



The ANNOUNCER

Quick Upcoming

A publication of St. Peter's UCC in Skokie

- 6/8** 11AM – Niles Pride Rainbow Walk and Rally Kirk Lane Park
- 6/9** 10AM – Baptism in Worship
- 6/12** 11:30AM – Women's Guild Meeting and Picnic Luncheon at the Todd's
- 6/14** **Flag Day**
- 6/16** **Father's Day**
10AM – Healing Service During Worship
11:15AM – Church Council Meets
- 6/17** Announcer Deadline
- 6/19** **Juneteenth**
- 6/20** **First Day of Summer**
- 6/23** 11:15AM – Fourth Sunday Conversations
1:00PM – Skokie Pride
- 6/30** **Pastor's last day**
10AM – Pastor's last Worship service
5:00PM – Retirement Dinner

HOSPITALIZED

Jane Abramchik remains at the McGaw Care Center, Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Evanston, 60201. She continues to improve. Dorene Schurman (Jen Schneider's mom) remains in hospice care at her residence facility in Ohio.

JOURNEY NOTES

Starting now we want to begin a new feature in the Announcer to intentionally share information, thoughts, and prayers as we live into what is next for St. Peter's.

We are not just in a time of transition as we prepare to say goodbye to our beloved Pastor, we are traveling together on a spiritual journey. For many this journey starts with a sad good-bye. It might even feel as though we are entering into an unknown wilderness, but God is by our side always!

Like all journeys, there is a beginning, middle and a long-range destination. Practically speaking, we can begin to talk about what's next: near-term, middle, and long-range.

Near term, please anticipate a few guest preachers in the pulpit at St. Peter's. Working from a long list of pulpit supply ministers supplied by the Illinois Conference, we reached out! Please plan to welcome back some familiar faces and hear some new voices in the coming weeks. Stay tuned and learn more about who will be delivering messages from our pulpit in our next newsletter.

For the middle of our journey, we expect to secure the services of an interim minister. However, we cannot initiate our search for this interim leader before Pastor's last day on June 30th. If early in our journey we find a pulpit supply minister whose preaching resonates, we can consider contracting them for pastoral duties for a specified term.

Ultimately, we will seek to employ an interim pastor who is trained and called

to intentional interim ministry. Your Church Council will be responsible for securing and developing the covenantal relationship with an interim pastor.

The longest part of the journey will involve our search for a pastor who is ready to accept a call to serve our congregation. The Search and Call process will require considerable time and a discerning spirit. We will have much more to say about that later. Suffice it to say, your Church Council will keep you informed at every step.

We will need to equip ourselves for this journey we are taking. Prayer is a good way to start. We must learn to lead each other in prayer. Sometimes that might be as easy as asking for a minute of silent prayer together. Prayer keeps us God-centered.

Let us also intentionally close with a benediction or a blessing that expresses appreciation for our time together and the gifts and wisdom that God may reveal to us. Our way of closing might be as simple as saying the Lord's Prayer together, playing a piece of music, reading a favorite Bible verse, or sharing a thought to carry in our hearts as we go our separate ways.

We are a God-Is-Still-Speaking congregation. God is not finished with us. We have work to do!

While we may experience change as loss, we can also find comfort in God's presence on the journey and anticipate delight in discovering new paths. Is there ever wilderness where there is God?

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Last month I offered to you a walk down Memory Lane in the 1990's. It feels right to continue on the same road, revisiting "the oughts."

First, we survived Y2K. We continued to receive new members in the opening years of the new millennium, and Confirmation classes were pretty much an annual undertaking. The Youth Fellowship continued strong enough, but at some point Barb Todd, who had been the main youth leader since the 1960s, decided it was time to retire from that part of her ministry, although she continued teaching Sunday School for another several years.

