

JUNE 2021

The Announcer

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

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

For the Call to Offering in worship on May 16th I lifted up some important things. Unfortunately that was a day the Internet stopped serving us in the sanctuary after 30-some seconds, and there have been only 17 views of the full, recorded livestream, as of this writing. That means a lot of folks missed it, despite the nice number of folks worshiping in-person that day. So I am going to take this space to give a shortened version.

I let folks know that the flat roof on St. Peter's, protecting the Sunday School rooms, Nursery, Sacristy and the New Life Church office, has reached a point where it truly needs re-roofing. It has been patched and patched for many years, as some of you know, especially you present and former Trustees! The Trustees are getting bids, and we already have some, and it will be a lot of money; perhaps as much as what the 'new' boiler cost.

Our bell tower once again has brick and mortar issues, which means precipitation can get in and the placement and staying-power of some of the bricks up top is fragile. Again, this is not really news. The issues may even have to do with the foundation of the tower! The bids we received on repairing this are more than the roof bids.

The Boards of Finance and Trustees will meet to go over the latest information and bids, even to the point of maybe applying for a loan. I believe you folks need to know this, because at some point you will hear more, and it ought not be a surprise. Our 'envelope giving' has been very good this year, up from the same time last year, and we appreciate all financial gifts coming to St. Peter's U.C.C. We really do. I want to share with you, though, that we may need to ask for some extra super generosity in the months ahead -- for the greater glory of God!

Thank you for reading this. Keep the faith,

Pastor Richard Lanford



Upcoming Events

**IN-PERSON Worship
(limited) Sundays at
10 AM.** You must RSVP
for each Sunday.

Livestream – Sundays
10:00 AM on YouTube

Rummage Set-up
June 9th – 6:30-8:30 PM

Women's Guild Picnic
– June 16th @ 11:30
AM

**Village Inn Food
Fundraiser – June 27th**
Sunday, from 1 PM to
11 PM

The office will be open and resuming regular weekly hours starting June 1st! Both Laura and Pastor are fully immunized and ready to be back at it. The office will be open M-F 9 AM to 2 PM. For now we are asking folks to continue with masking and social distancing when coming into the building, and that may/will change as things continue to get better.

Rummage season has begun, and rummage donations are wanted!! Though some folks have been dropping things off already, we wanted to officially announce we are taking rummage! If you have a key you can drop it off anytime. Leave it outside the gym doors though to give some "quarantine" time to the stuff. Starting next Tuesday when Laura resumes normal office hours, you can come bring your stuff **anytime Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM**. If that doesn't work for you, call us and we'll try to schedule something else.

Rummage Set-up/Sorting - we'll need your help as we hope to have a regular sale this year!! We are going to set up the gym for the rummage sale on **June 9th, 6:30-8:30PM**. For this we are in need of strong bodies able to move and set up tables. Going forward we will be sorting on Wednesday evenings, also 6:30 to 8:30PM. A second sorting day will be added in July.

Women's Guild Annual Picnic at the Todd's! We're so excited to begin to resume some of our past normal activities, including this one! Join us **June 16th at 11:30 AM** at Jim and Barb Todd's for the end of year picnic. All women of the church are invited and welcomed! Please call Barb Todd at 847-965-0345 to RSVP.

Mark your calendars! Our next Village Inn Food Fundraiser will be **June 27th from 1 PM to 11 PM!** Order food from them on this day, mention the St. Peter's UCC fundraiser and we get 20% of whatever you spend. This is good for anyone, not just members, and can be ordered for dine-in, carryout or delivery.

June is PRIDE month! While we are not directly involved this year, activities planned by the Skokie Park District are here: <https://www.skokieparks.org/skokie-pride/>. There's something for everyone including outdoor movies, walks, discussions and more... check it out and show your support to all our LGBTQ+ friends and family!

In Person Worship has resumed! If you'd like to attend we only ask you pre-register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4aa8aa29abfa7-inperson>. This sign up is for all Sundays through September. You can also call us and Laura can sign you up as well. If you have to cancel just let us know!

Church News

IN CELEBRATION - Kimberly (Loach) and Patrick Bruhn are now the proud parents of Hayley Ann Bruhn, born May 21 in Houston! We have been praying for her pregnancy and now it's over! Hayley is the second granddaughter at our end of Mark and Bonnie Loach (the first being Evelyn Loach, who was baptized at St. Peter's on April 25th). Our best wishes for God's grace!

HOSPITALIZED: Carol Burmeister has been slowly improving but her strength remains on her left side. She is back at Elevate St. Andrews, 7004 N. Newark Ave., Niles, IL 60714 for physical therapy after a brain bleed caused her to have a stroke. Harry (Harrison) Kuras, the 4-month-old son of Angela (Washek) and Harrison Kuras is now out of the hospital. Beth Lanford is tentatively scheduled to have left knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, June 2nd. Please keep these persons in your prayers.

