

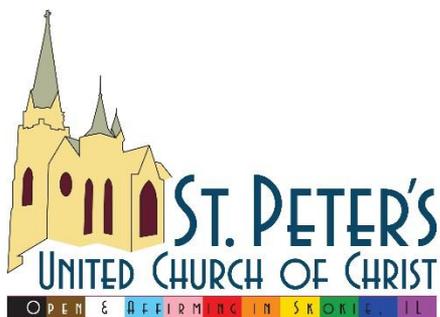


ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
March 1,
2026
10:00 AM**

**Second Sunday
in Lent**

Welcome





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

understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

All: Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.

GATHERING 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, 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.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: O God, we often wish to go our own way, maintain control, and rely on our own strength rather than trust that you will provide. Heal our unwillingness to live by faith and trust that you provide all that we need for the journey.

All: God of calls and courage, you draw us towards your loving embrace even as we face what seems like impossibility. As you call us into an unknown future, grant us courage to let go of all that we have known so that we can take hold of the new life you are bringing. Though we may not know where we are going, God, your way is revealed moment by moment, step by step, and breath by breath. Grant us courage. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God does not come to condemn, but to offer a healing salve for our wounds. We know this healing and salvation through Jesus our Christ.

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.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God made us and pronounced us very good. Grace and mercy always make goodness possible.

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: 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

Carolyn Van Til

Genesis 12:1-4a

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Please be seated.

John 3:1-17

CHOIR ANTHEM "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

SERMON

"Beyond Belief"

HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"



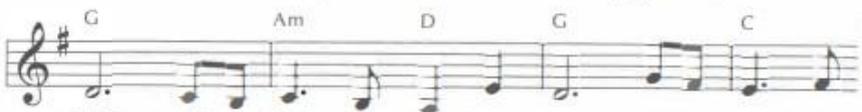
1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

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: O God who calls us to go out into the world with
generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of
comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces
your love, justice, and compassion for a world in**

need of your healing. In the name of Christ we pray.
Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the God of great adventures be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

All: We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.

One: Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

All: We lift our songs to the One who is always with us.

One: Let us lift our hearts in prayer . . .

Sharing of the Story

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Gratitude

All: As you feed us at your table, O God, may we feed each other and feed your world. May we share love broken open and promise poured out, until all your world feels the blowing of your Spirit and the healing of your hope. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "God Will Take Care of You"

Ps. 91

1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;
 2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;
 3 All you may need God will pro-vide, God will take care of you;
 4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

Be-neath God's wings of love a-bide, God will take care of you.
 When dan-gers fierce your path as-sail, God will take care of you.
 Noth-ing you ask will be de-nied, God will take care of you.
 Lean, wea-ry one, up-on God's breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain

God will take care of you, through ev-ery day, o'er all the way;

God will take care of you, God will take care of you.
 take care of you

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Selected

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

This morning's liturgy was adapted from:

Called to Go: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent, written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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:

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



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.



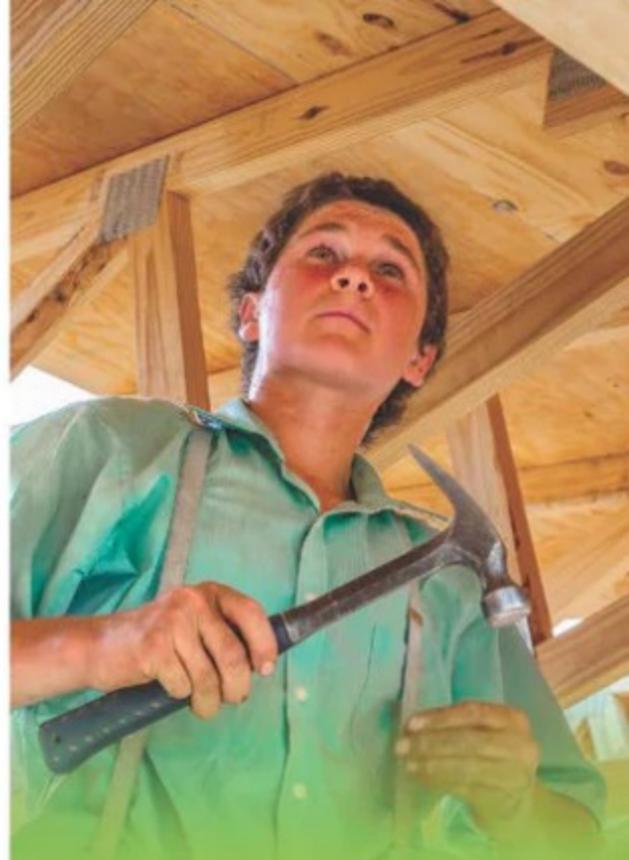
Our love offering to the world.

