

# The ANNOUNCER

**12/7** Poinsettia Orders Due  
9:00AM – Sunday

School

**10AM – Worship  
w/Holy Communion**  
11:15AM – Board of  
Elders

**12/10** 11:30AM - Women's  
Guild Meeting

**12/13** 6-10PM – CRMS

**12/14** 9:00AM – Sunday  
School  
**10AM – Worship**  
3PM – Christmas Carol  
Sing  
Board of Finance meets  
on Zoom

**12/16** January Announcer  
Deadline

**12/18** 5PM – Pack 85 Holiday  
Party

**12/21** 9AM – Sunday School  
**10AM – Worship**  
11:15AM – Church  
Council

**12/24** 7:00PM – Christmas  
Eve Worship

**12/25** Merry Christmas!

**12/28** 9AM – Sunday School  
**10AM – Worship**

**12/26** Laura Vacation  
-1/2

## ☀️ SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Christmas Eve is a such a special time at St. Peter's UCC in Skokie. It is a combination of honoring tradition with well-known and loved Christmas carols and scripture readings, and celebrating the future, acknowledging the joy and hope of the newborn Lord of Hosts.

St. Peter's UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation, and at Christmas (and the whole year through) we invite everyone to partake in Holy Communion with us. Worship at St. Peter's UCC will begin **at 7PM on December 24<sup>th</sup>** and will also be livestreamed on YouTube.

## SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH US! 🎵

It feels like we never sing enough Christmas Carols in Advent, and we're going to fix that! Join us **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** **beginning at 3PM** in the sanctuary for a good old fashioned Christmas Carol Sing! Our Music Director Ben Westphal

will be heading up this very special gathering, and you are invited! Please let Ben know of any special requests. After the singalong, join us downstairs in Lanford Fellowship Hall for a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres provided by our Women's Guild. All are welcome!



## COLLECTING BABY ITEMS ALL DECEMBER

Our Sunday School's Advent Mission Project "A Baby Shower for Jesus" is back all December. They are asking folks for donations of baby and toddler items that will be donated to the Niles Township Food Pantry. These items include baby food, formula, baby lotion, diaper

rash cream, Cheerios, diapers, wipes, fruit cups, fruit snacks, juice/milk boxes and pudding cups. Items can be placed under the tree in the sanctuary, or on the table outside the gym. Thank you so much for your help!

## From the Interim Pastor

Dear Friends,

The wonderful season of Advent begins this Sunday, November 30. To help in your Advent celebration, we are making an Advent devotional available to you. You may get it by the first Sunday of Advent. PDF copies are also available by emailing [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org). Soon and Very Soon has been written by the Stillspeaking Writers. It begins with our need for radical hope and offers encouragement as we prepare for God's best. Please take advantage of the daily scripture reading, reflection and prayer as you grow through this season.

Then, please consider joining us to:

**LIGHT ADVENT CANDLES AND REFLECT ON THEMES OF ADVENT** – We have eager young candle lighters who want to help, so lighting the candles and reflecting on advent themes will be two separate responsibilities this year. Share your own reflections on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Or serve alone or with friends or family to lead an Advent liturgy and light the candles. Sign-up sheets are in the church Narthex, or tell Brenda or Laura if you are interested.

**BRING GIFTS FOR BABY JESUS** – A mission project sponsored by St. Peter's Sunday School to support our community's youngest children through the Niles Township Food Pantry. Please see the flyer,



created by one of our Sunday School learners and parents, for details of most needed items. That information is also in this month's Announcer. We will receive them through December.

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN LITTLE VILLAGE** – Businesses in Little Village have been devastated by the impact of ICE. At 1 pm Sunday, December 7, faith communities in Skokie will gather behind Ezra Habonim NTJC, 4500 Dempster, to caravan together to support this community. Help us support struggling small businesses as we seek to make a difference.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG** – I never seem to get my fill of singing Christmas Carols. Our own Ben Westphal will lead our Carol Sing at 3 pm, Sunday December 14. Refreshments will follow in the Lanford Hall.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** – December 24, 7 pm, bring family and friends for a sacred evening of lessons, carols, communion and candlelight.

This promises to be a wonderful season of reflecting and growing as we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel: God with Us. Please join us as often as you are able. When you can, invite others to come as well. They just may need to be loved in exactly the way that St. Peter's UCC knows how to love.

