



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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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 8, 2021, 10:00 AM
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "I Hear Thy Welcome Voice" arr. Marianne Kim

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We assemble here and on-line to worship
God, our Creator and Sovereign.

***Congregation: We put aside thoughts of recreation
and vacation to attune to God's call on
us.***

P: Let us seek and find God's presence in the
ordinary and routine.

***C: Let us listen for and hear God's word in
this time of worship! Amen.***

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 130)

P: God's word leads us to confession! The Psalmist sang,
"If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who
could stand?"

**C: *"But there is forgiveness with You, so that You
may be revered."***

P: Let us grab that Scriptural hope; let us confess our
missing the mark with God and others.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, when we have missed the mark, or
sinned against You by what we have done or left
undone, we confess that behind these fallings-short
there is brokenness. We may not always think of it
that way, but our brokenness expresses itself in ways
that are not Your ways, in letting our love for You
grow cold, and our faith sometimes hanging on by its
teeth. Being broken is not a sin, but it does need
healing. We confess we need Your healing of our
spirits, minds and hearts, and those of our country and
world. As a result of Your healing us, we will follow
Jesus more closely and gladly, and be less likely to
stray from your graceful ways. So please hear our
prayers for forgiveness and healing, without which we
cannot grow to be the saints You call us to be. In
Christ's blessed name we pray. Amen.**

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Paul exhorted the Ephesians, "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander . . . and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (4:31-32).

God in Christ has forgiven us! That, too, is from God's Word. That too is good news from a God worthy of our worship, love and praise! Do you agree with me?

ALL: Absolutely! 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-e-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

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

New Testament:

Annie Noorts

Hosea 11:1-4

The Revelation 22:1-5

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Be Still, My Soul" arr. Chris Rice

***GOSPEL:** Mark 5: 1-20

***RESPONSE:** "Alleluia" #495

HOMILY: "Healing and the Holy"

***HYMN:** "O God, We Rage at Hurtful Things"
(Please sing to the tune of "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past")

**O God, we rage at hurtful things
Beyond our own control,
Like all the pain that illness brings
To body, mind and soul.**

**There's much we cannot understand;
O Lord, we ask you, "Why?"
And yet in Christ you know firsthand
The tears your people cry.**

**O Christ, your loving, saving touch
Heals children, women, men.
We pray for ones we love so much;**

Lord, make them whole again.

**Now work through those your Spirit sends
To heal, restore and care.
May doctors, nurses, neighbors, friends
Be answers to our prayer.**

**And when the journey seems too rough
And you seem far away,
Remind us, Lord: You are enough
To bring us through each day.**

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SERVICE OF HEALING

PASTORAL PRAYERS

(During the prayers for healing Pastor Lanford will offer a prayer of thanksgiving over oil . . . Then he will say . . .)

P: Those who desire to be anointed and to have hands laid on them for spiritual healing may come forward down the center aisle. If you wish me to come to you, raise your hand high or ask your neighbor to identify you for me. You may come for yourself, or you may come as a channel of God's healing power for someone else. During

this time I invite all present to make silent prayers for each one who comes forward.

**THE ACT OF ANOINTING WITH OIL
THE LAYING ON OF HANDS
BRIEF CLOSING PRAYER**

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**

***HYMN:** “God Whose Will is Health and Wholeness”
(Please sing to the tune of hymn # 323, "Glorious Things of
Thee are Spoken")

**God whose will is health and wholeness, hear your
people as we pray:
Many now are facing illness; more face sickness every
day.
As we lift our song toward heaven, may we use the
gifts you give —**

Science, justice, and compassion — to help others safely live.

Jesus taught that your commandments call for us to use the mind.

May we use the gifts of science to seek health for humankind.

Bless the ones who work for healing; bless the ones who seek to be

Builders of a health care system that protects society.

God, you call for love and justice, yet our laws are far from wise:

Many don't have good insurance; lack of health care threatens lives.

Many workers must keep working, sick or not, to pay the bills.

Turn us round when we have sanctioned greed that leads to greater ills.

Loving God, we ask your blessing on the sick and those they love,

And we pray for those now grieving as they lift their cries above.

There is trouble all around us; illness causes pain and fear.

Give compassion, love and kindness as we serve your people here.

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***BENEDICTION**

C: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** Selected

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.

So, what's up with the service of healing? Here's how we do it: In the service of healing, coming forward to receive the anointing with oil and the laying-on of hands is, of course, voluntary. Pastor Richard will make the sign of the cross on your forehead *with oil* (like the ashes on Ash Wednesday), and gently lay his hands on top of your head for some extra words of prayer and blessing.

Join us after worship for a special birthday coffee hour! Marlene Russell is planning to host our first post-COVID coffee hour downstairs in celebration of her and Carol Burmeister's 85th birthdays! Please plan to join in.

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!

Here's a reminder for those responsible for submitting Mid-Year reports: they are due in to Laura by TOMORROW, August 9 (she's on vacation the week after that; see below). You can either email the report to her, or put it in the August Council Dropbox, whatever is easiest for you.

Having birthdays this week are: Marlene Russell, Kathy Zipperer, Carol Burmeister, Arthur Svenson, Kim Loach, Olivia Altmayer and Elliott Kerbel. Mike and Paula Fink, friends of the church, celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary this weekend. May God's blessing rest on all of them!

The Board of Elders hold a Zoom / phone meeting this coming Thursday at 4 PM.

There is no Church Council meeting scheduled for next Sunday, which gives us all time to read the Mid-year reports that will have been emailed out!

Rummage sorting openers and times for this week: Monday (Maria A.) and Wednesday(Mandy S.) at 6:30 PM, and Friday (Sharon J.) 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.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com or call/text her at (847) 528-4545.

Pastor’s podcasts resume later this week after a hiatus during his vacation, with another brief hold as . . .

Office Manager Laura Olson is going on a week-long vacation next week, from Monday Aug. 16th through Friday the 20th. *This means that things needed for the bulletins for Sunday the 22nd need to be in no later than Thursday the 12th this week.* That Thursday the 12th also happens to be the day Rev. Lanford baptizes two of Laura’s granddaughters, Arya and Calisto, in the mid-afternoon in our sanctuary.

Remember, in three 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!

According to the schedule next Sunday’s lector is Rich Schneider.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

August 8, 2021

Hosea 11:1-4

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.

I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks.

I bent down to them and fed them.

Revelation 22:1-5

John wrote of his vision, “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

Mark 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain; for he had

often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him;

and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.