


# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

## Sunday, November 15, 2026
## 10:00 AM

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**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL

# 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
# 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL 60077
# Order of Worship for
# Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
# Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10:00am

*Listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connect all of us gathered here, those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.*

**PRELUDE** Selected

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather in the presence of God, who walks with us through every season of life.

**All: In times of calm and in times of storm, God is with us.**

One: When the winds rise and the waters threaten, when fear and uncertainty surround us,

**All: We seek God's peace, courage, and hope.**

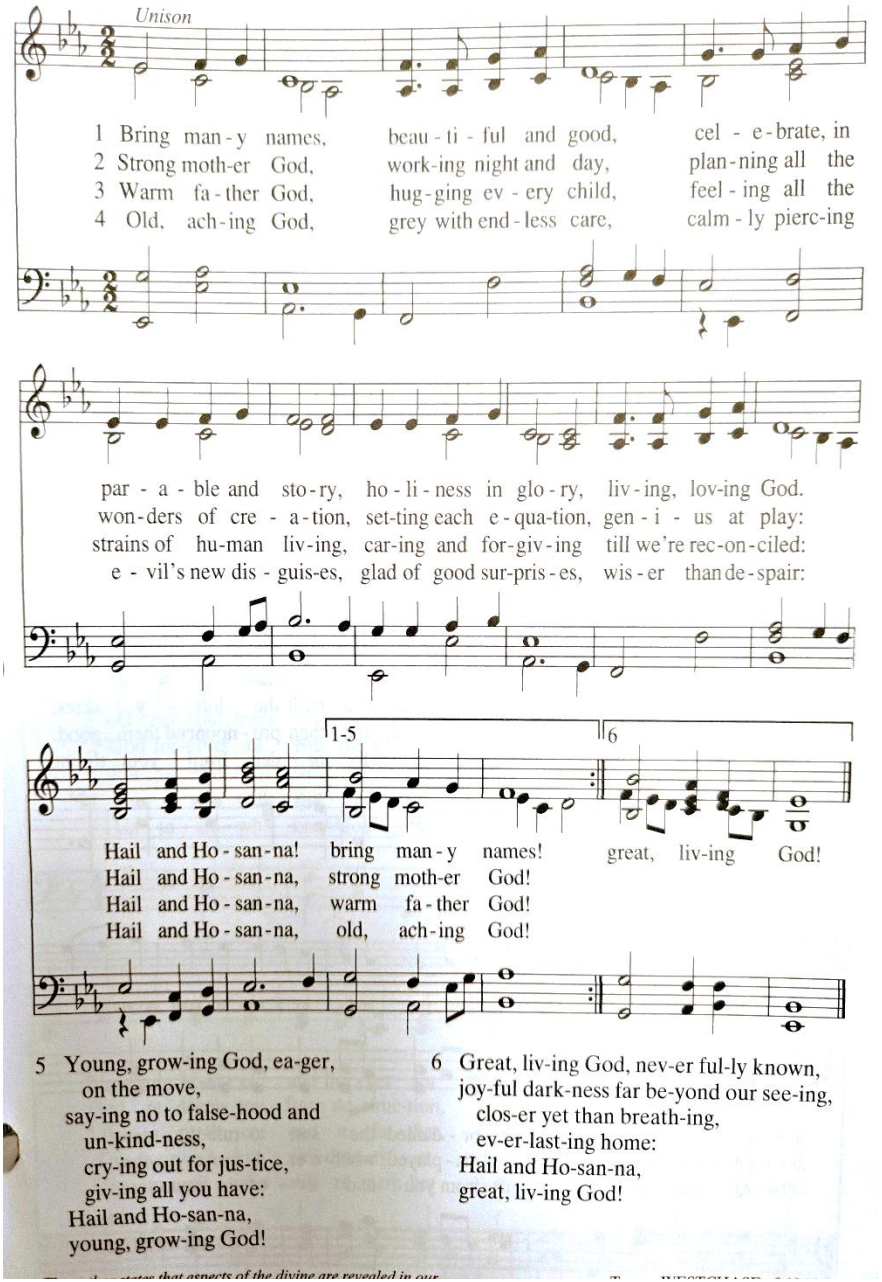
One: When our neighbors suffer, when homes are damaged and communities struggle to recover,

**All: God calls us to respond with compassion and love.**

One: We are called to be repairers of what is broken, restorers of hope, and companions on the journey.

