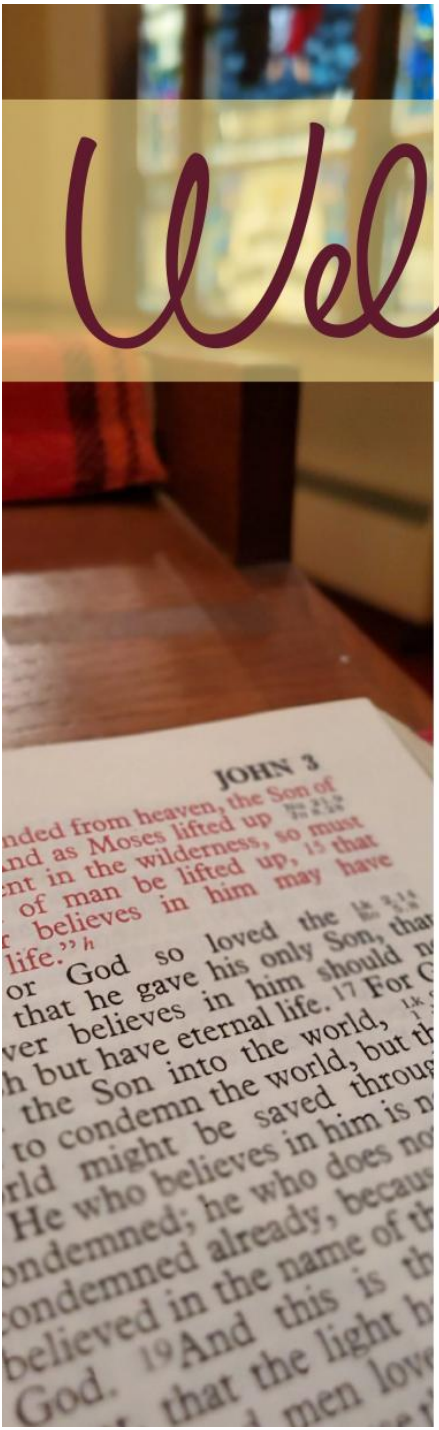


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday, September 27, 2026
10:00 AM

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 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 Selected

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God, you split rocks in the wilderness,
and gave your people abundant drink, as from the deep.

All: Come to us, Lord.
Give us that abundant water.

One: You made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

All: Come to us, Lord.
Send the waters down upon us.

One: You turned the desert into pools of water,
the parched land into springs of water.

All: Come to us, Lord.
Create springs in the parched desert of our hearts.

One: Come, O Fount of every blessing,

All: Tune my heart to sing your grace!

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"



CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

One: Even when we do not recognize that we are thirsty, God provides us with living water. Let us open ourselves to the Source that can transform our spirits and souls into springs that burst forth with life and love.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Holy Presence, you demonstrate the way of love and community. Yet so often we forget helpful ways of communicating and confronting conflict. Instead we turn to quarrels and complaints against one another and against you.

Teach us to be loving even as we struggle. Stir up compassion and accountability in our interactions. Remind us that you are with us even through tests, trials, and disappointments. Transform us with trust and care to be faithful and to seek you in prayer when we feel driven to quarrel and complaint. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God sees beyond our quarrels and complaints to recognize our true thirst. And so we remember:

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

One: Let us take in this wonderful news: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God!

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 Marilyn Froelich

Hebrew Scripture Exodus 17:1-7

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

Matthew 21:23-32

Please be seated.

SERMON "The Water Still Flows"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Be Not Afraid"

Refrain:
Be not afraid,
I go before you always,
Come follow Me,
And I shall give you rest.

CALL TO PRAYER
JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS
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

