

A large stained glass window is the central focus. The top portion shows a circular medallion with a figure, possibly Christ, surrounded by a decorative border. Below this, the window is divided into several panels. On the left, two figures in red and white robes stand. In the center, a figure in a yellow robe holds a book. On the right, a figure in a red and blue robe is shown in a dynamic, expressive pose. The bottom panels depict a landscape with green hills and a blue sky with white clouds. The entire window is set within a dark wooden frame.

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 25,
2022**

10:00 AM

**Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up 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 invite 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

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 10:00am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

PRELUDE "Slane"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, to all who live in the shelter of the Most High.
Gather together, in person or on-line, all who trust
in God Almighty.

**C: God reigns through all generations. We will praise
God as long as we live.**

P: We trust in God, our refuge and our fortress. We can
count on God's faithfulness at all times.

**C: God lifts us up when we are threatened or afraid.
We call to God for protection and rescue.**

P: Worship God, who richly provides us with all things.
Give thanks to the One who dwells in
unapproachable light.

**C: God, who made heaven and earth, keeps faith
forever. We will pour out our thankfulness in words
and deeds.**

RESPONSE

“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. _____

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: How easily we find our security in things! We are tempted and trapped by senseless and harmful desires. We become indifferent to the plight of brothers and sisters. We lose touch with God. We are in need of God's mercy, forgiveness, and help.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: All-powerful God, we have become so comfortable with our advantages that we forget who makes them possible. Some are so eager for wealth that we wander away from faith.

C: We consider ourselves more worthy than others to enjoy Your bounty. We look down on people less industrious or differently gifted than we. Yet we are often completely unaware of this.

P: We turn away from the plight of our neighbors who need our helping hand if it is not convenient, or if it means any degree of sacrifice from us. O God, forgive our misplaced priorities.

C: Have mercy on us and melt our hardened hearts, so we may participate in the joy of Your realm here and now, and beyond. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Romans 3*

P: The Apostle Paul wrote, “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 in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.”

By the grace of God we know in Jesus crucified and Christ resurrected, received by faith, our sins are forgiven! God gives us the Holy Spirit to transform us bit by bit, so that it will be no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Galatians 2:20). Please join me in praising God for this gospel by crying out,

A: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

SSB #20

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord,
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: SI ANE, Irish tune

The congregation may be seated.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophet:

Olivia Altmayer

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Epistle:

I Timothy 6:6-19

CHORAL ANTHEM “The Servant Song”

Those who are able please stand.

GOSPEL:

Luke 16:19-31

RESPONSE:

“Alleluia”

#495

The congregation may sit down

PASTORAL PRAYERS & 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

“Love This, Not That”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: "If Only I Had Known"

Sing to the tune of "The God of Abraham Praise")

**"If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those in
need.**

**But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed," the rich man cried.**

**If only we could see which bargains in the store
Are made in dismal sweatshops that oppress the poor.
For each subsistence wage — each tiny, crippling stitch
Makes wider the divide between the poor and rich.**

**And, too, if we could hear a mother's lullaby;
She's singing now to calm her hungry toddler's cry.
For rich ones came one day, took land and water rights,
And left the poor with hopeless days and hungry
nights.**

**If only we could learn what keeps us wanting more:
We build our bigger barns so we'll feel more secure.
But you alone, O God, give true security;
Possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.**

**O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the earth!
And yet, by your own Spirit, you have shown God's
truth: "Do justice, help the poor, share life and love
and land, And when you see the hungry, open wide
your hand."**

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, copyright © 2007 by The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. All rights reserved. This hymn was commissioned by Christian Reflection, a journal of The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University, for a special issue on Global Wealth.

CHARGE *Micah 6:8*

P: Yes, we are engaging Micah for the charge
two weeks running! “The Lord has told you, O
mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord
require of you, but

WOMEN: To do justice,

MEN: To love kindness,

A: And to walk humbly with our God.

BENEDICTION

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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

News in the Pews

Good Morning! “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob. ... Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 146:5, 10, NRSV). I welcome you as we seek God’s help and praise him in worship.

The Rummage and Bake Sale is OVER! THANK YOU to everyone who spearheaded the whole sale, who gave hours sorting and pricing, testing items, and working the sale, to the bakers, rummage donors, cashiers, publicity folks, and everyone involved in making the Sale a success from start to finish! You can help us thin the herd of rummage (and possibly the bake sale) by going through what we still have out on tables / shelves in the Auditorium, taking what you want, and making an “as-the-spirit-moves-you” donation to the Sale. Everything in the Memorial Room is half-price. Remaining baked goods, if any, will most likely still have a price on them which is asked.

