

Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
April 12, 2026
10:00 AM

Second Sunday
Of Easter

Holy Humor
Sunday





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 in Skokie
Order of Worship for Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 10:00am
The Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday is not a recent invention a modern church. Its origins go back hundreds of years as a way of celebrating God's resurrection victory over Satan. The idea was to laugh at Satan who had been outwitted by God. The medieval church believed that Satan could absolutely not stand laughter. At least not genuine laughter. If you laugh at the evil one, he has no power over you. While our theology may be more sophisticated, Holy Humor Sunday recognizes that laughter is a gift of God and a means of grace.

PRELUDE

“Joyful, Joyful!”

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Joy is loose,

All: In the wiggles of the children,

One: The whispers of the youth,

All: The smiles of the adults.

One: We praise God for this glorious day,

All: Let the praise break forth

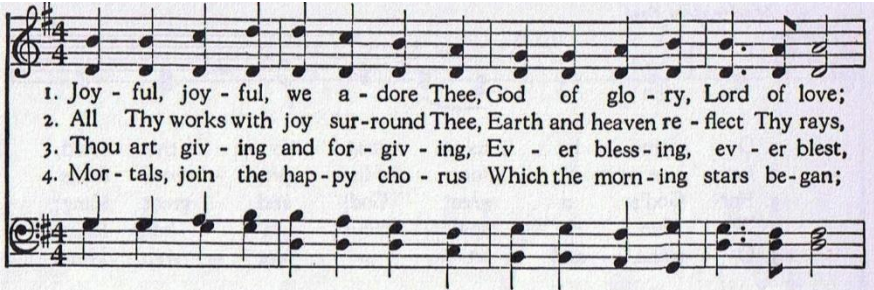
in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

One: Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs

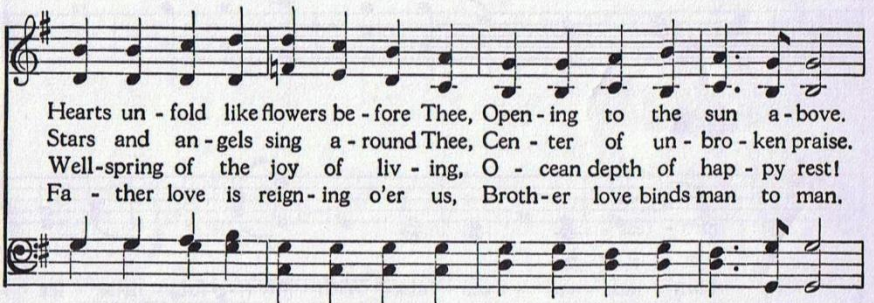
All: Let the laughter be deep,

for we are God's people.

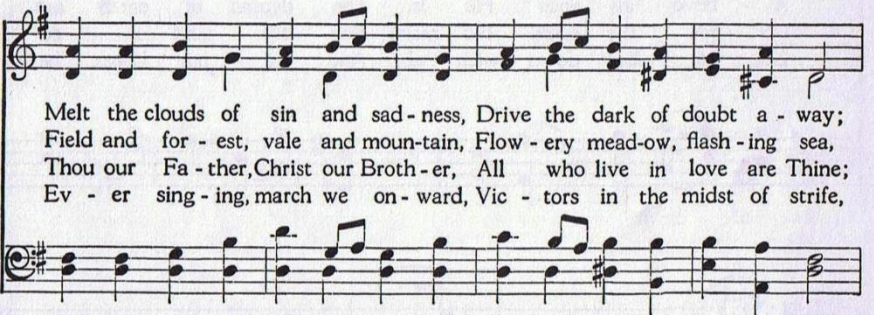
GATHERING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”



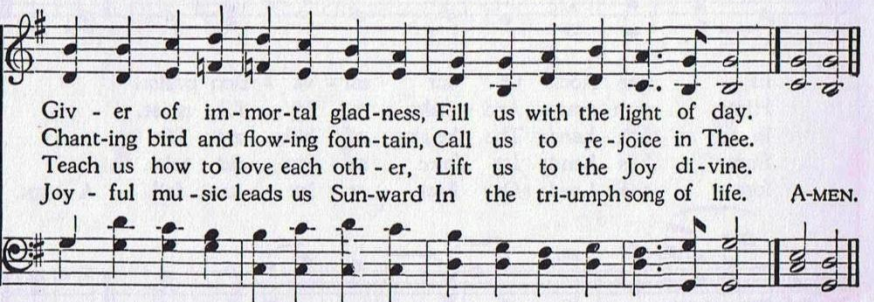
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

