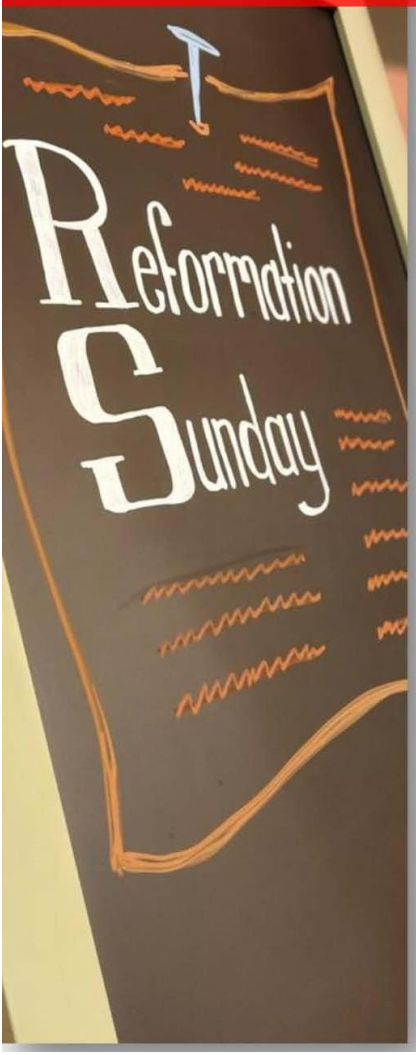
Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday, October 25, 2026 10:00 AM

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

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
Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 25, 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 "Variations on Joyful, Joyful"

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In a world that cries out, "Fear me!"
Many: We will listen to Jesus' words,
All: "Don't be afraid!"
One: In a world that wants us to hate the other…
Many: We will live Jesus' call to,
All: "Love God. Love your neighbor, as you love yourself."
One: In a world that radicalizes…
Many: We, too, will be radical.
All: Radical with our hospitality.
Radical with our hope.
Radical with our love.
One: Then come to this place,
ready to be who we are called to be.
All: Let us gather together and worship God.

GATHERING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful"



CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

One: We gather before God in praise and thanksgiving, wonder and awe, doubt and uncertainty, joy and pain. We seek guidance and direction, assurance and challenge, correction, and encouragement. As we speak our confession, may we open our hearts, minds and lives to the Spirit of love, comfort and strength. Let us pray together.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

ALL: Gracious God, we hear the direction in biblical law, and we can reduce our faith into all the things we cannot do. We can begin to perceive following you to a way of life that restricts our choices and binds us to certain behaviors. Help us to recognize that life with you transcends the rules and invites us to loving you, our neighbor, and ourselves. Through the Law, the Prophets, and the Messiah, you have helped us know how to love better and more. Help us again today. Amen.

Pause for quiet prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Beloved, God loves you, and God loves your journey. There is nothing you can do and nothing that can be done to you that will ever stop God from loving you.

All: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

One: Thanks be to God.

All: 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 Rita McMahon
Hebrew Scripture Deuteronomy 34:1-12

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

Matthew 22:34-46
Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC "A Mighty Fortress"

SERMON "Looking Back, Looking Forward"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "A Mighty Fortress"



CALL TO PRAYER
JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS
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

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

**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

All: Holy Love, we dedicate these gifts to you in hope and trust that, through you, our generosity makes a difference in the world. We give you thanks in advance for the fruit nurtured by this offering. As you bless these gifts, also bless the giver and those entrusted with the stewardship of these resources in your name and for your church and world. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"May the God of Hope Go With Us"



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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:
Richard Bott, as posted on Sharing Liturgy.
http://liturgy.richardbott.com/

Love God and Neighbor: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost Year A, written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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

News in the Pews

Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to remember with gratitude those who called the church back to God's Word and the good news of salvation through faith in Christ. We rejoice in the freedom, grace and hope we have in Jesus and welcome all who have gathered to worship Him.

Please join us downstairs after worship for a special coffee hour, hosted by Marilyn and Paul Froelich. Thank you to them!

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

Our Pet Blessing is *TODAY at 3PM*! Pastor will bless each and every 4-legged friend that comes to our event. We'll have a short service, treats for all, and our pet raffle. C.A.R.E. will be on hand with adoptable animals and information, and short leashes. $5 suggested donation.

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.

Haunted Heritage Cemetery Walk 2026. Next ***Saturday, October 31st from 11AM-1PM*** hear dramatic and amusing tales of Skokie's biggest BOO!ms and Busts from the ghosts who lived them! Tickets can be purchased here: https://ilskokieweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?module=PST&keyword=heritage

Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall and colder weather. 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 10AM-3PM***. 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:

- The nephew of Joe Harrington, Judah Prime, who is battling complications from surgery for a birth defect.
- Aaron Chavez and family on the passing of his mother Virginia.
- Beth Sterba after knee surgery.
- The family of Mark Williams.
- Annie's friend Renee has been moved to a skilled nursing facility. Day by day she is incrementally better. Please continue to pray for her healing.
- 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!

Happy Birthday this week to Sean Loach, Dorothy Panzke and Rich Suckow. Happy Anniversary to Kathy Zipperer & Darrell Kerbel.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Ann Herren, our Nursery attendant is TBD. 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."

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

October 25, 2026
Matthew 22:34-46
The Compassionate Life

People ask Jesus questions for a variety of reason. Sometimes they want to seek answers or ideas. They want to know more about themselves and their place in Christ's kin-dom. They want to hear Jesus' teachings and stories. And sometimes, they just want to trick Jesus, or trip him up. They want to ask him a question with no answer.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

After this exchange, Jesus asks a question that those gathered cannot answer, about the nature of humanity and divinity. Question and answer exchanges are part of living and loving. On this Higher Education Sunday, we honor those institutions connected with the United Church of Christ where questions are welcome not as a barrier to faith, but as a sign of it.

There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited.
Each institution expresses partnership with the church. Closely related schools participate as full members of the UCC Council for Higher Education. Others are historically related, which means they recognize a past relationship with the church but are not full members of the Council.

These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking

(https://www.ucc.org/about/higher-education/).