

MARCH 2022

Savor the Journey!

The Announcer

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

Have you ever prayed for something, or someone, over a long period of time (and I mean years, here) and seen no movement or change? How about asking God for guidance, healing, or a knowledge of God's will for your life so you knew what to do next to fulfill it? I remember reading in C. S. Lewis' A Grief Observed that after his wife died, he prayed and prayed and God's silence was thunderous. He grew pretty angry for a while, as the book tells you.

Anger is one response. Another is feeling your faith worn down, or your faith is challenged to keep existing. Have you ever experienced that? For short moments, I have felt the latter. After having some self-serving, self-righteous thoughts grounded in frustration, I then felt ashamed as I recall myself preaching on having patience and keeping the faith in God's long-term plans which we cannot see but we trust God's love shown in Jesus, and that's enough. Things I believe.

Then I remember the Israelites. Joseph waited for years in prison, until Pharaoh finally dreamed. Four hundred years the people were in bondage in Egypt, not yet as Israelites, but as Hebrews, descendants of the patriarchs favored by Yahweh. Forty years wandering in the desert. Seventy years in exile in Babylon. The Epistle to the Hebrews reminds us of the faith of generation upon generation of Israelites, waiting during their suffering for the fulfillment of God's promise to Abram and Sarai, for the One through whom the world would be blessed. They were content to know the fulfillment was coming, even though their lives would not see it. Can you imagine?

Sometimes, then, we have to wait without knowing why, how long, or how things will turn out. Faith indeed is, as Hebrews 11 says, assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Faith is a gift, yet also something for us to work on and make stronger. We need it in this country now, and we need it this Lent, because sometimes the Resurrection seems too far away. We need our faith, because God has proven that God is invested in us – has invested Jesus Christ painfully in us – and so despite long, questioning, and baffling periods of unanswered prayers, we pray on, eyes on the stone rolled in front of the tomb, lit with long-standing hope.

Keep the faith,
Rev. Richard Lanford



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

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: Wed.,
March 2 at 11:30
AM and 7:00 PM

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY begins
March 9th at 6:30
PM on Zoom

VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER DAY:
March 20th
11 AM to 11 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AND LENTEN STUDY - Ash Wednesday is *Wednesday, March 2nd*. COVID safety concerns and in-place protocols allowing, ***we'll hold an in-person service at 11:30 AM and a hybrid, live-streamed one at 7:00 PM***. There will be Communion celebrated at the evening service as always, but no Choir yet. The imposition of ashes during the prayer of confession is offered as an option, like every year we can do this in person. If you know friends who bemoan a non-live-streamed Ash Wednesday night service, tell them about ours!

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR LENTEN BIBLE STUDY! The Lenten Book and Bible Study will begin the Wednesday evening after that (***March 9th at 6:30 PM***). The Council has not yet given a green light to gatherings over food yet, so let us say for now that the Study may move to something in-person and nourishing during the sessions but will begin over Zoom. Pastor Richard wants to know who is interested in participating, although the link will be found in the Weekly News emailing from the Office ahead of time. The book we shall read and discuss over five (six?) weeks is *The Third Reconstruction*, written by the Rev. William J. Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. It is about 155 pages long. Among other things it takes us on Rev. Barber's spiritual and life journey to co-leading now the Poor Peoples' Campaign with the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. Tell Peggy Reins McCoy ASAP if you want a copy of the book; she acquired some at a very reasonable price. Thanks to her we also have a Bible-based discussion guide which we will distribute and use.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS are being taken now ***through March 27th***. We'll decorate the sanctuary for Easter worship and you can take them home and beautify your garden. You'll find the order form at the end of this newsletter and in the March bulletins. If you have any questions contact Sue Bailey or the office!

VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER! Huge thank you to everyone who's been participating, *our totals for January were \$84.03 and February was \$108.12!* Our next Village Inn food fundraiser day will be on ***Sunday, March 20th from 11 AM to 11 PM***. What a great day to plan to order carryout, delivery or dine-in and enjoy a meal with friends, game or show on TV and not have to cook and clean. The best part is ***we get 20% of whatever you spend***. That's the largest percentage any restaurant or chain will do. Plus, they have a wide variety of amazing food, something for everyone! Mark your calendars, help us and help you, too!

