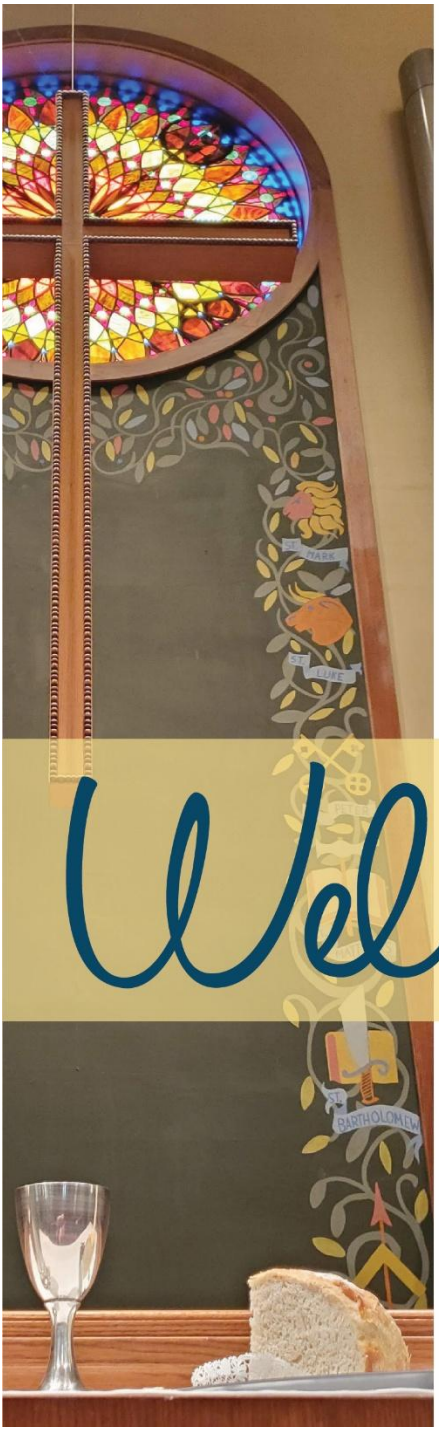


ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday, October 4, 2026 10:00 AM

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Welcome

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL

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
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 10:00am

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Japan)*

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

GATHERING HYMN "O God, Who Gives Us Life"



CALL TO TRANSFORMATION *(Australia)*

One: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service. We serve our God in this community and throughout every land. Let us serve by working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred. The Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now speak our truth before the One who calls us!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE
(South Africa)

One: For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

Many: God forgive us.

One: For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

Many: We ask your mercy.

One: For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

All: God forgive us.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE *(Bangladesh)*

One: Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a parent embracing you. God watches over you, guiding you each day. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven;

All: Let us forgive others.

One: You are restored;

All: Let us restore others.

One: You are reconciled with God;

All: Let us be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen

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 Exodus 20:1-20

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

Matthew 21:33-46

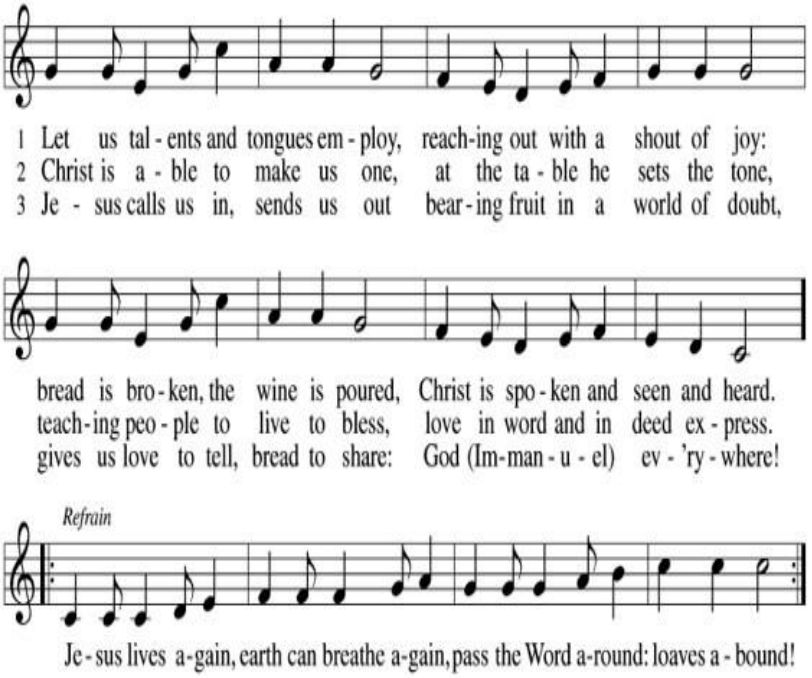
Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM "One Bread, One Body"

