

11/1 Daylight Savings Ends
9AM – S.S.
-10AM – Worship w/Holy Communion
11:15AM – Elders meet.

11/7 Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale

11/8 9AM – S.S.
10AM – Worship
Board of Finance Meets on Zoom

11/11 11:30AM – Women's Guild

11/14 6-10PM - CRMS

11/15 9AM – S.S.
10AM – Worship
11:15AM – Church Council Meets

11/17 December Announcer Deadline

11/20 Trans Remembrance Day

10/22 9AM – S.S.
10AM – Worship

11/26 Thanksgiving, Office Closed

11/29 First Sunday of Advent
9AM – S.S.
10AM - Worship

Dear friends,

From the Interim Pastor

You have heard me say this before: It is okay when you are not able to trust in God for a while; I will believe for you. There will come a time, I have told you, when I will need you to trust for me. That's what makes us the church.

These last few months have made me extremely grateful that I am not the church on my own. I could not possibly offer you all the wisdom, perspective and motivation that you deserve as I navigate through my own grief and other challenging situations. I am tired of not being at my best. I know impatience with myself is normal, but that doesn't make it easy. Fortunately, you continue to remind me to take the time and space that I need. I appreciate every kind, compassionate gesture you have shared.

Once again, I am grateful that I am not the church; we are the church together. As you are aware of each other's needs, you continue to reach out to each other – and continue to keep me in the loop. You continue to create safe spaces within the church where you can both challenge and support each other. When a system of the church does not function as well as you might like, you are finding ways to offer each other some feedback. When you find yourselves uncomfortable, you no longer remain quiet; you are beginning to bring your concerns directly to the people involved. When the problems begin overwhelm, instead of pulling out you stick together to resolve differences as a body united in Christ.

I know how vulnerable I feel to tell you about times I am not at my best. I take a step forward, test the ground, then sometimes regret doing so and take a step back – until it feels safe to proceed again. That same kind of vulnerability is normal whenever we tell someone we love that we are uncomfortable or that something needs to change. Fortunately, you are strong enough and loving enough to look for ways to help each other feel safe enough to move forward. I am grateful.

This is a sign of God's presence. We won't feel safe it at all times. We won't be good at providing safety in all situations. And yet, we know we are held in the deep, passionate love of God that can never let us go. We know that, as we work together, we will find healing, we will find wholeness, we will find resurrection, we will be surrounded by love.

Thank you for being the body of Christ – for me, for each other, and for the world who needs God's love through us. and cooperation. I love watching ways you respond to God in your midst. Now I am ready to see God's next miracles that will propel you into a whole new future.

Blessings, Brenda

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW AND BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 7TH 10AM TO 3PM

Grab your friends and make a day of it! Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be this **Saturday, November 4th from 10AM-3PM**. Start your holiday shopping early … or finish it up with unique gifts from over 40 vendors! St. Peter's Holiday Craft Show is back! Over 40 vendors fill our Gym and Memorial Room, and items for sale include jewelry, hand-made crafts and clothing, homemade jams, holiday baskets and much more. In addition, explore an array of baked goods from St. Peter's finest bakers – cookies, brownies, and bread, all individually packaged! We will also have raffle baskets filled with goodies to take a chance on. Don't miss this chance to get your holiday shopping done early and have a fun day with family and friends at our event!

RUMMAGE SALE WRAP UP!

The 2026 rummage sale was a HUGE success. We exceeded all the numbers from last year, and all of our expectations. The feedback we received was so positive!! Many people told us they were amazed by how organized we were, how many great deals they could get, and most of all how kind and happy everyone was. This is a tribute to the amazing community that is St. Peter's UCC.

After the sale we had many groups and individuals come in to take leftover items they are able to use. This included: Children's Network of Evanston, Connections For the Homeless, The Douglas Center, Inspire Through Flowers, Jesse Brown Veterans Clothing Closet, LCC Comfort Dog Myra Project, ST. Paul's-Niles Township Community Closet, Refugee Community Collections, Refugee One.

The last of the household goods we given to the Cancer Federation. They dropped off a truck for us to fill, which we certainly did. Thank you to everyone who donated, sorted, priced, baked, shopped, and worked the sale. This is a HUGE effort, but with so many amazing helpers it is manageable, fun and worth the hard work.

The Rummage Sale numbers as of October 21, 2026

Bake Sale	$872.00
Boutique	$12,070.24
Gym	$10,105.50
Lanford Hall	$4,123.00
Donations	$236.22
Savers	$867.10
Total Income	$28,274.06
Expenses	$1,238.50
Net Income	$27,035.56
# of Shoppers	776

COMMUNITY INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

This years' Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Congregation Kol Emet on **Thursday, November 19th at 7PM**. They are located at 4435 Oakton St. in Skokie. This year's theme is "A Sense of Home." Our speakers from the Respite Center will talk about home and homelessness from the perspective of guests and clients. All are welcome, non-perishable food donations needed!

DONATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY MEALS PROGRAM NEEDED!

