

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 9, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Eleventh 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

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
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 9, 2026 at 10:00am**

Meditation during our sacred music:

*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

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the
dreamers,
as well as the doubters.

**All: Here, the worriers and wanderers
can call on God by name.**

One: Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways
God has graced us.

**All: Here, in these moments,
we are reminded that God is with us, always!**

One: Here are gathered those daring enough to step out
of comfort into the unknown:

**All: here, in this faith space,
we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!'
in every situation.**

One: Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN “Praise to the Lord The Almighty”

F Dm C/E F C Dm Am B^b F B^b Edim/G Dm B^b C C' F

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2. Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 3. Praise to the Lord, Who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee;
 4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore Him!

F Dm C F Dm Am B^b F B^b Edim/G Dm B^b C C' F

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath come now with prais - es be - fore Him.

F C/E F B^b F B^b/D C/E F Gm F C

All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain,

F/A B^b Edim/G Dm Gm A Gm/B^b C F

Praise Him in glad a - do - ra - tion.
 Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 If with His love He be - friend thee.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**All: Lord, since it's you, we need to hear from you:
when we are alone
when we go away to pray
when we have little faith
when we are battered by the waves
when the wind is against us
when we get in the boat
when we're terrified by our ghosts
when we seek you on the mountain
when we cry out in fear
when we start walking on water
when we begin to sink
when we are far from land.
Lord, since it's you: speak to us. Calm our fears.
Calm our storms. Strengthen our resolve. Remind
us who you are. Walk to us. Call to us. Save us.
Reach out your hand and catch us. Quiet the wind
around us.**

Hear our prayer, now and always. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Hear the Good News of the Gospel: Even what someone might intend for evil, God can use for good.

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! Hallelujah!

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

Beth Sterba

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

SERMON

“Little Faith”

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his co - ve - nant, his blood, sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

right - eous - ness: I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - every high and stor - my gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found: dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the so - lid Rock, I stand: all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

o - ther ground is sin - king sand; all o - ther ground is sin - king sand.

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

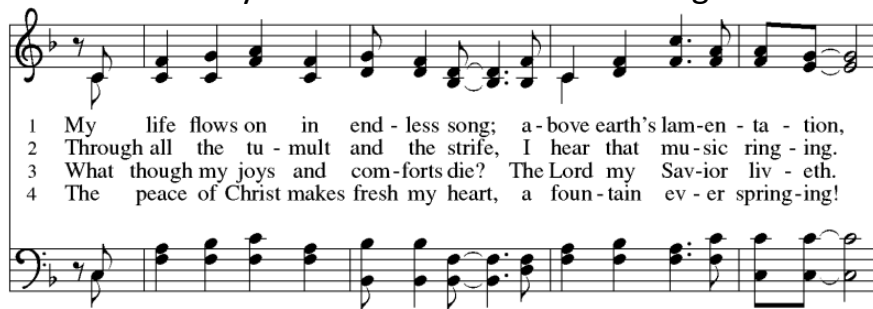
**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures, here below!
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

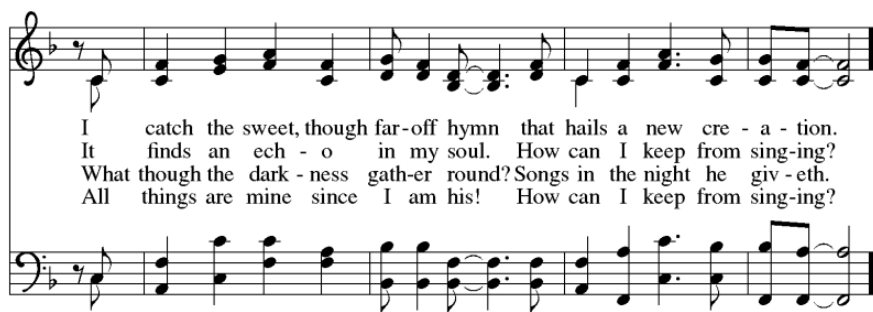
All: Gracious God, You call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in Your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly, and sufficient faith to follow without fear. Take our lives and our gifts. Use them to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your reign might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT:

"My Life Flows On In Endless Song"

