longer within the safety and security of the familiar.”*** It has been this conversation that has guided and shaped my own ministry over the years. Am I teaching a faith that will enable the members to make good choices when they are no longer within the safety and

security of the familiar? If not, what do I need to do differently?

The prophet Isaiah shares a similar sentiment, ‘... *Let us go up to the mountain, to the house of the Lord that we may learn the ways of God and walk in such a path...*’ As I reflect upon my year with Pilgrim Faith UCC, this sentiment is why I organized a ministry for our youth. It is my commitment to faith formation that I feel it is important for the pastor to be a part of the teaching ministry of the church in whatever form it takes. Whether retreating or preaching, planning, or imagining, I will always advocate for an educational component in all we do together as a community of faith. Our ministry is not about quantity in the form of people, programs, and money, but its about preparing faithful people to make good choices when we are no longer in the safety and security of the familiar. It is about ‘teaching the ways of God, so that we know the path that is good, faithful, and true.’ This is, I believe, what makes for a faithful and thriving congregation. Teaching a faith that matters.

At this time of year, no matter our age or accumulated wisdom, it is appropriate to ask ourselves, ‘how is my faith today?’ ‘Am I satisfied with where I am, or am I ready to learn even more?’ We might ask ourselves, what can I do, or offer, that would help us to grow and encourage others to see that the joy of learning and teaching is an important part of our walk of faith. Maybe this is the season to do more.

With joy and anticipation,  
Rev. Daniel Gather

# INVITING ALL YOUTH ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE THROUGH GRADE TWELVE!



We've had so much fun over the last two years with Limitless Youth. We've participated in a very cold November morning collecting cans for Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry. We've bowled with the youth from Salem United Church of Christ. We enjoyed a Christmas party, sponsored an Easter Egg hunt for the community and enjoyed an evening of fun and games with members and friends of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. and so much more! Come and be a part of Pilgrim Faith Limitless Youth and help us plan another great year! We'll gather in room #25 on the third floor for pizza and planning on **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** Won't you join us? We'd love for our youth to invite friends to all our events! They don't have to be a member of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. to participate in our planned events. We welcome all! Come and plan. Come and meet our new youth advisors, Kevin Holt and Alex Overland! Come and enjoy pizza and have some fun! We're looking forward to another great year with our the youth youth of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C.!

**MINISTRY TEAMS ARE ORGANIZING FOR THE FALL,** and this would be a good time to consider one of our four ministry teams. Typically, the ministry teams meet on the third Sunday after worship. The Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life meets via Zoom on the second Wednesday. We are grateful for the faithful people who have served on one of the ministry teams throughout the year and hope that more will join us this fall. The Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life will meet on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. via Zoom and the rest of the ministry teams will meet after worship on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please consider being a part of one of our teams. In addition to the Ministry of Worship and Spiritual Life, there is the Ministry of Christian Formation and Mission, The Ministry of Stewardship and Finance, and the Ministry of Building and Grounds. Please talk to Pastor Dan or one of our Council Members to discern which team you would be most happy serving. The more people who share in the ministries of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. the more impact we will have on the community, the membership, and our friends. Please join us this fall!



**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: [pamlcusack@gmail.com](mailto:pamlcusack@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

September 3 Daune Sebastian

September 10 Keith Stevenson

September 17 Ron Stancik

September 24 Keith Stevenson

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



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

	Month of JULY 2023		As of JULY 31, 2023	
	MONTH	MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE	YEAR-TO-DATE
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>Receipts</b>				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 5,799.00	\$ 4,145.01	\$ 51,978.47	\$ 41,798.97
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 15,868.22	\$ 9,305.71	\$ 84,493.98	\$ 59,954.66
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 15,513.46	\$ 11,030.08	\$ 84,775.37	\$ 78,410.54
Expenses	\$ 3,858.19	\$ 5,446.48	\$ 58,618.30	\$ 59,377.89
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 20,021.65	\$ 16,884.89	\$ 146,319.59	\$ 140,646.74
<b>Net Total</b>	\$ (4,153.43)	\$ (7,579.18)	\$ (61,825.61)	\$ (80,692.08)

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



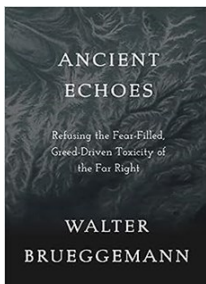
## COME AND HELP US PLAN TRUNK OR TREAT THIS



We had so much fun last year with Trunk or Treat that we're planning another event this fall. We are meeting via Zoom with interested people willing to help plan and promote Trunk or Treat this year. The Zoom meeting will take place on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. via Zoom**. If you are interested in helping us to plan this event, please let Pastor Dan know so that we can send you the Zoom link! Thank you for considering the invitation to help plan this incredibly successful community outreach for Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ.

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## BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY PLANNED FOR THE FALL!



In his book, *Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America: A Recent History*, the author Kurt Andersen identifies eight "truth claims" made by the political right that champion aggressive self-sufficiency and self-security at the expense of the community. In his book, "**Ancient Ech-**

**oes**", Dr. Walter Brueggemann responds from a biblical perspective to the eight 'claims' of the political right. He asserts that the echoes of biblical faith reveal that right-wing 'truth claims' contradict our scripture. Pastor Dan will begin our five-week, in person discussion using Brueggemann's book, ***Ancient Echoes***, on **Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** in the lounge. In preparing for the class, you may want to read both books. Andersen's book will give you the context in which Dr. Brueggemann responds. My primary focus will be on the material in his book, *Ancient Echoes*. We'll look at the bible stories and verses that support Brueggemann's argument and reflect on his thoughts as presented in the book. Please join us for our discussion.

