

OCTOBER 2021

# The Announcer

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

## From the Minister's Tablet

By Reverend Richard Lanford

*At the Lorel Park service, I preached on our climate crisis. As someone wrote, there is no longer time for "stewardship of the earth / creation" sermons; that time has passed. Obviously as Christians we still operate out of a stewardship orientation, but it is not care-giving and prevention of climate-change-damage anymore. It is urgent, prophetic, difficult call-to-action time instead. We have passed the point of going back to what the climate was like just a few years ago. Now it is time to put the brakes on what is making things worse every day, and also put our energies into changing to climate-friendly or neutral practices.*

*I mentioned getting an electric car, if not soon, then for your next vehicle, regardless of the problems currently inherent in that choice. Things should improve as the market for Electric Vehicles (EVs) grows. If you're getting a new roof, look into solar panels (and the battery needs for us living in the colder, cloudier Midwest). Would be great if St. Peter's could do that with the flat roofs we need redone on the northern part of our facility. When one can get off of the grid powered by coal, gas, or even nuclear power (not environmentally friendly either), the planet is fighting that much less against those dirty fuels.*

*Unfortunately diet also plays a role. I don't like to say it, but it has to be said, that beef and dairy-from-cows production (and the consumption creating the demand) is effective in destroying the ozone layer above us. It's not the only cause but it's up there. Thankfully some of the 'beyond beef,' plant-based products made to mimic beef or sausage, are getting better in terms of taste.*

*I am not saying conversions are perfect, nor am I saying that switching to renewable energy ASAP is free of serious problems. I am saying, as a servant of the Creator and a responsible dweller upon this planet, there is no longer time to wait.*

*We are not left alone in trying to move on this. The UCC is building a powerful environmental network that stays connected through a blog and e-newsletter called The Pollinator. United Church of Christ churches are deepening and expanding their commitment to the environment by becoming Creation Justice Churches, both of which we can learn more about at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org). There one can also find and buy the 2<sup>nd</sup> printing of Cathedral on Fire (A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis) by Brooks Berndt to learn the great help churches can be. Thank you for reading this! Keep the faith, Pastor Richard Lanford*



**Worship & Livestream:**  
**Sundays at 10 AM**  
**on YouTube & in person worship.**

**Pet Blessing:** is  
October 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM.

**Village Inn Food Fundraiser –**  
**October 24th**  
Sunday, from  
1 PM to 11 PM

**Women's Guild meets**  
Wednesday,  
October 13<sup>th</sup> at  
11:30 AM

**Fellowship Hour.** The return of coffee hour ... without the coffee! On **Sunday, October 3rd** we are reinstating our sorely missed gathering time after worship. We will not put out coffee or treats, although we encourage and invite those who like to bring their own beverage to do so. Tables and chairs will be set up in the Memorial Room for fellowship, which we will do with masks on. We are also reviving the practice of signing cards for people on our prayer list – sympathy, congratulations, get well, and special occasion cards will be offered regularly for people to sign after church during this Fellowship Hour, focusing on those we pray for during the worship service. It will be so good to gather again with our friends!

**RUMMAGE CLEAN UP; HELP NEEDED TO LOAD THE TRUCK - On Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** we'll need lots of folks to help load our leftover rummage sale items onto a truck from the Cancer Federation. Please set aside a little time to come help- strong persons needed!

**Pet Blessing with C.A.R.E is October 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM.** Bring your furry or feathered friend and join us for our annual Pet Blessing with C.A.R.E.! On this day Pastor Lanford will give every pet its own individual blessing. In addition to a blessing, we'll have a very short service; C.A.R.E. will be on hand with adoptable animals and information on adopting and we'll also have a Pet Raffle. There is a \$5 suggested donation, and all proceeds will go to benefit C.A.R.E. and St. Peter's UCC. ALL ARE WELCOME and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER – October 24<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 11 PM** is our fundraising date, we get 20% of whatever you spend (the most any business will give, most only give 15%) and you get a nice meal out, delivered or carried out. Just don't forget to mention St. Peter's UCC to your server! Thanks so much for your continued support!

