

**MARCH 2023**

*Lent*

Remember. Reflect. Renew.

The

Announcer

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

## From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

Now we are in the in-between time. Ash Wednesday has come and gone to start the season of Lent; Holy Week and the festival of the Resurrection are in April. We are in the in-between time. Borrowing from Advent language, we could say this, too, is a time of waiting.

What do you do when you have to wait, or bide your time? Of course, for we who observe Lent, we understand we are not simply biding our time, doing nothing, because this is meant to be a time of intentional spiritual growth, or increased prayer, or fasting on some basis. Given that, what do you do when you have to wait?

Some people like to do nothing and take the opportunity to rest. We can need to rest in lots of ways, and perhaps some of us, some of you, need to rest spiritually. Not to step away from spiritual growth, exactly, but to dial down the intensity, or to change a practice for a little while. Elijah needed some naps on his way to Mount Horeb after his dramatic battle with the priests of Baal in First Kings 19. He needed a break and God gave him one, only to send him back with a new mission. Jesus spent time away from the disciples and from the crowds.

Some people like to create something while they wait. Waiting can be a great time to be productive, one way or another. One can start a spiritual practice for the first time ever while waiting for Easter, like having morning devotions for the first time, or learn how to “journal” (is that really a verb?). Others take prayer walks, silently praying for each place and those who live or work within, as they walk by.

It can be a time to experiment in other ways, like finding out what is out there in Christian music outside of the hymns you already know. There is a ton out there, going back a long time. There are a few Christian radio music stations in Chicagoland, as well: KLUV 97.9 FM is one showcasing contemporary Christian artists.

What you and I do while we “wait” often is what gives meaning, or purpose, to the waiting. Sometimes we can only see what that is in hindsight, but going into Lent with an intent to “wait” in a way that will help your relationship with the Jesus Christ we love, follow and celebrate, sounds like good, meaningful waiting to me. You? It's up to you!

*Keep the faith, Rev. Richard Lanford*



**LENTEN WORSHIP & LIVESTREAM:**  
Sundays at 10 AM  
on YouTube & in  
person worship.

**WOMEN'S GUILD  
CLEAN UP MEETING**  
March 8 10:30 AM

**SOUP & STUDY**  
Wednesdays 6:30-  
8:30 PM through  
Lent

**CHURCH CLEAN UP  
DAY** March 25<sup>th</sup>  
from 12:30 to 2:30  
PM

**VILLAGE INN –**  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 11AM  
TO 11PM

**LENTEN SOUP-N-STUDY** - The Lenten Soup-n-Study starts **Wednesday, March 1st** with soup and fellowship in the Memorial Room from 6:30 to 7 PM. At 7 we shift into the study, following the curriculum we have for the Gospel according to John. We end at 8. The study as it comes to us will be of the first part of the Gospel according to John (Chapters 1 through 5:18). The Booklet actually has 10 studies, but we will stop after 5 to stay within Lenten parameters (ending Wednesday, March 29th). The booklet is only available by digital download, at a cost of less than \$6 each. We are able to print some hard copies for people who do not or cannot download material. Contact Pastor Richard ASAP if you have decided to join and need the info on getting the download or if you want to come but need a paper copy of the booklet.

**WOMEN'S GUILD MARCH MEETING**- Join the ladies **March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM** for the annual kitchen clean up meeting!! Great company and delicious soup will be served to all hard workers!

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> from 12:30-2:30 PM** we are going to have a congregational workday at church. We want to deep clean and fix things inside and outside and overall just get the place looking amazing for Holy Week. If anyone has suggestions for areas that need to be deep cleaned or smaller projects that need to be done please send them to Annie ([annie@mollyu.com](mailto:annie@mollyu.com)).

**VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER MARCH 26TH from 11AM to 11PM!** Dine in, carryout or have delivered Village Inn food on this day, mention St. Peter's UCC to your server and we get 20% of whatever you spend. You get a meal you didn't have to cook, and a Sunday of relaxing. Thanks so much for your continued support!

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP** – Holy week begins with **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM**. We'll have services on both **Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** and **Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM** and conclude with **Easter Sunday Worship April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM**.

**EASTER BRUNCH** - A new look is coming for St. Peter's Easter Celebration! Our "old" Easter Breakfast, held before church, will become our "new" EASTER BRUNCH, held directly after our Easter Worship Service on **Sun. April 9** at 10 a.m. *Reservations are requested* and donations will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Also, our traditional Easter Egg Hunt will be held after our church service either outside or in the gym, while the Easter Brunch will be held in the Memorial Room. More information coming on this important event.

**THE EGG HUNT IS ON!** We are so happy to be able to invite families to our Egg Hunt, which is being resurrected (see what I did there?) in 2023. As before, it will be on **Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**, right after the worship service. We are now collecting candy to fill eggs - no chocolate please, and only wrapped candies. We'll also have goodie bags, so tiny toys, stickers, etc are also welcome. Please leave donations in the Memorial Room or give them to Jen Schneider.

