



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
June 16, 2024
10:00 AM**

**Fourth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Father's Day

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

**An Open
And Affirming
Congregation**





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

"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. Available wherever you get your

podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

Use PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/display?host=stpeteruccskokie)

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

Set up Vanco. Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



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

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

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

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](https://www.facebook.com/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, June 16, 2024 at 10:00am
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

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

PRELUDE "Prelude on Psalm 100" by Callahan
Judith Brown, flute

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Quiet your mind, still your restlessness.
Come before God.

C: **Like a bird that lights on a branch,**
We come to the pause of God.

P: Warm your heart, stir up your spirit.
Come before God.

C: **Like the flame dancing on a candle's wick,**
We come to the dance of God.

P: Open your hands, meet the eyes of your neighbors.
Come before God.

C: **Like snowflakes falling on a winter night,**
Beautiful alone, deep when gathered,
We fall into the presence of God.

RESPONSE "We Gather Together"

SSB #12 (v.1)

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
 Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
 And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in the Source of grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer, and then together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION**SILENT CONFESSION****UNISON PRAYER**

A: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to You the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Isaiah 53:4, 5*

P: “Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.”

Christians believe this prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus’ passion and death, for our sins and those of the world. It’s an expression of God’s ultimate loving sacrifice for the good of the beloved, the human race, to bring us back to God forgiven and made whole in soul. Speechless though we ought to be, will the church join me in gratitude by saying . . .

A: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN "Peace Like A River (It is Well)" SSB # 24 (vv. 1-3)

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE. Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Lanford

Old Testament:

Psalm 6:6-9

New Testament:

Acts 3:1-10

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Will those who are able please stand up

THE GOSPEL

Mark 2:1-12; 8:22-26

RESPONSE

“Gloria Creator”

Tune #497

**A: Glory to the Creator,
And to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen, amen.**

SERVICE OF HEALING

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

During the prayers for healing Pastor Lanford will offer a prayer of thanksgiving over oil . . . Then he will say . . .

P: Those who desire to be anointed and to have hands laid on them for spiritual healing may come forward down the center aisle. If you wish me to come to you, raise your hand high or ask your neighbor to identify you for me. You may come for yourself, or you may come as a channel of God's healing power for someone else. During this time, I invite all present to make silent prayers for each one who comes forward.

THE ACT OF ANOINTING WITH OIL

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

BRIEF CLOSING PRAYER

CONTINUING PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY “Chorale from Cantata No. 147” by JS Bach

Judith Brown, Flute

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “There is a Balm in Gilead”

Refrain only

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-c-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, “He died for all.”
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The congregation may be seated

HOMILY “Here's Spit in Your Eye!”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee" #300

Conjunctivly, out in moderate time

1. If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in
 2. On - ly be still, and wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
 3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from His ways, But do thine

Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's pleas - ure
 own part faith - ful - ly; Trust His rich prom - is - es of grace, . .

And bear thee through the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -
 And all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent; Nor doubt our in - most
 So shall they be ful - filled in thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
 wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
 sook at need The soul that trust - ed Him in - deed. A-MEN.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: We are broken;

C: may we live with compassion.

P: We are blessed;

C: may we live with creativity.

P: We are beloved;

C: May we live with courage.

A: By the grace of God, Amen!

POSTLUDE Selected

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. 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

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| MINISTER | Rev. Richard Lanford |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR | Ben Westphal |
| DEACON | Barb Todd |
| LIVESTREAM RECORDING | Beth Lanford |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT | Annie Noorts |

Why LGBTQIA+ Representation Matters

The LGBTQIA+ acronym serves an important purpose—not only is it designed to be more inclusive, but it also represents the self-identities of people who are transgender and/or similar gender attracted.

Inclusivity

The use of the acronym is intended to be an all-encompassing way to recognize different gender identities and sexual orientations. The addition of other identities to the LGBT acronym also plays an important role in recognizing and connecting them to a larger community.

It also means that these individuals are able to gain greater recognition by society as a whole. Rather than being erased, ignored, or denied, acknowledgment can help foster greater visibility of marginalized identities.

Visibility

Visibility can also help create a greater sense of self-affirmation of a person's identity. Research has found that offering inclusive and affirmative environments is important for LGBTQ+ youth.

Research also suggests that despite safety concerns, being visible as a member of the LGBTQ+ community can be an important way to feel a sense of pride in individual identity. Affirming self-identity can help people feel greater self-esteem, self-worth, and boost overall mental well-being. This can be particularly important since representation has long been lacking in mainstream media.

