

JUNE 2022

# The Announcer

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
8013 Laramie Ave.; Skokie, IL 60077

## From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

*Below are some excerpts from the sermon I preached on May 22nd, which elicited a number of affirming comments. So, for those who did not hear it at all, here is a chunk of the 2nd half, from the sermon called "For and Against Healing." The texts I preached from were from John 5, where Jesus talks to (and heals) a lame man who'd been kept from accessing the healing waters of a specific pool for decades, and the vision of the New Jerusalem in Revelation Chapters 21 and 22. In these contexts I brought up healings now needed, and the falsehoods and violence which work against such healing of our peoples: "John describes the holy city, and says "nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood." No falsehood. No abominations. No lies about COVID or vaccines.*

*"Earlier I mentioned that selfishness and willful cruelty not only block access to healing, but also work against healing at all in some cases. The shooting at a Millennium Park drive-by, then another at State and Chicago, those in Milwaukee the other week, the mass shooting primarily of African Americans in Buffalo, and the murder attempt at a church in Laguna Woods have consumed our headlines and gripped our city and country. Especially the murders in Buffalo, ending so many lives, is the opposite of healing and instead reflects a great disease in parts of America, feeding on falsehood as well as fear. Yes, selfishness and cruelty, but also brokenness, abomination, and lies."*

*Then I quoted from an article in Sojourners online by the magazine's new President, Adam Russell Taylor. Speaking of the killer in Buffalo, he wrote, "He posted a lengthy manifesto online stating his white supremacist motives for the massacre. The killer explicitly linked his heinous act to the belief that Western elites are attempting to 'replace' and disempower white people. This belief is at the core of what's known as 'the great replacement theory,' which weaponizes white fear and anger about the growing diversity in many Western nations in ways that have contributed to horrific violence against the Black, Asian, Latino and Jewish communities."*

*"Falsehoods being spread. Steve Chapman in Thursday, May 19th's Chicago Tribune wrote, "But the gravity of his alleged crime should not obscure the howling idiocy of the theory that inspired him. Demographic shifts are hardly at odds with our national history and character. In fact, nothing could be more quintessentially American" (Sec. 1, p. 9).*

*"Christian Adam Taylor also wrote, "Before the public outcry dies down; and isn't it sad that we all know it will? – we must boldly and unequivocally denounce the great replacement theory and instead live out the great commandment. The great replacement theory draws on the worst of our nation's history, falsely implying that nonwhite people are a threat to our nation's future. But the great commandment offers the best of our civic and religious values, reminding us that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. It lends itself to a moral vision of multi-racial democracy in which everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity and religion is equally valued" (ibid.). Falsehood is to be confronted by us living out the great Commandments and the Great Commission. Falsehood in our time needs to be confronted powerfully, gracefully with informed faith, love, and an understanding that we are all made in God's image, all equal under the Cross regardless of religious faith, and all called to a peaceful community.*



**WORSHIP & LIVESTREAM:**  
**Sundays** at 10 AM  
on YouTube & in person worship

**OUTREACH OPEN HOUSE:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 9 AM to 12 PM

**VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER:** June 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 11 PM

**RUMMAGE SORTING:**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:30-8:30 PM and Fridays 10 AM to Noon starting June 14<sup>th</sup>.

# MINISTER'S DESK (cont) & UPCOMING EVENTS

*"The Buffalo massacre is an abomination and so is the false theory behind it. They stand against the healing America needs. Instead, those feeding us such theories, fears and hatreds only keep us from dealing with the deeper issues that divide us. They take us backwards, far from following the example of Jesus, who fed the hungry, healed the sick, called out the hypocrites, touched the lepers, ate with hookers and bums, taught forgiveness and non-violence.*

*"Because of our faith, we are for healing, and access to it. We all need to be healed; the nations need to be healed; God says so. Healing comes individually by praying out the selfishness, cruelty and greed, and sometimes legally pushing it back from hurting vulnerable people. Healing comes when falsehood is met by informed, resurrection-tough grace and truth. Healing comes under the Sovereignty of God, who knows something about raising the dead to life for the good of all who receive Him. You and I are servants of this God who is for healing on all sorts of levels. Amen."*

*Thank you for reading this. Keep and speak the faith,  
Pastor Richard Lanford*

**OUTREACH OPEN HOUSE JUNE 4th FROM 9 AM TO 12 PM.** Hosted at St. Peter's UCC. Come if you want to help, come if you need help! Learn about non-profit organizations that are doing good work in your community! We are SO EXCITED to announce these groups have confirmed attendance:

Skokie Community Foundation

C.A.R.E. (Community Animal Rescue Effort)

Live4Lali, Inc.

