



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 8,
2026
10:00 AM**

**Fifth Sunday
After Epiphany**





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

GATHERING HYMN “As A Fire is Meant for Burning”

(by Ruth C. Duck. Tune: Beach Spring)

**1. As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God’s name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbors everywhere.**

**2. We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God’s delight.**

**3. As a green bud in the springtime
is the sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth’s peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God’s new and glorious dawn.**

CALL TO CONFESSION *From Isaiah 58:10*

One: “Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry. When I have work, help me to remember the jobless. When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all. When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer. And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help; By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God calls us to be exactly who we are, using our gifts for God’s greatest hopes. Let us share the good news:

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 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

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: 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 "Emmanuel"

**A: Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Epistle Lesson

David Iannotti

Isaiah 59:1-9a

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:13-20

Please be seated.

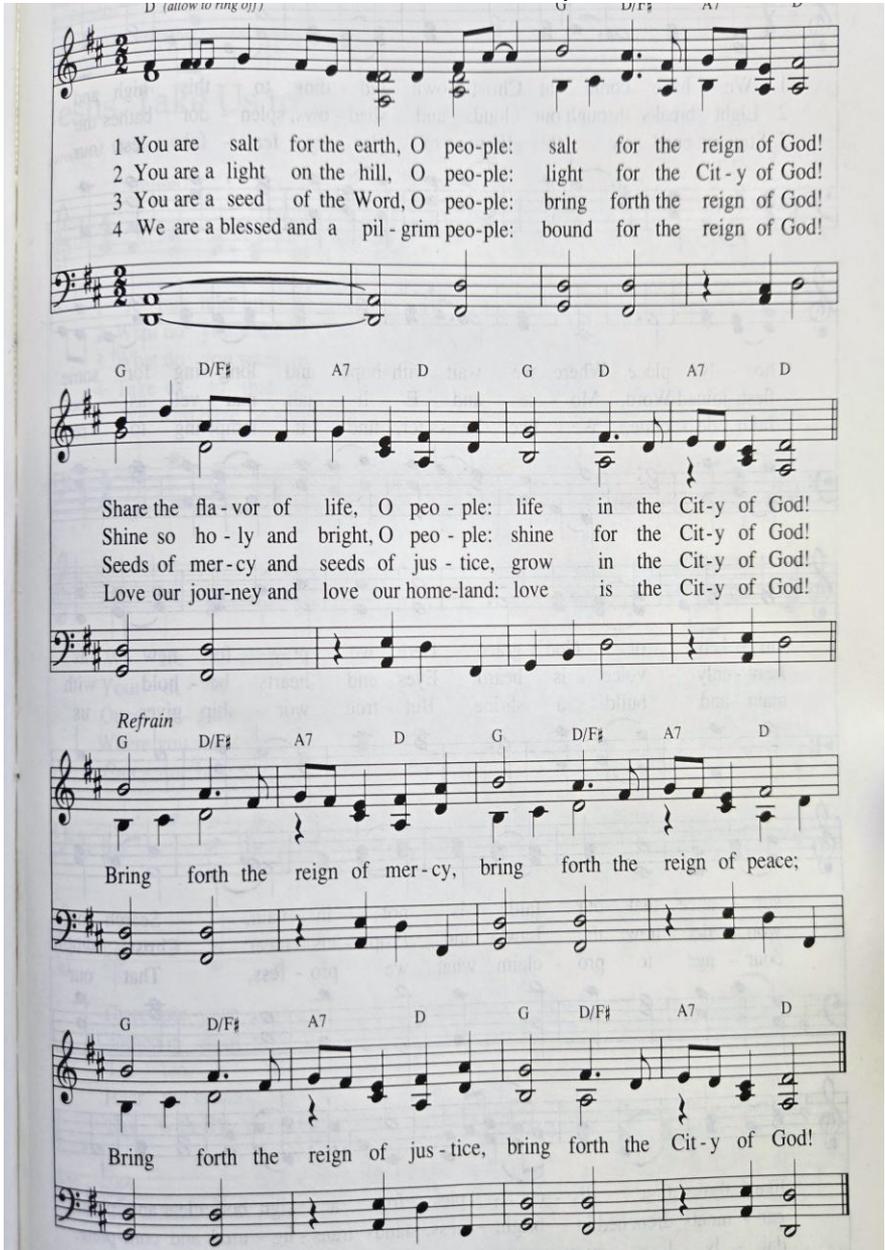
SPECIAL MUSIC "You are the Salt for the Earth, O People"

SERMON "How to be Salt and Light"

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION:

“You are Salt for the Earth, O People”

D (allow to ring off) *G* *D/F#* *A7*



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;
 Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

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.**

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

Sung

**A: Glo-o-ria! In excelsis Deo! Glo-o-ria! In excelsis
Deo!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Great God of Heaven and Earth, use these gifts as you demand: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, every day of our lives. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go. . .

