



# The ANNOUNCER

## Quick Upcoming

A publication of St. Peter's UCC in Skokie

- 3/1** World Day of Prayer
- 3/6** 6:30 PM - Lenten Soup-n-Study
- 3/9** 6:00PM – Chicago Rocks & Minerals Silent Auction
- 3/10** **FLOWER ORDERS DUE TODAY**  
2AM – Daylight Savings  
11:15 AM - Good Goodbye Meets
- 3/13** 10:30 AM – Women’s Guild Meets  
6:30 PM - Lenten Soup-n-Study
- 3/17** St. Patrick’s Day  
11:15 AM – Church Council Meets
- 3/18** April Announcer Deadline
- 3/24** **EASTER BRUNCH ORDERS DUE**
- 3/20** 6:30 PM - Lenten Soup-n-Study
- 3/28** 7:00PM – Maundy Thursday Worship
- 3/29** 7:00PM – Good Friday Worship
- 3/30** 11:30AM – A Just Harvest Kitchen Service.
- 3/31** 10AM – Easter Sunday Worship  
11:15AM – Easter Egg Hunt  
11:30AM – Easter Brunch

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday is March 24th. We will, as always, have palm crosses available to take home, handed out while folks come into the sanctuary for 10 o’clock worship! This is our lead-off into Holy Week, remembering the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem for Passover and the messianic acclaim showering His way therein. Saint Peter’s will have our 7:00 PM worship services on Maundy Thursday (3 / 28) and Good Friday (3 / 29). Communion will be celebrated Maundy Thursday, as that’s when we believe Jesus ‘instituted’ the Lord’s Supper at the Last Supper. We expect to continue our pre-COVID tradition of asking folks to sit in the pews closest to the front. Pastor and Ben will be talking about ideas for both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday very shortly! So we can’t give out any specific details now, beyond date and time! We are also hoping the Choir will continue its tradition

of singing on Thursday. EASTER – Resurrection Sunday – is Sunday, March 31st! No Easter Breakfast or Sunday School; worship begins at 10 AM. We’ll plan for an attended Nursery. There will again be Communion, an Anthem, joyous music and a homily celebrating the power of God at work in raising Jesus from the dead. NOTE: There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for kids in Grades 5 and younger following worship. It is open to kids in the community as well as kids who were with us, or in the Nursery, for worship. It is most likely going to be in the Auditorium / Gym. THEN at 11:30 there is an EASTER BRUNCH, held in the Memorial Room. The suggested donation is only \$5. Reservation forms are in this newsletter, as well as in Sunday bulletins. With thanks to our volunteer live-streamers, we will be able to livestream all the services on our YouTube channel.

## SAVERS & VETERANS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who helped out for our Savers Soft Goods fundrive!! We collected 4,545 lbs. of soft goods!! Our total raised was \$984.00!! Special thanks to Annie Noorts for coordinating and donating the cost of the truck rental,

which is included in our total as Savers reimbursed us \$75.00 for it. We collected over 1,000 items for the Military Outreach’s Veterans exiting homelessness collection. Special thanks to Ginger Kalensky for coordinating this program!

**FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK**

*In the middle of February, I conducted the Communicants Class for Drew and Jake Ryan. Communicants Class, the session(s) in which the students learn about Holy Communion (mostly) as we celebrate it in the Protestant tradition, and afterwards are good-to-go for receiving the sacrament at St. Peter's U.C.C. and other similar congregations. We go over a lot, and it occurred to me, in this month of March when we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday (as well as on March 3rd), that there are things we cover in that class which some of you might not be aware of! So here's a brief tutorial in the month when the sacrament has a key role in our worship.*

*A) The Lord's Supper has a strong connection to Passover, as 3 of the 4 Gospels present Jesus' last Supper with the disciples as a Passover meal. Passover is the festival and memorialized meal recalling the Exodus from slavery in Egypt. It's a freedom meal. As the Hebrew slaves were running to escape bondage to the Egyptians, and thereby become free, so do Christians celebrate their own liberation from the bondage of sin through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross.*

*B) Different denominations or movements in our faith have different beliefs about how Christ is present in the sacrament. Jesus did say "This is my body," "This cup is the cup of my blood poured out . . ." and that, with some Aristotelian physics and literal interpretation of Scripture, leads some of us to believe that the consecrated bread and cup truly become the body and blood of our Lord. To take him into your body is to take Jesus in, and that will only help your salvation. This is the Roman Catholic theology. This belief means that it is very precious and essential for believers to 'make it to the eucharist.'" Martin Luther declared that no, Christ is present in, around, beneath, and above the bread, but is not the bread itself. John Calvin agreed that Christ is present in the feast, but it was a mystery we cannot fully explain. Ulrich Zwingli believed that we are only remembering Christ, and He is not more present around the bread and cup than He is anywhere else. Those positions are called transubstantiation, consubstantiation, Reformed, and Memorialist, respectively.*

