

The ANNOUNCER

10/5 Neighbors in Need Offering Sunday

9:00AM – Sunday School

10AM – Worship w/Holy
Communion

11:15AM – Board of Elders

10/6 10AM-1PM – Rummage Clean-up

10/8 11:30AM – Women's Guild Meets

10/11 9AM-1PM – Trustees Workday 10AM Memorial Service

10/12 9AM – Sunday School 10AM – Worship Board of Finance meets on Zoom

10/14 Pastor out of Office & 10/15

10/19 9AM – Sunday School 10AM – Worship 4PM – Jane Abramchik Memorial Service, reception following

10/21 November 2025 Announcer deadline

10/25 9AM-1PM – Trustees Workday

10/26 9AM – Sunday School 10AM – Worship 11:15AM – Church Council Meets 3PM – PET BLESSING

10/28

- 11/2 – Pastor Out of Office

PAW-SITIVELY HEAVENLY DAY: BRING YOUR BELOVED PETS TO THE ANNUAL BLESSING!

C.A.R.E. (Community Animal Rescue Effort) and St. Peter's UCC of Skokie are hosting our **8th Annual Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 26th from 3-4pm**. A brief service will be held in St. Peter's gymnasium honoring pets and our unique relationships with them, followed by individual pet blessings from Pastor Brenda. There are many ways to celebrate God's connection with living creatures, and we will bless them all. If your pet would prefer to not attend, bring a

photo, a leash, a collar; if you lost a pet, bring a memory; if you wish you had a pet but you don't, bring a stuffed animal. Or come to begin the adoption process. There will be raffle baskets with wonderful pet-inspired gifts and treats. C.A.R.E. will be on hand with pets ready for adoption and information about their adoption facility. All are welcome. For everyone's safety, please ensure that your pet is on a leash or in a carrier. Suggested at-the-door donation is \$5, to benefit C.A.R.E. and St. Peter's.

GET YOUR WREATH ORDERS IN

It's really that time of year again! Wreath orders are being taken now. Beautify your holiday home with real, fresh greenery. Details and an order form can be found in this newsletter, and in upcoming bulletins. **Orders MUST be placed by Thursday, November 13th**. Pickup for these orders will be Saturday, November 29th from 1-2PM or Sunday, November 30th after worship.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW & BAKE SALE NOV 8TH

Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is back! On **Saturday, November 8th from 10AM – 3PM**. We'll have over 40 vendors selling their hand-made wares, lots of delicious baked goods to eat (or to bring to a holiday party), and raffle baskets. Its free to get in and open to the public. Find the unique and special gifts you'll be giving this holiday season!

From the Interim Pastor

Dear friends,

The vase was lovely: tall, ornate, regal-looking. Better yet was the gleam in the purchaser's eye. They knew exactly where this would go. It would set apart an entire room, an entire home. They smiled broadly walking out the door.

I didn't see what happened next, but I heard it shatter. The vase shattered. With it shattered the vision, the dream, the place in the purchaser's life. I watched their face fall in disbelief, in sadness, in horror, in grief. The bustle of the Rummage Sale hushed. We all knew that could have happened to us, and we could feel with this shopper.

We took a moment to draw a breath until we could offer a voice of love.

Almost instantly I heard Annie's voice declare, "Whatever that was, we'll refund the money." A wave of kindness and compassion swept through the room, until every worker at the sale, every customer, could see the devastation and make way for the purchaser to return to the check-out. This vase will not be restored. But the purchaser would leave with dignity intact. Other shoppers would carry the vision of generosity. And all would feel the love of God.

Because, friends, that is who we are as a church. We are a body who knows that we are loved so deeply and so fiercely that nothing can take it away. Even the shattering of a precious treasure is not enough to stop Love. Love is the air we breathe, the vision we cherish, the hope we embody. It is built into the church's DNA and permeates every cell. Threats against workers and shoppers and community members cannot stop Love. Irritations, frustrations, large affronts, deep hurt: these things happen. They shatter us. But they cannot stop Love. They cannot turn us away from our Source of Being, our Womb of Compassion, our Breath of Life, our Word Made Flesh, our Liberation, our Redemption, our Sustainer, our Promise, our Hope and everything else that God is. God is. Resurrection is. Love can never be extinguished.

We live in an age of division and despair, where each day's atrocities seem to overshadow the ones we saw yesterday, where people we love and people we will never know are hurt, crushed, shattered. We pray for a day when all will be reversed, and vulnerable people will again know compassion and healing. Our actions seem so small and powerless against the powers that we see.

But we know a bigger truth. A small act of kindness, compassion, respect can make a difference. It can reverberate through a Rummage Sale and out into the streets of Skokie and into every home who received our things, and everyone they will touch. Seeds are planted. Hope is embraced. Healing is here. Love grows.

Precious items will shatter, and sometimes it seems that hearts will shatter right along with it. But God is at work in the smallest act of love, and that love can never be overcome.

Thank you for taking part in God's healing and everlasting love.

