



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

June 26,

2022

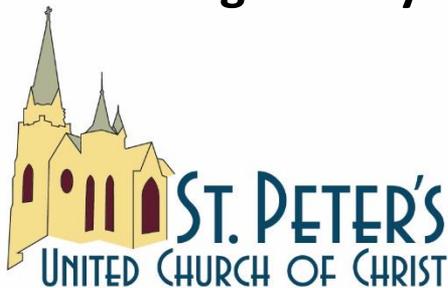
10:00 AM

**St. Peters
United Church
of Christ**

**An Open
And Affirming
Congregation**

**Third Sunday after
Pentecost**

**Open and
Affirming Sunday**



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&from=seller=&to=buyer=&source=paypal) 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, June 26, 2022 at 10:00am
Third Sunday after Pentecost
PRIDE Sunday

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

PRELUDE "The Call" by R. Vaughan Williams

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Judy Paige

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: I will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

C: With my mouth, I will declare Your faithfulness to this generation and all generations.

P: Your steadfast love is established forever.

C: Your faithfulness is firmer than the strongest oak, as strong as the heavens themselves.

P: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, my servant David"

A: Following You, we have established our own covenant with You and each other, to affirm the lives of our transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings, to invite them into the full life and ministry of Your Church, our church.

P: For You are the glory of their strength, of our strength

A: By Your favor, our burdens are lifted. For Your steadfast love endures all things. (2020, inspired by Psalm 89)

RESPONSE

"He's My Source"

SSB #17

He's my source _____ of light _____ that

shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing

wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my

sword and my shield, _____ the fair - est of ten

thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, _____ the

soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord. _____

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are descendants of Your righteous ones,
Those who obeyed, Your Beloved children,
Greeting Your covenant with joyous praise
Through fearful nights and problem laden days.**

**You were our refuge through all times of change,
When the world seemed harsh and strange.
We followed Your lead even when the path was obscured,
the way to grace hidden behind our own fear.**

**God, we witness the violence of the world,
Too often callously dispensed against the most vulnerable,
Too often targeting our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous siblings.
You deliver us from a world filled with inequities.**

**Forgive us, God, for breaking our covenants.
Forgive us, God, for those moments when we stayed silent and
ignored Your command to speak.
Forgive us, God, for those times when we witnessed harm and
did not intervene.
Forgive us, O God, for those moments when we forgot to act
always in love for one another.**

**We have been blessed with gifts so manifold!
Heaven and earth, and wonders yet untold.
Proclaim Your love divine, O God of Light.
May we, Your people, reaffirm our covenant in Your name.
Pledging to walk as allies, as disciples, as friends committed to
the Way of Your child, Jesus.**

Amen. *(Lavon Baylor, 2014; edits by KFR, 2020)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Acts 3:17-20

P: In Acts, Peter preached, "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. . Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Having returned to God in the spirit of turning away from our sins of omission and commission, let us trust the Word, that our sins are wiped out and that times of refreshing will, indeed, come from the presence of the Lord. This is unbelievable news we run the risk of taking for granted. Please join me then in laying hold of this astounding good news by saying . . .

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN "There is Room in God's Great Welcome"

Please sing to the Easter hymn tune "Alleluia! Alleluia!"

There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide!

Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside!

There is so much room for difference — men and women, gay and straight.

In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.

There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground.

God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound.

Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free!

There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.

There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor;

For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for these and more.

For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career,

There is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.

There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:

Women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed,

Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.

God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.

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The congregation may be seated.

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Epistle Lesson

Peter Svenson
Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Gospel:

Luke 9:51-62

MUSICAL MEDIATION “Will you Come and Follow Me?”

Those who are able please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT *Passed*

June 24, 2018. **We the parishioners of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Skokie, make before God and ourselves, a promise to live our daily lives with love, honor and respect, believing that since we’re all made in God’s image, all people are created equal. And thus, all people are to be treated, loved and welcomed equally, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, color, race, economic status, or physical/mental ability. We therefore welcome all people to share our Church for the purposes of worship, marriage, baptism, funeral and fellowship, with full participation in the life and ministries of the Church, asking that those who come have no intent to do harm and welcome others to our church as well. People shall be embraced with love and the knowledge that we are all one in the eyes of God. Amen!**

RESPONSE**“We Are an Offering”****SSB #11**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering;
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be we give to You,
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering;
We are an offering.**

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**

SERMON “Don’t Look Back: Christian Freedom is a Huge Gift”

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians" SSB #14

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison Em



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em



yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE Postlude in Eb Major by Barnaby

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	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

Good Morning! As we gather for worship, I welcome you — and please turn and welcome one another — in the name of Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:30 – 8:30 PM), plus Fridays 10 AM to Noon, we are asking for help to begin this summer's rummage placement, sorting and pricing! Come when you can, leave when you must, all assistance will be needed and appreciated.