*C) Sharing in the Lord's Supper has ethical expectations. Read First Corinthians 11. Paul excoriated the Corinthian Christians who were well off, and came to the scheduled agape feast (preceding Communion) on-time or earlier, and dug in and at most of what was brought. Meanwhile the poorer or enslaved Christians had to work later and show up later, not able to bring much, and finding little left over for them to eat. Paul said this was not the Lord's Supper they were eating, if they were so careless and selfish to go ahead and eat and drink before their later brothers and sisters could be there. We are to take care of each other, be aware of the needs of others, if we would hope to commune with Christ Jesus.*

*I hope you found something new in what I've shared with you. May your Communion be bread for the journey of faith, a Lenten journey we are all still on! Keep, and share, the faith! Pastor Richard Lanford*

**A JUST HARVEST KITCHEN SERVICE THIS MONTH**

This month of March has 5 Saturdays, but it is already covered by a St. Peter's family: The family of Anna and Hugh Riley, which is them and their 2 sons Ricky and Matt, are going to serve on Saturday, March 30th, the St. Peter's slot. They

have also already made a contribution that will cover the cost of the groceries and take care of that part of the mission project, too! So thanks to Anna and company! Our next time to serve is Saturday, June 29th.

**GOOD GOODBYE COMMITTEE FORMED**

On February 18th the church council created the Good Goodbye Committee to honor and celebrate our time with Pastor Richard and Beth Lanford. We want to be sure everyone who has ideas has a chance to share them and to get involved. With this in mind, we are having a few brainstorming meetings to share these ideas. With Pastor and Beth's input, we will come up with those that will happen, and then we get on with the scheduling and planning. The first of these

meetings happened the Sunday after last. The second meeting was last Tuesday. The next in person meeting will be after worship on March 10<sup>th</sup> after worship. If you can't attend but want to be a part of things, please contact Annie Noorts, (annie@mollyu.com, 847-772-2717). She is the coordinator of this committee, but all who want to participate can be a part of these events.

**ONLINE MAINTENANCE FORM**

We have a new form to easily alert our Trustees to any building repair concerns you have. Go to:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pup5wc25mt7JkJeTg7h5IlySP6hEQDUGf7KbMfUeT Tk/edit?usp=drive\\_web](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pup5wc25mt7JkJeTg7h5IlySP6hEQDUGf7KbMfUeT Tk/edit?usp=drive_web) and

let us know when you see something that needs to be attended too. Thanks!

**NO SPRING CRAFT SHOW THIS YEAR**

There just wasn't enough shoppers even with all the advertising we do. We will however have our Fall/Holiday craft show on **Saturday November 2nd** so "Save the Date"

## CALLING FOR PICTURES AND MEMORABILIA

The news is out about our Pastor’s retirement! We want to celebrate his service to our congregation and are looking for pictures that span his 30+ years at St. Peter’s UCC. If you have photos or memorabilia to share, please email digital copies of them to the office. You can also mail or bring your originals to the office to be scanned for our digital copy. We will return them to you after scanning them. Please contact Laura at

office@stpeteruccskokie.org or (847) 673-8166 with any questions. Gathering pictures is just the start. Your Church Council will be establishing a special committee to guide the many ways we wish to honor Pastor for his service. It will be an agenda item for the February Council meeting. Please contact President Peggy at peggy.reins@gmail.com if you are interested in serving on the soon-to-be-formed Committee.

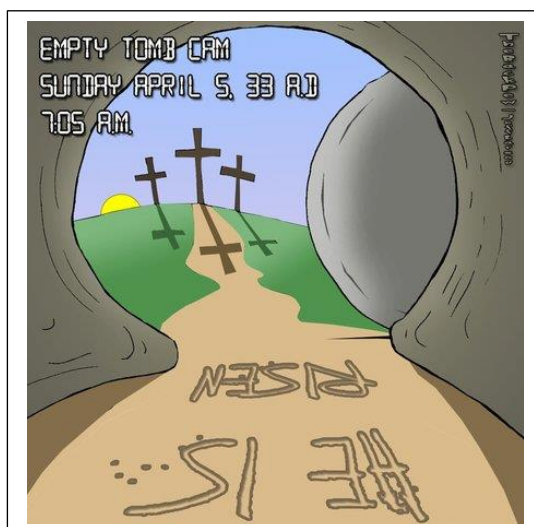
## PLEASE JOIN THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Cemetery Association is looking for volunteers to serve on the board. We REALLY NEED HELP. Please consider this loving act for those members, friends and ancestors

who’ve found our cemetery as their final home. Contact Kathy Zipperer, (847) 528-9829 for more information!

