



From the desk of Pastor Scott

LENT-

Most of us associate Lent with a time of sacrifice, of giving up some bad virtue or habit as we think upon the unimaginable sacrifice of Christ giving his life for each of us. But the season of Lent has always been rooted in the idea of spiritual renewal, reflection and growth. It embodies wilderness journeys, spaces of quiet solitude, and spiritual introspection about where our faith lives have taken us... or if they've run off course completely.

I came across a quote last week by a fellow minister, "I honestly believe that the greatest hindrance to the mission of Jesus is the busyness of his agents." We are, almost all of us, busy, too busy. Lent calls us to slow down, to consider, to think about this calling God gives to each of us as disciples with this one life we are given. How are we using it? What have we/are we doing with the gifts God has given to us?

This year we are going to try something I have participated in, in a former church. We will hold midweek worship from 6-6:45 pm every Wednesday between Ash Weds (Ash Weds. Service is 7:30 pm) Until Holy Week, where our weekday services will be (Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm and Good Friday 7:30 pm)- location Two Way Street Coffee House. Come, experience Lent and consider taking a deeper spiritual plunge with God this season in new growing edges for your faith. Then stay for soup suppers each week starting at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. But come, and let Lent change you.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

MARCH 2017 PILGRIM EDITION:

page 1/2

- From The Desk of Pastor Scott

page 2

- Pastor Kim / Associate Minister of Christian Ed & Teaching

page 3

- Caring For Creation

page 4

- Children's Ministry / Jan Barker

page 5

- Bridge Community

page 6

- Trivia Night Flier

page 7

- Confirmation & Youth New / Ms Pro

page 8

- PADS

• Women's Fellowship

• Prayer Concerns

• FCLC

page 9

- Easter Flowers

page 10

- Women's Retreat

page 11

- Two Way Street Coffee House



Pray, Fast, Give

From the desk of Pastor Scott continues

FCLC

After twenty five years of faithful service to our Family Life and First Congregational Learning Center Preschool our church says a heartfelt farewell to Radika Jungwirth as our FCLC Administrative Assistant. As the school and DCFS requirements have grown so have demands on our FCLC staffing model. The ministry brought in a new full time Assistant Director this year to help with classroom and Director coverage as the school now has fifty two students and near full capacity enrollment. Radika will continue to be involved with the school both as our first call regular substitute and with wider FCLC events as she welcomes her grandson into the program this fall.

Members of the church are encouraged to come join us in thanking Radika and honoring her years of service at a special celebration for her on May 4th at 6pm. The event will likely be in Fellowship Hall or the Chapel.

Associate Minister of Christian Ed & Teaching

This month I began a new chapter of my own faith journey as I accepted the call as Associate Minister of this beloved community. In just these two short weeks I've participated in weekly worship planning; visited with both the Apostles & Disciples Confirmation Classes; shared leading communion along with Pastor Scott during Sunday worship; unexpectedly mastered the art of grilled cheese on that huge kitchen stove before sending our High School group off for the Winter Retreat, skiing & snow-boarding in Wisconsin; led a Grounds of Hope service in the Two-Way Street Coffee House, and nearly preached a sermon extemporaneously for the first time!....Thank Goodness I didn't actually have to do that! Needless to say, these first two weeks on board have been quite the whirlwind.

My email & phone are up and running and my office has become a 'new home' of sorts...I owe a special debt of gratitude to all who made it possible for my office set-up to go so smoothly, Pastor Scott, Carl, Leslie, Tom, Sean, Kim & Dick...and no doubt there were more behind the scenes...Thank you! Please don't be shy – I'm not...feel free to drop by for a visit anytime during the week; I look forward to our getting acquainted. I promise to bring my whole heart, mind and soul to this ministry and will keep my heart open to the Spirit's luring as we journey forward together.

May God's abundant blessings of wisdom, courage, peace and joy abound as we embark together on this new beginning!

Faithfully, Pastor Kim+



Caring for Creation

What Happens When I Throw Away Clothing or Shoes?