## **WOMEN'S GUILD MEETINGS 2021 - 2022** ***October 13th 11:30 a.m.***

**HOSTESSES:** Dorothy Panzke and Alice Schaller  
**DEVOTIONS:** Ginger Kalensky  
**PROGRAM:** Book Review by Barbara Todd  
"Queen Meryl" Erin Carlson

## ***November 10th 11:30 a.m.***

**HOSTESSES:** Susan Bailey and Judy Paige  
**DEVOTIONS:** Marlene Russell  
**PROGRAM:** COOKIE WALK (please bring 3 dozen cookies)  
PLEASE WATCH YOUR ANNOUNCER  
MONTHLY FOR DATES OF OUR FUTURE MEETINGS.  
Submitted by Sue Bailey

**Blanket Sunday Collection is October 24<sup>th</sup>!!** The Women's Guild will be collecting for this very important program. The CWS (Church World Services) Blanket Sunday program provides blankets and supplies to those surviving tragedy. There's nothing like a warm blanket to comfort. Your donation will go directly to CWS to help them help others. Thanks so much!

**A Just Harvest "serving" date is October 30<sup>th</sup>** - We hold the covenant responsibility / opportunity to provide the needed \$\$ for the A Just Harvest Kitchen dinner on Saturday, October 30th. They are still serving curbside until the COVID pandemic protocols and health and safety concerns will allow a return to serving indoors like we did pre-Virus. We'll be asking for \$500 in pledges by the middle of this month if possible. That gives us time to get the money to the staff at the Kitchen, and for them to have time to buy and prepare what's needed that night.

**Wreath Orders will be taken this month:**  
Please find the order form at the end of this [Announcer!](#)

## Upcoming Events (cont.) & Our People

### **Holiday Craft Show**

**Saturday November 13 at 10-3pm**

Back again after 1 year off and bigger than ever, over 30 vendors 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! Tastefully Simple, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Color Street Nails along with beautiful handmade items from 30 plus vendors. Depending on where we are with COVID, we may or may not also have a bake sale. We are also hoping to showcase some local entertainment like we did last time, please let the office know if you know of a group that might want to promote their holiday show.

**HOSPITALIZED** - Carol Burmeister continues to make progress in her physical therapy at Elevate St. Andrews, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Niles, IL 60714. David Iannotti's mother-in-law Raisa Zafrane was hospitalized in early September for bladder cancer surgery (tumor removal then biopsy) and there were also kidney concerns. No update except she's home with her daughter Kareem, David, and her two grandsons. Barb Bailey was hospitalized briefly for a slight stroke at Evanston Hospital.

**IN SYMPATHY** - Rev. Lanford officiated at the memorial service for and ashes-committal of, William J. McQuillan, Jr. He was one of the sons of Charlotte and Bill McQuillan, who were members of St. Peter's in years past. That was September 9th. He was 68 and leaves three sons and extended family behind.

**IN CELEBRATION** - Sunday School started on the 19th with two classes! We've not had a Sunday School gathering in-person since March of 2020.

### **LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER**

*Lector:*

*Nursery:*

October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Rich Schneider / Annie Noorts

October 10<sup>th</sup> - Carolyn V. / Heidi T.

October 17<sup>th</sup> - Mandy Steegmueller / Carolyn V.

October 24<sup>th</sup> - Jane Abramchik / Kathy Z.

