



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
July 13, 2025  
10:00 AM**

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**Fifth Sunday  
after Pentecost**





# 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!

**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](mailto:pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org)

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** @stpeteruccskokie

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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, July 13, 2025 at 10:00am**  
**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*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** "Prelude in F" by Frank

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** Sometimes it seems as though God is far away.

**All:** **There is so much trouble in the world.**

**One:** We look to the heavens and wonder why God doesn't deal more strictly with the wicked and more compassionately with the innocent.

**All:** **We are overwhelmed with the needs of others.**

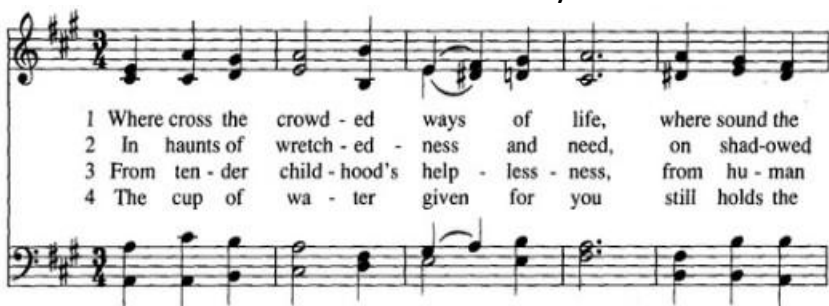
**One:** Come, let us turn to our God, whose very heart is compassion and hope.

**All:** **Let us be partners in caring for all who are in need.**

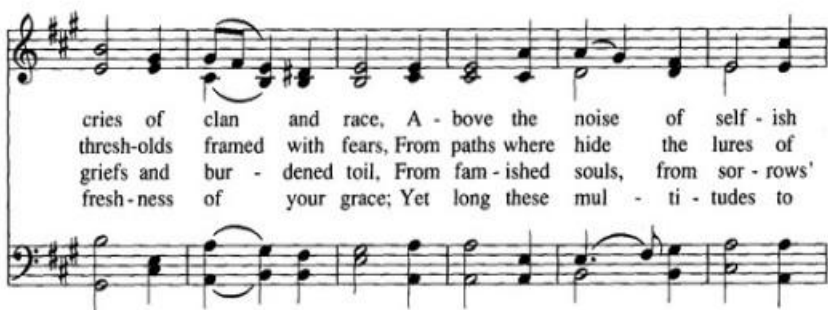
**One:** Let us worship God.

# OPENING HYMN

## "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the



cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish  
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of  
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'  
 fresh - ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to



strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.  
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.  
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from  
 the moun-tain-side,  
 Make haste to heal  
 these hearts of pain;  
 A-mong these rest-less  
 throngs a-bide,  
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn  
 com-pas-sion's might,  
 And fol-low where  
 your feet have trod,  
 Till glo-rious from  
 your realm of light,  
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

*You may be seated*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: The world cries to us in its distress. How shall we answer?

**All: We cannot pass by as though nothing is wrong.**

One: How shall we answer?

**All: We cannot become so focused on ourselves that others mean nothing to us.**

One: How shall we answer? Let us pray together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: We confess that in our lives we often hide behind our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and fashion. We let ourselves get so busy that we forget the cause of the poor and the suffering. We confess we allow the powers of this world to seduce us into selfishness and silence our witness.**

**Teach us to champion the cause for justice for all.  
Strengthen us to love our neighbor and speak truth  
no matter the penalty. Amen.**

*Quiet Reflection*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: God loves us, always. God's Word gives us strength to love our neighbors near and far and power to speak up for those who are broken.

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

One: In the name of Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven,  
we are loved, we are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

### MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”



### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture

Psalter

Olivia Altmayer

Amos 7: 7-8

Psalms 82

*You may wish to stand in body or in spirit.*

### GOSPEL

*You may be seated.*

Luke 10: 25-37

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“Tallis Canon”

arr. Callahan

### SERMON

“Neighbors”

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**HYMN OF RESPONSE "O God, You Give Us Neighbors"**

*Sing to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

**O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love  
abounds.**

**They've come here seeking refuge; they work here in  
our towns.**

**Their children go to school here; they come to church  
and pray.**

**O Lord, we grieve when neighbors are being sent away.**

**O God, you give us neighbors in this world that divides.  
We see them at the border; they're struggling for their  
lives.**

**They're hurting by the roadside, and by the river, too.  
You call us to show mercy to neighbors loved by you.**

**O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see  
our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.  
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,  
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've  
shown.**

**God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear;  
may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and  
persevere —**

**and by your Holy Spirit, in all we do and say,  
may we stand up for neighbors now being sent away.**

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## 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.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

