



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

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

**Third Sunday in
Lent**



40 DAYS
OF
Lent



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

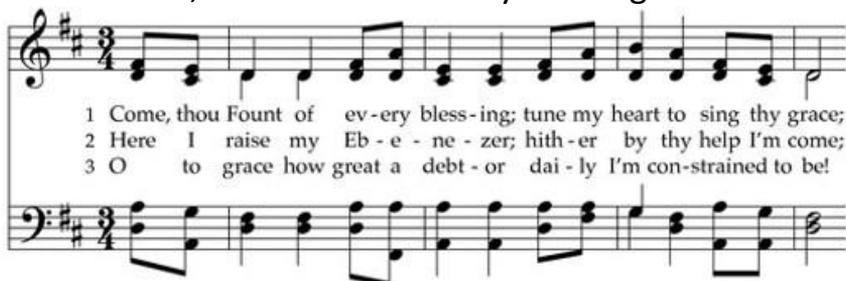
Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



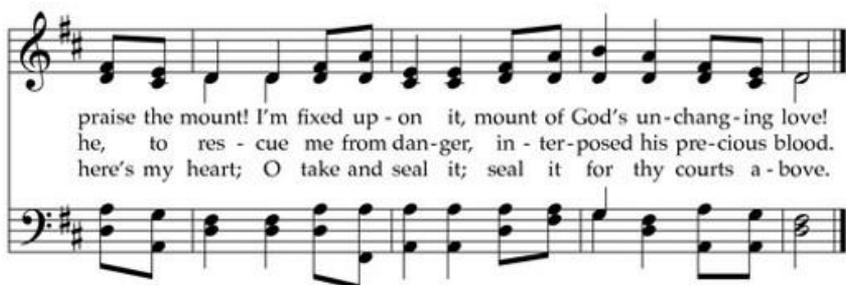
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: God, are you with us? We seek assurance.

All: Like the Israelites at Massah

we desire proof.

Like the people of Meribah

we ache for assurance beyond words,

Something we can see and touch.

Forgive our testiness and fickle faith.

Renew our commitment to hold fast.

**Strengthen our belief in your mysterious
presence.**

Shoot our veins full of the experience of blessing.

Shatter the stoniness of our resistance.

Break forth as water from a rock

Filling our minds to overflowing with your being.

Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God knows we thirst. God has already provided all that we need to drink deeply from the cup of grace.

All: For there is nothing we can do and nothing that can be done to us that will ever separate us from the love of God.

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: 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

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture

Kristin Gulinski

Exodus 17:1-7

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Please be seated.

John 4:5-42

SPECIAL MUSIC "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

SERMON

"Growing Conversation"

HYMN “When, like the Woman at the Well”

**When, like the woman at the well,
I lived with broken dreams,
Christ came to me, good news to tell,
Of ev-er-living streams.**

**Christ knew my heart, my wayward ways,
Yet gave me hope, not fear.
The God I once thought far away,
I could approach, draw near.**

**I learned I could forever live
and worship God aright.
Could trust the power the Spirit gives
To guide me in truth’s light.**

**Each day I lift my cup above,
and I again receive
The living water of God’s love,
Revealed for my belief.**

**Since now I am in grace immersed,
Set free, forgiven, whole,
I share with those who are athirst
The well-springs of my soul!**

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

**We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: Holy God, everything we have is a gift from you.
These offerings in our plate or gifted online are a
sign of how much we love you. Help us to use these
and all our gifts to further your love throughout the
world. Amen.**

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"



1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
 fears sub-side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc-tion, Land me safe on



power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
 Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
 Be Thou still my Strength and Shield, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A-MEN.



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “CWM RHONDDA” arr. Callahan

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

This morning's liturgy was adapted from:

<http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/>

and

<<https://worshipwords.co.uk/exodus-171-7-psalm-95-a-prayer-ana-gobledale-uk/>

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Greg Dennis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

As we spring forward into a new season, may we also step into the fresh grace God provides each day. Though we may have lost an hour of sleep, we gain time together in His presence—a reminder that His mercies are new every morning.

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

Easter Egg Hunt candy and small toys needed for our Egg Hunt! Non-melty candy preferred. Drop off at Lanford Hall or the office, and call with questions! Thank you!

Easter Flower orders must be in by next Sunday, March 15th. Purchase spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter, then take them home! Order form in this bulletin or in the March Announcer.

Easter Breakfast RSVP's are included in this bulletin. Join us for a very special Easter Brunch after Easter Worship. Lots of savory and sweet options and great fellowship await you! All are welcome, form must be in by Palm Sunday, March 29th.