October 31<sup>st</sup> - Beth Lanford / Mike Ryan

**Women's Guild News** - St. Peter's Women's Guild held their first meeting of the Fall season on Wed. Sept. 22 at 11:30. Devotions were given by Barbara Todd and the ladies enjoyed a chicken luncheon, provided by the Board. Many issues were discussed and reported: The Rummage Sale has netted over \$5,000 so far with more to come in and the whole fundraiser was deemed a success. In the Church Mid-Year Report, attention was given to the critical financial state of the church and its ongoing low membership. Sue Bailey recommended that the Guild Yearbook be scrapped for a bi-monthly report and calendar in the Announcer and church bulletins. This will give us flexibility in meeting dates, information, and activities. It will also cut critical costs at a time when our Treasury is very low. Everyone agreed on the necessary changes. Judy Paige reported that Blanket Sunday will be on Oct. 24. There will be no Oktoberfest Dinner, due to the ongoing Pandemic, but the Pet Blessing will be on Oct. 17 and the Holiday Craft Show will be on Nov. 13. Vendors are still needed for that. An engraver is needed for the Memorial Plaques and Sue Bailey is exploring this. Our next meeting will be on Wed. Oct. 13, featuring a Book Review by Barbara Todd. The book is "QUEEN MERYL - The Iconic Roles, Heroic Deeds, and Legendary Life of Meryl Streep" by Erin Carlson. Our meeting ended with the "Mizpah Benediction."  
Barbara Todd President



**We have a new addition to our Laramie Avenue entrance!** Located outside the Laramie Ave. office doors is our new “mini free food pantry.” We are so grateful to have another vessel to reach folks in need. Thank you to the Council, Niles Township Food Pantry, Andre & Marcia, the Schneiders and all the food donators. Feel free to keep the donations coming as we will need replenishing. We have a new home for food donations located under the mailboxes by the church office hall. You can drop off donations during office hours or on Sundays during worship. *We ask you bring the items to the office, not to the food pantry itself.*

**Safety Protocols Continue – Following Skokie Guidelines.** St Peter’s will continue to follow Skokie’s mandate that masks must be worn inside at all times, regardless of vaccination status. We will continue to gather in person for worship and for meetings, while at the same time maintaining distance and sanitizing and washing hands. Our Regathering Plan has been updated to reflect this practice.

**BITS AND PIECES FROM PASTOR** - I want to thank everyone who had anything to do with the success of the recent Rummage Sale, including what happens before, and afterward. Annie, Beth and Kathy led the way but there were so many contributions, of various kinds, that were also essential. Thank you from the Pastor!

Your pastor attended, as an expression of covenant, the September 19th ordination service of Lindsay Hammond. Lindsay is a member of the First Congregational Church, UCC, of Evanston, and she is the Policy Director of the faith-based Restore Justice. She has been a faithful participant in CMA Cluster 1 meetings throughout her time as a Member In Discernment (MID) of a call. (This MID is the new term for ‘in-care’).



**Building Roof Updates.** We approved a plan to seal the roof over the nursery ourselves for about \$500. The more expensive repair to the gym roof and the belltower is awaiting more information from additional meetings that are coming up in the next few months.

**ILLINOIS CONFERENCE NEWS** - The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ has had to do more staff and responsibility restructuring due to shortfalls in OCWM giving, and previous financial misunderstandings. Our Conference Minister, the Rev. Molly Carlson, has spent lots of her first year dealing with those previous misunderstandings / mis-labeling, to get them straightened out, which she had not done all by herself. This resulted in the Conference having less money than we thought. Staff members were let go or hours were reduced. Molly is currently supported by 2 Area Conference Ministers (ACMs) for the rest of the work of the conference and our churches and pastors. We had had three. They are the Revs. Kathy Lawes and Terrill Murff. Rev. Murff is our CMA contact ACM. Both of them are spread very thin, as you can understand. A third ACM will be hired, but only for a 12-18-month period of transition. Revs. Lawes and Murff will split their time 50-50 between providing pastoral care for Conference churches and pastors, while then having specific "portfolios" or responsibilities for the Conference. For example, only one of them will handle the "search and call" work of the churches and pastors for the Conference (Rev. Murff). They will for the time being still have primary regional responsibilities (for example again, Rev. Murff is the staff contact for issues within the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Conference. The new transitional staff person will take on some of this too when hired. We will see where the Conference stands financially after the next 18 months or so, if we can hire a FT non-transitional 3rd ACM. That will make everyone's workload at the Conference level a bit lighter, which helps the churches and pastors who call on the Conference for resources and other kinds of assistance (conflict resolution, search-and-call, ecumenical representation, stewardship programs, etc.).

