

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Proclamation

Presented this 1st day of February 2024

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park, Illinois, was founded in 1874 - its first meetings were held at the Ridgeland Depot of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad before a property transfer in January 1889 from J.W. Scoville to Ridgeland Congregational Church, resulting in the cornerstone being laid on April 6, 1889; and,

WHEREAS, the Queen Anne-style church at 460 Lake St. Oak Park, designed by architects Patton and Fisher, opened in 1889, making Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, the oldest structure continuously used for worship in Oak Park and was designated an Oak Park Historic Landmark in 1996; and,

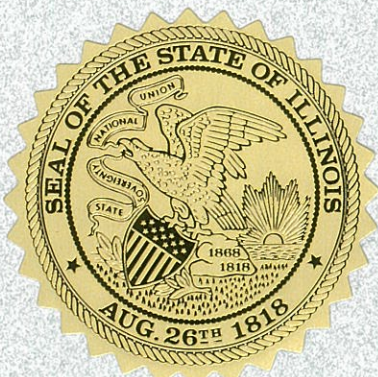
WHEREAS, the church serves as a community meeting space, hosting speakers such as Jane Addams and Knute Rockne, as well as the Oak Park Farmers' Market every Saturday during the summer and fall months while assisting local nonprofits in raising thousands of dollars for their organizations through its donut ministry; and,

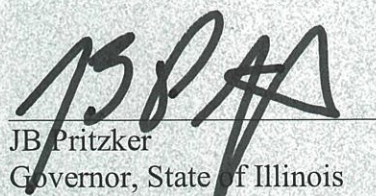
WHEREAS, the church founded and opened Pilgrim Community Nursery School in 1966, enrolling thousands of children who are fortunate to begin their education in a positive, play-based environment; and,

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; and,

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Congregational Church is active in the wider 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 ongoing Community of Congregations work with Venezuelan immigrants;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, join in congratulating and celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Pilgrim Congregational Church.




JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois