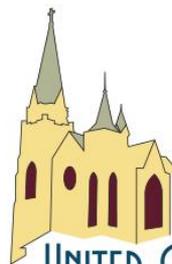


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 7,
2022
10:00 AM**

**Ninth Sunday
after Pentecost**



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
8013 LARAMIE AVE - SKOKIE, IL - 60077



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, August 7, 2022 at 10:00am
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Gather before God, people of the covenant.

Listen for God's Word, O faithful ones.

C: God has summoned us to this place.

We trust God will speak to us here.

P: Come to honor God and give thanks.

Seek to learn and follow in God's way.

C: We come as willing and obedient servants.

Let Your steadfast love, O God, be upon us.

P: God calls us as workers for justice.

God sends us out as advocates for the dispossessed.

C: We are here to be equipped for ministry;

We expect to be empowered for our service.

A: Let us worship the God of all Creation!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Is this another solemn assembly of people, which the Bible says Israel held, people who are quite content with ourselves and unable to confront our inner sin? Do you and I live in self-protective rebellion against God's call to rescue the oppressed and devote ourselves to seeking justice for all? Have we become a burden to God? Let us pray our prayer of confession, reading it first before praying it together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Almighty God, we confess that we have shaped our own standards and values rather than seeking first to know Your will. We turn from faith in You and rebel against the agenda of Your realm. Our hearts focus on the things we can accumulate more than on Your mission in which we can share. Lead us, O God, into acts of compassion, that our attitudes may be reshaped and a right relationship with You restored. In the name of Jesus the Savior we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Ephesians 1:3-4*

P: Paul wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.”

You and I, imperfect as we are, are not chosen to be holy and blameless before God by our own goodness, but by the grace of God we know in Christ crucified and risen! Christ is the one by whom we can be so chosen by God to be before God in this glorious, eternal, undeserved way. By the person and work of Christ Jesus, received by our faith, our sins are forgiven. God has something better in mind for our lives now! What may we say to this gospel?

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

SSB #5 (vv. 1-3)



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright




saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to




now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.



John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

The congregation may be seated.

CALL TO OFFERING**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Prophet:

Mark Loach

Hosea 11:1-4

Epistle:

Ephesians 2:1-10

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected*Those who are able please stand.***GOSPEL:**

Luke 18:35-43

RESPONSE: “Thy Word” SSB # 33 (Refrain, v. 1, R)**Refrain: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light
unto my path.****1: When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still you’re
there right beside me, and nothing will I fear as long as
you are near.****Please be near me to the end.****PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS****HOMILY** “Spectacular Encounters”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus (sung): Hymnal #521

Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND 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**

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN "Christ Be With Us"

Sing to the tune, "Alleluia, Alleluia"

**Christ be with us, Christ behind us,
Christ before us — all around!**

**Christ in busy, noisy cities,
Christ where hardly rings a sound.**

**Jesus, you're our Lord and Savior;
On your love we can depend.**

**Help us see your presence clearly
In each stranger and each friend.**

**Christ in lines of people fleeing,
Praying that a war will cease;
Christ in battered women's shelters,
Looking for a place of peace.**

**Christ with people sick or dying,
Loved ones trying hard to cope
In this world of so much suffering,
Christ, you give your people hope.**

**Christ with children who must struggle,
Working hard for daily food;
Christ in classrooms, learning, growing,
Asking questions, seeking good;
Christ in diners, waiting tables;
Christ in homes where children play
In this world of people working,
Christ, you work through us today.**

**Christ with all who keep on struggling,
 Helping others to be free;
 Christ with churches working, searching
 For a greater unity;
 Christ, in bread and wine, be with us,
 Giving strength for each new day
 In this world of daily crosses,
 Be our joyful, living Way.**

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CHARGE & 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	Dan Guenther
LIVESTREAM	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

News in the Pews

Good Morning! In the name of Jesus — teacher, friend, healer, Lord, Messiah, Savior — we welcome you to worship.

A warm welcome back to Janet Palmer this morning as she fills in for Ben Westphal! We are glad you're here.

Next Sunday our worship will include a Service of Healing with the order of service coming out of the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ. Those who wish to come forward for anointing with oil on the forehead and the laying on of hands (Biblical teachings) may come for themselves, or on behalf of someone else.

Reports for the mid-year congregational meeting are due **Monday, August 8th** to the office!

The deadline for articles of the September newsletter is a week from tomorrow: **Monday, August 15th**!

August 21st, in place of a regular Council meeting, is our semi-annual Congregational Meeting, in a hybrid format, held in the Memorial Room after worship ends. We will celebrate our successes, revisit our challenges, receive mid-year reports and generally have a 'check-in' halfway through our 2022 together. Please plan to participate!