Donations very much needed for our mini food pantry! Our supply as dwindled, any items appreciated. Bring your donations to Sunday service or to the office area during the week and thank you!

This coming Saturday at 2:30 PM Rev. Lanford will officiate at the private baptism of Emma Nakhleh, whose family have joined us for worship a few times in the past.

Skokie is holding is Skokie Pride fest (family friendly) at Oakton Park today from 1 to 4 PM. Oakton Park is at 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, IL 60076. Pastor is planning to attend and hopes he won't be the only one from St. Peter's U.C.C.! This is a party in the Park celebrating LGBTQ Pride, with entertainment including games,

crafts, food, and fun! Here's the schedule of events: 1:20 p.m. – Welcome and Intro / 1:30 p.m. – Drag Story Hour / 2:30 p.m. – Drag Performances by Cosmo Dragon and Holly Hazmat / 3 p.m. – Music by The Q's / 3:45 p.m. – Color Fun/Dance Party / After-party at the new Sketchbook Brewing in Skokie from 4-8 p.m.

Office Manager Laura Olson's last week before going on vacation is this week. She will not be in the office July 4th through the 11th. Sharon Johnson will be covering her Wednesday through Friday of that week.

Per the first full hymn's text author the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, "There is Room in God's Great Welcome" is a celebration of God's love and justice for all and a call for us to be loving and just.

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.

According to the schedule, next Sunday's Nursery Attendant will be Mike Ryan; the Lector scheduled Jenn Schneider so we'll see if there's a switch.

Our People

Pastor will be holding a new members/seekers class soon!

Please let him know if you are interested in joining in!

Hospitalized: As of this writing, Dorothy Panzke is back at Elevate Care Irving Park for physical therapy: 4340 N Keystone Ave, Chicago, IL 60641, after a week at St. Mary of Nazareth hospital. Jenn Schneider (knee) and Wendy (hip) are both recovering from surgeries at home; keep them in prayers! Ralph Burmeister remains in hospice at Celebrate Senior Living, 7000 N. Newark Avenue, Room 432, Niles, IL, 60714.

From the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ resources came today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession.

Happy birthdays and anniversaries! Having birthdays this week are Ron Schuhrke's grandson Alexander Martinek, Gena Zelenka, Kristine Hoellerich, Randy Altmayer and Ralph's granddaughter Mia Speicher. Celebrating their wedding anniversaries tomorrow are Adrianna and Ken Paige and Eric and Aaliyah Svenson. May God bless them on their days!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

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.



MISSION MOMENTS

June 26, 2022

Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Pick Up the Mantle

Open and Affirming Sunday

An elder and a younger man go on a journey. Finally, the elder says to the youngster, “You have come far enough. The rest of the journey, I will make myself.” The younger person persists, saying that he will continue to accompany the elder even if it is difficult. At last, the youngster has the honor of walking with the elder all the way to the end of his days. In so doing, the youngster receives a mantle that he can carry to the next generation.

On this Open and Affirming Sunday, we read the story of the elder prophet Elijah and his student Elisha. As we hear the story of this passing of the mantle, we pause to honor members of the LGBTQ community 65 years and older. If we are in that group of elders, how might we pass the mantle to the younger generation? And, if we are in a younger generation, how might we accompany our elders on the great journey that for all of us ends in being received into the arms of the Holy One?

There are at least two million lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people 65 and older in the U.S., and this population

will double by the year 2030. Many LGBTQ seniors are isolated and lonely. Often subject to mistreatment in retirement communities and nursing homes, they need the resources churches can provide. The majority of these seniors have been alienated from organized religion for most of their lives: an Open and Affirming congregation can be a lifeline to community, understanding and respect.

An effective ministry for LGBTQ seniors is an opportunity for partnership with your LGBTQ community center and other welcoming churches and synagogues. If your church is the only LGBTQ-welcoming congregation in your community, and there is no LGBTQ community center, there are still likely to be LGBTQ seniors—most of them closeted—who can be reached if you publicly affirm your welcome.*

You can find resources and more ideas at openandaffirming.org

*“Seniors.” UCC Open and Affirming Coalition, 27 Dec. 2020, <https://openandaffirming.org/resources/seniors/>.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a

village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."