

The ANNOUNCER

Quick Upcoming

A publication of St. Peter's UCC in Skokie

- 4/1 Office Closed/Easter Observance
- 4/2 6:30PM – Cub Scout Pack 85 Meets
- 4/4 9:30-11:30AM Cluster One, St. Peter's hosts
- 4/10 11:30AM – Women's Guild meets
- 4/13 6:00PM – CRMS
- 4/14 Bread for the World Offering of Letters & Micah 6:8 Coffee Hour
- 4/15 May Announcer Deadline
- 4/21 **Church Council**
4:00-7:00PM – Scout Blue and Gold Dinner
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 4/24 Administrative Professionals Day
- 4/27 **7:00-10:00PM BUNCO Card and Raffle Party**

HOSPITALIZED:

Jane Abramchik has been in and out of hospital the past month after falls. By now she may be in a place for physical rehabilitation if not also a residence. Annie Noorts' husband Gerry had knee replacement surgery the week of March 17th. Please keep them in your prayers.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS

Our faith calls us to care for the poor and feed the hungry. St. Peter's does this in so many ways! This year, in honor of Pastor Lanford, we are asking our members and friends to participate in Bread for World's 2024 Offering of Letters. Bread for the World is a Christian organization with a mission to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, other organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger. Thousands of voices joining in the annual Offering of Letters is a powerful way of urging our leaders to focus on what matters most and pursue a world without hunger. On a personal level each letter becomes an expression of faith and hope.

Bread for the World is an organization that Pastor has personally supported. This year, your participation in the Offering of Letters will have special meaning as part of a "Good Good-bye" for Pastor and Beth. Your participation is a gift—a gift of faith in action—that extends the impact of Pastor's many messages and teachings on love and justice. ***Our focus Sunday for Bread for the World's Offering of Letters is April 14th.*** You will learn more about the 2024 Offering and have the opportunity to write your own letters at a special coffee hour hosted by the Micah 6:8 Committee. We'll make it easy to participate with sample letters and instructions on how to make the message your own. Please make plans to participate! To learn more or to take action now, contact church president Peggy at peggy.reins@gmail.com or visit ol.bread.org.



End Hunger Through Advocacy: An Offering of Letters

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

As you know, we have just passed Easter, or Resurrection, Sunday. It is a festival of new life coming out of suffering and death, of God ultimately conquering the powers of sin and death for good, of the rebirth of hope in God and the future in God's hands, and of course, that the crucified Jesus Christ is alive forevermore!

Once in a while I like to refer to the Spirit of Resurrection, as in the Spirit of Christ's being raised from the tomb. To me this means that, insofar as the Holy Spirit lives within and amongst us, that Spirit of triumph over all that entombs us is within and amongst us! Somehow, by grace through faith, the power of God which resurrected Jesus, set limits upon Death's power, and short-circuited Sin's power to hold us, is given to us.

Think of what this means! We do not have to feel it, for our faith is far more than our feelings or moods. It means that we are a resurrection people. It means we look for something living and good to come out of death, or endings. It means you and I do not have to fear death, and that we have the power to overcome sinful habits – often a power realized through community, not necessarily by individual communing with the Divine. It means when we suffer setbacks we do not see them as final, because the tomb was opened. We receive the God-given resilient perseverance to not quit (unless that happens to be God's will as God has other plans for us).

It means what Ephesians 3:20-21 affirms: *"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Jesus Christ to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

We are entering the final three months of life and ministry together. Let us each remember that along with any suffering, grief or shadows we may encounter, because Christ arose, that Resurrection Spirit is given to you, Saint Peter's United Church of Christ, and, I pray, Beth and me as well. Thanks to the Resurrection Spirit within and among us, we will all experience transformation unto God's next plans for us, in the light and in the accompaniment of the Risen One, Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. As the Easter angel said, "Do not be afraid!"

*Keep, and share, the faith,
Rev. Richard Lanford*

**BUNCO, CARD, AND RAFFLE PARTY –
APRIL 27TH FROM 7:00-10:00PM**

It's time for the Annual St. Peter's Bunco, Cards, and Raffle Party! Don't know how to play Bunco? Learn in minutes or play a game of cards. You can even bring your own game if you like! Come for the games but **STAY** for the Raffle! Three tables full of gadgets, gizmos, jewelry, gift certificates, kitchen items, candles, clothing, and so much more, you have to see it to believe it! Ticket prices range from \$1 for

small stuff to \$10 for our super-affle items. Your \$5 suggested donation at the door includes soft-drinks or coffee, dessert, and a snack bag, as well as one ticket for the door prize raffle. Once you are in, let the fun begin! Join up with folks at a table and start to play your games. If you have a large group and want your own table (up to 8 people) call Laura in the Church Office (847-673-8166) to reserve it.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT OTHER PLANS FOR
SAYING GOOD-BYE**

Our dear Pastor Richard and his wife Beth are leaving us on June 30, 2024, off to enjoy well-earned retirement! In celebration of over three decades of ministry at St. Peter's, we are planning events to say a "good goodbye." The Good Goodbye Committee is planning two events, and a few surprises. ***First, on May 19 we are bringing back the spaghetti dinner. We will start at 5:00PM.*** This event will include a "roast and toast," which is a chance for people to share fun stories, show appreciation, or just say a few words. We are hoping many of our current and past members will join us for this event. There will be a small, suggested donation for this event. There will also be raffle baskets. Proceeds from the baskets will go toward to Lanford

Celebration Fund. ***The second event will be a more formal banquet on Sunday, June 30th at 5:00PM.*** The location and other details will be coming soon. For this event we want to include as many of the friends, clergy and others that have had the pleasure of working with, worshipping with or just enjoying time with Pastor and Beth. If you know of anyone who does not normally receive our emails that should be invited to this, please send that information to Jennifer Schneider (JennSchneider@comcast.net). The Lanford Celebration Fund is open to any and all donations. This fund will be used to defray the cost of the two events, and to cover surprise a gift for our honorees. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please be sure to note "Lanford Celebration Fund" on the donation.

