



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**  
**April 21, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Fourth Sunday**  
**Of Easter**





# 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?merchantid=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](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

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

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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**



**RESPONSE: "I Will Sing of the Mercies"****SSB #4**

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will  
sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*  
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.  
With my mouth will I make known thy  
faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make  
*D.C. al fine*  
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1

Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *Isaiah 59:1,2 NRSV*

P: “See, the Lord’s hand is not too short to save, nor God’s ear too dull to hear. Rather, our iniquities have been barriers between us and our God,

**C: And our sins have hidden God’s face from us so that God does not hear.”**

P: Let us read silently the prayer of confession in our bulletin, and, then being able to know what parts of it we can own and honestly confess, let us join together in our prayer of confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *Isaiah 59:1,2 NRSV*

**A: Good Shepherd, we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world. We have ventured into dead-end streets that looked more inviting than the narrow ways marked out by the signposts of Your love and teaching. We have trusted other voices and turned away from Your truth. We have accepted Your gifts without acknowledgement. We have failed to use our overflowing cups to fill the cups of sisters and brothers who need what we could offer. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to Your fold. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *John 10:1*

P: Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

We believe that Jesus laid down His life for the sake of His human flock, to bring us back to God forgiven and to let us know that God has solidarity with those suffering and in pain, unto later resurrection. This is an act of love; it is the hired hand who runs away from predators who does not care for the sheep, not Jesus who does (John 10:13). In His name and by His death and resurrection our sins are washed away and with forgiveness comes newness of life which never leaves. Church, please join me in acclamation and gratitude as we respond to this great good news and say . . .

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## HYMN "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

#174

*in unison; in unison*

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;  
 2. Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;

Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.  
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, On this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - iour Who has won the vic - to - ry;

He who on the cross as Sav - iour For the world's sal - va - tion bled,  
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer By His might - y en - ter - prise,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.  
 We with Him to life e - ter - nal By His res - ur - rec - tion rise.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Ma - jes - ty. A - MEN.

*The congregation may be seated*

## **MISSION MOMENT**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Andre Gloeckner

Psalter:

Psalm 23

Epistle:

I John 3:16-24

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Brother James’ Air”

*Will those who are able please stand up*

### **THE GOSPEL**

John 10:11-18

### **RESPONSE**

“Alleluia!”

#495

*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.**

## **OFFERTORY**

*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.*



Will those who are able please rise to sing

**RESPONSE** "Take My Life and Let It Be" SSB #7 (v.1)



- 1. Take my life\_ and\_ let it be      Con-se - cra - ted, \_ Lord, to\_ Thee; Take my hands and\_
- 2. Take my feet\_ and\_ let them be      Swift and beau-ti - ful for\_ Thee; Take my voice and\_
- 3. Take my lips\_ and\_ let them be      Filled with mes-sa - ges for\_ Thee; Take my sil-ver\_
- 4. Take my love\_ my\_ God, I pour      At Thy feet\_ its\_ treas-ure\_ store; Take my-self and\_



let them move\_ At the im-pulse of\_ Thy love, \_ At the im - pulse\_ of Thy love.  
 let me sing\_ Al-ways, on-ly for\_ my\_ King, \_ Al-ways, on - ly \_ for my King.  
 and my gold, \_ Not a mite would I \_ with-hold, \_ Not a mite would\_ I with-hold.  
 I will be\_ Ev - er, on - ly, all\_ for\_ Thee, \_ Ev - er, on - ly, \_ all for Thee.



**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A:** How can we express our thanks, O God, for the One who laid down life itself in witness to Your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to You to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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-est 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*

**SERMON** “Loving Shepherd, Loving Flock”

Will those who are able please stand up

## HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

SSB #14

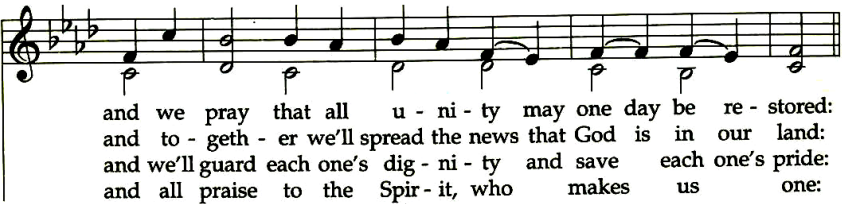
Guitar capo: 1; play Em  
Unison



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



Refrain C G C G Em Am  
And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,



Em Am Bm Em  
yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** *From First Thessalonians 5*

P: “Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.

