



JANUARY 2023

More Truth and Light

“I see everything I do as an extension of the ministry. It's all about service.”

Clementa C. Pinckney

The Apostle Paul frequently writes about being gifted for ministry and that each person created and loved by God are ministers of service and love. In a world where many foolishly believe that we create our own success, and where fallen people are more persuaded by profit margins than love, we need to re-evaluate the meaning of discipleship and what it means to be a follower of Christ in such a time as this. In his many letters to his congregations, Paul reminds us that all who follow Jesus are ministers and are called to bring God glory and to serve one another. As the late pastor, Clementa C. Pinckney, assassinated June 2015 at Mother Emmanuel AME Church, reminds us ‘**...everything we do is ministry. It's about service**’, service to God and to one another. Paul writes, *“He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”* Ephesians 4: 11-12.

At our annual meeting last year, we adopted a new structure that sought to see the work and the planning of our programs as ministry – ministries that are done as a personal expression of our own giftedness, our love for God, and our service to one another. Each one of you have been and continued to be encouraged to find a ministry team that reflects your passions, your desire, your personal witness to Creator God, and a way in which you can ‘serve’ God’s beloved people. Each of the ministry teams that are a part of our life together are ways in which we ‘equip’ one another for ministry and how we ‘build up the body of Christ’ in this community. The work that each of the ministry teams are doing is important work and work that needs every member of Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. to participate in. Whether we’re collecting the offer-

ing on Sunday morning, preparing financial reports for the annual meeting, dusting under pews, singing in the choir, fixing broken toilets, watching our littlest Christians in the Kid’s Klub, or visiting our sick and homebound members, we are building up the body of Christ, and that is our holy and sacred work. All of us are ministers – ministers to the glory of God and ministers, equipping the saints for ministry.

Since this is the first newsletter of a New Year, it is a good time to reflect on how you will do your ministry at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ in the coming year. There are already several opportunities where your service could be significant, helpful, and encouraging. It is possible that the focus of the current ministry teams does not meet your needs or offer a place for you to express your glory to God or provide a meaningful way for you to serve others. If this is the case for you, discern your calling and create something new that you believe ‘*equips the saints for ministry*’ and ‘*builds up the body of Christ.*’ In the coming year, there will be new opportunities offered that could be what you are looking for and will provide an expression of ministry and discipleship that is fulfilling to you. Indeed, some are called to be apostles, prophets, pastors, or teachers, but all of us are called to ministry. The holy and sacred work that we do is ministry and ways in which we live out our Christian discipleship. May this New Year be a time to open your hearts and renew your spirits as you find new and renewing ways to grow in faith and discipleship, serving God and one another. You see, everything you do is an extension of Christian discipleship. It’s about service in all its forms. Where is God calling you?

Called and calling,

Pastor Dan Sather

FROM THE MODERATOR -

What is in the heart.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

1 Samuel 16: 7

When I was a child and heard this passage, I looked at people who appeared to have it all but were they really happy.

We all had our moments where we were led by the flashy talker, the good looking salesperson and even the truthful salesperson who told me "I need the money, my children are in college" Were they motivated by God or something else?

When people are motivated by money, fame, fear, or even power, the line that God wants us to follow becomes very blurry or non-existent.

When I started working, the first few jobs I had were ones that I knew that I would not be at for a long time. Management was not organized enough to create a schedule so I could help out my family. Pay was low (under 1.00 dollar an hour) or the people I worked with just weren't looking at the big picture. They appeared to be looking at the small picture in front of them. The short time, short plan that would only satisfy the need for a few. Is that what God wants?

Next month you will be asked to vote on the leadership of the church. If God has a place in your hearts to help out, here is your chance. If you are unsure, I understand but the leap of faith starts with that first step.

We are a church where the congregation is in control of what happens. That does not happen at any other church but a congregational church. I know that there are a few members of the council who believe that they (and only they) have the final say of what is going on in the church. Deep in my heart I know that they will only do what they believe is best and not what God is calling the church to be.

I am going to encourage this congregation to do the job God has called you to do. No matter if you are questioning yourself "am I enough" I know that God is saying "YES YOU ARE" Just take the leap of faith. Look at what is happening, what you believe God is calling us to do and what is your role in this community of faith.

In this case Pilgrim Faith needs to become more like an Amish Community. Coming together, helping each other to show what God has planned for Pilgrim Faith.