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We see these words, and we think of bottles, cans, and paper products. But let's apply these practices to clothing, shoes, and household textiles, because Americans throw away 26 billion pounds of clothing and textiles per year – that's 70 pounds of clothing per person, and 5.2% of the waste stream. And while 95% of unwanted clothing and textiles can be re-used or recycled, 85% ends up in a landfill, where it slowly degrades, releasing greenhouse gases, and leaching chemicals, which may seep into groundwater if the landfill is not sealed properly.

The EPA estimates that textile recycling has a greater impact on reducing greenhouse gases than recycling yard waste, glass or plastic. Recycling those 26 billion pounds of clothing is the equivalent of taking 7.3 million cars and their carbon dioxide emissions off the road. So what happens to the clothing that is recycled?

45% is reused as apparel in the US or abroad

30% is repurposed as rags or wiping clothes for commercial or industrial use

20% is reprocessed into upholstery fill, insulation, or carpet

5% is unusable due to mildew or other contamination

Fortunately, there are many places where we can recycle clothing, shoes, and textiles – local thrift stores, some retailers, and during the month of March our church will recycle denim.

Savers (2900 Highland Avenue, Downers Grove) takes clothing and household textiles – even single socks and tattered clothing is accepted and recycled. See www.saversonline.com/donate

Goodwill Store and Donation Center (110 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove) recycles clothing and textiles.

In March bring your old denim jeans, shorts, jackets, or shirts to church, and the Caring for Creation team will take this to the Madewell store in Oak Brook mall, which participates in the Blue Jeans Go Green initiative. If you miss the March drive, Madewell is accepting denim for recycling all year long.

Other retailers accept clothing for recycling. H&M and Levi Strauss will take any brand of clothing or shoes. Patagonia will recycle only Patagonia clothing.

In addition to recycling, here are a few more things you can do:

First of all, buy less, and save money, closet space, and ultimately landfill space. Consider how many times you will actually wear the garment, and what will happen to it after you're done with it.

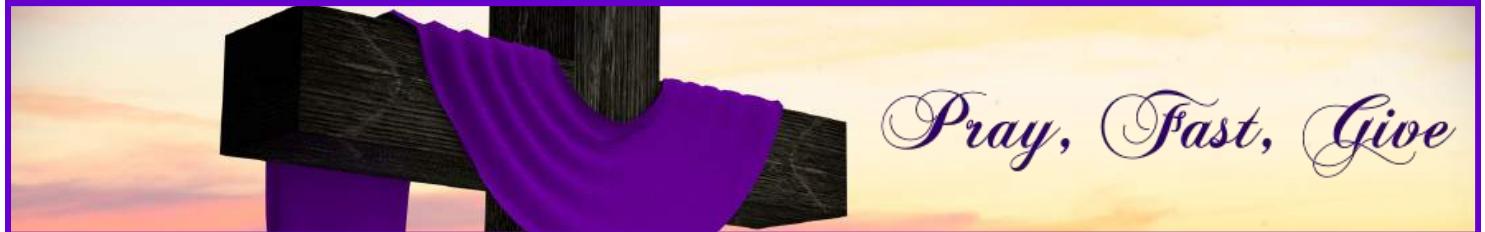
When you do buy clothes, look for durable, classic styles that will last multiple years. Shop resale shops – Elite Repeats on Ogden Avenue in Westmont carries designer labels.

Repair your clothing. Many dry cleaners or tailor shops repair seams and minor rips.

Wash your clothes less – not only will they will last longer, but you'll save energy - 80% of the energy consumption of a garment is in washing and drying.

For more information of clothing recycling, check out these sites: www.smartasn.org/consumers/index.cfm (Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles) and www.earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-clothing-accessories/

Refer to the Caring for Creation web site, at <http://uccdg-caring-for-creation.weebly.com/>, for other recycling tips and environmental issue updates.



MERRY MARCH!!

