

The ANNOUNCER

PLEASE JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, MAY 3RD AT 10AM
AS WE EXPLORE OUR FUTURE

THIS Sunday, May 3 will be special. Instead of our traditional worship service in the sanctuary, please join us downstairs to sing, pray, talk and create. Help us consider some great big questions: Who are we? Why are we here? Who is our neighbor? This will begin an even deeper conversation: What kind of church is God inviting St. Peter's to become? We need your wisdom, observations and wonder. If you were not with us on Sunday, April 26th you may want to watch the sermon on Youtube in preparation of this. The sermon begins at 20:33 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rt898cCaQ5A&t=1294s>.

- 5/1 Undy 500 Begins
- 5/3 10AM – Meet in LFH for a Special Service
- 5/5 Happy 159th Birthday St. Peter's UCC
6:30PM – Pack 85
- 5/7 National Day of Prayer
- 5/9 6-10PM - CRMS
- 5/10 Mother's Day
10AM – Worship
- 5/13 11:30AM – Women's Guild Meets
- 5/17 10AM -Worship
11:15AM – Church Council
- 5/19 June Announcer deadline
- 5/21 6:30PM – Pack 85
- 5/25 Pentecost
10AM –Worship
- 5/30 11AM – 2:30PM – A Just Harvest Kitchen Service
Undy 500 Ends

 *From the Interim Pastor* 

Dear friends,

Borrowing words crafted nearly 20 years ago as an invitation to revitalize:

God. Creator of the universe. Redeemer of every falsehood and blunder. Sustainer of all that is, the One who calls all of life to breathe together.

God is. The Living One who spoke through prophets and apostles. The One vulnerable enough to enter into life and be crucified. The One who Stands Up Against powers of domination and despair. The One who cannot stay dead. The life and love instilled in us forever.

God is inviting. Not forcing. Not coercing. Not trapping. Not decreeing. But offering possibilities. Drawing into new relationships. Offering a chance to say Yes to a wholehearted commitment.

God is inviting us. The Universal One cares intimately for each and every one of us. We who collect on Sunday mornings. We who work toward the ministry of St. Peter's UCC. We who desperately need to be loved. We who find that love and share it with all. We who have been a people for nearly 160 years. We who are passionate for God's ministry.

God is inviting us to a bigger . . . The work of love in the world must extend past our homes, our streets, our church, our community, our nation, our denomination. We have an entire planet groaning and in need of healing. Our vision must continue to expand.

God is inviting us to a bigger, more lively and joyous . . . We know what pain feels like. We feel the weight of injustice. We have tasted despair. We know how those take hold within us and permeate our lives. We know what must change. And still God enlivens us with energy, animation, hope. Even joy. This we uncover and build together. Every time we worship. Every time we meet. Every time we feel God's Spirit.

God is inviting us to a bigger, more lively and joyous ministry of grace. Our work is given by God. It is a ministry, acting on God's behalf for all people who need love, inside and outside of our church. We know that we have what we have and we are what we are

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only because of God's healing, forgiveness and hope. It changes our lives daily. And we believe that God is asking us to receive others with that very same kind of love and grace.

God is inviting us to a bigger, more lively and joyous ministry of grace that demands all of us. Yes, it is a free gift. But each time we are touched by God, we become different. We see differently. We share differently. We know that God wants to use every part of us, because that is how we become whole. We know that God wants us to engage every available person, because the world needs all of that love. God needs all of that love to shape that ministry of grace. We are both received and engaged, empowered and sent.

Every part of the life of St. Peter's UCC has led us to this point when God is asking something new. We don't even know what that is yet. But together we just may catch a glimpse of the Holy.

May 3 will be special. Instead of our traditional worship service, please join us downstairs for "**Exploring Our Future**" -- or, as Judy Paige put it, "WOW!" We will sing, pray, wonder, discuss, create and engage with God. One exercise will even take us outside our building. It is the beginning of an even deeper conversation yet to come.

Please pray. Then please join us. Bring friends. Bring children. We need everyone's wisdom, observations and wonder. This will take a little extra time; plan to stay until 12:15.

