

The ANNOUNCER

11/2 9:00AM – Sunday School
10AM – Worship w/Holy Communion
11:15AM – Board of Elders

11/8 10AM-3PM – Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale
6PM – CRMS

11/9 9:00AM – Sunday School
10AM – Worship
11:15 – Special Coffee Hour
Board of Finance meets on Zoom

11/13 Wreath Orders Due

11/15 9AM-1PM – Trustees Workday

11/16 9AM – Sunday School
10AM – Worship
11:15AM – Church Council

11/18 Dec. Announcer Deadline

11/22 9AM-1PM – Trustees Workday

11/23 9AM – Sunday School
10AM – Worship

11/27 Thanksgiving/Office Closed

11/29 11AM-2:30 AJH Kitchen
1-2PM Wreath Pickup

11/30 First Sunday of Advent
09AM – Sunday School
10AM – Worship
11:15AM - Wreath Pickup

YOUR ONE-STOP HOLIDAY SHOP: CRAFTS, COOKIES, AND CHEER!

St. Peter's UCC is proud to once again host our **Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale**. This is a great opportunity to get a jump on your holiday gifts. They'll be over 40 vendors selling handmade unique items – things like jewelry, beauty products, kids items, pets, home goods, holiday decorations - and much more. Our finest bakers will be

baking delicious items to take home for your holiday events, or just to munch on! We'll also have those abundant raffle baskets that you can take a chance on winning. It's a great time, so bring a friend or two -or a bus load- to the Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale on **Saturday, November 8th from 10AM-3PM** and get your Christmas shopping done before everyone else!

15TH ANNIVERSARY COFFEE HOUR FOR LAURA OLSON

Sunday, November 9th will be 15 years that Laura has been the Office Administrator of St. Peter's UCC. We are having a special coffee hour after worship to honor that occasion. All are welcome, please come celebrate with us!

POINSETTIA ORDERS TAKEN NOW

We'll offer two types of Poinsettias which will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship. You'll find the form in this Announcer. **Have your order in Dec. 7th!**

WOMEN'S GUILD BLANKET SUNDAY

Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets and Kits ministry. Together, we can offer comfort, hope and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times. Imagine the impact of your compassion. Each blanket and kit serves as a tangible expression of God's love—sharing warmth on a chilly night, relief in a crisis and a reminder that someone truly cares. Join us **November 16th** during worship and give what you can!



The Niles Township Clergy Forum is having their annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service **November 25th at 7:00 PM**, location TBD, stay tuned for details. The service will include some mental health speakers as well. Donations to the Niles Township Food Pantry are requested. All are welcome, please come to this very special event!

From the Interim Pastor

Dear friends,

God is surrounding us with new opportunity for ministry, ready or not. In the process, you are being transformed as a people of faith. For this I am truly grateful.

Your fall revolves around annual activities: Rummage Sale, Pet Blessing, Craft Fair, Totenfest, Community Thanksgiving, and preparing for Advent celebrations. Your great leaders, great volunteers and great processes all guide you. Even only partway through these celebrations, you see that they are as successful as ever.

Meanwhile, local, national and global tensions keep rising. Vulnerable people grow more vulnerable. Routines are interrupted, access to basic supplies are being lost, fear grips hearts and folks wonder with whom they can safely confide. Situations change rapidly, so best practice recommendations change constantly. All around us, people are hungry to know that God cares and that God's people care. All around us are people who need to be loved the way only St. Peter's UCC Skokie can love them. Here are some things I have seen you do:

- Recognize signs that pronounce spaces in the church as "private." These are designated as places ICE cannot enter without cause and without a warrant;
- Prepare to stay in place and silently hold your ground should you see activity, so vulnerable people cannot be singled out for potential ICE mistreatment;
- Put the phone number for the Family Support Hotline (for Illinois coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 855-435-7693) in your phone so you can call if you detect ICE activity or need to know the latest on rights and best practices;
- Allow me to open our church for a family's memorial service so they could safely gather to grieve and celebrate a loved one in their time of need;
- Volunteer to grocery shop for people who do not feel safe leaving their homes;
- Increase your donations for our little free food pantry as SNAP benefits may disappear for a while;
- Donate to Niles Township Food Pantry, A Just Harvest and other local organizations as they prepare to care for people with increased need;
- Talk with each other; support each other; pray.