Blessings,  
Brenda

## A CALL TO AUDIT

Your Board of Finance is looking for one of two people that could volunteer to help audit the records of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer before our annual meeting. If you or someone you know has a skillset or an inquiring mind to dive in and ask pertinent questions about how St. Peter's manages our finances, please reach out to Chad McCoy at [chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com](mailto:chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com). The time would be a few hours in the church office sometime in mid-January. Thank you!

| Operating Budget at a Glance for October, 2025 |             |             |            |            |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
|                                                | Oct. Actual | Oct. Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
| Income                                         | \$18,843    | \$12,508    | \$152,207  | \$150,733  |
| Expenses                                       | \$17,809    | \$18,760    | \$150,890  | \$173,500  |
| Gain/(Loss)                                    | \$1,034     | (\$6,252)   | \$1,317    | (\$22,767) |

## YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

Advent is here with its focus on preparations to receive the best gift ever! Yes, it is a busy time of year. Yet, the work of the Church Council continues. Amid other work, the Council approved the minutes from its prior meeting. You can read the minutes from the [October Council meeting](#) by following the link provided here or by requesting them from the office.

The November business of the Council included the appointment of the Nominating Committee. Thank you to Carolyn Kuechler, Denise Hopp, Judy Paige, Mike Ryan, and Rita MacMahon for accepting the call to serve. Thanks to our pastor, Brenda, for providing pastoral guidance to this group.

The Nominating Committee is charged with selecting "one candidate for each office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, and candidates for the Boards of Elders, Deacons, Christian Education, Finance and Trustees." This is the slate that you will receive at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in January. Please join together in giving thanks for all who serve our church, supporting the Nominating Committee in their work, and prayerfully considering how you too might serve.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/2 – Sandy Guenther  
 12/4 – Louie Lopez  
 12/5 – Peggy Reins  
 12/8 – Drew Ryan  
 12/10 – Erik Christianson  
 12/11 – Jon Mau Gemignani  
 12/16 – Judy Paige  
 12/23 – Michael Chavez  
 12/24 – Payton McDonald  
 12/26 – Carol Iannotti  
 12/27 – Carol Hook Laura Olson  
 12/28 – Beverly Mau  
 12/31 – Ben Westphal

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

12/3 – Nancy & Phillip Lindroth  
 12/6 – Judy and Jim Williford  
 12/21 – Erik & Liesel Christianson

## NEW GIVING OPTION: ZELLE

In an effort to offer folks more options to donate, we now accept donations via Zelle. Zelle works directly with your bank and works instantly. Use the email address [finance@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:finance@stpeteruccskokie.org) when donating, and don't forget to add any extra information, such as where to direct your donation, under the notes section. Thank you, and to our Board of Finance for setting this up!

## WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT – November 16, 2025

The Women's Guild did not meet in November but spent time working on the Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The ladies stepped up and baked up a storm, and we made a profit of over \$700 which will help cover our Christmas charities and a sizable donation to the District 69 collection of turkey dinners for Thanksgiving and ham dinners for Christmas! Members also

manned the St. Peter's craft table at the fair and helped wherever they were needed. Also, congratulations to Wendy Svenson, who chaired the whole fair and made a tidy sum to give to St. Peter's! We will celebrate Christmas with our Holiday Luncheon and Cookie Walk on Wednesday, December 10th. We invite everybody to bring

a batch of cookies and then collect some of those goodies to take home and, also, we will include them with ice cream for our dessert! The main lunch will be provided by the Board and we will have some games, led by our favorite gamester, Carol Iannotti! Come join us! Barbara Todd, President.

## A JUST HARVEST SERVICE IN NOVEMBER

On Saturday November 29th, St. Peter's provided the groceries and volunteers to 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 for a hearty free meal!

Your donations helped purchase the ingredients for the meal. Thank you. Sadly, far too many folks find themselves in a food insecurity situation. Thankfully, they can make their way to the AJH Community Kitchen for a meal in a safe environment. Even more sadly, far too many in our communities still went hungry.

AJH offers our siblings more, much more, than a free meal. AJH is a safe location for anyone to come and find the loving and supporting community that everyone needs. The dining room of AJH is much like any restaurant or family kitchen table. There is laughter, camaraderie, conversations, and caring for each other. Saturday the 29th was the day of the snowstorm that dumped up to 10 inches of snow in the Chicago region. We witnessed a gentleman come into the dining room wearing slippers on his feet! He asked if there was a place where he could find a pair of shoes. A staff member of AJH went next door to the Good News Community Church, found footwear that was more appropriate for the conditions and gave them to him. Along with a healthy meal, he found a helping angel too.

Our next time to partner with AJH Community Kitchen is **Saturday January 31st, 2026.**

Thinking about joining the church? We will be holding classes in January. If you might be interested, please tell Brenda, Laura, or another church leader. We want to be sure to give you more information as soon as it is available.



## Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped with the craft show on November 8th. All of the bakers, helpers and shoppers made the day a huge success. I have received several comments and emails from new crafters and returned crafters on how friendly and helpful our church members are. It's such a wonderful feeling to hear these kind words that I had to let you know we do make a difference. We had a total of 34 vendors. Our amazing bakers once again out did themselves. The bake sale brought in \$667 for the Women's Guild. The morning was busy, but the afternoon was somewhat slow. This might be because of the weather, rain and snow were coming in. The net income from this event was \$1,647.40. We are looking forward to the 2026 craft fair! – Wendy Svenson and Annie Noorts, co-chairs.

