



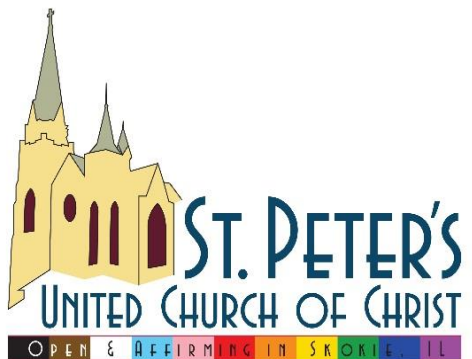
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 29,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Reformation
Sunday**

**Baptism of Braxton
Michael Meggs**





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/merchpot/display/external?token=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, October 29, 2023 at 10:00am
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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Lanford

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We are a people of the water!

C: We worship a God whose love flows through water.

P: Love, like a rain shower, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom.

C: We worship a God whose love flows through water.

P: Love, like a wading pool, inspires the delight of children, jumping, splashing, spraying each other, shivering with wet joy.

C: We worship a God whose love flows through water.

P: Love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses us, reawakens us.

C: We worship a God whose love flows through water.

P: Love, like little drops, drips from fingertips to forehead. Through baptism, the family of faith makes room for one more. Let us praise the Triune God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

C: Because we believe this, let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence, asking God to hear our prayers of confession and to forgive us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your lovingkindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace according to Your will for the world. In the name of the One whose forerunner was The Baptist, even Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Romans 4:22-25*

P: Speaking of Abraham, Paul wrote to the Roman church, “Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words ‘it was reckoned to him’ were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.”

As the Reformers would tell us, by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is what Paul is saying, too. To receive right standing, including forgiveness, from God, going back to Abraham, comes from faith. That we can be saved by faith is itself a gift of grace, for which we praise God. Let us do so together before we sing, and so say together . . .

A: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, 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

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Sterba

Old Testament:

Isaiah 43:14-21

Epistle:

Romans 1:16-17; 4:16-17

MUSICAL MEDITATION “A Mighty Fortress”

arr. Brickman

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-16

RESPONSE

“Alleluia!”

#495

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the baptism of Braxton Michael Meggs, son of Sharlette and Dion Meggs. Standing sponsors are Tisha Spence, Brandon Hara and Shelina Smith. The congregation joins in this covenant and sacrament as the bulletin shows.

WELCOME

P: They were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them,

C: ‘Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall never enter it.’

P: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.

ADDRESS

P: The address ends with the Pastor saying, “seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.”

C: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s Body.

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Congregational Covenant

P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

C: We promise our love, support, and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

C: I believe in God.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

THE BAPTISM AND BLESSING

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION

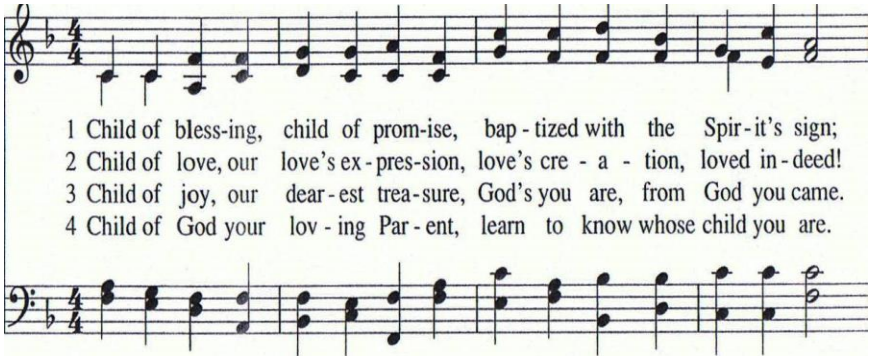
THE PRONOUNCEMENT

P: We have all entered into a holy covenant this day. May God grant us the grace to keep it. Go in the peace of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL PRAYER 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**

HOMILY “The God Who Does New Things”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN “We Enter Your Church, Lord”

Sing to the tune “Away in a Manger”

We enter your church, Lord, through welcoming doors.

We enter it, too, where you claim us as yours.

It's here at the font that you offer a sign:

You tell us, "My children, you're baptized! You're mine!"

O God, you have called us, inviting us in;

You've made us your household and freed us from sin.

From youngest to oldest, we find in this place

Your waters of welcome, your family, your grace.

We've heard here your welcome, and also your call;

Your Spirit inspires us to share Christ with all.

The life we receive here is life we can share;

We'll carry your message of love everywhere.

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Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009) which includes a permission note for those who own this book (like Rev. Lanford) to use this hymn in their local church's worship services.

CHARGE

P: God has called us as disciples to go forth and transform the world.

C: May our baptisms be fulfilled as we move from this space into to the mission fields of our lives.

