

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday, November 8, 2026

10:00 AM

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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
8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL 60077
Order of Worship for
Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, November 8, 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 "Forest Green" arr. Callahan

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

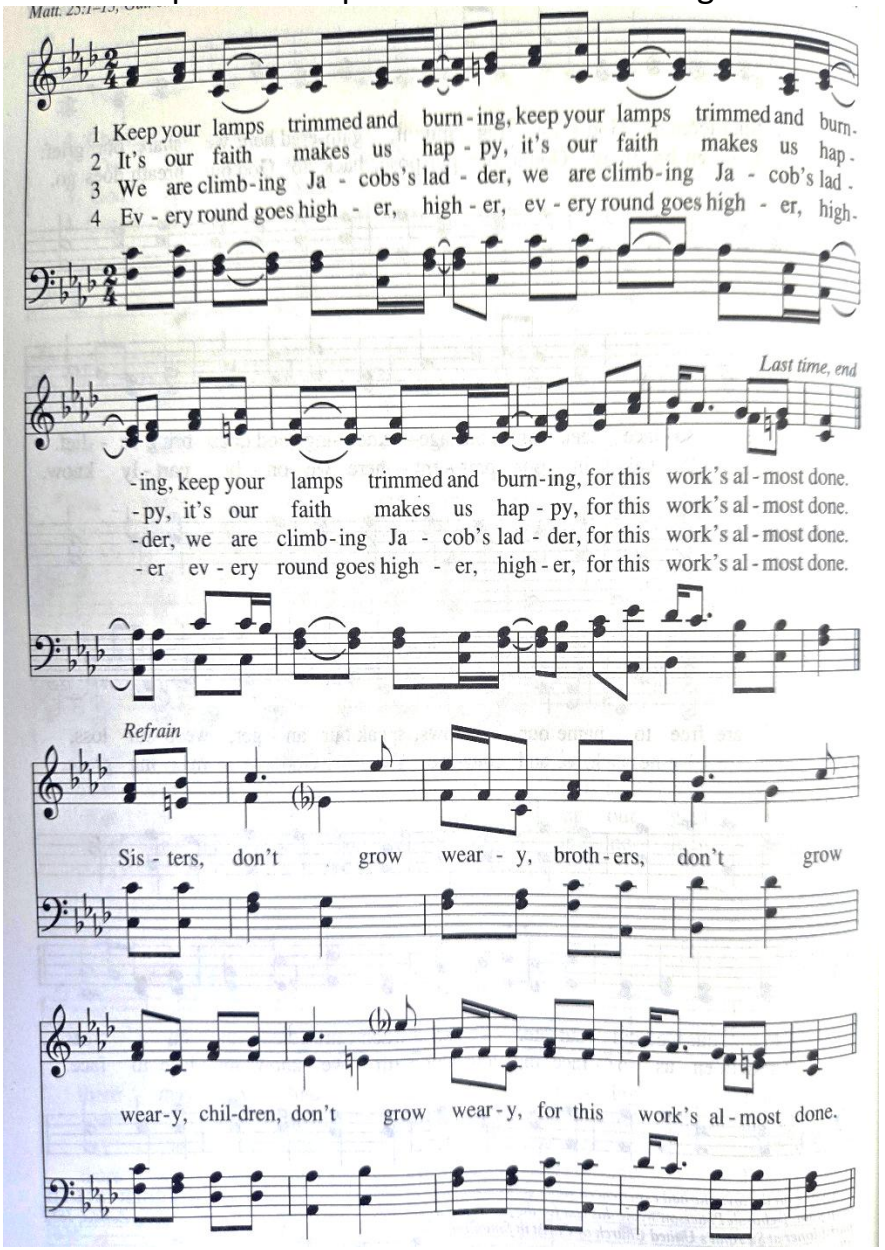
You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As light-seekers we come, O God,
and we rejoice in Your light;
All: May our praise open a window,
that Your light may flood through.
One: As hope-seekers we come, O God,
and we celebrate Your gift of hope;
All: Capture us as we worship,
and make us prisoners of hope.
One: As Christ-followers we come, O God,
and we open ourselves to Christ's life;
All: Change us as we encounter Your glory,
that we may carry Your light into the world.
One: Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"



CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

One: Ten lamps gathered, with oil enough for all.
Ten lamps gathered,
But five are empty showing careless disregard.
Ten lamps gathered,
Five blaze with oil abundant enough to share.
Ten lamps gathered,
Five lifeless when laziness and greed collide.
Ten lamps gathered…
How many will burn tonight?

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray…
All: For generous hearts to share oil with our neighbors.
One: Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray…
All: For the vision necessary to leave our comfortable seats in search of oil.
One: Creator God, giver of oil, hear us as we pray…
All: For forgiveness for the ways our selfishness and our apathy collide.
One: Ten lamps gathered, with oil enough for all.
Come children of God, into a sacred circle
Where sharing creates abundance
And no one leaves hungry. Amen.

