

Another Road

Welcome to St Peter's UCC In-Person and Livestream Virtual Worship Service! Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** to catch a new service at 10 am each Sunday! We also share a **podcast** weekly on our website of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

Open Holy Communion. We have communion the 1st Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

Who We Are. St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. 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 **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

Attendance. We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

Donations. We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than

ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

Contact Us. You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077

(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
UNITEDCHURCH8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, January 2, 2022 10:00 AM
The Second Sunday after Christmas

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marcia Hilliard

Leader: It is still Christmas.

Congregation: Joy is still loose in the world,

L: Love is lodged in hearts,

C: and peace is still our fervent hope.

L: It's still Christmas,

C: Though the presents are all unwrapped,

L: The batteries have run down,

***C: And family members have returned
home.***

L: It's still Christmas,

C: For God begins anew,

L: Giving us a baby to care for

**All: And calling us to live with tender
compassion, gentle care and overflowing
love.**

***HYMN:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" #107 (v.1)
 (In line 3 you may choose to sing "good will to all" in place of
 "good will to men.")

107

His Nativity

EDMUND H. SEARS, 1850

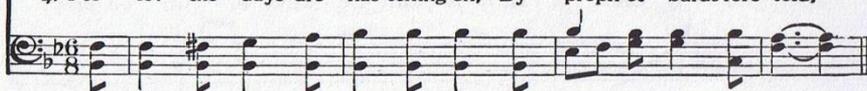
C. M. D.

CAROL
 R. STORRS WILLIS, 1850

In the style of a carol



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. O ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has - tening on, By proph - et bards fore - told,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heavenly mu - sic floats O'er all the wear - y world;
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold,



"Peace on the earth, good - will to men, From heaven's all - gra - cious King!"
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A - MEN.



***CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: God has set before us straight paths to follow, but we have stumbled along our own byways. God shows us the way of peace, but we choose the vanity of competition.

C: *God gives us the day, but we flee into night. God is calling us now to repentance, which leads us to new life.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Infinite God, look upon Your finite creatures, broken and bereaved, with compassion and consolation. We do not see the world, hear the world or feel it as You do. Our orientation is far more us-facing than it is Christ-facing.

The wind blows among us, but we do not discern Your Spirit. You offer wisdom and insight, but we reject Your counsel. You present to us the gospel of salvation, but we turn away from its saving grace. O God, help us change the direction of our lives, so we may act like Your children and reflect Your love into the world. Through Christ, forgive and renew us, and our world. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who “From his (Christ’s) fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:16, 17).

Friends, believe the good news: God’s unmerited love for the world, God’s grace, came to us through Jesus Christ. This grace forgives our sins and welcomes us warmly back into the embrace of God and God’s community of forgiven sinners. Please join me in claiming aloud this stunning news by saying together . . .

ALL: Thank You Jesus! Amen.

***RESPONSE:**

"Star-Child"

RESPOND

174

Star-Child

♩=110

1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be - tween of God,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
3. Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,

- love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod.
 hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.
 sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears.
 wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store.
 down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine.

Chorus

This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when

Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

**MISSION MOMENT
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gospel:

John 1:10-18

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

SERMON: "Another Road..."

*MUSICAL MEDITATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

RESPOND

153

Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 65. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are for the first line of lyrics, and the last two staves are for the second line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine."

Chords: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bbsus, Bb, Eb.

**The Words of Institution
Participation**

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')
(The Lord's Prayer is on p. 37 of the hymnal)

*HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #107 (vv. 2, 3, 4)

107

His Nativity

EDMUND H. SEARS, 1850

C. M. D.

CAROL
R. STORRS WILLIS, 1850

In the style of a carol

1. It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. O ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has - tening on, By proph - et bards fore - told,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heavenly mu - sic floats O'er all the wear - y world;
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold,

"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heaven's all - gra - cious King!"
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel-sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A - MEN.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Hull

***POSTLUDE:** Selected

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Dan Guenther
COUNTERS	Rich Schneider/Sharon Johnson
NURSERY	Laurie Mitchell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! As the shepherds and magi worshiped the Word-made-flesh, we too gather to worship the Lord. Welcome, one and all.

Welcome back to the Rev. Blair Hull, our guest preacher, pray-er, and celebrant of the Lord’s Supper today!

Thanks to everyone who served in the ministries of the church this morning including the Communion Elders.

Hospitalized: Dorothy Panzke is now nearing the end of, or has ended, her quarantine and is receiving physical therapy at Harmony House, Room 313, 3919 W. Foster Avenue, Chicago, 60625. The phone number there is (773) 588-9500. Carolyn Kuechler had partial knee replacement surgery on Wednesday the 22nd. Please remember both of them in your prayers.

About Communion: We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord’s Supper. We do ask our St. Peter’s young ones to complete a Communicants Class first (6th grade). The servers will bring the elements to

you in the pews. Please hold your bread until all are served; we will partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity, likewise with the cup. The innermost circle of cups in the wine tray holds grape juice and the outer circle is wine. Please note: we now offer Gluten-free wafers which are in a separate cup as they cannot touch the other wafers. The Board of Elders would like to ask that attendees on Communion Sundays please dispose of the plastic single-serve communion cups and lids as they leave the sanctuary. The Elders are no longer counting the empty cups after the service, and trash receptacles are provided by both exit doors. Thank you!

