

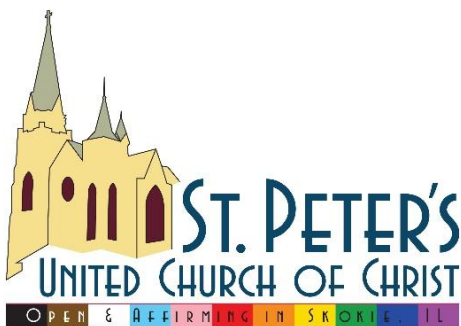
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
July 20, 2025  
10:00 AM**

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**Sixth 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**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 10:00am**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*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** "Trumpet Tune" by Callahan

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Prophets of God, what do you see?

**All: We see the many ways we distract ourselves.**

One: Prophets of God, what else do you see?

**All: We see the good and the bad fruits we have produced.**

One: Prophets of God, what do you see today?

**All: We witness and worship God today, grateful for love and forgiveness.**

## OPENING HYMN

## "Praise to the Living God"

8

Ps. 84:1-2

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose  
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose  
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who  
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;  
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;  
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.  
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -  
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till  
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And  
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.  
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.  
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.  
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of  
 ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Divinity School of  
 Harvard University, and the University of Chicago.

*You may be seated*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: The Bible is filled with men and women who are as weak, foolish and prone to sin as we are. Every page, every story reveals our brokenness. Yet every page, every story tells us of the One who longs to make us whole. Let us pray together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: Gracious, inviting God, you continually provide opportunities to practice generous hospitality. But our welcome is weakened by our fear of difference, reluctance to share, and desire to be in control. When we long for what is familiar and comfortable, it is difficult to honor the stranger as a sacred guest who bears the face of Christ. Worn out and irritated by the work we think we must do, we miss opportunities to receive the gifts that such guests offer us. Help us, O God, to be open to that which is really necessary. Amen.**

*Quiet Reflection*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts. Yet God loves us deeply and sees our possibilities. Let us say again the good news of Jesus our Christ:

**All: 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.

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

### MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”



### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture

Psalter

Jen Schneider

Amos 8: 1-7

Psalms 52

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

### GOSPEL

*You may be seated.*

Luke 10: 38-42

### SPECIAL MUSIC “There is a Balm in Gilead”

### SERMON

“When Anxiety Takes Over”



# HYMN OF RESPONSE “There is a Balm in Gilead”

553

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

*Last time, end*

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

*to Refrain*

But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

*This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way to encourage the...*

## **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: Now because your love has touched us, we have  
love to give away. Take our gifts and let us love you,  
God, now and always. Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN "Take My Gifts"

Shirley Erena Murrell

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
 2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit 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 Murrell

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## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE “Celebration in C” by Murphy

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

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:*

Discipleship Ministries | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C -...  
(umcdiscipleship.org)

~ Thom Shuman as posted on Lectionary Liturgies.

~ from Welcome the Guest: Service Prayers for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost, written by Rev. Heather A. Moody. Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website.

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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INTERIM MINISTER	Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jen Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

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# News in the Pews

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Welcome to guests and long-time friends, as we worship in the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

**August Announcer** articles are due tomorrow. Please get your articles to Laura via email and thank you so much!

**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

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happen without a tremendous amount of help all summer long. Please come help us!

**Mini-Pantry supply low** – 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/>.

**Laura vacation** – Laura returns to the office Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

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## Our People

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

- 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!***

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**This week we wish a Happy Birthday to** Skye Christianson  
Pape, A.J. Tarzian, Justin Mitchell and Kaitlin Garcia.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Peter Svenson, and our Nursery Attendant will be Mike Ryan.

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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*Regular Reminders!*

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**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.

**Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie.** If you are able, please 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.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**Word and Work (7/20/2025)**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Luke 10:38-42**

There was a faded handstitched sampler hanging in the church kitchen that read, “God bless the Marthas among us.”

It was made by a blue-haired saint of the congregation who organized every Sunday coffee hour as well as all the church potlucks and community dinners. The kitchen was her holy ground, so heaven help the person who stepped upon it unaware of how things were done.

The story behind the sampler was that one day the blue-haired kitchen saint felt underappreciated by a growing movement in the church to cut back on all the feasting to pray and fast more.

Legend has it that she rolled her eyes, threw down her dish towel and huffed out of the kitchen muttering, “Let the Marys make the darn coffee.”

She, of course, was referring to the story of Mary and Martha, sisters who Jesus often visited in their hometown of Bethany. It was one such visit that Mary puts aside all her chores to sit at the feet of Jesus to listen and learn from him, leaving Martha with the sole responsibility of preparing a meal for their guest.

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Martha's anger begins to boil as rapidly as a pot of water over the fire. She demands that Jesus tell Mary to help her. Jesus chides Martha saying that her sister has chosen the better task.

If Martha had some embroidery thread on hand, I bet she would have furiously stitched the same message that hung in the church kitchen.

This story today is often used to call out our own misplaced busyness, calling us back to the importance of being still to listen to Jesus. We often pit the two sisters against one another, elevating Mary's choice as the better one. But is all busyness misplaced? Is one sister's choice better than the other's?

While chances are we do need embrace the slow living trend more, life is not about dissing Martha and celebrating Mary. Life is about finding the balance between work and rest.

What we fail to recognize is that followers of Christ are not called to either sit or serve but to both sit and serve, and that takes awareness of how we prioritize our time with God and schedule our activities so that both our bodies and spirits are being fed.

Yes, God bless the Marthas in the world that get things done. But God bless the Marys, too, who know when their spiritual wells need to be filled by retreating into quiet time of prayer and studying God's word. God bless us all as we seek balance in serving and learning, seeking and sharing. Now that's a message worthy of stitching.

*God of word and work, help us to find balance in our walk with You so that we are not only serving Your children but also listening to Your beautiful words of life. 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.)

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