



The ANNOUNCER

Rummage Sorting in August will be every Tues 10-12PM; Wed 6:30-8:30PM, Fridays 10AM-2PM.

- 8/2 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Worship w/Holy Communion**
11:15AM – Elders meet
- 8/8 11AM – Kaye Dufern Funeral
6-10PM - CRMS
- 8/9 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Worship**
Board of Finance Meets on Zoom
11:15 Marlene Russell B-day luncheon
- 8/16 9AM – Convo meet **10AM –**
11:15AM – Church Council Meets
- 8/18 September Announcer Deadline
- 8/23 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Worship**
- 8/29 11:30AM – A Just Harvest Service
- 8/30 **10AM – Lorel Park Outdoor Worship**

From the Interim Pastor

Dear friends,

I am grateful for sabbath rest, and for all the blessings that it brings.

Often we Christians have been taught that the 10 Commandments and other guidance from our Hebrew scripture were restrictions for faithful people to observe. That's not how they were intended, though. They were meant as good news that help us to live in freedom.

Our ancestors in faith lived in bondage in Egypt for 400 years. They rose and worked when their masters told them to rise and work. After the exodus, there was freedom to rest. In fact, Moses said, God expected it of them. Unstructured time for restoration, reflection, reconnection and recreation was written into their commandments.

And God gave more. Every seven years would be a sabbath year: land would lie fallow, debt was released, social equity would be restored. It was time to reflect on God's intentions for us and realign ourselves in life-giving ways.

What a gift it is to set aside time to rest, reconnect and restore! What a statement of faith we make when we shield ourselves, even a little, from our culture's constant demands on our time and energy! Our actions declare that we know we are free to do what is good for us, not just what is expected of us. Thanks be to God.

St. Peter's is good at supporting individual sabbaths. You celebrate each other's vacations and often look out for each other's workloads. Council did not meet in July for that very reason.

You even insist on it from your pastors. As I began my ministry with you, Peggy asked what day I take my Sabbath. You have been excellent at helping me protect Fridays as my holy day of rest and restoration. You also grant me vacation time when my mind and heart can lie fallow and I can more deeply connect with the One who gives me life and breath. Some of you even hold me accountable when I have shorted myself on sabbath time, or when you notice that I need more time away. I am deeply grateful.

Time away helps me to wonder. What happens when a whole people of God share in sabbath together?

Continued on next page



LOREL PARK OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Come worship with us in nature on a beautiful Sunday morning! The Skokie Backlot Bash will be back, which means our worship that weekend will be at Lorel Park. Join us **Sunday, August 30th at 10AM** at for an amazing worship experience. Lorel Park is located at 8135 Lorel Ave. a block west of St. Peter's. We will meet at the pavilion located near the tennis courts. Folding chairs will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer. All are welcome, please join us!

From the Interim Pastor **Continued from page 1**

This church has a rhythm. Through the years, you have established multiple projects, each with their own purpose, timelines and volunteers. You are getting better at supporting each other's projects and making space for new volunteers. When one project concludes, you quickly shift direction and move into your next routine.

But what if there was a way to pause as a church? What if there were set-aside seasons for rest and reflection? Can we reflect on God's intentions for us and realign ourselves in life-giving ways? Would your questions change? Instead of asking how you can do your specific project more effectively, might you wonder what else God needs this church to become? Might you become more invested in other projects of the church in ways that cause you to grow? Might you see God in a new way?

I trust God is at work. I have no idea what God is asking of St. Peter's. But as always, I am excited to find out.

Blessings, Brenda

SERVICE WITH A JUST HARVEST

August has 5 Saturdays, which means it is our opportunity to help feed those among us that experience food insecurity. On **Saturday August 29th**, St. Peter's will provide the groceries and help serve a midday meal at A Just Harvest Community Kitchen. Part of A Just Harvest's mission is to, "fight poverty and hunger in the Rogers Park and greater Chicago community by providing nutritious meals daily..." Every day of the year anyone can go to the A Just Harvest Community Kitchen and get a hearty free meal! Your monetary donations will purchase the ingredients for a meal that will feed as many as 150 of our neighbors. The grocery cost is approx. \$500. St. Peter's will also be there in person on Saturday to help serve the meal. ***We need 2-3 more volunteers to serve from 11:00 - 2:30.*** If you wish to volunteer to serve, please contact Chad McCoy at chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com.

Please welcome Andrew Barnes Jamieson as guest musician on **Sunday, August 23**, for a different approach to worship music. This service will be child-friendly. Bring a friend.