### 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

**"In the Midst of New Dimensions"**

*Chorus*

**A: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles  
soar: We your people, yours the journey, now and  
ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**



**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: O Giver of all that we are and all that we have, these gifts are a sign of our love for you. Help us to be neighbors in service, reconciliation and compassion wherever we can.**

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN “Let There be Peace on Earth” by:**

**Sy Miller & Jill Jackson**

**A: Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our father  
Brothers all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother  
In perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With every step i take  
Let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
With peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me.**

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**                      “Postlude in C”                      by Harrington  
*During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.*

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:*

~ Empowered to Love and Speak Truth, written by LT Leticia Rouser, a chaplain in the United States Navy. Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website and [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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INTERIM MINISTER	Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome! Scripture urges us: "Turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 30:10). Let us indeed turn to God, in love and worship, petition and trust.**

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

**August Announcer articles are due to the office a week from Monday, don't forget!**

**A Celebration of Life for Betty Steek** will be this Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM. All who knew her are welcome to attend.

**Rummage collecting now!** Drop off during office hours (please call ahead if you don't have a key), bring on Sundays when you come to worship, or call us to arrange a time that works for you. We'll take most anything but no furniture and old TV's. Questions can be directed to Annie Noorts at: [annie.noorts@gmail.com](mailto:annie.noorts@gmail.com), or call the office.

**Rummage sorting** – Join us **Mondays from 10AM-12PM, Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays from 10AM**

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**to 2PM** to sort, no experience necessary! There are jobs for every person, talk to Annie for more information. This sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year but cannot happen without a tremendous amount of help all summer long. Please come help us!

**Mini-Pantry supply low** – donations always needed. Donations can be left on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much for your help.

**Pre-worship gathering** – You are invited to meet before worship to talk about one of the UCC's daily devotional readings from the past week. ***We gather at 9:15am in Lanford Fellowship Hall*** for a short opening prayer and finish by 9:45am. Sign up for the Daily Devotional here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

**Laura vacation** – Laura is off July 7th through the 18th, returning July 21st. Sharon Johnson is filling in as much as possible during that time, her office days will vary, but hours will be 9AM – 12PM. Please call ahead if you are stopping by but don't have a key.

**Holiday Craft Show applications are being accepted now.** If you are interested in having a table at our sale, contact Wendy or Annie for more information. For an application, email [st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com](mailto:st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com), or contact the office.

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## Our People

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

- 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.
- Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky and Dorothy Panzke.
- Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Judy Paige having knee therapy for the third time.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- 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, Lois Jarmuth and Bob Seitman.

***If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!***

**This week we wish a Happy Birthday to** Jeremy Steegmueller, Shari Meggs, Mary Taylor and Sidney Kerbel. **Happy**

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**Anniversary** to Beth and Paul Brzozowski, Gail and John Balling, and Lisa and Eric Martinek.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Jen Schneider, and our Nursery Attendant will be Carolyn Van Til.

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### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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### *Regular Reminders!*

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**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.

**We are always grateful for all offerings to the church.** So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the front cover for details on how to donate.

**Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie.** If you are able, please donate!

**Sign up for Coffee Hour!** Regular coffee hours are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. See our President Peggy if you are interested in signing up.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**Caring Neighbors (7/13/2025)**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Luke 10:25-37**

“Who is my neighbor?” It’s a question asked of Jesus so long ago, and one that still begs for an answer today.

For Jesus, his reply was to tell the beloved parable we know as “The Good Samaritan,” highlighting for his hearers how the most unlikely person — a Samaritan — who was despised by the Jews, was the very person to care for the nearly beaten to death man found in a ditch alongside the notoriously dangerous Jericho Road.

So often, when we hear Jesus’ words, we all too quickly step into the sandals of the Samaritan. We see ourselves in the role of benevolent savior with a charitable heart — and matching wallet — to help our unfortunate neighbors.

But do we ever dare to switch characters and put ourselves in the ditch, beaten and left to die, praying that someone will see and help us? Not as often as we should.

The question “Who is my neighbor?” is complex for the answer lies in the much-needed realization that sometimes we are the helper and sometimes we are the helpless, but all the time we are travelers on the same precarious road of life and, as such, need to see one another as neighbors in Christ.

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There's a quote from Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran pastor who went from Nazi sympathizer to outspoken critic of Hitler, that is part of the permanent exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which opened in 1993.

His quote is a powerful illustration of the fluidity of defining who are neighbor is. He wrote:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.

Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, once said of the parable of The Good Samaritan that “my neighbor is the one who crosses the road for me.”

May today we become road crossing neighbors, knowing that one day we, too, will find ourselves in need of another road crossing neighbor who dares to reach their hand out to us.

*Loving God, may Your world be filled with caring neighbors who recognize one another as Your precious beloved children. 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.)

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