

AUGUST 2022

The Announcer

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

First, in case you missed it (ICYMI), here is my Call to Offering from a baptism Sunday this spring, Sunday, May 15th. Willow June McDonald was baptized in worship that morning, and in the Call to Offering, I said: "It is altogether fitting that we celebrate Willow's baptism today, during a week when our Sunday School flat roof and surrounding masonry is being repaired and re-done. Most of you who are often here are aware of the leaking the upper hallway and rooms have after a heavy snow melt or rain. It's not just having to move a class or mop up for 10 minutes when you needed the time to finish prepping a class or practicing a sermon; it also damages the parts of the Sunday School roofs where water comes in.

"Willow, a baptism, growth in faith, Sunday School for the young, safety, absolutely necessary roof work, a call to offering.

One call to offering is to think of offering one's own self, or two of you, to talk with Karen Christianson about being one of our Sunday School teachers next Fall. On behalf of the church where Willow and her family will go further north, we pledge our support. Kids baptized elsewhere, like some of our Sunday School students right now, were baptized elsewhere, but those congregations made vows of support which you can say were done on our behalf.

It's our pledge to the baptized and their families that we provide Christian education and nurture – Sunday School and confirmation at the least. Let us not break our promises, which is what we do if we do not have Sunday School teachers for our students."

We are willing to offer team-teaching, which can happen a couple of different ways, with teachers taking turns on which Sunday they teach, or teaching together some of the Sundays. One of our moms is willing to teach some of the time, perhaps like this, but due to a demanding work schedule, simply cannot commit to every Sunday morning. And that is for one class; we need a teacher or team of teachers for another age-level, too. One is for a 3rd-grader, and the other is for 5- to 6-year-olds. I'm not sure if the mom I mentioned has one class in mind over the other. This ministry is so crucial in my opinion that I am writing about it here, after sharing that call to worship from May 15th above, and now, another one on the same subject, which I told the congregation on July 3rd of this year:



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

**MIDYEAR
CONGREGATION
AL MEETING –**
Hybrid meeting
Aug. 21st after
worship.

**VILLAGE INN
FOOD
FUNDRAISER:** Aug
14th from 1 PM to
11 PM

**RUMMAGE
SORTING:** Tue. &
Thurs. 6:30-8:30
PM and Fri. 10 AM
to Noon.

MINISTER'S DESK (CONT.) & UPCOMING EVENTS

"The call to offering of one's time and talent this morning is the call to consider becoming a teacher. A Sunday School teacher of young kids. Karen Christianson has said we need two this coming September. We have had a new family coming last year with two young boys, one of whom is in our Sunday School but who won't have a teacher, nor will kids who are his same age or close enough. Are we going to grow, and keep our Sunday School families who have kids in more than one age group for classes? I'm sure our students learn about God, Jesus and the Bible stories at home, but this is also a key place for such learning to happen, and over time.

*"In our baptism vows we promise as a church to help the parents and to be a welcoming, supportive place for young faith to develop. Having enough Sunday School teachers is fundamental to fulfilling our promise. Now, classes can be team-taught or switch off, so no one's necessarily in it all by themselves, or every single Sunday. In the sermon I'm going to start off with the reap-what-you-sow line from Paul, and say that we'll know where we'll be in five or ten years by what we sow today and tomorrow. Please pray about it; call or email Karen if you've questions." Thank you for reading!
Keep the faith, and share it, Pastor Richard Lanford*

HEALING SERVICE ON AUGUST 14TH - Upon returning from vacation, Pastor Richard's second service back at St. Peter's will include a service of healing / anointing with oil / laying on of hands within the larger service (which will have a theme of healing). This is SUNDAY, AUGUST 14th. This 10 AM service comes out of the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ, which says that a person may come forward for spiritual healing for themselves, or as a representative of someone else in need of healing, for whom you can be a proxy or channel. Everyone is welcome to attend whether a member or not.

VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER - SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 FROM 1 PM TO 11 PM - This really puts the fun in fundraiser. On this day eat in,

carryout or have delivered food from Village Inn on Lincoln Avenue in Skokie, *let your server know you are ordering for St. Peter's UCC fundraiser*, and we'll get 20% of whatever you spend!! You'll get a great meal you won't have to cook, it's a win-win! Mark your calendars!

Sunday, August 21 following worship we will hold our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting!

