


# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

## Sunday, October 18, 2026
## 10:00 AM

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**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL

# 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
# Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
# Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 10:00am

*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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens,
we worship the Lord of all life.

**All: In God we live and move and have our being.**

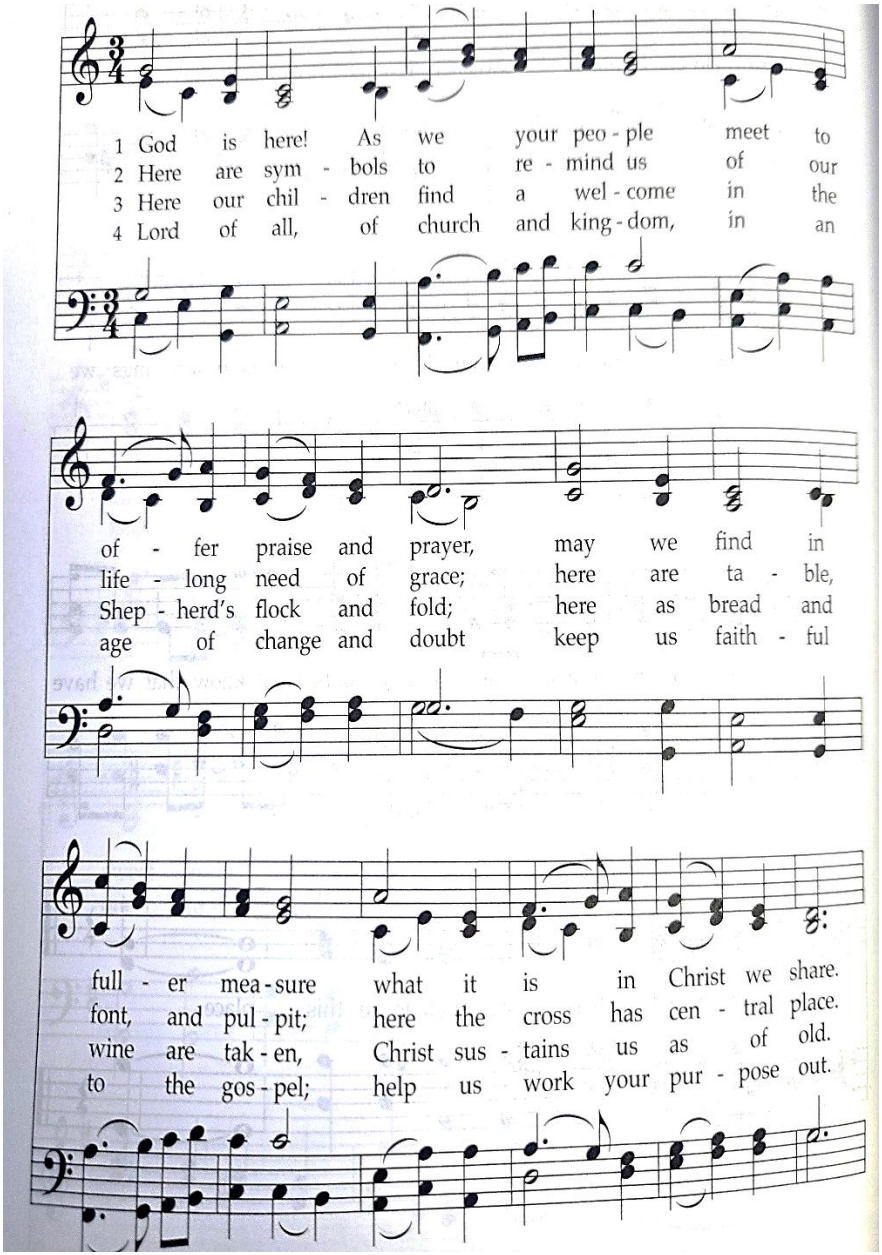
One: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

