

The Announcer

JANUARY 2021

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

Some time late last year I was out on our block taking a quick stroll in the neighborhood, and I began commiserating with a neighbor about masks and always having to wear them outside. Sometimes one can forget to put one on, even after so many months of knowing the right thing to do! It's hard to understand what the other person is saying, and so on. That went to us touching on what a bad year this was for everyone, and shortly after that he said, "Well, I had a son this year, so, it's a good year for me." I could not disagree with him on that!

We have turned the calendar pages to a new set of numbers; now it's 2021 and we pray it becomes a much better year in so many ways. I think we understand that such an upswing will take time, as in many months for most of us to hope to get a vaccine shot. The economy, we hope, will pick up once more people and businesses can return to operation. Our patience, however, will still be tested, because this has been such a stressful year, we're in a hurry to get out of it! Just so, many Americans are in a rush to get to, and past, January 20th.

The magi took a long time getting to Jesus; good things come to those who wait, or who are willing to put the time into it. I remember the perspective of my neighbor, who saw the good in an otherwise "annus horribilis." Let us also continue to see silver linings, reasons to rejoice and give thanks to God, the important benefits that might emerge after a bad twist of life. The faith in Emmanuel, that God is with us, does not end after Christmastide or the Day of Epiphany; it is a gift for all time, as Jesus is for all time.

Keep the faith!

Pastor Richard Lanford



Upcoming Events

Livestream Worship
Services – Sundays 10:00
AM on Youtube

Soft Goods Drive- special
drop-off days: January 20
and 27 6:30-8:30 pm and
January 23 and 30 11:00-
1:00

Annual Meeting Reports
due Jan. 18th to the
office.

Annual Meeting Via
Zoom - January 31st

UPCOMING EVENTS & CHURCH NEWS

SOFT GOODS DONATIONS AND SPECIAL COLLECTION DAYS! Now's a great time to clear out those closets, basements, storage lockers and garages and help us at the same time! We are collecting clothing, shoes, hats, belts, purses, linens, stuffed toys and bedding through the end of January. We get 20 cents/pound and our goal is 1,000 pounds. We will be at church for people to drop off donations **January 20 and 27 6:30-8:30 pm and January 23 and 30 11:00-1:00**. We also collect them on Mondays when the office is open. Anyone who has keys can bring donations anytime, they should leave them in the gym.

NEW LIVESTREAM ONLINE SERVICES! *Live Stream began January 3rd at 10am* – You will still be able to watch your worship service on Sunday mornings on YouTube ... they will still include a link to the bulletin in the description (also available on our website every week under the “Worship” tab), and they will still feature everything our worship service always includes – Prelude, Call to Worship, Readings, Special Music, Sermon, Prayers, and Postlude. However, the service will be broadcasted (aka streamed) **LIVE AS IT HAPPENS** from our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Important things to know about this are:

- *We don't currently have people joining us in the sanctuary – we have not “regathered” for worship yet. But when we DO, we will also continue to live stream in this exact way (and maybe even better, as we learn more about what we are doing).*
- *You will find the live stream exactly where you find the video now – simply go to St Peter's YouTube channel, and it will start playing automatically when the service begins*
- *If you can't watch it right at 10am, the VIDEO of the service will be available later in the day in the same place.*
- *Broadcasting the live service will hopefully give the feel of being actually IN the church, which we are all eager to get back to.*

ANNUAL MEETING - In the interest of safety, Council is choosing to be pro-active and has **decided to hold our Annual Meeting on January 31st as a Zoom call**. We realize and acknowledge that NOT EVERYONE can attend this type of meeting. We are giving ample notice about this to allow for alternative solutions to this challenge. Perhaps if you are not able to Zoom, you can (safely) join a friend or family member on that day that CAN Zoom, and participate in that way. Or communicate your thoughts or concerns to a Council member before-hand ... we will allow proxies at this meeting. Sadly, we haven't figured out how to feed everyone this way. More information will be available about the Agenda items and meeting structure as we get closer to the meeting itself.

Annual Reports are due to Dropbox by January 18th. A link to that folder is here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/St%20Peters%20UCC%20Skokie%20Dropbox/Annual%20Reports/2020>

Church News Continues

VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER UPDATE AND FEEDBACK NEEDED – Totals collected were for November - \$46.10, December was \$54.80. We realize these are low due to COVID, but any help was greatly needed and appreciated as Village Inn and ourselves benefited from your patronage. *For 2021, we'd like people to give Annie some feedback on whether or not we want to continue doing Village Inn or another place for monthly food fundraisers? Please email her: annie@mollyu.com or send an email to the office: office@stpeteruccskokie.org with your thoughts and/or ideas for a new monthly fundraiser.* Thanks so much!