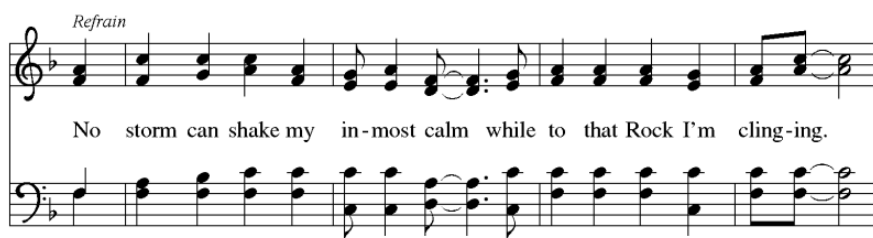


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

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:

worship.blogspot.com, Proper 14 A From <<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Proper%2014%20A?updated-max=2012-06-27T12:09:00-05:00&max-results=20&start=20&by-date=false>>

and Tony Peterson, The Africana Worship Book: Year A, Discipleship Resources, 2006, p. 91.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

News in the Pews

Come friends; let us worship the Creator/Redeemer of us all. With hands stretched out toward others, we rejoice that we are privileged to worship the Lord our God. Welcome all!

90th birthday celebration for Marlene Russell – Join us after worship for a special birthday luncheon for Marlene at 11:15AM.

Summer conversations before worship Sunday mornings. Join us in Lanford Hall starting at 9AM. Topics will be pulled from the UCC daily devotionals, you can sign up for them here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

A Just Harvest Kitchen this month! We're serving at AJH on the 29th from 11AM to 2:30PM. We're asking for donations totaling \$500 for the cost of the meal and 2-3 volunteers to help serve. Please contact Chad McCoy if you'd like to volunteer – chadwoodmccoy@gmail.com. Donations can be placed in the offering or brought to the office, AJH in the memo.

Lorel Park worship is August 30th at 10AM. Meet at the pavilion near the tennis courts. Folding chairs will be provided, but feel free to bring your own comfy chair.

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!!!

Thank you to everyone who's been donating to our food pantry, and we can still use donations if you are able.

Summer can be the hardest time for lower income families, who rely on free and reduced meals during the year. Your donations can help combat that!

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.
- Mark Kelly, friend of Ginger K., is now in rehab gaining strength to be able to come back to his apartment.
- 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 Kim (Loach) Bruhn, Olivia Altmayer and Elliott Kerbel. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Jen Schneider, 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

When All Seems Lost

August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Joseph was a dreamer. He was also the child his father loved the most, which didn't sit well with his brothers. So much so, they plotted to kill their younger sibling. But not wanting Joseph's blood on their hands, they threw him in a pit instead. When the pit didn't ease their guilty conscience, they then sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver to a group of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.

Yes, Joseph was a dreamer. And yes, he was the family's golden child. But I believe what really spurred the brothers' hatred was that Joseph dared to dream.

"Here comes the dreamer," his brothers would say with a biting sarcasm when Joseph approached. Here comes the one with lofty ideas, with bold plans, with a vision that quite honestly isn't enviable but downright frightening because it holds a mirror to our inability to embrace a new way of living.

And that's the thing about dreams. They have the power to unsettle others. A reason why many life coaches advise against sharing too freely our most treasured dreams with everyone, because not everyone will understand and be supportive. Many a dream has been squashed by a naysayer who thought they were listing all the cons out of love and concern for the dreamer.

What a shame it is that in our lives we give too much power to the opinions of others, especially when it comes to our dreams, for those dreams just might be from God who, in the Bible, communicated often in our nocturnal slumbering.

And when a dream is a God dream, they are never then the sole property of the dreamer. They are for the making of a better world, which comes at the price of the old world having to come to an end or at least make some big changes. Thus, why people often seek to kill dreams.

Yes, here comes the dreamer. No, I am not referring to Joseph, but to you, for we all have dreams. Some so big they might seem impossible, but they are not. Some within reach, ready to be grabbed hold of. And all with the ability to change life as we know it.

As Harriet Tubman once said, “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and to change the world.”

If all seems lost right now for you, my dear dreamer, it is not. Keep reaching. Keep believing. God is with you.

Inspiring God, may today we find ourselves daring to dream once again. May we find the strength to take those forgotten dreams off the dusty shelves of our hearts. May we believe beyond belief, that with You, all things are indeed possible. 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.)

Genesis 37:1-4:

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe.^[a] ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Genesis 37:12-28

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. 13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." 14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, 15 and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" 16 "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." 17 The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. 18 They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." 21 But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." 22 Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe^[a] that he wore, 24 and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. 28 When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind,^[a] he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."