

# The ANNOUNCER

## From the Interim Pastor

- 4/2 7:00PM – Maundy Thursday Worship**
- 4/3 7:00PM – Good Friday Worship**
- 4/5 Easter Sunday**  
9:00AM – Sunday School  
**10AM – Worship w/Holy Communion**  
11:10AM – Egg Hunt  
11:30AM – Easter Brunch
- 4/11 6:00PM – CRMS Meets**
- 4/12 9:00AM – Sunday School**  
**10AM – Worship**  
Board of Finance Meets on Zoom
- 4/18 5:00PM – “The Revolutionists” Play**
- 4/19 9:00AM – Sunday School**  
**10AM – Worship**  
11:15AM Church Council
- 4/21 May Announcer deadline**
- 4/25 4:00PM – Pack 85 Blue and Gold Dinner**
- 4/26 9AM – Sunday School**  
**10AM – Worship**



Dear friends,

*My heart sings as I watch the chairs in our gym fill up with people who are ready to form the next version of St. Peter's UCC, Skokie. Seasoned members couldn't wait to tell newer folk about the wonders of the church they love. Newer folk are eager to find their unique positions in this circle. Clearly, God is present!*

*But – not all of the news is good.*

*My heart sings as we gather on a Sunday morning or a Wednesday night or countless other times that ministry takes place. In a world that sometimes appears to grow more hostile by the moment, we strive to be a respite for tender hearts and souls who need to heal and become emboldened to go back outside. Clearly, God is present!*

*But – not all of the news is good.*

*My heart sings as we prepare for our Palm Sunday procession. This coming Sunday, we get to wave palm branches and sing praises as children parade around our sanctuary. We celebrate Jesus at the height of his ministry, moving into Jerusalem to confront all the powers that oppress his people. Clearly, God is present!*

*But – not all of the news is good.*

*And for that, I am grateful, because that is the reality of our lives. Despite our best efforts, in time every expectation will be shattered. Every hope will be disappointed. Every investment will show up empty. Every life will draw to a close. Everything we value will pass away. When that happens, I need a story of faith. I need a story that tells the whole truth of my life: the dark times as well as the light.*

*God gifts us with Holy Week. This Sunday, we pick up palms and parade into Jerusalem to celebrate our savior, Jesus. On Maundy Thursday, we taste the last supper of broken body and cup poured out. On Good Friday, we are there as they crucify our Lord. The story speaks to every pain, emptiness, disappointment, and death that we ever face, when everything we had hoped for is gone.*

*And then, three days later, everything changes again.*

*This faith story is the story of my life. No matter what we face, I know that God has gone before us. God remains with us. God moves us into new life.*

*Please celebrate this whole story with us: the hopes, the darkness, the dawning light. Make way for alleluias, an Easter Egg hunt and brunch. Watch in case Holy Humor emerges again after Easter.*

*Then return for our upcoming church-wide Visioning events. Have some fun as we explore our neighborhood and hear God call from a future we have yet to imagine.*

*For Easter is coming. Love is prevailing. And God brings new life in a way that just might surprise us all.*

*Blessings in this journey, Brenda*

## HOLY WEEK CONTINUES

It's the most sacred time of the year, and we invite you to remember, mourn and celebrate our Lord with us. Join us **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM**, as we celebrate Jesus' last Supper 🍷 with his disciples on **Maudy Thursday. Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> is Good Friday** 📖, and we mourn and walk with Jesus as he carries the cross to his death. **Worship begins at 7:00 PM. Easter morning** 🌅 is a worship like no other, as we joyfully celebrate the risen Christ! On **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> worship with us at 10:00 AM**, then directly after worship we have an 🥰 **Easter Egg Hunt**, then a delicious **Easter Brunch at 11:30 AM** with all kinds of savory and sweet foods! Please join us, all are welcome!

## THE REVOLUTIONISTS BY LAUREN GUNDERSON at St. Peter's UCC



Presented by Violet Surprise Theatre, sponsored by Skokie Heritage Museum, Downtown Skokie Merchants Collaborative, and St. Peter's United Church of Christ, join us **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00PM**. The Revolutionists will not be televised. It will be dramatized – by Violet Surprise Theatre, whose mission is to vibrantly validate the voices of women. Written by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Iris Sowlat, The Revolutionists is a hysterical and historical (or, more accurately, herstorical) play that invites audiences to experience the French Revolution from a female

perspective. So don't pardon our French. Pardon our Frenchwomen and their très merciless treatment during the Reign of Terror. Following the performance, there will be a talkback with the cast with refreshments provided by Skokie's very own Kneads & Wants Bakery! Buy tickets here:

[https://www.downtownskokie.com/munity/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzK3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKEsb0cw9YgoyDoUbr7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0\\_cmLFH\\_aem\\_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4lUbfGNQ](https://www.downtownskokie.com/munity/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzK3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKEsb0cw9YgoyDoUbr7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0_cmLFH_aem_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4lUbfGNQ)

## BARB TODD TO BE FEATURED AS A WOMAN IN HISTORY 2026

St. Peter's Women's Guild President, Barbara Todd, has the honor of being part of a special exhibit at the Morton Grove Historical Education Center and Museum, entitled, "Women in History 2026", featuring Morton Grove women who have impacted Morton Grove from 1895 on! Barbara was granted the Studs Terkel Humanities Award in 1999 for her work at the Mortron Grove Library for 18 years, for her work on the 1995 Morton Grove Centennial

Commission, and for her constant and dedicated work promoting books and literature by her profession as a Dramatic Book Reviewer throughout the Chicago and suburban area. This exhibit is located at the **Historical Museum at 6240 Dempster St.**, next to the Harrer Park Pool. **It is open on every Tues. Wed. Thurs from 10 to 3 throughout April and up to May 7, and also on Sun. April 19 from 12 to 3.** For further information, see Barb Todd.