Wow! It's March 2017 already! My, how time flies. It is also my birthday month so I get to celebrate! Yay! My favorite Junior Fellowship event is this month - MOVIE/ GAME NIGHT! All Junior Fellowship members and their friends are invited to our Movie/Game night on Saturday, March 11th, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Wear your "jammies", bring a blanket and pillow plus \$5.00 please. You will enjoy a pizza dinner, fun and wild games with Pastor Scott and a movie on the ceiling of Fellowship Hall complete with movie candy and popcorn! What a fun night is in store for you! Please RSVP by March 5th so I know how many people to expect. Also, I will need two chaperone parents. Thank you parents!

Plans are underway for our VBS 2017, "Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God". This year's Vacation Bible School will run from June 19th - June 23rd with our VBS Sunday on June 25th. The time is the same, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (for 1st - 6th grades) and the pre-school VBS (3 yrs. - Kindergarten) will run from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The tuition is the same, \$50.00 per child, \$25.00 for siblings. Pre-school VBS \$35.00 per child with \$20.00 for siblings in the pre-school. Children will have fun with skits, Bible stories, Arts and Crafts, Music/Movement, Science and Outdoor Games/ Recreation. Children staying from 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. must bring their own lunch on Monday - Thursday. We will supply lunch on Friday. A VBS t-shirt is part of your tuition. I will have registration forms in the next couple of weeks so please be sure to sign up as soon as possible so that I know how many will be attending. I will also have our donation lists soon. Your kind donations help us keep our tuition the same each year. Thank you!

We are also working furiously to get our fabulous Women's Retreat - "Sweet Life Café" up and running. I am so very excited about all of the awesome ideas our committee is coming up with to make this day so special. If you have not gotten your form and fee turned in yet, please send it as soon as possible. I need to keep up on how many will be coming to plan for the right amount of things I need to order. Thank you! You can invite a friend, mom, grandmother, sister, cousin, aunt or next door neighbor too! Don't forget: Husbands and children get into the Arboretum FREE that day with you (but not in the retreat). They can have fun throughout the area and have lunch in the café'.

Plans are starting for our Sunday school/ Confirmation teacher's appreciation breakfast in late May. So much going on this Spring! And by the way...HAPPY SPRING!!!

Blessings, Jan Barker - Director of Children's Ministries.



Pray, Fast, Give

Bridge Communities !

Bridge Communities was founded in 1988 and has grown to provide housing, mentor training, financial literacy, employment coaching, counseling, nutrition workshops, and family programming to over 130 DuPage County homeless families each year. About 95% of Bridge clients are able to maintain employment and housing a year after graduating from the two year program.

FCUCC has partnered with Bridge since 1999 and provided mentoring and monthly rent to eight families, impacting the futures of 16 children. One former client has gone on to complete her Bachelors Degree and supports other struggling families. A social worker; another client was able to receive vital care for her critically ill child through your support of this mission. Through weekly mentoring sessions, all of our families have developed life skills such as budgeting and banking, home and time management, goal setting and meal planning, the effective use of available community/Bridge resources and support for parenting skills.

Our current client is a young mother with two year old twins. She has recently returned to college to complete her Associate's degree while working part time in a related field. This path will empower her to find a higher paying position at the end of her time with Bridge and achieve her goals for supporting her family and living independently. Our church family has responded so generously to our appeals to help this young family from purchasing Manna cards to helping with expenses, helping hands on moving day, warm coats for the twins and continued prayers and words of encouragement. We are grateful and could not have achieved this without your ongoing financial and spiritual support.

THE PILGRIM

Pray, Fast, Give

First Congregational United Church of Christ Presents

Trivia NIGHT

Saturday, March 4, 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

\$25 per person
\$30 at the door
\$225 for table of 10
Advance Purchase Only

Chili Dinner
50/50 Raffle
Cash Bar
Raffle Baskets
Silent Auction
Gift Card Chance

Cash Prize To Winning Table

American Legion Hall | 4000 Saratoga Avenue | Downers Grove

Purchase tickets: ticketpeak.com/res/uccdgtrevianight

Questions? email lockett.megan24@gmail.com

Fundraiser to benefit the First Congregational United Church of Christ's family in the Bridge Communities

THE PILGRIM



Pray, Fast, Give

Confirmation and YOUTH NEWS

Lent is just around the corner and our Confirmation classes and High School Discussion Group will reflect most of March and April about what this season is about and what it means to walk with Jesus during this time.