I remember a couple of important things happened in late summer, early fall of 2000: we bought and installed a new marquis sign which is perpendicular to Oakton Street – the underground electrical work was done ahead of time – and after a fundraising campaign, we got Air Conditioning put into the sanctuary. Jim Todd was President of the Congregation at this time, and our Trustees were very involved in both projects.

The Softball Team played the whole first decade-plus of this new century, and with player additions in 2001 and regular practice, we made the playoffs for the first time. No, we did not win, but we took the game into extra innings I think! We remained competitive for the next handful of years, returning to the playoffs at least one more time. In 2009 I was burnt out as player-manager, and Randy Altmayer agreed to take the managerial reins from there on. Thank you! When Hurricane Katrina hit, we tried to organize a charity softball game to help the victims out financially. It did not quite go as planned, although the game did take place.

We hired Dan Surma as our new Music Director in 2000, and he spent the last 19 years of his career in that role, leaving just a few months before he was struck down with pancreatic cancer as COVID-19 was about to hit us. At the end of the decade, longtime church secretary Helen Mauer opted to retire, and in November of 2010 Laura Olson began her tenure, expanding her role to a more fitting title of Office Manager, or as she prefers, Office Administrator.

My 1990 Olds Cutlass Ciera was considered totaled after an accident on a snowy Oakton Street, and in 2009 we got my Chevy Impala, which met a similar fate in the 2020s. The Halloween Party kept going for a while, as did the Spook House, but as kids got older, there were fewer young 'uns to keep these going, and at some point they both ceased – I just can't tell you exactly when.

The Dartball Team and its Gentleman's Dartball League basically died the same night as "The Bartman Game" in the Cubs-Marlins playoffs. We had a church TV with the game on. A player on the opposing team, at our house, saw the botched plays and went ballistic, with darts, and ultimately that team left the building. The league, which had few teams by then, did not endure.

The Church Growth and Evangelism Committee created the first of our Supplemental Songbooks, initially with black 3-ring binder shells, and later it underwent a few incarnations, with Dan Surma helping out in the process. It's about time to refresh it all the same, don't you think?

I served 7 years on the CMA's Church and Ministry Committee, starting around 2007. I did my first stint as co-Dean of Cluster #1 too. Next issue, the teens and early '20s of our time together!

*May all our memories be blessings. Keep, and share, the faith,
Rev. Richard Lanford*

TALKING ABOUT AFTER WE LEAVE

As I draw nearer to the time of my retirement, I thought that some mutually agreed-upon "rules for engagement" between myself and Beth, and the church and its members/friends, ought to be clearly communicated. Finalized intentional work needs to be done between the Council and the Lanfords about details, so we speak with one voice on boundaries for future communication. In the meantime, though, there are some specifics to lay out at this time.

The general rule from the denomination is that under almost all circumstances, there isn't to be any contact between us and the members of Saint Peter's for a considerable amount of time, at least 1 to 3 years. The Chicago Metropolitan Association's Committee on Ministry has set this as from 3 to 5 years. This is important as it allows the pre-interim, interim, and settled new pastors to get called and begin settling in, planting his/her/their own roots of relationship with you, without any interference from me or Beth. This also allows me to be truly retired.

This no-contact rule protects St. Peter's from any interference from us (and there have been plenty of departed pastors acting as interlopers when the new pastor is there). It also allows me to enter into retirement with a sense of release and clearness. If someone at St. Peter's desired me to take part in a funeral, memorial service, or wedding, that invitation has to go through whoever is the pastor at the time, including an Interim Pastor. If I am invited (and we'll be in Minnesota within 9 months we expect) then it comes from the sitting pastor. If that happens before an Interim is in place, then Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley of our Illinois Conference will be notified and get into contact with me about possibilities and what's healthiest.

