



The ANNOUNCER

10/4 9AM – S.S.
-10AM – Worship
w/Holy
Communion
11:15AM – Elders
meet.

10/10 6-10PM CRMS

10/11 9AM – S.S.
10AM – Worship
Board of Finance
Meets on Zoom

10/14 11:30AM –
Women's Guild

10/18 9AM – S.S.
10AM – Worship
11:15AM – Church
Council Meets

10/20 November
Announcer
Deadline

10/25 9AM – S.S.
10AM – Worship
3PM Pet Blessing

10/31 11:30AM – A Just
Harvest Kitchen

Dear friends,

From the Interim Pastor

This past month has taken us through some of the very most important stories of our Hebrew Bible: The Burning Bush. Moses confronting Pharaoh. Passover. Exodus. Wandering through the Wilderness. Up next: Ten Commandments.

Meanwhile, St. Peter's has mounted its biggest project of the church year. The Rummage sale was not the Exodus, but there are parallels. We saw people with a vision, neighbors plagued with items they no longer needed, preparation for a rapid event, a flood of shoppers and an exodus of items. Even as we celebrated the event, people from nonprofits found manna, quail, water to quench their thirst as they wander through deserts of their own.

Miracles abound, in the Bible and in our own lives.

If you were here for the event, tell some people about what you witnessed. If you missed it, ask someone what they saw. Or tune into our YouTube channel to hear stories people shared in worship last Sunday.

But we are just getting started. Take a page from both the Old and the New Testament: after the greatest events of faith, there is more work to come. It may be less fun, but it is essential to being God's people. Here's what I can promise:

1. You will hear grumbling. That means you have problems to solve. It also means people are feeling overwhelmed and uncertain, and they need your care. As we have discussed in worship this past month (see that YouTube channel again), Jesus taught us how to share our conflicts with each other, the importance of forgiveness, the need to meet people's needs and continue to act faithfully. Sometimes we can do this alone. Sometimes we need experts to help.

2. You will join in the search for God's Promised Land where you can grow further to do the work of God. These past few months, we have done this work in fits and starts, but that has not worked. It is time for a more focused effort.
3. You will see a need to reorganize. Moses gave the 10 Commandments to his people to help them remember who they are and whose they are. Our current structure was designed decades ago, but now it gets in the way of our ministry. That needs to change.

4. Then you will be ready to form your Search Committee to identify your next settled pastor.

5. Finally you can develop firmer financial footing. Right now you are doing

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

From the Interim Pastor Continued

more ministry than you can afford. As you learn skills, care for each other even more deeply and develop your vision, it will be much easier to right-size your ministry with your resources and to find more people who can help you.

None of this will be easy. At times, every piece of this will feel as challenging as going to Pharaoh to say, "Let my people go." But you are up to this. God will be with you.

As you do this work, you will become a new people. I already tell everybody about you: your missions, your collaboration, your generosity. I love watching you grow in kindness and cooperation. I love watching ways you respond to God in your midst. Now I am ready to see God's next miracles that will propel you into a whole new future.

Blessings,
Brenda

ST. PETER'S UCC ANNUAL PET BLESSING with C.A.R.E.

Our Pet Blessing is such a special event! So many folks and four-legged friends from the congregation and community come to get their blessings. ***Our 9th annual Pet Blessing will be held on Sunday, October 25th from 3-4PM.*** We'll have a brief service honoring pets and our unique relationship with them. Following that Pastor Brenda will bless each and every pet. There are so many ways to celebrate God's connection with living creatures. If your pet would prefer not to attend, bring a photo, a leash, a collar; if you lost a pet, bring a memory. If you wish you had a pet but don't, bring a stuffed animal. Or come to begin the adoption process. C.A.R.E. (Community Animal Rescue Effort) of Skokie will be on hand with adoptable animals, information about their adoption facility and short leashes. All are welcome. For everyone's safety, please ensure your pet is on a leash or in a carrier. You and your pet will also enjoy treats at our Pet Blessing. Suggested at the door donation is \$5, to benefit C.A.R.E. and St. Peter's UCC.

SERVE WITH US AT A JUST HARVEST

This month we serve at a Just Harvest kitchen in Rodgers Park. AJH serves the needy folks in the community by offering services and food daily that helps so many. Our turn to serve will be on ***Saturday, October 31st, from 11:30AM to 2:30PM.*** If you'd like to volunteer to help serve, talk to Chad McCoy. We are also collecting \$500.00 which is the cost of the meal. If you are able to donate to that, you can do so through the offering plate, your online giving program or just drop a check off at the office or in the mail. Thank you for helping us keep this partnership going strong these many years.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

The Council met at its regularly scheduled time on September 20th, meeting in the church nursery with ten Council members and five guests present. Council members approved these [minutes from their August meeting](#). After that, there was work to celebrate: the successful repair of the church boiler and finalization of the space use agreement with FLAM North Shore. The Council also approved a proposal to upgrade the church's emergency lights. After receiving updates from other church boards and committees, all present turned their attention to Brenda who led a discussion of the work of the interim church which includes reconciliation, revitalization and the work of discerning: "What is God calling for us to do and to be?" and "Are we willing to say 'Yes'?"