Our high schoolers spent their winter retreat in Kewaskum, Wisconsin where Peace UCC hosted and doted over our terrific group of youth! Our Saturday evening "under the lights" did not end as we had hoped however I witnessed true friendship and kindness right before my eyes. One of our youth injured herself during snowboarding when she hit a railing going off a ramp and sustained a fractured rib, a horrible burn and bruising down the left side of her back. She is recovering well but never once did she complain, always keeping a positive attitude and an amazing spirit! Lauren, we continue to keep you in our prayers and love you very much!

CONFIRMATION LOVE DRIVE 2017! Our Apostles Confirmation class will be collecting baby items for The Night Ministry Pregnancy & Parenting Program. All donations will be collected in the parlor. Baby wipes, burp cloths, and bath items are most needed. We will collect through March.

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS! Coming up this month: Saturday, March 4th & Sunday, March 5th, SAVERS DONATION DRIVE! Clothing, sporting goods, housewares, toys, books and more. Please bring your donated items to the church parking lot on these dates.

Wednesday, March 8th & Wednesday, March 15th, SIMPLE SOUP SUPPERS! Confirmation classes and high school youth Mission Trip participants will be serving for our Simple Soup Suppers. Please sign up today to help prepare and serve from 5:30-7:00 pm during Pastor Scott's Grounds of Hope services which will be held in Fellowship Hall during the Lenten season.

YOUTH SHARES will return in May! More details to follow...

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Saturday, March 4th, TRIVIA NIGHT! See Mrs. Pro if you'd like to be part of the youth table.

Sunday, March 5th, CONFIRMATION INTERFAITH EVENING VISIT.
See Mrs. Pro if you missed any details.

Sunday, March 12th, Ice-skating and lunch in Millennium Park. We will take the 10:45 am train from Downers Grove. Please sign up with Mrs. Pro today.

Sunday, March 19th & Sunday, March 26th, YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE 3-4:30 pm.
We meet at First United Methodist Church just behind our church. Please sign up with Mrs. Pro today.

Tuesday, March 28th, THE NIGHT MINISTRY! Please meet in the church kitchen at 7:00 pm to prepare meals for our friends in Humboldt Park. We will head to the city at 8:00 pm and serve at 8:45 pm. Any questions, please ask Mrs. Pro.

Our youth will be serving **Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 16th.**

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 19th, FCC VARIETY SHOW 2017! Brunch at 11:00 am Performances at noon.
All talent and all ages are welcome! Sign ups will begin soon.

TOWER HILL SPRING RETREAT, COMING IN APRIL FOR CONFIRMATION & HIGH SCHOOL!

MISSION TRIP 2017! We will have our next meeting coming up soon. We will discuss the budget and fundraisers each participant can work to help with their cost of the trip. Please make sure you have signed up to help for our SAVERS fundraiser, at least one Simple Soup Supper and The FCC Variety Show. Please make sure you continue turning in your payments to Kim in the church office. Any questions, please see Mrs. Pro.

Love and blessings,

Dena Rae Provenzano -Director of Youth Ministries

THE PILGRIM

Pray, Fast, Give

Stop by and show your support.

First Tuesday of the Month
from 4 to 9 pm



Tom & Eddie's®

348 Yorktown Center in Lombard, IL 60148
at The Shops on Butterfield

(SW side of Yorktown Center across from Rock Bottom,
look for the orange awnings)

Tom & Eddie's will donate 10% of net proceeds to
First Congregational United Church of Christ of Downers Grove.

Please present this ad to the cashier at time of purchase.