The good news is that there have been improvements made in recent years to change this. A recent GLAAD report suggests that the representation of LGBTQ characters and relationships on television is higher than ever previously seen on TV. This includes greater diversity and visibility of non-binary identities, although the report notes that BIPOC characters are still underrepresented.

Research and statistics suggest that LGBTQ+ youth have an increased risk of a range of mental health and social issues, often due to or exacerbated by isolation, marginalization, and discrimination based on their orientation or identity. Fostering inclusivity and acceptance may be one way to help combat some of these issues.

LGBTQIA+ Resources

If you are interested in learning about LGBTQIA+ issues, there are a number of resources available that can help.

- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\)](#)
- [National Center for Transgender Equality \(NCTE\)](#)

The goal of using more inclusive terms like LGBTQIA+ is to improve visibility, recognition, and acceptance. It is important to remember that LGBTQIA+ people continue to face discrimination. Transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, in particular, are frequently the target of social and economic marginalization as well as harassment and violence.

Terms and definitions are always evolving. When it comes to something as personal as sexuality and gender identity, these terms and definitions can mean different things to different people. While working to understand and use terms such as LGBTQIA+ can help increase the visibility of people who have faced marginalization and discrimination, it is important to remember that the most important labels or definitions are the ones that people give to themselves.

If you are seeking support for issues with coming out, relationships, bullying, self-harm, and more, contact the [LGBT National Hotline](#) at **1-888-843-4564** for one-to-one peer support.

For more mental health resources, see our [National Helpline Database](#).

Verywell Mind uses only high-quality sources, including peer-reviewed studies, to support the facts within our articles. Read our [editorial process](#) to learn more about how we fact-check and keep our content accurate, reliable, and trustworthy.

1. Intersex Society of North America. [What Is Intersex?](#)
2. Gold M. [The ABCs of L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+](#). *The New York Times*.
3. GLAAD. [Media reference guide](#).
4. Clayton JA, Tannenbaum C. [Reporting sex, gender, or both in clinical research?](#) *JAMA*. 2016;316(18):1863–1864. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.16405
5. Hadland SE, Yehia BR, Makadon HJ. [Caring for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in inclusive and affirmative environments](#). *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 2016;63(6):955-969. doi:10.1016/j.pcl.2016.07.001
6. Higa D, Hoppe MJ, Lindhorst T, et al. [Negative and positive factors associated with the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning \(LGBTQ\) youth](#). *Youth Soc*. 2014;46(5):663-687. doi:10.1177/0044118X12449630
7. GLAAD. [Where are we on TV report - 2019](#).
8. OECD. [The LGBT challenge: How to better include sexual and gender minorities?](#) *Society at a Glance 2019: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris. 2019. doi:10.1787/c64c3d3f-en
9. Stotzer RL. [Data sources hinder our understanding of transgender murders](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2017;107(9):1362-1363. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2017.303973

News in the Pews

Happy Father's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a dad or dad-figure — even as we gather to worship the most loving Father of all, our God of infinite goodness.

So, what's up with the service of healing? Here's how we do it: It's during the pastoral prayer, when the prayers are for healing. Then, as prompted, coming forward to receive the anointing with oil and the laying-on of hands is, of course, voluntary. Pastor Richard will make the sign of the cross on your forehead (like the ashes on Ash Wednesday), and gently lay his hands on top of your head for some extra words of prayer and blessing. Folks are welcome to come for themselves, or on behalf of someone else. We ask that those who remain in their pews please join the others in the spirit of prayer. The words used are from [The Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ](#).

The Church Council meets after worship today!

Clean up for the Retirement party will be Saturday, June 22nd from 10:00AM – 12:00PM to set up, clean and get our church into the best shape possible. Note the time change!

This Wednesday is Juneteenth. Juneteenth is truly a day for people of faith to celebrate. It was June 19, 1865, fully two years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation before Blacks in Texas finally learned of their freedom. It took another 156 years before the nation's "second Independence Day" officially became federally recognized with President Joe Biden signing the Juneteenth bill in 2021. This documentary from the @ourdailybread Voice Collection, Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmjuDxKTzzg> offers inspiration and a way to mark the day.

Our next Fourth Sunday Conversation Coffee Hour is June 23rd after worship, please join us!