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)

News in the Pews

We're gathered to praise a faithful God whose promises never fail. Scripture reminds us, "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him" (2 Corinthians 1:20, ESV). May our worship today echo that "Amen," bringing glory to Christ who is always with us.

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

Please stay and join us for our third New Members class after worship. We'd like not just new members, but everyone who is able from the congregation to join us.

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

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

The Wizard of OZ starring our very own **Ricky Riley** last show today- 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 Food Pantry supply is getting low! We are extremely grateful to all the folks who got us through this long winter with such ample supplies, thank you! We can use more donations now, if you are able.

Easter Flower orders are being taken now. Purchase spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter, then take them home! Order form in this bulletin or in the March Announcer.

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

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 Night Ministry is one of our long-standing ministry partners. You are invited to join a program tour to get first- a first-hand view of programs to help our neighbors who are unhoused and experiencing poverty. Learn more and register using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-night-ministry-program-tour-tickets-1980395389922>

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.
- 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!

Happy birthday this week Alexander Christianson, Grace Castillo, Joshua Castillo, Tyler O'Hara, Britta Christianson, Phil Lindroth and Rich Schneider.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Kristin Gulinski, our Nursery attendant is TBD. 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.



MISSION MOMENTS

Bold Blessing

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Purple

John 3:1-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. — John 3:16

Twenty-seven words. That’s all John uses to tell us about this life of faith. It’s short, sweet and powerful. So much so that German Reformer Martin Luther labeled the 27 words “the heart of the Bible, the Gospel in miniature.”

But could it really be that simple?

I asked that question once when I found myself singing a Vacation Bible School song about John 3:16 in front of 20 sugared-up children. As I belted out the biblical truth about God loving the world — complete with the choral refrain “he is the truth, the way, the life”— I wondered what those words would mean someday to the little voices that joined me off key.

Would remembering God's limitless love for them be the very thing that would save them? And how many would go beyond the way-too-commercialized Gospel soundbite of John 3:16 to grapple alongside Nicodemus, the educated Pharisee who was told by Jesus that "no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above?"

While it would be wonderful for 27 words to be the Gospel in miniature, we know there's more to this life of faith. There are dark nights of the soul as well as glorious epiphanies.

Through it all, we question God's love more often than we like to admit, and we find it down right frightening to surrender to the Spirit. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus it is the second birth of the Spirit, not flesh, that will help us see a bit better the reign of God. But the Spirit, Jesus says, will blow where it chooses.

And that is okay. Really. Read my words again. It is okay to allow the Spirit to blow you in the God direction. Go to the unknown and unwelcomed places knowing that as you are guided by the Spirit. God's bold blessing is forever with you. That is the blessing of a love so strong and steadfast that no harm will ever come to you.

Now that's the song I wish I belted out for those children at Vacation Bible School — a song of being born in the Spirit and of living unafraid of life's twisting and changing paths, for there's always an abundance of God's redemptive love for them — and for you.

Loving and merciful God, on this second Sunday in Lent may we feel the Spirit winds whipping in our lives, leading us to be born again into new creations that are awakened to the never-ending God opportunities. 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 12:1-4a

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”^[a]

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

John 3:1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from

above.”^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You^[c] must be born from above.’^[d] ⁸ The wind^[e] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.