May God bless you and guide you every day of your life.
Mary Weierman

The Constitution Committee



The Constitution Committee has been looking at the constitution that was accepted last February. The council would like to thank the committee for their hard work. There are some tweaks that need to be made to the constitution but we would love to hear your thoughts. Please reach out to anyone on the Council with your thoughts or comments. We will be voting on continuing the trial time for the constitution so the Congregation will have a full say in this constitution.

May God bless us and guide us.



WISH (Women in Step with Him)



Valentine's Day will be here before you know it. WISH (Women in Step with Him) will complete its annual project of creating valentines for the homebound and anyone in need of cheering up in Colonial Hall after the January 29 church service. Gail Siwek and Laura Stanton will supply the items. Please contact Gail with the names of people who need cheering up at gailsiwek@yahoo.com or (708) 423-0399. Also, we're trying to personalize the valentines. If you know of any of the homebound who has a special interest such as they like cats, dogs, flowers, rainbows, etc. please contact Gail before the day of the event.

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



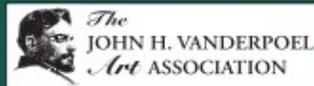
Saturday Drawing Class

Jan 14, 21 & Feb 11, 18, 25, 2023
Grades 4 – 8 ♦ Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

*Learn the basics of drawing from instructor
Linda Vorderer on a variety of media and papers. Lots of
individual attention, all skill levels will benefit. \$100*

TO ENROLL CALL 708-912-3108

or email linda@vordererart.com



Held at Pilgrim Faith Church
9411 S. 51st Ave., Oak Lawn



John H. Vanderpoel Art Association is in residency at Ridge Park through the Chicago Park District's Arts Partners in Residence Program, which unites artists and communities in Chicago's parks.

NEW LEARNING AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED:

ZOOM Book Discussion Organizing:

Beginning Tuesday, January 17th, Pastor Dan will begin the discussion on the book entitled, “*Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*” written by Kristen Kobes Du Mez. Please let Pastor Sather know if you are interested in participating. The conversation will be each Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Below are the plans for the study:

January 17 Chapters 1-4
January 24 No book study. Cluster 5 Meeting
January 31 Chapters 5-8
February 7 Chapters 9-12
February 14 Chapters 13-16

Each Sunday before Tuesday, I will send out a Zoom invitation with some questions, thoughts, or quotes that may prime our discussion pump on Tuesday. I believe that this will be a wonderful discussion.

Organizing for justice and pizza discussion and action:

Throughout our history, Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ has been a congregation that has served the struggling, the marginal, the rejected, and the troubled. Many of you have pondered and reflected upon the questions on justice and social action. Beginning on Sunday, once a month, I would like to invite anyone who may be interested in discussion and action around justice, social action, peace, and working for systemic change to join me at **Fox's Restaurant and Pub**, located at 9240 S Cicero Ave, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. We'll order pizza and drinks and discuss issues that are in our hearts and what we can do to educate, inform, participate, and advocate for these important issues. Our first gathering will be Sunday, February 5th at 4 p.m. If you are interested, please let Pastor Dan know and we'll make plans for our first gathering.

THRIVE TASK FORCE FORMING!

For Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ, so much has changed in the last five years, and it has been difficult for us to explore our future. Over the last twenty years, the Mainline churches have undergone significant change. Most have peaked and are either maintaining the status quo or declining in membership. For most of our churches there are fewer people to grow the ministry and fewer dollars to sustain the ministry. Our buildings and our structures were designed for the post-World War explosion of people and now our space is more than we need to sustain our current ministry. In response to this growing concerning, Pastor Dan will be putting together a Thrive Task Force to explore our options going forward.

It is my heartfelt belief that this is not a 'bad thing', and is, in fact, an opportunity to define our greatest assets and reimagine a ministry that can continue to be impactful and meaningful. In our own lives, we define and reimagine our life. We go through our belongings over the year and the stuff that is no longer relevant to us is given away, donated to such places as Goodwill or the Salvation Army, or we sell it on Facebook or through a garage sale. Such is the time for our church today – a time to downsize, prioritize what is most important to us as a congregation, identify our strengths and our passions, and redefine a new ministry that we believe will enable and empower us to thrive. We don't need big congregations, lots of property, and well-built sanctuaries to love God and love people.

