



Welcome



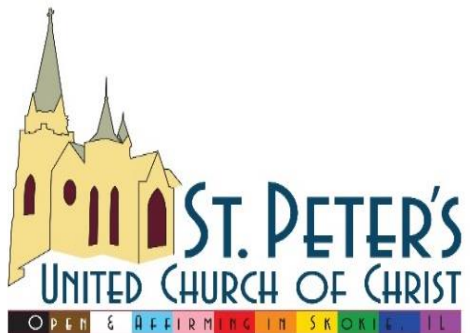
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

October 13, 2024

10:00 AM

**Twenty-first
Sunday after
Pentecost**





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 after



Ways to Give

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

Use PayPal. <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

Set up Vanco. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



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

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

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 13, 2024 at 10:00am
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE “Hymn of Promise” by Lehenberger

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, all who are seeking healing and hope.
Come, all who are longing for restoration and new life.

C: We come to the One who sees us, knows us, and calls us by name.

P: In faith, a woman reached out to touch Jesus, and was made whole. In faith, a father sought healing for his child, and life was restored.

C: We come with our own stories of need and hope, trusting in Christ's healing presence.

P: God welcomes all, regardless of our past, our fears, or our doubts. Let us open our hearts and lift our

voices, as we worship the One who brings life and renewal.

C: We come in faith, ready to be transformed by God's love. Amen.

OPENING RESPONSE

“Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour”

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Please join me in prayer:

A: **Gracious God, we come before you today, aware of our need for healing and wholeness. Like the woman who sought to touch Jesus' robe, we carry wounds—physical, emotional, and spiritual—that we long for you to heal. We confess that too often we doubt your power and your presence in our lives. We hesitate to reach out to you, holding back in fear or uncertainty. Forgive us, O God, for the times we turn away from your grace. Like Jairus, we sometimes struggle to trust you with the things we hold most dear. We try to control our own lives, instead of surrendering to your love and wisdom. Forgive us, O God, when we rely on our own strength rather than trusting in your mercy and care. Heal us of our doubts, our fears, and our resistance to your call. In your compassion, make us whole again. Restore us to life and to the fullness of your love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Friends, hear the good news: In Christ, there is healing, wholeness, and grace. Just as Jesus restored the woman and brought new life to Jairus' daughter, so too does God bring new life to us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made whole. Trust in this gift of grace. Rise up, and walk in the light of God's love.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

SSB #23

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

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Beth Sterba

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

RESPONSE

“Hallelujah”

#495

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

If you donate electronically, feel free to place an “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 stand up

RESPONSE “We are An Offering” SSB #11

A: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering;

Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Loving God, we bring these gifts to you, grateful for the abundance you have shared with us. Use them to bless and heal, to feed and clothe, and to bring hope to those in need. May our offerings of time, talent, and treasure reflect your love and further your work of justice and compassion in the world. Bless these gifts and bless us, that we may continue to be your hands and feet. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON “A Tale of Two Healings”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN “We Sense Your Peace and Power”

To the tune of Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

A: God, we sense your peace and power

In this place we love so much.

We are moved by gentle fragrance;

We are blessed by healing touch.

In these pews we hear the gospel;

We see life beyond compare.

Here we gather at your table,

Tasting love in meals we share.

Jesus taught, and crowds went with him;

They knew illness, grief and strife.

Twelve years sick, a suffering woman

Hoped his touch would change her life.

Jesus stopped to heal and bless her;

He healed Jairus' daughter, too.

God we seek your gift of healing;

Touch our lives and make us new.

God, your gift of touch can heal us

Through a hug or kind embrace.

When we share the peace you give us,

It can change us, by your grace.

When we offer prayers for healing,

Laying hands on those in need,

By your loving, gentle caring,

Those who hurt are blessed and freed.

Copyright © 2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Nettleton”

by Callahan

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

GUEST MINISTER	Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for fresh 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 \$18.00.

Cemetery stands are included at no additional charge.

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

We will place wreaths on graves at the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed** by **Friday Nov 15th.**

Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Dec 7th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Dec 8th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal.

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	\$18.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$53.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	\$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$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	\$16.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$26.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00	
Total Amount (\$)		

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 15th.
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Pickup will be on Saturday Dec 7th from 1 - 2 pm or
at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Dec 8th.**

24" Single Face Balsam	\$18.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$53.00
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	\$16.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$26.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00



**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

News in the Pews

Because Jesus is our great high priest, we “approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, NRSV). Welcome.

Join us downstairs after worship for coffee, tea, and conversation. Thank you to Chad, Karen, Denise and Carolyn for providing refreshments for this time to catch-up and connect.

We welcome back Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro to our pulpit. Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She has served as a parish pastor, hospital chaplain, development officer, retreat leader and spiritual director. Her primary areas of focus for her ministry have been 12-step spirituality, adult faith formation and biblical literacy.

We are inviting our friends and members to contribute to the UCC's emergency Hurricane relief fund. The plan is to accept directed contributions through October and then write a single check from the St. Peter's to the UCC fund. I asked Rich Schneider to alert counters to note when "Hurricane Helene" or "hurricane relief" is in the memo line of the check or note. These should be recorded as "Misc. Benevolences" with a note indicating it s for the relief fund.

We're taking Wreath Orders now! Please see the insert for details and order form. Orders are due Friday, November 15th.

