



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

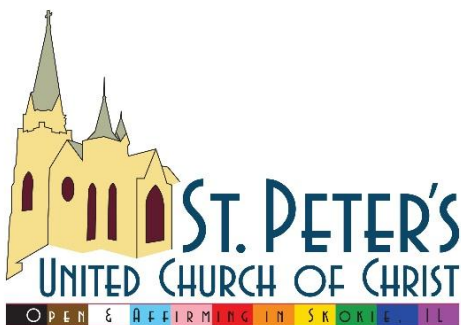
**Sunday,
June 29, 2025
10:00 AM**

**Third Sunday
after Pentecost**

PRIDE Sunday

**St. Peters
United Church
of Christ**

**An Open
And Affirming
Congregation**





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, June 29, 2025 at 10:00am****Third Sunday after Pentecost****PRIDE 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**"Blessings"****by Brickman****THE RINGING OF THE BELLS****ANNOUNCEMENTS****Peggy Reins**

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Source of Life, in the beginning, when you stitched us together in the womb,

All: **You made us and called us beloved.**

One: When we forget what love looks like,

All: **You remind us we are beloved.**

One: When the powers of the world try to oppress us,

All: **You name us beloved.**

One: When our others seek to condemn us or erase us,

All: **You claim us as beloved.**

One: We are your beloved, wonderful and beautifully made.

All: **Today we sing your praises, Source of Love.**

Amen.

HYMN**“For the Beauty”**

**A: For the joy of human form
shaped to meet the inner soul.
Child of God, each one reborn,
flowering out, becoming whole —
God of all to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For transgendered rainbow cast
after floods of human tears,
arks of safety in the past —
claiming faith and conquering fears.
God of all, to you we raise —
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love —
living boldly in the light,
allies here and friends above
who, with joy, have vanquished spite —
God of all to you we raise —
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the church with open doors,
for the pews where all may rest,
for each child by love restored,
now at home and ever blessed —
God of all, to you we raise —
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

You may be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Creator God we come before you this morning with a humble spirit, aware that we fall short of your intentions for our lives. We have been captive to binary thinking, and failed to see the multiplicity of your creation. We have been silent observers of the oppression and violence visited upon a rainbow of people, and failed to present a defense. Convict us, console us, and forgive us, O Lord. Fortify us with strength and righteous anger to end the indignities suffered by ourselves, our families, friends, and neighbors. Inspire us to create communities of compassion and solidarity right here and now, modeled on your beloved community. This we pray in your holy name, Amen.

Quiet Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear the good news of the gospel. Ours is the God of grace, truth and love.

All: There is nothing we can do and nothing that can be done to us that will ever stop God from loving us.

One: Through the One in Three, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

All. Thanks be to God! Amen!

MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”

The image shows a musical score for a song titled "Halle, Halle, Halle". It is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." The score is divided into two staves. The first staff has chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E written above it. The second staff has chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A written above it. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture

Psalter

Christian Scripture

Mark Loach

II Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20

Luke 9: 51-62

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Gift of Love”

SERMON

“Legacy of Love”

**AFFIRMATION OF OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COVENANT** *Passed June 24, 2018.*

A: 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!

SUNG RESPONSE

“There is Room for God’s Great Welcome” v. 1

A: 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.

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 “The Gift of Love”

v. 2

$\text{♩} = 53$ VERSE

N.C. G Gmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷/G Am/G G/B C G Bm

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

6 Em Em/D Am⁷/C Am/C G D D/C Bm Am⁷ G G^{sus}/A

gift to all in - spire, and have not love,
 so my love pro - fess, but not be giv'n
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love

11 G/B Am⁷ G/B C G Am G/B C D^{sus} D C² C G

my words are vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 by love with - in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 guide ev - 'ry deed; By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: God of rainbow and fiery pillar, we give you thanks for the many blessings you give us. Take these gifts of treasure and transform them into acts of mercy and compassion, that all peoples might experience the inclusive love embodied by your son, Jesus.
Amen**

CLOSING HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob-al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.

Refrain
Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “In the Midst of New Dimensions”

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

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:
Call to Worship from the More Light Presbyterian LGBTQ+ Worship
Resource Guide. Lyrics of For the Beauty by UCC minister Rev.
Maren Tirabassi, with edits from Rev. Jason Coulter. Prayer of
Confession and Dedication by Rev. Jason Coulter and Minister Eda
Uca.*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY	
INTERIM MINISTER	Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

News in the Pews

Family of God, siblings of Christ: Welcome to this time of worship and prayer, listening and singing, confession and forgiveness, giving and receiving. We are glad you're here!

