



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
June 14, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Third Sunday after
Pentecost**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. All are welcome to join us

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



Ways to Give

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine!

Send with Zelle. Use your banking app to send to finance@stpeteruccskokie.org

Use PayPal. <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

Set up Vanco. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



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. Brenda Barnes Jamieson (Interim Pastor): pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org

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

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: @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
8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL 60077
Order of Worship for
Second Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 10:00am

Meditation during our sacred music:

Listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connect all of us gathered here, those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.

PRELUDE "Give Me Jesus"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *inspired by Genesis 18:1-7*

One: As Abraham welcomed the strangers

All: So God welcomes us.

One: God greets us with joy

All: and says, "rest here for awhile."

One: God brings out water to wash our dusty feet.

All: God prepares a meal to nourish our weary spirits.

One: So let us receive the gracious hospitality of our
God.

**All: Let us rest in this holy place
where there is shade and water, food and
laughter.**

GATHERING HYMN "For Everyone Born"



1. For eve - ry - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,___
2. For young and for old,	a place at the ta - ble,___
3. For just and un - just	a place at the ta - ble,___
4. For Gay, Bi, and Trans,	a place at the ta - ble,___
5. For ev - ery - one born,	a place at the ta - ble,___



for eve - ry - one born,___	clean wa - ter and bread;___
a voice to be heard,___	a part in the song,___
the u - ser, the used,	with need to for - give,___
Les - bi - an, Queer,___	and In - ter - sex too,___
to live with - out fear,___	and sim - ply to be,___



a shel - ter, a space,	a safe place for grow - ing,___
the hands of a child	in hands that are wrin - kled,___
in an - ger, in hurt,	a mind - set of mer - cy,___
Acc, A - ro, and Pan,	all part of the spec - trum,___
to work, to speak out,	to wit - ness and wor - ship,___



for eve - ry - one born,___	a star___ o - ver - head.
for young and for old,___	the right___ to be - long.
for just and un - just,___	a new___ way to live.
in com - mun - i - ty,___	with love___ that is true.
for ev - ery - one born,___	the right___ to be free.



Refrain
All: And God___ will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, and joy,___ com -



pas - sion and peace: yes, God___ will de-light when we are cre -



a - tors of jus - tice,___ jus - tice and joy.

You may be seated.

CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: God of the enslaved and the free,

All: We come before you carrying history – not as a burden to set down, but as a truth we are learning to hold.

One: We lament the centuries of enslavement in this country. We lament the forced separation of families, the theft of labor, the destruction of language and culture and name.

All: We lament the law that said freedom had come while plantation owners in Texas kept the news from reaching those it was meant to free.

One: We lament that the gap between freedom proclaimed and freedom delivered did not close in 1865.

All: We name mass incarceration. We name the racial wealth gap. We name the ways our own institutions, including the Church, have participated in the harm.

One: We do not come to you with answers today. We come with honesty. We come with grief.

**All: God, receive our grief as an act of faith. Move us from honest grief toward courageous action.
Amen.**

Pause for quiet prayer

WORDS OF GRACE

One: The grace of God is not cheap grace. It is costly, demanding and transforming. It does not let us stay where we are. But we let it change us.

All: For there is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us, that will ever stop God from loving us.

One: In Jesus our Christ, we are freed. We are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

Share a sign of God's peace: a smile, a wave, an elbow bump, a handshake, a hug. Let us fill this space with love.

SUNG RESPONSE

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 18:1-15

You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 9:35-10:14

Please be seated.

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Deep River"

SERMON**“Changed By the Journey”****HYMN “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”**

Unison

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; I want
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; in my
 3. When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in

Je - sus to walk with me; all a - long my
 tri - als, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is
 trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; when my head is

pil - grim jour - ney, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 al - most break - ing, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 bowed in sor - row, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

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, you may place an “Electronic Giving” card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.

You may stand in body or in spirit.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures, here below!
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: God of freedom, receive these offerings as a sign of our participation in your ongoing work. May these gifts do justice. May they repair what has been broken. May they carry forward the freedom that this day celebrates. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

For if You lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of a vocal melody and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand, with triplets used for rhythmic variety. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staff.

1. I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right-eous-ness, Be my
 3. I am lost if You take your hand from me, I am

help me o-ver my weak-est hour. Help me through the dark-ness
 aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put-ting all
 blind with-out Thy Light to see. Lord, just al-ways let me

Thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 my trust in Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 Thy ser-vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

D.C.

CHARGE

One: The service is ending.

All: The work has not.

One: Go and carry what you have received

**All: Into our homes, our neighborhoods, our
advocacy, our giving.**

One: Go as people who know the distance between
freedom proclaimed and freedom delivered

All: And who refuse to be the reason the gap remains.

One: Go in peace, to love and serve our God.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Ride On, King Jesus”

We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith.

<http://spaciousfaith.com/2011/10/19/wednesday-worship-piece-calls-to-worship/>

*and Juneteenth Prayers and Litanies for Progressive Worship -
Progressive Church Media*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

News in the Pews

The psalmist urges us to sing the Lord's praises and proclaim his deeds to all (see Psalm 9:11). Let us do so! Welcome to worship.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers; without their help, this and every service would not be possible – thank you.