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 31st.

IN MEMORIAM - A son of St. Peter's U.C.C. (and more importantly of Ralph and Carol Burmeister!), Ken Burmeister, died unexpectedly May 6th in Glenview. He had been taking tremendous care of and giving a significant uplift to Carol and Ralph as they transitioned from hospitalization with COVID last winter, to moving from their home to Elevate St. Andrews, and more. He loved to make people feel good about themselves with laughter and entertaining conversation. He is survived by his parents, daughters Libby and Heather, sister Suzie Speicher, great friends and extended family who came to his graveside service and committal on May 14th in our St. Peter's Cemetery. Please keep the family in prayer too.

IN SYMPATHY - The last aunt of Sue and Barb Bailey, Eleanore Bailey, died April 28th after a season of illness and weakness. She was Chuck Bailey's kid sister, a lifelong Lutheran whose connection to her own church in Niles had declined, so Rev. Lanford officiated at her funeral on May 10th. She was 97. Ginger Kalensky's Uncle Ted died at the age of 90 just days before Pentecost. Peace to their remaining loved ones!

LIVESTREAM ISSUES- Just this past month of May we have had frequent problems with our Internet being able to carry our Sunday service from beginning to end, or even from the beginning. Each time it has been recorded, however, and is published on YouTube for folks to join it for worship later. We are truly sorry and aggrieved for these occurrences. Please know we have upgraded our upload/download streaming speed with AT&T and have gotten new fiber wiring, and some relocation of wiring, to replace the old wiring which was not made to handle these higher speeds, and were too close to some things in our building which created static.

We have a new Network name and Pass! You'll have to reconnect your devices when using the church's wifi, as those were changed during our upgrade. Our new network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass: UNITEDCHURCH8166. Let the office know if you have trouble connecting.

UNDY 500 THANKS! You shopped, you brought and we are very grateful!! Though we don't have a final count as of this writing, we have boxes overflowing in the Narthex and outside the office doors filled with brand new Mens & Women's Underwear. So many folks in need will benefit from your generosity. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Items will be delivered to The Night Ministry, a program that serves Chicago's homeless, sometime in June.

GRADUATIONS - Sean Loach graduated in May from UIC with a degree in Art History! Jessica Schneider graduated also in May (22nd or 23rd, rain day) from Maine West High School, ready to go this fall to Viterbo University in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. Gretchen Sterba also graduated from Roosevelt University with a Master's degree in Education- Secondary English. Sandy Guenther graduated from the University of Minnesota on May 16th with a degree was in History, with an emphasis on Medieval European history. Allison will continue at Maryland. Congratulations to them all! If you have a graduation and / or celebration coming up, please let the office know!

LECTOR SCHEDULE FOR JUNE/EARLY JULY - June 6th - Barb Todd June 13th - David Iannotti June 20th - Molly Uchtman June 27th - Mark Loach July 4th - Jessica Schneider

<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE BIRTHDAYS</p> <p>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 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</p>	<p>6/29 - Gena Zelenka 6/30 - Kristine Hoellerich</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE ANNIVERSARIES</p> <p>6/1 - Lana and Don Kahn 6/3 - Carol and Ralph Burmeister 6/6 - Gena and Dayle Zelenka 6/11 - Cristy and Louie Lopez 6/14 - Karem and David Iannotti 6/17 - Valerie (Paige) and Christopher Mahoney 6/27 - Aaliyah and Eric Svenson & Adrianna and Ken Paige</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JULY BIRTHDAYS</p> <p>7/1 – Randy Altmayer, Mia Paige Speicher 7/3 – Beth Lanford, Ann Aler Mandy Taheny, Mike R. Taheny 7/4 – Danny Mahoney 7/6 – Nancy Lindroth, Sandy Piper 7/7 – Ron Schuhrke 7/11 – Hillary Gack, Wendy Svenson 7/15 – Shari Meggs, Jeremy Steegmueller 7/16 – Sydney Kerbel, Mary Taylor 7/21 – Louise Dahm 7/22 – A.J. Tarzian</p>	<p>7/24 – Kaitlin Garcia, Justin Mitchell 7/27 – Alice Schaller 7/28 – Ryan Miller 7/29 – Ralph Burmeister</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JULY ANNIVERSARIES</p> <p>7/3 – Bruce & Linda Mau 7/12 – Beth & Richard Lanford Gregory & Gail Thomas 7/17 – Beth & Paul Brzozowski Lisa & Eric Martinek John & Gail Baling</p>

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ingrid Anderson, Guy and Traudel Cline, Pat Mauer Erdman, Linda Haig, Ken Itter, 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.