

Healing Powers



Welcome to St Peter's UCC In-Person and Livestream Virtual Worship Service! Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** to catch a new service at 10 am each Sunday! We also share a **podcast** weekly on our website of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

Open Holy Communion. We have communion the 1st 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](https://www.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

Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
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www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 27, 2021, 10:00 AM
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Beecher" arr. Stroope

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come to worship Almighty God!

Congregation: *We lift up our songs, our prayers, our praises.*

P: Come to honor Jesus Christ.

C: *We offer Christ our hearts, our minds, our spirits.*

P: Come to be filled with the Spirit of the Living God.

C: *Breathe in us, Breath of God. Alleluia!*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: These days, O Lord, have reminded us that the quest for a more just world has a long way yet to travel. Today we remember that this quest also applies to fairness for LGBTQ+ persons.

C: The urgency for broad and deep shalom presses at the doors and windows of our spirits and institutions.

P: Wanting and needing to do our part to change, let us confess our falling short in the name of Jesus Christ.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great God, the world is full of worry, agitation and animosity! For this, we offer our lament. We also confess our complicity, for our iniquities include apathy, inaction, fear, and letting our ego rule our roost. We easily reduce things to partisan or cultural terms instead of human terms. We need You to help us reframe our perceptions and our questions. We confess, too, to unwelcoming acts and attitudes, our passivity, lack of compassion and of understanding, as regards our LGBTQ+ human family and Christians. Forgive us, and create in us new hearts and minds, grounded in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirits of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite . . . I will heal them” (Isaiah 57:15, 18a).

When God forgives us and revives our souls again to follow the Way, we are healed inside to do our part in bringing healing outside to others. In the name of Jesus our crucified and risen Lord, God’s love forgives our sins and sends the Spirit to heal and transform us. Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN:**

“Spirit of Love”

(Sing to the tune of # 311, ‘Now Once Again, For Help That Never Faileth’).

**Spirit of love, you move within creation,
Drawing the threads to color and design:
Life into life, you knit our true salvation,
Come, work with us, and weave us into one.**

**Though we have frayed the fabric of your making,
Tearing away from all that you intend,
Yet, to be whole, humanity is aching --
Come, work with us, and weave us into one.**

**Great loom of God, where history is woven,
You are the frame that holds us to the truth,
Christ is the theme, the pattern you have given --
Come, work with us, and weave us into one.**

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WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mandy Steegmueller

Old Testament:

Genesis 12:1-4

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 4:16-18

Hebrews 11:8-10

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“With Open Hearts, There is Welcome in This Place”

by Mary Ellen Kish

***GOSPEL:**

Matthew 26: 36-45

***RESPONSE:**

“Alleluia”

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***AFFIRMATION OF ST. PETER’S U.C.C. OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT** (read in unison)

We the parishioners of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Skokie, make before God and ourselves, a promise to live our daily lives with love, honor and respect, believing that since we’re all made in God’s image, all people are created equal. And thus, all people are to be treated, loved and welcomed equally, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, color, race, economic status, or physical/mental ability. We therefore welcome all

people to share our Church for the purposes of worship, marriage, baptism, funeral and fellowship, with full participation in the life and ministries of the Church, asking that those who come have no intent to do harm and welcome others to our church as well. People shall be embraced with love and the knowledge that we are all one in the eyes of God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#493

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**

SERMON:

"How Do I Know What God Wants Me To Do? Part III"

HYMN: "There is Room in God's Great Welcome"

(Sing to the tune of "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

**There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors
are open wide!**

**Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to
come inside!**

**There is so much room for difference — men and
women, gay and straight.**

**In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no
room for hate.**

**There is room in our good nation if we stand on
justice-ground.**

**God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all
abound.**

**Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning
to breathe free!**

**There is room for one another but no room for
bigotry.**

**There is room for understanding, for the outcast and
the poor;**

**For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for
these and more.**

**For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long
career,**

**There is room for building bridges, but there is no
room for fear.**

There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:

Women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed,

Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.

