



The ANNOUNCER

Quick Upcoming

WORSHIP & LIVESTREAM:

Sundays at 10 AM on YouTube & in person worship.

June 3rd at 11AM – Niles Pride “Rainbow” Walk in support of our LGBTQ+ community.

June 10th at 10AM – Congregational Work Day! Many hands needed.

June 18th from 1-4PM – Skokie Pride Day! We plan to have a spot at the Pride event, volunteers are needed for that.

HOW you can HELP

ATTEND OUR PRIDE EVENTS THIS MONTH!

Your support of our LGBTQ+ community is invaluable.

Rummage needed!

Summer is the perfect time to get to cleaning out your storage areas, and we'll take whatever you have, sans electronics and large furniture. Drop off during office hours, Sundays from 9-12 PM or if you have a key drop off whenever.

Rummage Sorters

needed! See article in this newsletter for more information and come help sort this summer!

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

This month of June we can experience as a month of freedom, or at least learning about freedom; and how you and I can seek to be allies of those who in some respects are not fully free. This month has commonly become known as Pride Month, going back to the month in which the Stonewall Uprising took place in 1969. An international gay rights movement evolved out of this uprising and its aftermath. Over decades of struggle, sacrifice, repression, discrimination and much more, identifying as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered, queer / questioning, and the more recent identities like intersex and asexual, has become much more legally and commonly accepted. The United Church of Christ led the way in affirming those who were in these communities, climaxing in 2005 when the General Synod approved Marriage Equality, and years later that right was affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. More has followed as discrimination still shows up. Saint Peter's, sparked by the process of and conversations within our Appreciative Inquiry years ago, began looking into us becoming an Open and Affirming congregation within the U.C.C. It wisely took time, but on June 28th, 2018, in a congregational meeting called for this vote, Saint Peter's voted to become an Open and Affirming congregation. We participated in Skokie Pride events, we changed our graphics, we remember the vote each year, we supported the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, sent folks to walk as us in a Chicago Pride Parade, and have done more to let people know this is a safe and well, affirming, church, for the LGBTQ+ communities. Recently the Church Council created an ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee. Its charge is, “Living into our Open and Affirming Covenant by carrying out a self-assessment, identifying areas of growth, responding to immediate opportunities, and

reporting back to Council.” Therefore, this issue of the newsletter has an article about “immediate opportunities” we can be part of. There is still freedom to be won for many of these brothers and sisters. Later in the month of June comes Juneteenth National Independence Day, which celebrates the end of slavery in the United States and is now a federal and state holiday. *Skokie is commemorating Juneteenth on June 17th at Oakton Park from 1 to 7 PM.* The actual Juneteenth Day is on Monday, the 19th. Then on June 25th we will have a special coffee hour after worship hosted by the Micah 6:8 Committee. We hope a lot of you have heard about the UCC's “All Church Read,” *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi and have begun reading the book. After some coffee and conversation we will have a structured discussion of the book. This is about freedom, not only for black Americans having to live with a passive, not-being-racist white culture, but the freedom that comes to all of us when we become an actively anti-racist culture and society. I learned a long time ago that our faith was concerned about liberation, starting with God declaring that whoever killed Cain would be much more punished than Cain (thereby trying to free us from a downward spiral of taking lives), and especially in the story of the exodus. Freedom for the oppressed, by the hoped-for repentance of oppressing rulers and powerful merchants, is an underlying theme in the prophets. Jesus came to bring us spiritual liberty from sin and from its guilt, as well as point us back to doing right by the poor and vulnerable. Many of the abolitionists of the 1800s were so because of their Christian faith. Let's celebrate the ways that June is a month of liberation, and be a part of freedom's continuing journey. ***Keep the faith! Pastor Richard Lanford***

ABOUT THAT SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR ON SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH!

It's going to be a book discussion, pursuant to Church President Peggy Reins' exhortation to join in the UCC's "All-Read" program. Here is more information about the book and why leaders in our denomination chose it for congregational conversation: *Journeying toward Racial Justice* with Ibram X. Kendi. The United Church of Christ has a long history of addressing and advocating for an end to racist policies and practices, including systemic and institutional racism within the Christian church. In 2003 General Synod 24 adopted a resolution calling for the UCC to be an antiracist church stating that "racism is rooted in a belief of the superiority of whiteness and bestows benefits, unearned rights, rewards, opportunities, advantages, access, and privilege on Europeans and European descendants." Through the Join the Movement toward Racial Justice initiative we are making explicit and concrete our antiracist commitments so that the UCC might live more fully into the historic efforts we've made to becoming an antiracist denomination. We are building on the revolutionary work of our freedom-making ancestors as we cultivate intersectional movements with healing and repair at the center and align ourselves with the movement of the Spirit toward justice. Every setting of the UCC, from local churches to global partners, has a role to play in expanding our practices of antiracism and strengthening our capacities as partners and participants in the burgeoning racial justice movements of our time. To equip us on this journey toward racial justice, we are calling on the whole church to engage in an all-church read of Ibram X. Kendi's book, [How to Be an Antiracist](#). Our Micah 6:8 committee invites you to be a part of this movement by reading the book and joining us for a structured conversation during our coffee hour on June 25th.

