

# Welcome

**BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.*

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
November 19,  
2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**Twenty-Fifth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Transgender**

**Remembrance Sunday**





# 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/merchot/display?host=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**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie  
Order of Worship for  
Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 10:00am  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Thanksgiving Sunday  
Transgender Remembrance Day**

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

**PRELUDE** "All Creatures of Our God and King,"  
arr. Bowater

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Alludes to Isaiah 49:1, RSV*

P: God has created us, called us from our mother's wombs and formed of us a people.

**C: No longer are we lonely individuals, but part of the whole human race, living and sharing with others.**

P: We discover life to be so complex. It is tears, it is smiles; it is joy, it is sorrow.

**C: It is a gift from God. Laugh, cry, sing, be silent; in whatever way we live, let us be thankful to our God!  
Amen!**

**RESPONSE “We Gather Together” SSB #12 (v.1)**

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,  
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to - make known;  
 Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;  
 And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,  
 So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;  
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.  
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!  
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Too often our hearts are cold and without gratitude.  
Too often our hands are passive and unwilling to carry out acts of mercy.

**C: Too often our lips are pursed tightly, unwilling to speak words of love. Too often we are indeed separated and alienated from our better self, separated and alienated also from God.**

P: Let us confess our separation and alienation.

**C: Let us join together responsively in the prayer of confession; let us pray.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: In Jesus Christ, You, O God, broke the barrier of sin and pain which separates us from our neighbor, ourselves, and You. We seek Your grace so might move from that alienation to new life.

**C: O God, grant us new life in You.**

P: When we deny Your presence in our busy days –

**C: O God, grant us new life in You.**

P: When we feel justified in our anger and resentment towards others –

**C: O God, grant us new life in You.**

P: When we judge others before looking at ourselves –

**C: O God, grant us new life in You.**

P: When we occupy ourselves in worldly matters and reject Your peace and assurance –

**C: O God, grant us new life in You.**

P: When we refuse to follow Your will because we are fearful and untrusting –

**C: O God, grant us new life in You.**

P: When we seek the security of false gods and turn our faces from Your Light –

**C: O God, grant us new life in You! In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Acts 3:17,19*

P: Peter preached at the Temple, “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance . . . Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

To repent is to return, dropping those obstacles to fellowship with God that held us back from serving the Lover of our souls. In grace, God wipes out our sins and refreshes our souls with the beautiful presence of the Suffering Servant, Lord God Almighty. Our sins are forgiven! In rejoicing, let the people of God say . . .

**A: Praise be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN "We Gather Together" SSB #12 (vv. 2, 3)

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,  
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;  
 Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;  
 And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,  
 So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;  
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.  
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!  
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

*The congregation may be seated*

## **A CALL TO OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Mark Loach

Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Epistle:

I Corinthians 12:1-13, 19-20

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

trad. Spiritual

*Will those who are able please stand up*

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 9:1-6, 10-17

## **RESPONSE**

The Doxology

*Tune #551 in the hymnal*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host!**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

*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**



**SERMON****“Stewardship Lessons Part 2”**

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**HYMN** “There Are Many Ways of Sharing” #441

*Sing to the tune “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken,” #323*

**There are many ways of sharing, But God's Spirit gives each one.**

**There are different ways of caring; It's one Lord whose work is done.**

**God, whose gifts are overflowing, May we hear you when you call;**

**Keep us serving, keep us growing For the common good of all.**

**We've been baptized in the waters! We've been given work to do.**

**When you call your sons and daughters, You give gifts for serving you.**

**God, we join in celebration Of the talents you impart.**

**Bless each baptized one's vocation; Give each one a servant's heart.**

**All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set apart to lead.**

**Give us Jesus' love within us As we care for those in need.**

**Give us faith to make decisions; Give us joy to share your Word.**

**Give us unity and vision As we serve your church and world.**

*Text: Copyright © 2004 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Included in her book [Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor](#) (Upper Room Books, 2009) which includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services.*

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION** *From First Peter 4:8ff.; Colossians 3;15*

P: “Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

**C: Be hospitable to one another without complaining.**

P: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received,

**C: So that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.”**

P: “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

**C: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Abbot’s Leigh”

arr. R. Hobby

*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.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

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# News in the Pews

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**Psalm 90 proclaims: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations”** (v. 1, NRSV). May children, youth and adults all feel at home in this, Christ’s church. Welcome.

