

GOD'S

LOVING



PAINS

Welcome to St Peter's UCC 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** 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

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(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, February 21, 2021 10:00 AM
First Sunday in Lent

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Selected"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Like Noah and his family after a long,
harrowing storm and flood,

***Congregation: let us hearken to the good news
God brings for the future.***

P: Like Jesus at his baptism,

***C: let us take this time to remember
who, and Whose we are, in good
times and in bad.***

ALL: Let us worship our Triune God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (Romans 3:23)

P: "For there is no distinction," Paul wrote, "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

C: Since we believe this, let us draw near to the throne of grace, that God may hear our confessions and forgive us in the name of God's only Son.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Almighty God, in this season of penitence, prayer, fasting and reflection on the ministry of Jesus, we confess our desperate need for Your grace. For some of us, we confess that the sorrow from our sins is overwhelming.

C: We have not loved You with all our heart, soul and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as we have loved ourselves.

P: We have lived lives of greed and consumption while others have gone without. Forgive us, O Lord! Have mercy on us.

C: Raise us anew, so that we may learn to love You and our neighbors according to the gospel of Jesus, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God’s grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith” (3:23-25a).

There is a saying that God is more willing to forgive than we are to confess; God’s grace is surely more than sufficient to cover all of our sins and having missed the mark. The defining characteristic of grace is that it is free and undeserved; a gift from God and not a reward. We take from God, God gives to us; now in faith we know it is time to give to God by the ways we live and how we can bless others. Isn’t that great! Join me please in affirming the gospel by saying good and loud . . .

All: Thanks be to God!

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FRANCES WHITMARSH WILE, 1912
In moderate time; brightly

The Seasons
Winter
C. M. D.

FOREST GREEN
English Traditional Melody

1. All beau - ti - ful the march of days, As sea - sons come and go;
2. O'er white ex - pans - es spar - kling pure The ra - diant morns un - fold;
3. O. Thou from whose un - fath - omed law The year in beau - ty flows,

The Hand that shaped the rose hath wrought The crys - tal of the snow,
The sol - emn splen - dors of the night Burn bright - er through the cold;
Thy - self the vi - sion pass - ing by In crys - tal and in rose,

Hath sent the hoar - y frost of heaven, The flow - ing wa - ters sealed,
Life mounts in ev - ery throbb - ing vein, Love deep - ens round the hearth,
Day un - to day doth ut - ter speech, And night to night pro - claim,

And laid a si - lent love - li - ness On hill and wood and field,
And clear - er sounds the an - gel - hymn, " Good will to men on earth."
In ev - er - chang - ing words of light, The won - der of Thy Name. A - MEN.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Andre Gloeckner

Genesis 9:8-17

I Peter 3:18-22

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Selected"

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:9-15

A CALL TO OFFERING

PASTORAL 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**

SERMON:

"About that Rainbow...."

HYMN: "Once for All, God Came from Heaven"
(We sing this to the tune of "Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling")

**Once for all, God came from heaven, kneeling
down in Jesus Christ.**

**Through God's gift, we were forgiven! We received
eternal life.**

**Once for all, God took on suffering, cleansing our
unrighteousness.**

**Who can understand this offering? We have all
been truly blessed!**

**Once for all, Christ entered prison, freeing those
awash in sin —**

**There he made his proclamation; there he called
us home again.**

**There he loved God's wandering children, bringing
hope where hope was lost;**

**Once, to welcome us to heaven, Jesus died upon
the cross.**

**See the sign of our salvation! Feel the water, cool
and fine.**

**Know the joy of celebration! Taste the gifts of
bread and wine.**

**Hear the words, "You are forgiven!" Once for all,
Christ made us new.**

**God, in Christ, you gave your kingdom. May we all
now live for you.**

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:**

"Selected"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Greetings, in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on this first Sunday in Lent. Let us walk with Jesus and one another these sacred 40 days.

TODAY, February 21st is our Village Inn Food

Fundraiser from 11 AM to 11 PM Please order from them if you are able, any way you like, and just mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser to your server and we get 20% of your bill. Thanks so much!

The Lenten Bible Study will begin this week,

Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 PM via Zoom; it is

Thursday for the first week only, due to scheduled hip surgery on the 24th for Beth Lanford. What is it? An adult study written by Professor Amy-Jill Levine called "The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Pastor or Laura need to know who wants to be included so

we can get a book to you, and if you can chip in \$10 for the book (paperback) we will appreciate it! This is a 6-week session so we as usual will be off during Holy Week but finish the week of April 11th. Copies of the book for the study are in Laura's office and are available for pick up on Monday when she is there from 9 to 2pm but PLEASE if you call to let her know you're coming as Laura isn't always near the office doors. Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1, which takes you through page 22. We will be using the St. Peter's Zoom account for this study. Claim your book and spot now!