I am expected to remove you guys from my list of Facebook friends and followings, again for at least 3 to 5 years, and I am not expecting any texts or phone calls except if the church needs information that only Beth or I have. When there is a settled new minister, any contact between me and you all would be something I would bring up to them if something comes up. The new pastor needs to develop the relationships with you, just as Tom O'Connor stayed out of things here and let me grow my roots with you. So now I will be Tom in this regard, and I ask you to treat the new person as you treated me – as the new pastor and teacher. Tom and I did a few weddings and a funeral together, so no contact is not forever.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION AND BANQUET

As you have probably heard, the Good Goodbye Committee is planning a big retirement banquet and celebration for Pastor and Beth. This event is June 30th, 5:00 in the church gym. There is no charge for this banquet, we have faith that there will be enough donations still to come to cover the full cost. This event is for all members and family of St. Peter's. It will also include a number of special guests' including people from Pastor and Beth's families, clergy who Pastor has worked with and

others from their lives peripheral to or outside of St. Peter's. Invitations have been emailed and mailed out, RSVP right away. If you did not get an invitation, let the office know. There will be a special video presentation with photos, memories, and lots of fun for all. This event will be catered, but we will need lots of helpers to get everything set up. Let's gather on **Saturday, June 22th 10:00 – 2:00** to set up, decorate, clean and get our church into the best shape possible.

PLEASE HELP WITH THE RETIREMENT VIDEO

David Iannotti is putting together a special video for Pastor and Beth, and needs your help. We are asking all of you to submit a short video with a wish, a memory, a word of advice...whatever you feel like sharing to honor these two wonderful people and their 32 years at St. Peter's. This is VERY easy to do. Just click the link below or scan the QR code with your phone. This will take you directly to the site and walk you through doing the video. Link: <https://share.vidday.com/e/r-9e8xdn>

LANFORD CELEBRATION FUND

This fund is growing, thanks to your donations and the support of the Spaghetti dinner raffle. But we do not yet have enough to cover the full cost of the banquet. If you would haven't had to chance to donate yet, (and would like to), just be sure you note on your check or envelope that the funds should be directed to the "Lanford Fund." Donations can be put in with offering during a service or mailed into the church.

RENAMING THE MEMORIAL ROOM

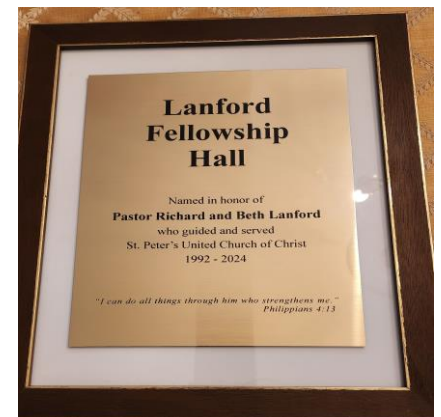
When the Good Goodbye Committee first met, we brainstormed gifts and ways to honor our beloved Pastor and Beth Lanford. The suggestion was made to rename the Memorial Room the **Lanford Fellowship Hall**. Of course, the memorial plaques will stay right where they are honoring our many members and loved ones who have gone before us. But the feeling was that name is more fitting to what we use this room for, fellowship. The committee brought this to Church Council at the April meeting where it was approved unanimously. Signs with the new name will be posted inside out outside the main doors, and a plaque (pictured, right) commemorating this will hang near the stairs leading to the sanctuary. We hope you will join us in celebrating this new name!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 – *Barbara Bailey*
- 6/3 – *Barbara Todd*
Ben Rees
- 6/7 – *Katy Schuhrke*
Aguayo
- 6/8 – *Baggio Salvatierra*
Colin Medaglia
- 6/9 – *Jimmy 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



SPAGHETTI DINNER

The May 19th Spaghetti dinner was a great success. Eighty-seven people attended. It was great to see so many old friends! A huge thank you goes out to Rich Schneider for doing all the cooking.

This was not the spaghetti dinner of the youth group era with pasta, sauce and meatballs (delicious as they were). Rich cooked up eggplant parmesan, fettucine alfredo, homemade sauces...it was incredible! The roast and toast was great fun, with some history and funny memories being shared. Thank you to Peter Svenson for serving at the MC for the evening.