CONCERNS

Rick and Genevieve Franz, Craig and Jay DuSold, Margaret Craig, Sandy Gales, Anne Albert, Michael Ode, Mary Jo Henkel, Amanda Mierdirk, Sam McHugh, the passing of Randy Drew's mother - Margaret Laveda Drew, our past youth minister passed away on last Sunday, Rev Greg Martin

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - LADIES OF THE MORNING AND EVENING

We're going out of Breakfast! Friday, March 3, at 9:30 AM at Citrus Diner. 844 E Ogden Ave Westmont 630/655-1840 <http://www.citrusdiner.com>

Two weeks later we'll stay at the church for Stitch and Chat in the Parlor Friday, March 17, from about 9:30-11:30 AM You don't need to bring anything to stitch, but can just hang out and chat. This is a very casual gathering. Come if and when you can, even if for only a few minutes.

Questions? Contact me, Peggy Gutzke

Home: 630/971-1382 Cell: 630/632-3014 peggy.gutzke@gmail.com

First Congregational Learning Center

Winter Fest was a big success along with our 2nd Annual Art Show. Thank you to the many people who shared their compliments of the children's masterpieces. If you missed it, be ready next year. It's a fun experience to see.

By the end of the month we will be "March"ing more quietly in our classrooms. The last phase of our renovations will be taking place the week of March 27th. Our classroom floors will have rubberized flooring installed.

We are on the search for another gliding rocking chair for our infant room. If you have one and are thinking of getting rid of it consider contacting us at kchoate@uccdg.org.



THE PILGRIM



Pray, Fast, Give



EASTER FLOWERS

Would you like to see our sanctuary in full bloom? Help us bring new life by sharing a spring plant with us! We'll do the work. Just fill out the blank below, attach your payment for \$12.50 (for each plant purchased) and bring/send it to the church office by **Sunday, April 9th**. We'll take care of the rest and arrange the plants for **Easter services on April 16th**.

Your name and the name of your loved ones will appear in the bulletin.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

I would like to take my flower home after worship on Easter.

(We order a variety of plants; however, it is first come, first served if you wish to take your plant[s] home.)

I would like to leave my flower for distribution to our homebound members and friends.

What a wonderful way to remember dear ones at this time of year!

Your Name:

(Please PRINT clearly)

Telephone Number/E-mail:

Name of Loved One whose memory flowers are given:

(Please PRINT clearly)

THE PILGRIM

Pray, Fast, Give

SWEET LIFE CAFÉ

A Women's Retreat

Love ~ Friendship ~ Reflection

Please join us on Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 for a day of relaxation, laughs, love, friendship and reflection.

11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In the Sycamore Room at the

Morton Arboretum

Arrival ~ Luncheon ~ Four Team Sessions

Two Amazing Speakers and High Tea at 4:00

(fathers and children may enter the Arboretum for free while mom is in retreat)

All Friends Welcome!

\$40.00 per person



RSVP To JAN BARKER ~ jbarker@uccdg.org

630-865-6675 by March 15th.



Name _____

Phone No. _____

No. of Persons _____

Total amt. (\$40.00 per person) \$ _____

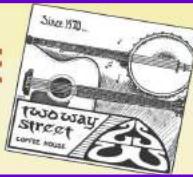


Pray, Fast, Give

LIVE MUSIC Every Friday Since 1970!

TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60151 (across from the Public Library)
www.twowaystreet.org • 630-969-9720



