



God's
Will

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

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

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

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 6, 2021, 10:00 AM
Second Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 127)

Pastor: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those
who build it labor in vain.

***Congregation: Unless the Lord guards the city, the
guard keeps watch in vain.***

P: It is in vain that we rise up early and go late
to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil,"

***C: Unless we truly do let our God inhabit
the dwellings and communities of our
lives. Let us praise our Triune God!***

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, soon we will hear Jesus tell the crowds that neither a kingdom nor a family divided against itself can stand. We confess we have not taken this teaching to heart when thinking about the troubles of our nation. We hear Paul talking about finding hope in what we do not see, rather than what we see; we admit we can easily forget the reality of things we cannot see, and forget that which is of God is not necessarily visible in our time. We confess, too, that where we often put family before God, in Christ's eyes and teaching, we are His family only if we follow God's will first! He sees family more spiritually than do we. Forgive us these and other ways we fall short, loving God. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which you also are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I have proclaimed to you -- unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures" (1st Corinthians 15:1-4).

There it is: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. They are forgiven by God's stunning grace. As

forgiven children of God, we have the Spirit's power of resurrection leading us forward to do God's will of loving our neighbor and caring for God's creation. Isn't this fantastic beyond words?!

C: Alleluia! Praise be to God! Amen!

***RESPONSE:** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

SSB # 6 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease
 4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!
 To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
 Alternate tune: RICHMOND

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Gospel:

Mark 3:20-35

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Veni, Creator Spiritus"

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

***GLORIA PATRI**

#493

SERMON:

"A House Divided"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND 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**

HYMN: "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ" SSB #3



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: I.N.S.T.E.A.D. Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Dorcen Potter, 1925-1980

CHARGE:

P: Seek first the realm of God and God's righteousness;

C: *As for us and our houses, we shall serve the Lord.*

P: Act with faith, believe with humility,

C: *Love one another and love those whom nobody loves,*

All: **Serve the Lord!**

***BENEDICTION** (from Romans 15:13)

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

C: *That you may abound in hope*

P: By the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

***POSTLUDE:** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship, dear family of God!

Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ with one or two others.

Thanks to everyone who helped make today's hybrid worship on YouTube possible, and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch!

About Communion: If you are at home, please have a piece of bread, roll or something similar handy for your bread / body, to eat when indicated by the Pastor, and likewise have a cup of juice, water, or something else ready when we are prompted by the Pastor to take-and-drink. For those in-person, please take one of the pre-filled Communion cups with wafers on top; they are on a table at the top of the chairlift stairs, and in the narthex).

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church! They too are a very big part of our ability to remain here for you and our community.

Beth Lanford's left knee replacement surgery last Wednesday went well and she is recovering at home.

Women's Guild Annual Picnic at the Todd's! We're so excited to begin to resume some of our past normal activities, including this one! Join us June 16th at 11:30 AM at Jim and Barb Todd's for the end of year picnic. All women of the church are invited and welcomed! Please call Barb Todd at 847-965-0345 to RSVP.

Mark your calendars! Our next Village Inn Food Fundraiser will be June 27th!

Rummage Set up this Wednesday night and we need you! Join us at 6:30 PM Wednesday June 9th to kick off rummage sorting! We'll need some strong hands to bring stuff down from upstairs and get tables up. We anticipate a regular sale this year (xxfingers) and will be sorting through the summer every Wednesday at 6:30 PM with days to be added. All are welcome to come help, sorters get to shop while they work!

We are collecting Rummage! Drop off during office hours (M-F 9AM to 2 PM) or call us to schedule something that works for you.

June is PRIDE month! While we are not directly involved this year, activities planned by the Skokie Park District are here: <https://www.skokieparks.org/skokie-pride/>. There's something for everyone including outdoor movies, walks, discussions and more... check it out and show your support to all our LGBTQ+ friends and family!

Having birthdays this week are Katy (Schuhrke) Aguayo, Baggio Salvatierra (baptized here), Colin Medaglia (son of Paul and Laura Brzozowski Medaglia), Ginger Kalensky, and Mike Taheny’s daughter Rose Taheny; celebrating an anniversary are Gena and H. Dayle Zelenka and Cristy and Louie Lopez! May God shine on their celebratory days, and beyond.

According to our schedule the Lector next Sunday is David Iannotti; he is in the process of selling his house and moving to another, so we’ll see if he seeks a switch!

New Network and Pass! You’ll have to reconnect your devices to our new network name and pass today. Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass: UNITEDCHURCH8166. Let an usher know if you have trouble connecting.

Pastor’s “The Redheaded Preacher,” can be found anywhere you listen to podcasts! Filled with prayer, thoughts, Sunday’s scripture reading and sermon, this podcast is a great way to reinforce what you’re learning weekly, and help you pass the time when doing chores, or walking, or taking a drive. If people don’t have time to sit before a screen for most of an hour, the podcast gives you the Scriptures by the lector and message. Check it out!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

God's Will

Today's scripture tells a story from early in Jesus's ministry. Jesus is teaching a group of disciples in a crowded house when his family arrives to cart him away, afraid that he has lost his wits. Jesus speaks against his mother and his brothers then, saying that those who follow the will of God are the ones who are his true family.

In this story, we see Jesus bravely following his inner knowing of God's will for him, instead of the voices that have long told him who and what he is. In his new community of friends and disciples, he knows that he is truly following God's will.

Have you ever had an experience like this? How has your inner knowing of God's will made itself known to you in a community that knows and believes in you? How did you respond?

Learning to hear, trust, and follow the way God's will makes itself known in your life is called discernment. That is why, in the twenty-first century, we in the United Church of Christ call those who are finding their way toward a career in ordained ministry "members in discernment."

Discernment about ministry comes from both the nudge of the inner voice, and the affirmation and challenge of a community. According to the *Manual on Ministry*, the church "Ordained Ministers belong to both God and the people. They are nurtured and sustained by both; they are responsible to both.... Ordained ministry is ministry of the Church entrusted to individuals; it is not the ministry of individuals acting independently."^{*}

Is the call of God's will in your life an affirmation of what you've always been told about yourself, or is it an opportunity to listen to new voices in a community you've found for yourself later in life? Either way, if you believe you may be called to ordained ministry, ask your pastor to connect you with a representative from your conference or association.

**Manual on Ministry: A Guide to the Authorizing Ministry in the United Church of Christ, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization, Local Church Ministries, A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ, 2018.*



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

6 / 6 / 2021

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Paul writes, "But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the

earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

In the immediately preceding passage, Jesus had exorcised many demons and then on a mountain apart appointed the 12 disciples. Then just before our first verse, it says “Then He went home.”

Mark 3:20-35

And the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

And Jesus called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" — for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."