**All: With open hearts and willing hands, we answer God's call. Let us worship the God who strengthens us in the storm and inspires us to bring hope to the world!**

## **GATHERING HYMN** "Bring Many Names"



**CALL TO TRANSFORMATION**

One: God calls us to be people of compassion, to recognize the struggles of our neighbors, and to respond with love. Yet sometimes we become so occupied with our own lives that we overlook the suffering of others. Sometimes the needs of the world seem overwhelming, and we wonder what difference we can make. Let us come before God with open hearts, seeking forgiveness, renewal, and the courage to put our faith into action.

**PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**All: Loving God, you call us to be your hands and feet in a world where so many are hurting. Yet we confess that sometimes we turn away from suffering, believing the needs are too great or that we have too little to offer. Forgive us when we allow fear, uncertainty, or indifference to keep us from reaching out to others. Open our eyes to those who are struggling, soften our hearts with compassion, and strengthen our willingness to serve. Remind us that even small acts of kindness can bring hope and healing. Help us become repairers of what is broken, restorers of hope, and faithful companions to those who need our care. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*Pause for quiet prayer*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Hear the good news! God's love is steadfast, God's mercy is abundant, and God's grace meets us wherever we are. Even when we fall short, God does not turn away from us, but invites us to begin again.

**All: Through God's grace, we are forgiven, renewed, and strengthened to love and serve.**

One: May we go forward with open hearts and willing hands, trusting that God's love can work through each of us to bring healing and hope to our world.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**
**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Karen Christianson

**Hebrew Scripture** Isaiah 58:6-12

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

**Mark 4:35-41**

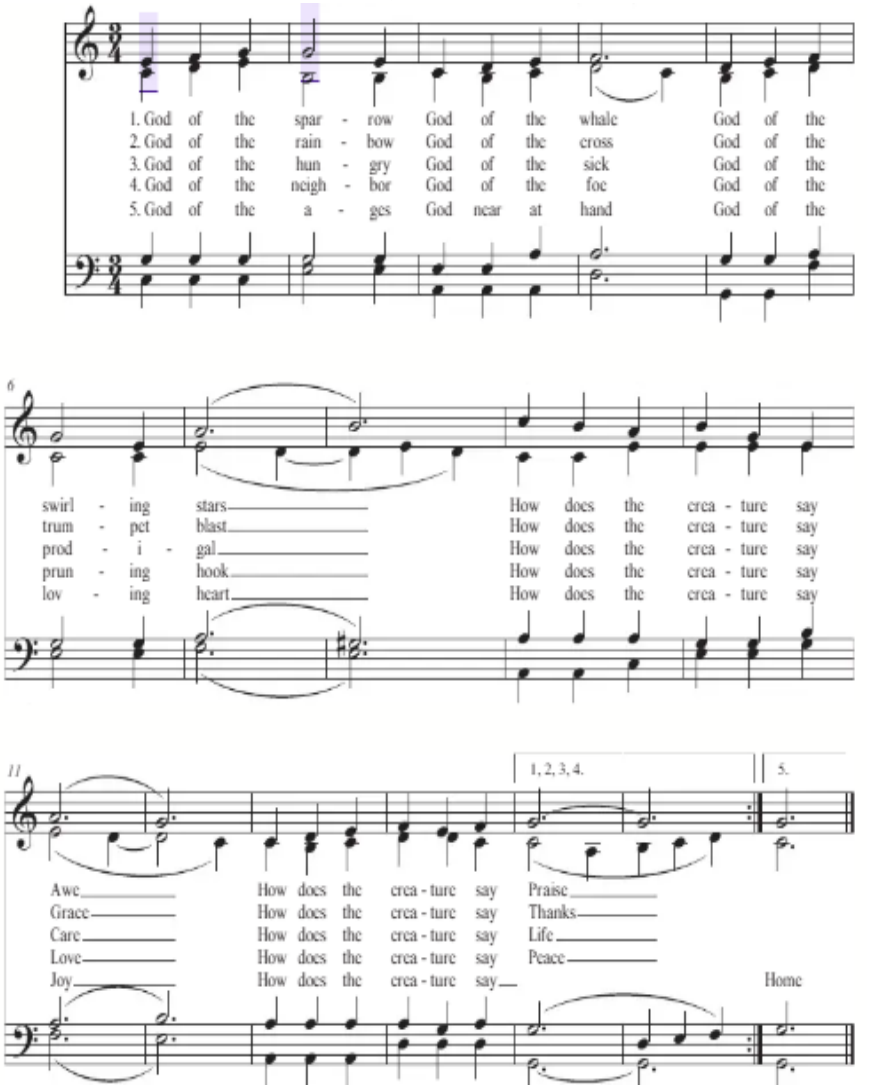
*Please be seated.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "How Can I Keep From Singing"

**SERMON** "After the Storm: Becoming Repairers of Hope"

**HYMN OF RESPONSE:**

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"