Perhaps we will never need to use some of this information. But the more we know and the better prepared we are, the more people will know we are allies, agents of God's love, kindness and protection. And the more we will see ourselves as allies. In a time of fear and hatred, you bring strength and generosity.

When tensions sneak up on each other, you bring gentleness and grace. Your minds and hearts focus on God's abundant love that pierces unkindness and offers a community of hope. This faith in action can change a church. In the midst of deep division, we are following the Holy One who creates common ground and invites all of us to respond.

Thank you for being the church in a time that we need it so desperately. Thank you for your openness to grow as the faith community God needs us to be.

Blessings, Brenda

SENDING WELL WISHES



We'd like to wish Ricky Riley good luck as he trains for the Special Olympics Basketball Team. You can do it Ricky!

BAPTISM IN WORSHIP

We celebrated the baptism of Amelia Nakhleh, daughter of Jennifer Nakhleh on October 12, 2025. Welcome to God's family, Amelia!

Operating Budget at a Glance for September, 2025

	Sept Actual	Sept Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$31,686	\$24,509	\$133,365	\$138,225
Expenses	\$13,775	\$14,844	\$133,081	\$154,740
Gain/(Loss)	\$17,911	\$9,665	\$283	(\$16,515)

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING – OCT 8, 2025

St. Peter's Women's Guild started their new season with a Salad Luncheon and Meeting on Wed. Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m. Pres. Barbara Todd gave Devotions in the form of a story and prayer and then everyone enjoyed partaking of the beautiful Buffet of salads, donated by the members. Rolls and dessert were provided by the Board.

The Business Meeting discussed: Refreshments for the Jane Abramchik Memorial Service on Oct. 19 - cake, cookies, fruit, coffee. Annie Noorts was absent, so no total report on the Rummage Sale, but it was \$23,000 and counting and the Bake Sale took in over \$700. More info later. ALERT! There will be another Bake Sale with the Craft Fair on Sat. Nov. 8! The Pet Blessing will be on Oct. 26 - Come and enjoy seeing all those dogs! Brenda reminded everyone to befriend and talk to all visitors - invite them to our activities!

There will be no meeting in November, but we will meet on Wed. Dec. 10 with our annual Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Walk! Everyone bring a batch of cookies and go home with a lovely variety of sweets for the holidays! We also may enjoy a game or two and just enjoy being together at this special time! Hope to see you!

NOVEMBER WORKDAYS

Our Trustees are back again working in November! Please join them **November 15th and 22nd from 9AM-1PM.** Projects include:

- lowering the Sanctuary Chandelier to clean the shades and replace the burnt-out lightbulbs.
- Small painting projects.
- Paper towel dispenser installation.
- Gym Window Curtains & Stitches for Stage Main Curtain
- Landscaping Tree & Bush Trimming (weather permitting).

Contact Rich Schneider richschneider@comcast.net for more information or just show up!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/4 – Brian Russell
 11/7 – Anna Riley
 11/9 – Bridgette Sterba,
 Michael Taheny, Paul
 Brzozowski
 11/10 - Peter Svenson
 11/11 – Ann Herren
 11/13 – Alexandra Paige
 11/15 – Bruce Mau
 11/16 – Chad McCoy
 11/18 – Christine Svenson,
 Heidi Tarzian
 11/20 – Pat Mauer Erdman
 11/25 - Linda Mau
 11/26 - Felix Roy Svenson
 11/27 - Emily Brzozowski

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/2 – Maria and Randy Altmayer
 11/3 – Olivia Altmayer and Michael Schwalen
 11/6 – Jenn and Rich Schneider
 11/9 - Laura Olson 15 years at St. Peter's UCC
 11/12 – Marcia Hilliard & Andre Gloeckner
 11/14 – Beth and John Sterba

Your Church Council at Work: Minutes and More

A new UCC manual defines the Local Church as “a gathered community living in relationship to God, one another, and the world.” In the manual the governing body of the Local Church—your Church Council—is tasked with “organizing community with intention.” One aspect of organizing with intention is creating policies and putting them into practice.