Calling all Crafters! Our Annual Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be on **Saturday November 7th from 10AM to 3PM**. If you are interested in a table or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or contact Wendy Svenson via email at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com

Thank you to our Conference Minister Reverend Terill Murff of the Illinois Conference of the UCC, who preached for Brenda Sunday, July 26th. Reverend Terill is a resource for the UCC Churches in Illinois, frequently answering questions and offering support.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

Thank you to our church members who stayed after worship for the special congregational meeting on July 12th. The Council was on hiatus in July leaving no approved meeting minutes to share. We will keep you up to date by other means and with our next issue of the Announcer. Until then, enjoy the summer! ☺

SUMMER CONVERSATIONS THROUGH AUGUST

St. Peter's Summer Sunday conversation group continues through August! Join us on Sundays as you are able. We meet in Lanford Fellowship Hall starting at 9am. This coming Sunday, the group will discuss today's devotional reading which is titled Illogical. You can access the reading here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/illogical/>. A good conversation starts with questions, and each Monday the Daily Devotional delivers some. To receive other issues of the UCC's Daily Devotional sign up at <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 – Linda Haig
 8/2 – Sharon Johnson
 8/3 – Camden Allen Loach
 8/6 – Richard Hook
 8/7 – Erik Altmayer
 8/8 – Arthur Daniel
 Svenson
 Kathy Zipperer
 Marlene Russell
 8/9 – Kim (Loach)
 Bruhn
 8/11 – Olivia Altmayer
 8/14 – Elliott Kerbel
 8/16 – Tom Schaller
 8/20 – Dan Guenther
 8/22 – Fredrik William
 Carnate Svenson
 8/23 – Valerie Paige-
 Mahoney
 8/25 – Henry Muhrer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/3 – Gail & Jack
 Hoellerich
 8/7 – Gene & Leslie Kiesel
 8/20 – Barb & Jim Todd
 Bonnie & Mark Loach
 8/22 – Dan & Heather
 O'Hara
 8/23 – Errol & Laurie
 Mitchell
 8/28 – Christine & Peter
 Svenson

Wishing God's Blessings on your special day!

Operating Budget at a Glance for June, 2026

	<u>June Actual *</u>	<u>June Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual**</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	\$16,143	\$25,009	\$83,151	\$82,450
Expenses	\$17,070	\$17,333	\$104,346	\$107,915
Gain/(Loss)	(\$926)	\$7,676	(\$21,195)	(\$25,465)

*June actual includes Interest Income of \$9,266.66 from the CD.

**YTD Income includes Income transfers of \$10,000 in March, \$5,000 in May

Monthly Income deficits:

January (\$11,496.88)
 February (\$8,063.35)
 March* (\$7,451.82) *Without the \$10,000 income transfer in March.
 April (\$3,960.49)
 May** (\$4,295.71) **Without the \$5,000 income transfer in May.
 June (\$926.48) Includes \$9,266.66 of Interest Income.
 (\$36,194.73)



Lector/Nursery

for August 2026

Aug 2 nd	Lector: Paul F. Nursery: Kathy Z.
Aug 9 th	Lector: Beth S. Nursery: Rita M.
Aug 16 th	Lector: Jen S. Nursery: Heidi T.
Aug 23 rd	Lector: David I. Nursery: Mike R.
Aug 30 th Lorel Park	Lector: Roy S. Nursery: N/A



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AUGUST 2026

CEMETERY UPDATE

Earlier this year a group of interested folks started working together to determine the future of St. Peter's Cemetery. It has been difficult to get volunteers to commit to administering/managing the cemetery, so this group was formed to try to find a way to hand over the ownership and administration of the cemetery while preserving the historical significance and allowing it to stay an active cemetery for the community. This work includes updating the records, conducting a title search and making sure that legal requirements are maintained (taxes and reporting) basically "getting our ducks in a row." As this is done, we will work to determine the best organization to honor our vision for the future of the cemetery. This group will apprise the council and all church members of significant developments. The church members will be asked to vote on any recommendations from this committee before any change will occur. All members of St. Peter's are members of the St. Peter's Cemetery Association. Please send any questions to the church office, they will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

SORT RUMMAGE WITH US!

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from now until September 25th we will be here sorting donations coming in of all kinds of rummage. It takes no amount of prior experience or expertise to help sort rummage. It only takes a willingness to help where you best are able. So we invite you to come check out rummage sorting. We have daytime hours (Tues 10-12PM, Fri-10-2PM) and evening hours (Wed 6:30-8:30PM) so there's a time that could be right for you! We'd love to have you on the team. If you have further questions feel free to talk to Laura in the office or Annie Noorts. Thanks so much for your consideration!