

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 6,
2026
10:00 AM**

**Fifteenth 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!

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

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*Like, follow, or join our
email list for up-to-date info
about events and activities!*



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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL 60077
Order of Worship for
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 6, 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 "Theme and Variations on St. Denio"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP Exodus 3:1-5

Lector: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said,

One: "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up."

Lector: When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,

All: **"Moses, Moses!"**

One: "Here I am."

All: **"Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."**

One: We are standing on Holy Ground.

All: Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN

“God, the Mountains Tell Your Glory”

God, the mountains tell your glory,

lifting praise to you above!

In your Word, each mountain story

shows your presence and your love.

Noah built as you commanded;

soon the waters swirled around.

Those you saved, Lord, safely landed;

you set them on mountain ground.

Lord, when Moses was returning

to the mountain that he knew,

There a bush was brightly burning.

There it was he heard from you.

Later Moses felt your presence;

in the heights he knew your grace.

He brought down the Ten Commandments

from your holy mountain place.

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CALL TO TRANSFORMATION *Exodus 3:6-10*

Lector: God said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God,

All: “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

One: Today God calls us out of our ordinary lives to hear the cries of God’s people. Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: O God, you come to us in the wilderness of our lives, and you catch our attention. You remind us that we are on holy ground, now and always. Now tune our ears to the sound of your voice and the persistence of your call. Be our courage and our hope. With you, may we hear the cries of your people. May we also come near the suffering. May we join your work of deliverance. May we believe in the possibility of a just world and work toward its realization. And work toward its realization. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God is hearing us, calling us, bringing out our wisdom, courage and strength.

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: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God!

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

Hebrew Scripture

Peter Svenson

Exodus 3:13-15

HYMN OF REFLECTION

"I am Who I am, I Will Be Who I Will"

1. "I am who I am, I will be who I will,
 2. "I am who I am!" now in this time and place.
 3. "I am who I am!"—God both faith-ful and free;
 4. God's names are so var-ied: Rock, Ea-gle, and Dove,

un-fet-tered Cre-a-tor and cre-a-ting still!"
 God with us! Christ with us! the full-ness of grace!
 un-bound by tra-di-tion, "I'll be who I'll be."
 Mes-si-ah, Em-man-u-el, Wis-dom, and Love.

In such words of free-dom, our God's clar-ion voice
 Each day is ex-cit-ing, with jus-tice our goal,
 "I will be who I will be"—God be-yond thought,
 Yet all are re-flec-tions of on-ly a part.

speaks loud-ly or soft-ly, and our hearts re-joice.
 the Spir-it ig-nit-ing new flames in the soul.
 un-shack-led by an-y-thing peo-ple have wrought.
 "I will be who I will be"—that is the heart!

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

Matthew 18:15-20

Please be seated.

SERMON "Confronting the Powers"

CHORAL ANTHEM "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

CALL TO PRAYER

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**

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: Holy One, we present these offerings to you in
hope and love. May they be a gift in our
community and the world. May they spread hope
and love. And, may they witness to your abundant
and generous creation. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

**One: From east and west, north and south,
we gather in God's name,**

**All: to pray, to worship, to sing,
to celebrate the Lord's Supper.**

**One: We give thanks that we are part of a large,
diverse faith family.**

**All: We are old. We are young.
We come from tribes of all kinds.**

**One: We give thanks that God's family
is one of many colors.**

**All: From black to white to every shade in between,
we are children of God.**

One: We give thanks that the narrative we proclaim belongs to everyone.

All: We stand with our friends and family around the world, reclaiming the name of Jesus.

One: We give thanks for Jesus' resurrection, a truth that tells us that God's love wins.

All: We give thanks and praise to the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

One: Come, let us gather at God's wide and wonderful table.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Give thanks to God.

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

Let us pray together.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Gratitude (unison)

All: God, just as You called Moses so long ago, so You call each one of us to speak and act on Your behalf in our world today. May this meal give us courage to step out in faith, to follow where You lead without hesitation or fear, trusting that Your presence goes with us, and that You will provide all that we need. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT “I Come with Joy”



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “I Come with Joy”

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

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

Beyond the Wilderness: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year A, written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

[Rev. Stephen M. Fearing](#), Beaumont Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY, found in Liturgylink.net

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Greg Dennis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

Welcome, friends! On this marvelous Sunday, let us open our spirits to the loving presence of God that we may be spiritually fed and renewed by his grace.

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

Special Coffee Hour today – Please stay after worship and join us for a special coffee hour celebrating Wendy and Roy Svenson's 50th anniversary!

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

Our Rummage and Bake Sale will be Friday and Saturday September 25th and 26th from 9AM to 3PM.

Volunteers are needed to work the days of the sale. Email the office or Annie if you can help, we need you!

No Women's Guild this month as they will be focused on our rummage sale, but they are asking for us to make those delicious baked goods to sell at the sale!

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 Isabella Aguayo, Jackie Johnson, Nathan Paige and Judy Williford. **Happy Anniversary to** Wendy and Roy Svenson. 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 Heidi Tarzian. 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

Be Love (9/1/2024)

GREEN

15th Sunday after Pentecost James 1:17-27

In her book “The Gift to Listen, The Courage to Hear” the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson describes the impact soul listening has on our relationships with God and one another.

Soul listening is not to be confused with active listening, which is what we are taught early in life to succeed in the world. The goal of active listening is mutual understanding.

Soul listening’s goal, though, is to discover the riches buried deeply within our souls. It makes visible the divine within each of us. This kind of listening, writes Jackson, tells others that they are “important, loved and valued.”

Soul listening gets to the heart of what James was saying to the Christians scattered outside of Israel when he wrote “be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

Even in an ancient society void of voicemails and texting, James observed how the torrential downpour of words could do more harm than good. For when we are quick to fill those pregnant pauses — which are vital in forming thoughtful,

loving responses — we drown out the voice of the Holy One who is always among us.

How many misunderstandings, fights, break-ups and church splits might have been avoided if only we listened — soul listened — first?

James' words come to us today not as a tip on how to better communicate with one another, but rather on how to better love one another.

Twentieth-century theologian, Paul Tillich, believed that listening and love were intertwined, writing that, “the first duty to love was to listen.”

Life doesn't need to be hard or heated or hurtful. Listen with love to your friends and family. Listen with love to the stranger you meet.

Listen with love to the one you might disagree with. Listen to the one who is crying or laughing. More importantly, listen to the one who is silent. Listen with your soul, not your ears.

Divine Listener, who never fails to hear my cries, help me this day to listen to others with the same love and understanding you show me. May this day I talk less, and soul listen more. Amen.