St. Peter's Sunday School Teachers Needed - The Board of Christian Education is actively seeking new teachers for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and a combination 5th and 6th grade class. Sunday school classes

traditionally begin in September and end in mid-May. Classes meet in the chapel at 9:00 A.M. for a service officiated by Pastor Lanford. Following chapel, students separate into their classrooms for lessons. The classes are approximately 30 minutes in length, ending at 9:45. Keeping our Sunday school alive and well is also implied in the vows we congregation members make when a child is baptized in our worship services; it is a covenant responsibility. Please contact Karen Christianson – Christianson.karen@gmail.com or Pastor Lanford at RevLanford@gmail.com

A New Members / Seekers Class is scheduled for this coming Thursday, August 11th from 7 to 8 PM at the Church. Let Pastor know if you are coming and have not already indicated so!

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO UPDATE – We are sad to report that due to the lack of participation in the Skokie area, our place in this event has been revoked (we were the only business to sign up). This wasn't a factor we were aware of, and the folks at CAC asked if we had any ideas to increase local participation for next year. If you have any ideas let the office know!

THIS WEEK RUMMAGE SORTING is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:30 – 8:30 PM), plus Fridays 10 AM to Noon. Come when you can, leave when you must, all assistance will be needed and appreciated. If you can't come at these times, you are welcome to come sort during office hours OR, if you have a key come whenever the mood strikes you!

Donations always needed for our food pantry. Also, if you are gardening and have extra produce, feel free to donate it to the mini-food pantry! Items can be left on the shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Our People

HOSPITALIZED: Prayers requested for Chad's dad John McCoy, and his family, as he has entered hospice.

BIRTHS – Congratulations to the Loach family! Jeff and Jenn Loach are now parents of Camden Allen Loach. Jenn gave birth to him at 5 AM on Wednesday, August 3rd; he weighed in at 7 lb, 3 oz. and 19".

Your Board of Elders meets via Zoom Thursday August 11th at 4PM.

Happy birthday! Having a birthday this week are Erik Altmayer, Richard Steegmueller, Kimberly (Loach) Bruhn, Marlene Russell, Arthur Svenson, Olivia Altmayer and Kathy Zipperer. Celebrating a wedding anniversary are Gene and Leslie (Todd) Kiesel, married here on a very rainy, windy day!

Thanks to everyone who supported last Sunday's Village Inn Fundraiser!

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

About Communion: All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord's Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We do, however, ask our own St. Peter's U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class (6th grade). If you are with us in person, we hope you took one of the pre-filled Communion cups (juice) with the wafer on top. When the Pastor prompts us, please peel off the top layer of the cup covering to get at the wafer, then pull the wafer off to eat. If you are worshipping with us on-line, when prompted, please take whatever bread you have set aside for this, take and eat as prompted; when it's time for the cup, please do the same with whatever you have put in your cup at home (juice, wine, water, etcetera).

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.

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

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Living into the Promise

Rev. Ann Kansfield, UCC pastor, FDNY chaplain and author of *Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons* shares the courage that led her to write a book about her experiences.

“My wife Jennifer and I serve part-time as co-pastors of the Greenpoint Reformed Church, (a joint UCC and Reformed congregation in Brooklyn, NY). We do our best to love God and neighbor, even though we aren't always sure how to do that.

My other ministry setting is as a chaplain for the fire department of the City of New York. I am one of seven chaplains who serve the department as a whole. I never know what might happen on any given day, but I pray that God can use me in a way to be of service to others. Also, the uniforms are pretty great.”

Although friends encouraged her to share her stories and reflections, Kansfield shied away from the idea of writing a book. “One of the things that really changed the trajectory of the book was connecting with Marty St. George, my co-author...He is really the one who helped take a bunch of stories and thoughts and turn them into a book. I think it's actually a really great story in itself because it shows that sometimes we can do big things when we have friends and fellow travelers who walk alongside us and help us. Sometimes we minister to others and other times they minister to us. Life is really best lived when it's done in mutual ministry with others around us.

For me, bravery is doing things which make us uncomfortable, things which we would rather not do or avoid. And being brave is what allows us to be authentic and vulnerable and have important conversations which we would otherwise want to avoid. Bravery is not just about apologizing for our mistakes but asking ‘how did my mistake impact you?’ and then being quiet and listening.

We can all use some extra bravery these days. It's not always easy to be our most authentic selves. It's certainly difficult to be vulnerable and to share our deepest hopes and fears and listen to the hopes and fears of others. That stuff can be terrifying! But that's the space where God often leads us - to authenticity, vulnerability and bravery.”

Hosea 11:1-4

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.

I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Paul wrote, “You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

Luke 18:35-43

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him,

"What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again."

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