C: See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,

P: Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.”

C: “May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: The one who calls you is faithful, and God will do this.” Amen!

C: Amen

**POSTLUDE**

“Hyfrydol”

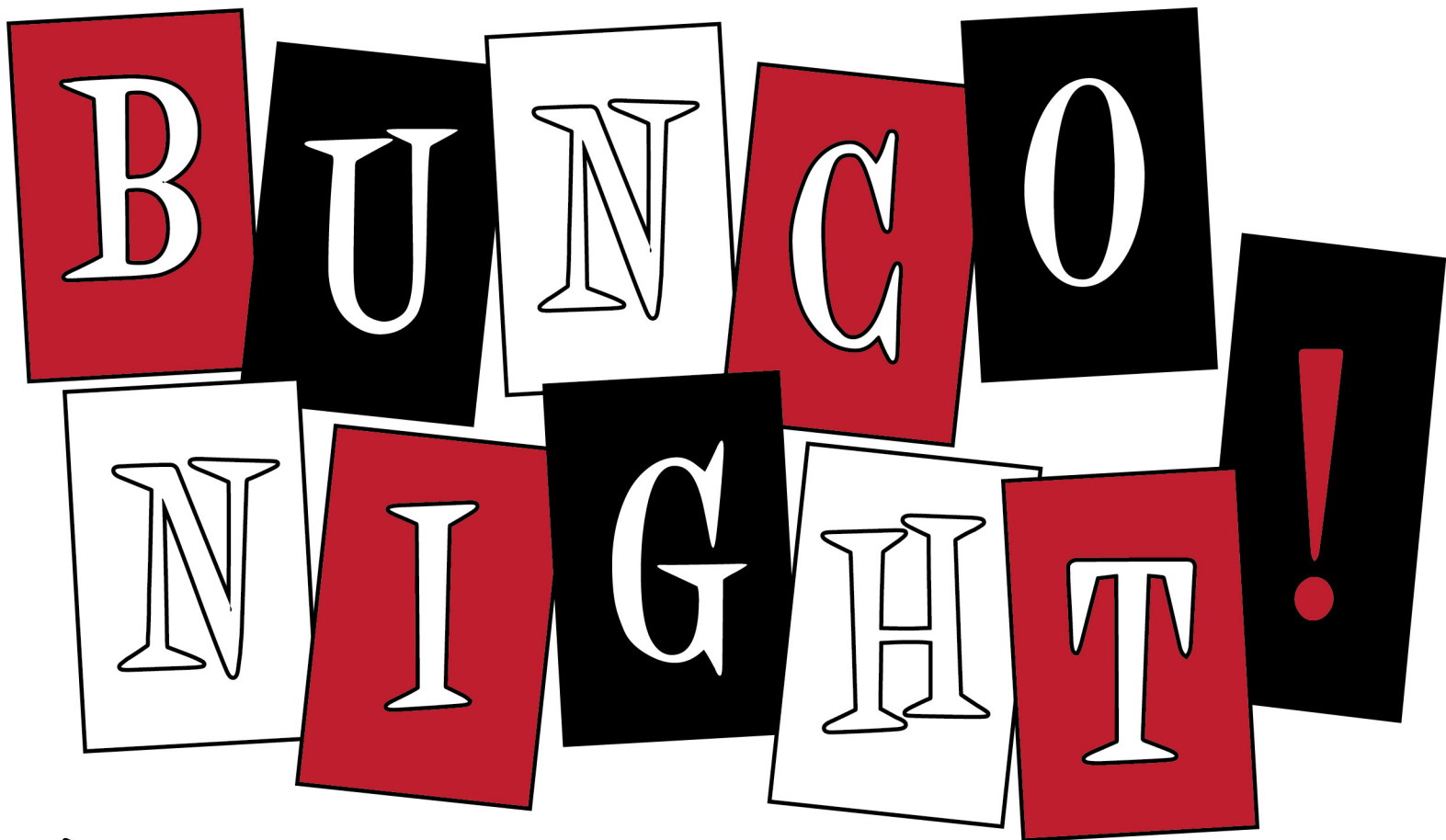
arr. Callahan

*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
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

