



The ANNOUNCER

Quick Upcoming

A publication of St. Peter's UCC in Skokie

- 1/7 Church Council special meeting
- 1/7 Board of Elders meets
- 1/7 Micah 6:8 meets Zoom
- 1/8 Annual Reports Due!
- 1/9 Cub Scouts meets
- 1/11 Nominating Committee meets via Zoom
- 1/13 CRMS meets 6-10PM
- 1/14 Board for Christian Education meets
- 1/15 Announcer Deadline
- 1/17 Strategic Plan/Profile Zoom, 7 PM
- 1/18 ONA Support 6:30 PM
- 1/21 Church Council meets
- 1/28 Annual Congregational Meeting after worship
- 1/28 Cemetery Association Meeting
- 2/3 Clothing Drive Ends

SAVERS SOFTGOODS FUNDRIVE

Now that Christmas is over and you have some great new stuff, why not go through that old stuff and donate to our clothing drive? We'll take things like clothing, shoes, belts, hats, purses, linens, stuffed animals and more to be *collected during the month of January through Feb. 3rd*. There will be a designated spot on and/or near the stage for collection.

Bring during office hours or on Sundays. As well, there will be a date to be announced soon for the public to drop off on a specific weekend date and time so watch for that! All must have been donated by the end of office hours Friday, February 9th. The truck is coming the next morning. Contact Annie Noorts or the office with questions.

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL MEETING 2024

This is an official call to the Annual Congregational Meeting of Saint Peter's United Church of Christ, Skokie, Illinois. This meeting will be held after worship on *Sunday, January 28th*. We will receive reports from the Pastor, Boards and some Officers; receive and take action on a proposed 2024 Budget, and elect members to the Boards and Offices of the Church. This call to meeting is

not a list of the agenda, but a reminder of the basic business that is always before us at these gatherings. We need a quorum of 20% of our active, voting membership. An active member is one who, as a member of the church already, has attended worship, contributed financially, and / or taken Communion at least



Don't forget! Mini-food pantry items needed, especially during these cold months. Donations collected on the shelves near the office entrance.

Coming in 2024: Cemetery Association Meeting

After the January 28th Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Peter's U.C.C. adjourns, a meeting of St. Peter's Cemetery Association will convene. Our bylaws outline the privileges of church membership: "All members of this Congregation are entitled to a full share in the fellowship and the spiritual blessings of the Church, and to the services of its Pastor . . . as well as to the Christian sympathy and support of all members." The bylaws go on to say, "Members shall also be members of the Cemetery Association of St. Peter's United Church of Christ of Skokie, Illinois." Please come for Annual Congregational Meeting and plan to stay for the Cemetery Association Meeting immediately following. This meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about the Cemetery Association and the need for a transition in its leadership.

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

I know some think of this month of January as a dreary, let's-get-it-behind-us, ugh, kind of month with little in the way of celebrations or holidays, other than that marking the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I look at my church calendar, though, and I see within this congregation a veritable beehive of activity and life going on!

For myself, I have clergy meetings right out of the box in January's first week, and a meeting of the Skokie Officers Ethics Commission to boot. The Micah 6:8 Committee is going meet, as are the Board of Elders, on January 7th. The Cub Scout Pack #85 will inhabit our building for an evening. So will the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society.

There will also be meetings, in person or over Zoom, of our Board of Christian Education, the Nominating Committee, the Strategic Planning & Profile Committee, the ad hoc Open and Affirming Committee, the Church Council, and the Annual Meeting! Who says January is dull, cold, and has nothing going for it? We have a lot of good going on this month. And that is not counting the Soft Goods FUNdraiser that takes place this month!

January, as the secular calendar's lead-off month, in and of itself implies new things will be happening. Changes will be made at some level, even if it is only through the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting (Board turnover). I have a hunch that each January meeting of a subset of Saint Peter's will deal with new stuff to plan, think about, react to, and enjoy. This implies growth, and growth is a sign of health as well as life.

Not all change is good, nor is activity necessarily to be confused with accomplishment. Yet there are several opportunities to serve the Lord through the gatherings of the church, as well as in our private and family lives. Let me just urge you, and me, to consider how a lot of what we do already is serving God. It doesn't have to be in the folds of St. Peter's, for we serve God in a myriad of ways outside the walls and outside of these relationships. My hope here is that we can take that lens to much of what we do, at St. Peter's and beyond, that so often what we do are ways to serve God. When we think of things that way, it may help make much of what we do a sweeter task, and no burden. May the Lord bless your January with holy work wherever you are!

*Keep and share the miraculous faith,
Rev. Richard Lanford*

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE THANKS

A thank you to everyone, including Ben Westphal, who helped make possible and good the preacher-free Sunday worship on Sunday, December 31st. On Sunday, July 9th of this year we learned what our congregation can do and how it can step up when Pastor Richard came down suddenly with

COVID and was not to lead worship. Folks came through with shining colors. Then it was December 31st, an entire service of music, Scripture, other readings and songs and prayers that filled the hour of worship, also showing the ability of Saint Peter's U.C.C. laity to lift up God together.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Peter's United Church of Christ will be held after worship on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th, 2024**. We are asking that all reports be handed in to the church office no later than **JANUARY 8th**, typed or via email if possible. We know that financial reports have to come in later. So if you head up a Board, Committee, Guild, ministry, or are the Pastor,

please prepare a report to hand in on or before the 8th! Like the last several years, this way we will have (at least) the non-financial reports available for our members who attend by Sunday, January 21st. The "financials" must be approved by the Church Council on the 21st, so it's unlikely those plus the proposed budget will be available after worship that day.

