

# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
August 3, 2025  
10:00 AM**

---

**Eighth 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!

**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](mailto:pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org)

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** @stpeteruccskokie

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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, August 3, 2025 at 10:00am**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

---

*During our sacred music, listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connecting all of us gathered here, those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.*

**PRELUDE**

Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Psalm 107: 1-9*

One: Give thanks to God! For God is good.

**All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love.**

One: thanks to God! For God's love endures.

**All: We give thanks that God is at work among humankind.**

One: Give thanks to God! For only God can satisfy us.

**All: We give thanks to God for filling our spiritual hunger with good things.**

**AMEN.**

# OPENING HYMN "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

1 Praise with joy the world's Cre - a - tor, God of jus - tice,  
 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hun - gry, frees the cap - tive,  
 3 Praise the Spir - it sent a - mong us, lib - er - a - ting  
 4 Praise the Mak - er, Christ, and Spir - it, one God in Com -

love, and peace, Source and end of hu - man knowl - edge,  
 finds the lost, Heals the sick, up - sets re - li - gion,  
 truth from pride, Forg - ing bonds where race or gen - der,  
 mu - ni - ty, Call - ing Christ - ians to em - bod - y

grace be - stow - ing with - out cease. Cel - e - brate the  
 fear - less both of fate and cost. Cel - e - brate Christ's  
 age or na - tion dare di - vide. Cel - e - brate the  
 one - ness and di - ver - si - ty. Thus the world shall

Ma - ker's glo - ry, power to res - cue and re - lease.  
 con - stant pres - ence— Friend and Strang - er, Guest and Host.  
 Spir - it's trea - sure— fool - ish - ness none dare de - ride.  
 yet be - lieve when shown Christ's vi - brant un - i - ty.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Today, God reminds us of what really matters. May we be active participants in worship today, focusing on kindness, love, and our sacred worth in God. For the Holy One is in our midst!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**A: God of Healing,**

**As you spoke through the prophet Hosea,  
*Lead us with cords of human kindness; Lead us with  
bands of love.***

**Remind us of the connection our souls have to you, O God. You tug at our cords to remind us that we also need the kindness of other humans. You pluck at our heartstrings to remind us of the love you've placed within each of us. But we still become distracted. We get lost in our aggravations, disappointments, and deep-seated longings. Sometimes, it seems as though the negativity and sadness will swallow us whole.**

**Yet you, O God, have incredible love for us. You choose love, despite the pain. Teach us to do the same, trusting that you are always in our midst.**

**Amen.**

*Quiet Reflection*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Friends, hear God's great good news. Our sacred texts tell the story of God's never-ending love for us. Love turns pain into kindness and hope.

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

One: Through Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

**A: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: As forgiven people, we warmly and graciously extend this love to others. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**A: And also with you!**

## MUSIC RESPONSE "Halle, Halle, Halle"

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Halle, Halle, Halle" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is written on two staves. The first staff contains the first line of the melody, with lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." and chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E indicated above the notes. The second staff contains the second line of the melody, with lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja." and chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A indicated above the notes.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Peggy Reins

Hebrew Scripture

Hosea 11: 1-11

Psalter

Psalms 107: 1-9, 43

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*You may wish to stand in body or in spirit.*

**GOSPEL**

Luke 12: 13-21

*You may be seated.*

**SERMON**

“Big Barns and Rich Fools”

**SUNG RESPONSE "Bigger Barns"**

**A: "Bigger barns are what I need!"**

**So a rich man said one day.**

**"From my worries I'll be free  
when my wealth is stored away."**

**"Fool!" God said, "Today you'll die!**

**Will your wealth mean anything?**

**All life's blessings really lie**

**in my life that wealth can't bring."**

**"Bigger barns are what we need  
for our money, gadgets, more!"**

**Lord, we're tempted to believe  
having wealth, we'll be secure!**

**Somewhere children cry for food  
or to have a doctor's care.**

**Can our bigger barns be good  
when poor neighbors know despair?**

**God of love, we long to know  
what will make us truly blest.**

**Jesus taught us long ago  
wealth won't give us peace or rest.**

**You are our security!**

**Safe in you, we serve, O Lord.**

**May we find we're rich indeed  
when we're sharing with the poor.**



## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER**

### **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.

## **CALL TO OFFERING**

### **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**

**A:** God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles  
soar: We your people, yours the journey, now and  
ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: Take our gifts, O God, so that we may see ourselves with your eyes. Break through our expectations, so our compassion might grow in this world, and all may know the miracles of your light and love.**

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation

One: Come to the Table.

