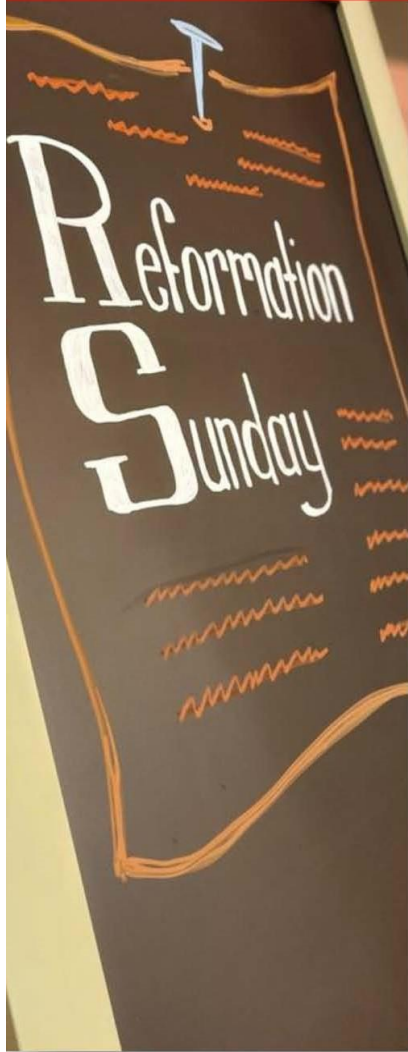


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday,
October 27, 2024
10:00 AM

Twenty-third
Sunday after
Pentecost

Reformation
Sunday





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Masks and distance recommended, not required

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel after



Ways to Give

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine!

Use PayPal. <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

Set up Vanco. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. 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 **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

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

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

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

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: @stpeteruccskokie

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 10:00am
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE Theme and Variations on "Ein Feste Burg"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, yet when it is grown, it becomes the largest of garden plants."

C: **We gather, trusting in the small acts of love that grow into something greater than we can imagine.**

P: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixed into flour, until the whole batch was leavened."

C: **We come, knowing that the Spirit works within us, bringing life and transformation in unseen ways.**

P: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, like a pearl of great value—when found, they bring joy beyond measure.”

C: We come, seeking the precious and sacred in the everyday moments, trusting in God’s abundant grace.

P: God’s kingdom is ever growing, ever surprising, ever calling us to new life.

C: We open our hearts to the mystery of God’s kingdom, alive within and among us. Let us worship with joy and hope!

OPENING RESPONSE

“Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour”

Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990



Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong



bod - y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near.

This chant may be sung as a round.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Please join me in prayer:

A: Gracious and loving God, we confess that we often overlook the small ways your kingdom is at work among us. We fail to nurture the seeds of faith within us and around us, too often chasing after what seems grand or important by the world's standards. We overlook the hidden treasures of your grace, focusing instead on what is fleeting and temporary. Forgive us for not seeing the potential for transformation in the ordinary. Forgive us for not trusting your Spirit to work through us and among us. Help us to recognize the mustard seeds of your love, the yeast of your justice, and the treasure of your mercy, and to live in ways that reflect your abundant kingdom.

Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news: God's kingdom is not built on perfection, but on grace. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to be part of God's transforming work. Even the smallest acts of love, kindness, and mercy are used by God to grow the kingdom. In Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God! Let us go forward in faith, trusting that God's kingdom is at work within and among us.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress is our God"

#281

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

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

David Iannotti

Gospel:

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

RESPONSE

“Hallelujah”

#495

MUSICAL MEDITATION “A Mighty Fortress” by Brickman

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

A: 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.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

If you donate electronically, feel free to place an “Electronic Giving” card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.

Will those who are able please stand up

RESPONSE**“We are An Offering”****SSB #11**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of ten staves. The lyrics are as follows:

We lift our voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; — Lord, use our
 voi - ces, — Lord, use our hands, — Lord, use our
 lives, — they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. —
 All that we have, — all that we are, —
 all that we hope to be we give to You, we
 give to You. — We lift our
 voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, — we are an of - fer - ing. —

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Glorious God, may these gifts bring glory to you and grace to your world. May our lives and our ministry reflect your love, and may we spread your message of love throughout the world. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON "This Turtle is Angry"

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God"

1. Now thank we all our God With heart, and hands, and voi - ces,
 2. O may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God, The Fa - ther, now be giv - en,

Who won - drous things hath done, In whom His world re - joi - ces;
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,

Who from our moth - ers' arms Hath blest us on our way
 To keep us in His grace, And guide us when per - plexed,
 The One E - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heaven a - dore;

With count - less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more. A-MEN.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Nun Danket Alle Gott” arr. Lehenbauerer

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. The Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

GUEST MINISTER	Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

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

The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$18.00.