**SPRING CRAFT SHOW COMING SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Our Welcome Spring Craft Show and Bake Sale will be on **Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-3**. If you are interested in a table please let Beth Lanford or myself know so we can hold one for you. We do fill up quickly so let us know as soon as possible. Any questions contact Beth or myself at [wensven55@gmail.com](mailto:wensven55@gmail.com). More details will be in next month's Announcer.

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

**BUNCO IS BACK!** One of our most exciting fundraisers is back and **May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM** is the date! Bunco is the game (or other card games should you wish) and raffle prizes and a great time are the goal! Tell your friends and be sure to join us for one incredible night at St. Peter's UCC! More details in our April [Announcer](#).

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING STARTS THIS MONTH!** Dear Friends, Happy New Year! In this New Year, the 2023 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) theme is "It's Time to Share," based on Galatians 6:9-10. (Translation: The MSG): *So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all...* The apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Galatia to assure them of the power of God's Spirit to strengthen them to persist in the work of being generous in caring for others. Because you didn't give up or quit, the United Church of Christ has been able to provide support that offered hope when situations seemed hopeless. We've offered food, water, medicines, education, and opportunities for sustainable development. The gifts you give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the United Church of Christ bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables us to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us. Thank you for your generous gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing Special offering! With Much Gratitude, The Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith For more information, contact our office at [oghs@ucc.org](mailto:oghs@ucc.org) or at 216-736-3232. Saint Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie will have an offering "focus Sunday" on **Sunday, March 19th**

but will receive gifts from February 26th throughout the month of March.

**NAMI AT ST. PETER'S UCC:** Do You Have A Loved One Living With Mental Illness? The NAMI Family-To-Family Education Program is a FREE 8-week course for families and close friends of adults with mental illness. The course will be **Saturdays from March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to Noon** at ST. Peter's UCC. This course is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and other disorders. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please call 847-716-2252, click "Register" or Email: [admin@namiccns.org](mailto:admin@namiccns.org)

**CHICAGO ROCKS & MINERAL SOCIETY'S SILENT AUCTION-** The March Silent Auction Has Returned! **Saturday, March 11, 2023 ~ 6 to 9 p.m.** St. Peter's United Church of Christ Gym Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Geodes, Jewelry, Books, Magazines and Lapidary Treasures. Fun for the entire family! Everyone is welcome to attend and bid. First table closes at 6:30. Free admission and free parking. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cash sales only. Admission and parking are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please contact us at [info@chicagorocks.org](mailto:info@chicagorocks.org) or call Jeanine Mielecki at 312-623-1554 or Craig Heinze at 847-584-8637.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME RETURNS** – For those using clocks that do not change themselves, let us remind you that Daylight Savings Time returns **at 2 AM on Sunday, MARCH 12th**. Turn those clock hands to make it one hour later!



# CHURCH NEWS, THANKS & OUR PEOPLE

**COFFEE HOURS-** As our COVID rules relax a bit, St. Peter's is resuming Coffee Hours, but only on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Everyone has a chance to sign up on the poster in the Memorial Room. It is suggested that the menu be kept simple and that hand-washing and care be taken in handling the food. Any questions about coffee-making, see Marlene Russell and any requests for reimbursement, see Chad McCoy - or just donate!

**A DOUBLE BAPTISM THIS MONTH!** In worship on *Sunday, March 19th*, Pastor Lanford will celebrate the sacrament of baptism with us by baptizing not one, but two children together: Cousins Cameron Allen Loach (son of Jeff and Jen Wirth Loach) and Hayley Ann Bruhn (daughter of Kimberly Loach Bruhn and Patrick Bruhn). Please come to the service!

**A ♥ Thanks to All** - I am so proud of the HUGE collection of Move In Essentials for our Veterans. A heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the Community Outreach Drive Up & all who donated fantastic essentials. The Jesse Brown VA truck arrived Monday Feb 27 for our donations. I want to personally THANK everyone who made this month a huge success. Our Coffee Hour was a very memorable morning with our guest speaker Ret. General Jim Mukoyama & District Rep Jim Dunne. The Jesse Brown Veteran's exiting homelessness into an apartment will truly be blessed due to your generosity. Thanks, Ginger

Budget at a Glance January 2023

	<u>Jan. Actual</u>	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Operating Contributions	11,632	13,342	11,632	13,342
Operating Expense	12,711	15,493	12,711	15,493
Gain/(Loss)	(1,079)	(2,151)	(1,079)	(2,151)

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

## LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lector:	Rich Schneider
	Nursery:	Kathy Zipperer
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lector:	Mark Loach
	Nursery:	Carolyn Van Til
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lector:	David Iannotti
	Nursery:	Heidi Tarzian
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lector:	Judy Paige
	Nursery:	Laurie Mitchell
Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lector:	Karen C.
	Nursery:	Kathy Zipperer

