

The Compassionate  
**Life**

## **Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship Service!**

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon.

**Open Holy Communion.** We have communion the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

**Who We Are.** St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who loves everyone, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

**Attendance.** We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

**Donations.** We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit **PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie** Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

**Contact Us.** You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

### **St. Peter's United Church of Christ**

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077  
(Oakton and Laramie)

**847-673-8166**

[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

Laura Olson (Office Manager): [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Ben Westphal (Music Director): [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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847-673-8166

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, October 25, 2020 10:15 AM**  
**Reformation Sunday**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE:** "Ein Feste Burg"  
arranged in a Moravian Style

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength.

**Congregation:** *A mighty fortress is our God,*

P: a very present help in trouble,

**C:** *a stronghold never failing.*

P: Therefore we will not fear, though the  
earth should change,

**C:** *For our trust is in God, this day and  
forever.*

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Psalm 42 has the phrase “deep calls to deep.” One way to think of that is our deep need calls out for a deep remedy, something only God can bring. In seeking forgiveness, and deep healing which is part and parcel of this, please join me in our prayer of confession.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy and loving God, You know us better than anyone else, down deep even better than we ourselves. Deep down we admit that we are not fully right; we often gloss over the great commandments to love You more than anything and to love our neighbors like ourselves, even though we do love You, and them. All the same, we show these loves primarily when it is convenient, when someone is watching, or when we think it will get us something back down the line. We are altruistic, yet we are also calculating. Forgive us this self-oriented version of love, and change us to love as You teach us, all the time, everywhere, for friend and foe, when it’s easy and when it’s hard. Give us greater faith, to receive this gift from You. In the name of Christ the embodiment of Your grace we ask this. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

A great Reformation Sunday passage of pardon is Ephesians 2:8-10. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God -- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

God forgives our sins through Jesus; and it is not only for our salvation, but also for doing good works as changed persons; works of love, to be our way of life like God prepared for us as our "raison d'être," our reason for being. In gratitude and praise please join me in saying . . .

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, amen!**



**\*HYMN:** "A Mighty Fortress is our God" #281 (vv.1, 3)

281

The Christian Life

MARTIN LUTHER, 1529  
Tr. FREDERICK H. HEDGE, 1853

8. 7. 8. 7. 6. 6. 6. 6. 7.

EIN' FESTE BURG

MARTIN LUTHER, 1529

May be sung in unison. In majestic style

1. A might - y fort - ress is our God, A bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;  
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los - ing;  
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threaten to un - do us;  
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos - ing.  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph through us.  
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a - oth His  
The Prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for Him; His rage we can en -  
Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al - so; The bod - y they may

great; And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.  
dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er. A-MEN.

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beth Lanford

Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Epistle:

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

**MUSICAL MEDITATION:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"  
arr. Richard Kingsmore

### **GOSPEL:**

Matthew 22:34-46

### **SERMON:**

"Back to Basics"



**\*HYMN:** "They'll Know We Are Christians"

SSB #14

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** ('debts')

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;**

**for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen**

## **CHARGE**

### **BENEDICTION** (A "Franciscan Benediction")

**P:** May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial  
relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

**C:** ***May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of  
people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom  
and peace.***

**P:** May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection,  
hunger and war,

So that you may reach out your hand to comfort  
them and

To turn their pain into joy.

**C: *And may God bless you with enough  
foolishness***

***To believe that you can make a difference in  
the world,***

***So that you can do what others claim cannot  
be done,***

**ALL: to bring justice and kindness to all our  
children and the poor.**

**Amen!**

**C: *Amen!***

**\*POSTLUDE:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Gail Smith

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford  
Ben Westphal

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Good Morning!** The greatest commandments are to love God and neighbor. Welcome to worship, where we're strengthened in God's love so we can better love others. May God's grace nourish you.

**Thank you to everyone whose gifts** will make it possible for Saint Peter's U.C.C. to fulfill our mission partner commitment this coming Saturday when we would be serving at A Just Harvest's Community Kitchen! We have received enough donations to cover the costs of the purchase and preparation of the meal by the Kitchen while COVID prevents us from our usual way of participation. Thank you!

**Your Worship and Music Committee** meets via Zoom after worship today. Our convener is Ben Westphal and he sent out an email invite to Committee members earlier with the link to the meeting.

**If you have not read your emails from Church lately, please read the Quarantine Weekly Update sent last Tuesday,** as among other things it addresses the Council's plan for a tentative regathering for worship (50 persons or fewer at one time) later in November. It is too long to be reprinted here. If you are not on the church's email list, please email the office at the address at the front of the bulletin and let us know!

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside front cover for details on how to donate.

**It was a blessing for all involved to see friends and neighbors come through the parking lot with their pets last Sunday afternoon!** Many thanks to Marcia and Andre, and our friends at C.A.R.E who organized this event. Special shout out to Andre for wearing the dog costume!