Our Soup-n-Study continues every Wednesday in Lent. 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](https://www.stpetersucc.com/studies?_pos=1& psq=Philippians& ss=e& v=1.0&variant=42446076444739)

Holy Week at St. Peter's! Holy Week begins on **March 29th with Palm Sunday**. Join us at 10AM as we celebrate Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem. Then, on **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**, join us at 7:00PM as we remember the last supper with Jesus and his disciples. Holy Communion will be served. On **Good Friday, April 3rd** at 7:00PM, we remember Jesus's last moments and we mourn his death. **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, is a day of celebration like no other. Worship begins at 10AM, followed by our Easter Egg Hunt, and then stay at 11:30AM for our delicious Easter Brunch. We hope to see you for all of it!

"The Revolutionists," by Laura Gunderson, presented by Skokie Heritage Museum and St Peter's UCC on Saturday April 18th at 5pm, followed by a Q&A with the cast and light refreshments from Kneads & Wants Bakery. Dramatized by Violet Surprise Theatre, *The Revolutionists* is a hysterical and historical (or, more accurately, *herstorical*) play that invites audiences to experience the French Revolution from a female perspective. So don't pardon our French. Pardon our Frenchwomen and their très merciless treatment during the Reign of Terror.

Prayer list updates - please remember to update the office on your prayer request so we keep it timely and accurate. Thank you!

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.
- 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!

Happy birthday this week Don Kahn, Jamie Iannotti, Jeff Loach, Lana Kahn, Ray Erdman, Adrianna Paige, Tracy (Paige) Puckett and Roy Svenson. God's blessings on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Karen Christianson, 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."

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

2026 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Please find below the order form for the Easter plants



that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. There are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders

may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 15, 2026.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	12.00	
	Azalea 6"pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.50	
	Tulip 6" pot	8.50	
	Kalanchoes	11.00	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY March 29, 2026

ADULTS

CHILDREN 3-6

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS _____

HELP SAT. 10:00 AM

HELP EASTER

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

EASTER BRUNCH

SUNDAY April 5, 2026

11:30 AM (after the Egg Hunt)

Join us for Easter Brunch after worship in the Memorial Room starting at 11:30. Eggs, bacon, and baked goods will top the menu.



The cost at the door is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 3-6, and no charge for children under 3. Please RSVP by filling out this form and placing it in the offering plate (no payment) or by sending it to or dropping it off at the church office.

We are calling for donations of coffee cakes, muffins, and other baked goods. Please fill in the blank with what you will bring. And we are asking for help on Saturday, the 4th, and Easter morning. Please check the appropriate boxes to let us know how you want to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Schneider.

Hope to see you there!

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.



Our love offering to the world.

Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**



*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.***

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

Thirsty Voices

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Purple

John 4:5-42

There's an old stone well on my Vermont property dating back to the eighteenth century. It's no longer operational as it ran dry years ago. A deeper well has since been drilled. Still, there's something spiritually powerful about that old well. Each time I walk by the stone relic I find myself pausing for a blessed second, imagining Jesus offering me water in which I would never thirst again.

It was the same offer he extended to the Samaritan woman in the village near Shechem at Jacob's well, believed to have been built around 1906 B.C.

Jesus encounters the woman in the noontime sun. After getting past the societal faux pas of a Jew asking a Samaritan for water, and after disregarding the red flag waving that this woman is an outcast among her own people — after all, who draws water when the sun is the highest and the hottest — Jesus has the water conversation.

He doesn't talk about the refreshing liquid that quenches parched throats, but the refreshing Word of God that saturates souls that have become spiritual wastelands.

Sir, how do I get this water? It's a question we should all ask, for what will satiate our thirsting for acceptance and wholeness?

Soon after moving to my fledgling farm that I named "Old Stone Well Farm," in honor of that well that captivated me, I began a Lenten spiritual practice. I would rise early in the morning and sit on the old rock slab covering the well's opening. I would then picture Jesus right beside me sharing all the beautiful things he sees in the world, and all the beauty he still sees in me just as he saw in the Samaritan woman.

My friends, although you can't physically join me at my old Vermont well this Lent, there is a well for you sit by this day. It is a place to retreat to and to close your eyes and to whisper to your Friend and Savior, "Jesus, I would very much like this water that you offer."

Thirst-quenching God, may we find ourselves asking Your Son boldly for the water in which we will never thirst for anything ever again. May this be the day we take a big holy gulp of hope, of love, of forgiveness, and of peace. 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*.)

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

John 4:5-42

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[a] ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir,^[b] you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir,^[c] give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir,^[d] I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[e] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman,

believe me, the hour is coming when you^[f] will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You^[g] worship what you^[h] do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he,^[i] the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah,^[j] can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving^[k] wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”