God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

C: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" arr. Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! "Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

We welcome you to worship at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, today marking Pride Sunday during worship, and also, it's the end of a three-sermon series on discerning God's will for our lives and churches. Our Open and Affirming Covenant, which we re-affirm as part of the service, was passed on June 24, 2018, and we were welcomed into the UCC's list of Open and Affirming Congregations as #1536.

Our Village Inn Food Fundraiser is today! If you are able please patronize Village Inn today, let your server know you are there for our fundraiser, and we get 20% of whatever you spend. Good for carryout, delivery and in dining, today only!

Rummage Sorting continues next week on Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Sorters get to shop while working, so come join us, no experience necessary!! *We' are adding on new days in July.* We'll be sorting MONDAYS (not Tuesdays as originally reported) from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM; WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and FRIDAYS 10:00 AM to NOON. Come for as long as you are able anytime during those sorting hours. Thank you so much to everyone for your help!

Next Sunday is a Communion Sunday as well as Independence Day!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small!! As we said in the opening announcements, you can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, or using PayPal as indicated, with links, on the first main page of announcements. Depending on how you set up your PayPal account, you can arrange to pay whatever transaction fee there is yourself, or, that it will be included in your donation and deducted before it hits St. Peter's account (so St. Peter's, in effect, pays it). Thank you very much for giving!

Our best wishes for God's blessings on those with anniversaries this week, including Aaliyah and Eric Svenson, Adrianna and Ken Paige, and Linda and Bruce Mau; sending the same to our birthday boys and girls this week -- Gena Zelenka (29th), Kristine Hoellerich (30th), Randy Altmayer and the

Burmeisters' granddaughter Mia Speicher (July 1st), Ann Aler, and Beth Lanford, Mandy Taheny MacDonald / brother Mike Taheny (all the 3rd).

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector will be Jessica Schneider.

Laura will be on vacation! She will be gone starting Friday, July 2nd, and coming back into the office on Tuesday, July 12th

Pastor's "The Redheaded Preacher," can be found anywhere you listen to podcasts! Filled with prayer, thoughts, Sunday's scripture reading and sermon, this podcast is a great way to reinforce what you're learning weekly, and help you pass the time when doing chores, or walking, or taking a drive. If people don't have time to sit before a screen for most of an hour, the podcast gives you the Scriptures by the lector and message. Check it out!

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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Healing Powers

Open and Affirming Sunday

Louis James Irving Mitchell, longtime transgender activist, faith leader, social justice advocate, and community builder, was assigned female at birth, and named and raised as a girl. He says he knew as young as three years old that “she” was not who he was. Louis, also known as LJ, was raised by his mother and grandmother in Los Angeles, CA. An intelligent young adult, he excelled at school but wrestled with addiction and purposelessness.

After finding recovery in 1983, one of LJ’s first jobs was with the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, where he worked with run-away and throwaway youth, trained as a peer counselor, and managed the youth shelter. Passionate about community service and social justice, Louis has been a persuasive advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ community, African-American and other people of color communities, as well as the homeless, HIV/AIDS-affected, and recovering and inmate communities.

His commitment to serve the least, the last, the lost, and the left-out has had a profound impact on countless lives. In the early 1990s, as some of his friends began to transition to male, he realized his true identity and began the process of transitioning to his true self.

Educated at Andover Newton Theological School, Louis is a pioneer, co-founding the advocacy and support organizations Transfaith and Recovering the Promise. His gifts for ministry and advocacy were recognized and upheld by the community when he was ordained as the executive director of Transfaith in the United Church of Christ in 2018.

On this Open and Affirming Sunday, we honor Louis and celebrate the United Church of Christ’s nearly half century of honoring and affirming the gifts of LGBTQ+ clergy. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge Louis J. Mitchell’s gifts and graces for ministry, and all that he has done to enrich and empower our denomination.

The Open and Affirming Coalition advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the United Church of Christ and beyond and equips UCC congregations to become effective witnesses to Christ’s extravagant welcome. Find out more at openandaffirming.org.



8.5" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June 27, 2021

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Paul writes, "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."

Hebrews 11:8-11

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and

he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.

Matthew 26:36-45

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not

come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."