

The Announcer

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

I want to share with you something I read today. It's in a daily devotional book, with a reflection, then a separate but perhaps related meditation for inspiration, then a brief (like 2 sentences long) prayer. One line of the prayer goes, "I pray that I may find confirmation of my life in the good things that have come into my life."

It struck me in a very positive way. It might sound immature to feel like your life needs to be, or will benefit from being, affirmed, but I don't think it is. Lots of persons can doubt themselves so deeply that they wonder about the value or purpose of their life. They may be starved for encouragement or have either an unhealthy or chronic case of low self-esteem. Then again, some folks tend to see the glass, or life, or the world, as half-empty. In those cases, they may benefit from a gratitude list, realizing that some pretty great blessings have come their way, which can bring them to see their life is more than half-full! It can lead to a change in one's orientation to life.

Sometimes it's a good idea to double check what we are looking at for confirmation. Maybe we look at some difficult, negative stuff, and when those are depressing, our lives feel directionless or worse. When that happens, it's probably time to look somewhere else to see what good things are coming in . . . things from another source, or things we naturally overlook but which are significant graces from God all the same.

When Saint Peter's celebrates its 155th birthday at the start of this month of May, we know our challenges and opportunities. We have come a long way in over a century and a half, and it's right to give thanks and find confirmation of the church's life in them. Now, as God says in Isaiah 43, we might see God doing a new thing in our midst: do we not perceive it?

May you, yours, and St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, find confirmation of our lives in the good things (and people!) that have come into our lives.

Keep, grow, and share the faith, Pastor Richard Lanford



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

WELCOME SPRING CRAFT SHOW:
May 7th 2022 from
10 AM to 3 PM

BUNCO CARD AND RAFFLE PARTY: May 21st
from 7 PM to 10 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy 155th Anniversary St. Peter's UCC!

This first week in May, May 5th by one of the church's historical anniversary booklets, will be Saint Peter's United Church of Christ's 155th Birthday! We will celebrate this grand achievement by the grace of God during worship on Sunday, May 1st. Please plan to attend!

"WELCOME SPRING" CRAFT SHOW MAY 7th

from 10 AM to 3 PM. Shop for Mother's Day, Father's Day, or for Any Day. With over 30 vendors to choose from, there will be something for everyone, including Colorstreet Nails, Mary Kay, beautiful jewelry, hand-made crafts, something for that 4-legged family member, and much more. Also, St. Peter's finest bakers will have various cookies, brownies, and breads to sell as well as overflowing Raffle Baskets filled with goodies to take a chance on. The Spring Show will be held in our Gymnasium and our Memorial Room to allow even more vendors and create more space for our shoppers. All are welcome, and volunteers to help are needed as well! Let the office, Wendy or Beth L. know if you can come help the day of!

May 21st at 7 PM - The Annual St. Peter's Bunco, Cards and Raffle Party is back!

Come for the games but STAY for the Raffle! Three tables full of gadgets, gizmos, jewelry, gift certificates, kitchen items, candles, clothing, and so much more, you have to see it to believe it! Ticket prices range from \$1 for small stuff to \$10 for our super-raffle items. Your \$5 suggested donation at the door includes soft-drinks or coffee, dessert, and a snack bag, as well as one ticket for the door prize raffle. Once you are in, let the fun begin! Join up with folks at a table and start to play your games. If you have a large group and want your own table (up to 8 people) call the church office to reserve it.

WOMEN'S GUILD MEETINGS 2022

MAY 11TH 11:30 AM

HOSTESSES: Ginger Kalensky & Marlene Russell

DEVOTIONS: Sue Bailey

PROGRAM: Games

Watch your Announcer monthly for dates of our future meetings! All women of the church are members and always invited!

Submitted by: Sue Bailey

OUTREACH OPEN HOUSE JUNE 2ND FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM.

Outreach Open House – Come if you want to help, come if you need help! Learn about non-profit organizations that are doing good work in your community! This free event is being hosted by St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie on Saturday, June 4 from 9am to 12pm. Get to know more about multiple different groups and what they do to support those in need. Find out how you can help or discover how you can benefit from their services. Many different areas will be represented, including programs for veterans, pet adoption, mental health, transitioning from homelessness, food insecurities, LGBTQ, and others. Local non-profit groups and local chapters of national organizations will be on hand, with both religious and non-religious affiliations. You are invited to talk with representatives from each organization, explore what they have to offer, and sign up to be on their mailing lists. No donations will be solicited at this event. It is for informational purposes only, and to foster a community spirit by coming together to learn more about each other and programs in the community. Free pastries, coffee and water will be offered, and all attendees will receive bags to fill with swag and chances to win a famous St. Peter's Raffle Basket every hour as a door prize!

OUR PEOPLE

IN MEMORIAM - *Carol Mae Burmeister* left this life early in the morning of Friday, March 25th. She was 85, and is survived by husband Ralph, their daughter Susan Speicher, granddaughters Morgan, Heather, Mia, and Libby. She had been in hospice for several weeks before her death. Carol was a crafter and a reader, a good friend and dedicated member of St. Peter's, a devoted wife, sister, aunt, in-law, mother and grandmother. She was a Chicago sports fan, a warm and welcoming hostess to gatherings of the family, and someone who loved to laugh. She had a lot of grief in life, so she always thanked God for the upswings and good things in life that came her and Ralph's way, too. She was a great mom. Folks at Saint Peter's will remember her for most of these things, but perhaps especially the hundreds and hundreds of knit winter hats she and Ralph made for the Advent Night Ministry mission project. She and Ralph were also frequent coffee-hour hosts, she loved being part of the Women's Guild, and was a ready and willing conversationalist while downstairs in the building, waiting for worship to start. She frequently exchanged paperbacks with other church ladies who have a penchant for reading. Her funeral at Haben's Funeral Home was on March 30th, with a burial in the St. Peter's U.C.C. Cemetery. Pastor Richard and Susie Speicher spoke at the service.