St. Peter's United Church of Christ | 8013 Laramie Street, Skokie



**\$5**

donation  
gets you

- drinks
- dessert
- snack bag



Games  
Snacks



Raffle Prizes

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**7-10pm**

Prizes, games, and the best raffle in town!  
Don't miss this fun family night out!

To reserve a table for your group:  
Call Office (847-673-8166) by April 26.

For more details, see "Upcoming Events" on [stpeteruccskokie.org](http://stpeteruccskokie.org) homepage



## **Put your faith into action with an Offering of Letters!**

*As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.*

### **WHAT**

Bread for the World Offering of Letters from St. Peter's UCC is one way to honor the teachings and example of Pastor Richard Lanford and his wife Beth.

### **WHY**

As Christians, we are called to care for those experiencing hunger and poverty and to seek justice. Bread for the World focuses on advocacy because federal nutrition programs provide roughly ten times as much food assistance as churches and charities combined. With the stroke of a pen, our government leaders have the power to create policies and programs impacting millions.

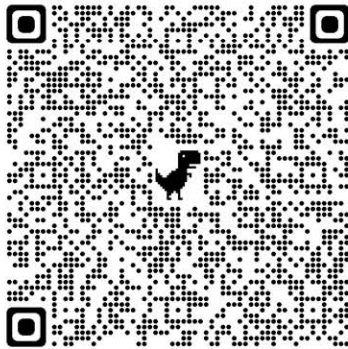
### **WHO**

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization with a mission to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger. Bread for the World Institute conducts nonpartisan policy research and analysis on hunger and strategies to end hunger worldwide.

## **WHEN AND HOW**

Bread for the World's Offering of Letters is an annual campaign. This year, St. Peter's participation in the Offering of Letters runs through May 5th. It launched with a special coffee hour on April 14th and will conclude with a final collection of letters when our church's anniversary is celebrated on the first Sunday in May. You may write your letters anytime between now and then and put them in the offering plate or the designated basket in the memorial room.

To submit your letter online follow the QR code below or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/tr3hhtzp>



**THANK YOU! YOUR LETTER IS AN OFFERING OF  
LOVE AND GRATITUDE!**





CELEBRATING PASTOR RICHARD & BETH AT THE



# Spaghetti Dinner

**Sunday  
May 19th  
at 5pm**

**RSVP by May 12! See form on back**

# Spaghetti Dinner

**May 19th at 5pm**

**\$5 Adults | \$3 Children  
Suggested Donation**

*Extra donations and proceeds from Raffle Baskets will be directed to the Lanford Celebration Fund.*

Return paper form to the Office or put in offering plate  
- OR -  
click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code below to RSVP



## RSVP ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children under 10: \_\_\_\_\_

I need a high-chair: Y / N

*Vegan, gluten-free, low-sugar and low-sodium options are on the menu!  
Contact Rich Schneider for details.*

## HELPING (Optional)

*We need servers, greeters, setter-uppers, kitchen-helpers, and cleaner-uppers. Rich Schneider is handling the menu and the cooking, but we'd love to return to the "spirit" of the Spaghetti Dinner and invite former Youth Fellowship members who have participated in the past to greet, serve, and clean up if they can.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **I can help set up on Saturday May 18th (10am-12pm)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I can help prep before the Dinner on Sunday May 19th (3pm-5pm)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I can help serve during the dinner (5-6pm)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I can help clean up after the dinner (Many hands make light work!)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like to say a few words during the Roast and Toast**  
(I promise to talk for less than 2 minutes to make sure everyone else gets a turn!)

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ | 8013 Laramie Street, Skokie**

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# News in the Pews

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**God sets a table before us and anoints us with the oil of gladness; our cup overflows (see Psalm 23:5; 45:7). Welcome to worship!**

**Thank you to everyone who helped put our worship service together today!**

**The Church Council meets today after worship!**

**The deadline for the May Announcer is tomorrow, Monday, April 21.** Please submit your articles promptly so Laura does not have to chase you down! Thank you.