HOSPITALIZED - Dorothy Taylor fractured her hip, had a pin put in, and is back at her residence / nursing home in Elgin; Ralph and Carol Burmeister are now home after being hospitalized with COVID-19 earlier in December.

DECEMBER MISSION NEWS: Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with our missions, despite COVID, this December. We collected Hats & Scarves and other things for the Night Ministry; we collected baby items for The Niles Township Food Pantry, and we gave out around 148 Holiday Dinners to needy families in District 69, UCAN, Pastor Cranford's Ministries & our needy folks.

Thank you to everyone who shopped at our Ten Thousand Villages fundraiser! We raised \$274.23!

Laura will be taking off Monday, January 18th, 2021.

GIVING STATEMENTS WILL GO OUT LATER THIS MONTH. If you had an IN-Kind Item that you'd like credited to your account, please get those into the office ASAP. We usually give the statements out at the Annual Meeting, but due to COVID we'll be having that on Zoom, so we'll be mailing them out. If you'd like yours EMAILED to us, and save us money on postage, send the office an email and let us know!

BENEVOLENCES – Many thanks to the Women's Guild and their giving out of Benevolences to various charities that they have supported for many years. A full list is available on Page 5. St. Peter's Council urges congregation members to continue to give as they can to the different groups we've been mentioning for the last few weeks – UCAN, Night Ministry, Veterans of the Cross, Niles Township Food Pantry (baby items collection), and A Just Harvest.

NEW St. Peter's Zoom Account! We now have an official Church Zoom account. There are many more benefits we are able to use because of this. If you are having a Zoom meeting, contact Laura in the office and she'll share the username and password so you might host an online meeting using the church account.

PASTOR'S PODCAST, "The Redheaded Preacher" is available now wherever you listen to Podcasts! iTunes, iHeart, Podcast One, Podcast Addict, Spotify and more!! Subscribe and give us a 5 star rating, it helps SO MUCH!!

January 30th is our time to serve! With the help of mission partners like St. Peter's, A Just Harvest Community Kitchen continues to provide delicious, hot meals 365 days a year even during a pandemic. Our day to serve traditionally comes on the fifth Saturday of the month. (In 2021 the months of January, May, July, and October have five Saturdays). Support from St. Peter's members and friends will help the Kitchen staff prepare a community meal to go. While we can't offer our typical meal of sloppy joes and side dishes and don't need to rally dining room helpers, we still need your participation in this hands-on ministry. Please make a financial contribution so that the Kitchen can purchase and prepare food for our hungry neighbors. We need \$500 to provide the community meal on January 30th. Please follow this link to let us know you can donate:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MIR_cfWhaMv_CMg_z3SfYHD892v1Aso-UTfjaVwZ_hE/edit. St. Peter's collective generosity keeps the spirit of service alive even while we are physically apart. Please pledge and make your gift by January 20th so that we can continue this long-time ministry.

Budget Blurb through November - 2020

(Snapshot of the Church's Finances)

<u>Total Income</u>	\$146,513.82
<u>Expenses</u>	\$146,427.84
Gains or Losses	\$85.98

Micah 6:8 Committee: Giving Opportunities

Don't let COVID stop your joy! Make the Holiday season meaningful by giving gifts that help our community partners deliver Christmastide love. Consider these:

- **UCAN has created safe and caring spaces for children from its beginnings as a Civil War-era orphanage to the present day. In years past, we have collected gift cards for children and teens served by UCAN at our annual Advent Dinner. This year, UCAN has moved its holiday gift drive online. Toys, games, gift cards and more can be purchased at UCAN's Walmart gift registry. Donations are requested by Monday, December 7th.**
- **A Just Harvest Community Kitchen allows us to break bread with neighbors in need. Since the start of the pandemic, support from St. Peter's members has helped the Kitchen provide hundreds of meals to go. In 2021 we are supporting meals on January 30th, May 29th, July 31st, and October 30th. We will accept gifts directed to this ministry any time. Simply note your extra contribution to St. Peter's is for AJH Community Kitchen.**
- **Niles Township Food Pantry continues to fulfill its motto of "serving food with dignity." Each year the Thanksgiving service organized the by Niles Township Clergy Forum has been a traditional collection point for donations to the Pantry, but it was held virtually this year. You can safely donate to the Pantry online. See <http://nilestownshipgov.com/food-pantry-news/> for more information.**
- **The Night Ministry collection project is on! You can give online using their Amazon wish lists as your guide. This link, <https://a.co/3I64Djy>, takes you to list of books and games for the children of families who visit the Health Outreach Bus. This link, <https://a.co/d0oYnvV>, is for the teens and young adults in their youth shelters. The deadline for purchasing gifts on the lists is Friday, December 11th. Tip: go to "more" in the list description and click "print list" to see how many items are still needed. Contact Resource Coordinator Miranda Dean, miranda@thenightministry.org or 773-506-6022, to ensure your gift is properly accounted for and acknowledged.**
- **Alternatively, St. Peter's is delivering hats and scarves directly to The Night Ministry in early January to brighten the coldest days of winter. Thanks to Ralph and Carol Burmeister we already have already collected 100+ items, hand knitted with love. Other cold-weather gear in demand includes adult-size long underwear sets, thermal socks, and cloth face masks. If you are dropping off items for delivery to The Night Ministry—not making your gift online—please leave your items at the church by Friday, December 31st. Phone the office if you have any question about when and where to leave your items.**