Pride Month Events for St. Peter's UCC

It will be 5 years ago at the end of this month that this congregation voted to affirm our Open and Affirming Covenant. Through the ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee, we are taking advantage of local opportunities to live this out during what has become known as Pride Month. Event the first for us: ***On Saturday, June 3rd at 11 AM, there will be a Niles Pride Rainbow Walk*** (not a pledge drive or parade). Oak Park is located at 7640 W. Main Street, Niles. The article announcing it says, "We'll begin at 11am with some quick speeches and then go on a one-mile walk / ride / roll around the neighborhood. A picnic in the park will follow at approximately noon. Bring your colors, rainbows, pride flags. Whatever makes you feel proud and exuberant. Everyone is welcome to come in support of our LGBTQIA+ community members." The second event is ***"Skokie Pride" on Sunday, June 18th***. It will again be held at Oakton Park, 4701 Oakton Street. It runs from 1 to 4 PM, and St. Peter's has committed to having table there. We are asking interested, supportive friends and members to (perhaps take turns?) to be there to answer questions of event attendees, and to offer some crafts and / or games for kids to play / make. The Skokie Park District is organizing this event, and

this is what its website says about the day and its timeline: "A family-friendly party in the park celebrating LGBTQ Pride, with entertainment including games, crafts, food, and fun! A third event is not a church event per se, but your Open and Affirming ad hoc Committee voted to buy a quarter page ad for the church in a concert by Chicago's Artemis Singers. A member of the Committee has paid for this, the ad has been designed and sent in, and as we are promoting our ONA Church to the crowd coming to hear the Singers concert, here is their website's description of the concert, to which you are invited to attend if you wish! ***"Artemis Singers invite you to 'Better Times will Come,' on Saturday, June 10, 2023, AT 7 PM.*** The location is The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago. The concert will mark a return to our format of a Pride Concert followed by a Dance. "A wealth of woman-generated work, performed by a chorus focused on performing music written or arranged by women. This concert aims to be an uplifting, upbeat evening — a celebration of hopefulness highlighting our opportunities to create a better world and our better selves in it. Please make a plan to attend!" Tickets are \$25; buy online or at the door.

News from A Just Harvest

We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of A Just Harvest, formerly known as Good News Community Kitchen! On May 10th Chad McCoy, Maria Altmayer and Peggy Reins attended A Just Harvest's Annual Meeting in person and online. The in-person attendees got to tour the new Wellness Center located at 7637 N Paulina (between Good News Community Church UCC and the community hoop houses where fresh food grows for A Just Harvest). Executive Director Marilyn Pagán-Banks announced a campaign to send youth to summer Freedom School at CDF Haley Farm, a training center operated by the Children's Defense Fund on the grounds of a 157-acre farm formerly owned by Alex Haley, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Roots*. The year-long anniversary celebration is on the theme: A Legacy of Love; A Vision of Wellness and it marks a journey to become an anchor resource in the Rogers Park community by serving more than 55,000 meals annually while becoming a community-led wellness hub. Stay tuned for more details on 40th anniversary events and the campaign. Thank you again to everyone who has so generously donated time and money to support our mission partner, A Just Harvest. ***Our next time to provide a meal and serve is Saturday, July 30th.***

Rummage Sorting Begins

The rummage sale is once again happening this September, on the 22nd and 23rd. ***Our set up and sorting is starting on June 6th, 10am - noon.*** After this we will meet for the rest of June on **Tuesdays, 10 - noon and Wednesday, 6:30-8:30.** In July we will add Friday morning sorting, 10-noon. Annie will be sending out a schedule to those who

have opened for sorting in the past. If you are able to be added to this list, please contact her (annie@mollyu.com). We can accept donations in the gym starting on June 4th. Until then they need to be put backstage or upstairs. Thank you in advance to all who will be helping to make this year's sale a BIG success!