You may be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: None of us likes to look foolish. So I ask you: which is sillier? Chasing after the world of gaudy trinkets to flatter our egos; or being a 'fool for Christ', devoted to serving others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: **Chuckling, chortling God, who lifts our hearts when we feel most down, who strikes the light of joy in the midst of despair's gloom, who surprises us with wonder and awe, enter into our hearts this morning, we pray. Open our minds to the endless possibilities you create for growing closer to you with a giggle. Open our eyes to your presence in all things, allowing us to respond in joy. Amen.**

Pause for quiet prayer

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The God of Holy Humor has the last laugh and the last word. That word is Resurrection in Jesus Christ! Christ is Risen! The joke is on human reason and rigidity. Rejoice!"

All: Through the Risen Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

One: All: Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.

All. Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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, Halle”

Let's sing it twice: once straight, then again up tempo, with clapping.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Paul Froelich

Christian Scripture:

Acts 4:32-35

Christian Scripture:

John 20:19-31

MUSICAL MEDITATION “The Lord of the Dance”

SERMON

“The Opposite of Despair”

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Lord of the Dance"

Unison G Em Bm Em Am

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I danced in the moon and the
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i - see, but they would not dance and they
 3. I danced on the sab - bath when I cured the lame, the ho - ly peo - ple
 4. I danced on a Fri - day and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that-'ll

stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung
 dev - il on your back; they bur - ied my bod - y and
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Refrain G Bm

danced on the earth, At Beth-le - hem I had my birth.
 James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.
 me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher-
 they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

- ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher-

- ev-er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

The Congregation may be seated

PASTORAL 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**

EASTER CAROL "Beautiful Day

Tune: "Silent Night"

- 1. Beautiful Day, Glorious Day,
All is new, all's okay!
'Round the tomb there is dancing and song,
See inside that the body is gone.
Christ, the Savior's alive,
Christ, the Savior's alive.**

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.

RESPONSE “Deck the Halls with Easter Lillies”

**A: Deck the halls with Easter lilies,
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
Dance a jig and sing the sillies,
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
At the devil, mean, old bloke,
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!
On whom God has played a joke,
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison*

A: Thank you, Giving God, for humor that allows us to enjoy your gifts to the fullest. We can laugh because you conquered death, the tomb is empty, and your light shines so bright that it overcomes the darkness. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“Go, Tell it On the Mountain”

**A: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is raised.**

**The women found no body their spices to anoint,
Instead they found an angel, God’s message to appoint.**

Chorus

**Christ Jesus went to Mary, and other women too.
And on to the disciples the Holy Spirit blew.**

Chorus

**Now some disciples doubted, but still in faith they grew,
They shared, uniting into a church like me and you.**

Chorus

CHARGE

P: On this Day of Resurrection, follow the new path
Christ has opened up for us.

May you dance an alleluia dance, and sing a laughing
resurrection song.

Laugh with God, love your passion, and let joy reside
in your hearts always.

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE** “Hymn to Joy!”

*We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out
into the world.*

Today's liturgy is adapted from:
 Thom Shuman, lectionaryliturgies@blogspot.com,
 Lyrics adapted from Paul Lintern, from
 <<http://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>>

Ralph Milton:
 <<http://ralphmiltonsrumors.blogspot.com/2009/04/preaching-materials-for-april-19th-2009.html>>

Trinity United Parish,
<http://www.trinityunitedparish.org/lukeswordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/April-10.pdf>

— Colin Gibson, *Words © Hope Publishing Company*,
 from his collection of songs, *Reading the Signature*.