The 2022 Offering Envelopes are downstairs in the Memorial Room. There are still some left, so check and see if yours is there. If you do not have a box of envelopes and want one, please call the church office or contact Financial Secretary Marcia Hilliard. **2022 wall calendars** courtesy of Haben Funeral Home, with St. Peter's contact information, are available for pick-up in the Narthex, on a desk by the office, and in the Memorial Room.

Pastor will be attending the January meeting of CMA's Cluster One this coming Thursday, from 9:45 – 11:15, hosted once more by First Congregational U.C.C., Wilmette. We are being asked to host it next month (Feb. 3rd) and if we are to do it hybrid, our Pastor will need assistance at our end!

Epiphany is also this Thursday. Orthodox Christmas is Friday.

Next Sunday, January 9th, is when Annual Reports are due from those Boards, organizations, committees and Pastor who submit them. Please submit them on time! There is a special drop-box folder for them. The Annual Congregational Meeting is after worship on Sunday, January 30th!

A Just Harvest Kitchen is this month – Since January has 5 Saturdays, this means it is our “turn” on the 5th Saturday to “serve” (donate for now) to the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest! Since The Virus hit, the food has been distributed curbside to prevent infection and not have a large group indoors at the same time, dining. The Kitchen staff has been using money we collect and send over, \$500 per event, to buy the groceries, cook the sloppy joes, and prepare the rest of the meal we would be responsible for, and do the serving. Due to generosity left over from our October appeal, we are asking for donations for this ministry but we do not need the full \$500. Thank you in advance for your participation in this mission!

Having birthdays this week are Alec Ryan and Jennifer (Mau) Gemignani.

FUNDrive: Soft Goods wanted: we are collecting soft goods from now *until January 9th*. We are currently at over 200 bags, about halfway through so keep bringing stuff! Items like clothing, bedding, shoes, hats, purses, linens, belts, stuffed goods are being sought after now for Savers as we get paid by the pound. Our goal is 1,000 lbs! Items are being collected right inside the door. Please note, do not bring the the items to the stage per Annie. Drop off during office hours, on Sunday when we are open for worship, or call us and we’ll make arrangements that work for you if we can (and you don’t

already have a key). If you have any questions on whether your items are donatable, contact Annie Noorts. ***On January 15th we need lots of helpers to load all the donations into a truck and haul them to Saver.***

Office Manager Laura Olson will be off on Monday, January 3rd off as New Year’s Day was on a weekend. **Pastor Lanford** will begin a vacation starting Monday the 27th, ending on Monday the 3rd of January. He will be on his usual Tuesday off on January 4th but will be checking messages as usual.

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Pastor’s podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in “The Redheaded Preacher” and you’ll find us! Pastor’s weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday’s scriptures & sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast! Check it out!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

Another Road

Many church stewardship teams breathe a collective sigh of relief at this time of year. If your stewardship season arrives with autumn and winds up around Advent, the new year is often a time to take a break. But the thing is, God's grace is evident through faithful giving all year long. So, it might be time to imagine a new rhythm of stewardship that weaves stewardship into every season of the church year.

Here are suggested stewardship activities for every month of the year. Which of them are you already doing? Which of them seem like they might be helpful? What would you add to this calendar?

January - Send a message from the Pastor with help in laying the biblical foundation of how church giving is different from your members' other giving opportunities.

February - Invite each of the ministries of the church to communicate how their work is a reflection of the greater mission of the church.

March - If you send a quarterly giving statement, consider adding a brief communication about how the gifts are used to further the church's mission. Include pictures!

April - Send a message from an elder member, reflecting on why they give to the church, and how their giving has changed over their lifetime.

May - Encourage church members to write wills and make estate plans that reflect their faith commitments.

June - Assemble a group to lead a fall stewardship campaign and spend the first meeting inviting sharing about why each person gives to the church.

July - Share a message from a member of the wider church staff and host a conversation on how that message relates to your local congregation's work.

August - Take a retreat day as a community to pray about how each person's gifts and graces might be utilized to grow your church in both numbers and in spirit.

September - Create and share a chart that shows the average giving to the congregation. Ask members to prayerfully consider where they are on the chart and where they want to be.

October - Send a message from a younger church member about how their giving relates to their faith.

November - During your church Thanksgiving celebrations, find a personal way to thank those who give to the church.

December - Ask how the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love encourage church members to be generous, extravagant givers.



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

January 2, 2022

John 1:10-18

The Word was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



Clean out your closets for St Peters United Church of Christ-Skokie!

FUNDrive® Coordinator

Laura Olson
(847) 673-8166
office@stpeteruccskokie.com

Our Goal: \$1000

278 Tall Kitchen Bags + Large Yard
Bags

Fundraiser Dates:

12/01/2021 - 01/09/2022

We are a small church raising money for our general fund which covers everything from paying bills to community outreach.

Donations can be dropped off weekdays when the office is open, 10 am - 2 pm.

We Are Collecting

Clothes

men's, women's and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, ties, belts, backpacks, etc.