Cemetery stands are included at no additional charge.

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

We will place wreaths on graves at the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Friday Nov 15th.**

Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Dec 7th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Dec 8th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment to St Peter's.**
- **or, email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal.**

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
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$18.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$53.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	\$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$21.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$21.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	\$31.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	\$51.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$21.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$16.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$26.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00	
Total Amount (\$)		

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



24" Balsam Wreath with Velvet Ribbon

Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 24", 30", 40"
Double Face Balsam 36"



Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20" Indoor/Outdoor



4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece

Place your order by Friday November 15th.
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

Pickup will be on Saturday Dec 7th from 1 - 2 pm or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Dec 8th.

24" Single Face Balsam	\$18.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$53.00
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00
4' Noble Mix Mantelpiece / Centerpiece	\$45.00
12" Candle Ring Wreath (No Candle)	\$21.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$21.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$31.00
42" Evergreen Planter	\$51.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$21.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$16.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$26.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00



**32" Evergreen Planter
42"+ Evergreen Planter**



**12" Candle Ring Wreath
WITHOUT Candle**



24" Boxed Decorator Wreath



Holiday Yule Log 12"



25' Balsam Fir Garland



Firestarter Basket



Balsam Swag

News in the Pews

The church is always being called to reform, to become more loving, to resemble more closely the kingdom of God. Welcome to worship this (Reformation) Sunday!

We welcome back the Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro to our pulpit today. This will be the last time she'll be preaching here this year.

After worship please join us downstairs for coffee and conversation! First and foremost, there will be fellowship. There will also be an update on the meeting with Rev. Edney Stilley and next steps in the search process for an interim pastor.

The Fall Craft Show and Bake Sale is Saturday November 2nd from 10-3. We'll have over 40 vendors selling handmade and computer-made items to help you get a jump on your holiday shopping. **HELP NEEDED:** bakers for the sale and help early that morning at 7:30 AM to help the crafters unload. Please contact Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545 or Annie Noorts (847) 772-2717 to volunteer.

The Livestream Team Needs Your Help! The overlap between the Deacons and the Livestreamers has become a challenge - our options are very limited when just ONE of us is out of town, sick, or otherwise unavailable because Jen, Beth, and Barb all do double duties on Sundays (Deacon, Livestream, and Choir). The livestream setup is very easy to run, and we would like to add a couple other people into our rotation. The livestream rotation is managed the way all the other volunteer worship positions are – there's a spot on the Sunday schedule that we can put you in for. We can be flexible – schedule you for specific Sundays instead of once a month - but we are really in need right now. Please contact Jen directly if you can join this important part of our ministry – we hear all the time that people ARE watching our livestream, and we want to be sure it's available every Sunday for those folks.

Attention all Bakers! We know we just baked for the Rummage Sale but we need to ask once more for baked goods on November 2nd for the Craft Show. All the bake sale profits this time go to the Women's Guild for their use in various missions. Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday Nov 1st in the morning or Friday afternoon 3-5 or Saturday morning from 8:30-9:30. Please have your goodies all bagged so all we have to do is price it. In advance, a thank you to all! Wendy Svenson

Rev. David Russell from the Illinois Conference and Rev. Michael Mulberry of the UCC Great Lakes Creation Collaborative will lead an intergenerational Climate Action Retreat, Friday and Saturday, November 8-9, at the Pilgrim Park Camp and Conference Center near Princeton, Illinois. All faith leaders and families, students and teachers, activists and seekers are invited! Peggy and Chad McCoy are planning to attend. To encourage youth participation, organizers are offering scholarships to participants between the ages of 12 and 29. For more information talk to Peggy or Chad or email Peggy at peggy.reins@gmail.com.

The United Church of Christ has launched an appeal to support recovery efforts following the devastation of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and St. Peter's members and friends are responding. If you would like to contribute to the hurricane relief fund, simply make a check payable to St. Peter's with "Hurricane Helene/Milton" or "hurricane relief" in the memo line. You can also give online by going to www.stpeteruccskokie.org/donate and choosing a giving option there. Your gift will support immediate emergency needs as well as the long recovery effort. For more information and to learn about other ways to support the hurricane recovery efforts visit <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>.