Congregational Church Clean-up Day

Saturday, June 10th from 10AM to 12PM - We are going to have another congregational workday at church. Come join us as we declutter and do small projects around the church. We also plan to

set up tables in the Gym for our Rummage Sale! Many hands make light work. Stay tuned for more details; if you have questions, contact one of our Trustees!

We are Hosting a Singing Contest

Andre Gloeckner is a member of the Chicago Metro Chorus (as was the late Chuck Kessler) and upon his approved application, we are hosting it, and have been glad to host this in the past. What is it? This! Chicago Metro Quartet Contest on ***Saturday, June 3, 2023, at***

3-5 p.m. At our St. Peter's UCC. A cappella quartets will sing up to 3 songs to gain the favor of the audience and judges; cash prizes awarded for audience favorite and judges' favorite. Tickets \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 day of show.

From the Women's Guild

Women's Guild Meeting - May 10, 2023. St. Peter's Women's Guild met on Wed. May 10 at 11:30. Devotions were given by Ginger Kalensky and Hostess was Annie Noorts. Ann Herren gave a talk on homeopathy. Sue Bailey reported that a full Treasurer's Report will be given at the June meeting. A big "Thank You" to all who baked for the Craft Show Bake Sale - we did very well and totals will be given at the June meeting. The Holiday Craft Show will be on Nov. 11. Annie reported that the Rummage Sale will set up on June 10 in the gym and sorting will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Rummage items can be brought in after June 3. Sue Bailey gave a rundown of our future calendar, in the absence of our old Yearbook. We will not meet in the summer after our

June meeting, but we will start off in the Fall with a meeting on Oct. 11. September is just too busy with the Rummage Sale. We hope to have a Quilling session as a new, interesting craft at the October meeting. We will then meet on December 13 with our Christmas Luncheon AND our annual Cookie Walk. We will skip January and February (weather) and meet on March 13 to clean up the kitchen etc. We will meet on April 10 and May 8 and June 12 - all of this in 2024, of course! ***Our next meeting is Wed. June 14th at 11:30 AM in the Todds' backyard!*** We will have a splendid luncheon prepared and served by our Board of Officers! Please see Barb Todd if you are coming! Come and enjoy! ***Barbara Todd, Pres.***

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 - Barbara Bailey
- 6/3 - Barbara Todd
Ben Rees
- 6/7 - Katy Schuhrke Aguayo
- 6/8 - Baggio Salvatierra
Colin Medaglia
- 6/9 - Jimmy 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

Budget at a Glance for April

	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.

St. Peter's UCC
8013 Laramie Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077

www.stpeteruccskokie.org
(847) 673-8166

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Lector/Nursery for June

June 4 th	Lector: Jenn S. Nursery: Carolyn V.
June 11 th	Lector: Judy P. Nursery: Laurie M.
June 18 th	Lector: Barb T. Nursery: Rita M.
June 25 th	Lector: David I. Nursery Rita M.
July 2 nd	Lector: Karen C. Nursery Kathy Z.



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Sunday School Ends for the Summer

Sunday School chapel and classes came to a springtime end after classes met on Sunday, May 21st. The Sunday before Memorial Day weekend is our usual time to close for the summer. Let us take a moment to lift up and thank God for our teachers this year: Rita McMahon (a relatively new friend of the church who volunteered to lead the youngest class), Karen Christianson, Carolyn Van Til – not to forget the occasional help given by others on craft days, like Britta Christianson, Carol and Jamie Iannotti. Thank you all! And thanks also go to our students and supportive student and teacher families.

Craft Show Thanks

Our Spring Craft Show was a success again thanks to you! Beth Lanford and I want to thank everyone who helped, baked and shopped. We had wonderful vendors with a great array of items for sale. If you missed this one mark your calendar for our fall show which will be on Saturday, November 11th.

Thank you for “driving” in our “Undy 500”

Of course this mission project/collection is not a race to win, but we do want to thank everyone who had the time and money to participate in this year's Undy 500 Underwear drive for the Night Ministry. As of this writing we cannot give you the total amount of 'undies' you gave, but we'll communicate it later! Thanks again, and thanks to Maria Altmayer and the Micah 6:8 Committee for spearheading and sponsoring this.

Bunco Night Thanks

We hope you had as great a time as we did at this year's BUNCO NIGHT! We raised over \$3,000 for our church! Huge thanks goes to Carol Iannotti, Heidi Tarzian and Laurie Mitchell who work so hard to get prizes and make this a special night for all, and thank you to those who donated prizes and came and attended!! We can't wait until next year!