## DONATIONS NEEDED

Our food pantry is getting low again, we can use a refresh if you are able! Also, don’t forget we collect used inkjet and laser cartridges along with any old cell phones. We receive money in return for collecting these items, and it keeps them out of the landfills.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 – Alexander Christianson  
Grace & 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

Budget at a Glance, January 2024

|             | January Actual | Monthly Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Income      | \$11,675       | \$16,008       | \$11,675   | \$16,008   |
| Expenses    | \$15,678       | \$15,939       | \$15,678   | \$15,939   |
| Gain/(Loss) | (\$4,003)      | \$69           | (\$4,003)  | \$69       |

## OUR WOMEN’S GUILD

The Women’s Guild will meet on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to clean up the kitchen, etc. before the Easter holiday. We will meet at 10:30AM and then break around noon for a soup lunch, served by Sue and Barb Bailey. We will finish cleaning

and then have a Business meeting, where plans will be discussed for the remainder of the Spring season, including possible celebrations for Pastor’s retirement in June. Also, a decision and plans for an Easter Brunch have to be discussed.

Further meetings will be in April and May, ending with a special Deck Party Meeting at the Todd’s house in June. Stay tuned for further information!

### Lector/Nursery for March 2024

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| March 3rd                 | Lector: Beth S.<br>Nursery: Mike R.          |
| March 10th                | Lector: Carolyn Van Til<br>Nursery: Annie N. |
| March 17th                | Lector: David I.<br>Nursery: Kathy Z.        |
| March 24th<br>Palm Sunday | Lector: Ann H.<br>Nursery: Laurie M.         |
| March 31st                | Lector: Jenn S.<br>Nursery: Laura O.         |
| April 7th                 | Lector: Judy P.<br>Nursery: Heidi T.         |

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MARCH 2024

### GOD'S PROVISION WHILE WE WAIT

A November 2023 landslide trapped 41 construction workers in a tunnel they'd been excavating for a Himalayan highway project. For 17 days, they were stranded nearly 3 miles from freedom. When rescuers' drilling equipment broke, miners drilled through the last 2 meters of rock and gravel by hand. Finally, all the workers were pulled to safety through a 3-foot-wide steel pipe. Because they had received food, water, medicines, oxygen and even light through a narrow pipe while underground, all were in good health.

We are trapped in sin and brokenness: our sin and that of others, fragmented relationships and systems, nearby and across the globe. Christianity teaches that God's way of goodness will win in the end. But before full rescue comes, what keeps us alive and hopeful — even healthy?

As water was faithfully provided to the laborers through that narrow pipe, God quenches our thirst through baptism. Scripture and the sacrament of communion are the food and medicine that nourish and strengthen us. Prayer — our own and others' prayers for us — along with the Holy Spirit's gifts such as comfort and joy flow into our lives like the light of hope and the oxygen of life. Though complete rescue seems slow to come, God provides for us while we wait.

***The Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society of Chicago, one of our 'tenants,' is holding its 72nd Annual Silent Auction in our Gym this month! It is an auction featuring rocks, minerals, crystals, fossils, geodes, jewelry, books, magazines, and lapidary treasures on which to bid! It is the biggest event of their year and of course is open to the public! It is taking place on SATURDAY, MARCH 9th from 6 to 9 PM. The first table to close for bids is at 6:30, so try to be on time! For more information, contact the Society at [info@chicagorocks.org](mailto:info@chicagorocks.org).***

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024**

ADULTS

CHILDREN 3-6

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS \_\_\_\_\_

HELP SAT. 10:00AM

HELP EASTER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

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## EASTER BRUNCH

**SUNDAY March 31, 2024**

**11:30 AM** (after the Egg Hunt)

Join us for Easter Brunch after worship in the Memorial Room starting at 11:30. Eggs, bacon, and baked goods will top the menu.



The cost at the door is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children 3-6, and no charge for children under 3. Please RSVP by filling out this form and placing it in the offering plate (no payment) or by sending it to or dropping it off at the church office.

We are calling for donations of coffee cakes, muffins, and other baked goods. Please fill in the blank with what you will bring. And we are asking for help on Saturday the 30th and Easter morning. Please check the appropriate boxes to let us know how you want to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Todd or Rich Schneider. Hope to see you there!