Rummage Update and Clean up –We have books leftover that need to be taken to Half-Price Books in Skokie. Boxes are stacked in the lobby area. We ask you take a box (or two) at a time as they pay less for bigger quantities. Please give the monies to Laura in the office, and thanks so much for your help!

The Annual Pet Blessing with C.A.R.E. is scheduled for October 20th at 3PM. A brief service will be held in St. Peter's gymnasium honoring pets and our unique relationships with them, followed by individual pet blessings. C.A.R.E. will be on hand with pets ready for adoption and information about their adoption facility. Suggested at-the-door donation is \$5, and there will be raffle baskets with wonderful pet-inspired gifts and treats. All donations benefit C.A.R.E. and St. Peter's. Volunteer HELP NEEDED: Greeter who can help with raffle tickets, "pet chauffeur" to help keep the blessing steady, photographer, and a treat dispenser.

The Fall Craft Show and Bake Sale this year will be on Saturday November 2nd from 10-3. We'll have over 40 vendors selling handmade and computer-made items to help you get a jump on your holiday shopping. HELP NEEDED: bakers for the sale and help early that morning at 7:30 AM to help the crafters unload. We also have a few tables left if you are interested in a table! Please contact Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545 or Annie Noorts (847) 772-2717 to volunteer or if you'd like to apply for a table.

Next Sunday we will welcome Rev. Wayne MacPherson back to our pulpit.

Our People

Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:

- Sharon Johson's sister-in-law Marian Johnson who is entering hospice.
- Those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene.
- 15-year-old family friend of Denise Hopp is currently suffering from self-harm.
- Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice, whom we've prayed for previously. She will be having surgery in October.
- Sharon Johnson had successful surgery and is recovering at home.
- Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery.
- Betsy Herren, daughter of Ann, in Oregon. She is in treatment for breast cancer.
- Marcia Hilliard had her second surgery Oct 7th and it went very well. She hopes to be home by the time you are reading this.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- Jen Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman, who is in hospice care in Ohio.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter, Donna, in treatment for cancer.
- Paul Brzozowski will or has begun additional treatments after having brain surgery last month.
- Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter completed his chemo. His wife Susie Richter, who has breast cancer, had surgery and will be starting treatment soon. Also, their friends Bunny and Eddy Thompson are both fighting cancer.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt, Ursula Dworak, Lois Jarmuth, Bob Seitman, and Jackie Johnson. **If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!**

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Carolyn Van Til, and our Nursery Attendant will be Annie Noorts.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ann Herren
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.

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.

Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie. The Niles Township Food Pantry tells us ours is the most successful in the area. But we can't keep it going without regular donations. If you are able, please bring food to help us keep it going. Food can be left on the shelves by the office doors, or in the narthex. Thank you so much!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

What Must I Do? (10/13/2024)

21st Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Mark 10:17-31

There's a contemporary hymn — a fun one to sing with children — that goes, "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back."

Sadly, the young man in today's lesson from the Gospel of Mark was never taught the song, as he turns back after hearing what it takes to follow Jesus.

So eager at first, he proudly tells Jesus how he has followed the commandments since he was a boy. That's great, Jesus affirms, before saying the one word we dread to hear — but.

You can follow me, but you must sell all you have. We are told that the young man owned many possessions, too many to part with. He walks away from Jesus greatly grieved.

Jesus then turns to his disciples who have witnessed this encounter, saying to them, "It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the Kingdom."

"Who then can be saved?" they ask.

Excellent question, for we all come to Jesus with possessions we dearly hold onto. They don't necessarily have to be riches in the way of a robust real estate portfolio or soaring stocks and bonds. "Costly" possessions can be anything that cost us from going deeper in our walk with Christ.

As early as the 9th century there was an interpretation of Jesus' "eye of a needle" illustration that went beyond an actual sewing needle. It was said that the "Eye of the Needle" was a small gate in Jerusalem in which merchants traveling at night would enter through, as the main gate would have been closed.

If the merchant's camel was carrying a heavy load, though, the animal would not have been able to get through the gate. To squeeze through the "Eye of the Needle," the merchant would have to remove all the treasures that were piled high onto the beast of burden's back.

Such a gate has never been verified by scholars, but the image of an actual camel carrying a heavy load, and a narrow gate helps us to better understand what Jesus was saying about what it takes to follow him.

We all go through life with baggage — things that we insist on holding on to that weigh us down and prevent us from the life Jesus has for us.

What is Jesus asking us to let go of so that we can follow him unencumbered and with great joy? Will we find ourselves singing this day, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back! No turning back!"

God, whose riches are not of this world, help us take inventory of the very things that are keeping us from truly following Your Son, Jesus. Give us the strength to let go and trust the path Jesus invites us on. Amen.

Scripture for Sunday, October 13, 2024

Please join me in spirit of prayer as we offer up our Prayer of Illumination.

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Our scripture reading today is Mark 5:21-43.

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^(a) to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him, and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and pleaded with him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²⁹ Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?' " ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the synagogue leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing^(b) what they said, Jesus said to the synagogue leader, "Do not be afraid; only believe." ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the synagogue leader's house, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴² And immediately the girl stood up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

This ends our scripture reading for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's holy word.

Our worship continues with a musical meditation.