Turpin Cares

UCAN

Inspire Through Flowers

NAMI CCS

Childcare Network of Evanston

St Peters United Church of Christ

Turning Point

Niles Township and the Niles Township Food Pantry

Skokie Health and Human Services

Catholic Charities

No donations will be solicited at this event. It is for informational purposes only, and to foster a

community spirit by coming together to learn more about each other and programs in the community. Free pastries, coffee and water will be offered, and all attendees will receive bags to fill with swag and chances to win a famous St. Peter's Raffle Basket every hour as a door prize!

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> FROM 11 AM TO 11 PM -VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER**

– is back after an Easter hiatus! This really puts the fun in fundraiser- on this day, eat in, carryout or have delivered food from Village Inn on Lincoln Avenue in Skokie, let your server know you are ordering for St. Peter's UCC fundraiser, and we'll get 20% of whatever you spend!! You'll get a great meal you won't have to cook, it's a win-win! Mark your calendars!

**RUMMAGE SORTING BEGINS THIS MONTH AND WE NEED YOU!** Starting **June 14<sup>th</sup>** every Tuesday & Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to Noon come help us sort Rummage! *On the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> we'll be setting up, bringing down all the stuff we brought up in April and we'll need lots of strong hands!!* Then come and help us sort whenever you are able, for however long you are able. We hope to have a wonderful successful Rummage Sale again this year with your help!

## **WOMEN'S GUILD MEETINGS 2022**

**JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:30 AM**

### **ANNUAL PICNIC AT THE TODD'S**

HOSTESSES: The Todd Family

Join us for a wonderful picnic lunch and fellowship at the Todd family home. This is our last meeting until the fall. Watch your Announcer monthly for dates of our future meetings!

# CHURCH NEWS

**Summer Council Schedule** – There will be NO Church Council Meeting in June, however reports are asked to be put in the Dropbox, just for consistency. There will be a regular Council Meeting on July 17th, and on Aug 21st we will have a mid-year Congregational Meeting in place of a Council meeting. We will do a mid-year report like we've done the last few years, and we'll decide later if it is in person, hybrid, or online only.

**Something to celebrate: Roof Work Went Beautifully and is complete!** Some highlights: Holton Brothers completed masonry work on May 9th without any surprises or additional work being needed outside of the original scope. Masonry work included tuckpointing, gridding and caulking all joints of wall caps, and chimney repair (which was in very bad shape). They went above and beyond and also tuck pointed underneath the Rose Window. Now that the work is complete, the Trustees will monitor the Education Wing for leaking – if we don't leak anymore, plans are to replace/repair the water damaged floors and ceilings in the classrooms. Much thanks to the Board of Trustees for their time spent on this project, which cost us around \$60,000. *\*\*Pictures of the roof work can be found at the end of this [Announcer](#).*

**Undie 500 and Military Vets Housing Collections** – With so much going on this Spring, we have decided to postpone our Undie 500 collection (usually done in May) until the fall. We also would like to revive our Rich Kalenski Memorial Veterans Day Collection in the fall as well – Ginger K and Maria A will have more details about both of those shortly.

	April Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Operating Contributions	\$13,541	\$11,667	\$48,386	\$46,667
Operating Expense	\$13,457	\$14,044	\$58,256	\$56,176
Gain/(Loss)	\$84	(\$2,377)	(\$9,870)	(\$9,509)

These numbers exclude line items for any income transfer, roof repair and directed gifts.

**Board of Christian Education** - The students in Karen Christianson's class have been reading "Cleon Makes His Choice" as a Book Discussion. It is about a slave boy in 40 A.D. and the early forming of the Christian Church. They will conclude their discussion on May 15. The younger class ended on Sun. May 8. For Mothers' Day, the students in both classes made cards for their Moms and also have them little potted plants. The Kindergarten age group are done, but will have nursery available throughout the summer. Sunday School classes will resume in September. However, two teachers are still needed for 3rd grade and Kindergarten classes. Team teaching is possible or alternate Sundays. For further information, please see Karen Christianson or Pastor Lanford.