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------|---|
| Friday | March 3 New! | 8:15pm | DAN NAVARRO — Grammy-nominated songwriter (often with Eric Lowen) for Pat Benatar, Jackson Browne and others; acclaimed artist on national concert circuit, movies and TV. Rich, insightful songs, soulful vocals, and great guitar! |
| Friday | March 10 | 8:15pm | DAVID NOLL — A South Texas native now touring from Wisconsin, he's winner of the 2016 Wisconsin Singer-Songwriter Series Song Contest! An engaging artist with a love of music, nature and humanity. With guitar. |
| Friday | March 17 | 8:15pm | 'ELAINE ROMANELLI — From New York City, her songs meld poetic lyrics and soaring singing with wry humor, and a hint of Celtic lilt. "... Powerhouse voice...operatic flourishes...bluesy sass & wit." (Acoustic Guitar) Great CDs! |
| Friday | March 24 | 8:15pm | DAVID G. SMITH — An Iowa troubadour whose music ranges from dirt funk to intimate. 20 years on the road; US radio play & tv appearances; 6 CDs: latest, <i>First Love</i> , features guests Mary Gauthier & Grammy-winner Keb' Mo'! |
| Friday | March 31 | 8:15pm | PUTNAM SMITH — Like 19th century troubadours, yet a rootsy modern age storytelling multi-instrumentalist, he performs all across North America from his log cabin in Maine. #2 on Folk DJ charts, Falcon Ridge winner! New CDs! |
| Friday | April 7 | 8:15pm | ERIC LAMBERT — A Chicago Music Awards winner, he's a renowned flatpicking guitarist who delivers feel-good Americana infused with bluegrass, blues, roots, rock, & soul. Enthusiasm, palpable joy, earthy vocals, & precision licks! |
| Friday | April 14 | 8:15pm | MUSTARD'S RETREAT — Michigan songwriters David Tamulevich and Michael Hough bring wisdom, humor, enthusiasm, & fine musicianship! "Music to cure what ails you!" (Michigan Times). Guitars, mandolin, harmonica, dulcimer, more. |
| Friday | April 21 | 8:15pm | JASON & GINGER — Jason Fickel's killer slide guitar and wry lyrics create a musical experience whose blues roots are nourished by the power and versatility of vocalist Ginger Curry. "Witty...poignant...powerful." (WFHB) |
| Friday | April 28 | 8:00pm | OPEN MIKE — All welcome! Great variety of acoustic artists! So popular we may limit number of acts. 2 - 3 songs, 10 - 15 minutes. Open 7:30 for signups - first come, first served. Show starts 8:00. Info: 630-968-5526. |

¹Featured on WFMT 98.7 "Folkstage" with Rich Warren. ²Featured on WDCB 90.9 "Folk Festival" with Lilli Kuzma.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----|--|
| Saturday | Saturday Apr 8, 8:00pm | \$5 | Old Time Barn Dance — Reels, squares, line dancing, waltzes and more, plus the music of our great live band. Fun for the whole family! All dances taught and called by our expert leaders. No experience, costume or partner needed. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor. |
| 2 nd Tues, | 7-9pm Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9 | | 2nd Tuesday Song Circle — BYOS (Bring Your Own Songs). A monthly opportunity to informally & acoustically perform your songs or covers for the circle. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. |
| Saturdays, | 2-4pm Mar 4 & 18 Apr 1 & 15, May 6 & 20 | | Sing-Around — Our popular song fests where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! Songbooks provided. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. First and third Saturday afternoons of every month at 2:00 pm. |
| Saturdays, | 2-4pm Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27 | | Bluegrass Jam — Musicians of all experience levels gather to improve skills, learn/share tunes, & have fun! 4th Saturdays (except Dec 24) 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor. |
| Saturdays, | 2-4pm Apr 29, Jul 29, Sep 30 | | 5th Saturday Country/Western Jam — Whenever there are five Saturdays in a month, beginners and experienced musicians jam! 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor. |
| Thursdays | Thursdays Mar 30, Apr 27, May 25 | | LAST THURSDAY! — Monthly open mike for high school & college age students. Last Thursday of every month. Music, poetry, any performance art — 10 min. max. Signups begin 7pm — first 7:00-9:30pm FREE! come, first served. Info at twowaystreet.org , on Facebook, or call 630-968-5526. |

Live entertainment is featured every Friday night beginning at 8:15. Doors open by 7:30. \$10.00 donation requested. Beverages and snacks available. The *Two Way Street Coffee House* is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, Folk Alliance International. For current entertainment listings and updates, booking and other information, visit us on the web at www.twowaystreet.org and on Facebook.



THE PILGRIM

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The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Schieler, Pastor Emeritus

UNITED IN GOD'S LOVE 150TH YEAR



Pray, Fast, Give

THE PILGRIM MARCH 2017 EDITION

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