Then please stay in touch. There will be more events, more discussion, more creation yet to come. For I believe with all my heart: God is just getting started.

Blessings,
Brenda

Undy 500 🍳 - Supporting the Night Ministry

This May, we are turning our compassion into action. We are launching a month-long collection drive to support The Night Ministry, a vital Chicago organization that provides housing, healthcare, and human connection to those struggling with homelessness and poverty. We are seeking donations of brand-new underwear for both women and men. Items must be colors only, and all sizes are need through Plus sizes. You can drop off your donations throughout the entire month of May. Collection baskets are

conveniently located in the Sanctuary and Lanford Fellowship Hall. Items can be brought with you to Sunday Worship or dropped off at the church during regular office hours during the week. For Chicago's most vulnerable neighbors, basic necessities are often the hardest to come by. A clean, new pair of underwear is more than just clothing; it is a matter of health, comfort, and self-worth. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity and for keeping the spirit of service alive in our community!

St. Peter's Service with A Just Harvest

May has 5 Saturdays, which means it is our opportunity to help feed those among us that experience food insecurity. On Saturday May 30th St. Peter's will provide the groceries and help 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 and get a hearty free meal! Your monetary donations will purchase the ingredients for a meal that will feed as many as 150 of our neighbors. The grocery cost is approx. \$500. St. Peter's will also be there in person on Saturday to help serve the meal. We need 2-3 more volunteers to serve from 11:00 - 2:30. If you wish to volunteer to serve, please contact Chad McCoy at chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com.

Calling all Crafters! Our Annual Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be on **Saturday November 7th from 10AM to 3PM**. If you are interested in a table or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or contact Wendy Svenson via email at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com

Financial Health

Your Board of Finance wants to share an important update about our church's financial health. For the first quarter of 2026, our monthly income has been lower than our operating expenses. As a result, in March we had to take \$10,000 from the savings account to help cover the difference.

We are grateful to have these reserves, but this is not a sustainable long-term solution.

Our church's budget supports everything from our staff, weekly services, ministries and outreach, building operations and care for our community. We believe deeply in this mission and the difference it makes.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support the ongoing work of our church—whether through consistent giving, beginning, or increasing your financial commitment, or simply praying for wisdom and provision.

We trust that, together, we can move forward in faith and continue the work we are called to do.

With gratitude,
Board of Finance

Operating Budget at a Glance for March, 2026

	<u>Mar. Actual</u>	<u>Mar. Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	\$21,848*	\$11,759	\$38,035*	\$32,825
Expenses	\$19,301	\$18,639	\$55,048	\$52,531
Gain/(Loss)	\$2,547*	(\$6,880)	(\$17,013)*	(\$19,706)

*The March income includes the \$10,000 transfer from the savings to the checking.

Monthly Income deficit:

Jan. <\$11,496.88 >

Feb. <\$8,063.61>

Mar. <\$7,452.68> *

First quarter 2026 income deficit, <\$27,012.91>*

*Without the \$10,000 income transfer in March.

Expenses:

55% of the total expenses are related to our staff.

37% of the total expenses are related to utilities, building maintenance, insurance...

All other expenses account for 8% of the total expenses.

Account Balance

Account: 105.000 - NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY CHECKING ACCOUNT

