

NOVEMBER 2022

The Announcer

I'M Thankful FOR...

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

Last month I talked about one of the three "charges" the Rev. Dick Kozelka gave to me when I was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the United Church of Christ. The first one, of which I wrote in October, is "What you talk about is more important than what you say."

The second one is "Trust the cumulatives." Maybe you've heard me say that. It can surely apply to relationships, which are so essential to church / parish life. Things of value in relationships can take time to take root, to develop, to blossom, and / or to fade. Things that will last and last won't grow up overnight. Be patient and keep putting in the work. Each step counts, added onto the next, onto the next, onto the next, and voila! You've really gone somewhere, or accomplished something, made an impact or deeply learned something. Trust the small things which add up, that's what I think this charge to me was about.

Did you learn the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, Romans 8:31-38 or a favorite hymn after just hearing it, reading it, or praying it once? Probably not! You needed to be exposed to it again and again, and usually there's a good bit of time between the first time and the 2nd time, between the 2nd and 3rd time, and so on. In the case of a hymn, perhaps you did not like it much at first, but over time and repeated hearing it or singing it (or even just maturing), you learned it, and maybe it became one of your favorites.

To be a disciple means to be a student. As students of Jesus, like being a student in public school or college, one way we learn is to read or do or say things over and over again. We 'get it down.' We achieve familiarity with it. We understand it. It's not a fast-quiz kind of thing. Yet it is one way that we learn things, over time with repeated exposure. Things accumulate in our minds and hearts and take hold (obviously not always with everything!). They stick around, waiting to be called upon, or at least to grow with more experiences.

Sometimes we work on something over time, and nothing seems to come from it. We work on it, pray about it, massage it, look at "it" from different angles, and still nothing much seems to come from it. But, in faith, trust the cumulatives. All those hours and days of trying might still bring a blessing you could not foresee, but which was a direct result of all those seasons of effort, and nothing else!

Trusting the cumulatives means to expect to learn something, a lot of somethings, from experience. It's not just repetition or memorization; it's beyond that in the life of the soul. I accumulated pastoral knowledge and experience from seminary and its Field Education, from serving St. Nicolai U.C.C. in Chicago, from serving St. Peter's U.C.C. in Skokie, as well as being a religious volunteer at Cook County Jail. It is learning from failure, and from watching others. Things within your head and heart accumulate, they collect, and help you out. Trust them to pay off for you here and there, in life. You will surprise yourself, and maybe those around you who don't know where you've been and what you've learned. God is a God of surprises.

And when our cumulative shine forth to bless others or ourselves, let us give thanks!

Keep the faith,
Pastor Richard Lanford



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

WREATH ORDER
DUE – Nov. 4th

VILLAGE INN
FOOD
FUNDRAISER:
November 13th
11AM to 11PM

HOLIDAY CRAFT
SHOW AND BAKE
SALE – November
19th from 10 AM to
3 PM

ADVENT VESPERS
SERVICE –
November 27th at
6:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETS – The Women's Guild will meet on **Wed. Nov. 9th at 11:30 a.m.** featuring the Cookie Walk! Make your best batch of cookies, bring a tin to take others home and join us for a deliciously fun meeting!

VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER WILL BE NOVEMBER 13TH FROM 11 AM TO 11 PM. End your weekend off right and help support St. Peter's UCC! 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!

Our Holiday Craft Show & Bake Sale returns on Saturday November 19 from 10-3pm. This year will be bigger than last with 40+ vendors, who will set up with their crafty wares in our gym AND Memorial Room. Get your Christmas shopping started early or finish it all in one day! Supernova Crafts, Tastefully Simple, Twisted Metal Designs by Carla, Color Street Nails, and many more great vendors with beautiful handmade items along with fun items for our furry friends. Come for the crafts and munch from our popcorn and our Bake Sale items.

