

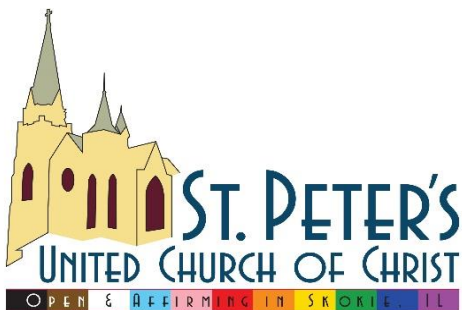
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
May 12, 2024
10:00 AM**

**Seventh Sunday
Of Easter**

Mother's Day



OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL





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/?x=1&from=seller=&to=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

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/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

SUNG RESPONSE:**“Gathered Here in the Mystery of this Hour”**

We will repeat this once

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: From age to age is God's faithfulness.

From day to day is our striving.

Let us confess to our faithful God our sins of thought, word and deed, including those good things You wanted from us, which we did not think, say or do."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Amazing, loving God, we'll hear in Isaiah today how great You are, likening Your benevolence to the gifts of mothers with their children. We confess we can get so down and critical about ourselves or life that we forget to look for the blessings You have given, give in that moment, and which we trust You will provide in the future.

C: It is not always easy to feel and be grateful, and for this we repent. As we often take our mothers for granted, not realizing how they have cared for us, or

maybe only remember or focus on the difficult times there, we pray that we also cherish what is holy and honorable, and give thanks.

A: Let us never take You for granted, stay stuck in any anger with You, or neglect You as we know You through Your Son Jesus, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON


P: Isaiah said, "I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord . . . because of all that Yahweh has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that God has shown them according to divine mercy, according to God's steadfast love. For the Lord said, "'Surely they are my people . . . and he became their savior in all their distress . . . in his love and his pity he redeemed them; God lifted them up and carried them all the days of old" (Isaiah 63:7-9).

God was remembering his love for Israel, but they were to rebel afterward. Although God did reclaim and forgive Israel, in Christ we see the ultimate length our tender, intimately caring and carrying God went to bring God's people back, forgiven and transformed by grace. In the name and by the works of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, our sins are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!


HYMN

“He’s My Source”

SSB #17



He's my source _____ of light _____ that



shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing




wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my



sword and my shield, _____ the fair - est of ten



thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, _____ the



soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord. _____

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Olivia Altmayer

Former Prophet:

First Samuel 1:9-20; 24-28; 2:11

Latter Prophet:

Isaiah 66:10-14

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Blessings”

by Brickman

Will those who are able please stand up

THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-16

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 The Doxology

#551

**A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below!
Praise God above, you heavenly host!
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: Mothering God, You have brought us to life.
You provide all we need, giving us Your
unconditional love. In You we live and move and
have our being. Thank You for all You give to each of
us. Receive these gifts as signs of our love,
offering back to You a portion of what we've been
given. Help us make good use of what is now
presented, and keep us filled with gratitude for the
ways in which we are given daily provision for
abundant life. In the majestic name of Jesus we
pray. AMEN**

The congregation may be seated

SERMON "Hannah, Jesus, and Mothering Church"

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "God of the Women"

Sing to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision"

**God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.**

**God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.**

**God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.**

**God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.**

**O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.**

Text: by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Included in [Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2000). This book, which Pastor owns, includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 44 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services.)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE Selected

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	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

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

News in the Pews

Happy Easter! (Yes, it's still that season!) And happy Mother's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a mom or mom-figure. Welcome to worship.

The altar flowers today are in honor of all the mothers in the congregation, with special honor to Ursula Dworak our oldest mother in our congregation!

Thanks to all the volunteers who served in the various ministries of the church this morning – ministries of education, worship, administration and hospitality!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. Thank you very much for giving!

The Church Council meets after worship next Sunday. If you are responsible for a report, please prepare it and submit it to the Council Drop box for May as soon as you can, giving other members time to read the reports ahead of time.