From <https://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Greg Dennis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan



Experience the
French Revolution
from a herstorical
(and hysterical)
female perspective

The Revolutionists

by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Iris Sowlat

Saturday, April 18th, 5pm

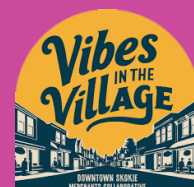
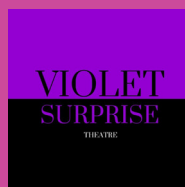
at St. Peter's United Church of Christ | 8013 Laramie, Skokie

Tickets: DowntownSkokie.Community/Revolutionists

\$15 General Admission

Q&A after the show with refreshments provided by Kneads & Wants Bakery

Presented by Violet Surprise Theatre
Sponsored by Skokie Heritage Museum,
Downtown Skokie Merchants Collaborative,
& St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie



News in the Pews

The glow of Easter remains! Our risen Lord has promised to be with us always. He welcomes all of us who have come to worship. Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit!

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

Many thanks to the dozens of St. Peter's folk who assisted us in our Holy Week and Easter services, Easter Egg hunt and Brunch. This has been a meaningful celebration of our faith and connection with our community. Thank you for being Resurrection People who help us to "stand up against" all the powers that collude to defeat our spirits and our possibilities.

“The Revolutionists,” by Lauren Gunderson, presented by Skokie Heritage Museum and St Peter’s UCC on Saturday April 18th at 5pm, followed by a Q&A with the cast and light refreshments from Kneads & Wants Bakery. Dramatized by Violet Surprise Theatre, The Revolutionists is a hysterical and historical (or, more accurately, *herstorical*) play that invites audiences to experience the French Revolution from a female perspective. So don’t pardon our French. Pardon our Frenchwomen and their très merciless treatment during the Reign of Terror. Buy tickets here:

https://www.downtownskokie.community/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzk3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKESb0cw9YgoyDoUbR7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0_cmLFH_aem_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4IUbfGNQ

Experience hope in action! Tour the Night Ministry - the Night Ministry will again be hosting a behind-the-scenes tour on Thursday, May 14th from 5-7PM. The Night Ministry has been a longtime community partner of St. Peter's UCC. Contact MaCheaux Ransom to register: macheaux@thenightministry.org.

Our People

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

- Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness.
- 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!

Happy birthday this week to Marcia Hilliard. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Beth Sterba, our Nursery attendant is Heidi Tarzian. 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."

Please remember to update the office on your current prayer request, we appreciate the help keeping the prayer requests timely and accurate.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

Holy Language

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

White

John 20:19-31

The season of Easter is underway. It's a time where we are being invited to experience the full 50 days of Eastertide, embracing the resurrection promise that breathes newness and vitality into our ordinary days.

Chances are, though, there are many — perhaps even you, dear reader — who are feeling anything but hopeful. Perhaps your faith in a great God is as stale as the leftover jellybeans that filled last week's Easter baskets.

Take heart, for you are not alone. Doubts plague everyone, even the saintliest of saints among us. After her death, it was revealed how Mother Teresa battled many dark nights of the soul, questioning God's presence in her life.

And long before Mother Teresa's doubting, there was Thomas. Known as "the twin," Thomas was absent that first Easter evening when Jesus came into the room speaking words of comfort and assurance: "Peace be with you."

Still reeling from Jesus' death, Thomas couldn't believe his friends who told him the great news of Jesus being alive. He didn't dare to

believe for the pain of losing Jesus once before was enough. Why dare to hope again?

To protect his heart from breaking with false hope, Thomas said that he had to see Jesus in the flesh for himself. He had to be able to put his fingers in Jesus' pierced side to believe the impossible news that he was walking among the living.

Thomas got what he asked for. Jesus returns and stands before the doubter and shows him the scars. It's then Thomas utters the first public confession of faith, "My Lord and my God!"

Doubt. It haunts us all. It makes us insist on proof today for evidence of a better tomorrow. Why do we need to see before we believe? It is not an intellectual quest as some might think, but a protective reflex born out of too many shattering-heart let downs.

Like Thomas, we can relate to the scary vulnerability of risking our hearts to believe in hopeful possibilities, especially when there's no guarantee we won't be let down yet again.

But as Eastertide gets underway, we are given the good news that with God we can risk our hearts. We can believe boldly in God's care for us, even without hard proof. Even on those days when we think God has forgotten us. God has not. God shows up at the right time. The Easter promise is that our hopes will never be crushed, because God who raised Jesus from the dead is raising us from our own tomb of doubts.

God of new beginnings and bright promises, transform our doubts into beautiful truths this Eastertide. Open our guarded hearts to the amazing possibilities that You have waiting for us. And help us, O God, to always believe without the proof we often insist on. 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.)
