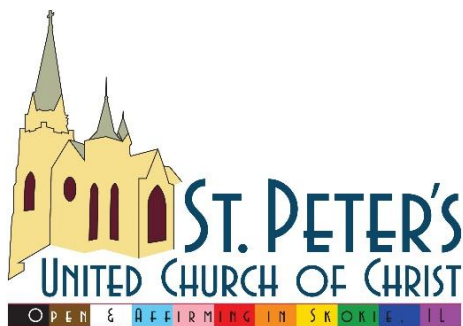


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 2,
2025
10:00 AM**

**Twenty-first
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, November 2, 2025 at 10:00am
Twenty-first 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 “One Bread, One Body” arr. Smith

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With the music of our hearts and with the songs of our lips we worship and praise God.

All: For this is the Creator who inspires our wonder
and the Presence who deserves our service.

One: How can we serve this God beyond all gods?

All: How can we respond to God's loving kindness?

One: No gift could ever do justice to the good that God has given.

All: Instead, we praise You with rejoicing voices and
with the silent adoration of our hearts.

OPENING HYMN "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

DESCANT stanzas 3 and 4

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed, With - out our aid He
 3. O en - ter then His gates with praise, Ap - proach with joy His
 4. For why? the Lord our God is good, His mer - cy is for

cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
 did us make; We are His flock, He doth us feed,
 courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless His name al - ways,
 ev - er sure; His truth at all times firm - ly stood,

Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
 And for His sheep He doth us take.
 For it is seem - ly to so to do.
 And shall from age to age en - dure. A - MEN.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

One: God paints the world with holy vision, whispers through our voices and writes on our hearts. Let us quiet ourselves so we can be at one with this God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of grace and love, sometimes we feel too small and insignificant to be of any notice to you at all. Yet you provide a tree for us to climb so that we can see Jesus: a tree of faithfulness, compassion, love, hope, joy. Again and again we have opportunity to witness your saving presence in our lives. Help us when we forget how much we are loved by Christ. Open our hearts to receive this invitation today. AMEN.

Moment for quiet reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God sees us fully and calls us into new life. For there is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us that will ever stop God from loving us.

All: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

One: Thanks be to God!

All: Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: 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"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Sterba

Hebrew Scripture

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Psalm 119:137-144

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

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

Please be seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Zacchaeus Was a Tax Man”

arr. Winfrey Gillette

REFLECTION

HYMN “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

The musical score is written for a hymn in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with accompaniment in the bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Eb, Eb7, Db/Ab, Ab, Eb, F7, Bb7, Eb, Eb7, Db/Ab, Ab, Adim7, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Ab/Eb, and Eb. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your
Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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

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: Holy God, give us courage and strength to serve you in all that we do. Help us learn to serve and witness to your love. Let us place our trust and our lives in your loving care, now and always. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

One: Rich, poor; young, old; sinner, saint. We are all God's children. At this table, God transforms each of us into the people we are meant to be.

All: Broken, we are mended; separated from others, we are made one.

One: This table is open to all who wish to know the love of God in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

All: All are welcome. No exceptions.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the God of all hope be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift your hearts to the One who makes our feast.

All: We offer our hearts to God who is in our midst.

One: Sing praises to the One who feeds you with
goodness and hope.

All: Our hearts and voices resound with joy.

One: Let us pray. . .

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer of Gratitude

All: May your life and your vision grow within us, O God. May we break open our lives and pour out our love as Jesus did, until all can share in the bounty of your love. Let us go from this table as a renewed community, gathered in the way you have written on our hearts. We give you thanks, now and always! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Take My Gifts"



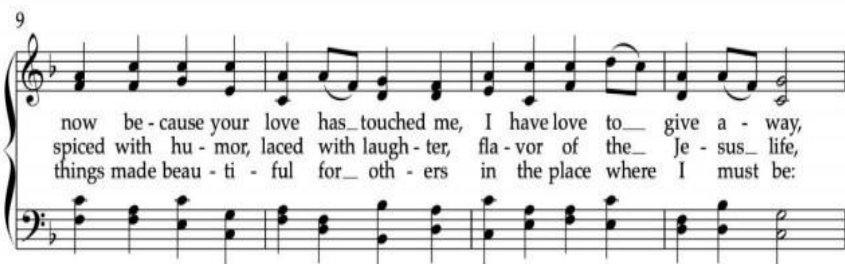
1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2. Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
 3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer, gifts that I have yet to find,

5



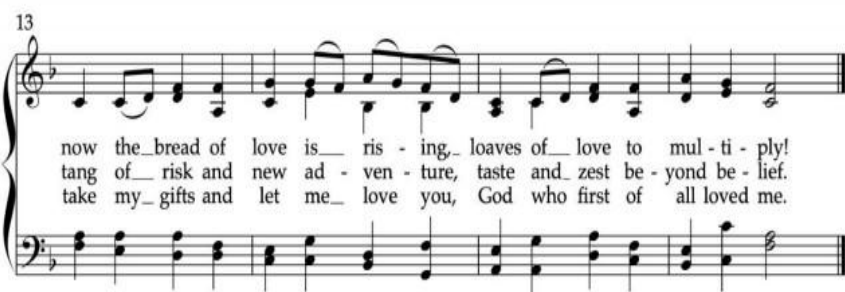
gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
 har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to shar - pen, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

9



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter, fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

13



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Take My Gifts”

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

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:
“Reformation and Reconciliation” by LT Leticia Rouser.
ucc.org/worship-ways
Nancy Townley, from ministrymatters.com/
Thom Shuman from <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being
taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7th 2025.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please take your plants after Christmas Eve worship if possible.