HOLIDAY MEAL COLLECTING AT THE JEWEL IN THE VILLAGE CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER IS ON! If you are able, PLEASE go there and donate to their holiday meal collection ASAP. This is the program where we receive dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas to distribute to needy folks in our community, including school district 69. ***The urgency on donating now is to ensure we get enough dinners for Thanksgiving*** (and this year with inflation may be rough) as they stop collecting for Thanksgiving and move onto Christmas about 2 weeks into November (they must order them ahead). Your donation will provide a full Thanksgiving dinner including the turkey and all the trimmings to a needy family. We're so happy to be continuing this wonderful program that started with Carol Iannotti. Thanks so much for your help!

TRANS REMEMBRANCE DAY COMING UP - Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is an annual observance that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. This year it is **on Sunday, November 20th.** As we have the past three years, we will observe it in worship that Sunday by naming those who were from Chicagoland in the pastoral prayer.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING TUESDAY SERVICE – Though unsure of where, the Niles Township Clergy Forum will host its annual Thanksgiving Tuesday Community Interfaith service. It COULD BE Saint Peter's UCC. It could be somewhere else, too, more apt to host a reception afterwards (we are unable too due to the amount of events we already have going). Keep an eye out for updates on the Weekly Updates email from our Church Office and in our Sunday bulletins. The date is **November 22nd at 7:30 PM.**

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE - Vespers, also called evening prayer, takes place as dusk begins to fall. Evening prayer gives thanks for the day and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Psalm 141:1. Join us **November 27th at 6 PM** for a special evening prayer service with an advent focus. We'll have a candlelight service during what is known as the vesper hour of prayer. Musically driven, with an organ meditation, vocal solos and more. With scripture readings and time for silent reflection as we prepare to wait for the Lord Jesus to be born.

ADVENT HOLIDAY MUSIC NIGHT! For the first time in years, we will have a Concert in our Sanctuary featuring "The Harmonaires", a women's singing group from the northern suburbs. They will favor us with a program of Christmas holiday music at 4PM and Santa Claus just may appear! Following the Concert will be a Reception at 5PM. A donation of \$10 is suggested, \$5 for kids under 12 (under 3 free), and reservations are requested and may be made to the Church office or to Barbara Todd at 847-965-0345. This event is in place of our

UPCOMING (cont.) & CHURCH NEWS

traditional Advent Dinner, which is not possible this year, but our Reception will feature hors' d'oeuvres, sweets, and liquid refreshment. Celebrate the opening of the Christmas season at St. Peter's by joining us on **December 4 at 4:00 PM** for beautiful music and amazing goodies!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS at 2 AM **November 6th!**

RUMMAGE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone for all the work that you did for the rummage sale: donating, sorting and pricing items before the sale, working the sale and then packing and cleaning up after the sale. As of October 17th our total income is \$16,320.02, expenses are \$591.99, so our total profit from the sale is \$15,640.03. This set a record for the sale!!! It was hard work, but the reward is worth it! The clean up this year was more challenging than usual since we couldn't get any groups to come pick up everything that was leftover. Thanks to everyone who took items to Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc., along with items brought to Play It Again Sports and Half Price Books for additional income. Watch for news coming soon about our soft goods drive.

PET BLESSING THANKS - Our 6th annual St. Peter's Pet Blessing was well received by furries and folks alike. Pastor gave a heartfelt service that included songs, before blessing each furry individually. CARE brought both a loveable cat and dog that are ready for their forever homes. A huge thank you to all our donors and volunteers who make this possible. Until next year Bow Wow and Meow!

WELCOME CUB SCOUT PACK 85 – We're so excited to welcome some of Skokie's finest Cub Scouts to our facilities. They will meet here monthly, as well as host their events throughout the year. We are so glad to have them!!

	Sept Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Operating Contributions	\$23,375	\$11,667	\$131,540	\$105,000
Operating Expense	\$11,991	\$14,044	\$127,163	\$126,397
Gain/(Loss)	\$11,384	(\$2,377)	\$4,377	(\$21,397)

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

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – When we were in COVID times, we started purchasing online copies of the Advent devotional and offering folks the option, and no longer doing mass mailings of the devotionals. After that, every year we ask folks on our email list as to whether or not they'd like an emailed copy or paper copy. This year it seems overwhelmingly like paper copies are favored, and Pastor found one not available in digital, so we are dropping the emailed copies. Those who wished an electronic copy we will happily mail them one if they are unable to pick up a copy. This may change in upcoming years so please send us feedback if you are unhappy with this.

