



## **MAY 2023**

### **More Truth and Light**

*“Shaping our futures through conversations that matter”* The World Café

In a post-Covid world and a world where news changes by the minute, we find ourselves disconnected from one another, our communities, and the world. We spend much time in our daily lives discerning what is truth and what is not, and we find ourselves longing for the joy we once knew as we gathered with friends at kitchen tables, around an outdoor grill, or at a church potluck. We are people that long to be connected in meaningful and significant ways. We long for a community that comes together to discuss important issues, solve problems, and feel that in some way we've contributed to a fuller, more meaningful solution to the questions we are asking and the searching that we are doing. We want to have conversations with one another, and we want to work together to discover the greater wisdom that calls upon our collective wisdom and reveals more clearly, solutions and answers to life's most puzzling questions. The Thrive Task Force has been doing just that. They have been working on a World Café process that we believe will solicit the collective wisdom and imagination of members and friends committed to the ongoing mission and ministry of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ.

The task force is still working on the details of our World Café conversations and soon the congregation will know when we are planning our World Café conversations. In the meantime, we'd like to share with you the 'seven design principles', and guidelines of a World Café conversation. **The first principle of World Café is context.** Why are we bringing our members and friends together for a conversation? The context is Pilgrim Faith U.C.C., and the purpose of the conversations is to solicit the collective wisdom of our members to consider our future together. There are five areas of concern (**See article, “Update on Thrive Task Force”**) that we feel are important conversations to have.

**Second, we will create a safe, hospitable space** for small groups to discuss specific questions that will guide the task force as we listen, discern, and compile recommendations about our future for the congregation to consider. The groups will be no more than five people at each table, food will be available, and we want to stress the importance of hearing from everyone who has a commitment to Pilgrim Faith U.C.C.

**Exploring questions that matter** is the third principle of World Café. The Task Force has been working at creating

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questions around various topics that we believe will give the task force clarity on what is on the minds and hearts of our members. Your reflections and responses to the questions will provide direction for the task force as we continue to plan for our future.

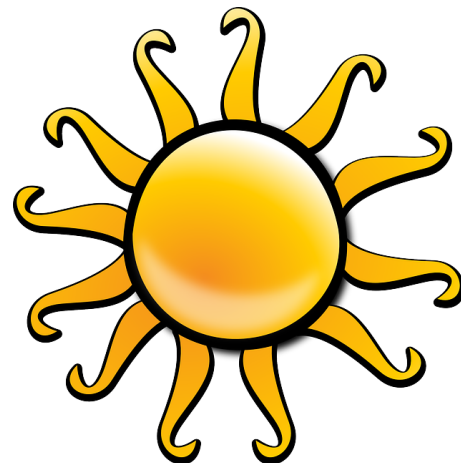
In any relevant, meaningful, and impactful discussion, it is important to hear from everyone. The fourth principle of World Café **invites each person to contribute to the conversation.** There are no wrong answers or bad questions. Good conversation requires everyone's participation. The task force believes that planning for smaller, more intimate groups will encourage everyone's participation.

**The fifth principle will connect diverse perspectives.** The movement between tables, sharing conversation with different people throughout the event will widen the circle of thought, bringing more clarity to the direction that the Holy Spirit is calling us to. In sharing in the diversity, we will discover great observations and surprising insights.

Listening is a gift we give to one another. Through **practicing shared listening and paying attention to themes, patterns and insights** is the sixth principle of World Café. When we listen carefully and deeply, we begin to sense a connection to the larger whole and that will bring us closer to consensus as we imagine what the future can be for the ongoing ministry and mission of our church.

**Finally, sharing our collective discoveries** is the seventh principle. At the end of each World Café, members of the Thrive Task Force will present the learnings from the night. This will allow us to continue to explore the themes and give a clear direction to the leadership of Pilgrim Faith UCC as we traverse this unfamiliar moment in our life together and bring about a sense of joy and wholeness that is empowering and inspiring. Psalm 117 reminds us that our past, our present, and our future is not one that need be absent from God's steadfast care and grace. The psalmist writes, **"Praise the Lord, all you nations! Ex-tol him, all you, people! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!" Psalm 117:1-2.** Come to the table and let's have a conversation that matters.

