



Welcome

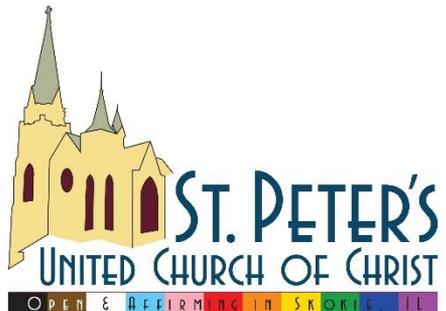
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 22,
2026
10:00 AM**

**First Sunday in
Lent**



40 DAYS
OF
Lent



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 in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 10:00am
First Sunday in Lent

Meditation 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

One: After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.

All: **Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.**

One: Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

All: **Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.**

GATHERING HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"



1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
 3. When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al-most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,



through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
 at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. During this Lenten season, help us to journey into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Hidden God,
we bring to this sanctuary
and place on this table,
our burdens and brokenness,
our self-image bruised and hurting,
our fears, shame, doubts and anxieties,
the raw materials we ask You to bless and
change,
that in our dark tunnels
we may begin to see light
and in our desert experiences
we may find You. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God made us and pronounced us very good. Grace and mercy always make goodness possible.

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

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barbara Todd

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Please be seated.

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

SERMON "Temptation and Healing"

HYMN "Come! Let us Live in the Light"



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love love the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in ford We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

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.**

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

Sung

**We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: We do not live on bread alone, but by your Word,
loving God. May that Word fill our hearts and our
hands, all that we have, and all that we are, that it
may be a blessing in your world. In Jesus' name, we
ask it. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "O God, How We Have Wandered"

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring,
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

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:

*"Called To Be The Church," from the United Church of Canada.
and
Worship Ways from the United Church of Christ.*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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

2026 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Please find below the order form for the Easter plants



that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. There are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders

may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 15, 2026.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	12.00	
	Azalea 6"pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.50	
	Tulip 6" pot	8.50	
	Kalanchoes	11.00	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:

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

BUNCO NIGHT

\$5

donation
gets you

- drinks
- dessert
- snack bag



Games
Snacks



Raffle Prizes

**March 7th
7-10pm**

Prizes, games, and the best raffle in town!
Don't miss this fun family night out!

To reserve a table for your group:
Call Office (847-673-8166) by March 6th.

For more details, see "Upcoming Events" on stpeteruccskokie.org homepage



A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 14th 9-12_{pm}
Feb 15th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC
8013 Laramie

Open to All!

News in the Pews

We're gathered to praise a faithful God whose promises never fail. Scripture reminds us, "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him" (2 Corinthians 1:20, ESV). May our worship today echo that "Amen," bringing glory to Christ who is always with us.

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

Please stay and join us for our second New Members class after worship. We'd like not just new members, but everyone who is able from the congregation to join us.

Easter Flower orders are being taken now. Purchase spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter, then take them home! Order form in this bulletin or in the March Announcer.

2026 Lenten Devotionals are now available upon request. Please email or call the office with your preference of a PDF or printed copy. Thanks!

Our Soup-n-Study begins next Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30PM. Join Pastor and others as we gather for a light meal and discussion. Order the study guide here:
https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/listen-up-bible-studies?_pos=1&_psq=Philippians&_ss=e&_v=1.0&variant=42446076444739

Our  for the Veterans home essentials starts this month! We are collecting household goods of all types, to put in new homes of veterans exiting homelessness. See insert for all the details. Boxes to collect items will be in Lanford Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much for your help!

BUNCO is March 7th at 7:00PM. See flyer for more details and join us!

New Members Classes – The official dates for classes are Sundays; February 22nd, March 1st and March 22nd. Note a change from March 8th to the 22nd. If you are interested in joining and haven't already signed up, talk to Pastor Brenda or the office.

Bunco prizes needed! We are now looking for Bunco prizes, new items of any type and cost that we can give away during our Bunco raffles. We have 3 tables of prizes; each table has more valuable items. So, whether you have something expensive or inexpensive, we'll take it all. Talk to the office or Carol Iannotti, Heidi Tarzian or Laurie Mitchell for more details.

The Wizard of OZ starring our very own Ricky Riley will be playing from February 28th through March 1, 2026. Tickets are on Sale now, click this link or cut and paste it into your browser:

<https://specialgiftstheatre.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F29512>. Ricky will be one of the actors playing the Tin Man and a Munchkin. We're so excited for you Ricky!!

Our People

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

- Bill Schaller had valve replacement surgery 2 weeks ago and is doing great.
 - Judy Paige's daughter's friend Dave Stevenson in NW Memorial in the ICU with an aortic pump waiting on a Transplant.
 - Betsy, daughter of Ann Herren, is still undergoing radiation therapy for her breast cancer. This is her second breast cancer.
 - Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
 - Mark Taylor.
 - Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Chad McCoy and his family.
 - Richard Hook who had a stroke.
 - Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
 - 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.
 - 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 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 Autumn Fink, Eric Svenson and Lincoln Svenson. **Happy Anniversary this week** to Carol and Richard Hook.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Carolyn Van Til, our Nursery attendant is Mike Ryan. 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.



MISSION MOMENTS

Abundant Grace

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

PURPLE

Matthew 4:1-11

The season of Lent begins with a 40-day trip into the harsh and desolate wilderness. While it might not be as enticing as a trip to Tahiti, it is an important one nevertheless. It is our time to learn from Jesus how to deal with our own wild beasts, our own hungers and thirsts, and our own run-ins with the Tempter, by leaning on God's Word.

This year, though, I don't need to say "yes" to this invitation to follow Jesus into the desert. That's because I have never emerged. I have been in a state of wilderness lostness for quite some time. Wild beasts remain nipping at my ankles. False promises of stones turning into bread have not satiated the hollow pit in my soul. And tempters seem to be trying to get my attention everywhere I turn.

It is easy to "do" Lent when everything is right in the world. When we feel safe and hopeful, Lent becomes a season of eagerly listening to God, slowing down, praying more, and helping others. But when worries of rising grocery bills and whether it is safe to go out in a public place overtake your thoughts, you wonder: Is this harsh world the norm?

I know I am not alone asking this, as studies show how hurtful and hateful society has become. There was a recent poll that revealed a whopping 47% of Americans agreed that people have become ruder to one another since Covid. The other day, a colleague shared an insight that I found profound. She observed how there was a growing sense of entitlement, yet no one had any shame over the things they said and did.

Perhaps this Lenten season is not so much about entering the wilderness as it is about helping one another exit it — to find our way back to hope by holding even tighter to God’s Word, by kicking the wild beasts away, and by claiming the name of Christ when tempters tout false promises.

For here is the good news for all my perpetual wilderness wanderers. There are always — always — angels among us eagerly waiting to administer the help that we need. Perhaps there is one sitting in the pew next to you.

Redeeming God, there are many of us who seem to be trapped in a never-ending wilderness. The weight of the world’s worries and fears are robbing us of joy and hope. Strengthen us. Grant us courage. Increase our faith. May this Lent we reach out to one another so that we emerge from our desert desolation together, united in a love that no evil can destroy. 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.)

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

³Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,^[b] knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.