HOSPITALIZED - Since our last newsletter, a number of our members have spent time in hospitals. In some cases they happened some time ago, but we were only recently made aware of them. Pat Mauer Erdman broke her hip in a fall at home and had hip replacement surgery the first full week of April. After undergoing physical therapy at Glenview Terrace, she should be home a few weeks by the time you read this. Clara Melone was hospitalized for 4 days, after which she went to Alden on Touhy for 4 weeks of physical therapy. She was to go home on April 11th. Phil Lindroth tore one of his rotator cuffs while cleaning out his brother's house in Skokie (it was a huge job) and has completed his physical therapy. This writer does not know for sure if there was surgery or just rehab. Dorothy Panzke paid a return visit to Swedish Hospital in the first week of April due to digestive tract problems. She was treated, and returned home late Friday, April 8th. Please keep these persons in your prayers.

NEW MEMBERS / SEEKERS CLASS - Pastor Richard wants to offer a New Members / Seekers class, scheduled on the basis of interest and the availability of those interested. Let him know if you are interested!

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.



OUR PEOPLE (cont.)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 - David Rees
Dayle Zelenka
- 5/2 - Dale Todd
Diana Pappadakis-Haun
- 5/4 - Bill Karol
- 5/5 - Ken Paige
Molly Uchtman
- 5/6 - Laura Medaglia
- 5/12 - Maya Lundeen
- 5/13 - Gianna Iannotti
- 5/14 - Jake Ryan
- 5/17 - Jessica Schneider
- 5/18 - Annie Noorts
- 5/22 - Gail Hoellerich
Pastor Richard Lanford
- 5/24 - Diane Meggs
- 5/25 - Angelo Iannotti
- 5/28 - Louise Hrynkow
- 5/29 - Heather (Schuhrke) O'Hara
Melissa Erickson
- 5/30 - Jack Hoellerich

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/11 - Mandy and Mike McDonald
- 5/16 - Christine and Maykel Salvatierra
- 5/23 - Ann and Mark Aler

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 - Barbara Bailey
Liliana Greiner
- 6/3 - Barbara Todd
Ben Rees
- 6/4 - Chris Taylor
- 6/7 - Katy Schuhrke Aguayo
- 6/8 - Baggio Salvatierra
Colin Medaglia
- 6/9 - Rose Taheny
Jim Olson
- 6/11 - Ginger Kalensky
- 6/13 - Aiden James Caras
- 6/15 - Zachary Muhrer
- 6/16 - Barbara Gack
- 6/19 - Clementine (Muhrer) Hoeing
- 6/20 - Laurie Mitchell
- 6/26 - Alexander Martinek
- 6/29 - Gena Zelenka
Kristine Hoellerich

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/1 - Lana and Don Kahn
- 6/6 - Gena and Dayle Zelenka
- 6/11 - Cristy and Louie Lopez
- 6/14 - Karem and David Iannotti
- 6/17 - Valerie and Christopher Mahoney
- 6/27 - Aaliyah and Eric Svenson
Adrianna and Ken Paige

Budget at a Glance for March				
	March Actual	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Operating Contributions	\$8,834	\$11,667	\$34,845	\$35,000
Operating Expense	\$15,278	\$14,044	\$44,799	\$42,132
Gain/(Loss)	(\$6,444)	(\$2,377)	(\$9,954)	(\$7,132)

These numbers exclude line items for any income transfer, roof repair and directed gifts.

KITCHEN THANKS - Thank you to everyone who gave enough for us to make the \$500 needed for the meal we serve at our turn for cooking for / serving at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest! We are not able to go back and serve in person yet so it is done as a lunch (temporarily) via curbside pick-up. Our next month for this mission opportunity (a gift) is for Saturday, July 30th.

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW ABOUT UPCOMING GRADUATIONS - So we can share the good news with the rest of the church and extended church family! The deadline for the June Announcer is Monday, May 23rd.

BAPTISMS - We try not to publicize baptisms in case they do not go forward on the dates planned, and there may be one yet which is not scheduled. Right now, there is one scheduled to take place during Sunday worship: Michael and Mandy (Taheny) McDonald's second daughter, Willow June McDonald, is scheduled to be baptized on Sunday, May 15th, and there is hope that health concerns will allow for a coffee hour in the church afterwards. Another, albeit a private, Saturday baptism, is set for May 28th! The infant is Emma and the mothers are Daniela Espinoza and Jennifer Nakhleh. Some in the family have been joining us at worship!

LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR MAY

- May 1st** - Nursery: Beth L.
- Lector: Beth S.
- May 8th** - Nursery: Mike R.
- Lector: Katy A.
- May 22nd** - Nursery: Heidi T.
- Lector: Carolyn V.
- May 29th** - Nursery: Carolyn V.
- Lector Rich S.
- June 5th** - Nursery: Kathy Z.
- Lector: David I.