Shop at the Jewel at the Village Crossing Shopping Center and donate to the Holiday Meals program! Every year we try to give out dinners for 5-6 to needy families, but we can't do it without donations. Costs have gone up, and donations have gone down, so we need your help! Contact Laura in the office with questions.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

The Church Council met on October 18th, regrouping after a busy summer and early fall. Council members approved these minutes from the September Council meeting. All who attended the meeting discussed an opportunity to learn more about restorative circle practices with the goal of fostering the spirit of reconciliation and community that is necessary for effective church mission. The Advent season will be a time for more conversations about church revitalization and where God might be calling our local church.

Operating Budget at a Glance for September, 2026

	Sept. Actual *	Sept. Budget	YTD Actual**	YTD Budget
Income	$49,248	$25,009	$153,320	$141,525
Expenses	$32,949	$16,051	$161,919	$154,021
Gain/(Loss)	$16,299	$8,958	($8,599)	($12,496)

*Sept Income includes an Income Transfer from Savings of $16,473 for the boiler repair.

**YTD Income includes $31,473 of Income transfers and CD Interest income of $9,266.66

Monthly Income deficit/surplus:

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.
July	($1,953.27)	
August	($1,750.19)	
September	($174.29)	**Without the $16,473 income transfer in Sept.

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 16 years at St. Peter's UCC
11/12 – Marcia Hilliard & Andre Gloeckner
11/14 – Beth and John Sterba

Wishing God's Blessings on your special day!

OUR WOMEN'S GUILD

St. Peter's Women's Guild met on Wed. Oct. 14 at 11:30 and enjoyed a delicious pot-luck salad lunch, preceded by a charming devotion by Sue Bailey. Dessert featured a blueberry cobbler from Rita McMahon and an assortment of pies. The Business Meeting included a brief report from Annie Noorts on the Rummage and Bake Sale which took in approximately $27,000, including almost $900 from the Bake Sale! And 9 charities and non-profits came in and took all the leftovers they wanted - for free! Congrats to all who worked so hard to make this event so successful!

Discussions were also held on the evolving St. Peter's Cemetery management - and on the problem of lower donations from the church envelopes. Coming up is our annual Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale on Sat. Nov. 7, under the leadership of Wendy Svenson - so, ladies, you are asked to bake again! Our meeting concluded with a wonderful trip to Italy, courtesy of Annie Noorts, who showed great slides and gave a very informative narrative. There will be no meeting in November, but we will have our Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Walk (more baking!) on Wed. Dec. 9.

Please join us!

Christmas Wreaths and More!

We are taking orders for fresh pine wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to bring warmth to your home or to honor a loved one's resting place this holiday season.

The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is
$18.00.

We are replacing our cemetery stands this year.

We offer our **standard** stand for **$7.00**, or a durable **deluxe** stand for **$16.00** designed to withstand the winter elements for years to come.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help decorate our church for Christmas, with the remainder supporting our General Operating Fund.

If you wish, we can place your memorial wreath directly on a grave at St. Peter's UCC Cemetery.

All orders **must be placed** by **Thursday Nov 12th**.

Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Nov 28th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Nov 29th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment**.
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal or Zelle.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will get my order at church:		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	**Price**	**Quantity**
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	$18.00	
Standard Cemetery Stands	7.00	
Deluxe Cemetery Stands	16.00	
30" Single Face Balsam	$32.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	$55.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	$22.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	$23.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	$33.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	$54.00	
Fire Starter Basket	$23.00	
Balsam Door Swag	$18.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	$27.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	$42.00	
25' Balsam Garland	$33.00	
Total Amount ($)		

St. Peter's UCC
8013 Laramie Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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Lector/Nursery
for November 2026

Nov 1	Lector: Ann H. Nursery: TBD
Nov 8	Lector: Jen S. Nursery: Rita M.
Nov 15	Lector: Karen C. Nursery: Mike R.
Nov 22	Lector: Rich S. Nursery: Rita M.
Nov 29	Lector: Beth S. Nursery: Denise H.

Holiday Wreath Orders are being taken now! Find order form in this newsletter.

The ANNOUNCER NOVEMBER 2026

Special Sanctuary Banners!

You may have noticed new banners in the sanctuary! For many years, we've hung special banners during Eastertide, created decades ago by the Sunday School and the Women's Guild. They're wonderful, but they're showing their age, so Council approved a proposal to replace them and to add new banners for the whole church year.

A small team, with liturgical guidance from Brenda and Ben on colors and symbols, custom-designed the banners to feature St. Peter's own stencil pattern. Green/white (Pentecost) and red (Reformation) are up now, with blue (Advent) and purple (Lent) still to come.

Team members and a generous gift from the Women's Guild have covered the first two sets and the mounting hardware. Gifts toward the rest are welcome! Each set of two costs about $150. Please write "Sanctuary Banners" in the memo of your donation to St. Peter's.

RESTORATIVE CIRCLE

Several church members have written to Council to share concerns about St. Peter's. Council invited them to join a Restorative Circle, a facilitated conversation designed to heal and strengthen strained relationships. Out of respect and care for everyone present, we will not be disclosing details of the conversation. It is safe to say that we increased our understanding of each other and know we have more work to do.