**We also want to thank everyone who participated in the Village Inn Fundraiser last Thursday.** Every little bit helps!

**Wreath and Poinsettia Orders** - Wreath orders will be taken until November 6th. See below for ordering information, and your October Announcer. Or call the office if you didn't receive an order form. There will NOT be Poinsettia orders taken this year due to COVID and concerns about worship. Instead the Women's Guild will buy plants to decorate the sanctuary this year.

**This Thursday the Board of Elders** met over a free teleconference call.

Next week the scheduled Lector is Molly Uchtman, who is attending college in Milwaukee. Next Sunday is also a Communion Sunday, so you might want to get whatever you like to use for bread and the fruit of the vine prepared before that service starts.

**Birthday blessings this week go out to** Ryan Loach, Sean Loach, Dorothy Panzke, Mark Aler and Rich Suckow; and to Darrell Kerbel and Kathy Zipperer for their wedding anniversary this week, too!

**Prayer request update:** June Peterson felt well enough to have brief conversations over Mandy MacDonald’s phone with Pastor Lanford on Monday and Friday morning. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette’s eye with water behind the retina is greatly improving on its own right now. Judy Paige’s knee replacement surgery is this coming Thursday. Paula Fink joins Angela Washek in being pregnant!

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

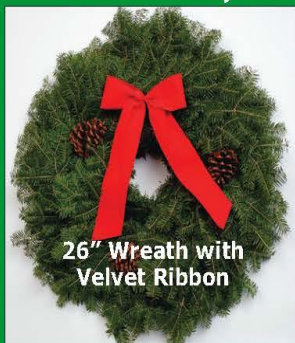
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PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

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# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations

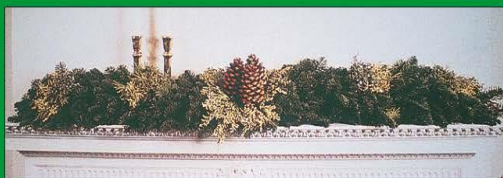


**26" Wreath with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 26", 36", 48"  
Double Face Balsam 36"



**Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20" Indoor/Outdoor**



**4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece**

**Place your order by Friday November 6th.**  
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, pickup will be on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 4 pm.**

26" Single Face Balsam	\$16.00
36" Single Face Balsam	\$27.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$41.00
48" Single Face Balsam	\$41.00
4' Noble, Cedar, Juniper Mantelpiece/Centerpiece	\$41.00
12" Candle Ring Wreath	\$21.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$19.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$29.00
38" Evergreen Planter	\$44.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$13.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$22.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$38.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$25.00
Cemetery Stand	\$6.00



**32" Evergreen Planter  
38" Evergreen Planter**



**12" Candle Ring Wreath with 4" Candle**



**24" Boxed Decorator Wreath**



**Holiday Yule Log 12"**



**25' Balsam Fir Garland**



**Firestarter Basket**



**Balsam Swag**

# CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

**The standard 26 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$16.00.**

Cemetery stands are \$6.00.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help us decorate the church for the holidays with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will make arrangements for placing wreaths on the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Friday Nov 6th.**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, **pickup at St. Peter's will be on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 4 pm.**

To place an order:

- **please fill in the form and return with payment** by mailing it to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail, text the amount, or use PayPal. For information on how to use any of these methods, please see the weekly bulletin.

Please make checks payable to:  
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
26" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$16.00	
Cemetery Stands	\$6.00	
36" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$27.00	
36" Double Face Balsam Wreath	\$41.00	
48" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$41.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantel piece / Centerpiece	\$41.00	
12" Mixed Noble Candle Ring Wreath w/ 4" Candle	\$21.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$19.00	
Outdoor Evergreen Planter (32")	\$29.00	
Supersized Outdoor Evergreen Planter (38")	\$44.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$13.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$22.00	
24" Decorator Wreath Boxed w/ Velvet Ribbon	\$38.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$25.00	

October 25, 2020

Matthew 22:34-46

The Compassionate Life  
UCC Higher Education Sunday

Dear Christ, our Teacher.

Instruct us, we pray.

The world teaches us to compete for the right answer.

The world teaches us to be better, faster, stronger.

The world teaches us that bigger is better.

The world teaches us to put the pedal to the metal.

The world teaches us to live fast and die young.

The world teaches us to go big or go home.

The world teaches us to work harder and smarter.

The world teaches us to put our nose to the grindstone.

The world teaches us to work hard and play hard.

The world teaches us that the world is our oyster.

The world teaches us to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps.

The world teaches us to put on our stiff upper lip.

The world teaches us no pain, no gain.

Instruct us, Teacher Christ.

Silence all those other voices so we can hear your teaching.

So simple, it can be shared in just a few words.

So sophisticated, it can take a lifetime to master.

So that one day, we can live what we are taught and

Love our God with all our heart and mind and soul and our neighbor as our self.

Amen.

*Today is UCC Higher Education Sunday. There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited... These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking... Find out more at <https://www.ucc.org/higher-education>.*



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

October 25, 2020

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.

Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept

for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be

entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet' '?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"

No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.