**WOMEN'S GUILD** - St. Peter's Women's Guild met on Wed. Feb. 8 at 11:30 a.m. President Barb Todd gave Devotions in the form of an "Angel" story - and desserts and fruit were served by Judy Paige and Barb Todd. We welcomed Pat Mauer Erdman and Bonnie Loach and her mother-in-law, Pat. Also, Annie Noorts arrived with her new dog, Sadie! Discussion was held on the Veterans Collection and Coffee Hour on Sun. Feb. 12. Ginger Kalensky reported that a Drive-Thru Collection would be held on Sat. Feb. 11 and Sun. Feb. 12 at the Laramie Ave. entrance. Ginger has charge of the special Coffee Hour on Feb. 12, featuring an address by General James Mukoyama, Jr. Ret. He will talk about the veterans' issue of "Moral Injury", a neglected trauma of guilt and fear that veterans face when they return to the United States. The Veterans Collection will help those who need household items when they transition from homelessness into independent living. The Collection will last throughout February at the church. It was announced that Coffee Hours will now be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and will be subsidized by the church, not the Guild. Also discussed was the Pre-Lenten Brunch (not possible) and the Easter Breakfast (possible.) Barb Todd will discuss the Breakfast possibility with Rich Schneider - it would be on April 9. Because of Holy Week and Easter, there will be no Guild meeting in April, but our next meeting will be on March 8 (cont.)

(cont. from page 4) at which time we will clean and organize the kitchen and the "Brides Room." Barb and Sue Bailey will cook and serve a soup lunch, which will be much appreciated after all our hard work! We will meet on May 10, following the Spring Craft Show and Bake Sale on May 6. We need baked goods from everyone, ladies, for the Sale and Barb Todd will be in charge. Wendy Svenson and Beth Lanford will be in charge of the Craft Show. We are debating whether or not to have our Dedicated Offering in the Spring, but no decision has been reached. We are also thinking about making changes in our structure and meeting dates to accommodate new, active members - "Think outside the box." Bonnie Loach announced that our church will hold a double baptism for her two grandchildren on March 19. They are the children of son, Jeff and daughter, Kim. Our June meeting will be a picnic at Barb Todd's on Wed. June 14 - plan on it! Barbara Todd, Pres.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS** are being taken now! See form at the end of this newsletter. Orders due by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**HOSPITALIZED** - Sharon Johnson had hernia surgery in early February and is progressing right along in her recuperation at home. She has even been to the church to change the church paraments for Transfiguration Sunday and Lent!

**MINI-PANTRY** - Thank you to everyone who regularly and generously donates. We are grateful, and the products are truly needed - not just food, but also things like toiletries, cleaning supplies (soap, soft-soap, kitchen sink soap), deodorant, etcetera. Thank you, and we do need the gifts to continue coming in!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 – Grace Castillo; Joshua Castillo
- 3/4 – Tyler O'Hara
- 3/5 – Britta Christianson
- 3/6 – Phil Lindroth
- 3/7 – John Gruze; Rich Schneider
- 3/10 – Don Kahn; Jamie Iannotti  
Jeff Loach
- 3/11 – Lana Kahn; Ray Erdman
- 3/12 – Adrianna Paige; Tracy (Paige) Puckett
- 3/13 – Roy Svenson
- 3/16 – William Hoellerich
- 3/18 – Maria Altmayer
- 3/19 – Angela Washek Kuras;  
Matthew Riley
- 3/23 – Haley Kahn
- 3/24 – Jason Iannotti; John Balling
- 3/28 – Sue Bailey

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/1 - Carol and Richard Hook
- 3/16- Alice and Bill Schaller

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/3 – Kristine Mau
- 4/11 – Henry Aguayo
- 4/14 – Marcia Hilliard
- 4/16 – Ken Itter
- 4/18 – Bonnie Loach
- 4/21 – Gail (Dennis) Balling
- 4/23 – Darrell Kerbel
- 4/24 – Mark Taylor
- 4/25 – Susan Garcia
- 4/26 – Elisa Meggs
- 4/27 – Roman Salvatierra

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/15 – Analise and Juanito Banoyo
- 4/21 – Donna Gates & David Rees
- 4/22 – Carol and Bob Iannotti

# 2023 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



**Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.**

**Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 20, 2023.**

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Easter Lily 6" pot</b>	<b>10.50</b>	
	<b>Azalea 6"pot</b>	<b>19.00</b>	
	<b>Hyacinth 6" pot</b>	<b>8.00</b>	
	<b>Tulip 6" pot</b>	<b>7.00</b>	
	<b>Rieger Begonia 6" pot</b>	<b>10.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>			

**Name**

**Phone**

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**In Honor/In Memory:**

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