

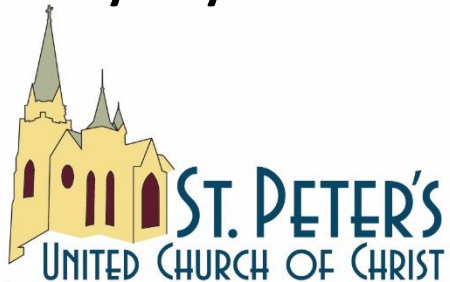
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 11,
2022
10:00 AM**

**Fourteenth
Sunday after
Pentecost**

Rally Day



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

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



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=buyer=&source=paypal) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up 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 invite 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, September 11, 2022 at 10:00am
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Day

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

PRELUDE "A Joyful Ode" arr. Lehenbauer

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Please sing twice through*

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION *Partly from Psalm 100*

P: “Know that Yahweh is God. It is God who made us, and we are the Lord’s;

C: We are the Lord’s people, and the sheep of God’s pasture.”

P: And we, like sheep, do go astray, find other shepherds, get into trouble and deceive ourselves, all while thinking how smart we are. Let us return to our Provider, Deliverer, Maker and Guide; let us confess our straying and our need for grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Holy, eternal God, You know us! You know how forgetful we are, even of Your spectacular deeds on our behalf and Your answers to our fervent prayers. It takes a long time for most of us to live out of Christ as our center, with Christ as our default “operating system.” So we do things, say things, support things, which go against Your desires for Your people of Light and truth. We also refrain from saying things, doing things, supporting things and thinking things which are in line with and really do harmonize with Your will. We get afraid, we get proud, we halt. Please be patient with us, O God, and heal our souls! In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | *Timothy 1:13-15*

P: Paul wrote, “. . . even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the foremost.”

Grace overflowed for Paul, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners. If it overflowed for that horrible sinner against the people of Jesus, would it not do the same for you and me, by the love of God? I think this is what Paul is saying. In Christ our sins are forgiven; in His love souls are mended, and new life is born. God was patient with Paul, and is patient with us. Will the church join me in praising God for this priceless good news?

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SSB #2



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-cst not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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The congregation may be seated.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Karen Christianson

Old Testament:

Exodus 32:7-14

Epistle:

I Timothy 1:12-17

CHOIR ANTHEM “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

by Miller

Those who are able please stand.

Gospel:

Luke 15:1-10

RESPONSE: “Gloria Creator“

#493

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.

The congregation may sit down

PASTORAL PRAYERS & 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

SERMON

“Remember, Church: Christ, Bosch, and God's Joy.”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: “Once a Sheep Was in a Pasture”

We sing this to the tune Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Once a sheep was in a pasture with the other ninety-nine.

**Their good shepherd loved those hundred, and he told them,
"You are mine!"**

**As the hundred grazed together, for some reason yet untold,
one found she was separated from the shepherd, from the fold.**

**Shepherd, sometimes we face trouble, far from others, far from
you.**

**There are different ways we struggle, different things that we
can do.**

**There are times we're prone to wander; there are times we're
pushed away.**

Shepherd, by your love you find us — then in joy you celebrate!

**Like a shepherd, Lord, you know us and the songs our spirits
sing.**

**You accept us and you love us — and you know the gifts we
bring.**

**With our signing, with our voices, with our hearts, may we
express:**

**Shepherd, by your love you find us — we are yours, and we are
blessed!**

**Shepherd, by your love you find us, then you send us out in turn
to seek out all your beloved and to bring the wounded home.**

**As we lead and help each other, as we advocate and pray,
may we shepherd one another on your faithful, loving Way.**

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *from a 2020 IL Conference meeting*

P: We are broken;

Men: May we live with compassion.

P: We are blessed;

Women: May we live with creativity.

P: We are beloved;

A: May we live with courage. Amen!

POSTLUDE “Ode to Joy” arr. Metzinger

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	Beth Sterba
RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Good Morning! On this first Sunday of the new program year, we welcome everyone to St. Peter's United Church of Christ where all may share in worshiping God and growing in faith.

Welcome back to our Choir, and welcome to any new members of it!

