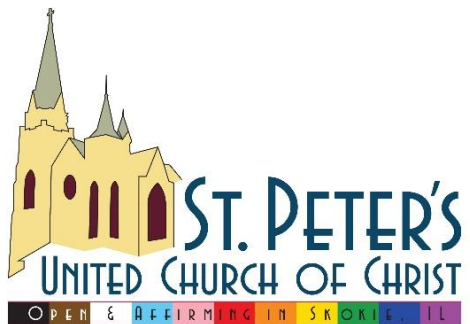


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
July 6, 2025
10:00 AM**

**Fourth 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, July 6, 2025 at 10:00am
Fourth 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

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 30*

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful,
and give thanks to God's holy name

All: Shepherd and Source, you guide us in wisdom.
You cover us in love.

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful,
and give thanks to God's holy name

**All: Comforter and Spirit, you encourage us in times
of trouble. You strengthen us for the journey.**

One: Sing praises to the Holy One, O you faithful,
and give thanks to God's holy name

**All: Redeemer and Friend, you hear our cry,
redeem the years of struggle, and restore our joy.
Praise the Holy One!**

One: Let us worship God.

HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no shad-ow of
Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and stars in their
Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear pres-ence to

turn-ing with thee. Thou chang-est not; thy com-pas-sions they fail not.
cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness,
cheer and to guide, strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row:

As thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness Morn-ing by morn-ing, new mer-cies I see. All I have

need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord un-to me!

©Michael Kravchuk.com

You may be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: God sends us into the world as agents of restoration and change. God speaks in the stillness of our rest and the chaos of a frenzied world. God guides through troubling times, and move us to dance in celebration. Let us tell the truth before this God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Spirit of the Living God, temptation surrounds us. Self-preservation lures us to indifference. Fear of confrontation coaxes us to keep silent about things that matter. The desire to be right entices us to ignore the cries of our neighbors. Too often we ignore the call to go and to be in favor of staying stuck in our attitudes and behaviors. Too often, we are the ones who refuse to welcome you into our intimate space, who resist the work of transformation, and who remain unresponsive to the burdens of our siblings in creation. Spirit of Gentleness, redirect us back to the path of life, the way of justice, and the hope of peace. Amen.

Quiet Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Hear the good news of the gospel. God is the source of our identity. God challenges us to transform. God loves us, now and always.

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

One: In the name of Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture
Psalter

Rita McMahon

II Kings 5: 1-14

Psalm 30

You may wish to stand in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL

You may be seated.

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

SERMON

“Called to Serve”

SUNG RESPONSE "In the Midst of New Dimensions" v. 1

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

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.

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

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

Chorus

**A: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles
soar: We your people, yours the journey, now and
ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Creator, bless these gifts that we bring to this community and the world. May our time be used preciousy, our treasure shared faithfully, and our talents demonstrated gloriously in your name. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.

All: Christ gathers us from around the earth to commune at this table.

One: Across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence, and among the poorest of the poor,

All: we share a meal, remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.

One: And so, come: you from the East and you from the West, from the North and from the South.

All: Come. Come with your doubts, come with your hopes, come with your inadequacies and with your strengths.

One: Come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: We praise you, God . . .

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

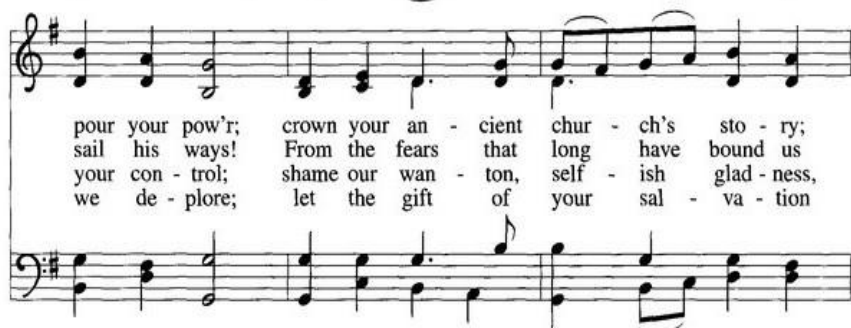
Prayer of Gratitude (*unison*)

A: Giver of life, Giver of Grace, In this bread we have found terrible weight and its infinite grace. In this cup we found a love that drenches and makes us anew. Now let us go bearing the bread, carrying the cup and laying the table within a hungry world. Amen.