PASTORAL VACATION - Pastor Richard will take 11 days of vacation in November, from Sunday, November 6th through Wednesday, November 16th. His last vacation of 3 days is the MTW after Sunday, December 25th, on which Christmas Day there will be a worship service after Saturday night's Christmas Eve service.

COLLECTING FOR VETERANS – While November is Veterans Day, the Council decided February will be a collection month for Veterans transitioning from homelessness. We will collect for the whole month, with a focus on Valentine's Day. More details upcoming!

NIGHT MINISTRY HATS, COOKIES, ETC. – We will hold our annual drive for cookies, winter hats, hot cocoa mix, gloves and scarves for the Night Ministry. However, following a previous decision by the Micah 6:8 Committee, in light of the other strong tugs during Advent, we are moving this to an undecided date in January, 2023. We will give the definite 411 in the December issue of the Announcer.

OUR PEOPLE

WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATE: The Women's Guild met on Wed. Oct. 12 and were happy to be back together to enjoy refreshments, fellowship, and important discussions. The Board presented several desserts, accompanied by coffee and punch. President Barbara Todd gave Devotions, featuring a humorous story about the Morton Arboretum and appreciating God's hand in our beautiful Fall season. ending with a few meaningful prayers. Discussions were as follows: Annie Noorts gave an update on the Rummage Sale which grossed over \$16,000 and counting, and the leftovers going to various charities. Thanks to all who participated in this very successful endeavor. We will be baking again for the Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale on Sat. Nov. 19 from 10 to 3 P.M. Cookies, breads, muffins, Brownies, and small cakes will be welcome. A plea was made for volunteers for the upcoming Pet Blessing on Sun. Oct. 23 at 3 P.M. There are Raffle tickets to be sold, refreshments to be handed out, and Greeters to welcome the furry guests and their owners! A new event is coming up on Sun. Dec. 4 - a Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary at 4 p.m., featuring "The Harmonaires", a women's singing group from the northern suburbs. They come to us through Dawn Anderson, a former member of St. Peter's. The program will consist of Christmas holiday music, followed by a Reception in the gym at 5:00. This event is in place of our usual Advent Dinner and our refreshments will be an array of hors' d'oeuvres, sweets, and coffee, punch, etc. So, ladies, we have to join our old Dinner Committee for this start to our Advent Season. More information will follow, but reservations will be requested and there is a suggested donation of \$10.00. Our next meeting will be on Wed. Nov. 9, featuring our Cookie Walk and we all were be recovering from the day before, Nov. 8 - the ELECTION! Please join us and bring a batch of cookies! Barbara Todd, President

KITCHEN THANKS! Special thanks to those who donated and to special donation that covered the entire cost of the meal and service to A Just Harvest Kitchen on Oct.

29th. We also want to let you know members of our Micah 6:8 committee met to vote on whether we'd return to serve when AJH decides to do that, as they'd requested our thoughts. We did vote yes to returning, and will find out more when they make their decisions.

WE NEED YOU TO SERVE AS AN OFFICER OR BOARD MEMBER!! There are several spots being vacated including President and secretary as their terms have expired. Your commitment will be as minimal as we can make it, or as involved as you can be, so take a chance and sign up for one of our open spots! Contact Maria Altmayer or or the office for more information!

HOSPITALIZATION - Church President Jennifer Schneider will undergo her 2nd knee surgery this year on Tuesday, November 15th. Beth Lanford underwent hernia surgery on October 17th at Glenbrook Hospital and is recuperating.

