



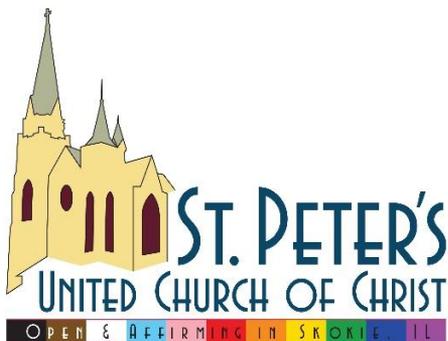
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Wednesday,
February 18,
2026**

7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday





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 in Skokie

Order of Worship for

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday

QUIET MEDITATION

Our ancestors in faith used ashes as a sign of our repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life. Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness; we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain; we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness. May our ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death, but reminders that by God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we are granted life forever with you, O God.

PRELUDE

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

You may stand in body or in spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Genesis 2:7; 3:19; Psalm 104:29-30; John 1:18

O: Beloved, in the middle of our busy week, we pause to observe Ash Wednesday as a faith community.

A: We come to remember that God made us from fragile, blessed dust and breathes through us the breath of life and love.

O: From dust we are created in God's image and to God's good dust we shall return.

A: With dust and oil we claim the mark of God's beloved creature.

O: Today we begin our 40-day Lenten journey to discover who we are created to be as God's beloved.

A: In daily practices of prayer and service we will embark upon this Lenten journey.

O: We follow Jesus, God's Beloved Child, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh in whom we see God's image most clearly.

A: So come, let us pray for strength and imagination to follow Jesus wherever he will lead us this Lent.

HYMN "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me"

Chords: Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Chords: F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Chords: Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Chords: F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

O: Tonight begins our journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Like any well-prepared traveler, we confess that we want to pack our bags to make sure we are comfortable for this journey. But Ash Wednesday is about leaving baggage behind and braving the unknown, carrying nothing but the mark of God's beloved.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: In this vulnerable place, we confess that we want to be surrounded by all of the things that make us feel better about ourselves, including things we think that you, O God, need in order to love us.

O: And yet, you whisper to us that we are made in your divine image, and that faithfulness to that knowledge is all that we need for the journey of life.

A: So, we ponder what it is that we may let go of this Lent, in order to help us hear more clearly the stories of your extravagant love for all, and to follow more bravely and confidently. Amen.

HYMN OF CONFESSION "Out of the Depths"

Unison Dm Dm/C B \flat M7 Asus4 A

1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
 3 God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.

Dm Dm/C B \flat M7 Asus4 A

*Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.

D Gm C F

Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.

B \flat /D Am/C B \flat M7 Am7 1, 2 Gm7 Am7 Dm 3 Gm7 Am7 D

Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, heal us by your touch.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, hold us in your care.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, meet us with your grace.

*Ruth Duck has provided the following words that may be

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

O: Know that God loves you, forgives you, welcomes you and rejoices in you. You are God's beloved child, whom God made from fragile, blessed dust, and through whom God breathes the breath of life and love.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES *Optional*

Remember that you are God's beloved dust, and to God's beloved dust you shall return. The old has died. The new has come.

If you are so moved, you may come forward to receive ashes on your forehead or on your hand.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51

O: Have mercy, tender God, forget that I defied you.

Wash away my sin, cleanse me from my guilt.

A: I know my evil well, it stares me in the face, evil done to you alone before your very eyes.

O: How right your condemnation! Your verdict is clearly just.

You see me for what I am: frail, a sinner.

A: You love those centered in the truth; teach me your hidden wisdom. Wash me with fresh water, wash me bright and clean.

O: Fill me with happy songs! Let the bones you bruised now dance, shut your eyes to my sin, make my guilt disappear.

A: Creator, reshape my heart; God, steady my spirit. Do not cast me aside stripped of your Holy Spirit.

O: Save me, bring back my joy, support me, strengthen my will. Then I will teach your way and sinners will turn to you.