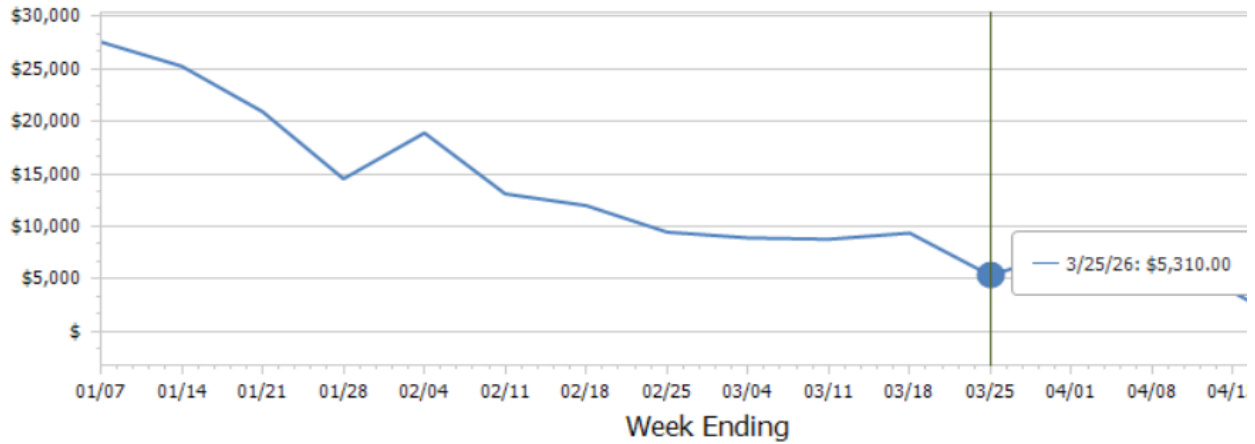


Weekly

Monthly



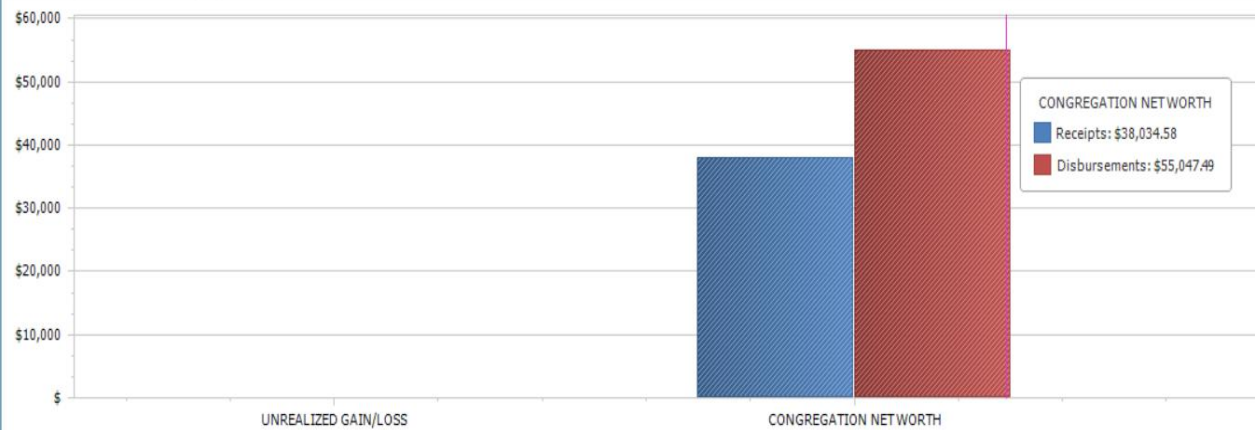
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY CHECKING ACCOUNT Balance



Fund Receipts/Disbursements

Date Range: 01/01/2026 to 03/31/2026

Ledgers: Type to Search



Budget vs Actual

All Budget Items

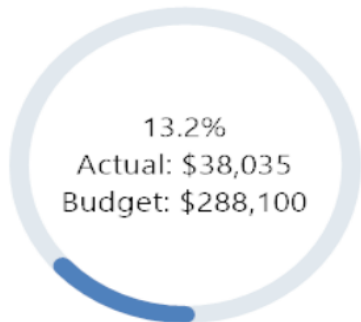
Specific Budgeted Items

01/01/2026 to 03/31/2026

Income



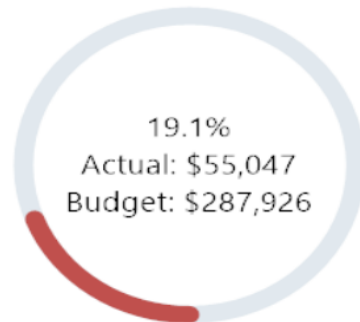
Income Budget



Expense



Expense Budget



YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

Spring brings blossoms and buds. The words of the season could also describe the work of the Council in April. The April 19th council meeting started with the approval of the [March 15 Council meeting minutes](#).