## From the Board of Finance

### Budget at a Glance: August & YTD

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$10,009.57</b>	<b>\$114,817.79</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$12,290.13</b>	<b>\$107,720.75</b>
<b>Gain/Loss:</b>	<b>(\$2,280.56)</b>	<b>\$7,097.94</b>

**Our operating contributions continue to fall short of our operating expenses. If not for the PPP Loan and the onetime donation of \$5,000.00, our YTD LOSS would be \$<19,067.96>**

**Please donate if you are able!!**

## FEEDBACK NEEDED

We are considering new ways to spruce up our weekly bulletin, and we'd like to hear from you! Please send your responses to Laura ([office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)) by Monday Oct 4:

- What is your FAVORITE thing about our weekly worship bulletin?
- What is one thing you would CHANGE about our weekly worship bulletin?

Thank you for helping us as we constantly strive to make St Peter's the most welcoming and enjoyable place to worship!

## QUESTION FOR ANYONE

What book are you reading now? Want to let us know? Email the office and we'll put it in the next Announcer, if you're willing!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 - *Lucy Rees, Nicole Miller*  
 10/3 - *Doug Johnson*  
 10/4 - *Gretchen Sterba*  
 10/7 - *Winfield Meggs*  
 10/11 - *Gabriel Banoyo, Jillian Caras*  
 10/20 - *Sincere Williams*  
 10/21 - *Shawna Frenzel*  
 10/25 - *Ryan Loach*  
 10/27 - *Sean Loach*  
 10/28 - *Dorothy Panzke, Rich Suckow*  
 10/31 - *Mark Aler*

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 - *Amanda & Richard Steegmueller*  
 10/4 - *Peggy & Chad McCoy*  
 10/9 - *Laura & Paul Medaglia*  
 10/12 - *Megan & Steven Caras*  
 10/28 - *Kathy Zipperer & Darrell Kerbel*

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## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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*

## NOVEMBER 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:** 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.



# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



**26" Wreath with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 26", 36", 48"  
Double Face Balsam 36"



**Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"**  
Indoor/Outdoor



**4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece**

**Place your order by Friday November 5th.**  
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, pickup will be on Saturday November 20th from 1 - 4 pm.**

26" Single Face Balsam	\$17.00
36" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$44.00
48" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00
4' Noble, Cedar, Juniper Mantlepice/Centerpiece	\$44.00
12" Candle Ring Wreath	\$22.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$20.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$30.00
38" Evergreen Planter	\$45.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$14.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$23.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$40.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$28.00
Cemetery Stand	\$7.00



**32" Evergreen Planter**  
38" Evergreen Planter



**12" Candle Ring Wreath**  
with 4" Candle



**24" Boxed Decorator Wreath**



**Holiday Yule Log 12"**



**25' Balsam Fir Garland**



**Firestarter Basket**



**Balsam Swag**

# CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

**The standard 26 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$17.00.**

Cemetery stands are \$7.00.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help us decorate the church for the holidays with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will make arrangements for placing wreaths on the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Friday Nov 5th.**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, **pickup at St. Peter's will be on Saturday November 20th from 1 - 4 pm.**

To place an order:

- **please fill in the form and return with payment** by mailing it to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order to [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)** and send payment separately via mail, text the amount, or use PayPal. For information on how to use any of these methods, please see the weekly bulletin.

Please make checks payable to:  
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
26" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$17.00	
Cemetery Stands	\$7.00	
36" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$30.00	
36" Double Face Balsam Wreath	\$44.00	
48" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantel piece / Centerpiece	\$44.00	
12" Mixed Noble Candle Ring Wreath w/ 4" Candle	\$22.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$20.00	
Outdoor Evergreen Planter (32")	\$30.00	
Supersized Outdoor Evergreen Planter (38")	\$45.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$14.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$23.00	
24" Decorator Wreath Boxed w/ Velvet Ribbon	\$40.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$28.00	