Calling all bakers - As a part of the retirement banquet on June 30th for Pastor and Beth, we are asking our wonderful crew of bakers to pull out their spatulas and turn on their ovens to send Pastor and Beth off with bellies full of wonderful memories, and lots of great sweets. We're looking for finger foods, cookies, bars, cupcakes, etc. No big cakes or pies.

Please help with the Retirement Video! We are asking all of you to submit a short video with a wish, a memory, a word of advice...whatever you feel like sharing to honor these two wonderful people and their 32 years at St. Peter's. This is VERY easy to do. Just click the link below or scan the QR code with your phone. This will take you directly to the site and walk you through doing the video. Link: <https://share.vidday.com/e/r-9e8xdn>

Lanford Celebration Fund - If you would haven't had to chance to donate yet, (and would like to), just be sure you note on your check or envelope that the funds should be directed to the "Lanford Fund." Donations can be put in with offering during a service or mailed into the church.

June PRIDE Events continue... We'll be participating in Skokie Pride (we have a booth) on June 23rd from 1-4PM at Oakton Park. We'd love volunteers for Skokie Pride to help meet the community, even 1-hour slots would be so helpful!

On Sunday, June 30th, Pastor will lead his final worship service here at St. Peter's U.C.C. before retiring, effective July 1st. We will celebrate the unity of the Body of Christ and our community as we have the Lord's Supper one final time. At 5:00 PM the Goodbye Dinner will be held in our church Auditorium / Gym and we hope that if you plan to attend, that you made reservations! Because the deadline for making them was yesterday.

Our People

Congratulations to Karem Zafrane and David Iannotti on the renewal of their wedding vows yesterday, observing ten years of married life together!

We serve at the Kitchen this month! Servers are lined up for the June 29th serving. We still need funds, so please contribute if you can, and quickly, as it's less than two weeks away! Thank you very much.

HOSPITALIZED – Jane Abramchik is still at the McGaw Care Center, Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Rm. 333, Evanston 60201.

The deadline for articles of the July 2024 newsletter is tomorrow: Monday, June 17th!

Having birthdays or anniversaries this week are Laurie Mitchell and Barb Gack. Valerie (Paige) and Christopher Mahoney have their wedding anniversary too. God's blessings are wished for all of them.

This Tuesday at 7 PM your Church Council has a scheduled Zoom meeting with the Illinois Conference's Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley.

This coming Thursday at 11 AM, Pastor Lanford will officiate at the interment of the urn holding the cremains of Helen Mauer, in St. Peter's UCC Cemetery.

According to the schedule, the lector for next week will be Beth Sterba; the Nursery Attendant is to be Mike Ryan.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| PRESIDENT | Peggy Reins |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Beth Lanford |
| 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.

Pantry Donations – our Jewel Foods donations are starting to dwindle - we can always use more donations! They can be left on the shelves near the staircase by the office doors on Laramie Ave.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

“Flourishing”

Mark 4:26–34

Jesus spoke to his followers in a parable about planting seeds. In cold climates, seeds planted can take many months to grow into plants and bear fruit. The job of gardeners and farmers is not only patience. The job is also to tend; to fertilize and water and weed until at last the fragile plants break forth, and then leaves, then flowers and finally produce. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

This week, many congregations will be celebrating Juneteenth. Juneteenth has been celebrated for generations in African-American communities, although for some communities this will be the first year that this celebration is acknowledged. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

The seeds of Juneteenth were planted on June 19th, 1865 when troops rode into Galveston, Texas announcing the end of the civil war, and the freedom of all enslaved Americans. This was good news, yes. But this good news came more than two and half years after the signing of the emancipation proclamation. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

Juneteenth was heartily celebrated in the early part of the 20th century with rodeos, speakers, preachers, music, worship and heaping tables of food, but those celebrations were largely shut down during the Jim Crow era. Recognition of Juneteenth began to be revived in black communities by activists in the 1960s and 1970s. The first legislation to make Juneteenth a national holiday was introduced in 1996. The legislation was finally signed into law in 2021. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.

Whether your Juneteenth celebration this year is generations old, or is new this year, remember that it is the fruit of a seed planted decades before you were born. And the cycle does not end with this generation. As is the nature of growing things, the fruit that you enjoy in this season will produce seeds that will also, in their time, bear fruit. It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit. May the seeds you plant this Juneteenth, however small or mighty, grow beautiful fruit in its season.

Psalm 6:6-9

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears;

I drench my couch with my weeping.

My eyes waste away because of grief;

they grow weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil,

for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.

The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD accepts my prayer.

Acts 3:1-10

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof

above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—

"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 8:22-26

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking."

Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."