Pause for quiet prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Beloved, God hears our prayer, and gives us the good news of the Gospel:

All: There is nothing you can do and nothing that can be done to you that will ever stop God from loving you.

One: 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

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 Jen Schneider

Hebrew Scripture Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

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

Matthew 25:1-13

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

SERMON "Serving God"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Ten Bridesmaids"

Ten bridesmaids waited for the time the party would begin,
They took their lamps to meet the groom, for they expected him.
The wise ones went outside to wait, with oil and some to spare,
They found the groom had been delayed while he was traveling there.

The foolish bridesmaids waited, too, with lamps that lost their light.
For, unprepared, they'd left their fuel back at the house that night.
The bridegroom came with festive shout; the party soon began.
The fools had lamps that soon went out; the wise had lights at hand.

O Lord, remind us that your Day will come with great surprise.
So may we faithfully obey as people who are wise.
For deeds of justice, words of prayer and acts of kindness, too,
Are ways we daily can prepare as we wait here for you.

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CALL TO PRAYER
JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS
SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP: Jenn Schneider

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.

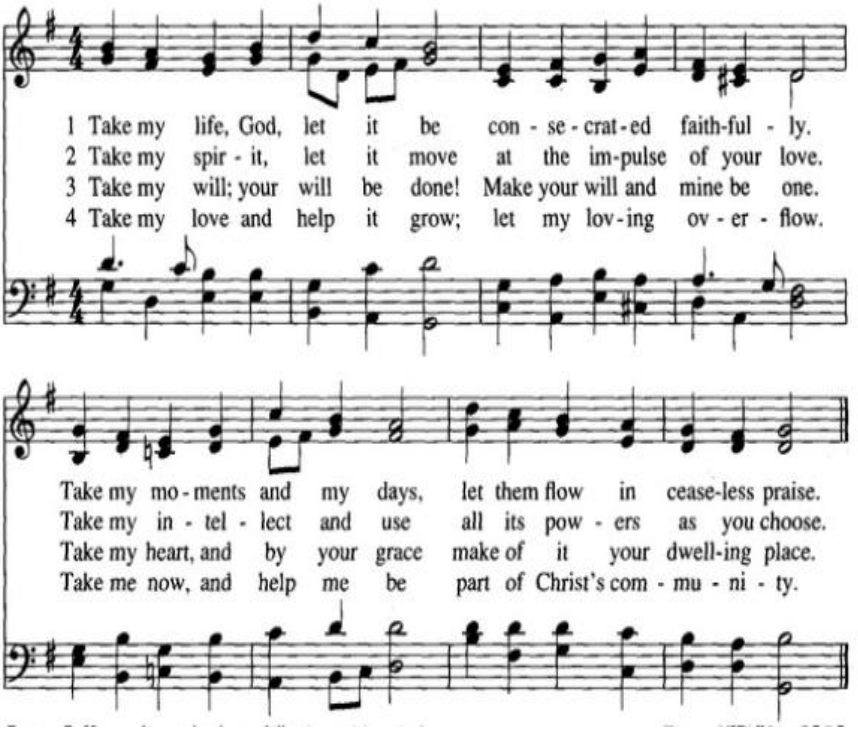
OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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

All: God, we have come, and given generously of our gifts. Take, bless and multiply them so that they may be a blessing in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Take My Life, God Let it Be"

We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

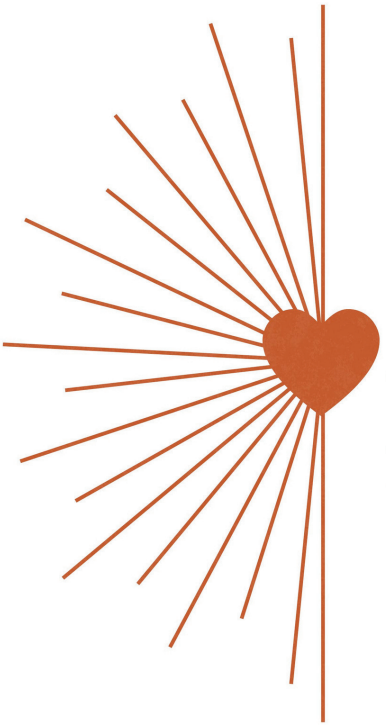
Today's liturgy is adapted from:
From Food For The Road: Life Lessons From The Lord's Table © 2005 John van de Laar https://sacredise.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/A-Liturgy-for-a-Foretaste-of-the-Heavenly-Banquet.pdf

and Copyright © Katherine Hawker, 1999. Posted on her Liturgies Outside the Box website. Reposted on https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/confession-matthew-25-1-13.html

the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, Faith INFO Ministry Team, UCC.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Denise Hopp
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon



THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."
- Matthew 6:21

The book of Joel stands out among the minor prophets. While it carries familiar themes of warning, judgment, and hope, Joel never tells us exactly why a prophetic word is needed or what the people have done wrong. There is no named king, no historical moment pinpointed, no clear sin to blame.