A: Help me, stop my tears, and I will sing your goodness.

Lord, give me words and I will shout your praise.

Adapted from The Psalter, translated by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy ©1995 Archdiocese of Chicago

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

REFLECTION*What do I need to release to make room for love?**What do I need to let go of in order to be able to turn and return to God?**What do I need to take up or carry with me that will nourish me for the journey?**Is there a practice, a ritual, a reminder that will help you remember that you are enough?***THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****Invitation****Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration**

One: We give thanks for the closeness we have
in you and with you O God.

All: You are always as close as our next breath.

One: We marvel at how intentional you were in our
design.

**All: You crafted us from stars and like stars, bid us to
shine**

One: We broke forth with you,
shining in a beginning.

**All: And we will return to you luminously,
in the end.**

One: Beloved, we gather in this solemn moment, to
pause and to reflect. We reflect on the bread that
was broken and the cup that was shared.

All: We remember.

The Words of Institution / *Corinthians 11:23-26*

One: On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took a loaf of bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

All: We remember.

One: In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me".

All: We remember.

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All: We partake in remembrance.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *'debts'*

**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**

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN “Ash Wednesday Comes and, Lord, We Hear”

TALLIS' CANON 8.8.8.8 ("All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night")

Ash Wednesday comes, and Lord, we hear

The word for which our spirits yearn;

Amid this world's distress and fear,

We hear your loving call: "Return!"

"Return to me with all your heart"

With fasting, weeping, mourning, too.

O God, we seek a brand new start,

A new beginning here with you.

You call to us — the old, the young;

You summon nations strong and weak.

When we have drifted toward the wrong,

You call us back, your way to seek.

O God most merciful and kind,

Your love is not a prize we earn;

Yet in our life with you we find

The joy that comes when we return.

carolynshymns.com : [Ash Wednesday Comes and, Lord, We Hear](#)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Chimes

Silent Prayer

POSTLUDE

Selected

Tonight's liturgy was adapted from writings of Thom Shuman, Shawna Bowman, and Beloved Dust to Dust: Service Prayers for Ash Wednesday, written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, pastor of Plymouth United Church, UCC, in Spring, Texas.

Communion from Break Forth: Service Prayers for Ash Wednesday Year A by Rev. Teña T. Nock, who serves as The Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER

Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

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!

St. Peter's United Church of Christ | 8013 Laramie Street, Skokie

BUNCO NIGHT

\$5

donation
gets you

- drinks
- dessert
- snack bag



Games
Snacks



Raffle Prizes

**March 7th
7-10pm**

Prizes, games, and the best raffle in town!
Don't miss this fun family night out!

To reserve a table for your group:
Call Office (847-673-8166) by March 6th.

For more details, see "Upcoming Events" on stpeteruccskokie.org homepage



News in the Pews

We are grateful you've joined us on this Ash Wednesday. As we turn our hearts toward Jesus and the journey to the cross, we remember that God meets us with mercy at every step. May our worship inspire repentance, faith and deeper trust in God's unfailing love.

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

Thank you to Daniella Rukin for filling in for Ben today.

2026 Lenten Devotionals are now available upon request.

Please email or call the office with your preference of a PDF or printed copy. Thanks!

Our Soup-n-Study begins next Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30PM. Join Pastor and others as we gather for a light meal and discussion. Order the study guide here:

https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/listen-up-bible-studies?_pos=1&_psq=Philippians&_ss=e&_v=1.0&variant=42446076444739

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!

BUNCO is March 7th at 7:00PM. See flyer for more details and join us!

New Members Classes – The official dates for classes are Sundays; February 22nd, March 1st and March 22nd. Note a change from March 8th to the 22nd. If you are interested in joining and haven't already signed up, talk to Pastor Brenda or the office.

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.

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!!

Our People

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

- Bill Schaller had valve replacement surgery 2 weeks ago and is doing great.
 - 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.
 - Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Richard Hook who had a stroke.
 - 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.
 - 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 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!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Carolyn Van Til, 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."

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