

Seedlings🕯️🕯️: "Will there really be a 'Morning'?
Is there such a thing as 'Day'"?



"Will there really be a "Morning"?"

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).

Will there really be a "Morning"?

Is there such a thing as "Day"?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?

Has it feet like Water lilies?
Has it feathers like a Bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?

*Oh some Scholar! Oh some Sailor!
Oh some Wise Men from the skies!
Please to tell a little Pilgrim
Where the place called "Morning" lies!*

(by Emily Dickenson)



Holiday Concerts this Weekend



at

First United Methodist Church of Oak Park
324 North Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

You may purchase tickets in
advance [HERE](#) .

David Richards and Beverly Tarbox of our
congregation perform with
the Michael Teolis Singers!



Friday, December 6th
Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago



Sunday, December 8th
Sts. Peter and Paul in Riverside



Saturday, December 14th
Pilgrim Congregational in Oak Park.



For more concert information and ticket purchases, click on the image above or [HERE](#) .

Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our congregation perform with *Lux Cantorum*



**Thanksgiving Day Baptism of
Annika Frances-Marie Diette**



From Your Council President

Dear people of faith and goodwill at Sts. Peter and Paul,

The council officers and members of the congregation join together in wishing you and your loved ones a blessed season of joy, warmth and peace during the Advent days **and** the Twelve Days of Christmas to come!

As we again near the close of another calendar and fiscal year, the council has been working diligently with the finance and maintenance committees to establish a priority list of church facility **needs** to keep it safely operating for all to enjoy and use, including numerous neighborhood households **and individuals**, community organizations, concert and recital attendees and performers, piano and string students **and teachers**, volleyball teams and the Riverside preschool, worshipers and visitors, as well as our own faithful and devoted church staff members.

Through extensive conversations, deliberations, and information gathering, council and committee members have determined that the following repair, replacement and maintenance projects call for ***immediate attention*** to ensure that the worship space, classrooms, dining hall, gym and other gathering places are safe, welcoming and comfortable:

■ **Installation of a smoke detection beam** to replace the 40-50 year old smoke detector units **located** in the arch of the sanctuary, several of which have not been operational for years and have been cited by fire safety inspection companies as well as the Riverside Fire Department. For the safety of everyone using the facility and to prevent further **disciplinary** action by the Fire Department, this beam *must be installed* which will be at a significantly lower cost than replacing the nonfunctional and out-of-code detectors. *Cost estimate: \$7,290.45* .

■ Over the years, literally hundreds of people have benefitted from the lift (elevator) located at the southwest entrance to the church building. So many of these folks would not have been able to participate in this community **Of faith** without it. As some may recall, the lift was generously donated in 1995 by John and Anne Small and Paul and Katherine Predny, all of blessed memory. Now entering the 30th year of service, **the lift continues to need**

repairs, replacement of parts and significant maintenance. Cost estimate: \$5,000 - 15,000 .

■ **A section of heating pipe** embedded in the second floor on the west side of the building adjacent to the gym needs to be replaced. Presently, a valve is turned off to prevent continued water damage but this leaves sections of this level, including the offices, gym and northwest preschool classroom (formerly **the Friendship Room**) without heat. Looking ahead, we hope to expand the heating system in the gym which was shut off some years ago due to similar leakage and followed by a very partial replacement of baseboard units at the north end. *Cost estimate for the immediate need: \$10,000 - \$12,000.*

The budget for the current year does not include these immediate needs as well as the ongoing list of improvements to the exterior of the building and parsonage. In this season of giving, we are hopeful that you and your households and extended friends and families can “gift” the congregation with a special contribution to help fund these urgent needs in addition to your regular weekly, monthly and annual contributions.



You may do so using any of the following options for making your end-of-the-year thank-offerings for the well-being of this house of worship:

■ Mark the "Building Maintenance" box with your gift amount on your set of offering envelopes.

- Send a check or money order by postal mail using the "Memo" line on your check to indicate that your offering is for “building repairs.” Memorials and honorariums are always welcomed and appreciated.
- Use Zelle for electronic payments at the following link: donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and benevolence.

Yours in faith and service,

Carrie Watkiss, Council President

I GUESS I'M SURPRISED THAT JOHN ADDRESSES STUFF AT THEIR WORK. YOU'D THINK HE'D COME UP WITH SOMETHING MORE SPIRITUAL.



ARE YOU SAYING THAT REFLECTING ON YOUR WORK DAY DOESN'T INSTILL IN YOU A NEED FOR REPENTANCE?



NOT THAT SPIRITUAL!



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John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to

them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



Please note:

For urgent pastoral care and *important* administrative matters,
please contact Pastor Dennis at his mobile phone number.
The landline at the parsonage is no longer in service.☎
If you need this contact information, please reply to this message.

Photos: Daryle Lauritsen (sunrise) and Jane Lauritsen (bell tower)

***Please forward this e-newsletter
to others who may be interested!
And previous issues of
"Seedling" E-News are posted at the
website.***



***For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water...
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).***

Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

**For continuing live streaming of the
liturgy
please click [HERE](#).**

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for
viewing at a later date.**



**www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. -
Noon**