Instead, Joel describes a locust plague. What begins as a natural disaster ripples outward into hunger, poverty, and despair. Joel's message invites us to see not only this ancient tragedy but every place—near and far—where communities are brought low by disaster, violence, injustice, or exploitation.

In the face of uncertainty, destruction, and grief, Joel's insight is strikingly simple: **God does not demand offerings the people do not have.**

Instead, the prophet calls them to offer themselves; he invites them into a communal reorientation toward compassion, solidarity, and shared commitment.

Perhaps you are part of a congregation in crisis. What would it look like for you to seek God and one another in honest lament, trusting that God can work through your shared care?

Perhaps you are part of a congregation with a wealth of resources. How might you be called into solidarity, recognizing that suffering is rarely felt equally and that God's people are to notice, respond, and stand with those most affected?

Joel reminds us that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and rich in steadfast love, while inviting us to trust that God's mercy creates room for hope and a path to flourishing for all.

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even **1% more of our annual income** would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God's world. **Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!**

Christmas Wreaths and More!

We are taking orders for fresh pine wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to bring warmth to your home or to honor a loved one's resting place this holiday season.

The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is

$18.00.

We are replacing our cemetery stands this year.

We offer our **standard** stand for **$7.00**, or a durable **deluxe** stand for **$16.00** designed to withstand the winter elements for years to come.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help decorate our church for Christmas, with the remainder supporting our General Operating Fund.

If you wish, we can place your memorial wreath directly on a grave at St. Peter's UCC Cemetery.

All orders **must be placed** by **Thursday Nov 12th**.

Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Nov 28th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Nov 29th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal or Zelle.

Please make checks payable to: St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will get my order at church:		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	$18.00	
Standard Cemetery Stands	7.00	
Deluxe Cemetery Stands	16.00	
30" Single Face Balsam	$32.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	$55.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	$22.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	$23.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	$33.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	$54.00	
Fire Starter Basket	$23.00	
Balsam Door Swag	$18.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	$27.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	$42.00	
25' Balsam Garland	$33.00	
Total Amount ($)		

News in the Pews

A friendly welcome to each worshiper! We are pleased to have each of you here to glorify God and sing praises to the Almighty.

Thank you to Wendy and Roy Svenson and all their helpers for another successful Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale! We hope you got to shop and grab some goodies!

Donations and volunteers needed to help collect donations for the Holiday Meals program! Go ONLY to the Village Crossing Jewel foods in Niles to donate to help fund the cost of a dinner for 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas. New this year the Jewel is asking for us to have folks come to help solicit donations and man a table for a few hours. So if you can help us help others, let Laura in the office know. Thanks so much!!

Pastor Brenda will be out of the office beginning November 9th through November 16th. Contact Laura in the office or Peggy Reins should you need assistance.

Church Council this month will be November 22nd after worship.

There is no Women's Guild meeting this month. Join them in December for their Christmas meeting!

Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall and colder weather. We made it through summer, thanks to all of you for donating! Now we need a good supply for the fall/early winter. If you can donate, bring your items to the shelves outside the offices, to the office doors or on Sundays. Thank you so much!

The Niles Township Respite Center is having a Town Hall meeting. Learn more about the issues facing our unhoused neighbors, the push to criminalize homelessness and the Niles Township Respite Center. Join them at Soul Good Coffee, 4022 Main St., Skokie, on Thursday, November 12 2026 at 3:45 PM.

November 20th is Trans Remembrance Day. We will remember in worship November 22nd.

November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent!

Our People

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

- The nephew of Joe Harrington, Judah Prime, who is battling complications from surgery for a birth defect.
- Aaron Chavez and family on the passing of his mother Virginia.
- Beth Sterba after knee surgery.
- The family of Mark Williams.
- Annie's friend Renee has been moved to a skilled nursing facility. Day by day she is incrementally better. Please continue to pray for her healing.
- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- 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.
- 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 this week to Bridgette Sterba, Michael Taheny, Peter Svenson, Ann Herren, Alexandra Paige and Bruce Mau. **Happy Anniversary** to Marcia Hilliard & Andre Gloeckner and Beh and John Sterba! Happy 16 years at St. Peter's to Laura Olson on Nov 9th.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Karen Christianson, 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."

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

November 8, 2026
Matthew 25:1-13
Tending God's Light

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us, and it is our joy as well as our responsibility as followers of Christ to tend to that light so that it can shine brightly in service of God and the world.

As this year's stewardship materials remind us, because of YOU and the light you shine in the world, our church changes lives. The materials claim, "It is a statement both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so.

…We can be bold because we know it's true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you.

Our theme, Because of YOU, our church changes lives, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity to the church increases the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives - even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is yours!"

God has given you a light to tend. How will you tend that light today and into the year to come? The choice to let your light shine is as simple as it is bold. Let it shine!