**A: We come to the Table of Jesus our Christ.**

One: Share yourselves.

**A: We come to share our whole selves.**

One: Share your gifts.

**A: We come to the Table to share our gifts, our hurts, & our uncertainty.**

One: Come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. . .

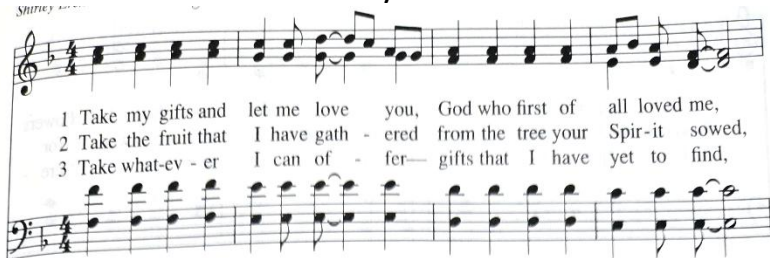
## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

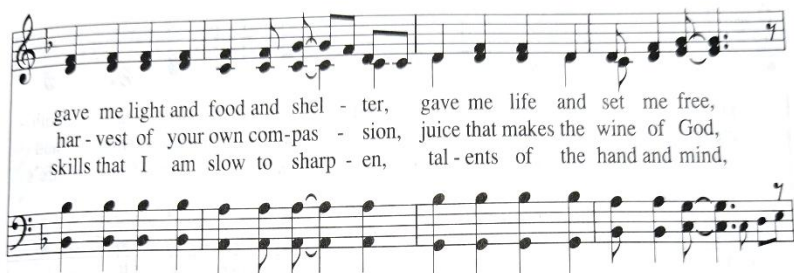
**A: We thank you, Holy One, for the fullness of your love, shared through the power of this meal. And now by your power, fill our voices with stories of your grace. By your power, strengthen our hands for the work of your mercy. By your power, transform us into your representatives of your love. Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN "Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You"

Shirley Erena



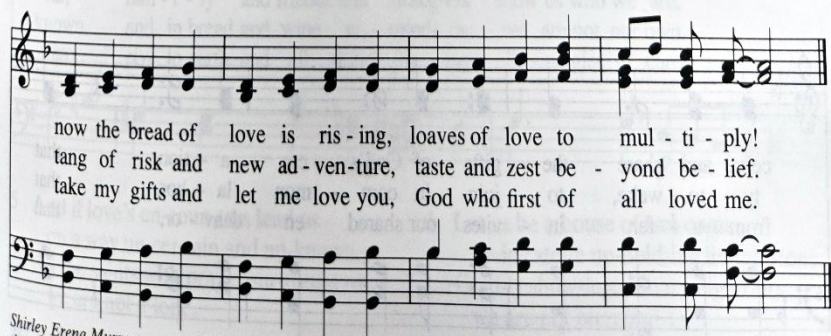
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir-it sowed,  
 3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,  
 har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,  
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,  
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,  
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!  
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.  
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena

---

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      Selected

*During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.*

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:*

J. Wayne Pratt:  
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4033/worship-elements-august-4-2019>

Cheryl Lawrie as posted on [holdthinspace.org.au](http://holdthinspace.org.au)

Katie Minnis, [UMCdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/prophet-margins](http://UMCdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/prophet-margins)

---

**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

---

# News in the Pews

---

**Good morning, and welcome! God has invited us here; we are at home in his presence. Let us worship.**

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

**Rummage collecting now!** Drop off during office hours (please call ahead if you don't have a key), bring on Sundays when you come to worship, or call us to arrange a time that works for you. We'll take most anything but no furniture and old TV's. Questions can be directed to Annie Noorts at: [annie.noorts@gmail.com](mailto:annie.noorts@gmail.com), or call the office.

**Rummage sorting** – Join us **Mondays from 10AM-12PM, Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays from 10AM to 2PM** to sort, no experience necessary! There are jobs for every person, talk to Annie for more information. This sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year but cannot happen without a tremendous amount of help all summer long. Please come help us!

