

NOVEMBER 2020

The Announcer

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

November brings us two major events: Election Day and Thanksgiving Day. They both merit some attention, however brief, in my newsletter rumination.

When giving thanks over a meal I sometimes think of all the unknown persons and processes behind what it takes to bring food or drink to my table. Trucks and truckers, canners and makers of cardboard boxes, food safety inspectors, stockers and cashiers, not to mention all the agricultural workers, ranchers and others who have a major hand in what I or we eat. Thanks be to God for them, and through their work what has come to me!

When giving thanks to God on November 26th (this year) I hold onto gratitude for the harvests, but in reflection I remember to thank God for relationships past and present, for simple things, for Jesus Christ, and what lots of us will miss this Virus year, the gift of gathering. It is a time to give thanks for those moved to share. As stewards we believe loving our neighbor and our enemy means looking out for, and taking care, of each other.

Something else to be thankful for is the right to vote. Voting is one civic way we show we do care for one another, for this nation, and our world. Elections matter; choices have consequences not only for us but also for those we love, for the impoverished, those lacking access to decent housing, education, health care, and employment opportunities. If we claim the requirement God has for us in Micah 6:8 (to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God), well, justice and kindness are on the ballot this month. If we believe loving our neighbor means wanting to see improvement in race relations, in the care of the planet, in discouraging domestic terrorism, voting matters. If we take our Christian values wherever we go, including the voting booth, that is not only something to be thankful for, it impacts how you or I vote -- and that we vote.

Let us all be thankful if we are eligible to vote, and exercise that right. Let us all be thankful for the blessings God pours down upon us even during hard times. One way we show our gratitude is not only by prayer and sharing, but also by working with others to address the causes of hunger and poverty. Thank you God!

Upcoming Events

Virtual Worship Services –
Sundays 10 AM on Youtube

Wreath orders Due – Nov. 6th

NSAGO Organ Crawl- Nov. 7th
10:30 AM

Veterans Day – Nov. 11th

Ten Thousand Villages
Fundraiser – Nov. 19th

Wreath Pick up – Nov. 24th
from 1-4 PM

Regathering Date, 1st Sunday
in Advent (subject to change
due to COVID phases &
restrictions)- Nov. 29th



Drive-Thru Pet Blessing 2020

Pet Blessings were abundant despite the lightly rainy weather! Much thanks to Pastor Lanford, Andre & Marcia Gloeckner, the ladies from C.A.R.E., other volunteers and all the folks who came with their beloved 4-leggeds for another successful Pet Blessing, this year COVID style. Folks drove up to our "blessing spot" with their cute loves and Pastor blessed each and every one of them and their owners. Each car also received a treat bag filled with goodies for them and their pet. We had 22 animals blessed total and we raised 120.00, half of which was given to C.A.R.E., our local shelter and community partner. While we were unable to do a raffle this year, we hope to resume a more normal Pet Blessing next year. Thanks so much again for your support!





Upcoming & Church News

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- **Daylight savings time ends at 2 am Sunday, November 1st!** We'll all enjoy that extra hour of sleep back - woo hoo! Be sure to change any clocks you have that aren't updated automatically online.
- **NSAGO Organ Crawl Visits St Peter's - Virtually.** Ben was approached by the North Shore American Guild of Organists about participating in their annual "Organ Crawl" event, which will be virtual this year. Ben will work with the NSAGO to provide a brief demonstration of our beautiful organ, which will be included in a *video piece airing on November 7, at 10:30 am*. When we get the link to the video, we will share that with everyone!
- **November 11th is our Veterans Day.** We will remember and honor our brave men and women of the armed services, some here with us and some with us in spirit. A heartfelt Veterans Day salute of thanks to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country while protecting the freedoms of our great nation.
- **Thursday, November 12th is our next Village Inn in Skokie Fundraiser.** Mark your calendars as a "don't have to cook day" and bring home or have delivered their delicious food! As of this writing indoor dining in the suburbs has been shut down again so you'll have to call them about any other dining options. **Don't forget to mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser to your server.** We get 20% of the bill! You help us, and a valuable local small business too. Thanks so much. **Village Inn total for October** – Thank you to everyone who ordered food on Thursday the 22nd, we raised \$91.60. Our September total was \$61.13. Every bit counts, we appreciate it!
- **November 19-21st is our Ten Thousand Village Fundraiser.** More details on page 5 of this Announcer.
- **Pickup for Wreath Orders is November 21st from 1-4 PM.**
- **The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service** will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30 PM**. A link will be posted in our weekly emails and Facebook when we have it.