TODAY is our Village Inn Pizzeria Fundraiser!! Take a much-needed break after all that rummage and let them do the cooking today!! Upon ordering, mention our fundraiser to your server and we’ll get 20% of whatever you spend, and that goes for carryout and delivery as well!

‘BRIEF COLLECTION’ – This is the last Sunday to donate! Men’s and Women’s underwear is needed in all sizes, including plus sizes and COLORED pairs only. There’s a basket near the altar to put them in, or leave them by the

offices and we'll bring them up. Thank you in advance for giving important help to those on the margins and living on the edge! Your Micah 6:8 Committee.

Enhancing Health Safety for Fall and Winter - With the advent of cold and flu season, and the ever-present threat of COVID, St. Peter's is seeking to do everything we can to alleviate contamination in our sanctuary. As of October 2nd, we will reinstate the social distancing in our sanctuary, roping off every other pew. We are also going to explore air circulation options like opening windows and running the air handler. As stated before, we'll continue providing individual prepackaged elements for communion, and not passing the plate for offering. Providing a safe worship environment for all who join us is a top priority.

We still NEED Nursery Attendants!! Your service requires 1 hour of your time bi-monthly, if we can get enough helpers. Your service helps the parents get a much-needed break and the kids get to interact with others in the church they might not. Please consider helping, let the office know if you will!

For those who received an email last week coming out of the Council meeting, about a Zoom presentation on Solar and Churches, it is tomorrow night from 7 to 8:30 PM.

In case you're unaware, tonight starts Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, for our Jewish neighbors and friends.

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday. Our scheduled Lector is Beth Lanford.

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Mandy Steegmueller (today!), Beth Sterba, Nicole Miller and Ron Schuhrke's granddaughter Maya Martinek. Celebrating wedding anniversaries this week are Kathy (Blinn) and Jeff Issel, Angela (Washek) and Harrison Kuras, and Rich and Mandy Steegmueller. God bless them all, and their celebrations!

Our Call to Worship, to, and Prayer of, Confession, are all reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Gathered by Love by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1994 by United Church Press; 2001 by The Pilgrim Press.

Pertaining to our final hymn, the permission from the Christian Reflection Project reads like so: For any of the items in the Christian Reflection series that are copyrighted by Baylor University, we hereby grant permission for you to reproduce those items for personal and public worship and study. Where appropriate, please cite the copyright. For other items in the Ethics Library that are not copyrighted by Baylor, please contact the copyright owner for permission to reproduce them. This is not a Baylor copyright; as it goes back to Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, our Pastor has that permission already from her.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

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 the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

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! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.



MISSION MOMENTS

September 25, 2022

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Surprising Investment

American Indian Ministry Sunday

United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday

Matou te faatalofa atu ai i le Suafa Pele o Iesu Keriso le Alii ma le Faaola!

We greet you in the Beloved name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

“In 1999 General Synod declared a “Partnership in Mission and Ministry” with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS) as a way of acknowledging the deepening relationship between the two churches and the rapid growth of Samoan congregations in the United States.

Today, there are more than 60 congregations of the CCCAS in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Washington and Oregon. Many of them related to the UCC through our regional Conferences and local Associations. The partnership seeks to strengthen the ministry of these congregations and the mission of both churches.

In many places, Samoan congregations are actively involved in the life and leadership of UCC Associations. Many UCC clergy and lay leaders have immersed themselves in the life of Samoan communities and have traveled to American Samoa to learn more about its unique and ancient culture.” *1

“The United Samoan Ministries of the UCC is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan congregations to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual support, and communications and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. Providing Resources for all faith communities and promote/teaching and maintaining Samoan Culture and Language; promote Ecumenical partnerships, and proclaiming the proclamation of Open and Affirming, and leading in Justice and Peace for ALL.

Samoan Communities residing within the Mainland, Alaska and Hawaii and those who are in Diaspora throughout the world.” *2

If you are a member of a Samoan congregation, today is a day to celebrate your connection with the wider United Church of Christ. If you are a member of a church that has limited contact with your Samoan brothers and sisters, today is a good day to learn more about how you can be in intentional conversation and relationship with a Samoan Congregation.

*1 - https://www.ucc.org/ecumenical_america-samoa/

*2 - <https://unitedsamoanminist.wixsite.com/>

Our first reading is from the prophet Amos. He taught in the middle 700s BC. It was during the long and peaceful reign of Jeroboam II, when Israel attained a height of territorial expansion and national prosperity never again reached. The military security and economic affluence which characterized the age were taken by many Israelites as signs of God's special favor that they felt they deserved, because of their extravagant support of the official shrines. Into this scene stepped the prophet Amos, with a very different opinion.

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria!
Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall;
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore, they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

First Timothy 6:6-19

Paul writes to Timothy, "Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time -- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life."

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.'

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house -- for I have five brothers--that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.'

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"