The HUGE raffle baskets combined with tips from the beverage table brought is \$489 for the Lanford Celebration Fund. The night wrapped up with a birthday gift of a mug with pictures from an April Cubs game the Schneider's treated Pastor to, and the first gift from the Good Goodbye Committee on behalf of the congregation. We are officially renaming the Memorial Room the Lanford Fellowship Hall. Pastor and Beth were clearly honored by this gift.

CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH WITH US

This month, show your support to our LGBTQIA+ family and friends, it's so important! Come to the Niles Pride Walk **June 8 –at 11am** Kirk Lane Park. We plan to participate as a congregation in this event, as well as our own Ben Westphal will be speaking again!! More information on this family-friendly event can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1137947787201413/?ref=newsfeed> This was so fun last year - we highly encourage you to join us and wear your best rainbows! **June 23 – Skokie Pride 1-4 pm** Oakton Park – An outdoor family-

friendly festival with food, games, booths, music and so much PRIDE!! More information can be found here: <https://www.skokieparks.org/skokie-pride/>. We will have a booth there all day as we usually do, and we'd love it if you'd volunteer to help folks get to know St. Peter's UCC. The more the merrier, we can do shifts even 1 hour at a time if you'd like to come help! Let the office know- another event that was so fun, we really encourage you to come join us.

JOIN OUR FOURTH SUNDAY CONVERSATION IN JUNE

Thank you to everyone who has joined a Fourth Sunday Conversation in recent months. We enjoyed fellowship, listening to one another, and questions that have sparked meaningful conversation: When you think about St. Peter's what brings you hope? Can we think about change as an opportunity? If so, what opportunities do you see? Please

make plans to join our next Fourth Sunday Conversation **after worship on June 23rd**. While the question to start us off is not yet known, it will certainly generate spirited conversation. Whether you are 9 or 90, have been a member forever or are a recent visitor, we want to hear from you. Please make plans to join us!

A JUST HARVEST KITCHEN SERVICE THIS MONTH

June has 5 Saturdays which means it is time for St. Peter's to help feed the hungry among us at AJH! This is one of our key ministries / mission partners going back over 32 years. Having served at AJH for many of those 32 years, Pastor Richard and Beth are volunteering to serve at the kitchen for the final time on **June 29th**. Peggy, Chad

and Beth's brother Dan will join Pastor and Beth to fulfill the necessary number of volunteers. St. Peter's will purchase (approx. \$500) and deliver the groceries necessary to feed nearly 150 folks. Making a monetary donation to cover the grocery cost for this hands-on ministry is always welcome.

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy STIELOW, 95, died April 27th in hospice care in Lake Bluff. A longtime member of St. Peter's who never joined another church after moving to the Kenosha area decades ago, the family asked Pastor Lanford to officiate at her funeral, and it was held at St. Peter's on Tuesday, May 7th. Dorothy raised her six kids she had with husband Bill at St. Peter's, and two of her granddaughters confirmed their faith here in the 1990s. She was an avid Cubs fan, loved to play cards and a lot of different games, including with her grandkids and great-grandchildren. She was a cat and dog-lover, and her volunteer work was always aimed at serving others (like at an animal rescue place and at a kitchen in the Shalom Center in Kenosha). She was laid to rest in Memorial Park.

Kenneth ITTER, 97, died after a brief illness at St. Edward's Hospital in Naperville. That is near the family of his late wife Inez, to whom he was married 45 years. He was a sound and electrical engineer for the Drake Hotel, setting up for concerts and conferences within the Hotel. He was also a doorman when not needed for those responsibilities, and was friendly with Bob Hope among others. He joined St. Peter's in the 2000s and had a circle of church friends whom he regaled during coffee hours with questions, stories, opinions and laughter. He loved country / western music, he liked watching baseball and pro golf on TV, he was a fan of the Chicago Cardinals (not the Bears!), he was a U.S. Army veteran, called himself a born-again Christian and had a zest for life and a serious faith. He died on May 6th and was buried at Queen of Heaven Cemetery on May 13th, with Pastor Lanford officiating.

