



>Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**May 15,**

**2022**

**10:00 AM**

**St. Peters  
United Church  
of Christ**

**An Open  
And Affirming  
Congregation**

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**Fifth Sunday of  
Easter**



**ST. PETER'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# 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](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

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

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

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

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/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**



**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: We sing for God the Spirit to draw near, and for awareness of this. In turn, we realize that in God's holy presence, it's time for us to come clean and confess our sin. Please join me in our responsive prayer of confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Almighty and merciful God, You created and are creating still. In Your presence our limits lay stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors,

**C: Our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours,**

**A: Forgive us, O Holy One.**

P: We confess that we have squandered the gifts You have given. We have neglected and abused Creation. We have grasped for goods.

**C: We have used each other, and at times we have loved power more than people, without even realizing it.**

**A: Forgive us, O Holy One.**

P: Cleanse us from the illusion of innocence.

**C: Come into our hearts and make us new again! We pray in the name of Jesus.**

**A: Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *John 5:24*

P: Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life." By the grace of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, our sins are forgiven and Christ's life is ours.

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

**HYMN**

**“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

**SSB #6**

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
 3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease  
 4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
 To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
 Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
 By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

*The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.*

Tune: AZMON C.M.  
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828  
 Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839  
 Alternate tune: RICHMOND

*The congregation may be seated.*

**A CALL TO OFFERING**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Katy S. Aguayo

New Testament

The Book of Acts 2:32, 33, 36-42

New Testament the 2nd

The Revelation 21:1-6

**CHOIR ANTHEM “Children of the Heavenly Father” arr. Wagner**

*Those who are able please stand.*

**GOSPEL**

John 13:31-35

RESPONSE "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord"

SSB #1 (no repeat)

Descant

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a 'Descant' section. The middle staff is a vocal line labeled 'Unison'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2.

Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line. The middle staff is a vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2.

1 2

jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

1 2

lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with first and second endings. The middle staff is a vocal line with first and second endings. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line with first and second endings. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2.

*The congregation may now be seated*

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptized today is Willow June McDonald, daughter of Michael and Amanda (Taheny) McDonald. The sponsors are Mike Taheny and Robin McDonald. The congregation in participating in this covenant and sacrament, participate aloud as indicated below.

### **Welcome**

- P: They were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them,
- C: **'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall never enter it.'**
- P: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.

### **Address**

- P: (the address ends with the words...) Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.
- C: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's Body.**

## Questions to the Parents and Sponsors

### Congregational Covenant

P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

**C: We promise our love, support, and care.**

### Affirmation of Faith

P: Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**C: I believe in God.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

## Prayer of Baptism and Over the Water

### The Baptism and Blessing

#### Introduction to the Congregation

#### The Pronouncement

P: We have all entered into a holy covenant this day. May God grant us the grace to keep it. Go in the peace of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN** "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;  
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!  
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you are, from God you came.  
 4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
 Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
 Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

*The congregation may be seated.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER 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

**HOMILY**

"Baptized for Life"

*Those who are able please stand.*

**HYMN**

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

#169

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought His people forth into joy from sadness,  
Now rejoice, Jerusalem, And with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection.**

**‘Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst His prison,  
And from three days’ sleep in death as a sun hath risen;  
All the winter of our sins, Long and dark is flying  
From His light, to whom we give Laud and praise undying.**

**CHARGE**

**P:** Act, with faith;

**Men:** Believe, with humility.

**Women:** Love one another,

**Choir:** And love those whom nobody loves;

**A:** Serve the Lord!

**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**

Maria Altmayer

**LIVESTREAM**

Jen Schneider

**NURSERY ATTENDANT**

Annie Noorts

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** The Psalmist calls all creation — sun and water, trees and mountains, animals and people — to praise the Lord (Psalm 148). And so we shall. Welcome!

**We especially welcome back Mandy and Mike McDonald** and their families as they come for the baptism of Mike and Mandy's daughter Willow. Newer friends and members of St. Peter's UCC may not know that Mandy's grandmother June Peterson was a devoted member here for several decades, raising her two children and 4 grandchildren here, one of whom is Mandy!

**Everyone is invited downstairs after the service for a Coffee Hour in celebration of the baptism!** Thanks to Wendy Svenson for putting on the coffee, and to the McDonalds for the rest of the goodies!