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

Big donations coming in, lots of sorting help needed! We mentioned Monday in our weekly update the need for folks to help sort clothing in Lanford Fellowship Hall and that is a great need. In addition to that, this week we've been receiving a huge donation, and we'll need more sorters than ever. Please come help at any time, during office hours, sorting hours, or make your own. Talk to Annie Noorts with questions and thank you so much.

Rummage collecting now! Drop off during office hours (please call ahead if you don't have a key), bring on Sundays when you come to worship, or call us to arrange a time that works for you. We'll take most anything but no furniture and old TV's. Questions can be directed to Annie Noorts at: annie.noorts@gmail.com, or call the office.

Rummage sorting – Join us Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays from 10AM to 2PM to sort, no experience necessary! There are jobs for every person,

talk to Annie for more information. This sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year but cannot happen without a tremendous amount of help all summer long. Please come help us!

Mini-Pantry supply low – donations needed, we again are getting very low. Donations can be left on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much for your help.

Pre-worship gathering – You are invited to meet before worship to talk about one of the UCC's daily devotional readings from the past week. ***We gather at 9:15am in Lanford Fellowship Hall*** for a short opening prayer and finish by 9:45am. Sign up for the Daily Devotional here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

The office will be closed Friday, July 4th 🌞 for Independence Day.

Laura vacation – Laura will be taking July 7th through the 18th off, returning July 21st. Sharon Johnson will be filling in as much as possible during that time, her office days will vary, but hours will be 9AM – 12PM. Please call ahead if you are stopping by but don't have a key.

Holiday Craft Show applications are being accepted now. If you are interested in having a table at our sale, contact Wendy or Annie for more information. For an application, email st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com, or contact the office.

Our People

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

- 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 and Dorothy Panzke.
- Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Judy Paige having knee therapy for the third time.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- 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!

This week we wish a Happy Birthday to Kristine Hoellerich, Mia Paige Speicher, Randy Altmayer, Ann Aler, Mandy McDonald, Mike Taheny, Danny Mahoney, Nancy Lindroth and Sandy Piper. **Happy Anniversary** to Linda and Bruce Mau.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Rita McMahon, and our Nursery Attendant will be Laurie Mitchell.

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.

Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie. If you are able, please donate!

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.



MISSION MOMENTS

Pick Up the Mantle (6/29/2025)

Third Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Before becoming a pastor, I was a news reporter often tasked with writing obituaries. I remember one such tribute for an elderly pillar in a community who wanted the next generation to hear his wish of carrying on his volunteer work.

And so, I wrote about his desire, inviting readers to “pick up the mantle.” I found myself explaining to my editor, who never heard of the phrase, that “pick up the mantle” was a biblical idiom rooted in the story of Elijah and his apprentice Elisha. In the story, Elisha picks up his beloved teacher’s mantle after Elijah is taken up to heaven and puts it on, symbolically continuing Elijah’s mission. My editor then asked another writer about the phrase. They had heard of it. It stayed in the obit and was published.

I went home that day realizing how these biblical stories are being lost over time and, thus, idioms like pick up the mantle are strange to many ears. I also wondered about the many mantles that have remained on the ground due to that strangeness.

I worked with a pastor who was retiring after 40 years serving the same congregation. During his last weeks in the church office, he would give me pastoral advice and bits of wisdom. He also gave me his black wool clergy cloak that was reserved for cold Christmas Eve nights where, after the service, he would wear it while greeting worshippers amid the glow of the sidewalk luminaries.

I put the cloak on and the weight of it surprised me. What also surprised me was the tears filling the retiring pastor's eyes. With a nod of approval, he said, "It's like Elisha picking up Elijah's mantle."

After years in ministry, I have come to realize that picking up the mantle doesn't necessarily have to be the putting on of an actual cloak. There was a faded calico apron given to a friend by her grandmother, encouraging her to continue cooking those amazing Sunday dinners long after "nana" was gone. There was a toolbox left to a young son after his dad's passing, encouragement to pick up the mantle of helping the elderly with household repairs.

Mantles are a reminder that the work in this world is never done — it simply gets entrusted to others to carry on long after we are gone. Be it pastoral ministry, Sunday dinners or household repairs, what is the mantle waiting for you to pick up? How is God urging you to carry on the work of loving as Christ loved?

Loving God, there is always work that needs to be done. May today our hands eagerly pick up the mantle that you are calling us to wear. 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.)
