



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
September 18,  
2022**

**10:00 AM**

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**Fifteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**



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&url=https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stpeteruccskokie) 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](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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, September 18, 2022 at 10:00am  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**PRELUDE**                      “The Ash Grove”

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**              Jenn Schneider

*Those who are able please stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Jesus said, “Follow me.”

**C: We don't always know what that means. We are on a journey of discovery.**

P: We are here because we want to be God's people; we are here because we are broken and want to be whole again;

**C: We are here to celebrate our lives, and God's presence in this life.**

**A: Let us worship God with great giving of thanks!**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: As Jeremiah said, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and all are not saved.”

**C: We resist the Great Physician, for healing requires change and we have not been ready to give up our favorite vices nor our sovereignty over our lives.**

P: We have not been eager to do things God’s way. Join me as we seek forgiveness and the power of a new start, reading the prayer silently to ourselves first, and then aloud together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: O God we have not managed well the wealth of the earth, which is our trust from You. We have modified Your commands to suit our own egos and desires. We have wasted resources while hoarding for our own use what is meant for all to enjoy. Our concerns can be narrow and our compassion gets weak. We are restless and un-fulfilled, for we have not fully committed to Your ways. Forgive us, we pray, and in the name of Jesus Christ, lead us into Your new day. Amen.**

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**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *from 1 Timothy 2*

P: “This is right and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all.”

We have a God who did not send Jesus to condemn the world but to find us, bring us back to God, and wash our sins away by his own self-giving on Calvary and in his resurrection. Our God is a God of love and mercy, who sends the Spirit within us to transform us and help us grow in our spiritual maturity. We are forgiven, and we are not left to ourselves in our soul-work! That’s amazing, amazing, amazing.

**A: Yes, it is. Alleluia! Amen.**

# HYMN "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" SSB #6 (1-5)

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
 3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease  
 4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!  
 To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
 Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
 By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

*The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.*

Tune: AZMON C.M.  
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828  
 Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839  
 Alternate tune: RICHMOND

5 Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
 Your loosen'd tongues employ;  
 Ye blind, behold your Savior come,  
 And leap, ye lame, for joy.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## WORDS ABOUT OFFERING PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophet:

Rich Schneider  
 Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Epistle:

I Timothy 2:1-7

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**MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*Those who are able please stand.*

**GOSPEL:**

Luke 16:1-13

**RESPONSE:**

“Alleluia”

#495

*The congregation may sit down*

**PASTORAL PRAYERS & 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** “The Taming of the Shrewd”

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN:** “A Dishonest Steward”

*Sing to the Welsh tune “Let All Things Now Living”*

**A dishonest steward found out he'd been fired;  
 he thought, "I'm in trouble! Now what will I do?  
 It's not very likely that I'll soon be hired,  
 so I'll make a plan to get out of this stew."  
 He called up the people who owed his boss money;**

he settled their debts at deep discount that day.  
Those debtors were thrilled that their day had turned sunny; now they were indebted to him, in a way.

His boss heard what happened but did not reverse it;  
His debtors were praising him; what could he do?  
That boss seemed the hero; he'd make matters worse if he tried to collect from those debtors anew.  
He praised the shrewd worker — but not for deception;  
he praised him for wisdom — for knowing the score.  
He praised him for knowing that people could help him; when money was gone, he'd have what mattered more.

O Lord, we remember the things that you taught us:  
Though he was dishonest, that worker was shrewd.  
He looked to the future and he was relentless.  
He saw the big picture; he knew what was true.  
For money won't matter; it never can save us.  
Relationships matter when push comes to shove.  
May we as a church face the changes around us —  
Not trusting in money, but seeking to love.

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**CHARGE** *Micah 6:8*

P: “The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but

**WOMEN: To do justice,**

**MEN: To love kindness,**

**A: And to walk humbly with our God.**

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE** “O For A Thousand Tongues”

*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	Beth Lanford
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** The psalmist tells us: “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised” (Psalm 113:3, NRSV). So we gather to worship him now. Welcome!

**Today our Church Council meets!**

**This afternoon, Pastor will attend, and participate in,** the Service of Installation of the Rev. Jason Coulter as the new Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Evanston (U.C.C.). Anyone interested in joining him, let him know!

**Tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 19th, is the deadline for articles for the October newsletter.**

**The Rummage and Bake Sale is at the end of this week!**

Sorting and pricing continue Monday through Thursday from 10 – 4; and nights Tuesday through Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We need help all week, please! WE ESPECIALLY NEED HELP on MONDAY as we tackle the Memorial Room. BAKE SALE: Bakers, if you can, please bring in your treasures on Thursday. Barb Todd will be on-site to price things that have not been priced by their bakers from 4 to 5, and 7 to 8 PM on Thursday (and she’ll be here at 8 AM Friday the 23rd, too). If you have not offered to bake something, it’s not too late to talk to her and do so!

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**'BRIEF COLLECTION'** – We're collecting NEW underwear! The Night Ministry's website asks for this in underwear: Dark colors preferred; Men's boxer briefs, sizes M-XXL; Women's briefs, sizes S-XL. They really do not want white if possible. Please bring your "brief collection" to the sanctuary and place it (them) in front of the chancel, where we put baby items at Christmas. Or leave them by the offices so they will be brought up the stairs from there. Thank you in advance for giving important help to those on the margins and living on the edge! Your Micah 6:8 Committee.

**We NEED Nursery Attendants!!** We only have 3 volunteers and 2 parents right now, we desperately need more help. Your service requires 1 hour of your time bi-monthly, if we can get enough helpers. Your service helps the parents get a much-needed break and the kids get to interact with others in the church they might not. Please consider helping, let the office know if you will!

**The Rummage and Bake Sale** will be September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM.

**Our next Village Inn Fundraiser is September 25<sup>th</sup>!** Order food from them on this day, mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser to your server and the church gets 20% of whatever you spend. This is good for ordering carryout & delivery as well.

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# Our People

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**Happy birthday / anniversary!** Having a birthday this week are Errol Mitchell (today), Dylan Kahn, Megan (Knowles) Caras, and Judy's grandson Ryan Puckett. Jackie Meyer and Dave Rosenthal have a wedding anniversary (also today). God bless them all, and their celebrations!

**The local prayer vigil promoting peace, kindness and love which is sponsored by the Niles Township Clergy Forum** takes place this coming Wednesday from 3:00 to 3:07 PM on the Village Green. It is always the 3rd Wednesday of a month, for those 7 minutes. Everyone is invited; the prayers offered are silent but together.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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.

**Donations always needed for our food pantry.** There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

**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.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**September 18, 2022**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

**Prayerful Living**

**Just Peace Sunday**

Michael Neuroth has served for more than a dozen years as the International Policy Advocate at the national United Church of Christ office in Washington, DC. Michael, and his colleagues on this small but mighty staff, are the UCC ear and voice in the nation's capital.

Their work is multiplied by relationships fostered in the Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC), an ecumenical group from across a variety of faith traditions. WISC is made up of at least twelve working groups, which find ways to collaborate and let leadership emerge where there is expertise. They follow public policy and give voice in DC to various issues. Michael's leadership on the Peace and Security Working Group and the International Affairs Working Group have been especially valuable.

As we acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the Just Peace resolution this year, everyone in the United Church of Christ can

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celebrate that identity whether or not they declare the local church a Just Peace church. Just Peace is part of our connection and identity as UCC, since the United Church of Christ was the first denomination to so designate.

On this Just Peace Sunday, local congregations are invited and encouraged to publicly witness and articulate locally what Just Peace means to them as they pray about and act on issues they feel called to in church communities and the world. By celebrating and upholding Just Peace Sunday, you can raise your local profile and also lift up the hard work of our national UCC staff. Just Peace Sunday creates synergy between what we say we are at the national level and who we are at the local level.

According to Michael Neuroth, the work of Just Peace is the work of avoiding conflict and war in the first place. As we look for ways to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, the ecumenism and cooperation that is lived out daily by our staff in the DC office and their colleagues in WISC is one beautiful model for a path forward.

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*Our initial reading is from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, from Chapter 8 verse 18 through and including Chapter 19, verse 1. The Lord has had harsh words and warnings for the people of Judah, and in these words Jeremiah lets his feelings out about this very difficult calling. It's not for nothing he is sometimes called "The weeping prophet." At one point early on we hear God speaking back with a pointed question. It begins, though, and otherwise is, the words of Jeremiah.*

**Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1**

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"

*("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?")*

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn,

and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

"O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!"

*It may help us to remember the context of the threat of persecution as we hear some of what Paul wrote below:*

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**Luke 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you

owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'

And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."