Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday, November 1, 2026

10:00 AM

Twenty-third 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-third Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, November 1, 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 Selected

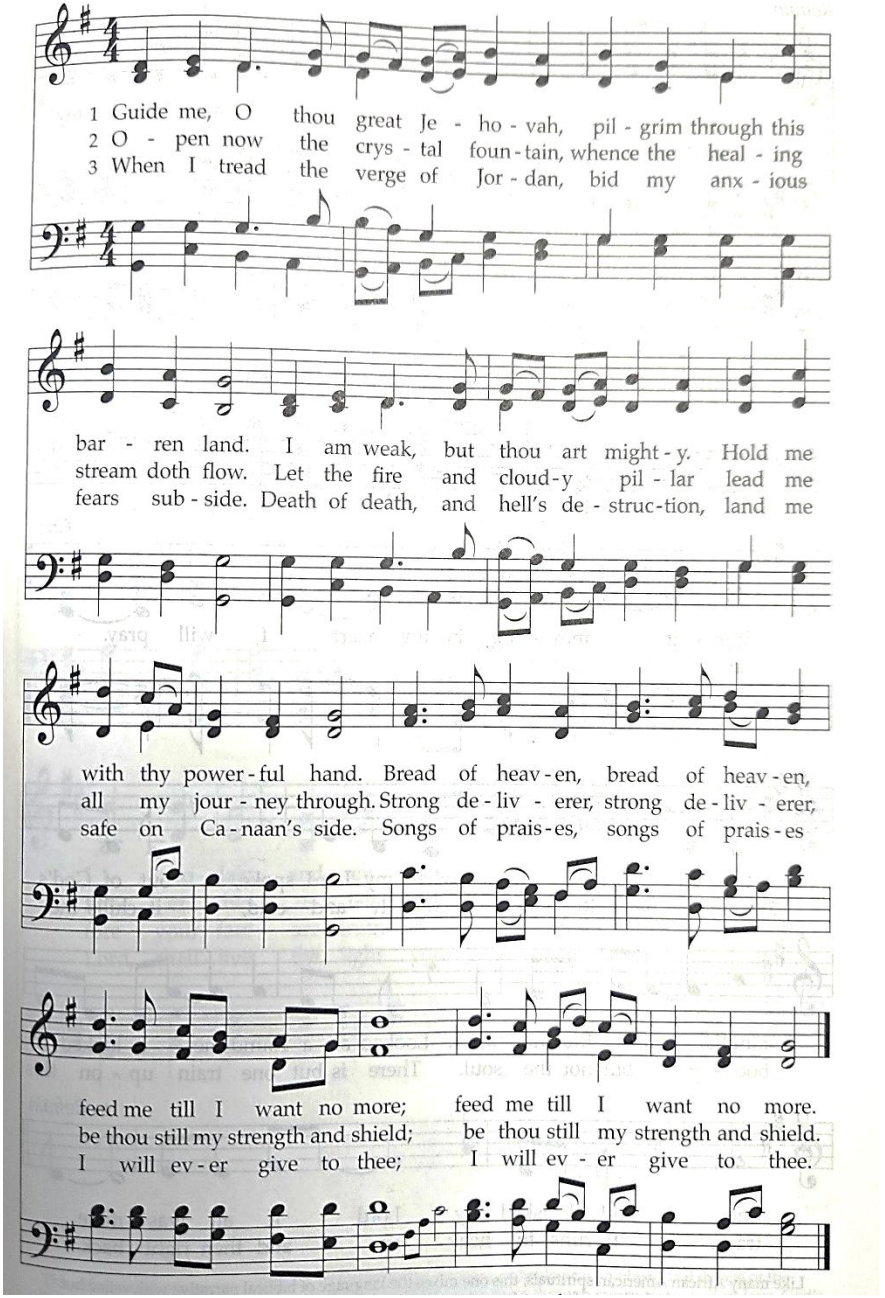
ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! God is leading us home.
All: Our wandering is over at last.
One: Come! God is leading us home.
All: Home, to a safe and prosperous place.
One: Come! God is leading us home.
All: There is no more hunger or thirst.
One: Come! God is leading us home.
All: Our lives have meaning and joy.
One: Come! God is leading us home.
All: Our souls find rest at last.
One: Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"



CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**ALL: Lord, at times you call us to step ahead of others,
like those priests stepping into the River Jordan.
You ask us to pave a way with our own footsteps,
to move with you, in your way, in your time.
Help us to know that you tread the path with us,
and though we may be fearful
and our steps may be reluctant and faltering,
it is enough that we take one step at a time.
So Lord we commit this week to you,
and the places we will go,
trusting that you go beside us each day,
wherever we may find ourselves.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Pause for quiet prayer

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Beloved, God loves you, and God loves your journey. Let us say again 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 Ann Herren
Hebrew Scripture Joshua 3:7-17

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

Matthew 22:1-12
Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM "Servant Song"

SERMON "Entering the Promise"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"



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

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

**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: Holy Love, receive these gifts. Bless those who have accepted the call to generosity and those entrusted with the responsibility of these offerings. May your church be enlivened and your people nurtured in care through these tangible expressions of our love of you and neighbor. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

From east and west, north and south, we gather in God's name, to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

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

We are old. We are young. We come from tribes of all kinds.

We give thanks that God's family is one of many colors. From black to white to every shade in between, we are children of God.

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

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

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

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God's presence be with you!

And also with you!

People of God, lift up your hearts to the Holy One.

We lift them up to the One Who Lives.

With prayer and celebration, let us praise God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks and praise, O God . . .

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Gratitude

May the food from this table continue to transform our lives, our hearts and our minds until we know ourselves as your beloved community. Increase our capacity for justice, hope and love. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Jesus Took the Bread"



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

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

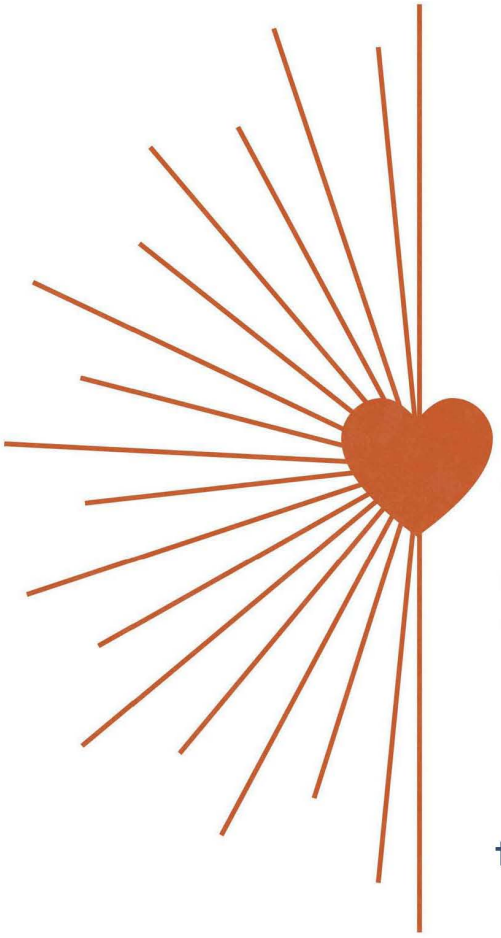
Today's liturgy is adapted from:
Robert Blezard on the Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website.

Dave Hopwood, and posted on Engage Worship.

Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, Beaumont Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	TBD



THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

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

In Matthew 6, Jesus calls us to a way of living that resists the temptation of "showy religion." He cautions against practicing faith merely to be seen, warning that such attention-seeking empties the act of its power. Instead, he points us toward the "secret place," the quiet intimacy where trust in God shapes our hearts and where generosity takes root.

This invitation is not a rejection of religious practice but a reorientation of it. Jesus expects his followers to give, pray, and fast: not if, but when. These are regular, disciplined acts of faith. What matters is the intent: whether these practices reflect genuine trust in God or simply seek human approval.

Like the Puerto Rican yagrumo leaf that turns toward the heavens before the rain, our generosity turns us toward the Source of all life. The tree's silver side catches the light, not to boast of its brilliance, but to signal expectancy: a quiet trust that nourishment is coming.

In the same way, **our hidden acts of generosity and prayer reflect God's light, not our own.**

Jesus' words also challenge our understanding of value and reward. We often want recognition, but Jesus urges us to trust God with the timing of the reveal — or whether it is revealed at all. In God's economy, the real reward of generosity is transformation, not applause. "Where your treasure is," Jesus says, "there your heart will be also."

Our giving, praying, and fasting are ways of training our hearts to desire what God desires. Generosity, then, becomes both inward and outward, rooted in the secret life with God, yet shining in compassion and justice. It is the overflow of love, not the performance of piety.

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

On this wonderful day that is designated All Saints' Sunday, we have come to invoke the presence of God. We welcome with joy all worshipers. Remember with gratitude all who have been faithful to God throughout the centuries.

Looking for volunteers for the St. Peter's table at the craft show! Contact Wendy for more details (wensven55@gmail.com) and thank you!

Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is next Saturday! Bring your friends and come check out all the wonderful vendors we'll have selling their wares. Great gift ideas, or things to brighten your home. We'll also have the best baked goods on the nortshore ready to take home and eat, or freeze and bring to your holiday gatherings. We'll also have our great raffle baskets and other surprises!! All are welcome, open to the public, come support our church and community!

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!

Thank you to those who donated and/or volunteered for A Just Harvest yesterday!

Thank you to those who came out to our Pet Blessing!! It was a barking success.

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 Brian Russell. Happy Anniversary to Maria and Randy Altmayer and Jen and Rich Schneider!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Jen Schneider, our Nursery attendant is Rita McMahon. 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 1, 2026
Matthew 23:1-12
Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.