## Pet Blessing 2025

Pastor Brenda's first pet blessing with us took place on October 26th. We are so glad she was able to share the blessings this year, she made it a very special event. The attendance was lower than usual, 30 people with their dogs, stuffed animals and photos were blessed. We think the lousy weather, and the Bears game kept people home. This outreach event is co-sponsored by Skokie C.A.R.E.

## Rummage Sale Update

On September 26th and 27th we opened our doors for the 2025 rummage sale. We counted 763 people coming in to shop. The income from the sale, including the FUNDrive in January is \$26,336.18. Expenses were \$958.66, giving us the net income of \$25,377.52 for the Church's general fund. Thank you to everyone who worked, donated and shopped our sale. It is amazing to see what we can do when we work together!

Annie Noorts is collecting non-perishable baking ingredients for the 4th Annual Cookies for Community. There is a collection box in the Lanford Fellowship Hall. Items collected will be distributed to Evanston Community refrigerators and delivered to neighbors who are vulnerable to ICE's acts of terror. The goal is to provide baking ingredients to those who can't afford them so they can enjoy the tradition of making holiday cookies with their families. Thanks in advance for any donations. This is not a church sponsored collection, just something Annie has chosen to participate in and to ask for help with.

## Thank you for 15 years!

I can't believe it's been 15 years since I began at St. Peter's UCC. When I look back, I realize how lucky I've been to have God place in my life some of the most caring, wonderful individuals - It has been my honor to be the office face of the church. The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coffee hour was one of the most special times in my life, I'm overwhelmed by all the love. The gift (see pic) – complete with my beloved Max; it still brings tears to my eyes and I will treasure it



always. St. Peter's, I'm so excited by the future of our church, it really looks brighter than ever. I hope for many more years of service, friendship, love and caring! Thank you so much everyone!

– Laura Olson

St. Peter's UCC  
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**Lector/Nursery  
for December 2025**

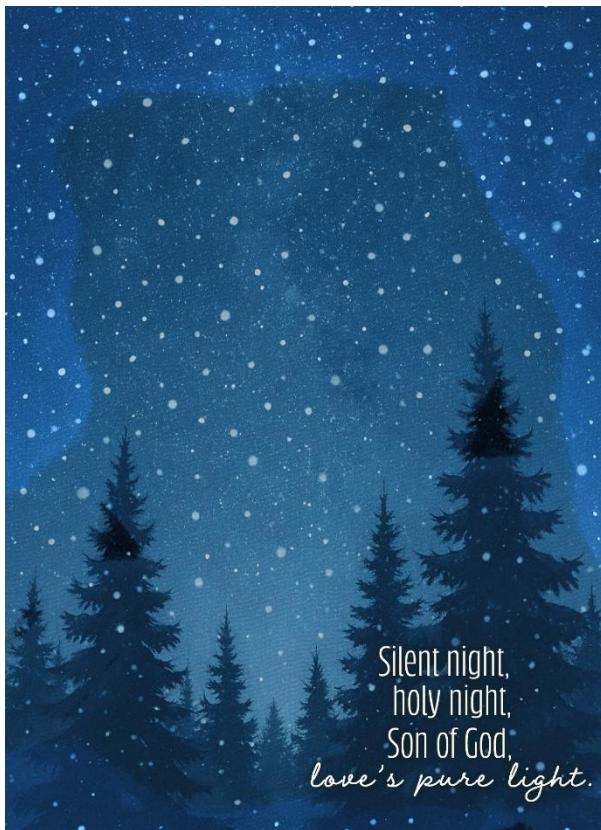
|                      |                                         |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Lector: Carolyn V.<br>Nursery: Kathy Z. |
| Dec 14 <sup>th</sup> | Lector: David I.<br>Nursery: Laurie M.  |
| Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> | Lector: Anne H.<br>Nursery: Heidi T.    |
| Dec 28 <sup>th</sup> | Lector: Jen S.<br>Nursery: Carolyn V.   |
| Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Lector: Karen C.<br>Nursery: Mike R.    |



## The ANNOUNCER

DECEMBER 2025

**St. Peter's UCC Gear – Spruce up your wardrobe with some great apparel featuring the St. Peter's logo. These are also great to wear at events to help get the word out. They have LOTS of great clothing with pages and pages of styles, shirts, hats, coats and more in ALL SIZES and so many different styles, including our LOGO (we have 4 different logos to choose from. Check it out here:  
<https://stpeters.qbstores.com/home> and get yourself some St. Peter's UCC gear!!**



**Search Committee:**  
Please pray for your Nominating Committee as they look for members to fill out a few key roles in the church. Also pray for members who will be discerning whether they feel called by God to fill in various capacities. Many thanks to Denise Hopp, Carolyn Kuchler, Rita McMahan, Judy Paige and Mike Ryan as they usher through the process.