### Calling all Crafters!

Our Annual Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be on

**Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com)

## YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

The Council met on March 15 and approved these [minutes from February 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting](#). After that, it was on to other business. As a member church of the United Church of Christ, St. Peter's is defined by covenant. In that spirit the Council worked on a behavioral covenant to guide how its members will work together as we move closer toward the search and call process under Brenda's pastoral leadership. Council also discussed receiving new members and other upcoming events.

Looking ahead to April, the Council will re-visit its covenant to work together. The Council will also discuss the use of cameras in the sanctuary. Livestreaming our worship services became a norm during Covid, and it remains an important way for members and friends to stay connected in worship. In December, a third camera was added to the floor of the sanctuary to provide a closer view of the congregation which has the potential to capture members in an identifiable way. The Council will discuss implications for privacy and the impact on our church's ministry.

In addition, in time for the growing season, the Council will consider a proposal for landscaping improvements. More information about this initiative is in this Announcer.

April brings showers but also storms. The Council will also re-visit safety planning. In the meantime, it established a meet-up spot should disaster strike. Council considered proximity to the church, street traffic, and other concerns and identified the Skokie Historical Society's log cabin as an easy-to-remember landmark. If disaster strikes a gathering and people need to meet up outside of our church building, please meet up in the parking lot near the log cabin so all may be accounted for.

**Operating Budget at a Glance for February, 2026**

	Feb. Actual	Feb. Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$11,408	\$10,258	\$16,187	\$21,066
Expenses	\$19,471	\$18,495	\$35,747	\$33,892
Gain/(Loss)	(\$8,063)	(\$8,237)	(\$19,560)	(\$12,826)

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS 🎂

- 4/3 – Kristine Mau
- 4/11 – Henry Aguayo
- 4/14 – Marcia Hilliard
- 4/18 – Bonnie Loach
- 4/23 – Darrell Kerbel
- 4/24 – Mark Taylor
- 4/25 – Susan Garcia
- 4/26 – Elisa Meggs

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES 🕒

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

*Wishing God's Blessings on your special day!*

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS? A LANDSCAPING PROPOSAL

Church volunteers have always had a hand in landscaping our church grounds. We have recognized a need to refresh our plantings. Some shrubs have reached the end of their healthy lifespan and become overgrown, blocking the view of our church sign. The Landscape Committee is working on a proposal to refurbish planted areas with pollinator-friendly, native plants. The proposed native plants garden aligns with the Village of Skokie recommendations and intended plantings around Village Hall. The Village of Skokie has prioritized native plants, including updating the criteria for the Beautification Awards program to promote inclusion of native plants in our home gardens and on public village properties. Our native garden will be across the street from new native plantings planned on Village property. Last November the Village of Skokie adopted a Land Acknowledgement statement recognizing that our community was built on the ancestral, unceded homelands of native peoples. To memorialize this Acknowledgement and honor the descendants of the native tribes of the Council of Three Fires, the first step is to establish a native plants garden in an area of green space by Skokie Village Hall. If you have any ideas for the proposal to refurbish the church's planted areas, please speak with Carolyn Kuechler or Maria Altmayer.





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<b>Lector/Nursery for April 2026</b>	
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday	Lector: TBD
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Good Friday	Lector: TBD
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Jen S. Nursery: Laura O.
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Paul F. Nursery: Mike R.
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Beth S. Nursery: Heidi T.
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Mark L. Nursery: Rita M.



## WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT FOR MARCH 11, 2026

The Women's Guild met on Wed. March 11 at 10:30 a.m. to clean the kitchen and have lunch and a meeting. The Soup Lunch was cooked and served by Barb and Sue Bailey and desserts were donated by the Bunco Party. Devotions were given by Marlene Russell and the Business Meeting was conducted by Pres. Barbara Todd. Treasurer Sue Bailey reported that we have over \$1500 in the bank, despite sending out over \$800 in Christmas charities! Ginger Kalensky will send out Easter cards to shut-ins and recommended a call to Nancy and Phil Lindroth. She also reported that the Veterans Collection took in 335 items and was well received. Annie Noorts reported that the Savers Collection amounted to over \$800 and the total Rummage and Bake Sale had amounted to over \$2600 This year's Sale will be on Sept. 25-26 and rummage can be brought in starting on June 22. Carol Iannotti reported that the Bunco

Party on March 7 was most successful, with 105 people in attendance and bringing in \$3,000 in income! All for the church! Thank you, Carol! The upcoming Easter Brunch was discussed - it will follow the Easter Service on April 5 and donation will be \$6.00 and reservations are required. Chef Richard Schneider will be in charge with scrambled eggs, bacon, orange juice, etc. and the Guild is requested to provide coffeecakes, donuts, muffins, etc. A fruit bowl is in question. The Children's Egg Hunt will be held at the same time. Jenn Schneider can use help in filling the eggs on Sat. April 4. The meeting was followed by a wonderful travelogue by Annie Noorts, recounting her trip to India for a family wedding, complete with pictures! Thank you, Annie! No meeting in April - the next Guild meeting will be on May 13.

Barbara Todd, Pres.