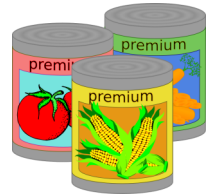
In anticipation,  
Pastor Daniel Sather



## Food Pantry Staple Items—Please Donate

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



## **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

### **Linda Aitken**

The Pointe at  
Kilpatrick  
14230 Kilpatrick  
Crestwood, IL. 60418

### **Darlene Wank**

10942 S. Oak Ave  
Chicago Ridge, IL  
60415

### **Grace Pluhar**

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

### **Bob Salveson**

6146 S. Karlov Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60629

### **Doris Seitz**

11237 S. Normandy  
Worth, IL 60482

### **Donna Twichell**

10032 Harnew Rd.  
East  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453





## From the Desk of the Moderator

### WHO HAVE YOU HELPED TODAY???



How do we as members of Pilgrim Faith UCC follow Jesus' example of "caring for the least of these"? In Dan Hotchkiss' book Governance and Ministry he states, "Religion at its best is no friend to the status quo."

What changes have we gone through in the last few years! We have been challenged by a pandemic and all its implications, socially, emotionally, and alas, politically. We were forced to look at our everyday activities differently, with an ever-present balancing of risks. There have been so many disturbing things in the

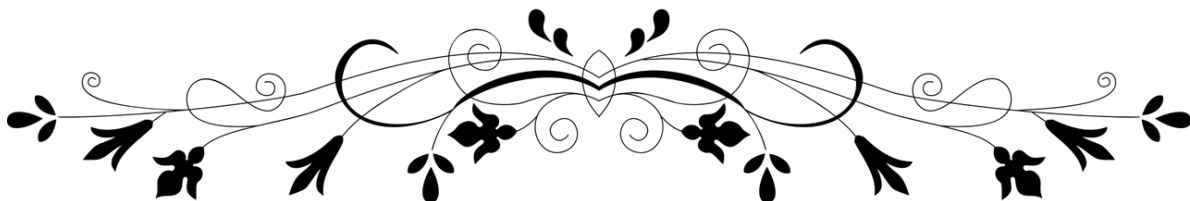
news from gun violence, to an awakening of how marginalized people are treated in our own neighborhoods, to concerns about our environment.

Personally, I have changed my thinking about many things that I simply accepted as fact before. I used to think that racial inequity was an unsolvable problem, but I now I see that I must hold up a mirror to recognize my own prejudices and begin to look for ways to address this problem.

**"Religion at its best is no friend to the status quo".**

Our own church has experienced challenges as we transitioned through several different pastors, while having fewer members than we had pre-Covid. I am more open to change now- in fact, I really embrace the fact that we may change how we do ministry, but our core beliefs of helping others will always be who we are. Pilgrim Faith UCC stands for sharing love, within our walls, communities, and the world.

***Will you join me in shaking up the status quo?***





## Attention Upcoming Graduates

It's that time of the year and we want to honor you. If you are graduating from 8th grade, high school, college or other type of school please let Pastor Dan know.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Meals on Wheels needs  
Volunteer Meal Delivery Drivers  
in your community!**



**Drivers needed Monday thru Friday mornings\***

**\*Routes take 90 minutes to 2 hours to complete**

**For Information or to Volunteer,  
please contact us at:**

**Volunteer@cnssa.org**

**or call 312-207-5290**



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## PILGRIM FAITH UCC RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS

	Month of MARCH 2023		As of MARCH 31, 2023	
	MONTH Actual	MONTH Budget	YEAR-TO-DATE Actual	YEAR-TO-DATE Budget
<b>Receipts</b>				
Pledges & Non-Pledged Giving	\$ 5,327.69	\$ 5,590.12	\$ 17,457.54	\$ 15,346.62
Total Receipts (all sources)	\$ 7,964.18	\$ 7,010.86	\$ 23,903.44	\$ 22,123.59
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 10,557.72	\$ 11,130.08	\$ 37,274.42	\$ 33,999.48
Expenses	\$ 14,238.13	\$ 19,130.77	\$ 33,986.06	\$ 33,372.47
Total Disbursements (all expenses)	\$ 25,105.85	\$ 30,669.18	\$ 72,229.02	\$ 68,596.94
<b>Net Total</b>	\$ (17,141.67)	\$ (23,658.32)	\$ (48,325.58)	\$ (46,473.35)

If you want a list of all checks written for the month, send request to [finances@pilgrimfaith.org](mailto:finances@pilgrimfaith.org).

## THRIVE TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Thrive Task Force has been meeting each Sunday evening since March and they have been working faithfully and diligently to put together five World Cafés to address five areas of concern for Pilgrim Faith U.C.C. as we plan for our future. The areas are as follows:

- What does it mean for Pilgrim Faith UCC to Thrive?
- As we think about our future, what do we value and how do we define mission and ministry for Pilgrim Faith UCC today?
- How do we communicate and treat one another?
- What model of pastoral ministry will best meet our future needs?
- How can we use our buildings, property, and real estate for our future mission and ministry?