MOANA JR. LIVE WITH RICKY RILEY!!

Moana Jr LIVE - Our very own Ricky Riley will be narrating the Special Gifts Theatre's production of Moana Jr., a fun show for all ages!! Special Gifts Theater is a not for profit that helps kids like Ricky with intellectual disabilities. Click this link for tickets

<https://specialgiftstheatre.org/tickets-for-upcoming-events/> and come give him our support! The LIVE performances are **Saturday, Feb. 3rd & Sunday, Feb 4th at 2PM**, located at Ebinger School, 7350 W. Pratt Ave. Chicago. Talk to Anna Riley annadriley@gmail.com for more info.

OFFICE STAFF THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who helped, came in to decorate, folded bulletins, took care of the poinsettias and wreaths, prepared our wonderful Holiday Concert & Jingle Mingle, donated to the food pantry or to the Baby Shower for Jesus and so much more. We are so grateful for you! Pastor Richard and Beth want to

thank everyone who graced them with Christmas cards during Advent and Christmas; they are always appreciated! Laura also wants to thank everyone for the cards and thoughts sent, it means so much to be thought of by all of you. Happiest 2024 to you all!

HOSPITALIZED

Ron Schuhrke remains in hospice care at Libertyville Manor, Rm. 484, 610 Peterson Road, Libertyville, IL, 60048. Jen Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman is also in hospice in Ohio. Jim Todd was hospitalized for a handful of days in early December at Evanston Hospital and has been recovering at home. Carolyn Van Til was held

overnight after having a late afternoon surgery in late November. She has been back in Sunday School and worship soon thereafter! Ken Itter was hospitalized briefly after a fall gave a nasty gash to one of his shins, but he was released and is recovering at home, too. Please remember these folks in your prayers of intercession, and their families, too.

NIGHT MINISTRY COLLECTION WRAP-UP

This information was printed in a December worship bulletin, but ICYMI (In Case You Missed It), you donated and several of us bagged and tagged 1,509 cookies (126 dozen, both home-baked and store-bought); 45 scarves; 44 assorted hats; 12 cans of cocoa mix, 14 pairs of mittens and gloves; and 20 pairs of socks. Under Carol Iannotti's supervision and with help from our

Sunday School, we also were able to donate to the Night Ministry 22 large water bottles which each contained 1 toothbrush, 1 toothpaste, 1 small towel, and 1 piece of candy. The total value was assessed at \$1,243. Thanks also to Maria Altmayer who delivered all these boxes to the Night Ministry HQ!

AJH KITCHEN THANKS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the cost of the meal, who bought and delivered the groceries needed for the meal, and who helped to serve it! It is a lot of money and a chunk of time, so we and the Kitchen are very grateful for all of you who make it happen! Our day to

serve was Saturday, December 30th from 11:30 AM (not serving yet but there's work to do!) until departing at 2:30 PM. Again, from the Micah 6:8 Committee, thank you! Our next date to serve is Saturday, March 30th, 2024, and yes, that is the day before Easter Sunday.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 – Jim Todd
John Karol
- 1/6 – Alec Ryan
- 1/7 – Jennifer Mau Gemignani
- 1/9 – Usha Rajbhandari
- 1/10 – Jenn Schneider
- 1/15 – Beth Brzozowski
- 1/16 – David Iannotti
- 1/18 – Andre Gloeckner
Karen Christianson
Harry Kuras
- 1/21 – Alane (Schaller)
Swiderski
- 1/24 – Ricky Riley
Richard W.A. Schaller
- 1/25 – Layla Costello
- 1/27 – Ethan Michael Caras

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/17 – Pat and Roy Erdman
- 1/21 – Annie and Gerry Noorts

Budget at a Glance, November 2023

	November Actual	Monthly Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	11,885	14,341	161,770	157,751
Expenses	15,077	15,493	158,343	170,423
Gain/(Loss)	(3,191)	(1,152)	3,427	(12,672)

These numbers exclude line items for directed contribution, directed gifts and the Clara Malone estate gift.

OUR WOMEN'S GUILD

On Wed. Dec. 13th, 14 Women's Guild members and Pastor Lanford and Laura enjoyed a special Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Walk. Everybody brought homemade cookies and it was total calorie time! The luncheon included Jewel chicken, potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, Jello salads - and lots of cookies! The Business Meeting included a statement

from Treasurer Sue Bailey on our Benevolences, which will be mailed out in January and include: Back Bay Mission - Elmhurst College - LLC Comfort Dog Ministry - Night Ministry - Salvation Army - Turning Point - Uhlich Children's Network. We are blessed to be able to resume this important mission. It was reported that the Holiday Craft Fair made a profit of which included \$700 from the Bake Sale. We were reminded

to bring soft goods for the Savers Collection in January. Also, the profit from the Rummage Sale stood upwards of \$18,000 - WOW! There will be no meetings in Jan. and Feb. and the next meeting in March will feature our "Kitchen Cleaning!" The afternoon concluded with "Games By Carol" - Carol Iannotti directing her clever Christmas games - and a good time was had by all!

Lector/Nursery for January 2024

Jan 7th Lector: Marcia H.
Nursery: Rita M.

Jan 14th Lector: Mark Loach
Nursery: Mike R.

Jan 21st Lector: Olivia A.
Nursery: Annie N.

Jan 28th Lector: Peter S.
Nursery: Kathy Z.



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December around St. Peter's UCC Skokie

