

P R O C L A M A T I O N

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2024

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park, Illinois, was founded in 1874 with first meetings at the Ridgeland Depot of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad;

WHEREAS, the property transfer from J.W. Scoville, one of the people who shaped Oak Park's development, to Ridgeland Congregational Church was recorded in the Oak Park Recorder on January 25, 1889, and the cornerstone laid on April 6, 1889;

WHEREAS, the architecturally significant Queen Anne-style church building at 460 Lake St., Oak Park, designed by architects Patton & Fisher opened in 1889 and was designated an Oak Park Historic Landmark in 1996;

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Congregational Church, member of the United Church of Christ, is the oldest structure continuously used for worship in Oak Park;

WHEREAS, the church has served as a community meeting space and has had the privilege of hosting speakers such as Jane Addams and Knute Rockne;

WHEREAS, the church founded and opened Pilgrim Community Nursery School in 1966 which has enrolled thousands of children who are fortunate to begin their education in a positive, play-based environment;

WHEREAS, the church has a long history of working toward justice, aiding immigrants, and welcoming all regardless of race, economic status, gender identification and sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, the church has served as a festive meeting place for the community as host to the popular Oak Park Farmers' Market every Saturday during the summer and fall months and has helped local nonprofits raise thousands of dollars for their organizations through its "donut ministry";

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Congregational Church is active in the wider church and community supporting Housing Forward since its inception as West Suburban PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter), hosting the annual West Suburban CROP Walk, supporting the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Cluster Tutoring, OPRF Food Pantry, The Night Ministry, OP Walk-In Ministry, Chicago Theological Seminary, Community Renewal Society, The Hunger Project, Habitat for Humanity, Progress Center for Independent Living, and the on-going Community of Congregations work with the current Venezuelan immigrants.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby celebrate Pilgrim Congregational Church for its 150 years of serving the community.

DATED this 23rd day of January 2024.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk