



Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 26,
2025**

10:00 AM

**Reformation
Sunday**





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

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 in Skokie**Order of Worship for****Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 10:00am****Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost****Reformation Sunday**

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 Theme and Variations on "Ein Feste Burg"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 46:1-3, 7*

One: God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.


**All: So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come,
and the mountains crumble into the sea.**

One: Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!


**All: The Lord Almighty is here among us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

One: Let us worship God.


OPENING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"




1. A might-y fort-ress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threaten to un-do us;
 4. That word a-bove all earth-ly powers, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;



Our help-er He a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
 Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos-ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph through us.
 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid-eth.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is He, Lord Sab-a-oth His
 The Prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for Him; His rage we can en-
 Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so; The bod-y they may



great; And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
 name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat-tle.
 dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit-tle word shall fell him.
 kill; God's truth a-bid-eth still, His king-dom is for-ev-er. A-MEN

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

One: We praise God together, then we look at ourselves. Together. Let us tell our truth before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, you see all about us, and know all about us-- every fraudulent act, every whiff of envy, every resentment, every act of self-deception. Hear our silent prayer.

Moment for quiet reflection

One: Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God knows us better than we know ourselves. God loves us more deeply than we can possibly imagine.

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 forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: 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”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Olivia Altmayer

Hebrew Scripture

Joel 2:23-32

Psalms 65:1-8

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

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1-8

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“A Mighty Fortress”

arr. Brickman

SERMON

“True Colors”

HYMN “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace." The score is divided into three systems. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. Chord symbols are provided above the staff for each measure: Eb, Eb7, Db/Ab, Ab, Eb, F7, Bb7, Eb, Eb7, Db/Ab, Ab, Adim7, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Ab/Eb, and Eb.

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your
Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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

Sing to the tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

A: For gifts of earth and hands that give,

For hearts that learn and lives that live,

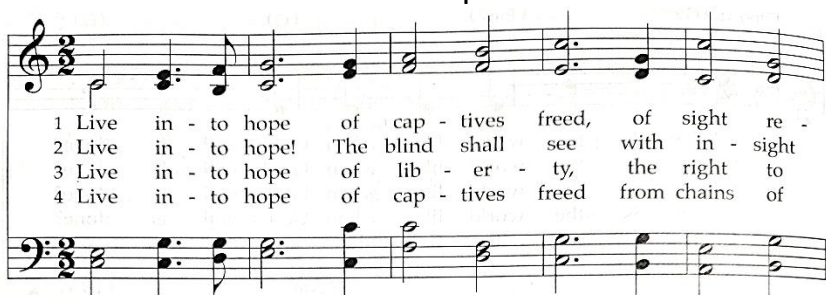
We raise our song of thanks and praise,

To God who loves in countless ways.

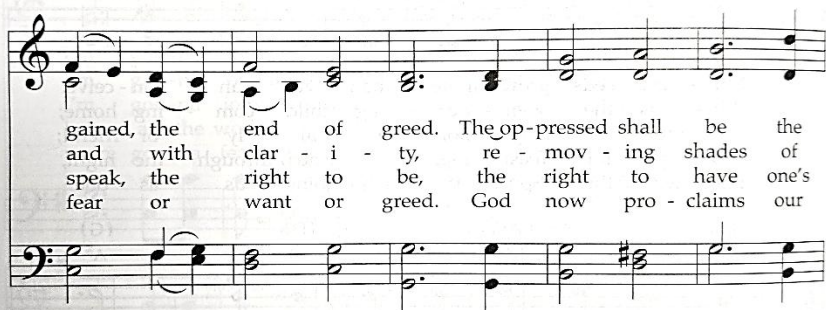
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Loving God, we give thanks for the visions and dreams that you share with your people. We offer these gifts in response to your abundant blessings. Use them and all of us to share your good news with all the world.
Amen.

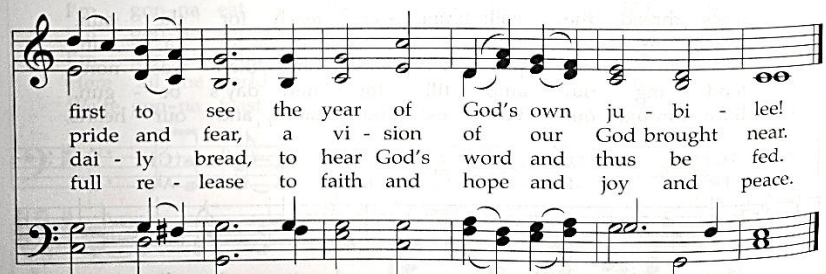
CLOSING HYMN “Live Into Hope”



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

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

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

re-worship.blogspot.com

Hans Holznagel, Worship Elements: October 27, 2019

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



**24" Balsam Wreath
with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor
Wreath 24", 30", 40"
Double Face Balsam 36"



Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"
Indoor/Outdoor



4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece

Place your order by Thursday November 13th.
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 29th from 1 - 2 pm
or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 30th.**

24" Single Face Balsam	\$18.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$32.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$55.00
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00
4' Noble Mix Mantlepice / Centerpiece	\$45.00
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$22.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$23.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$33.00
42" Evergreen Planter	\$54.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$23.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$18.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$27.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$42.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00



32" Evergreen Planter
42"+ Evergreen Planter



12" Candle Ring Wreath
WITHOUT Candle



**24" Boxed
Decorator Wreath**



Holiday Yule Log 12"



25' Balsam Fir Garland



Firestarter Basket



Balsam Swag

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for fresh pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$18.00.