This is a time to check in on where we are and what we've accomplished during the first half of the year. This year's meeting will be hybrid, like our Annual Meeting was – folks are encouraged to attend in the Memorial Room, and Zoom will also be available on the big TV for those who can't join in person. A Midyear report will be provided one week prior to the meeting for everyone to read, and the meeting itself will not be long. Remember, we added this meeting in 2019 in an effort to stay more in touch with how things are going in the church – spiritually, financially, building-wise, programming, etc. Now, more than ever, we need these vital connections at St. Peter's.

BACK LOT BASH SENDS US TO LOREL PARK -

Again! Thanks to the Skokie Park District, who is grateful for our sharing our large front lawn and Oakton Street right in front of our church building's front door, on **Sunday, AUGUST 28th** we are holding our outdoor worship service followed by a picnic, at Lorel Park. Park District staff person overseeing this wrote Rev. Lanford that he was in the process of confirming the permit for the park. So, there might be a change of location to be announced later! If not, Lorel Park is at the corner of Cleveland and Lorel Avenues; our service uses the Pavilion there. Afterwards a picnic is held, as always. We ask folks to bring either a dish, dessert, or snack to share with everyone.

CHURCH NEWS

St. Peter's Sunday School Teachers Needed

The Board of Christian Education is actively seeking new teachers for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and a combination 5th and 6th grade class. Sunday school classes traditionally begin in September and end in mid-May. Classes meet in the chapel at 9:00 A.M. for a service officiated by Pastor Lanford. Following chapel, students separate into their classrooms for lessons. The classes are approximately 30 minutes in length, ending at 9:45. Keeping our Sunday school alive and well is also implied in the vows we congregation members make when a child is baptized in our worship services; it is a covenant responsibility. Please contact Karen Christianson – Christianson.karen@gmail.com or Pastor Lanford at RevLanford@gmail.com

We are sticking with the CDC guidelines for COVID – We are strongly recommending (but not requiring) masks worn while in the building. We will also keep the rows to the pews separated. Many vaccinated folks are still catching Covid, so please try to support other's comfort levels by continuing to be cautious.

FOOD NEEDED FOR MINI PANTRY – It seems as though the need is greater right now; any food or household goods you have to donate is greatly appreciated! Things like canned beans, vegies, fruits, meat and fish, pasta, rice, bread items, unusual fun items, snacks, juice, cereal, dried fruits, nuts. Household goods include toiletries, paper goods - anything you might have that could be used is welcome! *Garden produce extras are also welcome!*

Budget at a Glance for June

| | <u>June Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Contributions | \$21,850 | \$11,667 | \$85,478 | \$70,002 |
| Operating Expense | \$12,622 | \$14,044 | \$85,524 | \$84,264 |
| Gain/(Loss) | \$9,228 | (\$2,377) | (\$46) | (\$14,262) |

These numbers exclude line items for any income transfer, roof repair and directed gifts.

NIGHT MINISTRY COLLECTION MOVED TO

SEPTEMBER –We will be collecting underwear again, save the date for **September!** We will need: Unopened packages of new adult-size underwear (dark colors preferred; men's boxer briefs, sizes M-XXL; women's briefs, sizes S-XL)!

2022 St. Peter's Rummage and Bake Sale! Our gym is getting full and we're so excited for the sale this year! The Rummage Sale will be **September 23rd & 24th from 9 AM to 3 PM.** We'll need lots of volunteers for the sale days, and the weeks leading up to it. Contact Annie N. or Beth L. if you have questions or would like to help! No experience necessary, all are welcome!

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW UPDATE - Coming soon is St. Peter's Holiday Craft Show this year on **Saturday November 19th from 10-3.** If you, or someone you know would be interested in a table please let either myself, Beth Lanford or the church office know so you can reserve your spot. We suggest you reserve your table soon before this information goes out to the previous vendors we've had in the past. Our email to contact us: st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com. Wendy Svenson and Beth Lanford, Directors

OUR PEOPLE

IN MEMORIAM - On the morning of Independence Day, long-time member Ralph Burmeister was freed from his failing mortal body into eternity, as he died in the waiting presence of his sister Karen, who had done a death-bed vigil overnight. He was 84. He leaves behind sister Karen Preissig and her family, daughter Susan Speicher and her two granddaughters Mia and Morgan, two granddaughters through his late son Ken (Heather and Libby), and nieces, nephews, at least one grandniece who played cello at his memorial service July 13th, and other extended family, friends and fellow church members. Ralph loved being a dad and grandfather, and he spent loads of time serving the church in several capacities over the years. He did not like to be idle. We know he worked with Carol on their wood and painted seasonal crafts. He was at one time or another Church President, Financial Secretary, Deacon, Cemetery board member, member of the Board of Finance, on the Dartball Team, and more. He and Carol knit hundreds of winter hats for our mission project with the Night Ministry. He was, as Suzie said, a man of few words but who still felt deeply. His service was held at St. Peter's, and his cremated remains were interred in the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery following it, alongside Ken's urn, and next to Carol's burial plot.