In Memoriam: Andre Gloeckner has let us know that former member Alma Kessler has died. She had moved to live in The Brookdale in Des Plaines after her husband Chuck died several years ago. She is survived by their one son, Kurt.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside front cover for details on how to donate.

Your Church Council meets today at 11:30 AM after worship, giving Pastor, Jenn and families to get back to their homes in time for the meeting. Your Board of Elders held a teleconference call for a meeting last week.

NEW St. Peter's Zoom Account! We now have an official Church Zoom account. There are many more benefits we are able to use because of this. If you are having a Zoom meeting, contact Laura in the office and she'll share the username and password so you might host an online meeting using the church account.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

Much thanks to Laurie Mitchell, who though recovering from a second surgery in less than a month, brokered a deal to sell 2 of the donated designer purses and some sunglasses to a website that gave us another \$673.00 towards our Rummage Sale totals. You rock lady, thanks so much!!

As of this writing, Phil Lindroth's brother Richard remains in hospice.

According to the schedule next week's Lector is Katy Schuhrke.

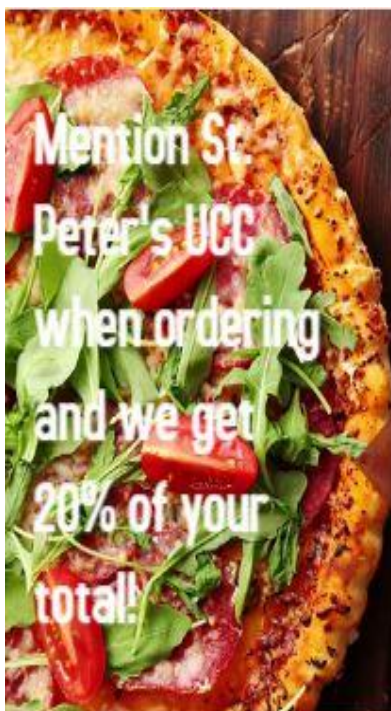
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We are taking orders for Easter Flowers! See form below these announcements and return to us by March 21st!

Lenten Devotionals went out this week. Those who requested them will get them either via snail mail or in their emails by Ash Wednesday fingers crossed! There may be extra copies outside the office door if you missed asking for them.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

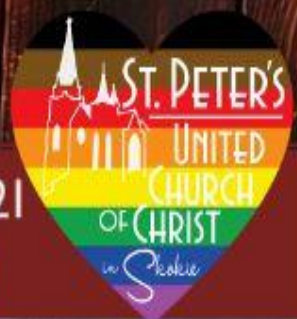


Mention St. Peter's UCC when ordering and we get 20% of your total!



Food Fundraiser
CARRYOUT, DELIVERY & CALL FOR DINE IN OPTIONS

FEBRUARY 21, 2021
11 AM TO 11 PM



2021 EASTER CHANCEL FLOWERS



Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available and the G & E substitutes an equal value plant, orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please make a separate check for your flower order to St. Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by **Sunday, March 21, 2021**

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6 pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 4 bloom	9.00	
	Tulip 6" 5-6 blooms	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6"	11.00	
Total			

Name _____ Phone# _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 21, 2021

Psalm 25:1-10

God's Loving Paths

Teach me your paths, O Lord, the Psalmist cries.

Teach me your paths! These are powerful words as we take our first steps into the season of Lent.

As we enter Lent, we are invited into humility. We remember that no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, we still have things to learn. We approach Lent as students of Christ's way. When we agree to be a student, we agree to be transformed. We agree to come out of the period of teaching different than the way we went in, aware that everything new that we learn will change us.

As we enter Lent, we look to Christ, who each year has something new to teach us.

No matter how often we have taken this journey, the Lenten path is waiting for us, and ready to teach us.

The psalm, with its plural "paths" rather than singular "path" reminds us that there is more than one way to embark on the Lenten journey. If you have always approached Lent the same way (by giving up something in particular, or by taking on something in particular, or even by doing nothing unusual at all) try a different path this year. Follow the Holy One in another way and allow yourself to be transformed.

As we enter Lent, we remember that we are never alone. We are always accompanied by The Teacher, who wants for us the renewing and transformation of our minds, hearts, and souls. So, be open to Christ's teaching, be ready to follow a new path if one appears before you.

A prayer to carry with you into Lent:

Teach us in your paths, O Lord! Guide us as we walk and instruct us as we journey. As new paths open before us, help us to follow them with curiosity and joy. Remind us that no matter the path you guide us on, you always desire to lead us in the way of new life. In your name we pray, Amen.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

February 21, 2021

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

1 Peter 3:18 - 22

18For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1:9 - 15

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

12And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

13He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”