**If you missed our Offering of Letters Coffee Hour,** you still have time to craft a letter. See your bulletin insert for more details. You can bring your letter to the church anytime by May 5<sup>th</sup> or you can submit your letter online by going here:

<https://tinyurl.com/tr3hhtzp>. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Reins at [peggy.reins@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.reins@gmail.com).

**BUNCO is April 27<sup>th</sup>!** Join us for the most fun night of the year! More details on the flyer included in this bulletin. All are welcome, open to the public!

**Spaghetti Dinner with “Roast and Toast”** - St. Peter’s is bringing back the Spaghetti Dinner for a special evening of memories, fellowship, and traditional Spaghetti Dinner food\* and drinks. During the meal, we’ll have a “Roast and Toast,” of Pastor and Beth - we want to hear your favorite funny, meaningful, or celebratory stories about their positive impact here. Short

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personal anecdotes are welcome from everyone! This will be an informal gathering for St. Peter's family, not open to the public, with a special focus on the over 40 youth that have been a part of Pastor's ministry, whether through Sunday School Chapel, Youth Fellowship, Confirmation, or the softball team. A \$5 suggested donation for adults and \$3 for children under 10 covers the cost of food, and there will be Raffle Baskets to bid on. Reservations are requested so we can plan our space accordingly – see the insert in your bulletin to RSVP by May 12th!

**Misericordia days are here again, and our very own Ricky can use your donations!!** Ricky was born prematurely in January 2006 and as many of you know is developmentally about 5 years old - and is sunshine in human form. He has an intellectual disability and will not be able to live independently when his parents, members of St. Peter's, can no longer take care of him.

Misericordia is a beautiful place that offers living arrangements and assistance to people like our Ricky. Please consider donating to this beautiful organization that helps people that are unable to care for themselves, *and use the link following to do it, to make sure the Riley family gets credited.*

<https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiacandydays2024/participant/AnnaRiley>

Thank you so much for your consideration!

**A hearty thank you to all who stayed after worship last Sunday** for coffee hour and the presentation on writing letters to Congress in support of bills that will help fight hunger and its causes! We'll be collecting paper letters in two weeks (during worship on May 5) and if you're in the dark but interested in participating, it's not too late! See Peggy Reins to learn what to do. Thank you!

**Next Sunday, April 28th, Diane Meggs and Jim Kendros** (a hurdy gurdy player, and can play other instruments) will add some special music to our worship service; don't miss it!

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# Our People

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**Hospitalized:** Jane Abramchik has been at the McGaw Care Center, Frank Murdough Pavilion, in Evanston. Dorene Schurman remains in hospice care in Ohio, and MaryLou Noorts is in hospice care at The Arbor in Glenview. Ben's mother had surgery last weekend and it will be a slow recuperation.

**According to the schedule,** next week's Lector will be Karen Christianson, the Nursery Attendant, Mike Ryan, and Beth S. will be our live streamer.

**Birthdays** this week belong to Gail Balling, Darrell Kerbel, Mark Taylor, Susan Garcia, and Elisa Meggs. David and Donna Gates Rees, and Carol and Bob Iannotti **celebrate their wedding anniversaries, too!** Blessings on them and their festivities.

**Pictures of Pastor and Beth needed!** As we adjust to the news of Pastor's retirement, we ask all you folks to go through your old photos and share them with us. You can email the church office with the photos [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org), or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

*Our Prayer of Confession and Offertory Prayer this morning are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler, copyright 1986 by United Church Press.*

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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.

**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.

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!** Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" in your podcatcher's search engine and you'll find us!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**April 21, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**“Enfolded by Love”**

**John 10:11-18**

Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

“Ha!” she wrote, “Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day.”

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Although she's not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. "Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but Two simple learnings are: they help me know when I'm not being clear and when I'm not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me."

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?

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**Psalm 23** (New Revised Standard Version / NRSV)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

**First John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us -- and we also ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from God

whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is the commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**John 10:11-18**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."