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

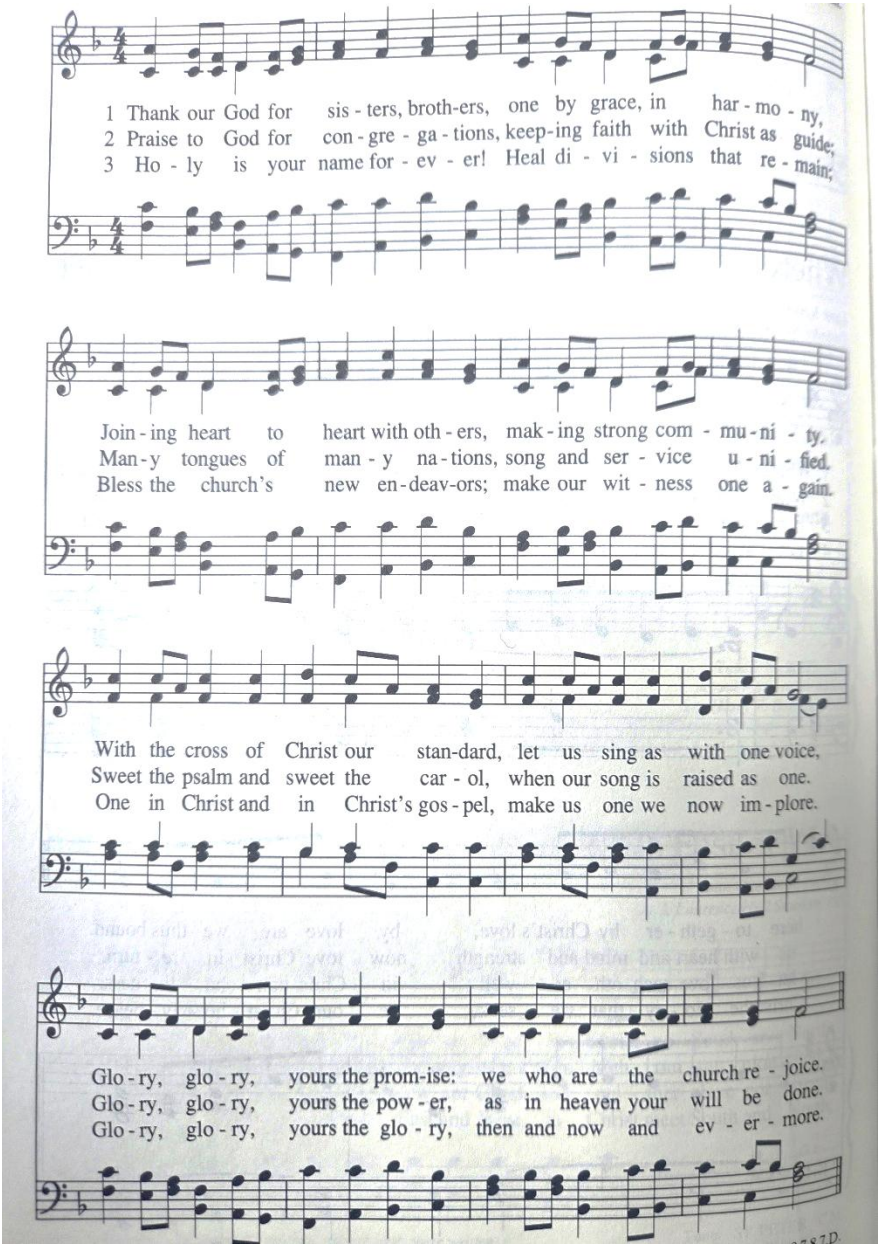
**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures, here below!
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: As we share our gifts, transform us, loving God. May we become like streams of water, flowing from you, our Living Water. Saturate every encounter with your goodness and abundance. May we become a living witness so that all your people may drink. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"



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:
Today's liturgy is adapted from:
Living Waters for the World,
http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/

The People May Drink: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth 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	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

News in the Pews

This is the Lord's house. The Lord is here to welcome all who have come. Let us join in the spirit of love and peace for all who worship the Creator of us all.

Donations of Rummage sale Leftovers - Ginger and Maria have set up dates and times for people from charities to come collect whatever leftovers they can use. The dates and times are: after the sale the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:30 - Noon. If anyone knows of individuals in need or groups that should be invited to come, please let Ginger know ASAP. We want to be sure we invite all who are in need, and that we know who is coming and when they are coming.

Rummage Sale Clean Up - We can start packing up the rummage sale after the charities have had a chance to come in and collect what they can use. On Wednesday, 9/30 we will pack up and do what we can to clear out the Lanford Fellowship Hall during our regular sorting time, 6:30-8:30PM. We will finish packing and cleaning on Friday, 10/2, 10:00 - 2:00. We will be loading everything leftover into a trailer to go to the Cancer Federation.

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

Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall. 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 10-3. If you are interested in a table, or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or email Wendy Svenson at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com.

Coming in October: A Just Harvest and our Pet Blessing!

Our People

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

- We have been praying for Annie's friend Renee for a long time due to her progressive illness (PSP). On 9/14 she fell and broke her neck. She is now in the "step-down" ICU. She is improving a little bit every day, regaining some feeling and mobility. She had a very long road with rehab ahead of her, with the hope of eventually getting home.
- 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!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Barb Todd, our Nursery attendant is Mike Ryan. 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."

Donations to our mini-food pantry are always needed and greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the narthex or downstairs by the offices on the designated shelves. Thank you!

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Our worship service is livestreamed and posted to YouTube. If you prefer not to appear on camera, choose a seat in the back half of the right side of the sanctuary. Ushers can quietly assist you, if you wish.*

New to St. Peter's?
We are so glad you are here! Please see a

Welcome Card

in the pew rack for information about:
Worship Times and Options
Open & Affirming | Childcare | Accessibility
WiFi | Holy Communion | Contact Info
And much more!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. Your gift can be put in an offering plate or you can give electronically:

PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie
- OR –
Use your banking app to send via
Zelle to **finance@stpeteruccskokie.org**

Printed copies of today's scriptures are available if you like to read along.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

September 27, 2026
Exodus 17:1-7
God's Sustaining Presence

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet". Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"
Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?