

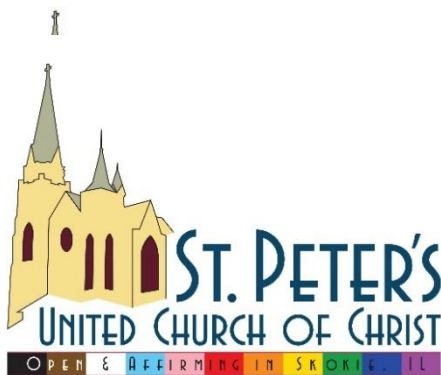
A large, colorful stained glass window is the background for the left side of the poster. The central panel depicts the Resurrection: Jesus, in a white robe with a red sash, stands on a rocky surface, holding a scroll. He is surrounded by a crowd of people, some of whom are looking up at him in awe. The scene is set against a backdrop of a cloudy sky. The window is framed by dark wood. The word "Welcome" is written in a large, elegant, dark purple script font across the top of the window and onto a yellow background on the right.

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
July 26, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Ninth 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
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, July 26, 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 Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Loach

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Holy One.

Make God's deeds known among the peoples.

All: We call upon the name of the Holy One!

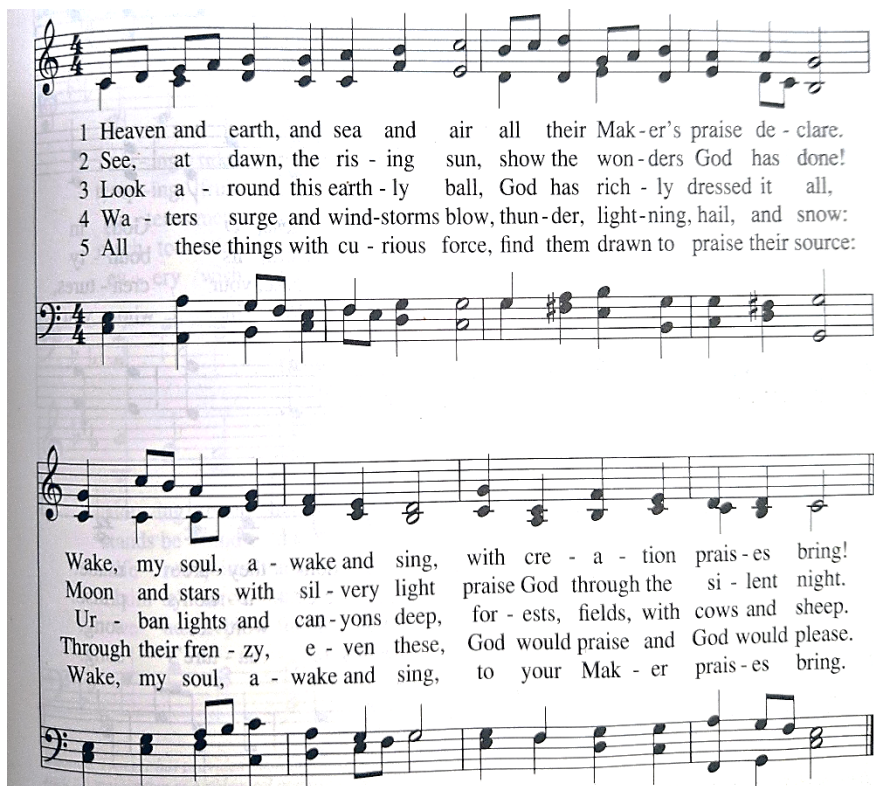
One: Give thanks to the Holy One. Tell of all God's wonderful works!

All: We sing praises and remember the wonderful works, miracles, and judgements!

One: Give thanks to the Holy One. Glory in God's holy name!

Many: We seek the Holy One, and our hearts rejoice!
Praise the Holy One!

GATHERING HYMN “Heaven and Earth and Sea and Air”



1 Heaven and earth, and sea and air all their Mak-er's praise de - clare.
 2 See, at dawn, the ris - ing sun, show the won - ders God has done!
 3 Look a - round this earth - ly ball, God has rich - ly dressed it all,
 4 Wa - ters surge and wind-storms blow, thun - der, light - ning, hail, and snow:
 5 All these things with cu - rious force, find them drawn to praise their source:

Wake, my soul, a - wake and sing, with cre - a - tion prais - es bring!
 Moon and stars with sil - very light praise God through the si - lent night.
 Ur - ban lights and can - yons deep, for - ests, fields, with cows and sheep.
 Through their fren - zy, e - ven these, God would praise and God would please.
 Wake, my soul, a - wake and sing, to your Mak - er prais - es bring.

CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

One: God is our Beloved, who searches for us and gives us life. Let us share our desire to be shaped by God.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: O Spirit, who helps us in our struggles, and teaches us how to pray when we don't know what to say or how to feel, we call on you from a sigh too deep for words. Within that sigh, we wonder, we question, and we hope that all things do, indeed, work together for your good. And in this experience of being here together, in this time set apart to be side by side in community, we are reminded how connected we already are. Let us open ourselves to your presence here. Let us seek your reign, and in our searching, may we be found by you.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Hear the Good News of the Gospel: God, not we, are responsible for sowing seed. God is always loving and generous.