Conversations which started in March began flowering in April. The Council approved a behavioral covenant to guide how leaders will work together to serve the church, and the plan to refresh the landscaping in front of the marquee sign got the go-ahead.

Some things have budded but not bloomed. The Council got an update about major repairs that are necessary but pending. Members of the Board of Finance appraised the Council of our financial position and resolved to communicate it to church members and friends. The Council touched on plans to receive new members and for a whole church visioning session on Sunday, May 3rd.

That's just a few highlights. Stay tuned for more blossoming in May!

Emergency Planning: It Is as Easy as 1-2-3

We all know what to do in severe weather, right? 1. Go to an interior room on the lowest level. But what next? We also need 2. a way to stay in touch with each other. Texting is better than calling in an emergency. Does the church have your mobile phone number? Finally, if any emergency requires

us to leave the building, we need a place to meet up. 3. In the unlikely event that an evacuation of the church building is necessary, we are asking our church goers to use the parking lot near the Skokie log cabin (the east side of Floral Avenue) as our meet-up spot. Now, you know!

MAY BIRTHDAYS 🎂

5/1 – David Rees
Dayle Zelenka
5/2 – Dale Todd
5/4 – Bill Karol
5/5 – Ken Paige
Molly Uchtman
5/6 – Laura Medaglia
5/13 – Gianna Iannotti
5/14 – Jake Ryan, Evelyn Loach
5/17 – Jessica Schneider
5/18 – Annie Noorts
5/22 – Gail Hoellerich
5/24 – Diane Meggs
5/25 – Angelo Iannotti
5/26 – Braxton Meggs
5/29 – Heather (Schuhrke) O'Hara
5/30 – Jack Hoellerich

MAY ANNIVERSARIES 💍

5/11 – Mandy and Mike McDonald
5/23 – Ann and Mark Aler



Confirmation Sunday and Our Graduates 🎓

Confirmation Sunday will be June 7, 2026 for Drew Ryan and Jake Ryan. We are so proud of them!

Graduations! Congratulations to Judy Paige's grandson Dan Mahoney as he is graduating Cum Laude from Mundelein High School this May. She is such a proud grandma!

If you have any graduations or announcements to share, email office@stpeteruccskokie.org.

St. Peter's UCC
8013 Laramie Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
www.stpeteruccskokie.org



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Lector/Nursery for May 2026

May 3 rd	Lector: David I. Nursery: Mike R.
May 10 th	Lector: Roy S. Nursery: Kathy Z.
May 17 th	Lector: Mark L. Nursery: Laurie M.
May 24 th	Lector: Peter S. Nursery: Heidi T.
May 31 st	Lector: Rich S. Nursery: Kathy Z.
June 7 th	Lector: Marilyn F. Nursery: Carolyn V.



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The ANNOUNCER

MAY 2026

Our 2026 Rummage Sale

Mark your calendar for the 2026 Rummage and Bake Sale, scheduled for September 25th & 26th. This is the biggest fundraiser we have, last year the rummage sale provided over 12% of our budget. It is also a HUGE outreach event, providing low cost items for people in our community and the leftover items are donated to people in need. It takes lots of folks to make this happen. You can participate by volunteering to set up or sort (no experience needed), you can donate items for the sale, you can work the sale days, you can help promote the event....or use your imagination and tell us what you would like to do. We will set up the gym starting on June 22nd. Donations will be accepted in the gym starting

June 24th, after the tables and shelves have been set up (watch for time to help with the set-up). If you have donations before then, please put them in the classroom upstairs at the end of the hall on the left (north) side. Sorting on Fridays has usually been a good day for many folks, so we will start with sorting on Fridays 10:00-2:00 on June 26th. People are invited to come for part of all of this time. We will add another daytime and a weeknight sorting time in July. Please contact Annie Noorts (Rummage Sale Coordinator) and let her know what day and evening is best for you, we will schedule it when the most volunteers can regularly attend. Any questions or suggestions can also be brought to Annie, we are always looking for new ideas!