KITCHEN THANKS - Thank you to everyone who gave enough for us to make the money that is needed for the meal we serve at our turn for cooking for / serving at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest this last month of July! We are not able to go back and serve in person yet, so it is still done (temporarily) via curbside pick-up. Our next month for this mission opportunity (a gift) is for Saturday, October 29th.

HOSPITALIZED - Judy Paige suffered a mild stroke affecting one of her hands while visiting her daughter Valerie and family in mid-July. After a stint in Advocate Condell Medical Center, she stayed with Valerie and will be going home before you read this. She will continue physical therapy from there. Rich Suckow is scheduled to have hip replacement surgery on July 21st at Advocate Condell Medical Center. Wendy Svenson, Jenn Schneider and Dorothy Panzke continue their therapy and regaining of strength at home; Dorothy came back home from Elevate Care Irving Park earlier in July. Please keep these persons in your prayers.

IN CELEBRATION - On Saturday, July 2nd, Rev. Lanford officiated at the baptism of Emma S. Nakhleh in our sanctuary at 2:30 PM, with mothers Jennifer Nakhleh and Daniela Espinoza along with the sponsors and those assembled making the covenantal vows of baptism. On Sunday, July 17th, Pastor Richard officiated at another baptism, in the morning service, that of Harrison ('Harry') B. Kuras II, son of Harrison R. and Angela (Washek) Kuras. In that service, the homily was called "O the Places the Baptized Can Go!"

LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Aug 7th | Lector: Mark Loach Nursery: Heidi Tarzian |
| Aug 14 th | Lector: Judy Paige (switch?) Nursery: Heidi Tarzian |
| Aug 21 st | Lector: Beth Sterba Nursery: Kathy Zipperer |
| Aug 28th | Lector: Katy Aguayo (Lorel Park-no nursery) |
| Sept 4 th | Lector: Dan Guenther Nursery: Laurie Mitchell |

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Prayer Requests

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 – Linda Haig
 8/2 – Sharon Johnson
 8/6 – Richard Hook
 8/7 – Erik Altmayer
 Richard Steegmueller
 8/8 – Arthur Daniel Svenson
 Kathy Zipperer
 Marlene Russell
 8/9 – Kim (Loach) Bruhn
 8/11 – Olivia Altmayer
 8/14 – Elliott Kerbel
 8/15 – Karen Rector
 8/16 – Tom Schaller
 8/19 – Rich Miller
 8/20 – Dan Guenther
 8/22 – Clara Melone
 Elizabeth Hoellerich
 8/23 – Allison Guenther
 Juanito Banoyo
 Ron Lundeen
 Valerie Paige-Mahoney
 8/24 – Harrison Kuras
 Stephanie Lundeen
 8/25 – Henry Muhrer
 8/31 – Helen Mauer

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/3 – Gail & Jack Hoellerich
 8/7 – Gene & Leslie (Todd) Kiesel
 8/17 – Ron & Stephanie Lundeen
 8/20 – Barb & Jim Todd
 Bonnie & Mark Loach
 8/22 – Dan & Heather O'Hara
 8/23 – Errol & Laurie Mitchell
 8/28 – Christine & Peter Svenson

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2 – Bill Schaller
 Ursula Dworak
 9/8 – Isabella Aguayo
 9/9 – Jackie Johnson
 9/10 – Kylie Sykes
 Nathan Paige
 9/11 – Isabella Mau Gemignani
 9/12 – Judy Williford
 9/18 – Errol Mitchell
 9/19 – Dylan Kahn
 9/20 – Megan Caras
 Ryan Puckett
 9/25 – Amanda Steegmueller
 9/27 – Beth Sterba
 9/30 – Maya (Schuhrke) Martinek

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/3 – Anthony & Jennifer Gemignani
 9/11 – Wendy & Roy Svenson
 9/12 – Maribel & Joey Powers Laarveld
 9/18 – Jackie & Dave (Meyer) Rosenthal
 9/29 – Angela & Harrison Kuras
 Kathy & Jeffery Issel

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.