



The Announcer

LENT

RENEWAL * DEVOTION
* PREPARATION *

MARCH 2021

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

“After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed . . .” (Genesis 41:1).

Joseph had been in prison, wrongly accused (set up, even), and after some years, he correctly interpreted the dream of the Pharaoh’s cup-bearer who shared a cell with him. The cup-bearer was released and returned to serving Pharaoh. Joseph had asked him to let Pharaoh know of his plight and, it was hoped, get Joseph released too. But the cup-bearer forgot him. Two whole years went by. Then, Pharaoh dreamed . . . the cup-bearer remembered the dream interpreter Joseph, and mentioned him to Pharaoh, and that began the process of Joseph’s liberation from prison, preparing Egypt for the coming famine and Joseph’s rise to prominence.

But Joseph had to wait a long time for this. It was a time of despair, frustration, isolation, and probably outright anger on his part. But you know what? Pharaoh dreamed.

Here you and I are, in Lent, between The Virus and its mutations still claiming too many lives as we mourn the death of more than a half a million in our country alone, and the promise of vaccines being distributed to more and more people in more and more parts of the nation (and world). For most of us it is still isolating, frustrating, and perhaps angering. When will it be safe for the health of our parishioners and community members to open up our building for education, worship, New Life Church, community meetings and more? As we approach the year-point this March, we may join the Psalmist and sing “How long, O Lord?” When will this seemingly endless “Lent” of life end?

Lent of course does always end, and it always ends with Resurrection. New life in Christ.

It took a long time to weather the Great Depression. The Influenza of 1918-1919 spanned two years. World War 2 was four years long, Vietnam even longer, and yet all of these came to an end. God did not take the Divine Punch Card and punch out on break here and there, but rather is still Captain and Navigator of this great ship of history. We have to keep the faith in these times that we wish were more freeing, 100% safer, and trust that with faith and love, we will outlast this plague as a church, as a people and as a human race. It’s taking longer than we want, so is relief, but we’ve been through longer and worse before. By the grace of God, let us continue living with wisdom and perspective, listening to the hoof beats of hope that may take yet more time to arrive for you and me.

Keep the faith this Lent,
Pastor Richard Lanford



Upcoming Events

Livestream Worship
Services – Sundays 10:00
AM on Youtube

Lenten Bible Study
Wednesday evenings
throughout March on
Zoom

Village Inn Food
Fundraiser- March 21st,
Sunday, from 11 AM to 11
PM

UPCOMING EVENTS & CHURCH NEWS

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME RESUMES IN MARCH

Get ready to “spring forward” soon as Daylight Savings Time resumes at **2 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 14!**

NO WORD ON HOLY WEEK OR EASTER YET

The Worship and Music Committee shall meet soon and prepare something to present to the Church Council, but as of now, whether we are having in-person worship for Holy Week or Easter remains unknown. There is concern that the new mutations of COVID-19 may be in ascendance at that point, so although deaths are slowing and some of the numbers are good, it is not a guarantee that it will be safe for the health of our members, friends and staff to resume in-person Sunday School and worship by that time. We will let folks know!! We continue to livestream worship at 10 AM each Sunday and that will not change, barring any unforeseen obstacles.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY UNDERWAY

The Lenten Bible Study this year, which began via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 25th, is of the Sermon on the Mount. We are using a curriculum called “The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.” The book and leader’s guide and a DVD are by author and scholar Amy-Jill Levine, who seeks to bring a Jewish understanding to the sermon, as Jesus a Jewish man taught in the first century AD to fellow first century Jews. How does this context affect how you and I know the teachings? That’s what this study hopes to answer. We will meet **Wednesdays from 6:30 (gathering time) to 8:00 PM via Zoom**, throughout March, stopping for Holy Week and holding Session 6 that Wednesday, April 14th.

IN MEMORIAM

We were told by Andre Gloeckner that his and Marcia’s old friend and our former church member Alma Kessler left this life Tuesday, February 2nd due to a form of cancer.

HOSPITALIZED

Beth Lanford had hip replacement surgery at IL Bone and Joint in Morton Grove on Wednesday, February 24th and is recuperating at home. She gives thanks for prayers offered for her, and all the other expressions of good wishes and friendship that have been extended to her.

Church News Continues

SAVERS FUNDRIVE HUGE SUCCESS!