SERMON "Ten Words for Freedom"

HYMN OF RESPONSE:

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"



CALL TO PRAYER

JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS

One: We pray for the people of Africa.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Asia.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of the Pacific.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Europe

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of the Middle East.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of North America.

Many: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of every place whose names we know—and those we do not.

All: May we be strengthened together as one body of Christ.

SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

One: Praise be to God who calls us to imagine and believe that another world is possible.

All: We praise the One who calls us into covenant with one another. Deliver these our gifts to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all our neighbors.

One: God of all times and all places, remind us of the world as You intend it: free from hunger, poverty, violence, and oppression.

All: Embolden us, O God, to imagine and believe that another world is possible! Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to the Table

One: From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

Many: We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

One: We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.

Many: We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.

One: From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East—

Many: We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

One: Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

Many: Christ welcomes us all.

One: Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. Some come with gratitude.

Many: Christ welcomes us all.

One: Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

Many: At Christ's table, there is room for all.

One: Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

All: We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share. We come to be made one.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Prayer of Gratitude

One: God of every nation and generation, gather us into the great company of your people— those who have gone before us, those who worship beside us, and those we may never meet in this life. Until the day when every people and every nation are gathered into your eternal feast, keep us faithful to one another and to you.

Many: Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace.

All: One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"May the God of Hope Go With Us"



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *(Cuba)*

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:

A Table of Grace: World Communion Sunday from Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, 2026

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Greg Dennis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

This is the Lord's house. The Lord is here to welcome all who have come. Let us join in the spirit of love and peace for all who worship the Creator of us all.

Looking for volunteers for the St. Peter's table at the craft show! Contact Wendy for more details (wensven55@gmail.com) and thank you!

Celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month and National Coming Out Day with a special program titled Gays and Gospel, sponsored by Morton Grove Pride & The International Servant Leaders Museum, on October 11th from 2-4 pm. The event will be a combination of conversation and song paying tribute to the LGBTQ+ community and all the contributions it has made to gospel music from its genesis in the 1920's until today. All are welcome to this free event that will be held at The International Servant Leaders Museum, 9233 Shermer Rd in Morton Grove. Come to socialize and tour the museum from 2-3 pm. The Gays and Gospel program will be from 3-4 pm.

A Just Harvest is this month! We'll be collecting donations totaling $500 for the cost of the meal, and looking for volunteers to serve in the kitchen on our day, which is Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 11:30AM to 2:30PM. Contact Chad McCoy if you'd like to help.

Our Pet Blessing is October 25th at 3PM! Pastor will bless each and every 4 legged friend that comes to our event. We'll have treats for all, and our pet raffle. $5 suggested donation.

Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall. We made it through summer, thanks to all of you for donating! Now we need a good supply for the fall/early winter. If you can donate, bring your items to the shelves outside the offices, to the office doors or on Sundays. Thank you so much!

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:

- We have been praying for Annie's friend Renee for a long time due to her progressive illness (PSP). On 9/14 she fell and broke her neck. She is now in the "step-down" ICU. She is improving a little bit every day, regaining some feeling and mobility. She had a very long road with rehab ahead of her, with the hope of eventually getting home.
- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- 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.
- 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!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Barb Todd, 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!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

October 4, 2026
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Wisdom for the Way

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, "The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church's life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC

settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework".

For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive.

And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship.

Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and be worshiped rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?