

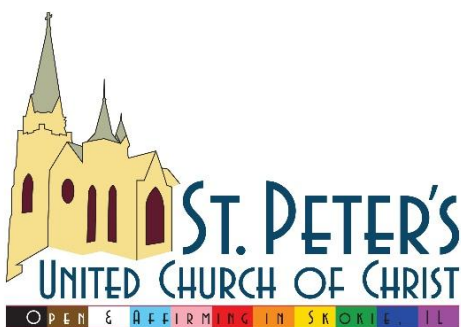


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 28,
2025
10:00 AM**

**Sixteenth 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

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 in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 10:00am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 "Faith" by Brickman

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Jeremiah 32*

One: We gather together to hear God's word of hope.

All: "The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."

One: We gather together to celebrate our part in God's purpose.

All: "Surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to give you a future with hope."

One: We gather together to be re-made in God's image, to bear the word and to do the work of hope in the world.

All: Come, let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN "On Eagle's Wings"

In Unison

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in his sha-dow for
 3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

life, say to the Lord, "My re-fuge, my
 fear, un-der his wings your re-fuge, his
 day; though thou-sands fall a-bout you,

Rock in whom I trust." And he will raise you up on
 faith-ful-ness your shield. near you it shall not come.

ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

sun and hold you in the palm of his hand. 2 The

Fine

Chords: D/F#, G, D/F#, F, Dm, F, Gm, Asus, A, D, Em, A7, D cresc., D7/F#, G, A, Bm, F#m, Em7, A, Dsus, D, D.C.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God, our Comforter and Confronter, speaks to our souls. May our hearts be stirred with a vision of a world full of love and hope. And may we tell the truth of our lives so we might see that vision.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious and generous God, you lavishly bestow the gift of your love. Forgive us, we pray—
when we don't see or recognize your gifts for what they are;
when we think we have somehow earned or are entitled to your generosity;
when we take what you give and beg you for more;
when we hoard our gifts and do not hear the mournful cry
of those around us;
when our desire for more plunges us into ruin and destruction.
Teach us the ways of godliness, and grant us a spirit of contentment, that we may be grateful for your provision
and share the gifts you give with others.
Amen.

Quiet Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God's mercy endures and renews. Even now, God is giving us grace to do a new thing, so that the world may know God's love, hope and promise.

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

One: In Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: And also with you!

MUSIC RESPONSE "Halle, Halle, Halle"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 32:1-31, 6-15

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

Christian Scripture

Luke 16:19-31

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC "On Eagles' Wings"

SERMON "Tables Turned"

SUNG RESPONSE "If Only I Had Known"

Sing to the tune of "The God of Abraham Praise"

**A: "If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those
in need.
But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed," the rich man cried.**

**If only we could see which bargains in the store
Are made in dismal sweatshops that oppress the
poor.**

**For each subsistence wage — each tiny, crippling
stitch**

Makes wider the divide between the poor and rich.

And, too, if we could hear a mother's lullaby;

She's singing now to calm her hungry toddler's cry.

**For rich ones came one day, took land and water
rights,**

**And left the poor with hopeless days and hungry
nights.**

If only we could learn what keeps us wanting more:

We build our bigger barns so we'll feel more secure.

But you alone, O God, give true security;

Possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.

O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the earth!

And yet, by your own Spirit, you have shown God's truth:

"Do justice, help the poor, share life and love and land,

And when you see the hungry, open wide your hand."

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, copyright © 2007 by The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. All rights reserved. This hymn was commissioned by Christian Reflection, a journal of The Institute for Faith and Learning at Baylor University, for a special issue on Global Wealth.

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

Sing to the tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

**A: For gifts of earth and hands that give,
For hearts that learn and lives that live,
We raise our song of thanks and praise,
To God who loves in countless ways.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: Creator God, you call us to join in your work of love in
the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow
your lead. As we return to you a portion of your gifts,
receive them as a sign of our gratitude for your
unending love. Guide us as we offer our whole selves in
your service, seeking your abundant life for all. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Be Thou My Vision"

Unison

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
 Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Be Thou My Vision”

by Callahan

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

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ; and The Abingdon Worship Annual edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jen Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon



Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Galatians 6:2

**Advocacy is essential to participating in
God's mission in the world.**

Gifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

Thank you for your generosity!

News in the Pews

Come as you are — weary or joyful, hopeful or unsure. Here, in God's house, we are met with grace. May worship today draw us closer to the heart of Jesus and the peace of God's presence.

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

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our Rummage and Bake Sale. Months of planning, sorting, dropping off, pricing, fixing, advertising, baking and so much more goes into this sale. Thanks also to those who worked the sale. Thanks to Annie Noorts and everyone for pitching in to our biggest fundraiser of the year. You made a difference, and we love you!

