

Wisdom
Quest

Welcome to St Peter's UCC In-Person and Livestream Virtual Worship Service! Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** to catch a new service at 10 am each Sunday! We also share a **podcast** weekly on our website of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

Open Holy Communion. We have communion the 1st Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

Who We Are. St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. 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 **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

Attendance. We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

Donations. We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than

ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

Contact Us. You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077

(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
UNITEDCHURCH8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 15, 2021, 10:00 AM
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Invitation" by Franklin Ashdown

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS
THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lanford

***RESPONSE:**

“Sing Hallelujah to the Lord”

SSB #1

Descant

Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le -

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a 'Descant' label above it, containing the lyrics 'Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.' The middle staff is a vocal line with a 'Unison' label above it, containing the lyrics 'Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le -'. The bottom staff is a bass line. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/2.

Sing hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

lu - jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le - lu - jah, sing hal-le -

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with the lyrics 'Sing hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -'. The middle staff is a vocal line with the lyrics 'lu - jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le - lu - jah, sing hal-le -'. The bottom staff is a bass line. The key signature has two sharps and the time signature is 2/2.

1 2

jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

1 2

lu - jah. Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with two first and second endings marked '1' and '2'. The lyrics are 'jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.' The middle staff is a vocal line with two first and second endings marked '1' and '2'. The lyrics are 'lu - jah. Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.' The bottom staff is a bass line. The key signature has two sharps and the time signature is 2/2.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creating God, in love you moved over the waters of chaos and separated sea from dry land. And yet, we cling tightly to rigid boundaries of our own making. You claim us in the waters of baptism and declare us dead to sin and alive in Christ. But too often we deny that call, conforming ourselves to the whims of culture. At Pentecost, you released your wild and transforming Spirit to flow through church and world. But we want to tame that wildness, channeling your spirit through banks of ordered safety. Transform us, we pray. Soften the unyielding edges of our hearts. Loosen our grip on "the way it's always been" and prepare us for the joy of "the way it still can be," through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, hear this good news. Jesus Christ is our ark! His power is unequalled, his grace is unrestrained, his strength is steadfast, and his embrace is sufficient to carry all that we are and hope to be. Friends, believe the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and enabled to be changed by the Spirit. Can I get an 'Amen' to this eternal and very present great news given to us?

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen!

***HYMN:**

"Sing Hallelujah"

(once through)

Descant

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-

Detailed description: This system contains the first three staves of the hymn. The top staff is a descant in G major, 2/2 time, starting with a whole rest followed by a melodic line. The middle staff is the unison vocal line, starting with a whole note G4. The bottom staff is the bass line, starting with a whole note G2. The lyrics are 'Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.' for the descant and 'Sing hal-le-' for the unison.

Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal - le - lu-

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu - jah, sing hal-le-

Detailed description: This system contains the next three staves. The top staff continues the vocal line with 'Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal - le - lu-'. The middle staff continues with 'lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu - jah, sing hal-le-'. The bottom staff continues the bass line. The lyrics are split across the staves.

1 2

jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

1 2

lu - jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

Detailed description: This system contains the final three staves. The top staff has two endings, labeled '1' and '2'. The middle staff has two endings, labeled '1' and '2'. The bottom staff continues the bass line. The lyrics are 'jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.' and 'lu - jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.'.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Rich Schneider
Ecclesiastes 11: 1-6

Gospel:

Mark 10: 17-31

MUSICAL MEDITATION "O Perfect Love" arr. Carl Shalk

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')

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

***RESPONSE:** "We Are an Offering"

SSB #11



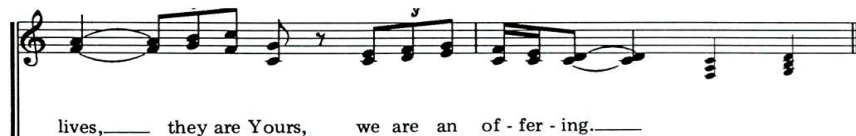
We lift our voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our



lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; Lord, use our



voi - ces, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



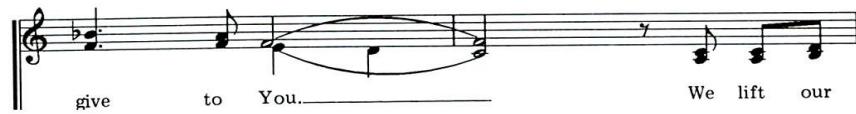
lives, they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing.



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



voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our



lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.

SERMON: "The Stewardship Advisor"

***HYMN:** "Lord, What Must I Do?"

(Sing to the tune of "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

**"Lord, what must I do?" A man asked one day.
The kingdom of God still seemed far away.
Christ spoke with compassion, "Just do one thing
more;
Sell all your possessions, and give to the poor ... "**

**The man was upset and started to grieve;
Did he even hear what he would receive?
For Jesus continued, " ... Then come, follow me,
And you will have treasure in heaven! You'll see!"**

**O Lord, we have much and so we confess
Wealth gets in the way; possessions possess!
Our money distorts how we hear your good news;
It changes our vision, obscuring our views.**

**O Lord, may we have the courage today
To get rid of all that gets in your way;
And may the impossible now be found true:
By grace, we are blest and find treasure in you.**

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***CHARGE**

P: Cast your bread upon the waters

C: *For in several days it will return to you.*

P: Yet few things are certain, so one thing is needful:

C: *Put the Lord Christ first and follow Him; God will provide!*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE:** "Lyons" arr. Samuel Metzger

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Jesus invites all with these words: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). Welcome to worship.