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

Karen Christianson

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

SERMON

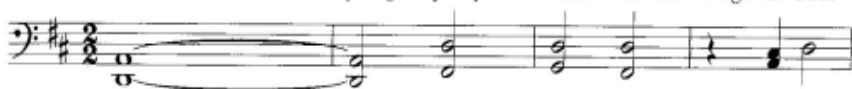
“Beyond Survival”

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"You are the Salt of the Earth, O People"



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



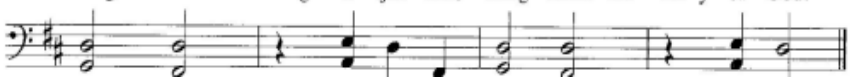
Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!



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

All: Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us, may we be generous to others. Accept from us these gifts of word and money as we commit our lives to you. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT:

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,

The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.

The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,

The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing

To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

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

Today's liturgy is adapted from:

"For Righteousness: Service Prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, written by The Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry, who serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Learn more at chhsm.org.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jen Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

News in the Pews

We extend the hand of friendship to all who have come to worship. We rejoice in your presence and invite you to stay after the service to become acquainted with those around you.

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/>.

Rummage Sorting – please join us Tuesdays from 10AM-12PM, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays 10AM-2PM each week to sort. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help. We'll find a job that works for you. It's a lot of fun, and even better when you find something you need! Come see what its all about.

Memorial Service for Kaye Dufern – August 8th we will be having a Memorial Service with luncheon following, time TBD.

90th birthday celebration for Marlene Russell – Join us for worship August 9th and special birthday luncheon for Marlene at 11:15AM. Please RSVP to Marlene at (224) 440-6427. No presents!! Only your presence is important! Thank you!

Rummage Sale donations collecting is on - We are collecting donations



 for the 2026 Rummage and Bake Sale, to be held Friday and Saturday, September 25th and 26th. We will take almost everything except furniture and large appliances (like old tvs). Drop off during office hours 9-1:30PM (call to let us know you are coming (847) 673-8166), on Sundays, or call the office to make other arrangements.

We thank you in advance for your donations, you help keep us going!!!

Cemetery Update - Earlier this year a group of folks started working together to determine the future of St. Peter's Cemetery. It was formed to try to find a way to hand over the ownership and administration of the cemetery while preserving the historical significance and allowing it to stay an active cemetery for the community. Work includes including updating the records, conducting a title search and making sure that legal requirements are maintained (taxes and reporting)basically "getting our ducks in a row." As this is done, we will work to determine the best organization to honor our vision for the future of the cemetery. This group will apprise the council and all church members of significant developments. The church members will be asked to vote on any recommendations from this committee before any change will occur. All members of St. Peter's are members of the St. Peter's Cemetery Association. Please send any questions to the church office, they will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

Thank you to everyone who's been donating, and we can still use donations if you are able. Summer can be the hardest time for lower income families, who rely on free and reduced meals during the year. Your donations can help combat that!

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:

- Ben Westphal and his family.
- The family of Kaye Dufern.
- Mark Kelly, friend of Ginger K., is now in rehab gaining strength to be able to come back to his apartment.
- 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 to Skye Christianson Pape, A.J. Tarzian, Justin Mitchell and Kaitlin Garcia. **Happy Anniversary** Heather

Dubinskas and Kristin Gulinski. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Karen Christianson, our Nursery attendant is Mike Ryan. 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

Weaving the Future

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

I have been on a quest to understand better the days of old by learning how to master 18th-century living skills long forgotten. My most recent adventure was a class on how to grow flax, spin it into thread, and then weave it into cloth.

It was there at the loom that my weaving became a prayerful act, and with each pass of the shuttle, I thought of the series of “The Kingdom of God is like” parables that Jesus shared so along ago.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed — the smallest of seeds that grows so great it becomes a haven where birds make their nests among the branches. The Kingdom of God is like yeast that rises into a pillowy loaf of warm bread.

The Kingdom of God is like ...

I mused that if Jesus was at the loom with me, he would begin teaching how the Kingdom of God is like a weaver creating a tapestry with various colors of threads.

The effectiveness of Jesus' many teachings has always been that he was able to take what was right in front of him and make it a teachable God moment. It was a gift that made God's Kingdom more accessible to others. There was no secret handshake or password to gain entry. Rather, the Kingdom was — and is — all around in ways we are often blind to.

Take a look where you are right now. What is a Kingdom of God parable Jesus would speak of?

Chances are you are sitting in a pew, and you think there is no sign of the Kingdom. Look again.

Could it be that the Kingdom of God is like the threadbare cushion you might sit on? Its patted down stuffing testifying to the generational stories of faith that need to be heard and the ones that still need to be told. Or perhaps the Kingdom of God is like a cracked vase that is holding the flowers on the chancel. Once shattered but not discarded. Rather, lovingly restored by hands who still saw its beauty and worth.

The Kingdom of God is like...

It's now your turn to see with eyes of faith and make a new parable for today.

Story-telling God, may our voice speak of the parables still needing to be told. May everything we see and savor, touch and taste, remind us of the goodness of Your kingdom that is here on Earth all around us. 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.)