Pop-Top Can goods needed — a rep from the Jesse Brown VA Hospital will be coming after the sale for donations, and we'd like to surprise them with a box of pop-top can goods like pasta, stews, soups, sardines, etc. for their grab and go area- they are in need. Drop off during the week to the office.

Rummage Sale after the sale — charities are coming Monday - then starting Tuesday folks can start bagging and boxing starting in Lanford Hall and moving to the gym once that's cleared. We'll have a group cleanup on Friday from 10-12PM.

Once things are bagged up folks can start bringing boxes (soft goods to remain here for our Jan. drive) to your local Goodwill or donation center of your choice. Check Monday's weekly update for more details.

Neighbors in Need Collection - Sunday, October 5th, we will have a special collection for the UCC's Neighbors in Need. Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. See insert for more details.

Private signs are coming - In the upcoming weeks, you will notice certain rooms around the church will be designated as "private." If ICE should ever come to our building, they will not be allowed to enter any room marked "private."

The Pet Blessing will be Sunday, October 26th from 3-4pm. Bring your 4-legged beloved friend for a blessing from Pastor Brenda! In addition to a blessing, we'll have treats for humans and pets, a pet raffle, and C.A.R.E. will be on hand with short leashes and information on adoptable animals. All are welcome, suggested donation of \$5

Help stock our mini-Food Pantry – Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Bring your items to the shelves by the office or leave them in the narthex. Thank you so much!

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, or contact the office.

Our People

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

- Richard Hook who is hospitalized following a stroke.
- Kathy Zipperer and her family.
- Paul Abramchik and the Abramchik family.
- Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
- Sue Bailey has been diagnosed with Crohn's/Ulcerative Colitis and spinal lesions.
- 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.
- Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
- 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, 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 Maya (Schuhrke) Martinek, Nicole Miller, Doug Johnson and Gretchen Sterba. Happy Anniversary to Angela & Harrison Kuras, Kathy & Jeffery Issel, Amanda and Richard Steegmueller and Peggy and Chad McCoy.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Richard Schneider, and Kathy Zipperer is on Nursery duty. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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.

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.

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



MISSION MOMENTS

Surprising Investment (September 28, 2025)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

When my husband and I moved to our 18th-century Vermont home, complete with a charming old stone well, I couldn't resist doing what generations of farmers have done before me. I named our humble abode, "Old Stone Well Farm."

My husband, though, gently pointed out that two chickens and a small garden does not make a farm. Furthermore, he inquired, why would I even want the farming life?

His question comes from seeing the struggles — and closures — of the farms in the area. He has driven a feed truck long enough to have heard the stories of families barely making ends meet.

He is a local, rooted in reality. I, on the other hand, am an outsider who still romanticizes early morning milkings. Yes, our little village used to boast more cows than people, but I haven't given up on the dream of going beyond two chickens and adding some goats and perhaps an apple orchard.

The prophet Jeremiah bought a farm many years ago despite the warnings from all the naysayers. It wasn't really an opportune time to invest in land. There were great political conflicts between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. And to top it all off, Jeremiah was in prison for

warning people what was about to befall them. It is then, Jeremiah's cousin asks the prophet to buy his farm. And so, he does.

This land deal had nothing to do with buying low and selling high. It had everything to do with hope. Jeremiah proclaimed that he is doing it because God promises that the people will come home from exile and houses and fields and vineyards will be theirs once again.

How many times have we let reality cloud the vision of hope that God still has for us? Where are the dreamers who can see the goodness of God in the most desperate of situations?

Three months before his execution by the Nazis, theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote to his fiancée Maria, "When Jeremiah said, in his people's hour of direst need, that 'houses and fields and [vineyards] shall again be bought in this land,' it was a token of confidence in the future. That requires faith, and may God grant us it daily."

Yes, may God grant us such faith each day of our lives. Faith to buy the farm and live into the hope of a better tomorrow.

Old Stone Well Farm has yet to become a real working farm, but that doesn't mean I have given up on the dream. If anything, I am only just beginning to envision the amazing things that can be.

God of beautiful tomorrows, help us to invest in your Kingdom. Where others see dead ends, let our eyes see the possibilities. Increase our faith and help us always to hold on to hope. 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.)

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. ²At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, ³where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

⁶Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: ⁷Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’” ⁸Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

⁹And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. ¹¹Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy, ¹²and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin^[a] Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. ¹³In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, ¹⁴“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. ¹⁵For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.”

Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16

¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,^[a]

²will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”

³For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence;

⁴he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

⁵You will not fear the terror of the night
or the arrow that flies by day
⁶or the pestilence that stalks in darkness
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them
and show them my salvation.

Luke 16:19-31 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. ^[a] The rich man also died and was buried.

²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ^[b] ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

²⁷He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”