**As we do each year since becoming ONA, we honor the transgendered persons who were killed in Chicago since last Trans Day of Remembrance, 2022, in the pastoral prayer.**

**Thank you to all those who served in the ministries of the church this morning** – in education, worship, music, administration, communication, and on Boards!

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

**We secured 144 Thanksgiving dinners!!** Thank you so much to everyone who’s been donating. 96 will go to District 69’s needy families, 16 will be distributed to those who come to our doors, and 32 will go to UCAN. Laura and Carol will be distributing these dinners next Monday at 11:15 AM. Please continue to donate, we still have Christmas dinners to give away!!

**Holiday Concert and Jingle Mingle!** Celebrate the opening of the Christmas season at St. Peter's by joining us for beautiful music from Lakeside Flutes and amazingly tasty treats! Founded in 1987 by a group of flute enthusiasts, they will favor us with a program of Christmas holiday music on Sunday December 3rd at 3:00pm. Following the concert will be a “Jingle Mingle” in our Gym at 4:00pm and will feature sweet and savory hors' d'oeuvres, and liquid refreshments. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for adults and \$5 for children 3-12 years old. RSVP here:

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<https://www.stpeteruccskokie.org/event-details/lakeside-flutes-holiday-concert-and-jingle-mingle/form> or call the Church office at 847-673-8166 to let us know you are coming. Donations will be collected at the door (cash or check).

**The Thanksgiving Tuesday night service** will be held at 7:30 PM at Central United Methodist Church on November 21st. The theme of this community interfaith service is “Words and Songs for Healing and Peace,” sponsored as always by the Niles Township Clergy Forum.

**We are now collecting for the Night Ministry** - cookies, hot cocoa hats, scarves & gloves – we are now collecting all but the fresh cookies (bake those closer to the bagging date) we’ll be bagging these items on Sunday, December 3rd after worship. We’ll also be needing boxes if you can donate those too. You can leave those items on the table in the Lobby, they’ll be a sign there! W

**Poinsettia Orders being taken now!** Find the form in this bulletin. Orders must be received by December 5<sup>th</sup> and there are limited amounts this year. Thank you!

**Please donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles.** We provide a full holiday dinner for needy 4-6 people for Christmas. All you must 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!!

**Gingerbread House Making Class**– On December 9th at 9:30 AM Carol Iannotti will be having a “Gingerbread Making Class” (pending the council approval) where you’ll get to make a beautiful gingerbread house for the holidays! Must RSVP. Cost of the class is \$28.00 and a portion of that will be donated to St.

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Peter's UCC. Seating is limited so call (847) 673-4143 to make your reservation!

## Our People

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**Happy birthday / anniversary!** Having a birthday this week are Pat Erdman, Dorothy Stielow, Linda Mau and Bill Cain. Henry and Bobbie Muhrer have a wedding anniversary Saturday. May they all sense God's presence as they celebrate.

**HOSPITALIZED:** Ron Schuhrke is in hospice care back at Libertyville Manor, 610 Peterson Road, Libertyville, IL 60048. Pat Erdman had hip replacement surgery earlier this month and is having physical therapy at Glenwood Terrace, 1511 Greenwood Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025.

**According to the schedule,** barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will Olivia Altmayer, and the Nursery attendant will be Mike Ryan.

**The deadline for articles for the December newsletter is tomorrow, November 20th.**

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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.

**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!

**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!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**November 19, 2023**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

**Extravagant Opportunity**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

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To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."

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**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-13, 19-20**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of

them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

### **Luke 9:1-6, 10-17**

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

# POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please take your plants after Christmas Eve worship if possible.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>	
<b>In Honor Of:</b>	<b>In Memory Of:</b>	

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6-½) Single (12 available)	\$16.00	
	Marble (6-½) Single (6 available)	\$16.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>			