



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 30, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Lorel Park Worship





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
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 30, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: One: We gather beneath the open sky, surrounded by the beauty of creation—reminders that life is always growing, changing, and becoming.

All: We come to worship the God who meets us here.

One: Jesus calls us to follow—not along the easiest path,
but along the way of courage, compassion, and costly love.

All: We come ready to follow, even when the way is uncertain.

One: Jesus reminds us that when we loosen our grip on what we think we must protect,
we may discover a life deeper and more abundant than we imagined.

All: May we let go of fear and make room for love.

One: So breathe deeply. Feel the earth beneath your

feet. Notice the sky above you and the community gathered around you. God is present—in creation, in one another, and on the road ahead.

All: With open hearts and willing spirits, we come to worship. May we have the courage to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.**

**Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Kristin Gulinski

All: God of new beginnings, you call us to follow the way of Jesus— a way of courage, compassion, and love.

Help us release what keeps us from living fully: our fear of change, our desire for comfort, and the habits that keep us from seeing the needs of our neighbors.

Transform our hearts. Give us courage to choose love when it is difficult, grace to listen when we would rather speak, and strength to seek justice when it would be easier to remain silent.

Teach us to let go of what no longer gives life and to make room for something new to grow within us.

Renew us, O God, that we may follow Jesus with open hearts, love our neighbors more boldly, and help create a world where all may know dignity, belonging, and abundant life.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

Kristin Gulinski

One: One: Hear the good news: Jesus calls us to follow, not because we have everything figured out, but because the way of love is always open before us. When fear holds us back, God invites us forward. When we lose our way, grace calls us home. When we struggle to let go, God meets us with patience and compassion. We are free to begin again, to choose courage over fear, compassion over comfort, and love over self-interest.

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: Held by that unending love, we are renewed, transformed, and sent to follow the way of Jesus into new life.

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Kristin Gulinski

One: Jesus calls us to follow a way of love—a way that draws us toward one another and reminds us that we do not walk this journey alone. As a sign of the community we share and the grace that holds us together, let us greet one another with warmth and welcome. The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: **And also with you!**

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

Roy Svenson

Hebrew Scripture

Matthew 16:21-28

Please be seated.

The Comma and the Matrix Barb Todd & Rich Schneider

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Will You Come and Follow Me”

Will you come and follow me

If I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know

And never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,

Will you let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown

In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true

When you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you

And never be the same.

In your company I'll go

Where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow

In you and you in me.

CALL TO PRAYER

Jenn Schneider

JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS**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**

Jenn Schneider

One: Jesus reminds us that following the way of love asks something of us. It invites us to loosen our grip, to share what we have, and to use our lives and resources for the good of others.

Our offering is one way we answer that call—giving generously so that together we might bring hope, compassion, and new life into our community and our world.

Let us give with open hearts.

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!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Peter Svenson

All: Generous God, Jesus calls us to follow a way shaped by love, courage, and compassion. May these gifts be one way we answer that call. Take what we offer and use it to bring hope where there is despair, justice where there is inequity, and welcome where people have been pushed aside. May our giving remind us that following Jesus is not only something we believe, but something we live—with our choices, our resources, and our care for one another. Bless these gifts, and bless us as we seek to follow the way of love.

Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus,

I have decided to follow Jesus,

I have decided to follow Jesus,

No turning back, No turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,

The world behind me, the cross before me,

The world behind me, the cross before me,

No turning back, No turning back.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Barb Todd

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

Roy Svenson

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

N/A

NURSERY ATTENDANT

N/A

News in the Pews

The psalmist reminds us that God's name is majestic in all the earth (see Psalm 8:9, NRSV). With love for God and for one another, let us approach the throne of grace from which all blessings flow. Welcome, friends!

Sunday School Rally Day will be September 13th at 9AM.

Special Coffee Hour next Sunday – Please stay after worship next Sunday, September 6th for a special coffee hour celebrating Wendy and Roy Svenson's 50th anniversary!

We could really use more food donations, our pantry is dwindling again. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Rummage Sorting – please join us Tuesdays from 10AM-12PM, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays 10AM-2PM each week to sort. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help. We'll find a job that works for you. It's a lot of fun, and even better when you find something you need! Come see what its all about.

Rummage Sale donations collecting is on - We are collecting donations



for the 2026 Rummage and Bake Sale, to be held Friday and Saturday, September 25th and 26th. We will take almost everything except furniture and large appliances (like old tvs). Drop off during office hours 9-1:30PM (call to let us know you are coming (847) 673-8166), on Sundays, or call the office to make other arrangements. We thank you in advance for your donations, you help keep us going!!!

Calling all Crafters. Our annual craft show will be on Saturday, November 7th from 10-3. If you are interested in a table, or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or email Wendy Svenson at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com.



Our People

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

- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- The family and friends of Mark Kelly, neighbor of Ginger Kalensky.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- The family of Kaye Dufern.
- The Iannotti family who lost Carol's cousin Diane, who also was extended family of St. Peter's UCC.
- Annie Noorts' friend Geo Bonamasso who is fighting 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 to Bill Schaller. **Happy Anniversary** to Jennifer and Anthony Gemignani. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Peggy Reins, our Nursery attendant is Laurie Mitchell. 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."

Donations to our mini-food pantry are always needed and greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the narthex or downstairs by the offices on the designated shelves. Thank you!



MISSION MOMENTS

Spirit-Led Living

August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Romans 12:9-21

I've been told all my life to stop wearing my heart on my sleeve — a saying popularized in William Shakespeare's *Othello*, where the villain asks, "Shall I wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at?" (By the way, a "daw" is a bird in the crow family.)

Shakespeare, though, can't take full credit for the saying. Its origin can be traced to medieval jousts when dashing knights would literally wear the affection of fair maidens in the way of ribbons and other trinkets tied to their armor sleeve.

Today, wearing one's heart is far from romantic. It's viewed as a negative trait of a sensitive soul that's weak. Yet saints like Catherine of Sienna and Thérèse of Lisieux saw sensitive souls as grace-filled gifts to the world.

So, for all you sensitive souls reading this, know that you are strong beyond measure and that the world needs such love and care on display. For that heart on your sleeve is beating with the heart of God, showing others what it truly means to live a spirit-led life.

Spirit-led living is something of a struggle these days as it is marked by authenticity and vulnerability. It also means doing that

hardest thing we can ever do — love in all circumstances, especially when you are in the presence of your enemies.

Paul, the very apostle who told us to “rejoice in the Lord always,” while imprisoned in Rome, was also the one who urged us to let love be genuine. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

While I’ve always appreciated Paul’s advice, very seldom have I followed it. It’s more satisfying (albeit a short-lived satisfaction) to stoop down to the enemies’ level. But overcoming evil with evil, is not a marker of a spirit-led life. Rather, vulnerable love is, and such love is disarming in today’s world.

There is no preventive to take to ensure we never get hurt, betrayed or rejected in life. I wish there was. But allowing true feelings to be expressed and not buried, allowing tears to fall with those who are hurt, makes for an environment where God can come and transform the gunk into something beautiful. And when our sensitive souls are on display, what we are showing is that we know our worthiness comes from God alone.

I don’t know about you, but my heart will always be on my sleeve for all to see. Where is your heart?

Loving God, in a world of raging hate and distrust, may our lives reflect Your goodness and grace. Help us to stop trying to protect our hearts from hurts, but to share them openly. May this day the heart on our sleeves that the world sees be not our own, but Yours. 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.)

Matthew 16:21–28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."