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETINGS 2022 ***MARCH 9TH, 9:30 A.M.***

SOUP LUNCH

HOSTESSES: Barbara Bailey and Sue Bailey

DEVOTIONS: Judy Paige

PROGRAM: ANNUAL KITCHEN CLEAN-UP

APRIL 13TH, 11:30 A.M.

HOSTESSES: Barbara Todd and "Unnamed"

DEVOTIONS: Sue Bailey

PROGRAM: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

PLEASE WATCH YOUR ANNOUNCER

MONTHLY FOR DATES OF OUR FUTURE

MEETINGS.

Submitted by: Sue Bailey

OTHER DOINGS THIS MONTH

CMA Cluster 1 Meeting	March 3rd
<i>at Glenview Community Church</i>	
World Day of Prayer	Friday, March 4
Board of Finance	Sunday, March 13th
Church Council	Sunday, March 20th
<i>after worship</i>	

NEW MEMBERS / SEEKERS CLASS - At some point after Easter (April 17th) Pastor Richard will offer a New Members / Seekers class, scheduled on the basis of interest and the availability of those interested. Let him know if you are interested!

OUR PEOPLE

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 – Grace Castillo; Joshua Castillo
 3/4 – Tyler O'Hara
 3/5 – Britta Christianson
 3/6 – Phil Lindroth
 3/7 – John Gruze; Rich Schneider
 3/10 – Don Kahn; Jamie Iannotti
 Jeff Loach
 3/11 – Lana Kahn; Ray Erdman
 3/12 – Adrianna Paige; Tracy (Paige)
 Puckett
 3/13 – Roy Svenson
 3/16 – William Hoellerich
 3/19 – Angela Washek Kuras
 3/23 – Haley Kahn
 3/24 – Jason Iannotti; John Balling
 3/28 – Sue Bailey

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/2- Alice and Bill Schaller

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

MINI-PANTRY - Thank you to everyone who regularly and generously bring foodstuffs which are put into the Mini Food Pantry! We are grateful, and the products are truly needed -- not just food, but also things like

toiletries, cleaning supplies (soap, soft-soap, kitchen sink soap), deodorant, etcetera. The Weekly updates have featured and listed some of these alternative and very desired items. Thank you, and we do need the gifts to continue coming in!

LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

- March 6th** - Nursery: Beth L.
 - Lector: Peter S.
March 13 - Nursery: Mike
 - Lector: Jenn S.
March 20 - Nursery: Annie
 - Lector: Judy P.
March 27 - Nursery: Heidi T.
 - Lector: Barb T.
April 3 - Nursery: Carolyn V.
 - Lector: David I.
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HOSPITALIZED: Ursula DWORAK, Dorothy PANZKE and Andre GLOECKNER'S mom Annemarie are all home from the hospital and in Dorothy's case, the Harmony House. All are doing well. Carolyn KUECHLER recovered well enough from her December partial knee replacement that she was able to climb the Oakton Street steps to join us for worship the last several weeks, until she had the other knee operated on the week of February 13th and is repeating her prior schedule of therapy. She, too, is doing well. Ralph BURMEISTER was struck with COVID again but is now back on the 4th floor of Elevate Saint Andrews in Niles, post-isolation; but Carol, hospitalized on February 12th (Advocate Lutheran General) after incurring another stroke and some seizures, was gravely affected by this last stroke. She returned to Elevate St. Andrews, 7000 N. Newark, Niles, 60714, in hospice care. Marcia HILLIARD had knee replacement surgery on February 22 and is home. Dorothy Panzke's daughter Kelly will have spine surgery sometime in late February or early April. Please remember all of them in your prayers, along with those named whom you remember from Pastor's prayers for healing on Sunday mornings.

CHURCH NEWS

COVID Protocols – We will continue exactly as we are doing, even when the state of IL relaxes the mask mandate on February 28. We have too many people who care for susceptible folks (or are themselves susceptible) to change what we are doing. As much as we'd all love to resume "normal" interaction, we are not ready to do that yet. We will continue to discuss it each month at council and evaluate at that time.