CHURCH NEWS

- **Phones are now being answered during office hours-** We have been able to have the calls forwarded to Laura's phone and she will be answering the phones from 9AM – 2PM weekdays.
- **New Office Copier** – We are blessed to report we have secured a brand new copier for the office! Special thanks to David Iannotti who arranged a 5-year lease deal that we'll pay monthly (and have the payments deferred until April 2021) and be able to purchase for \$1 after that. It will include service & maintenance and monthly toner – it also prints black and white and color! The cost will be less than what our monthly toner cost alone was for the old machine. We're so excited!
- **Special Christmas In Honor/In Memory** – We mentioned we won't be taking Poinsettia orders this year and that we will be decorating the sanctuary with flowers donated by the Women's Guild. We'd like you to dedicate these flowers in honor and/or in memory of those you honor and remember. We invite everyone to fill out the In Honor/In Memory form in this newsletter and send it to the office mail, email or phone call. We'll include them in our normal Christmas insert and the January Announcer.
- **Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches Annual Dues.** We've been a member for 3 years now, and were included in the June Pride video. Our annual dues are \$250 suggested donation, which has been covered by directed gifts the last two years. If you are interested in donating directly to cover this membership, please do so, and let the Financial Secretary know what the gift is for.

In-Gathering Worship Update

Following much discussion during the October Church Council Zoom Meeting, Council has elected to craft a plan to resume in-person worship. Our first step towards making this happen will be a phone survey, conducted by members of the Board of Elders and Women's Guild, asking all members a few simple questions about regathering for in person worship. **Please – if someone from church calls you, answer the phone and talk to them!** The next step is for Council to review and update the safety protocols we created last May, allowing for new information about COVID and including what we need to do to keep our members safe – cleaning, spacing, access, staffing, etc. We will lean heavily on what we learned while hosting the Rummage Sale, and make sure the plan is well-communicated. Our aim is to have a VERY SPECIFIC plan and guidelines in place before we invite people back into our sanctuary for worship. Council will then determine when and how we will hold services – we will continue to post worship on our YouTube channel, AS WELL AS worship in person. Time, date, and the technology platform is still to be determined. As soon as Council feels we are ready, we will let everyone know. Our “shoot for” date is November 29th the first Sunday in Advent. **PLEASE NOTE:** *If the state of Illinois returns to Phase 3, or if a return to Shelter in Place happens, we will address that accordingly.*



Budget Blurb through September - 2020

(Snapshot of the Church's Finances)

Total Income	\$109,744.23
Expenses	\$121,055.18
Gains or Losses	(\$11,310.95)



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES®

Nov. 19th-21st - Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Fundraiser

Yes, we will be having a fundraiser with Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston this year! It will just be a little different than our normal one.

Have you got your holiday shopping list ready? On November 19th at 6PM, we'll kick off the fundraiser with a 1 hour live Zoom presentation at Ten Thousand Villages Evanston after they are closed. Someone from the church as well as from the store will be promoting items and products we think people from our group would like, or like to give to people on their lists. This presentation will include showing off about 25 items in the store, and explaining how to shop. Please plan to tune in so you can see exactly how this will work with COVID guidelines in place.

How to shop: Shopping can be online, in person or curbside pickup. We have 48 hours from the presentation to shop, until 6 PM on the 21st. They will allow for special exceptions outside of that time period, if someone wants to shop in person but cannot get there during the shop days. **YOU MUST MENTION YOU ARE SHOPPING FOR ST. PETER'S UCC'S FUNDRAISER WHEN ORDERING FOR US TO GET CREDIT.** Online and by phone can be shipped or picked up in store/curbside. There will be a direct link to shop with, and as soon as we have that link we'll post it in our weekly Quarantine update as well as on Facebook. So you will have plenty of safe options to shop.