Name:	Phone #:	
In Honor Of:	In Memory Of:	

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6") Single	\$16.00	
	Marble (6") Single	\$16.00	
Grand Total			

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	
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	
Total Amount (\$)		

News in the Pews

Let us be grateful for the Word of God which is like a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (see Psalm 119:105). We rejoice that you have come to unite with us in praising the Creator of us all.

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

Signs of Hope: This week, have you noticed something that gives you hope? Please email or text them to Brenda so we can use them in our Sunday morning worship.

Laura Olson will be out of the office this week. Sharon Johnson will be filling in from 8-12pm daily.

Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is THIS Saturday, November 8th from 10AM-3PM. Over 40 vendors will fill our Gym and Lanford Hall, and items for sale include jewelry, hand-made crafts and clothing, homemade treats, holiday baskets and much more. In addition, explore an array of baked goods from St. Peter's finest bakers – cookies, brownies, and bread, all individually packaged! We will also have raffle baskets filled with goodies to take a chance on. Bring a friend or a bus load and knock out your holiday gift giving list, or just find something special for you!

Next Sunday is Laura Olson's 15th Anniversary at St. Peter's UCC. Join us for a coffee hour celebration after worship, November 9th.

Holiday dinner donations needed NOW at the Jewel! We are so blessed to give out complete Holiday Dinners for 4-6 from the Jewel at the Village Crossing Shopping center in Niles. These dinners go to needy families in Skokie School District 69, as well as folks that come to our door and use our mini-pantry. But we can't meet the need if folks don't donate. Last year we came up short, so if you can donate now, and again after Thanksgiving, we can ensure as many families as possible have happy holidays! Orders for the dinners are placed about 2 weeks before the actual date, so don't wait to donate. If you have any questions or know of someone in need of a dinner, contact me (Laura) in the office.

Poinsettia Orders are being taken now! Find a form in this bulletin or the November Announcer. Orders must be in by Dec. 7th. Thank you!

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!

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."

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!

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.

Our People

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

- The Kuras family welcomed a baby girl Virginia last week! All are doing well.
 - Daughters of Ann Herren; Jenny, facing eye surgery November 6th, and Betsy, a second surgery for breast cancer on November 10th in Oregon.
Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Chad McCoy and his family.
 - 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!

Happy Birthday this week to Brian Russell, Anna Riley, Bridgette Sterba, Michael Taheny and Paul Brzozowski. **Happy Anniversary to** Jenn and Rich Schneider.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Annie Noorts, and Rita McMahon 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.



MISSION MOMENTS

Transforming Love (November 2, 2025)

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Luke 19:1-10

There's a church school song sung throughout the generations teaching children about Zacchaeus, "a wee little man" who wanted to see Jesus amid the crowds towering over him that he climbed a tree to catch a glimpse.

As the song goes, while in the tree, Jesus spots the tax collector and shouts, "Zacchaeus, you come down. For I'm going to your house today."

And Jesus did just that. He dined with Zacchaeus. It was a transformative meal because Zacchaeus, honored to host such a great guest, opened his heart — and coin bag — and vowed to share his wealth with others.

While Jesus was pleased, others were not.

We have all been where Zacchaeus was. No, not precariously straddling tree limbs to see Jesus. We have been in the place where others might not think we deserve redemption, forgiveness, or even that holy second chance.

Why is it that we often begrudge others of God's grace?

While I can't think of who might not have been happy with my second chances in life, I can vividly remember the times I have been in the crowd wondering why the Lord noticed someone like Zacchaeus.

Did my eyes roll with the others? Did I join in the disparaging whispers? I should have been rejoicing that if Zacchaeus could change, so could I. For the Lord sees me — and you.

That day, Jesus saw into the heart of Zacchaeus when others couldn't. He knew this “wee little man” wanted to grow spiritually, as witnessed in the tree he scurried into — a sycamore.

In Israel, the sycamore tree symbolizes spiritual elevation. It represents the willingness to change. Zacchaeus was willing to change that day.

What about us? How badly do we want to see the Lord? Would we be willing to climb the branches of change, hoist ourselves up on the limbs of spiritual elevation, and feel the bark of renewal?

The good news is we don't have to find a tree to climb. Jesus has already spotted us, and he knows the goodness that is in our hearts.

God of grace and mercy, how reassuring it is to know that we are never lost in the crowd. You see our hearts and know our struggles. You never withhold your healing love. And for that, we thank you. 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.)

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”
and you will not save?

3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

4 So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

2 I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he^[c] will answer concerning my complaint.

2 Then the Lord answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

3 For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

4 Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Psalm 119:137-144

You are righteous, O Lord,

and your judgments are right.

¹³⁸ You have appointed your decrees in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.

¹³⁹ My zeal consumes me
because my foes forget your words.

¹⁴⁰ Your promise is well tried,
and your servant loves it.

¹⁴¹ I am small and despised,
yet I do not forget your precepts.

¹⁴² Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
and your law is the truth.

¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have come upon me,
but your commandments are my delight.

¹⁴⁴ Your decrees are righteous forever;
give me understanding that I may live.

Luke 19:1-10

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."