Lenten and Holy Week Events – We will livestream all the worship services that we are able to, including Ash Wednesday (evening), Sundays, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We will begin our Lenten Bible Study virtually on Zoom, with the option to switch to in person later if the group decides to do that. Choir would like to resume practicing with the aim of participating in the Easter worship service – concessions will be made, including purchasing singing masks and spreading our small but mighty choir out in the choir loft to maintain social distance. We will not have a full Easter Breakfast, as is our usual tradition, but we are considering a smaller coffee-hour type gathering on Easter Sunday. Final determination on this will be made closer to Easter. Thank you to everyone who continues to work diligently to keep our members safe while also providing the opportunity to worship, fellowship, and grow in Christian spirit!

Heat in the Kitchen – There is no longer a need to keep the doors open or water running in the kitchen when it gets cold. The fan unit that supplies heat to the kitchen was repaired years ago, and while it is a bit loud, it works perfectly. There is also a sensor installed in the kitchen that sends an alarm to the Trustees if the temp drops too low in the kitchen.

Flipping the Switch – With regards to the heat and the fan mentioned above, it has come to our attention that people sometimes turn that fan OFF. Council discussed this and would like to say to EVERYONE - as a general rule throughout the church, unless it is an immediately dangerous situation, please don't turn anything off without consulting a Trustee! Thank you!

Update on the Front Stairs – There has been flooding and a faulty light socket in the front stair area. Rich Schneider Installed a new double floodlight above the doorway and the old switch operates these lights. The new conduit is out of the way of any water. At some time this Spring, the Trustees will be addressing the rest of the issues with this room and the stairs above it, both structural and electrical. In the meantime, please use caution in that area. Pieces of concrete may continue to fall, though nothing major is expected. Much thanks to Rich and the Trustees for their prompt attention to this, and for Floyd at CRMS for letting us know about the light socket.

FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET AT A GLANCE FOR JANUARY AND THE YEAR TO DATE:

	JAN	YTD
INCOME	\$14,864	\$11,667
EXPENSE	\$12,871	\$14,044
GAIN/LOSS	\$1,993	-2,377

These numbers exclude the roof repair and directed gift amounts.

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.



MORE CHURCH NEWS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING STARTS THIS MONTH!

Dear Friends, greetings to you in the name of the One who has called us into love and light. We are preparing for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering! Our theme for 2022 is Love Remains, based on 1 Corinthians 13.

In the theme scripture, the Apostle Paul helped newly converted Christians at Corinth embrace the virtue of love. Love is an active decision to think of others before self; to work on behalf of others; and to care for other with acts of kindness and advocacy. Paul taught that community is less about “me” and more about “us.”

“Us”—the community—is defined broadly without limitations and boundaries. Community crosses boundaries and borders, creating realities which transcend perceived differences in ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, religion, spirituality, cultural diversity, and social location can be acknowledged and celebrated. It is not limited to one’s household or home church or immediate neighborhood.

Paul taught that Jesus formed a new kind of community from a group of diverse persons—a community whose fabric of communal life is woven with threads of justice, love and service. Over the last year, there were communities needing a little more compassion, love and support. Tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes ravaged communities worldwide, in some cases, destroying everything, and leaving behind devastation, and tribulation. Drought, violence and COVID wreaked havoc in communities, leaving people without food and resources for themselves and their family. When members of the United Church of Christ heard of these disasters, they responded and even invited friends to participate in providing much needed help.

You are making the difference in the lives of many in need around the world. Through your generosity, the United Church of Christ provided support that offered hope during times of despair. With your assistance we offered food, water, medicines, education, and opportunities for sustainable

development.

This ministry of compassion is a result of the love Paul called the church to, and the love we will continue to witness through your generosity and gifts given through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Thank you for your congregation’s continued faithfulness in supporting those who need resources and assistance to recover their lives following disasters. Thank you for your individual contributions as well. We bear witness to God’s love and grace through your love poured out among us. Your gifts allow us to put love into action, ensuring that Love Remains.

Sincerely, The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
Associate General Minister,
Wider Church Ministries and Operations, United
Church of Christ
Saint Peter’s United Church of Christ in Skokie will have an offering “focus Sunday” on Sunday, April 3rd.

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF WE ARE MISSING OR HAVE AN ERROR ABOUT AN ANNIVERSARY OR BIRTHDAY IN THE WEEKLY EMAILS OR THE NEWSLETTER!!



2022 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 27, 2022

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 4 bloom	9.00	
	Tulip 5-6 blooms	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6'	10.00	
Total			

Name & Phone

In Honor/In Memory of:
