



LIVING
Messages

Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship Service!

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon.

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** 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

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(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, October 18, 2020 10:00 AM
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Lobe den Herren"
tune from "Ernewerten Gesangbuch"
(1665) arr. Charles Callahan

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Congregation: *Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we are the Lord's.*

P: We are God's people,

C: *and the sheep of God's pasture. For the Lord is good;*

P: God's steadfast love endures forever,

C: *and God's faithfulness to all generations!*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Before going further, in God's holy presence we are invited to reflect on the wrongs we have done, the good we have neglected and the motives that underlie our behavior.

C: What are the idols that attract us, the responsibilities we seek to avoid, the schemes by which we pursue selfish advantages?

P: God knows, but you and I need to recognize and confess them. Let us pray together.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Awesome God, how small is our cleverness before the magnitude of Your reality! How fleeting are our days measured against the far reaches of eternity! Yet we set our limited knowledge and restricted purposes against Your will for us, and presume to direct our own affairs and those of the wider world.

O God, we are trapped in our pretensions. Turn us from our need for proof to extravagant praise. Turn us inside out so our self-interest becomes concern for all Your neglected children. Remove from us the sinful ways we find so difficult to manage on our own, that we may joyously render to You all that is already Yours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Colossians says "may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to God the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (1:11b-14).

Before we cried out in confession for mercy and change, God has acted to bring about change for us, and in us. In Jesus Christ we are set free, redeemed by the crucifixion and resurrection, that we may be at home with the saints in light, now and in eternity. In claiming this amazing news of grace, let the people join me in saying . . .

All: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN:**

"The Old Rugged Cross" SSB #10 (vv. 1, 2)



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,
2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross so de - spised by the world,
3 In the old rug - ged cross. stained with blood so di - vine,
4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
a won - drous beau - ty I see;
its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
to hear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged



cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.

Text: George Bennard, 1873-1958
Music: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, George Bennard, 1873-1958

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ben Westphal

Epistle:

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel:

Matthew 22:15-22

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF ALEXANDER IANNOTTI

(Recorded previous to this service, we celebrated the baptism of Alexander David Iannotti, son of David and Karem Zafrane Iannotti. The baptismal sponsors are Dwayne Williford, Raiza and Daniel De La Nuez, and Jason, Jamie and Jen Iannotti. If you want to join that assembly in responses and in making the covenant promise virtually, please follow the prompts below as spoken in the service):

Welcome

Pastor: They were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall never enter it."

Address

P: Jesus said, 'Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the kingdom of God; unless we are born of

water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order.' Paul the apostle said 'All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. . . .

. . . . baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

THE QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care for the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

ALL: We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God, using the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only begotten son,
Our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again
from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits
on the right hand of God the father almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the living
And the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
The one holy universal Christian church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Baptism including over the Water

The Baptism and Blessing

The Pronouncement

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara"
by Carolina Sandell

HOMILY: "God's Human Coins"

***HYMN:** "What Shall We Give?"
(Sing to the tune of "Breathe on me, Breath of God")

**What shall we give to God?
How shall we meet love's test?
All that we have is not our own,
For God our lives has blessed.**

**May there be prayers of thanks
Offered for all to hear,
That in our joyous gratitude
The world may know God near.**

**May there be caring acts
Offered in Jesus' name,
That faith and hope and steadfast love
May God's good news proclaim.**

**May there be mercy shown
To all who live in dread,
That, by the Holy Spirit's power
The joy we know may spread.**

**Let us then dedicate
All that we give and keep,
That what we sow may offer growth
For other hands to reap.**

(Text by Lavon Bayler. Copyright info below.)

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (‘debts’)

**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**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** Two Variations on “Old Hundredth”

by Harold Rutz and Charles Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! We gather as one body, with Christ as the head. Each of you brings unique abilities and contributions to our worship and ministry. Thank you for being here, and welcome.

We give a special (virtual) welcome to Alexander D. Iannotti, baptized Saturday the 17th earlier than the rest of

this service, but edited into it for the upbuilding of all. May God richly bless him and his family!

The Pet Blessing is today and all St. Peter's is welcome, you don't need a pet to be blessed! You can also back your car in and watch or stand in the parking areas. For safety, humans and furies can walk and stand in the parking areas. Cars will have their own path in the driving lane. Volunteers, please arrive by 2:30 pm. Laura is our photographer and Jenn is filming this historic event for Facebook. CARE will join us and guess who's in the adorable puppy suit! Treats for All! Come and join in:)

Thank you to all who helped at continuing Rummage clean-up Saturday! We needed everyone's help. The official total from the sale is \$4,000!

No Poinsetta Orders being taken this year! The Women's Guild has decided at their board meeting that due to the uncertainty of the Covid 19 Virus we would not order any Poinsettias from G & E this year. Instead the Guild will purchase poinsettias locally to decorate the altar this year.

The Church Council holds a Zoom meeting today, starting as soon as possible after our virtual worship.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside front cover for details on how to donate.

OCTOBER IS KITCHEN MONTH AGAIN! We still need to raise \$225.00! We are not serving in person for the foreseeable future; the meals are prepared by the Kitchen staff (using food purchased with our collective support) and served curbside. Our next date to host is Saturday, October 31st! So we ask if you can please make a contribution to help the Kitchen buy food and prepare our typical meal of sloppy joes, vegetable, salad, drink, fruit and light dessert. The Kitchen needs \$500 to purchase everything. Please follow this link to let us know you can donate:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tk4nIEn4tUuoC_AwBMgdYBB3-SuVI7njpFWksYWQn0/edit before October 20th.

This link wasn't working last week but has been fixed now. Thank you so very much for keeping one of our long-time missions, and not only that of worship, going!

