

# The ANNOUNCER

- 3/1 9:00AM – Sunday School  
10AM – **Worship w/Holy Communion**  
11:15AM – Board of Elders  
11:15AM – New Members Class
- 3/3 6:30PM – ONA Committee Meets
- 3/4 6:30PM – Soup-n-Study
- 3/6 World Day of Prayer
- 3/7 7:00PM – BUNCO!
- 3/8 9:00AM – Sunday School  
10AM – **Worship**  
Board of Finance Meets on Zoom
- 3/11 11:30AM – Women's Guild Meets  
6:30PM – Soup-n-Study
- 3/14 6:00PM – CRMS Auction
- 3/15 9:00AM – Sunday School  
10AM – **Worship**  
11:15AM Church Council
- 3/17 April Announcer deadline
- 3/18 6:30PM – Soup-n-Study
- 3/22 9AM – **Sunday School**  
10AM – **Worship**  
11:15AM – New Members Class
- 3/25 6:30PM – Soup-n-Study
- 3/29 9AM – **Sunday School**  
10AM – **Palm Sunday Worship**

Dear friends,

## **From the Interim Pastor**

Sometimes I wish I could go through Lent alone.

Forty days of introspection, 40 days of examining my own motives, 40 days of noticing, sometimes even admitting my own faults and sometimes feeling like I have let God down – that would be hard enough.

But God gives us something much harder. God gives us partners in the journey.

I am grateful for each and every partner I have, especially in Lent. I am grateful for your beauty and wisdom, your power and perspective, your strengths and your joy. You show me God, each and every day. You broaden my vision and help create more than I could imagine alone. The possibilities are glorious. The hope is astonishing. One reason I believe in the church is because God gave me far more work to do than I could ever accomplish alone. You are my partners, and I am grateful.

Jesus had partners on his journey to Jerusalem. Some were disciples he personally called. Some attached themselves to him, listening and learning every chance they had. Some had carried great burdens and found relief in Jesus. Some had been without hope, until his words changed their lives. Some had gigantic questions or gigantic flaws, but they stuck with Jesus anyway. Because, in Jesus, they were becoming something greater.

As Jesus would tell you, partners in faith can be lifegiving. But partnership is also hard. Because the truth is, even with the best of intentions, every one of us betrays our best goals. The truth is, sometimes our partners strain our last nerves. Sometimes our hearts are aching and our partners don't even notice. Sometimes they break our hearts. Sometimes they drain life from us. Sometimes we may wonder what God sees in them, and why we should ever put up with them.

Unfortunately, Lent is not just a season to fix myself. Lent means turning with my entire community of faith. It means recognizing that I depend on my partners, as we are. I need to notice how good we are, how mean we are, where we are healthy enough to grow and what needs to be repaired from the inside out. I know that Holy Week is coming, when everything good around us, perhaps even our partnerships, fall apart.

For, friends, we are not just individual Christians following Jesus. We are a community of faith. Together. We are seeking God's ways, together. With the best of intentions, we move with conviction into a Beloved Community. With the best of intentions, we do it wrong and we harm each other. With the best of intentions, we reconcile, we heal, we grow – and we lose ground again. There will come a time when all seems lost when all we can do is hold each other and wait. That, too, is the journey of Lent.

There will come a day when God heals, God raises, God grants new life. Easter will come. Through God, all things will be possible. For now, though, we pause. We examine. We turn. We transform. We go through Lent as partners in faith.

Blessings in this journey, Brenda

## † HOLY WEEK AT ST. PETER'S †



Holy Week is the most special time of the year at St. Peter's UCC. We spend time journeying with Jesus as he lives his final days, dies and rises again. You are welcome and encouraged to join us for all our services and activities! Beginning **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**, 🌴 **Palm Sunday, join us at 10:00 AM** as we wave Psalms and welcome Jesus into Jerusalem! Then, **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM**, we celebrate Jesus' last Supper 🍷 with his disciples on **Maundy 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! A sign-up sheet for that is included in this Announcer. Please join us, all are welcome!

## NEW MEMBERS/ALL MEMBERS CLASS

Who would think that talking about the United Church of Christ could keep so many of us engaged in conversation? Thank you for all who took a chance on our February 22 class to learn, to grow, to connect. Please join us for our two remaining sessions. **March 1** we will talk about our faith journeys, our expectations of the church, and why we might want to become

members of the church. **March 22** will be all about St. Peter's: how we are organized, how we connect with each other, how to get involved, and how to find things in the building. We will need everyone, seasoned members and new folk alike, to teach, to learn, and to become more engaged in this wonderful community of faith.

## 🎲 BUNCO NIGHT IS MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> 🎲

It's time for the Annual St. Peter's Bunco, Cards, and Raffle Party! Don't know how to play Bunco? Learn in minutes or play a game of cards. You can even bring your own game if you like! On **March 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM** come for the games but STAY for the Raffle! Three tables full of gadgets, gizmos, jewelry, gift certificates, kitchen items, candles, clothing, and so much more, you must see it to believe it! Ticket prices range from \$1 for small stuff to \$10 for our super-affle items. Your \$5 suggested donation at the door includes soft-drinks or coffee, dessert, and a snack bag, as well as one ticket for the door prize raffle. Once you are in, let the fun begin! Join up with folks at a table and start to play your games. If you have a large group and want your own table (up to 8 people) call Laura in the Church Office (847-673-8166) to reserve it.

### EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY AND SMALL TOYS NEEDED!

We need donations of non-melty candy, small toys, stickers, etc. to fill our eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. We stuff hundreds of eggs, so we can use a lot of donations! Donations can be left in Lanford Fellowship Hall or at the office. Thank you!

## YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

February was a busy and important month! It began with Installation Sunday on February 1; the All-Board Meeting followed on February 8; and then came the Church Council meeting on February 15. Thanks go to many for their dedicated service!

February marks the transition to a new Church Council. The Council opened its new year by approving the record of the [January 18, 2026 meeting](#) which you can read through link provided here.

This we know: 2026 will be an important year with pastor Brenda leading us through significant work in her remaining time with us as our intentionally interim pastor. The Council affirmed our 2026 initiatives: more reconciling work within, building community, and approaching search and call as a revitalizing, re-visioning church.

The work is just getting started! There will be many opportunities, not just for Council members, but for you our members and friends. Lend us your discerning ear this Lenten season! Help us to listen for a still-speaking God who is calling us anew.

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

	<u>Jan. Actual</u>	<u>Jan. Budget</u>
Income	\$4,779	\$10,808
Expenses	\$16,275	\$14,522
Gain/(Loss)	(\$11,496)	(\$3,714)

## THE WOMEN’S GUILD MEETS IN MARCH

The Women’s Guild is back for our March meeting. Join us on **March 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:30 AM** for our “clean the kitchen/soup lunch” meeting and business meeting to follow. We also hope to have a special guest for a possible travelog. ALL women of the church are invited and encouraged to join us! Barb Todd, Women’s Guild President

## A JUST HARVEST KITCHEN THANK YOU

On Saturday January 31st, St. Peter’s provided the groceries and volunteers to 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 for a hearty free meal!

Your donations helped purchase the ingredients for the meal. Thank you. Thanks to Carolyn, Drew, and Jake for volunteering to serve the meal. Our next time to partner with AJH Community Kitchen is **Saturday May 30th, 2026.**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 – Alexander Christianson  
Grace & 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
- 3/18 – Maria Altmayer
- 3/19 - Angela Washek  
Kuras;  
Matthew Riley
- 3/23 – Haley Kahn
- 3/24 – Jason Iannotti;  
John Balling
- 3/28 – Sue Bailey

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/1 - Carol and Richard  
Hook
- 3/16- Alice and Bill Schaller

*Wishing you God’s Blessings on your special days and all year!*



### Lector/Nursery for March 2026

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lector: Carolyn V. Nursery: Mike R.
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Kristin G. Nursery: TBD
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Karen C. Nursery: Heidi T.
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lector: Rita M. Nursery: Laurie M.
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Lector: Ann H. Nursery: Rita M.



## The ANNOUNCER

MARCH 2026

### SOFTGOODS THANKS

Thank you to everyone who took time to go through their homes, storages and garages to help us raise funds by donating their old soft goods. We are also grateful to the Village of Skokie who donated bags and bags after their free clothing drive for LGBTQIA+ members of the community. Thank you to Annie Noorts who organizes this program every year, and Kathy Zipperer and Bill Orpet for getting the truck and dropping of the bags at Savers.

Also the scouts and their families from Pack 85, who got that truck loaded with all the bags in record time!

**Our total this year was \$867.10!** We are so grateful to our wonderful, supportive community.

### VETERANS COLLECTION THANKS

I want to give my heartfelt thanks to each and every person that participated in the worthwhile Veteran's Collection. As you know one person does not do it alone here at our church. There were helpers during public drop-offs and many behind the scenes.

The goal is to have all donations itemized and packed the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March.

My contact from Jesse Brown VA will then come and load up their truck and take back to Jesse Brown VA facility.

Thanks so much!! Ginger Kalensky,  
chairperson

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY March 29, 2026**

ADULTS

CHILDREN 3-6

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS \_\_\_\_\_

HELP SAT. 10:00 AM

HELP EASTER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

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## EASTER BRUNCH

**SUNDAY April 5, 2026**

**11:30 AM** (after the Egg Hunt)

Join us for Easter Brunch after worship in the Memorial Room starting at 11:30. Eggs, bacon, and baked goods will top the menu.



The cost at the door is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 3-6, and no charge for children under 3. Please RSVP by filling out this form and placing it in the offering plate (no payment) or by sending it to or dropping it off at the church office.

We are calling for donations of coffee cakes, muffins, and other baked goods. Please fill in the blank with what you will bring. And we are asking for help on Saturday, the 4th, and Easter morning. Please check the appropriate boxes to let us know how you want to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Schneider.

Hope to see you there!

St. Peter's United Church of Christ | 8013 Laramie Street, Skokie

# BUNCO NIGHT

**\$5**

donation  
gets you

- drinks
- dessert
- snack bag



Games  
Snacks



Raffle Prizes

**March 7<sup>th</sup>  
7-10pm**

Prizes, games, and the best raffle in town!  
Don't miss this fun family night out!

To reserve a table for your group:  
Call Office (847-673-8166) by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

For more details, see "Upcoming Events" on [stpeteruccskokie.org](http://stpeteruccskokie.org) homepage