We are now in the midst of implementing recently adopted policies. If you are reading this newsletter electronically it includes links to recently passed policies including:

- A [Safe Church Policy](#) on abuse prevention.
- Financial policies on [Safeguarding Church Funds](#) and the [Separation of Duties in Church Finance](#)

In addition, the Church Council created [revised building use rules and regulations](#) to align with new ways of managing the use of our space by third parties. If you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter or have difficulty accessing the policies online, you may call the office to request a copy.

We want you to know that the

Council is working hard to make your local church the best that it can be. So, we are sharing the [minutes from our September Council meeting](#) here too. As our bylaws provide, “minutes, records and reports shall be available to members upon request.” Please contact the office if have difficulties accessing Council minutes or connect with Peggy Reins, President of the Congregation, to learn more about the work of your Church Council.

SOFT GOODS DRIVE 2026

Once again, we will be doing a **FUNDrive in January, 2026**. This is our annual collection of soft goods which we sell to Savers at \$0.20 per pound. Soft goods include men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc. along with bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc. Please gather clothes and household textiles in bags. All items must be clean and in saleable condition.



We are so grateful to the family of Jane Abramchik for donating the cost of the new oil filled candles for our candelabras on our altar. On the candelabra you will find an inscribed nameplate that reads “Jane Abramchik You lit up our world” – and she sure did. Thank you also those involved with getting this together in time for her memorial service.



RUMMAGE SALE 2025 WRAP

All I can say about this year's sale is WOW!! The gym and the Lanford Fellowship Hall were absolutely full, and beautifully organized. The boutique was packed and looked amazing. We had so many volunteers come out, including many friends of our members. Our headcount for the two days was 763 people, last year it was 709. Our total income is \$26,316.68. Our total income last year was \$20,142. It is amazing how this sale continues to improve and

grow every year. This year we had so many compliments on how organized we were, how welcoming everyone was and overall, how much people appreciate and enjoy our sale. Thank you to everyone who donated, worked, baked and prayed for our success. The final numbers will be included in December, broken out by department. There may be a little more money coming in, and expenses have not been accounted for.

FRONT DOOR KEYS

The Trustees are asking everyone to turn in any unused front door keys. We are just about out of keys, and because they are "do not duplicate" keys, we have a lot of trouble and expense replacing them. If you do have a key you are not using, turn it into the office.

LAURA OUT OF OFFICE

Don't forget, Laura is out the week of November 3rd through the 7th. Sharon Johnson will be filling in from 9AM-12PM daily.

PET BLESSING PHOTOS - We had a wonderful afternoon at the Pet Blessing October 26th! In addition to folks bringing pets, we also invited them to bring photos of past loves (or ones who couldn't attend) or even stuffed friends. Thank you to Chairperson Marcia Hilliard and Andre Gloeckner, C.A.R.E. of Skokie, Pastor Brenda, Maria Altmayer, Ginger Kalensky and Marlene Russell for all their help the day of the event, it was a barking good time!



St. Peter's UCC
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Lector/Nursery

for November 2025

Nov 2nd Lector: Beth S.
Nursery: Carolyn V.

Nov 9th Lector: Annie N.
Nursery: Rita M.

Nov 16th Lector: Rich S.
Nursery: Mike R.

Nov 23rd Lector: Peggy R.
Nursery: Rita M.

Nov 30th Lector: Barb T.
Advent begins Nursery: Kathy Z.



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NOVEMBER 2025

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being taken for Christmas Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place

an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7th*

2025. The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please take your plants after Christmas Eve worship if possible.



Name:

Phone #:

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6") Single	\$16.00	
	Marble (6") Single	\$16.00	
Grand Total			