Operating Budget at a Glance for August, 2026

	<u>Aug. Actual</u>	<u>Aug. Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual**</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	\$11,814	\$8,858	\$104,072	\$106,516
Expenses	\$13,564	\$15,096	\$128,970	\$137,971
Gain/(Loss)	(\$1,750)	(\$6,238)	(\$24,898)	(\$31,455)

***YTD Income includes \$15,000 of Income transfers and Interest income of \$9,266.66

Monthly Income deficits:

January	(\$11,496.88)	
February	(\$8,063.35)	
March	(\$7,451.82)	**Without the \$10,000 income transfer in March.
April	(\$3,960.49)	
May	(\$4,295.71)	**Without the \$5,000 income transfer in May.
June	(\$926.48)	**Includes \$9,266.66 of Interest Income.
July	(\$1,953.27)	
August	(\$1,750.19)	
	<u>(\$39,898.19)</u>	

CRAFT SHOW IN NOVEMBER

Grab your friends and make a day of it! *Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be Saturday, November 4th from 10AM-3PM.* Start your holiday shopping early ... or finish it up with unique gifts from over 40 vendors! St. Peter's Holiday Craft Show is back! Over 40 vendors fill our Gym and Memorial Room, and items for sale include jewelry, hand-made crafts and clothing, homemade jams, holiday baskets and much more. In addition, explore an array of baked goods from St. Peter's finest bakers – cookies, brownies, and bread, all individually packaged! We will also have raffle baskets filled with goodies to take a chance on. Don't miss this chance to get your holiday shopping done early and have a fun day with family and friends at our event!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/4 – Gretchen Sterba
 10/7 – Winfield Meggs
 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

10/4 – Peggy & Chad
 McCoy
 10/28 – Kathy Zipperer &
 Darrell Kerbel

Wishing God's Blessings on your special day!

The Women's Guild is back!

St. Peter's Women's Guild will hold their Fall meeting with a Potluck Salad Luncheon **at 11:30 on Wednesday October 14.** Everyone is encouraged to bring a salad and the Board will provide rolls and desserts. We will have an important business meeting, followed by an interesting Italian Travelogue, courtesy of Annie Noorts! Don't forget the Craft Fair on November 7th and we hope to see you in October.

- Barbara Todd, President

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Lector/Nursery for October 2026

Oct 4 th	Lector: Barb T. Nursery: Mike R.
Oct 11 th	Lector: Carolyn V. Nursery: Laurie M.
Oct 18 th	Lector: Kristin G. Nursery: Rita M.
Oct 25 th	Lector: Ann H. Nursery: Heidi T.
Nov 1 st	Lector: Rita M. Nursery: TBD



*Come see what we've been
growing!*

The ANNOUNCER

OCTOBER 2026

Rummage Sale Thanks

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Rummage event the most amazing sale!! Our preliminary numbers look excellent and right on track, stay tuned for final totals in the weeks to come. So many of you came over the last few months and sorted day and night, you took home clothes to wash, you repaired things, you washed dishes, you sold things online, you carried heavy boxes and items, you organized clothing, or tables, or cards, or jewelry. You did advertising and marketing for the sale. You donated and donated and told everyone to donate. You shared our Facebook posts (yes, that makes such a difference in viewers, and ultimately customer reach - our Facebook reel view totals were in the thousands and thousands this year it was incredible!) You volunteered to work the sale with the patience of a saint and kindness in your heart. You counted money and made deposits. You stayed after on Friday to clean and reorganize. You came to assist with all the charities coming to take advantage of our leftovers. You packed boxes and loaded them onto the Cancer Federation truck. All your efforts were seen and felt and the appreciation cannot be expressed enough in words. The widespread effect our sales have on this community cannot be measured - but reaches so far, and we could not do that without all of you.

We are so grateful to the amazing folks at St. Peter's UCC!

MINI PANTRY NEEDS

We can still use more donations to fill our shelves for the upcoming colder weather. Our pantry is visited daily by many individuals, and we've been told it's the most successful of the mini pantries in Niles Township. Help us continue to assist others. If you can, please donate non-perishable foods in cans, boxes, or packages. Thank you so much!