We're taking Wreath Orders now! Please see the insert for details and order form. Orders are due Friday, November 15th.

Our People

Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:

- Continued prayers of healing for Diane Hickman, friend of Rich & Jen Schneider, who was hit by a car while on her bike. She has multiple broken bones and brain trauma.
Betsy Herren, daughter of Ann, who is in treatment for breast cancer. She has begun radiation treatment.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter, Donna, in addition to fighting cancer has been hospitalized for a blockage due to scar tissue. She had surgery Thursday.
- Marcia Hilliard as she recovers from her surgery this month and prepares for another surgery.
- Those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene and Milton.
- 15-year-old family friend of Denise Hopp is currently suffering from self-harm.
- Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice, whom we've prayed for previously.
- Sharon Johnson had successful surgery and is recovering well.
- Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- Jen Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman, who is in hospice care in Ohio.
- Paul Brzozowski is doing well after additional treatments following brain cancer surgery.
- Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter completed his chemo. His wife Susie Richter, who has breast cancer, had surgery and will be starting treatment soon. Also, their friends Bunny and Eddy Thompson are both fighting cancer.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt, Ursula Dworak, Lois Jarmuth, Bob Seitman, and Jackie

Johnson. **If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!**

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Barb Todd, and our Nursery Attendant will be Carolyn Van Til.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ann Herren
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

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 the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie. The Niles Township Food Pantry tells us ours is the most successful in the area. But we can't keep it going without regular donations. If you are able, please bring food to help us keep it going. Food can be left on the shelves by the office doors, or in the narthex. Thank you so much!



MISSION MOMENTS

Take Heart (10/27/2024) **23rd Sunday after Pentecost** **GREEN** **Mark 10:46-52**

Poor Bartimaeus. Blind and begging on the side of road just waiting for a kind soul to drop a coin or piece of bread into his wanting hands — perhaps even acknowledge his plight with an empathetic, “Take heart.”

But no one does.

Bartimaeus sits on what is most likely the infamous Jericho road, as Mark shares that Jesus was on the road leaving Jericho when he encounters the blind beggar.

It’s not a safe place to be. It is an 18-mile stretch of dirt, stone and danger. It was this thoroughway connecting Jerusalem and Jericho where a Good Samaritan tended to a traveler beaten and left for dead. Perhaps it is fitting for Bartimaeus to be there, as he himself has been left for dead as one of society’s forgotten ones.

Today, though, the Divine “take heart” speaks to Bartimaeus in the way of a growing commotion on the road. The shouts of the name “Jesus” reaches his ears. He knows the story of this man Jesus. He is the who makes the deaf hear and the crippled walk.

Could today be Bartimaeus' turn to be made whole?

Jostled about, Bartimaeus adds to the ruckus, waving his arms and shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Others sneer at the beggar, commanding him to be quiet. Their seeing eyes are blind to the fact that even Bartimaeus is worthy of Jesus' healing mercies.

Bartimaeus shouts more loudly. Amid the many voices, Jesus hears that of the blind beggar, as his words are laced with faith. Bartimaeus is called out of the crowd and healed by Jesus.

The day will come, if it hasn't already, where we will find ourselves like Bartimaeus, sitting alone on a road no one wants to be on. We will find ourselves sinking into a pit of despair over some crisis or challenge that we just can't see a way out of.

But Bartimaeus whispers to us, "Take heart!" Never lose courage — even in the darkest night of the soul. Reach for Jesus. Cry out his holy name.

Don't let a cynical world silence your cries. Don't let your own doubts in the Faithful One mock that tiny mustard seed of faith you are desperately holding onto.

Be persistent. Be loud. Be like Bartimaeus. Shout with all your might, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And wait for your miracle to begin.

Gracious and Loving God, thank you for always being by our sides in our times of need. Continue to strengthen our voices so that our cries of help are loud and filled with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercies and remember that You are always making a way forward for us. Amen.

Scripture for Sunday, October 27, 2024

Please join me in spirit of prayer as we offer up our Prayer of Illumination.

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Our scripture reading today is Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

³³ He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^a of flour until it worked all through the dough."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied.

⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

This ends our scripture reading for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's holy word.

Our worship continues with a musical meditation.