Church Council meets today after worship.

Summer conversations before worship Sunday mornings. Join us in Lanford Hall starting at 9AM. Topics will be pulled from the UCC daily devotionals, you can sign up for them here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

Please set aside a little extra time on Sunday, June 21. Who are we? Why are we here? Who is our neighbor? And how might God be ready to use us? After a brief worship service, we will continue the journey to explore the future of St. Peter's. Please come. Your idea just might inspire the whole church. Your presence just might encourage someone who needs to be heard. Your support just might build a life-changing connection. We will finish around noon, so you will still have plenty of time to celebrate the fathers in your life!

Thank you to everyone who's been donating, and we can still use donations if you are able. Summertime is especially important to keep our pantry full. When schools are out, children that rely on those free or reduced lunches no longer have that option. So please give if you can.

A NEW DATE FOR SETTING UP FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE
– June 21st at noon, right after the special church service for table set up. With lots of helpers this won't take very long. Donations drop-off starting on Monday, June 22nd. The first sorting time is Friday, June 26th 10:00AM - 2:00PM. All help is very welcome and truly appreciated! Any questions or suggestions, contact Annie (annie.noorts@gmail.com)

Skokie Pride! Join us on **June 28th from 1-4PM** as we will meet, greet, rock paint and be a part of this wonderful event that continues to grow and grow! You can sit in a chair and smile, talk to folks, pass out stickers or help with rock painting, its up to you. We'll have a shady booth and lots of good company. Talk to anyone on the ONA committee (Jen, Mark, Bonnie, Peggy, Chad, George, Ben or Annie) for more information.

Calling all Crafters. Our annual craft show will be on Saturday, November 7th from 10-3. If you are interested in a table, or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or email Wendy Svenson at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com.

Our People

Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:

- Ginger Kalensky who lost her cousin Greg a week ago.
- The Iannotti family who lost Carol's cousin Diane, who also was extended family of St. Peter's UCC.
- Annie Noorts' friend Geo Bonamasso who is fighting cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Paul Brzozowski has now completed all treatment and will have MRIs every 2 months.

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt and Lois Jarmuth.

If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!

Happy birthday this week Laurie Mitchell. Happy Anniversary to Karem and David Iannotti and Valerie (Paige) and Christopher Mahoney. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Carolyn Van Til, our Nursery attendant is Rita McMahon. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Christianson
TREASURER	Carolyn Kuechler (interim)
SECRETARY	Jenn Schneider
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer (interim)

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.

Private Signs: You will notice certain rooms around the church have been designated as "private." If ICE should ever come to our building, they will not be allowed to enter any room marked "private."

Donations to our mini-food pantry are always needed and greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the narthex or downstairs by the offices on the designated shelves. Thank you!



MISSION MOMENTS

Sarah Laughed

June 14, 2026

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

In a sea of youthful faces, Sarah's wrinkled skin stood out in the lecture hall. The 75-year-old was there to earn her Master of Divinity degree. Her classmates wondered why. Did she think she would serve a church late in life?

Many succeeded in suppressing their laughter. Others did not. Sarah didn't mind. She laughed, too, when the dream of being a minister emerged. Even her denomination didn't support her she confided to me one day before class.

"They laughed, too," she said with a smile that soon melted from her face when she continued. "It's sad that all who laugh are the ones who claim they know God. What God are they learning about here in these hallowed halls?"

There was once another Sarah who laughed at God's startling, unbelievable plans — Abraham's wife. She overheard angels talking to her elderly husband that she, who was barren, would conceive a child. Their son, Isaac, would come into the world when Sarah was 90 and Abraham 100.

When she heard the news, she couldn't help but laugh. Perhaps it was an incredulous laugh. After all, prayers for a child have gone

unanswered for years. And let's not forget, the old couple was kept waiting another 25 years after God first made the promise to Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation.

When God asked why she laughed, Sarah tried to deny it. God wasn't mad with her. I think God was probably suppressing a chuckle, getting a kick out of how once again those who follow God still get so surprised at the impossible becoming possible.

"Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" asked seminarian Sarah that day in the lecture hall, repeating God's words spoken to our biblical Sarah so long ago.

I have found myself repeating these words many times to churches that were struggling, even dying. "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" Other translations replace "wonderful" with "hard."

I ask because we all forget that the Almighty can bring life to that which is barren — even dead. Nothing is impossible with God. Sarah's story is one all churches this day need to hear, for the laughter of hope is still possible amid empty pews.

Just ask seminarian Sarah. She was ordained at 78 and called to serve a struggling rural congregation, where for five beautiful years they laughed together, cried together and grew together.

Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? No, it is not. Just remember the Sarahs.

God of laughter and beautiful promises, many of us are feeling like life has passed us by and that it is too late to start over, try again — even dare to believe dreams can still come true. But nothing is too wonderful for You. Strengthen our faith to believe that all things are possible and give us the patience to trust Your perfect timing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

Genesis 18:1-15

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham^[a] by the oaks^[b] of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures^[c] of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Matthew 9:35-10:14

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

10 Then Jesus^[a] summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus;^[b] ⁴ Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’^[c] ⁸ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.