All through the night. . .

Shine, shine, shine . . .

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “This Little Light of Mine”

During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

*Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.
and Samuel F. Pugh (1850-1922)*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Kuechler

A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 14th 9-12_{pm}
Feb 15th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC
8013 Laramie

Open to All!

News in the Pews

We're thankful you've joined us in worship. As the psalmist says, "How good it is to sing praises to our God" (Psalm 147:1, NRSV). Let's open our hearts and minds to the One who loves us, sustains us and blesses us beyond measure.

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

Our  for the Veterans home essentials starts this month! We are collecting household goods of all types, to put in new homes of veterans exiting homelessness. See insert for all the details. Boxes to collect items will be in Lanford Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much for your help!

Thinking about joining the church? We will probably be holding classes in February, please note the change. If you might be interested, please tell Brenda, Laura or another church leader.

Bunco prizes needed! We are now looking for Bunco prizes, new items of any type and cost that we can give away during our Bunco raffles. We have 3 tables of prizes; each table has more valuable items. So, whether you have something expensive or inexpensive, we'll take it all. Talk to the office or Carol Iannotti, Heidi Tarzian or Laurie Mitchell for more details. Our Bunco night returns on **Saturday, March 7th!**

The Wizard of OZ starring our very own Ricky Riley will be playing from February 28th through March 1, 2026. Tickets are on Sale now, click this link or cut and paste it into your browser:

<https://specialgiftstheatre.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F29512>. Ricky will be one of the actors playing the Tin Man and a Munchkin. We're so excited for you Ricky!!

Ash Wednesday is February 18th, and then Lent begins! We will have service on Ash Wednesday at 7PM.

Please remember to update the office on your current prayer request, we appreciate the help keeping the prayer requests timely and accurate.

Our People

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

- Judy Paige's daughter's friend Dave Stevenson in NW Memorial in the ICU with an aortic pump waiting on a Transplant.
 - Betsy, daughter of Ann Herren, is still undergoing radiation therapy for her breast cancer. This is her second breast cancer.
 - Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
 - Mark Taylor.
 - The Kuras family welcomed a baby girl Virginia! All are doing well.
Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Chad McCoy and his family.
 - Richard Hook who had a stroke.
 - Kathy Zipperer and her family.
 - Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
 - 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.
 - Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
 - Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
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- 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 Anniversary this week to Karen and Ken Christianson.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Marilyn Froelich, our Nursery attendant is Kathy Zipperer. 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."



MISSION MOMENTS

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

GREEN

Matthew 5:13-20

There's a white-washed stone and thatched roof cottage in Ireland that sits on a cliff. From every weather-beaten shuttered window there is a view of the sea that has inspired poets and composers for centuries. Wildflowers dance amid the grassy bluffs where a passing sheep or two can be found perfecting the storybook setting.

I stumbled upon this cottage during one of my bouts with writer's block. I had a pressing deadline, yet no inspiration. So, I decided to Google "Irish cottages for sale." Sadly, this dream cottage was not on the market. It was a vacation rental.

I was intrigued, but not with the possible dates in which to book a much-needed getaway. There on the website was the history of the cottage and how its owners restored the structure that had fallen not only into disrepair but had become what looked like just a pile of rocks.

Each before and after picture had me in awe. The restoration project was a massive undertaking. Yet what impressed me was not the amount of time, money and energy they put into bringing this ancient cottage back to life. What impressed me was that they had the eyes to see the beauty lurking in the rubble.

I am grateful that there are people who can see the possibilities in this world when others can't. I often show my husband, with great excitement, dilapidated old homes that are for sale. I begin pointing to the amazing stone foundation. I trace with my finger on the realtor's picture the faint outline of a chimney to what would have been a huge open hearth used for cooking. He, though, can't see what I see. He still sees just a pile of wood that would cost many dollars to rebuild.

But what would this world look like if we weren't blind to the "what can be's"? This question goes beyond Irish cottages, and even beyond the New England clapboard saltboxes I constantly dream about restoring.

I am talking about the "what can be's" that Jesus sees amid the broken beams, crumbling foundations and caved roofs of our lives. For just when we think rebuilding our life is impossible, Jesus not only sees that restoration is possible. Jesus makes it happen.

Many years ago, Jesus urged God's children to let their lights shine. Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. Shine — and shine brightly. Shine amid the rubble and ruin. Shine so that the God beauty can be seen. Shine to reveal that there is always hope. Shine, because the God truth is this: A pile of stone can indeed become a beautiful cottage once again.

Loving God, forgive us when we start believing that restoration work is just too hard and costly. Open our eyes to see what You see — that all things are possible with You. Come into our lives this day and restore all that has crumbled. Restore, rebuild, reimagine — do what it takes for us to begin to shine once again. 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.)

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.^[a]

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[b] shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,^[a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks^[b] one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.