**CALL TO PRAYER**
**JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS**
**SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

**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**

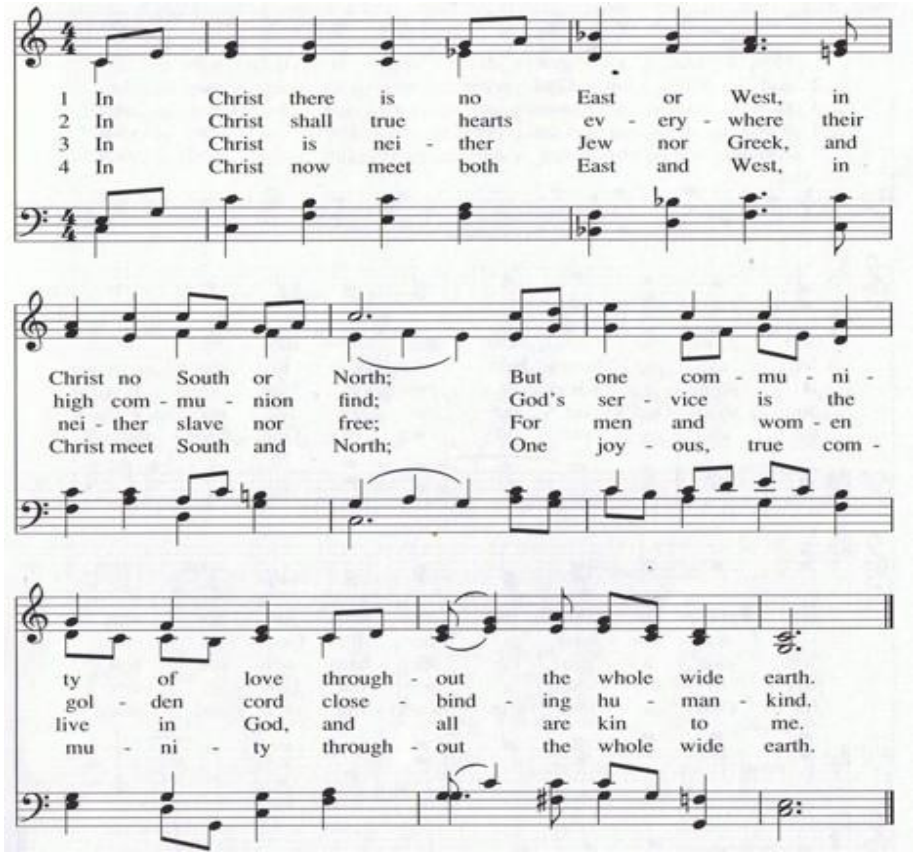
**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**
**praise God, all creatures, here below!**
**Alleluia, Alleluia!**
**Praise God above, you heavenly host,**
**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!**
**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: Holy Love, receive these gifts. Bless those who have accepted the call to generosity and those entrusted with the responsibility of these offerings. May your church be enlivened and your people nurtured in care through these tangible expressions of our love of you and neighbor. Amen.**

**HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"In Christ there is No East or West"

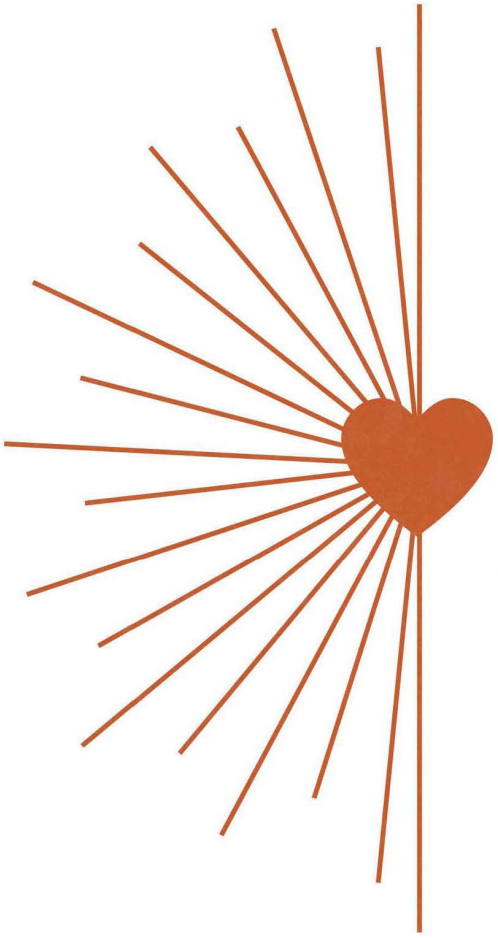


## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** Selected

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

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



# THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."
- Matthew 6:21

The Book of Proverbs may not be the first place one turns to for ideas about stewardship, philanthropy, or generosity. However, Proverbs has a lot to say about living one's best life. Too often, living a good life focuses on accumulating wealth and goods. **Proverbs—and Jesus—teaches that a good life is much more than hoarding money and things.**

The cycle of endless consumption and accumulation is as old as time and is evolving every minute. While corporations, advertising, and marketing strategies urge us—some would even say, compel—us to buy, buy, buy, it is human nature to question if that's all there is.