**The Church Council meets** (after some coffee hour / fellowship time) in the Gym.

**At 3 PM today all interested and available persons are invited to take part in a community anti-bigotry and anti-hate speech rally and 'march' starting in Niles at Jonquil Terrace Park.** This is at 7560 W. Mulford, Niles and it is sponsored by some organizations in Niles and Park Ridge in response to recent hostile activities. There will be speakers, folks are invited to bring signs or banners (St. Peter's has some from our Skokie April Anti-Racism events), and after some brief addresses we'll take a walk around to some of the places where anti-Semitic literature was spread. There has been hate speech and racial slurs at Niles West H.S. too. Peggy McCoy can give you more details if you ask. Pastor Richard will be

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there after Council; how about you, too? Time to represent against hate right here in our township.

**BUNCO IS THIS COMING SATURDAY FROM 7 TO 10 PM!** Yes, there is bunco to play, and you can bring other board games, card games or even games to play on a tablet or iPad if you want, but a big draw are the raffle prizes and the raffles themselves throughout the evening! There will be table prizes, munchies, gift bags for all who come, and a fun time out with friends or family for only a \$5 suggested donation! We also can use gift cards for raffle prizes, which will also help St. Peter's raise money from the event! See Carol Iannotti for details about that.

**We are always grateful** for any and all offerings to the church! They too are a very big part of our ability to remain here for you and our community.

**Skokie's Festival of Cultures** is next weekend.

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# Our People

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**Hospitalized:** As of this midweek writing, Dorothy Panzke remains at Humboldt Park Hospital; Room 427, 1044 N. Francisco, 60622.

**The deadline for articles for the June Announcer** is Monday, May 23rd.

**Happy birthday!** Having birthdays this week are Jessica Schneider and Annie Noorts! Marking a wedding anniversary will be Christine and Maykel Salvatierra (wed here). May God shine on their celebrations!

The liturgy for the Sacrament of Baptism is from The Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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# Regular Reminders!

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**Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry!** There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

**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.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**May 15, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter Revelations 21:1-6**

**Imagine**

**Mental Health Sunday**

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network is a special interest group within the UCC that works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership, and work of congregations. According to their website: [mhn-ucc.org](http://mhn-ucc.org), “We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations.”

A new curriculum released last autumn describes how a mental health diagnosis intersects and interacts with other parts of persons, bringing both challenge and clarity to the quest for identity.

In a video clip publicizing the curriculum, Rhina Ramos claims her identities as “an immigrant woman, from El Salvador, a lesbian and a Christian.” When asked how those identities interact within herself, as well as what others think of her identities, Ramos reflects, “Well, I can get confused because I am all these identities. But people outside me get confused because they tend

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to see just pieces of it...but I'm a whole person. I'm a whole person who is very colorful!"

In describing his identity, JJ Flag says, "I am both a black male, and one who lives with a physical disability...I navigate the world using a wheelchair because I was born with cerebral palsy. Being both a black man who has a disability, it's interesting to see how those two things play out in my life...It was the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas that said, "if you want to see what God looks like, look into the face of the other." He continues, "I have sat down and really toyed with the idea, "What would it mean to get to heaven and God be a direct reflection of who I am? People talk about 'when one day you'll get to heaven and you'll be walking around.' And I'm like, 'what if I get there and God's ROLLing around?'"

David Finnegan Hosey reflects, "A lot of my identities are at the intersection of advantages I'm given. White, male, cisgender, straight - and a lot of those forms of identities that tend to carry a lot of power within our society are really quite fragile. I mean, you get kicked out of the boy's club really quick when you break down crying every five minutes because you're having a bi- polar episode."

Listen to these stories, and many more, and explore the intersections of your identities at [mhn-ucc.org](http://mhn-ucc.org).

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*Our first reading is from the Book of Acts, Chapter 2 verses 32 and 33, then 36 through 42. It was chosen with an eye to our baptism this morning! It is the Day of Pentecost. Simon Peter has been preaching to the crowd in Jerusalem and concludes with the Resurrection; that is where the passage picks up:*

**Acts 2:32-33, 36-42**

Peter preached, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

**Revelation 21:1 - 6**

John wrote, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

**John 13:31 - 35**

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new

commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”