This Task Force will facilitate congregational conversations and identify several sustainable options that we believe will empower the congregation to continue our ministry, our service, our legacy, and our mission. If you are interested in such a group, please contact Pastor Dan as soon as possible. Pastor Dan will also be reaching out to specific people that he believes will provide the energy, creativity, and the spirit to serve in this capacity. It will be my goal to identify the members of the Thrive Task Force by our Congregational Meeting in February.



LIMITLESS YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES:

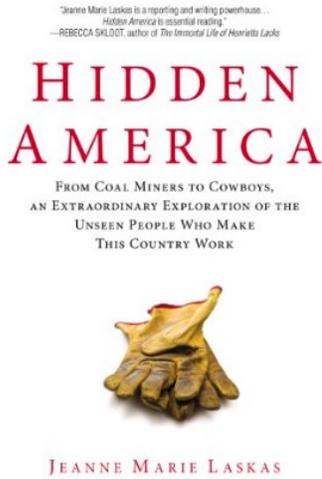


LOTS OF FUN AT THE LIMITLESS YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY! Eight youth enjoyed an evening of Reverse Charades around such themes as Christmas Terms, Christmas Songs, and Christmas Movies. In addition, they enjoyed good food, yummy cookies, good fellowship, and Christmas gifts were exchanged.

BOWLING PLANNED WITH SALEM YOUTH! On Sunday, January 15th, Limitless Youth, their families, and youth and families from Salem United Church of Christ will enjoy and afternoon of bowling at Arena Lanes in Oak Lawn. Youth and their families are invited to meet us at Arena Lanes at 2 p.m. The cost for the event will be \$20.00 per person and includes shoes and two hours of bowling. Please let Pastor Dan know of your interest by Sunday, January 8th so that we can make plans for you!

PLANNING AHEAD! Limitless Youth will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for the community on Saturday, April 1st! This is new for the youth, but it is a great outreach for our community. We'll need lots of helpers, plastic eggs, candy, publicity, and donations for various prizes. Please mark your calendars today and watch for more details as we get closer to the day!

Book Club JANUARY, 2023



We are reading **“Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys”** by Jeanne Marie Laskas for the January 22, 2023 meeting. Watch FB and emails to see if it will be in person or Zoom. We didn’t get to see the movie, “Where the Crawdads Sing” in Dec. Let’s talk about that at the January meeting. Also, a road trip to see the new Tom Hanks movie based on “A Man Called Otto”.

Chris Raap

Food Pantry—Needed Items

As you’re out and about, please consider picking up an item(s) for the food pantry.

- Box of Cereal
- Box of Spaghetti
- Pasta Sauce (Can or Jar)
- Canned Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chili
- Canned Pork and Beans
- Canned Mixed Veggies
- Canned Peas
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- RiceARoni
- Tomato Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Corn
- Box of Macaroni and Cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Box of Individually Packaged Oatmeal
- One Can Meal (Chef Boy-ar-dee)
- Box of Jello
- Granola Bars/PopTarts



Church Receipts as of November 2022					
	Month of NOVEMBER 2022			As of November 30, 2022	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Budget	
Receipts					
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 9,126.20	\$ 8,238.89	\$ 85,017.29	\$	77,797.47
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 10,894.16	\$ 9,593.89	\$ 108,304.78	\$	99,047.47
Disbursements					
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,490.04	\$ 11,466.67	\$ 116,517.72	\$	120,540.37
Expenses	\$ 3,686.43	\$ 3,288.19	\$ 78,527.99	\$	73,924.19
Total Disbursements (all expense)	\$ 16,471.20	\$ 15,154.86	\$ 198,146.61	\$	198,764.56
Net Total	\$ (5,577.04)	\$ (5,560.97)	\$ (89,841.83)	\$	(99,717.09)

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.

January 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue



Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 10:00 AM Worship	2	3 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	4	5	6	7 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
8 10:00 AM Worship	9	10 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 	11	12	13	14 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
15 10:00AM Worship Limitless Youth Bowling Outing	16	17 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	18	19	20	21 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
22 10:00AM Worship Book Club Mtg.	23	24 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	25	26	27	28 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 
29 10:00 AM Worship	30	31 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon				



Pilgrim Faith UCC
9411 S. 51st 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

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!