The Book of Proverbs provides answers to that question.

At the center of Proverbs is a profound and unshakable reverence for God—recognizing and acknowledging that God is the creator and sustainer of all life. Here we read that pursuing wisdom leads to longevity, wealth, esteem in the eyes of others, and a healthy respect for others. Choosing the path of wisdom leads to purpose and meaning as one moves through life.

A good life is lived in a trusting and faithful relationship with God, who blesses us with meaning and purpose, and authentic and deep relationships, as we live in humble obedience to God's teachings—lives of love, generosity, integrity, and in community. Jesus tells us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt 6:21).

Treasure in this context, and in Proverbs 3, is not just material wealth and resources. Treasure encompasses our time, talent, skills, expertise, knowledge, presence, influence, activism, volunteerism, and more—all to be cultivated and shared generously.

## CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

| Annual Income | Monthly Income | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 10% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **20,000** | **1,667** | 33 | 50 | 67 | 83 | 167 |
| **25,000** | **2,083** | 42 | 63 | 83 | 104 | 208 |
| **30,000** | **2,500** | 50 | 75 | 100 | 125 | 250 |
| **35,000** | **2,917** | 58 | 88 | 117 | 146 | 292 |
| **40,000** | **3,333** | 67 | 100 | 133 | 167 | 333 |
| **45,000** | **3,750** | 75 | 113 | 150 | 188 | 375 |
| **50,000** | **4,167** | 83 | 125 | 167 | 208 | 417 |
| **60,000** | **5,000** | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 500 |
| **75,000** | **6,250** | 125 | 188 | 250 | 313 | 625 |
| **100,000** | **8,333** | 167 | 250 | 333 | 417 | 833 |
| **125,000** | **10,417** | 208 | 313 | 417 | 521 | 1042 |
| **150,000** | **12,500** | 250 | 375 | 500 | 625 | 1250 |
| **200,000** | **16,667** | 333 | 500 | 667 | 833 | 1667 |

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even **1% more of our annual income** would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God's world. **Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!**

# News in the Pews

**The author of Psalm 42 remembers going with the crowd to the house of God "with the voice of joy and praise" (Psalm 42:4, NKJV). May we share that same spirit of gladness today as we gather to worship our Creator and approach his throne of grace. A warm welcome to all!**

**Pastor Brenda will be back after the 16th.** A huge thank you to Reverend David Wywialowski filling in for her this week.

**Church Council has been moved** until the 22nd after worship.

**Wreath orders were due last Thursday.** See Rich Schneider on any last minute additions.

**Donations and volunteers needed to help collect donations for the Holiday Meals program!** Go ONLY to the Village Crossing Jewel foods in Niles to donate to help fund the cost of a dinner for 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas. New this year the Jewel is asking for us to have folks come to help solicit donations and man a table for a few hours. So if you can help us help others, let Laura in the office know. Thanks so much!!

**There is no Women's Guild meeting this month**. Join them in December for their Christmas meeting!

**Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall and colder weather.** We made it through summer, thanks to all of you for donating! Now we need a good supply for the fall/early winter. If you can donate, bring your items to the shelves outside the offices, to the office doors or on Sundays. Thank you so much!

**November 20th is Trans Remembrance Day.** We will remember in worship November 22nd.

**November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent!**

# Our People

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

- Marlene Russell, who has been moved Alden on Touhy to start rehabilitation.
- The nephew of Joe Harrington, Judah Prime, who is battling complications from surgery for a birth defect.
- Aaron Chavez and family on the passing of his mother Virginia.
- The family of Mark Williams.
- Annie's friend Renee has been moved to a skilled nursing facility. Day by day she is incrementally better. Please continue to pray for her healing.
- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- Annie Noorts' friend Geo Bonamasso who is fighting cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- 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.
- 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 Chad McCoy, Christine Svenson, Heidi Tarzian and Pat Mauer Erdman. Belated wishes to Paul Froelich, who's birthday was Friday Nov 13th.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Rich Schneider, our Nursery attendant is Rita McMahon. 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."

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# MISSION MOMENTS

## November 15, 2026
## Matthew 25:14-30
## Extravagant Opportunity

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."