## JUSTICE AND PIZZA ARE PLANNING TO MEET

on **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** at Barracco's Pizza in Evergreen Park. Barracco's Pizza is located at 3701 95<sup>th</sup> Street in Evergreen Park. Justice and Pizza have been discussing ways we can be better advocates for peace and justice for all. We've joined the Community Renewal Society and have participated in several conversations around white supremacy, racism, and other important conversations around justice. This year we would like to plan several events for us and for the community that helps us to be more aware of our own tendency to default to old recordings about fearing diversity, people of color, classism, and our complicity in speaking up when we have witnessed a miscarriage of justice. If you have a passion and desire to advocate for justice, please join us. This is not, exclusively, a Pilgrim Faith UCC witness. It is open to the community. Please join us and bring a fried along to enjoy the fellowship and plan ways we can be more faithful to our call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

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## PLANNING FOR MEMORIAL SUNDAY



For the last several years we've had a special tradition of remembering our members and loved ones who have died in the past year. Once again, we are planning a special service to remember our loved ones on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> during our morning worship. If you have loved ones that you would like for us to remember, please let the Church office know their names, their relationship to you, their birth date and death date, and we'll include them in this special service. Please submit your names to the Church Office by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# POTLUCK WORLD CAFÉ COMING SOON! REGISTER FOR OUR NEXT WORLD CAFÉ CONVERSATION!



The membership has been having some important conversations about our future ministry and the next two conversations will be important as we discuss the best pastoral model for Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. and the what is the best use of our building and property as we reimagine our ministry at our church. We have had some good discussions and if you haven't been to one of our café conversation, plan on joining us on **September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>** for these important conversations. For the final two conversations, we are inviting participants to bring a dish to share and we'll enjoy a good 'old-fashioned' church potluck! The conversations begin each Sunday after worship and we conclude the conversations between 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. It is not necessary, but it is helpful to register for the conversations. You can register for the September 24<sup>th</sup> conversation by going to our Webpage: [www.pilgrimfaith.org](http://www.pilgrimfaith.org) and clicking on the World Café button. You can also contact the church office at 708-422-4200 if this is easier for you. We'd love to have all our members participate in these important discussions. We're hoping to see you there!

## A HUGE Thank You!

Thanks to all who filled out Climate Hope postcards that were sent to the EPA and White House!

I mailed 130 cards off to let our government know that we care deeply about protecting this Earth that we love!



**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 3 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack  
September 10 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan  
September 17 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus  
September 24 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke

October 1 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack  
October 8 Libby Langevin and Amanda Sullivan  
October 15 Mary Weierman and Deb Petkus  
October 22 Doreen Lopez and Carol Burke  
October 29 Sue Arnold and Pam Cusack

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



### Music at Pilgrim Faith



Have you ever wanted to perform in a music group? Now is your chance! Pilgrim Faith UCC is looking for members to join their choir and bell choir.

These groups are for ALL AGES. No experience is necessary. Come to Pilgrim Faith UCC to make music and worship with friends! Rehearsals will begin the week of September 17th. Bell Choir will begin on September 17th and Choir will begin on September 23rd. Contact Alex Overland with any questions 708.691.8410.

Bell Choir: Sundays, 11am - 12pm

Choir: Saturdays, 10am - 11am

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to contribute to our monthly newsletter? The deadline for the September edition is Monday, September 25, 2023. Please submit any articles or announcements for our monthly newsletter by that date and we will be sure to include it.





# Limitless Youth Group

at Pilgrim Faith UCC



We Are Back For A New Year!

Join Us For Our First Meeting For  
Fun, Food, and Fellowship

Sunday, September 17, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.

at Pilgrim Faith UCC  
3rd Floor, Room 25

Come meet the new leaders  
and  
help plan our year!



More details for October coming soon!

You can also check for new updates and information  
on our Limitless Youth Group Facebook page.



## Nursery Helpers Needed!

Please consider helping once every month or two. Right now, we have a few volunteers that are in the Kids' Club nursery on Sunday mornings. There is a wonderful paid nursery attendant, who is there every week, so you would not be alone. Contact Daune Sebastian if you are willing to share God's love with our youngest members.

We would also encourage ALL members who are involved in the ministry of Pilgrim Faith, to ask Daune about getting the Safe Church training that is offered online through our insurance carrier, Praesidium.



This Photo by Unknown Author is



## CROP Hunger Walk 2023 Is Coming! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>th</sup> AT 2:00 PM!



Here is the Pilgrim Faith crew from 2022- won't you JOIN us this year? We are again walking at the beautiful Lake Katherine Nature Center in Palos Heights, IL. If you can't walk that day, would you consider making a donation? Your support can change the lives of those in need. Also, 25% of the donations will be given to local food pantries, including our own Pilgrim Faith Pantry.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/pilgrim-faith-ucc>

**Crop Walk News-2023**  
**Lake Katherine - Palos Heights**



A fun and relaxing approach to the Crop Walk

- 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**

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
3 10:00 AM Worship	4	5 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	6	7	8 	9 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
10 10:00 AM Worship	11	12 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	13	14	15	16 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
17 10:00 AM Worship  5:30 PM Limitless Youth Mtg.	18	19 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	20	21	22	23 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
24 10:00 AM Worship	25	26 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	27 	28	29	30



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

Non-Profit  
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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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