MaryLou NOORTS (Annie Noorts' mother-in-law), for whom we also have prayed, died on Wednesday, May 15th in the early morning hours. Her memorial service is scheduled to take place a week after the deadline for this issue, but all the same we can announce the schedule was for a Visitation at Simkins Funeral Home on Sunday, May 26th from 3:30 to 4:30, and the service to begin at 4:30 with Rev. Lanford officiating. We'll have more about MaryLou in the July edition of the Announcer.

GOOD GOODBYE COMMITTEE MEETING

Please join us for a meeting **June 2nd after worship**. All who'd like to be involved are welcome!

BAPTISM IN WORSHIP

During worship on **Sunday, June 9th**, we will celebrate the baptism of Britta Christianson's daughter Sky, who is ten months old! Be there or be square!

WOMEN'S GUILD PICNIC AT THE TODDS'

Please join us for our special Women's Guild Picnic at the Todds' home (8825 Mason, Morton Grove) **on June 12th at 11:30AM**. Our special honored guests will be Pastor Lanford and Beth. All women of the church are invited!

SPECIAL HEALING SERVICE

Pastor Richard knows he has few Sundays left, and also realizes that many of us find meaning and value when we incorporate a Service of Healing into worship. For these reasons, we are having Service of Healing in our Sunday worship **on June 16th**.

FALL CRAFT SHOW

The Fall Craft Show this year will be on **Saturday November 2nd from 10-3**. If you are interested in a table please let either Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545 or Annie Noorts (847) 772-2717 know so we can mark you down. As you know we have limited space so before we send out applications the end of June to our other crafter's we want to be sure you have a spot. Any questions please let me know. -Wendy Svenson

Budget at a Glance, April 2024				
	<u>April Actual</u>	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	\$15,082	\$16,008	\$56,190	\$64,032
Expenses	\$15,534	\$15,939	\$62,208	\$63,756
Gain/(Loss)	(\$451)	\$69	(\$6,018)	\$276

ANOTHER GREAT UNDY 500

Thank you to everyone who donated to the UNDY 500 in May! We collected 290 pairs of men's and women's underwear! All donations will go to The Night Ministry, who helps Chicago's most needy. Thanks to the Micah 6:8 Committee for sponsoring this!

St. Peter's UCC
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Lector/Nursery for June 2024	
June 2 nd	Nursery: Annie N. Lector: Carolyn V.
June 9 th	Nursery: Rita M. Lector: Barb T.
June 16 th	Nursery: Annie N. Lector: Beth L.
June 23 rd	Nursery: Mike R. Lector: Beth S.
June 30 th	Nursery: Kathy Z. Lector: Carolyn V.
July 7 th	Nursery: Laurie M. Lector: David I.



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JUNE 2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Thomas Herren Gatesman, grandson of Ann Herren graduated from St. Norbert's College May 12th with a double major in computer science and data analytics.

Zachary McCoy, grandson of Dorothy Panzke, graduated from Wilbur Wright College Saturday, May 4th.

Ricky Riley (pictured, left) son of Anna Riley, graduated from High School at the end of May. He'll be going to "Bridges" a Dist. 219 program for special needs young adults. Bridges teaches people with intellectual disabilities independent job skills. Graduates get placement at local establishments such as Will's Place or Target on Touhy. <https://www.niles-hs.k12.il.us/bridges/> We love you Ricky and we are so proud of you!!! Love Mom, Dad, Mattie, Nana, Grandpa, Sirius and Jadzia! XOXO

Lincoln Svenson, son of Eric and Aaliyah Svenson, graduated 8th Grade.

Madeleine Todd, granddaughter to the Todd's, graduated Glenbard West May 22nd as an Illinois State Scholar.