**Women's Guild News** - The Women's Guild met on Wed. May 11 at 11:30 a.m. Devotions were presented by Sue Bailey and hostesses were Marlene Russell and Ginger Kalensky. Sue Bailey reported that the Craft Fair held on May 7 made a profit of \$2,000.00. Ginger Kalensky reported that Dorothy Panzke was back in the hospital with multiple problems. Ginger sent Easter cards to shut-ins and ill members. A discussion was held about upcoming events: On Sat. May 21, the church's annual Bunco Party will be held under the direction of Carol Iannotti. Admission is \$5.00 and there are games and prizes for all. On Sat. June 4, St. Peter's will host an Open House Outreach, featuring information on organizations that are doing

## OUR PEOPLE

good work in the community, such as TURNING POINT, LCC K-9 COMFORT DOGS, NILES TWP. FOOD PANTRY, C.A.R.E., LCC MILITARY OUTREACH, and many more. Discussion was held about Pastor's birthday, which is on May 22. Our next meeting will be held June 15<sup>th</sup>, a picnic at Barb Todd's house, 8825 Mason Ave.

Morton Grove. If you are coming, please tell Barb or Laura in the Office. As of this writing, the Guild Bd. will remain the same: Barbara Todd, Pres. - Marlene Russell, Recording Sec. - Judy Paige, Corresponding Sec. - Sue Bailey, Treas. - Ginger Kalensky, Ms. Sunshine! Thanks to all for your service! Barbara Todd, President

### **NEW MEMBERS / SEEKERS CLASS** -

Rev. Lanford hopes to start this in June, after contacting a few more people who may be interested in it, and then to schedule it. Right now, Thursday evenings are among the possibilities, and it may well be two meetings of about an hour or 75 minutes each. If you are interested, and he has not reached out to you, nor you to him, please do not wait! Thank you.

**HOSPITALIZED** - Dorothy Panzke, who ended up in the hospital after a recurrence of her mysterious parasite within, was at Humboldt Park Hospital for over two weeks in May, then went to Elevate Irving Park for physical therapy. However, after a day or so of bad coughing, she was taken to Amita Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center in Chicago for tests and returned to Elevate. Clara Melone returned to Alden North on Touhy but has now gone home again. Jennifer Schneider is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Please keep these persons in your prayers.

**MAY BAPTISM** - On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, the sacrament of baptism was celebrated when Willow June McDonald, one of the two daughters of Michael and Mandy (Taheny) McDonald, was baptized into the Christian faith. The sponsors were Robin McDonald and Mike Taheny, Mandy's brother.

**GRADUATIONS** - Jeremy Steegmueller graduated the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> this year, receiving a degree from Northern Illinois University in Mechanical Engineering. He has a job waiting for him in Streator, IL. Allison Guenther, his fellow Confirmand, graduated on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from the University of Maryland with a double major in Criminology and Psychology. She, too, has a job in cybersecurity waiting for her in Maryland with a firm called Aegis. Dan Mahoney, son of Valerie Paige-Mahoney and grandson of Judy Paige, graduated from Carol Sandburg Jr. High in Mundelein on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and was accepted into the National Junior Honor Society as well. Congratulations to them!

### **LECTOR / NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR JUNE**

	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Nursery</b>
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	David I.	Kathy Z.
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Beth L.	Beth L. <i>(need a switch)</i>
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Olivia A.	Laurie M.
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Peter S.	Beth
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jenn S.	Mike R.

**CRAFT SHOW UPDATE** - A huge Thank You to my right hand helper, Beth Lanford and to all who helped with the Spring Craft Show that was on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We had over 30 vendors with beautiful items and a sunny day for lots of fun and shopping. With the bake sale, the fantastic raffle prizes and the vendor table fee's we made \$2000. Many of our vendors are already looking forward to our Holiday Craft Show in November, as am I!  
Wendy Svenson

# Birthdays, Anniversaries and Prayer Requests

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 – *Barbara Bailey*  
*Liliana Greiner*
- 6/3 – *Barbara Todd*  
*Ben Rees*
- 6/4 – *Chris Taylor*
- 6/7 – *Katy Schuhrke Aguayo*
- 6/8 – *Baggio Salvatierra*  
*Colin Medaglia*
- 6/9 – *Rose Taheny*  
*Jim Olson*
- 6/11 – *Ginger Kalensky*
- 6/13 – *Aiden James Caras*
- 6/15 – *Zachary Muhrer*
- 6/16 – *Barbara Gack*
- 6/19 – *Clementine (Muhrer) Hoeing*
- 6/20 – *Laurie Mitchell*
- 6/26 – *Alexander Martinek*
- 6/29 – *Gena Zelenka*  
*Kristine Hoellerich*