Today is the start of a new Sunday School year; our teachers are Karen Christianson, Carolyn Van Til, and Rita McMahan. Thanks to them all, and may God bless our classes all year long.

Rummage Sorting & Bake Sale Prep Updates – Sorting continues Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to Noon. Beth L. is here most days from 10-4, and Annie will be here Fridays all day as well. Rummage Collecting ENDS September 11th. The Bake Sale is in need of bakers for the Bake Sale, too! Please talk to Barb Todd if you have not already to let her know your plans for participating. Thanks much to everyone who does!

'BRIEF COLLECTION' – We're collecting NEW underwear! The Night Ministry's website asks for this in underwear: Dark colors preferred; Men's boxer briefs, sizes M-XXL; Women's briefs, sizes S-XL. They really do not want white if possible. Please bring your "brief collection" to the sanctuary and place it (them) in front of the chancel, where we put baby

items at Christmas. Or leave them by the offices so they will be brought up the stairs from there. Thank you in advance for giving important help to those on the margins and living on the edge! Your Micah 6:8 Committee.

We NEED Nursery Attendants!! We only have 3 volunteers and 2 parents right now, we desperately need more help. Your service requires 1 hour of your time bi-monthly, if we can get enough helpers. Your service helps the parents get a much needed break and the kids get to interact with others in the church they might not. Please consider helping, let the office know if you will!

Next Sunday afternoon, Pastor is planning to attend the Service of Installation of the Rev. Jason Coulter as the new Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Evanston (U.C.C.). Anyone interested in joining him, let him know!

The Rummage and Bake Sale will be September 23rd & 24th from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Our next Village Inn Fundraiser is September 25th! Order food from them on this day, mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser to your server and the church gets 20% of whatever you spend. This is good for ordering carryout & delivery as well.

Our People

As announced out loud last Sunday, Clara Melone died early last Sunday morning at the age of 99. The funeral and committal were yesterday.

A week from today is our next Council meeting! Those responsible for reports are asked to please submit them to the September Council Drop-box as early as you can this week, giving other Council attendees ample time to read them before the meeting after worship.

A week from tomorrow, Sept. 19th, is the deadline for articles for the October newsletter!

Happy birthday/anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Bruce and Linda Mau's granddaughter Isabella Gemignani, and Judy Williford. Roy and Wendy Svenson have a wedding anniversary today, and later this week it's Maribel and Joey Powers Laarveld. On Thursday, Sept. 8th, we marked three years since Ben Westphal started in worship as our Music Director!

Please remember to lift up Harrison, Angela and young Harry Kuras as Wednesday the 14th is a big court date for them.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

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.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.



MISSION MOMENTS

September 11, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Growing in God's Love

Faith Formation Sunday

The COVID pandemic brought unavoidable change to everything, including our churches. Change can be difficult and one area of change that is especially challenging for many churches is in the area of faith formation. Recalling the “good old days” of over-full Sunday School rooms and thriving Vacation Bible School programs may seem preferable to facing today’s reality.

If your community is mourning the changes that have been thrust upon it, remember that most congregations also have the opportunity to choose how to change in the future. Even as we look back at what was, we can ground ourselves in the hope and joy of what is now. Now, more than ever, our world needs the United Church of Christ and our unique voice. How might that unique voice be expressed in all areas of your life, including in your children’s faith formation program?

If you are still using a pre-pandemic curriculum, it might be time to take stock and choose a change in your Sunday School or other children's programming. As you do, take your time and make sure that this change is thoughtful.

Ask yourselves: What age children are part of your community now? How might you include families with children who are not able to attend worship services regularly in your curriculum plans? What is most important to emphasize with your congregation and children: Faith practices? Knowledge of scripture? Discipleship? Current affairs and issues? What is the best modality for your children and teachers: Art? Storytelling? Detailed lesson plans? Asking these questions and more will guide you towards the plan or program that will serve your children and your congregation in the present moment and into the future.

There are several excellent guides to a wide variety of Christian education curriculum online. The most comprehensive is compiled yearly by Episcopal priest Sharon Ely Pearson on her blog "Rows of Sharon". Look around! The change you can choose is just around the corner!

Exodus 32:7-14

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I

had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."