WEDDING BELLS - Our best wishes of God's grace to our beloved Music Director Ben Westphal and his new husband, Charlie Rasmusin, who were married by one of Ben's old-home-church ministers on Saturday, October 22nd! May they enjoy a long and happy married life together. Thanks to Janet Palmer who filled in for him!

VILLAGE INN UPDATE - Our income from our monthly Village Inn fundraisers has continued to decrease over time. This has me wondering if it is time to make a change or cancel the restaurant fundraisers. For August and September we only brought in \$74.75. I would be very happy to have anyone who is willing to set up a fundraiser at another restaurant. It could be a one-time thing just to add some variety for us, or monthly. With the increase in energy costs we definitely need to have more of this type of fundraiser to help cover these expenses. Please let me know what you think we should do going forward, try new restaurants (I will need someone to step up to do this), cancel monthly restaurant events or continue with Village Inn monthly. Please email me (annie@mollyu.com) or Laura with your thoughts.

BAPTISM! - During worship on Sunday, October 30th, the Body of Christ at St. Peter's U.C.C., Melissa, Andy and brother Clayton Paluck will have celebrated the baptism of Russell Nicholas Paluck into the Christian faith and Church. He was born March 4th this year, and is the baby brother to Clayton who was baptized at St. Peter's a few years ago!

LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 6th Lector: Olivia Altmayer
Nursery: Laurie Mitchell

Nov. 13th Lector: David Iannotti
Nursery: Kathy Zipperer

Nov. 20th Lector: Karen Christianson
Nursery: Mike Ryan

Nov. 27th Lector: Mark Loach
Nursery: Annie Noorts

Dec. 4th Lector: Rich Schneider
Nursery: Heidi Tarzian.

WREATH ORDERS ARE DUE

NOVEMBER 4TH! Wreath order forms are in the October Announcer and your bulletins. Get those into the office ASAP!

HOLIDAY POINSETTA ORDERS are being taken now! You'll find an order form in this newsletter as well as your Sunday Bulletins. **Orders are being taken until Sunday December 4th.** Orders can be turned into your offering plate, the office or email/mail us with your order. Plants will be used to beautify our sanctuary and can be taken home after the Christmas worship services.

CHURCH RECEIVES INTERNET

UPGRADE – Those watching online may have noticed we've been having issues with our livestream for a while. As well as folks in the building, including the staff, have had trouble with connecting. We hope this is the beginning of the end of our internet issues!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/4 – *Brian Russell*

11/7 – *Anna Riley*

11/9 – *Bridgette Sterba*
Michael Taheny
Paul Brzozowski

11/10 – *Justin Balling*
Peter Svenson

11/13 – *Alexandra Paige*

11/15 – *Bruce Mau*

11/16 – *Chad McCoy*

11/18 – *Christine Svenson*
Heidi Tarzian
Isabelle Banoyo

11/20 – *Dorothy Stielow*
Pat Mauer Erdman

11/21 – *Bill Cain*

11/25 – *Linda Mau*

11/26 – *Felix Roy Svenson*

11/27 – *Emily Brzozowski*

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/2 – *Maria and Randy Altmayer*

11/6 – *Jenn and Rich Schneider*

11/12 – *Marcia Hilliard & Andre Gloeckner*

11/14 – *Beth and John Sterba*

11/24 – *Roberta & Henry Muhrer*

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.

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 4th, 2022.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. You can pick up your plant(s) after the service or you can leave them to beautify our Sunday Christmas service.



Name:	Phone #:	
In Honor Of:	In Memory Of:	

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6-½) Single	\$18.00	
	Marble (6-½) Single	\$18.00	
Grand Total			

Holiday

Craft Show & Bake Sale

NOVEMBER 19TH 10-3 PM



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREEN ISLAND
CONGREGATION
IN SKOKIE, IL

8013 Laramie Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
(847) 673-8166



*Over 40 vendors
are selling items*

Vendors include:
-Color Street Nails,
-Supernova Crafts,
-Tastefully Simple,
-Twisted Metal
Designs by Carla-
and many, many
vendors selling
handmade items for
those on your lists,
your furry friends
and yourself!