



**First in
Caring**

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:
UNITEDCHURCH8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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

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

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, September 19, 2021, 10:00 AM
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenn Schneider

***CALL TO WORSHIP IN SONG (x2)**

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-ple and the power, Spir - it draw near.

This chant may be sung as a round.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: We may be "one strong body," but we know we have fallen short of God's desires for us all the same. No wonder we sang "Spirit, draw near," for we need the help of God.

Congregation: It is forgetting our need for God and God's help that is among the ways we miss the mark and stand in need of restoration. Even strong bodies have sins to confess, so let us do so together.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgive us, God, for we confess that we do not relish the thought of sacrificing for some larger good we cannot see, or for people with whom we find it hard to identify. We compare ourselves favorably against many who seem less attuned to Your purposes than we, forgetting that our true standard is Christ Jesus. We ask You to take from us all bitterness, envy, apathy and anger that stands in the way of Your reign. May all we ask of You be for the common good of all Your children. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? God does not retain his anger forever, because the Lord delights in showing clemency. God will again have compassion on us, and will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:18, 19).

If this promise is made to the people of Israel before Jesus was born, who after his birth went on to his Passion, death and resurrection, how much shall it also apply to us who believe in Christ as the mediator of God's forgiveness? In Jesus, God's love also "casts all our sins into the depths of the sea." What have you and I to say to this spectacular news?

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" # 21 (vv. 1,2,3)

21

Adoration and Praise

HENRY VAN DYKE, 1907
With exultation

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1814

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day,
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

Words used by permission of Chas. Scribner's Sons.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mark Loach

Epistle:

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Gospel:

Mark 9:30-37

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

PASTORAL PRAYER 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: "God's Jealous Yearning"

*HYMN: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" SSB #13

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small or glob - al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man life

We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal - tering, re - con - cil - ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur - round each per - son's sor - row with a calm that con - quers strife.

May we learn the art of shar - ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom - en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal - lenge, said with care,
 Make us part - ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,

E - qual part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

***CHARGE** (from James 3):

P: "Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness and wisdom.

C: But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above.

P: But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle,

C: Willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy."

***BENEDICTION** (3:18)

P: "And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace."

ALL: AMEN.

***POSTLUDE:** Selected

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford
Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! As our Creator designed green leaves to turn fiery yellow, orange and red, may today's worship rekindle your faith with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Welcome.

Welcome back, Janet Palmer! Janet is filling in for Ben Westphal so he can attend a cousin's wedding in Wichita, KS.

Today is the first day of our Sunday School classes! We gladly welcome back students and families, and sincerely thank Karen and Britta Christianson for leading the classes for 2nd Grade and upper elementary grades.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped make Friday & Saturday's Rummage Sale a success! For all who donated rummage, sorted and priced it, moved it, arranged the collection of leftover rummage, bought food for lunch, promoted it, worked the sale itself, etcetera we appreciate what you've done, for it could not happen without you. We especially thank the frontline leaders Kathy, Annie and Beth. AFTER WORSHIP you are welcome to shop; Kathy will be available for one hour after worship. It's a "make-a-donation" for what items you take.

RUMMAGE CLEAN-UP is this coming Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 to 8:30 PM and then again during the week of September 26th, same days and time.

The Church Council meets after worship today.

Our Village Inn Fundraiser for the church is today!

Please order food from them, mention St. Peter's UCC fundraiser and we get 20% of whatever you spend! Good for dine-in, delivery or carryout!

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!

Thanks also to everyone involved in acquiring the information about, the supplies for building, their donated purchase, the actual building and painting of, and food donations that have already arrived for, **St. Peter's new Mini-Pantry which made its debut yesterday afternoon!** The Niles Township Government's Public Relations Outreach Coordinator Mike Isaacs, in coordination with Skokie's Coming Together Project, are our partners / initial resource for this new mission project / community ministry of our church. (Coming Together is a community partnership in Niles Township among organizations in Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, and Niles).