Blessings, Brenda

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE CLEANUP AND THANKS

We are so grateful and proud of the entire St. Peter's UCC community, who in one way or another helped make this sale the most successful one yet. As of this writing we have made over \$20,000 and we still have more to add to that. We will have the final total in upcoming communications and next month's Announcer. Please come **Monday, Oct 6th from 10AM-1PM** to help finish cleaning up. We'd like to ask one last thing - can you bring boxes of leftover rummage to Goodwill, Salvation Army or any donation center you like? Boxes will be available to take on tables in the gym. Ask Laura if you have any questions. We ask that books/cds/records/media remain, there are designated folks to take those. Thank you so much again!

ST. PETER'S CRAFT TABLE NEEDS

This year Sue and Barb Bailey will not be coordinating a St. Peter's craft table for the Craft Show. If anyone has any craft projects they have been working on and would like to be in charge of the table with those proceeds to be given to the church please let me know. I will hold onto the same table as before for the next couple of weeks before giving it to another crafter. Please text me if you have any questions at 847 528-4545. Wendy

OUR WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild did not meet in September but will open their Fall season with a meeting on **Wed., October 8th at 11:30AM**, featuring a Salad Bar Luncheon! Each member is requested to bring a salad of their choosing and rolls and dessert will be provided by the Board. There will just be a brief business meeting, as this will mainly be a social gathering, so we can all catch up on our summer and each other. Please join us!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES COMING SOON

We are in the process of making available our Church Council minutes to our congregation. We hope to have them available electronically and on our bulletin boards next month. In the meantime, contact Laura (office@stpeteruccskokie.org) if you need an electronic or paper copy.

OCTOBER WORKDAYS

Our Trustees are back again working in October! Please join them **October 11th and 25th from 9AM-1PM**. All skill levels are welcome; please contact Rich Schneider richschneider@comcast.net for more information or just show up!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 – Nicole Miller
 10/3 – Doug Johnson
 10/4 – Gretchen Sterba
 10/7 – Winfield Meggs
 10/11 – Gabriel Banoyo
 Jillian Caras
 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

10/1 – Amanda & Richard Steegmueller
 10/4 – Peggy & Chad McCoy
 10/9 – Laura & Paul Medaglia
 10/12 – Megan & Steven Caras
 10/21 – Anna & Hugh Riley
 10/28 – Kathy Zipperer & Darrell Kerbel

A JUST HARVEST SERVICE THANKS

On Saturday August 30th, 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. One hundred customers were welcomed into the AJH dining room and were served a nutritious meal. Our next time to partner with AJH Community Kitchen is **Saturday November 29th**.

Operating Budget at a Glance, August, 2025

	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$9,480	\$9,008	\$101,673	\$113,716
Expenses	\$14,458	\$17,142	\$119,307	\$139,896
Gain/(Loss)	(\$4,977)	(\$8,134)	(\$17,634)	(\$26,180)

Lector/Nursery for October 2025

Oct 5th	Lector: Rich S. Nursery: Kathy Z.
Oct 12 th	Lector: Mark L. Nursery: Laurie M.
Oct 19 th	Lector: Rita M. Nursery: Denise H.
Oct 26 th	Lector: Olivia A. Nursery: Heidi T.
Nov 2 nd	Lector: Beth S. Nursery: Carolyn V.



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OCTOBER 2025

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL AT WORK

Your Church Council has been busy! On September 21, the Church Council passed a Safe Church Policy. This written policy on abuse prevention was the last contingency to meet for continued building and liability insurance from our new provider, The Insurance Board. This accomplishment follows much work, dialog, and the adoption of written policies on safeguarding church funds and separation of duties in church finance in June. The creation of revised building use rules and regulations followed in July. In its electronic format, this article links you to the new and refreshed

policies and rules. (If you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter or have difficulty accessing the policies online, you may call the office to request a copy.) Of course, the Church Council saying that we have a policy is not the same as making it our policy. After policies are adopted, the Council must tend to practical matters of implementation, and we will do so with your help and God's. For now, we rest assured that by setting our intention to make our practices align with exemplary policies, we are becoming the

best church possible. Separate from policy, the Council discussed ideas for making its proceedings more transparent and accessible to members. Our bylaws say, "Church members are invited to attend all meetings of the Church Council . . .". Our governing documents contain the clear message: you, our members, are not just allowed to attend Council meetings, you are invited! We hope you will join us in the work of the whole church as your heart leads you.

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



**24" Balsam Wreath
with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor
Wreath 24", 30", 40"
Double Face Balsam 36"



Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"
Indoor/Outdoor



4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece

Place your order by Thursday November 13th.
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 29th from 1 - 2 pm
or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 30th.**

24" Single Face Balsam	\$18.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$32.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$55.00
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00
4' Noble Mix Mantlepice / Centerpiece	\$45.00
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$22.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$23.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$33.00
42" Evergreen Planter	\$54.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$23.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$18.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$27.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$42.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00



32" Evergreen Planter
42"+ Evergreen Planter



12" Candle Ring Wreath
WITHOUT Candle



**24" Boxed
Decorator Wreath**



Holiday Yule Log 12"



25' Balsam Fir Garland



Firestarter Basket



Balsam Swag

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for fresh pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$18.00.

Cemetery stands are included at no additional charge.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help to decorate the church for Christmas with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will place wreaths on graves at the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Thursday Nov 13th.**

Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Nov 29th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Nov 30th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$18.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$32.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$55.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	\$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$22.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$23.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	\$33.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	\$54.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$23.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$18.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$27.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$42.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00	
Total Amount (\$)		