

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 5, 2025
10:00 AM**

**Seventeenth
Sunday
after Pentecost**





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 5, 2025 at 10:00am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 “Come Share the Lord” arr. Larson

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Jeremiah 32*

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

All: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

All: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

OPENING HYMN "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"



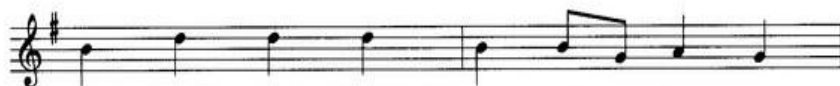
1. All who hun - ger, gath - er glad - ly;
 2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers,
 3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er;



Ho - ly man - na is our bread. Come from wil - der -
 Seek - er, be a wel - come guest. Come from rest - less -
 Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread. Come from lone - li -



ness and wan - d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness,
 We that once were lost and scat - tered
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble



All a - round us is our food. Taste and see the
 In com - mun - ion's love have stood. Taste and see the
 Live their days in grat - i - tude. Taste and see the



grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: The cobwebs of doubt spread as we notice divisions and injustices grow. We might become uncertain of God's presence and begin to doubt of the ways God works through us. We pray that God might clear our minds of distractions, that God might fill our souls with hope. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Spirit of Encouragement,
You thrive in our times of doubt. Your work takes root even if the drought of fear destroys our fertile soil. Yet we allow our mistrust of you and our neighbors to disturb our growth. We ask you to increase our faith when we are refusing to cultivate it. Motivate us to seek new ways of exploring our faith. Embolden us to trust even when fear creeps into our minds. Amen.**

Quiet Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Through the grace of God, we continue to find the strength to stretch ourselves and expand our faith.

All: For there is nothing we can do, nothing that can be done to us that will ever stop God from loving us.

One: In 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!

MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rich Schneider

Hebrew Scripture

Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalm 137:1-6

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

Christian Scripture**Luke 17:5-10**

Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM “One Bread, One Body”

arr. Foley

SERMON

“And We Do”

SUNG RESPONSE “In Christ There is No East or West”

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

Christ no South or North; But one com - mu - ni -
high com - mu - nion find; God's ser - vice is the
nei - ther slave nor free; For men and wom - en
Christ meet South and North; One joy - ous, true com -

ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gol - den cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
live in God, and all are kin to me.
mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

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 and NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

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: God, you give us more than enough. Now encourage us to stretch ourselves in our giving. Help us to see that we have the faith to take movements forward into the future with courage and strength. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

Many: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

Many: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

Many: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

Many: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

One: Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God gathers us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts poured out for the whole world.

COMMUNION HYMN "I Come with Joy" vs. 1-3



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

One: Come and find God at this everyday table just as
God finds the incredible within you. Come.

All: We come to the Table of Jesus our Christ.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Holy God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray. . .

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**A: We thank you, generous God, for the
nourishment of this table and the living presence
of Christ among us. We thank you for the gift of
growth and grace in this life-renewing feast. We
thank you for the company of your great cloud of
witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and
throughout the generations. Take your gathered
people and scatter us again into the world—
renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so
nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving
fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus’
name. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "I Come with Joy"

vs. 4,5



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Selected

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

*Global Ministries: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
and Increase Our Faith: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC
minister in Belleville, Illinois.*

*Call to Worship from Rev. Taisaku OBATA (Minister, Ube Church,
United Church of Christ in Japan) Translated by Mr. David McIntosh
(Overseas Liaison, United Church of Christ in Japan)*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jen Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer



Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

— Galatians 6:2

**Advocacy is essential to participating in
God's mission in the world.**

Gifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

Thank you for your generosity!



Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Galatians 6:2

Prayer for Compassion

God of compassion,

Give us the courage to breathe in care,
and breathe out all that separates us.

The voices of your people can be lost in a cacophony of need.
Help us to pay attention and see clearly our neighbors.

Encourage us to not only help, but listen,
so all may have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Strengthen us to confront evil
and alleviate suffering.

Let us not turn away from the direct needs of ourselves and
those around us

even as we seek to dismantle deeper injustice.

Turn us toward justice, peace and reconciliation.

We pray in your holy name,

Amen

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	
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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 this sacred moment of communion. As we share the bread and cup, may we remember Christ's love and sacrifice.

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

Neighbors in Need Collection - today we will have a special collection for the UCC's Neighbors in Need. Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. See insert for more details.

Rummage cleanup/teardown – Please come tomorrow, **Monday Oct 6th from 10AM-1PM** to continue boxing/putting things away. Once everything has been boxed, folks are encouraged to take boxes of all but media (books, cds, records, etc.) to Goodwill. There are designated folks to take the media items, so please leave those. All softgoods items will be bagged and saved for our Savers drive in January.

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 persons 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.

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."

The Pet Blessing will be Sunday, October 26th from 3-4pm. 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

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!

Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is Saturday, November 8th from 10AM-3PM. All our slots have been filled, and we are so excited for this special shopping event happening! Mark your calendars and come shop!

Our People

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

- 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.
- 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!

This week we wish a Happy Birthday to Winfield Meggs, Gabriel Banoyo and Jillian Caras. Happy Anniversary to Laura & Paul Medaglia.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Mark Loach, and Laurie Mitchell 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.

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

Free to Grieve (October 5, 2025)

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Psalm 137

A seminary professor once told his class of future pastors that there should always be a box of tissues in the pews of the churches they will serve.

“If a person can’t cry in the sanctuary, then where?” he asked.

I took this advice to heart. Every church I shepherded I made the case to the frugal finance committee for why we needed to order boxes of tissues for the pews.

It was an added cost worth every penny because there was always one person who came through the church doors as a stranger seeking solace who stayed as a sibling who had found healing. And the comment from these solace seekers was always the same: “Pastor, I was grateful for those tissues. I never felt like I could cry like that in church.” To which I replied, “If not here, then where?”

For the exiled Israelites it was by the rivers of Babylon where we are told they hung their harps on the willows and proceeded to lament — sobbing a great and heavy collective sob over all that they had lost. They were captives of Babylon. They had lost not just their physical

homes, but their spiritual havens as well. They were stripped of their identities and their freedoms.

There are many today in our world in need of a willow to hang their harp on. They need a safe place to crumble to the ground and sob over all that they have lost, be it an actual place of belonging or a sense of purpose.

Perhaps we, ourselves, are finding the Israelites' grief hitting too close to home. Losses are piling on top of losses without anytime to properly grieve or adjust to realities that are strange and unwelcomed.

We are living in a time where we all need to give ourselves — and others — the permission to freely grieve. We need to open wide those floodgates that have been holding back our tears. We need to cry to God in our distress. We need to wail and flail over all the injustices happening to and around us. We are in a place of exile from what we have treasured, and thought would never be taken away from us.

We all need a riverbank where we can sit and grieve. We need a place of refuge where we can let it all out. We need a pew with a box of tissues in it, lovingly placed by a pastor who is ready to shed a tear with us.

Compassionate God who not only hears our cries, but weeps with us, we bring you our tears, asking you to wipe them away and restore to us a sense of renewal and wholeness. 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.)