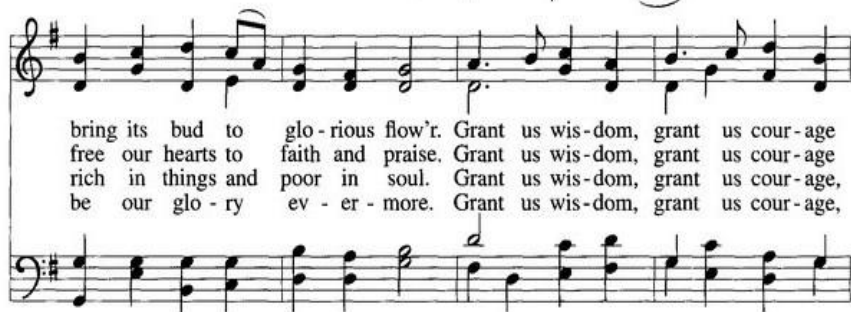
CLOSING HYMN "God of Grace and Glory"



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

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 **Like Lambs: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, UCC Worship Ways** by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, 2025. Confession and prayer of dedication from **May Peace Be: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, 2022. Communion liturgy from Katie Minnis, **Prophet Margins**, from UMCDiscipleship.org.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

The psalmist invites us: "Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name" (Psalm 30:4, NRSV). Welcome to worship.

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

Thank you to Darina Tatarishvili for filling in for Ben today.

Rummage sorting, NEW day added– This week we add **Mondays from 10AM to 12PM** to our sorting schedule, as well as **Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays from 10AM to 2PM**, 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!

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.

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/>.

A Celebration of Life for Betty Steek will be on Monday, July 14th at 4:30PM. All who knew her are welcome to attend.

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 Hillary Gack and Wendy Svenson. **Happy Anniversary to** Gail and Greg Thomas.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Olivia Altmayer, and our Nursery Attendant will be Kathy Zipperer.

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

Surprising Prophets (7/6/2025)

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14

Do you know someone who is an overthinker, complicating life with their if's, and's or but's? Perhaps you know someone who can take the easiest tasks and turn them into trying ordeals. Do I even dare ask if you could be that person?

If so, you are not alone. Many people overthink, which ultimately leads to unnecessary worry. I'll admit that I'm one of those people who does both — overthinks and overcomplicates. I'm not sure why I do that? Maybe because it's hard to let ourselves truly believe that faith in God can move the mountains that we create out of life's mole hills. And maybe, just maybe, we can't allow ourselves to believe in a mountain-moving God because that belief requires us to give up the façade that we're in control.

Let me introduce you to Naaman, an overthinker standing in the need of more faith — and healing. The celebrated army commander of the King of Syria, whose name in Hebrew translates into “pleasant and beautiful,” is anything but. He is suffering from a skin affliction, most likely leprosy, which carries with it the societal stigma of being unclean.

But when Naaman hears that Elisha, the prophet of Israel, can heal him, he seeks him out. The visit doesn't go well. Naaman becomes furious

with the seemingly dismissive way the prophet speaks to him. How dare this lowly servant of God tell a prominent army commander to simply jump into the Jordan River and bathe. Not only does Naaman have more impressive rivers back home, but healing leprosy cannot be as easy as washing.

Naaman turns to leave in a huff, but his servants convince him to listen to the prophet's surprising remedy. One even makes the very convincing point that if the instructions were complicated, would Naaman be quick to follow through? Perhaps it's time for Naaman to check his ego and stop overthinking the mysterious ways that God works.

He gives in, washes himself as instructed by Elisha, and voila — his skin is healed.

More times than not, we are like Naaman, seeking healing and answers to life's questions but then not trusting the surprising ways God leads us to healing.

What if we decided to finally trust God this day? What if we stopped making things harder for ourselves by overthinking and overcomplicating life? Could wholeness and restoration be as simple as crying out to God, "I believe, now help my unbelief." We won't know until we try.

Healing God, we stand before today in need of Your gentle touch. Restore us to wholeness. Increase our faith and help us to stop overthinking and overcomplicating the life You have blessed us with. 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.)