All five of these conversations are important to have as we shape our future together. The Thrive Task Force will use a process known as The World Café. This is not a new process, but one that creates a conversational space for small groups to consider important questions that matter. At our next meeting, The Thrive Task Force will be looking at five dates that will be published for the congregation and the members will be asked to register for the conversations so that we can plan most effectively. Please look for conversation details that will be available to the congregation soon.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISM** of *Teagan ‘Nicki’ Hilliard, Kennedy Anne Hilliard, and James Robert Nicol (Bubba)*. Nicki, Kennedy, and Bubba are the children of Leece and James Robert Nicol, Sr. Nicki, Kennedy, and Bubba were baptized on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>! The baptism of our children is an important part of our faith journey as Christians. It is the beginning of a spiritual walk that remains with us our whole life long. When older children or adults choose to be baptized it is a powerful witness to God’s extraordinary love and grace. Please celebrate with these young people as they grow in faith and stature. What a gift to Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ.



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Do you have something to contribute to our monthly newsletter? The deadline for the June edition is Monday, May 29th. Please submit any articles or announcements for our monthly newsletter by that date and we will be sure to include it.





## Status report from the Senior Housing Development Committee

Most of the last few months have been spent responding to questions about our published Request for Proposal. (See 2023 Annual Report for details.) One specific response from Plymouth Place (a large senior living facility affiliated with the U.C.C. in LaGrange, Ill.) suggested that we undertake a more complete market analysis of the senior living market in the Oak Lawn area. They suggested we use the PMD Market Research firm out of Cincinnati, that completed the research for Plymouth Place's recent \$100 million expansion project. Recognizing our Church's funding limitations, PMD proposed a limited demographic study of the Oak Lawn area (by zip code). Using their proprietary data-base, they will identify the ability of residents to afford various price points for senior residence rentals. In addition, from in-depth phone calls, they expect to identify all the current and potential competing senior living centers in the area. At the conclusion of their 4-week analysis, PMD will prepare a written report of their findings. Then, in a Zoom meeting in Colonial Hall, they will present their recommendation to the Church membership about the market viability of our proposed facility. Obviously, if their report is negative, that will be the end of the project. If not, it will be important to ask your questions before we proceed further. On-site for the Zoom presentation (and at no cost to us) will be Daniel Collins, the overall project manager and consultant for the Plymouth Place development. He will answer questions and if we vote to proceed, tell us what comes next.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Senior Housing Committee Presentation will be taking place on Wednesday, May 17th at 7 p.m. in Colonial Hall. All are welcome to join us, hear the report and are free to ask questions. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

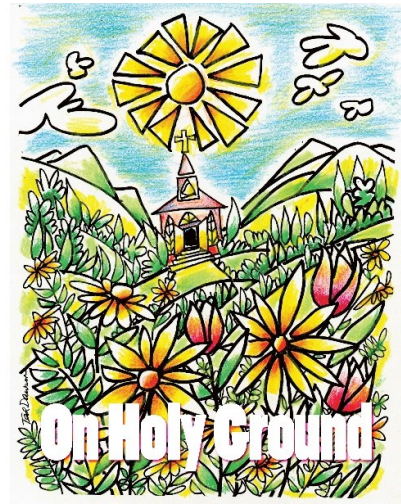


*Cartoon freely used courtesy of the artist Rene "Dikko" Dikkenberg .*

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION



The Rite of Confirmation in the United Church of Christ is the rite of church membership and the confirmation of baptismal vows, typically promised by the parents on behalf of their children. Confirmation is that time of religious formation that explores faith with youth in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older. After a time of exploring and learning, the Confirmands are invited to confirm or affirm the baptismal vows and officially join the local congregation. On Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will participate in this rite and celebrate with **Teagan 'Nicki' Hilliard** and **Kennedy Anne Hilliard** as they affirm their baptism. Please join us for worship, hear their faith statements, and join us in celebrating this rite within the tradition of our congregation. A special fellowship time, celebrating their choice will take place in Colonial Hall following worship. Come! Holy Spirit, Come!



**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**, one of our five for five offerings of the United Church of Christ will be collected throughout the month of May. The actual date of the collection is May 28<sup>th</sup>, but because it is Memorial Day weekend, the Ministry of Christian Formation and Mission will collect it throughout the month. If you write a check for the special offering, please indicate in the 'memo' that it is your donation for Strengthen the Church. You can also pick up a Strengthen the Church offering envelope in the Narthex. What does our offering for Strengthen the Church do for the United Church of Christ? The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to give cooperatively build up God beloved Church. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement. Please give generously this month to Strengthen the Church. Offering envelopes are available in the Narthex.