MISERICORDIA DONATIONS IN HONOR OF RICKY

Misericordia days are here again, and our very own Ricky Riley can use your donations!! Ricky was born prematurely in January 2006 and as many of you know is developmentally about 5 years old - and is sunshine in human form. He has an intellectual disability and will not be able to live independently when his parents, members of St. Peter's, can no longer take care of him. Misericordia is a beautiful place that offers living

arrangements and assistance to people like our Ricky. Please consider donating to this beautiful organization that helps people that are unable to care for themselves, and use the link following to do it, to make sure the Riley family gets credited.

<https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiaandycandydays2024/participant/AnnaRiley>

Thank you so much for your consideration!

LENTEN THANKS

Thank you to everyone who attended sessions of our 2024 Lenten Book and Bible Study on early and middle chapters of the Gospel of John. Thanks to all who not only came but made and brought soup, salad and fixin's, crackers, desserts and good conversation!

KITCHEN THANKS

Hearty and sincere thanks to Anna and Hugh, Matthew and Ricky Riley, and any helpers who may have joined them, for serving lunch at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest on Saturday, Marcy 29th. Thank you! Our next turn to serve is **Saturday, June 29th.**

OUR WOMEN'S GUILD

St. Peter's Women's Guild met at 10:30AM on Wed., March 13 to clean the kitchen and organize some of the cabinets and drawers, which were in sad shape. We need some carpentry to repair those drawers! Nine members attended and all enjoyed a soup lunch, cooked and served by Barb and Sue Bailey. Devotions were given by Judy Paige, followed by our Business Meeting. Sue Bailey has sent out all the Benevolences (Charities) and Judy Paige read thank you letters from most of them. Most of the discussion centered on the departure of Pastor Lanford in June and events surrounding the congregation's celebration of Pastor and Beth. Some of our Guild members are on the "Good Goodbye" committee and gave us the following information. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner in the gym on Sun. May 19th and may include a "toast and roast" type of entertainment. A dinner committee is

being formed to host this event. A second and more formal dinner will be on June 30th, Pastor's last day. This will follow an afternoon "Clergy" service (more info to follow). There is a debate on whether this dinner will be held at church or an outside venue. In any case, it will be catered. More information will be coming from Annie Noorts who is coordinating these events. There will be no Spring Craft Show in May due to these and other conflicts, but our annual Bunco Party will be held on April 27th. Carol Iannotti would appreciate any and all donations of prizes for those exciting raffle tables! Our next meeting will be on April 10th, but there will not be a meeting in May due to special events. Our last meeting will be on Wed. June 12th at the Todd's and Pastor Lanford and Beth will be our "Guests of Honor!" We will be taking reservations for that meeting and more info will follow.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/3 – Kristine Mau
- 4/11 – Henry Aguayo
- 4/14 – Marcia Hilliard
- 4/16 – Ken Itter
- 4/18 – Bonnie Loach
- 4/21 – Gail (Dennis) Balling
- 4/23 – Darrell Kerbel
- 4/24 – Mark Taylor
- 4/25 – Susan Garcia
- 4/26 – Elisa Meggs
- 4/27 – Roman Salvatierra

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/15 – Analise and Juanito Banoyo
- 4/21 – Donna Gates & David Rees
- 4/22 – Carol and Bob Iannotti

Budget at a Glance, February 2024

	February Actual	Monthly Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$11,501	\$16,008	\$23,176	\$32,016
Expenses	\$13,644	\$15,939	\$29,322	\$31,877.83
Gain/(Loss)	(\$2,143)	\$69	(\$6,146)	\$138



Lector/Nursery for April 2024

April 7	Nursery: Heidi T. Lector: Barb T.
April 14	Nursery: Carolyn Lector: Karen C.
April 21	Nursery: Rita M. Lector: Marcia / Andre
April 28	Nursery: Mike R. Lector: Mark L.
May 5	Nursery: Annie N. Lector: Rita M.



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APRIL 2024

CLERGY MEETING NEWS

The first week of April will find our Pastor attending the monthly gathering of the Niles Township Clergy Forum at 8:30 AM, Wednesday, April 3rd.

The next day he will host, at St. Peter's, the bi-monthly meeting of our Chicago Metropolitan Association's (CMA's) Cluster 1 clergy and MIDs (Members in Discernment of a call to ordained ministry). The folks gather between 9:30 and 10 AM, after which the meeting starts, often with worship, and ending with business. We may use the sanctuary and the Memorial Room both; it's too early to know those details. These meetings are scheduled to end by 11:30 AM. Sometimes members of the group go out to lunch together.

In the following week, Richard and Beth Lanford will meet with the Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley over lunch. Reverend Shernell, as she likes to be called, is the Illinois Conference staff person who shepherds both pastors and congregations in periods of transition (like a change in pastoral leadership). She has already met over Zoom with the Council in January.

SUPPORT FOR UCC OFFICE STAFF

On Friday the 12th of April, our Office Manager Laura Olson will be participating in a hybrid meeting of United Church of Christ Office Support Staff. This is a forum for support and knowledge to be offered and shared between UCC office and support staff in local churches and ministry settings. This meeting goes from 11 AM to 4 PM, so she will be occupied with this gathering in that Zoomer during that time period. We are glad for this opportunity to be offered her by the United Church of Christ!