Cemetery stands are included at no additional charge.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help to decorate the church for Christmas with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will place wreaths on graves at the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Thursday Nov 13th.**

Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Nov 29th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Nov 30th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$18.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$32.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$55.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	\$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$22.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$23.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	\$33.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	\$54.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$23.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$18.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$27.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$42.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00	
Total Amount (\$)		

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship on Reformation Sunday. We rejoice in God's unchanging Word and saving grace.

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

Signs of Hope: This week, have you noticed something that gives you hope? Please email or text them to Brenda so we can use them in our Sunday morning worship.

Church Council meets after worship today.

The Pet Blessing is today at 3PM! Bring your 4-legged beloved friend for a blessing from Pastor Brenda! In addition to a blessing, we'll have treats for humans and pets, a pet raffle, and C.A.R.E. will be on hand with short leashes and information on adoptable animals. All are welcome, suggested donation of \$5.

Pastor Brenda will be out of the office October 27th through November 1st to attend the Interim Ministry Network Conference and the Illinois Conference Celebration.

Laura Olson will be out of the office November 3-7th. Sharon Johnson will be filling in from 8-12pm daily.

Holiday dinner donations needed NOW at the Jewel! We are so blessed to give out complete Holiday Dinners for 4-6 from the Jewel at the Village Crossing Shopping center in Niles. These dinners go to needy families in Skokie School District 69, as well as

folks that come to our door and use our mini-pantry. But we can't meet the need if folks don't donate. Last year we came up short, so if you can donate now, and again after Thanksgiving, we can ensure as many families as possible have happy holidays! Orders for the dinners are placed about 2 weeks before the actual date, so don't wait to donate. If you have any questions or know of someone in need of a dinner, contact me (Laura) in the office.

Wreath orders are being taken now! It's not too early to think about holiday cheer. Orders must be placed by November 13th. See insert for all the details!

Holiday Craft Show St. Peter's Table needs to be headed - Every year we have a table for St. Peter's crafters to sell items that the proceeds go back to the church. Our past people cannot do it this year. We need someone to head this up and coordinate with any crafters from the church interested. If you can help, contact Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545.

Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is Saturday, November 8th from 10AM-3PM. Mark your calendars and come shop!

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."

Help stock our mini-Food Pantry – Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Bring your items to the shelves by the office or leave them in the narthex. Thank you so much!

Sign up for Coffee Hour! Regular coffee hours are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. See our President Peggy if you are interested in signing up.

Our People

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

- The Kuras family welcomed a baby girl Virginia last week! All are doing well
 - Daughters of Ann Herren; Jenny, facing eye surgery November 6th, and Betsy, a second surgery for breast cancer on November 10th in Oregon.
Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Chad McCoy and his family. His mother died peacefully Sunday morning, October 12 in Bettendorf, IA.
 - Annie Noorts who had hip replacement surgery.
 - Richard Hook who is home after being hospitalized for a stroke.
 - Kathy Zipperer and her family.
 - Paul Abramchik and the Abramchik family.
 - Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
 - Sue Bailey has been diagnosed with Crohn's/Ulcerative Colitis and spinal lesions.
 - 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.
 - Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
 - Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
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- 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, 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!

Happy Birthday to Sean Loach, Dorothy Panzke, Rich Suckow and Mark Aler. **Happy Anniversary** to Kathy Zipperer & Darrell Kerbel and Maria and Randy Altmayer!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Beth Sterba, and Carolyn Van Til is on Nursery duty. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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.

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.



MISSION MOMENTS

Just Worship (October 26, 2025)

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Luke 18:9-14

I had a childhood friend who always wanted attention. Be it on the playground or in the classroom, her favorite words were, “Look at me!” She needed affirmation. She desired recognition.

I, on the hand, was quite shy. So, whenever my friend went into spotlight seeking mode, I would inch away from her. I didn’t want attention by association.

While I never would stop being her friend, at times it bothered me. So much so that I would take my frustration to the one person I knew would listen and understand. No, not God. Although that should have been my first choice. Rather, I took my woes to my mom.

The wisdom she spoke to me, I can still hear today. Those who cry “look at me” are often lacking something deep inside, she said. When you know who you are — more importantly, when you know it is God you belong to — then there is no need to be loud in your search for validation.

Luke’s Gospel illustrates this perfectly for us, presenting a picture of two people praying in the public square. One, a Pharisee, bellowing his “look at me” prayer for all to hear.

“Thank you, God, that I am not like the tax collector,” he shouts in misguided praise and thanksgiving.

The other person is in fact that tax collector, who also comes before God in a time of much-need prayer. But rather than stepping into the spotlight, he hides himself in the shadows. He doesn’t want anyone looking at him. He doesn’t even want God’s eyes on him. He is sorrowful and truly repentant.

God, though, sees the man in the shadows. God also sees the attention-seeking Pharisee. And God sees right into their hearts. So, when Jesus tells his friends which man went home justified, they might have been surprised to have heard it was the man in the shadows.

“Look at me! Look at me!” is not something that should be coming out of the mouths of those following Christ. For Jesus, himself, reminded his friends often that he had come to serve and not be served. Jesus taught there was greatness in weakness and that the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

We don’t have to shout to God this day, “Look at me!” Rather, we should be whispering, “Have mercy on me.” For God already sees us. God knows the desires, fears, joys, and secrets that are in our hearts. We don’t need to validate our goodness or our worth with God. And for that, let the people shout, “Amen!”

All-knowing God, you who sees into our hearts know already what we need. We do not need to justify our goodness or seek validation. We are your beloved children, and you care for us deeply. Help us this day to remember how worthy we are in your sight. 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.)

October 26, 2025

Joel 2:23-32

²³ O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain^[a] for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ ^[b]Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Psalm 65:1-8

¹ Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed,

² O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.

³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,

you forgive our transgressions.

⁴ Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

⁶ By your ^[a] strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

⁸ Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."