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/1 – *Lana and Don Kahn*
- 6/6 – *Gena and Dayle Zelenka*
- 6/11 – *Cristy and Louie Lopez*
- 6/14 – *Karem and David Iannotti*
- 6/17 – *Valerie and Christopher Mahoney*
- 6/27 – *Aaliyah and Eric Svenson*  
*Adrianna and Ken Paige*

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/1 – *Mia Paige Speicher*  
*Randy Altmayer*
- 7/3 – *Ann Aler*  
*Beth Lanford*  
*Mandy McDonald*  
*Mike Taheny*
- 7/4 – *Dan Mahoney*
- 7/7 – *Ron Schuhrke*
- 7/11 – *Hillary Gack*  
*Wendy Svenson*
- 7/15 – *Jeremy Steegmueller*  
*Shari Meggs*
- 7/16 – *Mary Taylor*  
*Sydney Kerbel*
- 7/21 – *Louise Dahm*
- 7/22 – *A.J. Tarzian*
- 7/24 – *Justin Mitchell*  
*Kaitlin Garcia*
- 7/27 – *Alice Schaller*
- 7/28 – *Ryan Miller*
- 7/29 – *Ralph Burmeister*

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/3 – *Linda and Bruce Mau*
- 7/12 – *Beth and Richard Lanford*  
*Gail and Greg Thomas*
- 7/17 – *Beth and Paul Brzozowski*  
*Gail and John Balling*  
*Lisa and Eric Martinek*

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Ingrid Anderson, Guy and Traudel Cline, Pat Mauer Erdman, Linda Haig, Ken Itter, Helen Mauer, Jim Todd, Roy Svenson & Cristy Lopez.

If you see your name listed and would like it removed, or, someone you know should be added, please contact the office.



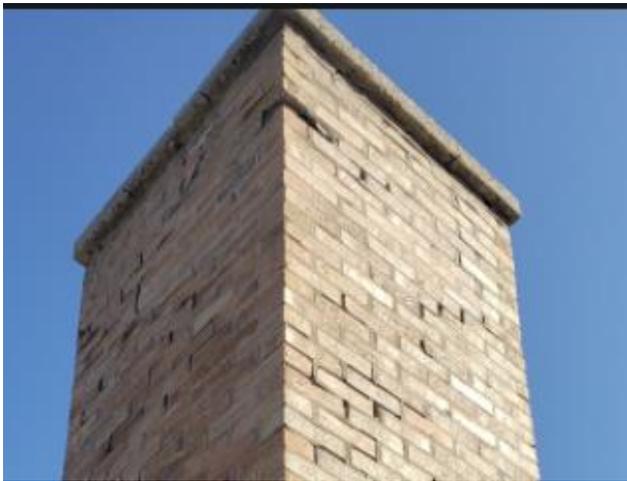
## Roof Update 5.12.2022

Holton Brothers completed masonry work on May 9th without any surprises or additional work being needed outside of the original scope.

Masonry work included:

- Tuck pointing perimeter of both flat roofs (lower & higher elevation)
- Grinding and caulking all joints of wall caps
- Chimney repair which was in very bad shape
- They went above and beyond and also tuck pointed underneath the large circular stained glass of the sanctuary that's positioned above & behind the alter cross.

**Before**



**After**



**Before (Wall Caps)**



**AFTER**



Hopefully no more water seen on the inside of the sanctuary



### **Teardown & Replacement of East Flat Roof (Higher Elevation)**

#### **Started on 5/10 by Hanson Roofing**

-Biggest problem area is along the north edge where the roof meets the gutters. Rotted fascia. Decking that meets the fascia at the edge had to be cutout and replaced with plywood. 12 sheets of plywood needed on the northern side and another 4 or 5 expected along the southern side.

-Gutter guards are too restrictive and allows water to run over and back inside

-A lip of where gutters meet the roof was significantly high enough where it could have trapped water on the roof instead of allowing it to flow into the gutters.

#### **Additional costs:**

-Plywood & labor come at an additional cost; however, we saved \$1,240 during our final walkthrough where both parties found efficiencies between masonry & roofing. This can cover costs we'll incur from the plywood/carpentry needed. I'm not sure final costs.

-Well remove gutter guards and install an inexpensive cleanout near grade level of the downspouts so that overflow doesn't occur.

**PICTURES FROM TAREDOWN & CARPENTRY REPAIRS ON NEXT PAGE**

