

MAY 2023



The ANNOUNCER

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Worship & Livestream: Sundays at 10AM on Youtube & in Person

UNDY 500: All the month of May

Spring Craft Show & Bake Sale: May 6th from 10AM to 3PM

BUNCO Card and Raffle Party— May 20th from 7—10PM

Village Inn Fundraiser— May 21st 11AM—11PM

HOW you can HELP

UNDY 500—Underwear for adults needed in all sizes M-2X. All May.

BUNCO Prizes needed! Brand new items and giftcards can be brought to the church office.

Volunteer to help and shop our Craft Show! Men are needed before (7:30—9:30 AM) and after the sale (3:00PM) to help with some heavier stuff.

BAKED GOODS Needed for Craft Show! Talk to Barb T. for info.

A publication of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie

Minister's Desk

Welcome to the St. Peter's Anniversary month! Our church was officially established on May 5th, 1867, after several years of occasional worship, planning, and more. Rev. E. Keuchen was the organizing pastor, who left after the establishment was official; the Rev. F. W. Werner then started as the first pastor of our new church. Saint Peter's was the first congregation organized in what was then Niles Centre.

This means we turn 156 this month. One hundred and fifty-six years old! Anniversaries, or birthdays, are always fitting times to look back, and to look forward. Often in looking back, we find inspiration from church forebears which help us keep striding faithfully into our future. There are so many reasons to be grateful. Sometimes, in looking back, we learn what mistakes our forebears avoided, helping make us the better church we are today. We're grateful for those, too! In fact I remember preaching one of my anniversary sermons on some of them.

These are different years, and as I have said more times than I want to count, these are challenging times – not just for St. Peter's U.C.C., but for mainline congregations all over. As was said before COVID hit and has been said since, when we look at the needs of our ageing facility (inside and out) with the high costs of repairs and / or maintenance vis-à-vis our donation and income balances (and trends), our situation is not sustainable. This is why the generous gifts in response to Christmas and year-end appeals, plus recent bequests, are so appreciated. Unfortunately, even when coupled with the weekly, monthly and quarterly income, they do not

get us through the entire next (current) year. We have previously examined possible solutions, like learning about doing a fundraising campaign, learning about the real estate value of our land and facility, and more. We have had some conversations about church mergers (not recently).

We remain in that untenable spot, even if we are all right, right now. What has come to the fore recently, beyond finances and utilities/building costs, is the strain that a lot of St. Peter's members, friends, staff and volunteers are undergoing. For many of you and us, the operative word has been "overwhelming." Serving the church is not the only reason, and probably not the main, reason for this feeling, but it is there. We are all doing the best we can.

And so? So, this: We were born into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (I Peter 1:3, 4). In this living hope, please know, on our anniversary, we may have a present coming: There is a plan developing for earlier or later this year, for us to engage in open conversations about our beloved church's present and future. What are our missions, our purposes; the answers to which will shape our ministries and the directions we go. This birthday note is a heads-up to members, friends and staff to look for news of these conversations, and, assuming they do take place as desired, take this as a pastoral exhortation to make it a priority to participate in them when you're able. It's about your church, your faith community, one another. It's a time to look back, and a time to look ahead, together.

Keep the faith!
Pastor Richard Lanford

UNDY 500 IS BACK! The Micah 6:8 Committee has chosen the month of the Indy 500 race to inspire us to collect lots of new underwear for the Night Ministry of Chicago to distribute to persons they meet through their Health Outreach Van, at their HQ, or in one of their shelters. All through May, beginning with our Anniversary Sunday service, May 7th! Unopened packages of new adult-size underwear (men's boxer briefs, sizes M-2XL; women's briefs, sizes M-2XL), PLEASE NO WHITE but colors only. Thank you in advance! There will be a collection site within the church set up to receive any and all donations to our Undy 500.

Participating in June Pride Events: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month means so much more than rainbow flags and colorful parades. It is celebrated in June to mark the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, which was not a beginning or an end but a turning point amid years of struggle for civil rights and an ongoing pursuit of justice. We celebrate Pride Month to live into our covenant to be an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. Your Church Council has resolved to participate in Pride events throughout the month of June, **starting with the first annual Niles Pride Rainbow Walk on Saturday, June 3rd.** This family-friendly event will begin at 11 a.m. at Oak Park, located at Lee Street and Ottawa Avenue in Niles, commencing with a few quick speeches followed by a one-mile walk/ride/roll around the neighborhood and a picnic celebration. The invitation from event organizers: "Bring your colors, rainbows, pride flags. Whatever makes you feel proud and exuberant. Everyone is welcome to come in support of our LGBTQIA+ community members." See Peggy Reins for more details on the Niles event and watch for information about other happenings in June. There is great joy in simply being a people who love kindly.