If you aren't familiar with Ten Thousand Villages, this store is a Fair Trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor, personal accessories and gift items from across the globe. They feature products from more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries and are part of a network of over 70 stores in the United States selling Ten Thousand Villages products. Like most retailers they've been hit hard by recent circumstances. As well as helping them you'll also be helping us - St. Peter's UCC will get 15% of any purchases made on these days provided you mention our fundraiser to your seller or online when purchasing.

Contact Annie N. at 847-772-2717; email: annie@mollyu.com or Kathy Z. (847) 528-9829 email: kjzipperer@sbcglobal.net for more information. Thanks so much for your help!



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & PRAYER REQUESTS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/2 – Donna Gates Rees
- 11/4 – Brian Russell
- 11/8 – Arya Kira Pietroske
- 11/9– Paul Brzozowski, Bridgette Sterba & Michael Taheny
- 11/10 – Justin Balling, Peter Svenson
- 11/13 – Alexandra Paige
- 11/15 - Bruce Mau
- 11/16 – Roberta Muhrer, Chad McCoy
- 11/18 – Heidi Tarzian, Christine Svenson & Isabelle Banoyo
- 11/20 – Libby Burmeister, Pat Erdman & Dorothy Stielow
- 11/21 – Bill Cain
- 11/25 - Linda Mau
- 11/26 – Felix Roy Svenson
- 11/28 – Emily Brzozowski

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/2 – Sandy Guenther
- 12/4 – Louie Lopez
- 12/5 – Ken Burmeister & Peggy McCoy
- 12/7 - Mary Ann Kuehn
- 12/10 – Erik Christianson
- 12/11 – Jon Mau Gemigani
- 12/16 – Judy Paige
- 12/20 – Calder Lundeen & Cordelia Lundeen
- 12/24 – Payton McDonald
- 12/26 – Carol Iannotti
- 12/27 – Laura Olson
- 12/28 – Beverly Mau
- 12/30 – Maurice Lord

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/2 – Maria and Randy Altmayer
- 11/6 – Jennifer and Richard Schneider
- 11/12 – Andre Gloeckner and Marcia Hilliard
- 11/14– John and Beth Sterba
- 11/24- Henry and Roberta Muhrer

PRAYER REQUESTS: June Peterson, Ingrid Anderson, Guy and Traudel Cline, Pat Mauer Erdman, Linda Haig, Ken Itter, Richard Lindroth, Helen Mauer, Jim Todd, Roy Svenson & Christy Lopez.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS INCLUDING: Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers, Angela Washek Kuras and now also Barb and Jim Todd's granddaughter Kathryn Camardo, all of whom are serving in hospitals as nurses or anesthesiologists, including work with COVID patients, and their families. Cristy Lopez, Merle Tilos and Charlie Rasmason are also health care workers.

If you see your name listed and would like it removed, or, someone you know should be added, please contact the office.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/3 – Nancy & Phillip Lindroth
- 12/6 – Judy & Jim Williford
- 12/8 – Dianna & Larry Haun

POINSETTIAS



If you didn't hear, we won't be doing our usual Poinsettia order this year. Due to COVID we can't be certain on how our Christmas service will play out yet. Instead, our Women's Guild will be generously providing poinsettias for our altar, in honor of all members and friends of St. Peter's. As a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for all your extra care, support, thoughtfulness and concern for St. Peter's UCC during this unprecedented time, we'd like to offer you the chance to dedicate one of these poinsettias in honor and/or in memory of whomever you'd like. Just fill out the form below and return it to the office by December 6th! You can email your info, mail it or call it in to the office. We'll still be doing an In honor/In Memory insert for our Christmas worship and we'll also include it in the January Announcer!

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



FOOD FUNDRAISER

Thurs. Nov 12th
11am - 11pm

Order from Village Inn on this day, mention St. Peter's UCC's fundraiser and we get 20% of your total bill! Good for carryout, delivery and dining in. Call ahead to make in dining arrangements, subject to state COVID restrictions & guidelines.



8050 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, IL
(847) 675-3737