## LIMITLESS YOUTH NEWS



### THE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT WAS HUGE!

The Limitless Youth provided a fun afternoon for over 100 children in our community in early April when we hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our community! What a great day it was. So many happy faces and the parents were so delighted with our effort. Children left with many eggs, prizes, and lots of candy. Thank you Limitless Youth, parents, and members of Pilgrim Faith UCC who made this event possible. Despite the chilly day, we had lots of fun. Now to plan for next year!

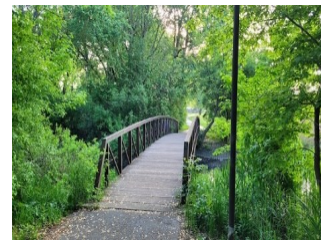
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**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN!** Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Limitless Youth, family, and friends will participate in an afternoon mission with Feed My Starving Children. Limitless Youth members are proud to be able to volunteer to pack meals and donate \$100.00 to this mission from their recent fund-raiser in March. Our youth, their families and friends are making a difference in the lives of hungry children and their families throughout the world.

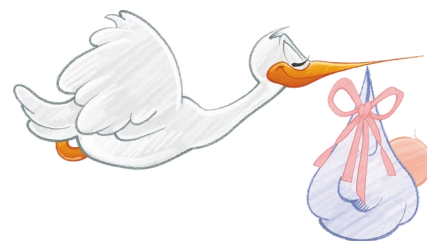
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## LIMITLESS YOUTH END OF THE YEAR COOK-OUT AND CELEBRATION & CHURCH PICNIC!

On Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, Limitless Youth will host their end of the year picnic at Wolf Wildlife Park at 109<sup>th</sup> and Laramie in Oak Lawn. This year we are opening the picnic to members and friends of Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ. In addition to great food and fellowship, the youth will celebrate our Seniors and welcome our rising seventh graders. The event will likely take place in the early afternoon! Please bring a friend and join us. Please watch for time and other details coming soon!



### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF ARLEY ROSE WROBEL!



Arley Rose Wrobel, the daughter of Randy Wrobel and Jessica Lopez and the granddaughter of Jacques & Doreen Lopez. Arley was born on April 12<sup>th</sup>, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and 19 inches long! Congratulations to the parents and grandparents on the birth of this precious child. May God bless this family as they grow together in faith.

# SEEKING GOD IN NATURE



## The Intergenerational Retreat is back!

**Friday 9/8/23- Sunday 9/10/23**

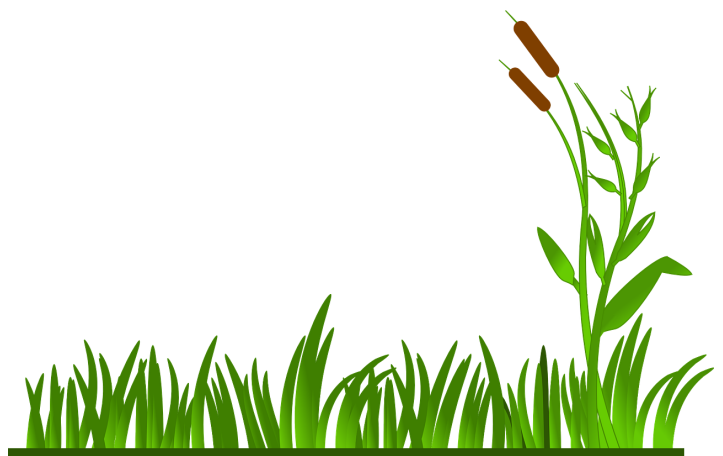
Join us on Friday night, September 8 through Sunday morning September 10 at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan. Make sure to mark your calendars. You don't want to miss the chance to share in all the fun, faith, and laughter!

Beginning May 7, we will have registration forms for you to complete, along with a \$50 deposit to hold your space at the retreat.

The cost of the retreat is \$130 per person, which includes 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner. We know that for families it may seem like an expense that you can't afford, but we don't want that to hold you back from signing up, so there is a maximum cost of \$350 per family. Along with that there is scholarship money from Outdoor Ministries. Here is a link to a form that you can fill out to request assistance. Please fill it out and return to Pastor Dan.

Copy and paste -<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=44f5694fef&attid=0.3&permmsgid=msg-f:1764256099112881705&th=187be59320708e29&view=att&disp=inline>.

If you need additional financial assistance, please see Pastor Dan.



# May 2023



Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	3	4	5	6 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
7 10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon 	10	11	12	13 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
14 10:00AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	15	16 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	17 Senior Hous- ing Marketing Report Mtg 7 PM	18	19 	20 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
21 10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	24	25	26	27 10-11 AM Choir Rehearsal Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon
28 10:00 AM Worship 11 AM-Noon Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30 Food Pantry 10:00 AM- Noon	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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