There is no Council meeting today; if you haven't already today is a good day to read what your Council and Officers have prepared for the Church in the recently emailed Mid-Year Reports!

Today is the monthly Village Inn Fundraiser for St. Peter's! Skip cooking. Whether you go there to eat in, get carry-out, or opt for delivery, please mention when placing your order that you are with the St. Peter's U.C.C. Fundraiser, and at day's end, St. Peter's will get 20% of all orders made that are so ordered! Thank you in advance!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! As we said in the opening announcements, you can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, or using PayPal as indicated, with links, on the first main page of announcements. Depending on how you set up your PayPal account, you can arrange to pay whatever transaction fee there is yourself, or, that it will be included in your donation and deducted before it hits St. Peter's account (so St. Peter's, in effect, pays it). Thank you very much for giving!

Office Manager Laura Olson is taking some more of her vacation this week and Sharon Johnson will be manning the office Monday the 16th through Wednesday the 18th. Thank you to Sharon! The office is also open when Pastor is there WThF, usually well past two p.m.

Having birthdays this week are: Karen Rector, Tom Schaller, Rich Miller and Dan Guenther. Having anniversaries are the Lundeens, the Todds, the Bonnie and Mark Loach. Our apologies for missing the anniversaries earlier this month of Jeff and Jenn Loach and Melissa (Erickson) and Andy Paluck. May God's blessing rest on all of them!

Rummage sorting openers and times for this week: Monday (Carolyn K.) and Wednesday (Laurie M.) at 6:30 PM, and Friday (Annie N.) from 10 AM to Noon.

Our Holiday Bazaar is back and will be November 13th! ***We are looking for vendors.*** Interested in setting up a table? Email Wendy Svenson at st.peterucbazaar@gmail.com or call/text her at (847) 528-4545.

Pastor’s newest podcast after returning from vacation is available for listening now! If you’ve never listened, Pastor’s podcast, “The Redheaded Preacher” is a mix of the Sunday prior’s scriptures & sermon, with Pastor speaking before and after on his thoughts, prayers, etc. The music is also Pastor’s original guitar solo. Check it out sometime, and please leave us a review and star rating on your podcast app, it really helps spread the word. Pastor’s podcast will return in a week after Laura returns from vacation.

Remember, in two weeks worship will be outdoors at Lorel Park August 29th! Beth Sterba has volunteered to record the service for a later upload and ‘broadcast’ after the fact on our YouTube channel. That means, no livestream, so please come in person and bring something for the picnic that follows!

The deadline for articles for the September Announcer is a week from Monday (that is, August 23rd).

According to a change in the schedule next Sunday’s lector is Judy Paige.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

T W E L F T H S U N D A Y A F T E R P E N T E C O S T

August 15, 2021

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Wisdom Quest

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). Faith and finance are inextricably bound together. Faith entails values, and those values call for embodiment in all areas of life. How we mobilize financial resources in the spending and making of money is one reflection of how our values are expressed and put into action.

This perspective is the basis for the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ’s new publication: *Generations: A Journal of Faith and Finance*, an online magazine that explores the places in our economic lives where our faith values meet our financial obligations and opportunities.

Generations features articles and commentary on socially responsible investing, the faith dimensions of economic and global issues, interfaith perspectives, church finance and stewardship work, issues related to personal debt, and more. Writers come from the worlds of both church—within and beyond the United Church of Christ—and finance.

In the first issue, Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive for Southern Asia, Wider Church Ministries, UCC, reports on anti-human trafficking efforts during a pandemic: “... while hurrying the world onto a frightening path towards an unknown future, [the pandemic] has also exposed more clearly our world’s existing systemic greed, sharp economic disparities, war economies, continued environmental destruction, and dehumanization of vulnerable people.”

Timothy Smith, former Executive Director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, looks at the UCC’s involvement in socially responsible investing, in “The UCC: A Force for Change 50 Years Later.” And in a provocative article, former UCC General Minister and President, John Thomas asks, “What does it mean to be religious but not spiritual?” and explores the limits of the “dutiful Christian.”

Read *Generations: A Journal of Faith and Finance* at www.pbucc.org. The most recent issue—with the theme “Thinking Globally, Acting Locally,” was released in May of this year.



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Aug. 15, 2021

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Send out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back.

Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.

When clouds are full, they empty rain on the earth; whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

Whoever observes the wind will not sow; and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.

Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle;

for you do not know which will prosper, this or that,
or whether both alike will be good.

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in

heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."