WELCOME SPRING CRAFT SHOW

On May 6TH St. Peter's will be full of great items, delicious baked goods, raffle baskets and lots of fun! With over 30 vendors they'll be something for everyone. Find gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, weddings, graduations or just to spruce up your world for spring! Welcome Spring Craft Show and Bake Sale is on **Saturday May 6th from 10-3.** *We could use a few men to help our vendors bring their items in. Set up starts at 7:30am that morning. Also if we can get*

some men at 3pm to help pack up we would appreciate that as well. Please let Beth Lanford or Wendy Svenson know if you are able to help. **We will also need LOTS OF BAKED GOODS.** *If you haven't already committed to helping bake let Barb Todd know as we need lots of good stuff!* Please tell your family, friends and neighbors to come shop for the wonderful items from our talented vendors. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

LAST VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER

On May 21st from 11AM to 11PM we will have our last Village Inn Food Fundraiser until September and possibly ever if we don't start getting more folks to participate. So PLEASE order food from them on that day and mention our fundraiser and we'll get 20% of whatever you spend. This is good for carryout and delivery as well!

BUNCO RAFFLE & CARD PARTY

On May 20th from 7 PM to 10 PM St. Peter's gym will be the luckiest place to be, where partygoers will rack up the raffle prizes while enjoying each others company and the amazing party hosting skills of our own Carol Iannotti. We'll have 3 tables filled with prizes and giftcards. Admission is still only a \$5 donation which will buy your admission, drinks, desserts and a snack bag. Bring your whole family and have a really fun night all for a great cause!

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



ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP

Join your fellow congregants as we take advantage of warmer weather and work on small projects and areas of attention needed as we gear up for the second half of 2023 and all the events it brings. **On Saturday, June 10th from 10AM to 12PM** come help us get the church in shape. There will be something to do for everyone, and we'll take your help as long as you are able!



OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Last month an ad hoc Committee was formed at St. Peter's U.C.C. It is called the Open and Affirming Support Committee. Its charge is: "Living into our Open and Affirming Covenant by carrying out a self-assessment, identifying areas of growth, responding to immediate opportunities, and reporting back to Council." We have an ONA Self-Assessment Tool, which the Committee will discuss at some length before the end of April. At its first meeting over Zoom, those gathered affirmed their desire to participate in the

Niles Pride Rainbow Walk on Saturday, June 3rd. We want to be of value to St. Peter's by offering resources by which to educate ourselves and the church about lots of issues, terms, identities, as well as learning more about our opportunities to provide support through doing the Self-Assessment, among other tools. If you are interested in being part of this temporary, ad hoc Committee, please contact Church President Peggy Reins.

AJH KITCHEN THANKS

Thank you to everyone who gave enough for us to make the \$500 needed for the meal we serve at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest! Thanks also to those who served in person on Saturday, April 29th. Our next month for this mission opportunity (a gift) is for **Saturday, July 30th**. We are being asked that in July not only should we raise the funds but also

to do the grocery shopping for the meal and bring the groceries to the Kitchen before that day. Then the Kitchen staff will prepare what we've bought/brought, and we will then serve on our day. The serving time is lunch time, and volunteers are again asked, as in April, to be there from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

IN MEMORIAM

Former longtime member Callie Harms, 98, died in McHenry (her home) in late March. The widow of Ed Harms, who along with her had been a longtime member of St. Peter's U.C.C. in Skokie, was a friendly and thoughtful woman with a deep faith. After moving to McHenry at least three decades ago, she and Ed transferred their membership to the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in McHenry, from which she was buried. She leaves behind friends from their days at St. Peter's, and among others up north she is survived by 3 daughters, 1 son, and a plethora of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MAY NURSERY & LECTORS

May 7th Lector: **Olivia A.**
Nursery: **Mike R.**
May 14th Lector: **Annie N.**
Nursery: **Carolyn V.**
May 21st Lector: **Beth L.**
Nursery: **Kathy Z.**
May 28th Lector: **Peter S.**
Nursery: **Heidi T.**
June 4th Lector: **Jenn S.**
Nursery: **Carolyn V.**

NEW MEMBERS/SEEKERS CLASS

Pastor Richard would like to offer a New Members / Seekers class, scheduled on the basis of interest and the availability of those interested. Let him know if you are interested!

ALL CHURCH BOOK READ

Get ready to join a denomination-wide book club. The national setting of the United Church of Christ is calling on the whole church to engage in an all-church reading of *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi between now and the end of June. The all-church book club is supported by Join the Movement toward Racial Justice (JTM), a UCC initiative to make our denominational commitment to racial justice clear and concrete.