Non-perishable food Items will be needed regularly to keep it stocked! Donations can be brought to the office during office hours (M-F 9 – 2) or on Sundays and given to someone with access to the office. The Mini-Pantry is also intended to highlight, raise awareness of, and address food insecurity in our community, which has become more serious due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mini Pantry will operate on a “Give what you can, take what you need” system, and anyone from anywhere can deposit or withdraw food items. Recommended items include canned goods with ring-pulls; hygiene products: toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, soap, menstrual products, peanut butter, kids' snacks; non-perishable foods, bottled water.

IN SYMPATHY: We are saddened to learn of the Labor Day, September 6th death, of the Rev. Bob Leshner, husband of former member (and Choir member) Sue Leshner. He died a year after undergoing aortic valve replacement surgery, due to complications from recently-found 12 brain lesions, which may have caused his stroke afterward. Following the debilitating stroke, Bob entered into hospice care and was at home with Sue the last 6 weeks of his earthly life. Condolences to Sue may be sent to their home: 11261 Greenway Drive, Huntley, IL 60142. Some of you will remember Bob coming to and participating in some of our Lenten Bible studies before they moved to Wisconsin.

Having birthdays this week are: Dylan Kahn, Megan (Knowles) Caras, Judy's grandson Ryan Puckett, and Mandy Steegmueller. May God shine on them on their days!

The first Women’s Guild Meeting of the new season will be at the church in-person and in-masks this coming Wednesday, September 22nd at 11:30 a.m. All women of the church are invited!!

Vendors still needed for our November 13th Holiday Craft Show!! We have a few spots left. Please email Wendy at st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com or text her at (847) 528-4545 to get started!

Ms. Lindsay Hammond, a member of the First Congregational Church (UCC), Evanston, and an active participant in our CMA Cluster 1, having passed her Ecclesiastical Council, will be ordained today in a 3 PM service at that church.

This Thursday at 6:30 PM there will be a Zoom meeting for those members of the Strategic Planning Initiative tied to your Church Council, who plan to meet with leaders of the Village of Skokie in the near future.

According to the schedule next Sunday’s lector is Carolyn Van Til.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Jenn Schneider |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Judy Paige |
| TREASURER | Chad McCoy |
| SECRETARY | Carolyn Kuechler |
| FINANCIAL SECRETARY | Marcia Hilliard |

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 19, 2021

Mark 9:30-37

First in Caring *Just Peace Sunday*

It has been said that in Africa, a traditional greeting and response is, “How are the children?” and “The children are well.”

“How are the children?” is not a way to inquire about the particular youth in one’s own household, but instead is an invitation to consider what is most important in the whole society, and whether that is being attended to. “The children are well” refers not just to the health of a few of the children who are known to the conversation partners, but the peace and prosperity of all of society. This question, and its response, is a way of assuring that the most important priorities of the community are placed first.

A movie available from the United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network (UCC PIN) called *How Are the Children?* tells the stories of Palestinian children, some as young as five years old, detained by Israeli forces in the West Bank of Israel. On their website, <https://hatcnw.org/>, UCC PIN responds to some questions that arise from that first and most important question, “How are the children?”

“Since 1967, the United Church of Christ has spoken through General Synod resolutions regarding issues of peace and justice in the Middle East. Long before that, mission personnel of our predecessor denominations worked successfully to create partnerships of mutuality and ministry throughout the region. Here we provide information on various aspects of UCC witness related to the experience of children in Palestine and Israel. These links provide information regarding the 2017 UCC resolution of witness concerning Palestinian children in Israeli military detention.”*

*From the website page <https://hatcnw.org/ucc-resolutions-and-faqs/>

You can also find links to the movie “*How Are the Children?*” and guides for utilizing this powerful resource with your congregation, on the website <https://hatcnw.org/>.

Today is Just Peace Sunday. For 30 years, the Just Peace Church pronouncement has inspired a grassroots movement of UCC congregations committed to corporately naming and boldly proclaiming a public identity as a justice-doing, peace-seeking church. For more information about Just Peace, visit ucc.org.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Sept. 19, 2021

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."