On Friday February 19th a truck was loaded with approximately 325 bags of soft goods, a total of 3,982 pounds. We will receive a check from Savers for \$796.40, and we have an anonymous donor who is going to add \$203.60 to give us a total of \$1,000 for this fundraiser. Thanks to all who donated, and especially to Annie Noorts, Sharon Johnson and Andre Gloeckner who went beyond expectations, spending over 2 hours working to load the truck; and to Beth and Pastor who came in as the relief pitchers at the end, helping close out the effort and bringing that much needed energy to complete the deal!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING

With the season of Lent upon us, it's never too early to begin preparing for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Our Worship and Music Committee will be meeting on **Thursday, March 11, 2021** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We will begin to discuss how best to serve our congregation to share in Christ's passion and resurrection.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TAPING HELP NEEDED

Tech Help Wanted/Needed for Sunday mornings during service. We feel as though we've finally landed on the right setup to best livestream our services and have documented a "how to" checklist to make it possible for other people to run it. We'd like to get a list of folks who can be trained and who can take turns doing it (much like the Deacon rotation) on Sunday mornings. Please contact the Office if you are interested.

VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER

Set your calendars and prepare to each well on **Sunday March 21st!** Order Carryout/Delivery/Call ahead for dine in and mention St. Peter's UCC to your server and we get 20% of your total bill! Thank you so much!

GET THOSE EASTER FLOWER ORDERS IN

Easter Flower orders to decorate the sanctuary (and then we'll have a special pick up day after) are due **March 21st!!** Get them in now. You can email the office with your order too!

RUMMAGE SALE FUNDS CONTINUE TO COME IN

Laurie Mitchel brought in 629.00 from the sale of 2 designer purses and some sunglasses. Kathy Z. brought in \$187.50 from bringing 1 box at a time of leftover books since the rummage sale ended last fall. We are so grateful, thank you ladies!!

St Peter's is thrilled to announce that we are now a Community Partner with Childcare Network of Evanston. Toni Pearson (who some of you may know as a Rummage Sale attendee and cleanup helper!) reached out to us last fall, and last Sunday, Church Council voted in favor of becoming a partner with CNE. Below is their mission statement, and a link to their website, if you'd like more information. More information is also on the flyer at the end of the Announcer.

Since 1970, CNE has been committed to making sure **all** children in our community, from birth to age five, have access to high-quality early education and childcare. We provide **no-cost early childhood education** to 234 eligible children each year with funding from the federal Head Start/Early Head Start program and the Illinois State Board of Education Preschool for All programs. We also support over 300 children and families each year by connecting them to a variety of critical resources, including **childcare subsidies** so families can afford quality early education and care for their children, and **mental health and other therapeutic services** for young children and families impacted by trauma. Our dream is to give every child in our community a Strong Start to Kindergarten to set them up for success in school and beyond, and we strive every day towards that goal. To find out how to enroll in our programs or get involved with CNE, please call 847-475-2661 or email cne@childcarenetworkofevanston.org. Our offices are closed, but we check voicemails daily."

Toni Pearson, Community Outreach and Data Specialist
Childcare Network of Evanston Head Start/Early Head Start
1335 Dodge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Office: 847-475-2661 x 316
Fax: 847-475-2699

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 – 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
 3/17 – Maria Altmayer
 3/23 – Haley Kahn
 3/24 - Jason Iannotti; John Balling
 3/28 – Sue Bailey

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/16 – Alice and Bill Schaller

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1- Henry Aguayo
 4/12- Dorothy Taylor
 4/14- Marcia Hilliard
 4/16- Bill Graddy, Ken Itter
 4/18 -Bonnie Loach
 4/21 -Gail (Dennis) Balling
 4/23 -Darrell Kerbel
 4/24 -Mark Taylor
 4/25 -Susan Garcia

4/26- Elisa Meggs
 4/27 -Roman Salvatierra

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/15 -Analise and Juanito Banoyo
 4/21 -Donna and David Rees
 4/22 -Carol and Bob Iannotti
 4/27 -Sue and Bob Leshner

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 Washek 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.

HOME VISITING

For children ages 0-5 including prenatal. Receive weekly visits in your home from parent educators.

FAMILY CHILDCARE

Full day/full year care for children ages 0-3 in a licensed home daycare.

CENTER BASED CHILDCARE

Full day/full year care for children ages 0-5 in a licensed childcare facility.

Free diapers and
formula for
enrolled families!



Childcare Network of Evanston

 **Head Start / Early Head Start**

Head Start offers education,
health, nutrition, social
services, and opportunities
for parent involvement.

Children with special needs
are encouraged to apply

COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Evanston	Skokie
Morton Grove	Lincolnwood
Northbrook	Northfield
Wilmette	Winnetka

Apply Online Now:

www.childcarenetworkofevanston.org/how_we_help



**CONTACT AN INTAKE & ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST TODAY
CALL 847-644-4328 OR 847-644-3883**

2021 EASTER CHANCEL FLOWERS



Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available and the G & E substitutes an equal value plant, orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please make a separate check for your flower order to St. Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by **Sunday, March 21, 2021**

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6 pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 4 bloom	9.00	
	Tulip 6" 5-6 blooms	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6"	11.00	
Total			

Name _____ Phone# _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____