"We want every person in the UCC to be thinking about and practicing the new world of racial justice that we're trying to build," said Sharon Fennema with JTM. Kendi offers strategies for this in *How to Be an Antiracist*. "It's not enough to say, 'I'm not a racist,' but we should be always practicing this new world in the way we make choices, in the policies that we support, in the way we are making decisions about our households, our churches, our communities."

The Rev. Velda Love, UCC minister for racial justice and JTM lead, described the book this way: "This is not just an academic read — it's about spiritual practices rooted in God's love." Rev. Love is inviting individuals, congregations, Conferences and Associations to join in the all-church read.

The JTM initiative is providing resources for community conversations and organizing virtual events that offer opportunities to further engage with the material. As Rev. Love says being an antiracist doesn't happen just because you read a book, or books. Says Love, "Being in the movement toward racial justice means that you are engaged in community work, advocacy work . . . this is a lifelong journey."

St. Peter's Micah 6:8 Committee will be your local book club leader, connecting you to conversation guides and the resources that JTM is preparing. Stay tuned for details. In the meantime, you will find *How to Be an Antiracist* wherever books are sold and in public libraries everywhere. As of this writing, the Skokie Public Library had six of eight copies of the book available for check out!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 - David Rees
Dayle Zelenka
- 5/2 - Dale Todd
Diana Pappadakis-Haun
- 5/4 - Bill Karol
- 5/5 - Ken Paige
Molly Uchtman
- 5/6 - Laura Medaglia
- 5/12 - Maya Lundeen
- 5/13 - Gianna Iannotti
- 5/14 - Jake Ryan
- 5/17 - Jessica Schneider
- 5/18 - Annie Noorts
- 5/22 - Gail Hoellerich
Pastor Richard Lanford
- 5/24 - Diane Meggs
- 5/25 - Angelo Iannotti
- 5/29 - Heather (Schuhrke) O'Hara
Melissa Erickson
- 5/30 - Jack Hoellerich

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/11 - Mandy and Mike McDonald
- 5/16 - Christine and Maykel Salvatierra
- 5/23 - Ann and Mark Aler

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 - Barbara Bailey
- 6/3 - Barbara Todd
Ben Rees
- 6/4 - Chris Taylor
- 6/7 - Katy Schuhrke Aguayo
- 6/8 - Baggio Salvatierra
Colin Medaglia
- 6/9 - Rose Taheny
Jim Olson
- 6/11 - Ginger Kalensky
- 6/13 - Aiden James Caras
- 6/15 - Zachary Muhrer
- 6/16 - Barbara Gack
- 6/19 - Clementine (Muhrer) Hoeing
- 6/20 - Laurie Mitchell
- 6/26 - Alexander Martinek
- 6/29 - Gena Zelenka
Kristine Hoellerich

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/1 - Lana and Don Kahn
- 6/6 - Gena and Dayle Zelenka
- 6/11 - Cristy and Louie Lopez
- 6/14 - Karem and David Iannotti
- 6/17 - Valerie and Christopher Mahoney
- 6/27 - Aaliyah and Eric Svenson
Adrianna and Ken Paige

MARCH BUDGET AT A GLANCE

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Operating Contributions	9,751	13,342	31,694	40,025
Operating Expense	15,397	15,493	48,001	46,479
Gain/(Loss)	(5,646)	(2,151)	(16,307)	(6,454)

These numbers exclude line items for directed contribution, directed gifts and interest/investment income.

BAPTISMS

Fredrik William Svenson was baptized into the Christian faith and church during worship on Sunday, April 30th! A coffee hour / lunch followed in celebration. Fredrick is the third son of Christine (Carnate) and Peter Svenson.

WOMEN'S GUILD



The Women's Guild did not meet in April due to Holy Week, but will meet on May 10th at 11:30 AM. Hostess is Annie Noorts and Devotions will be given by Ginger Kalensky. Everyone will be urged to bake goodies for the Spring Craft Show/Bake Sale on Saturday, May 6th. Baker Goods should be brought in on Friday, May 5th. The May Business meeting will be followed by fun and games, including Bingo! Come and Enjoy! - Barbara Todd, President

GRADUATIONS

Congratulations goes to Kelly Richards, granddaughter of Sharon Johnson, who will graduate from Carthage College in Kenosha WI on May 27th with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Congratulations to William David Herren Gatesman, grandson of Ann Herren, who graduates from Knox College in June with majors in history and secondary education. Please let the office know of more!



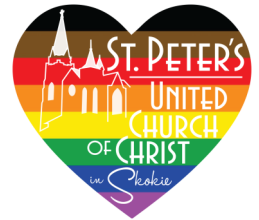
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The ANNOUNCER

THIS SUMMER COME GLORIFY GOD TOGETHER



Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.