BENEDICTION

P: May the blessings of baptism – cleansing, forgiveness, healing, grace, eternal life, incorporation into Jesus Christ – be yours again this day, and forever. Go, and may the peace of God go with you.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Nun Danket Alle Gott”

arr. Lehenberger

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 Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship. God has been, and is, our dwelling place “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:1-2). Let us praise God, our eternal home, together.

A special welcome to Sharlette, Dion, and Michael Meggs, the baptismal sponsors, and all family members here for the baptism! We’re glad you’re here!

Thanks to Marcia, Andre, and everyone who helped at last Sunday’s St. Peter’s Pet Blessing!

Thanks to Jen and Rich Schneider, Evanston Pride, and everybody who helped at and / or bought a ticket to last night’s performance and discussion of “Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche”!

There will be a New Members/Seekers class after worship today.

Holiday Wreath orders are due November 10th! Find a form in your bulletin or the Nov. Announcer. The pickup will be Saturday Nov. 25th 1-4PM, or after worship the next day.

The Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is this coming Saturday, November 4th from 10AM – 3PM. *We will need bakers!* If you are able, please bake goods and wrap

individually and we will price them. *We will also need some helping hands the day of the craft show* starting at 7:30 AM. We try to help our vendors unload before the sale, so if you are able please let Wendy (847) 528-4545.

It is time once again to donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles. This wonderful program started by Carol Iannotti provides a full holiday dinner for 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Laura facilitates this with District 69, UCAN and our neighborhood needy folks. All you have to do is donate at the register to their holiday meal program. While you're at it, shop there and support them, they've been doing this for many years and we are so grateful to be the only beneficiary!!

Mini Food Pantry food needed!! Are supplies are rapidly dwindling, we need more! Donations accepted during office hours or on Sundays; leave it on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much!

The Illinois Conference Annual Meeting (dubbed 'Celebration') takes place this coming weekend in Yorkville, IL. Peggy and Chad McCoy are registered for Friday only, when the workshops are going on, as lay delegates hoping to bring back useful things for Saint Peter's.

Don't forget! Turn your clocks back 1 hour Saturday night, November 4th! Daylight savings ends 2am Nov. 5th.

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Mark Aler and Brian Russell; Maria and Randy Altmayer have a wedding anniversary, too! May they all enjoy their days of celebration.

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According to the schedule, next Sunday's Lector is TBD for a switch, and the Nursery attendant will be Heidi T.

Pastor Richard begins a 7-day vacation starting this Wednesday, November 1st. The Rev. Wayne MacPherson will be preaching and celebrating the Lord's Supper with us next Sunday.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

New Wifi Name! Due to technical difficulties, please use ATTUNITEDCHURCH1 to logon, the password has not changed.

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. Our Deacon will pick them up after worship. Please fill them out; having a record of your being with us is important to us! Thank you.

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!



MISSION MOMENTS

October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:34-46

The Compassionate Life

UCC Higher Education Sunday

People ask Jesus questions for a variety of reason. Sometimes they want to seek answers or ideas. They want to know more about themselves and their place in Christ's kin-dom. They want to hear Jesus' teachings and stories. And sometimes, they just want to trick Jesus, or trip him up. They want to ask him a question with no answer.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

After this exchange, Jesus asks a question that those gathered cannot answer, about the nature of humanity and divinity. Question and answer exchanges are part of living and loving. On this Higher Education Sunday, we honor those institutions connected with the United Church of Christ where questions are welcome not as a barrier to faith, but as a sign of it.

There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited.

Each institution expresses partnership with the church. Closely related schools participate as full members of the UCC Council for Higher Education. Others are historically related, which means they recognize a past relationship with the church but are not full members of the Council.

These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking (<https://www.ucc.org/about/higher-education/>).

The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 43, verses 14 through 21. These words point to the re-establishment of Jerusalem and Israel after the long exile in Babylon.

Isaiah 43:14-21

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation.

I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

This ends the reading from Isaiah. Our epistle lesson was integral to the Protestant Reformation, as verses within it sparked a spiritual awakening within Martin Luther. That ended up revealing itself in the Reformation's cry that we are justified to God by faith, not

good works. The passage is Romans Chapter 1, verses 16 and 17, then Chapter 4, verses 16 and 17.

Romans 1:16-17, 4:16-17

Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

"For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist."

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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 10th.

(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 25th from 1 - 2 pm or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 26th.

24" Single Face Balsam	\$17.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$29.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$52.00
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	\$15.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$25.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$32.00



**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

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for 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 \$17.00.

Cemetery stands are included this year.

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

We will make arrangements for placing wreaths on the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed** by **Friday Nov 10th.**

Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 25th from 1 - 2 pm or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 26th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and return with payment** by mailing it to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail, text the amount, or use PayPal. For information on how to use any of these methods, please see the weekly bulletin.

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	\$17.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$29.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$52.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece / 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	\$15.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$25.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$32.00	