The Micah 6:8 Committee is hosting a virtual Advent coffee hour on December 20th to celebrate our partnership with The Night Ministry and other community organizations. Watch for a Zoom meeting link later in December.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 – Jim Todd, John Karol
& Vivian Olson
1/6 – Alec Ryan
1/7 - Jennifer Mau Gemignani
1/9 – Usha Rajbhandari
1/10 – Jennifer Schneider
1/15 – Beth Brzozowski
1/16 – David Iannotti
1/18 – Andre Gloeckner; Karen
Christianson
1/21 – Alane (Schaller) Swiderski
1/24 – Richard Schaller
1/27 – Ethan Michael Caras

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

11/ 17– Pat and Roy Erdman
11/21 –Annie & Gerry Noorts

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2 - Madeleine Reese Todd
2/5 - Daniel (Mau) Gemignani
2/8 - Susan Leshner
2/16 - Sue (Burmeister) Speicher
2/19 - Hunter Medaglia, Lois Jarmuth
& Richard Schaller
2/27 - Eric Svenson & Lincoln Svenson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/12 – Karen & Ken Christianson

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ingrid Anderson, Guy and Traudel Cline, Pat Mauer Erdman, Linda Haig, Ken Itter, Richard Lindroth, Helen Mauer, Jim Todd, Roy Svenson & Cristy Lopez.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS INCLUDING: Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers, Angela Washke Kuras and now also Barb and Jim Todd's granddaughter Kathryn Camardo, all of whom are serving in hospitals as nurses or anesthesiologists, including work with COVID patients, and their families. Cristy Lopez, Merle Tilos and Charlie Rasmason are also health care workers.

If you see your name listed and would like it removed, or, someone you know should be added, please contact the office.

Now through January

WINTER

SOFT GOODS

FUNDRAISE



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UNITED
CONGREGATION
OF ILLINOIS

DROP OFF AT
THE GYM
8013
LARAMIE,
SKOKIE OR
CALL TO
SCHEDULE
(847)
673-8166



WE NEED
CLOTHING
LINENS
BEDDING
STUFFED
TOYS
ACCESSORIES
AND MORE

**IN HONOR/IN MEMORY
POINSETTIAS 2020**



The Altmayer Family:

In memory of Jean Schuster, Peter & Mariana Altmayer.

Greg Dennis:

In memory of my family; mom Lois Dennis, father Gregory
Dennis, grandmother Alyce Parman, grandfather Harold
Parman

Sharon Johnson:

In memory of Johnny and Susan

Ginger Kalensky:

In memory of loved ones of the Kalensky & Bedoe families

Richard Lanford:

In honor of Laura Olson's 10th Anniversary at
St. Peter's UCC



Helen Mauer:

In memory of my beloved daughter Laurie Leider, and my
loving companion Richard Hohmann

Clara Melone:

In memory of the Kettters, Melones and Cains

The Mitchell Family:

In memory of Nancy Kammin, Sam Salamone and Ed
Sobieski

Annie and Gerry Noorts:

In memory of our parents, Joan and George Stahl and
George Noorts who we miss even more during the holiday
season

In honor of Molly Uchtman, just because she works so hard
and is blossoming into an amazing adult.
She makes us all very proud

Laura Olson:

In Memory of My Mother Ardene, and June Peterson

In honor of my grandbabies Arya, Calisto & Vivian



Judy Paige:

In memory of my loved ones this Christmas

Marlene Russell:

In memory of husband Samuel Russell

Mandy Steegmueller:

In memory of Amy Yoshino, Ray Fujinaga and Steven
Fujinaga

In honor of Omi and Opa

Beth Sterba:

In memory of our Dear Uncle Bill and friend Jimmy Hoffman

**Theresa Stielow, Martha Mazur, Susan Schmidt and
Their Families:**

In Memory of our parents, Harold and Jacqueline Ruesch
and all of our Ruesch family loved ones

Wendy & Roy Svenson:

In memory of loved ones

Ben Westphal:

In memory of Marion van der Loo