Another opportunity to be of generous service is contribute to the Annual NorthShore CROP Walk!

Please see this month's Announcer article for the full details, or call or email Susan Garcia who is for sure raising funds through the Walk. **You have until October 18th (TODAY) to donate.** You and others are also free to sign up on-line at the CWS/NorthShore CROP Walk site to be part of the St. Peter's U.C.C. Skokie team with Susan and raise funds too.

Our next Village Inn Fundraiser is THIS Thursday, October 22nd! Participation was down on the weekends but we're going for a weekday this month. Order food from

Village Inn on this day, carryout, delivery or call ahead for in dining reservations. Let your server know you're here for the St. Peter's UCC fundraiser and we get 20% of your bill! Tell your friends and neighbors, you don't have to attend St. Peter's to help us raise needed funds!

Deadline for articles for the November Announcer is Oct. 19.

This Thursday the Board of Elders meets over free teleconference call at 4 o'clock.

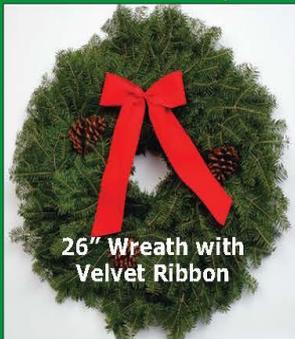
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Next week the scheduled Lector is Jane Abramchik. As she is only a month out from back surgery, she might arrange a switch! We will mark Reformation Sunday that weekend.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



26" Wreath with Velvet Ribbon

Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 26", 36", 48"
Double Face Balsam 36"



Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"
Indoor/Outdoor



4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece

Place your order by Friday November 6th.
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

Due to COVID-19 concerns, pickup will be on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 4 pm.

26" Single Face Balsam	\$16.00
36" Single Face Balsam	\$27.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$41.00
48" Single Face Balsam	\$41.00
4' Noble, Cedar, Juniper Mantelpiece/Centerpiece	\$41.00
12" Candle Ring Wreath	\$21.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$19.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$29.00
38" Evergreen Planter	\$44.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$13.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$22.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$38.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$25.00
Cemetery Stand	\$6.00



32" Evergreen Planter
38" Evergreen Planter



12" Candle Ring Wreath with 4" 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 pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

The standard 26 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$16.00.

Cemetery stands are \$6.00.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help us decorate the church for the holidays with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will make arrangements for placing wreaths on the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Friday Nov 6th.**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, **pickup at St. Peter's will be on Saturday November 21st from 1 - 4 pm.**

To place an order:

- **please fill in the form and return with payment** by mailing it to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail, text the amount, or use PayPal. For information on how to use any of these methods, please see the weekly bulletin.

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
26" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$16.00	
Cemetery Stands	\$6.00	
36" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$27.00	
36" Double Face Balsam Wreath	\$41.00	
48" Single Face Balsam Wreath	\$41.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantel piece / Centerpiece	\$41.00	
12" Mixed Noble Candle Ring Wreath w/ 4" Candle	\$21.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$19.00	
Outdoor Evergreen Planter (32")	\$29.00	
Supersized Outdoor Evergreen Planter (38")	\$44.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$19.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$13.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$22.00	
24" Decorator Wreath Boxed w/ Velvet Ribbon	\$38.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$25.00	



THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020

FOOD FUNDRAISER

Order from Village Inn Pizza in Skokie (8050 Lincoln Ave) on this day for carryout, delivery or call ahead to dine in and tell your server you are here for St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser and we get 20% of your total. Help our missions and a local small business and help yourself to a meal you didn't have to cook!

All proceeds go to help keep St. Peter's UCC going strong!
Anyone can order food for us on this day, so tell your friends and neighbors! Thanks so much for your support!

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2020

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages Children's Sabbath Laity Sunday

Abigail Henderson, formerly pastor at Northfield United Church of Christ in Northfield, Minnesota learned that not just a good feeling, but actual data supported a queer/trans youth group (CYAN) she had started.

She reports that "a coalition of non-profits in the town received a grant to track and work to improve health and well-being outcomes for children and youth in the community. One of the people connected to that grant contacted me... 'I wanted to share some data with you that we are finally getting from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) that all 5-12th graders took last year... As I am sure you recall the 2016 numbers were quite concerning; 25% of LGB youth reported a Positive Identity and Outlook score that was deemed to meet the threshold to be equipped for learning as compared to 60% of all youth. For the Social Competence numbers, they were 55% for LGB youth as compared to 74% for all youth.

Well - I am so happy to be able to tell you that the numbers for LGB identifying youth have seen a significant increase! While still below the numbers for all youth they are the only group where we are seeing growth. In 2019 the Positive Identity and Outlook had increased to 43% for LGB youth as compared to 51% for all youth (an 8% difference in 2019 vs 35% in 2016) and the Social Competence number had increased to 63% for LGB youth as compared to 70% for all youth (a 7% difference in 2019 vs a 19% difference in 2016). Although I wish we didn't see any difference in numbers (and that we saw higher numbers overall), I believe this growth has been remarkable and is noteworthy! I also believe that this growth is because of you, Abby. You started something absolutely remarkable with CYAN that has made, and continues to make, a huge difference in the lives of so many. Thank you. Thank you for being a champion for youth when they needed it most, for changing the conversation in our community, and for being an authentic role model. You have left an incredible mark and I hope that you know that you changed lives. I am so glad that CYAN has been able to continue on the strong foundation that you built - it is needed in our community and for our youth."

All those of you who pour heart and soul into work with youth without knowing the outcome, take heart! Here's actual data to show that the work you're doing really matters.



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

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BUC0107

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

October 18th, 2020

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,

because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by

the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

MATTHEW 22:15-22

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 16So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17Tell us,

then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.