**August workdays!** Please join our trustees as they continue to make repairs and improvements to our beloved building. All skill levels welcome. Dates will be

---

---

**August 9<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9AM-1PM.** Please contact Rich Schneider for questions: [richschneider@comcast.net](mailto:richschneider@comcast.net).

**Dishes in Kitchen** – please remember to put away dishes after washing. The kitchen is a shared space; others need the dry rack as well.

**Mini-Pantry** – donations always needed. Donations can be left on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much for your help.

**Pre-worship gathering** – You are invited to meet before worship to talk about one of the UCC's daily devotional readings from the past week. ***We gather at 9:15am in Lanford Fellowship Hall*** for a short opening prayer and finish by 9:45am. Sign up for the Daily Devotional here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

**Holiday Craft Show applications are being accepted now.** If you are interested in having a table at our sale, contact Wendy or Annie for more information. For an application, email [st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com](mailto:st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com), or contact the office.

**Join us next Sunday as Laura Hamm will be our guest Preacher. Then, after worship please stay for a special coffee hour!** We will be celebrating the Todd's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hosted by the Todd's, and all are welcome!

---

---

# Our People

---

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

- Sue Bailey has been diagnosed with Crohn's/Ulcerative Colitis and spinal lesions.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness. She and her family are fighting to find a remedy that will slow and maybe even reverse the progress of this illness.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
- David, uncle of Chad McCoy, as he undergoes kidney dialysis treatments.
- Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky and Dorothy Panzke.
- Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Judy Paige having knee therapy for the third time.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- 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, Lois Jarmuth and Bob Seitman.

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

---



---

**This week we wish a Happy Birthday to** Camden Allen Loach, Richard Hook, Erik Altmayer, Richard Steegmueller, Arthur Daniel Svenson, Kathy Zipperer, Marlene Russell and Kim (Loach) Bruhn. **Happy Anniversary to** Gail and Jack Hoellerich and Gene and Leslie (Todd) Kiesel. Wishing God's Blessings to all!

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Karen Christianson, and our Nursery Attendant will be Denise Hopp.

---

### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

---

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
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.

**We are always grateful for all offerings to the church.** So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the front cover for details on how to donate.

**Sign up for Coffee Hour!** Regular coffee hours are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. See our President Peggy if you are interested in signing up.

---



## **MISSION MOMENTS**

---

**Soul Investment (8/3/2025)**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**GREEN**

**Luke 12:13-21**

There was a field I always enjoyed driving by. In the summer it was filled with wildflowers dancing in the wind. Come autumn the flowers would wither but the tall grass danced on, inviting leaves as its dance partner, both moving with the changing wind.

I drove by the field the other day and discovered it had been trampled by a sea of concrete storage units. My heart broke. How did we come to live in a world where such buildings are needed?

Sadly, more beautiful fields are in danger of extinction as the self-storage market in the United States is projected to reach \$44 billion in 2033. And just last year, storage space consumed an estimated 2,099,000,000 of square feet.

Jesus once told a story about the dangers of accumulating material possessions. He warned how “stuff” can easily become gods, demanding more of our time, energy and money in acquiring and caring for them.

---

---

He then spoke about a rich fool in need of more storage for his worldly goods. So, the rich fool tore down his existing barns and built bigger ones, all along feeling a sense of worth and security. What he didn't realize was that worth and security was fleeting as death would come like a thief in the night. What good then would the bigger barns be?

The other day I passed an old farmhouse with a huge dumpster on the front lawn — this has become today's obit in my rural community, alerting neighbors that an elderly resident has died. Relatives would soon be tossing treasures into it like worthless trash.

I often wonder what would happen to my things. News reports have been telling me for years now that the younger generation doesn't want our "antiques." This has fueled a trend, which emerged from Sweden, known as "death cleaning" — where the living control what goes into the foreboding dumpster.

While it might sound a bit morbid, the act of purging while still alive can be a spiritual act, leading us to decide, while we have time, what we really need to hold on to.

I am by no means rich, but still a bit foolish. But then I see a dumpster in front of a home and reality hits hard: We really can't take our stuff with us.

*My prayer is for the day to come when bigger barns are no longer built so that the real treasures in life, the wildflowers in the field, can dance again. Will you join me in this prayer?*

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

---