Undy 500 is back! The Undy 500 is on for the month of May. We're collecting Men and Women's brand new (colors only) underwear in all sizes including plus sizes please. These items will go to The Night Ministry which offers them to Chicago's most needy. Collection baskets are in the sanctuary and Memorial Room. Let the office or Maria Altmayer know if you have any questions and thank you so much for your generosity!

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 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!

June PRIDE Events!!! We'll be participating in the Niles Pride Walk on June 8th at 11AM at Kirk Lane Park as well as Skokie Pride (we have a booth) on June 23rd from 1-4PM at Oakton Park. We'd love volunteers for Skokie Pride to help meet the community, even 1-hour slots would be so helpful! We'll also be supporting in some capacity the Evanston Pride Interfaith Festival on June 2nd.

One Last Goodbye- Save the date, June 30th as this is Pastor Lanford's last day at St. Peter's UCC. Don't miss his last service, and later that day at 5:00PM we'll be hosting a special formal dinner for Pastor and Beth. Donations are being collected now to help defray the cost of the dinner. Put “Lanford Celebration Fund” in the memo.

Our People

HOSPITALIZED Jane Abramchik remains at the McGaw Care Center / Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Room 333, Evanston, IL, 60201. Annie's mother-in-law Marylou Noorts is in hospice care at The Arbor, 4700 W. Lake Avenue, Glenview, 60025 (this is also where Lois Jarmuth lives, although she is not in hospice care). Please keep them as well as Jen Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman in your prayers (you'll remember that she, too, is in hospice, in Ohio).

Having birthdays this week are Maya Lundeen, Gianna Iannotti, Jake Ryan, Jeff and Jen Loach's daughter Evelyn Loach, Jessica Schneider and Annie Noorts! We wish God's blessings on all of them!

Graduations wanted! Please let the office know if you or someone you love is celebrating a graduation and you'd like to share it in the June Announcer.

According to the schedule, next Sunday's lector is Peter Svenson, and Laurie Mitchell is the Nursery Attendant.

Next Sunday, May 19th, is the final Sunday of Sunday School until next September after Labor Day.

Pictures of Pastor and Beth needed! We're asking folks to go through your old photos and share them with us. You can email the church office with the photos office@stpeteruccskokie.org, or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
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.

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

“Guided in Prayer”

John 17:6-19

Although for many people, Mother’s Day is a day of joy and celebration, for others it is a time of confusion, pain or frustration. Some churches try to honor all the emotions of this day by offering an alternative service around Mother’s Day that acknowledges the difficult feelings that this day might bring up. An emphasis on ritual and contemplation can be very healing for those incapacitated by the emotions of this day.

One such ritual allowed participants to move around to various stations in the room. At each station was a quote about the painful disconnect that Mother’s Day holds for some people. Participants were encouraged to respond to the quote with the activity at the station. After some time had passed, the participants gathered to share whatever had come up for them, with some profound moments of healing and insight shared.

If you would like to create a container for a service like this, that honors the difficulty of this day, here are some stations that might be helpful

Art such as mandala or simple origami: Sometimes the healing needed is beyond words. Provide this space as a place to respond from that place beyond words.

Writing: You may want to provide pens and paper. The writings could be kept by the participants or ritually burned.

Prayer candles: Invite participants to light a candle from another flame, reminding them of the capacity for light to grow when it is shared.

Water: Provide a bowl of salt water, as a reminder of tears. Invite participants to say a short blessing and release a stone or glass bead into the water.

In so many settings, “negative” emotions are unwelcome. If you and your community decide to create a ritual like this, you may be surprised at the response you receive, as you demonstrate that you are safe place “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey.”

1 Samuel 1:9-21, 24-28; 2:11

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore, Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine."

But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time."

Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD." The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow.

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD."

She left him there for the LORD. Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, while the boy remained to minister to the LORD, in the presence of the priest Eli.

Coming at the end of the Book of Isaiah, the prophet is talking about a rebirth of Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon and its re-build. There is a vision of the city's prosperity and health.

Isaiah 66:10-14

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,

all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy,

all you who mourn over her—

that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;

that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees.

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;

your bodies shall flourish like the grass;

and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,

and his indignation is against his enemies.

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.