**All: We reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God has touched our lives.**

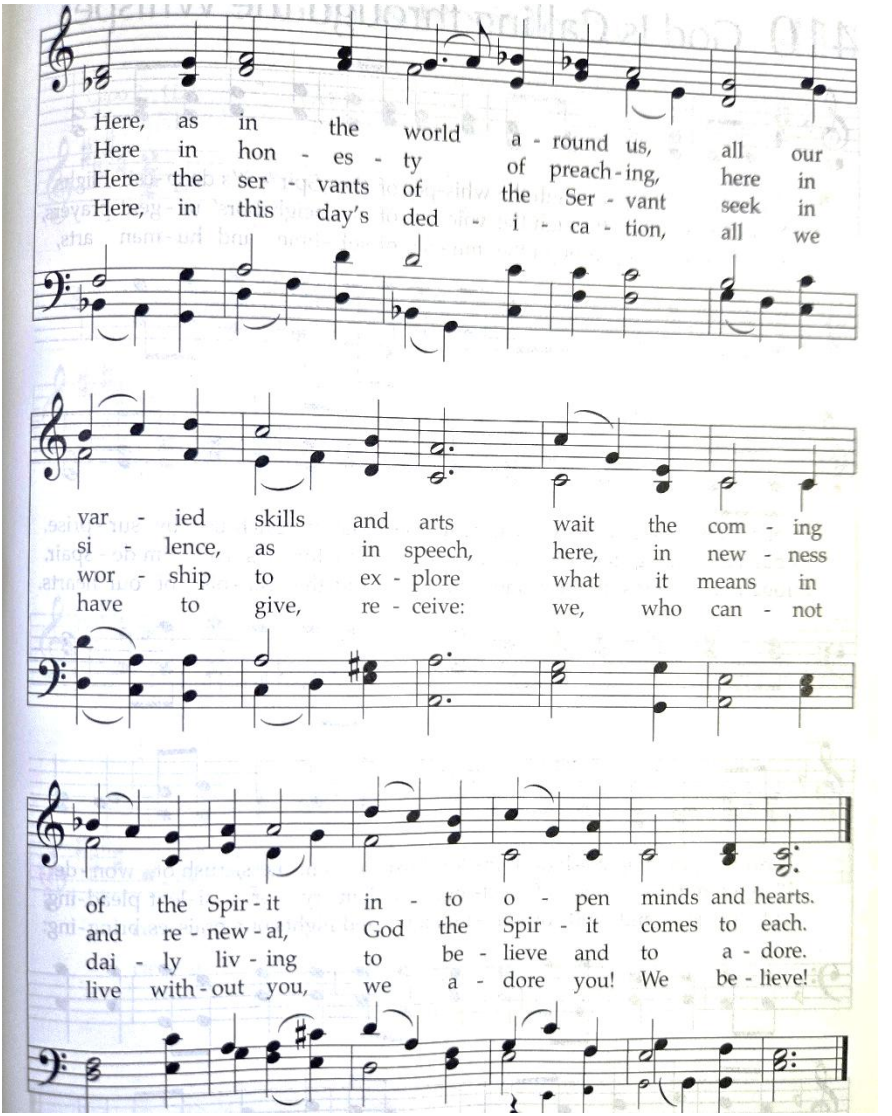
One: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

**All: Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN "God is Here!"




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## CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

*inspired by Exodus 33, Matthew 22:15-22*

**ALL: God of mercy,**
**we place our trust in tangible things—**
**things we can see and touch—**
**and question whether you are really there.**

**Forgive us, Holy One,**
**when we fail to recognize**
**that you are always nearby,**
**patiently waiting for us to recognize**
**your presence and your glory.**

**Help us when we lose our way,**
**and forgive us when we forget**
**to whom we truly belong.**

**Lover of justice,**
**open our eyes to see you;**
**open our ears to hear you;**
**open our hearts to love you;**
**and open our hands to serve you.**
*Pause for quiet prayer*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God answers us: My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

**All: For there is nothing you can do and nothing that can be done to you that will ever stop God from loving you.**

One: 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**

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** Kristin Gulinski

**Hebrew Scripture** Exodus 33:12-33

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

**Matthew 22:15-22**

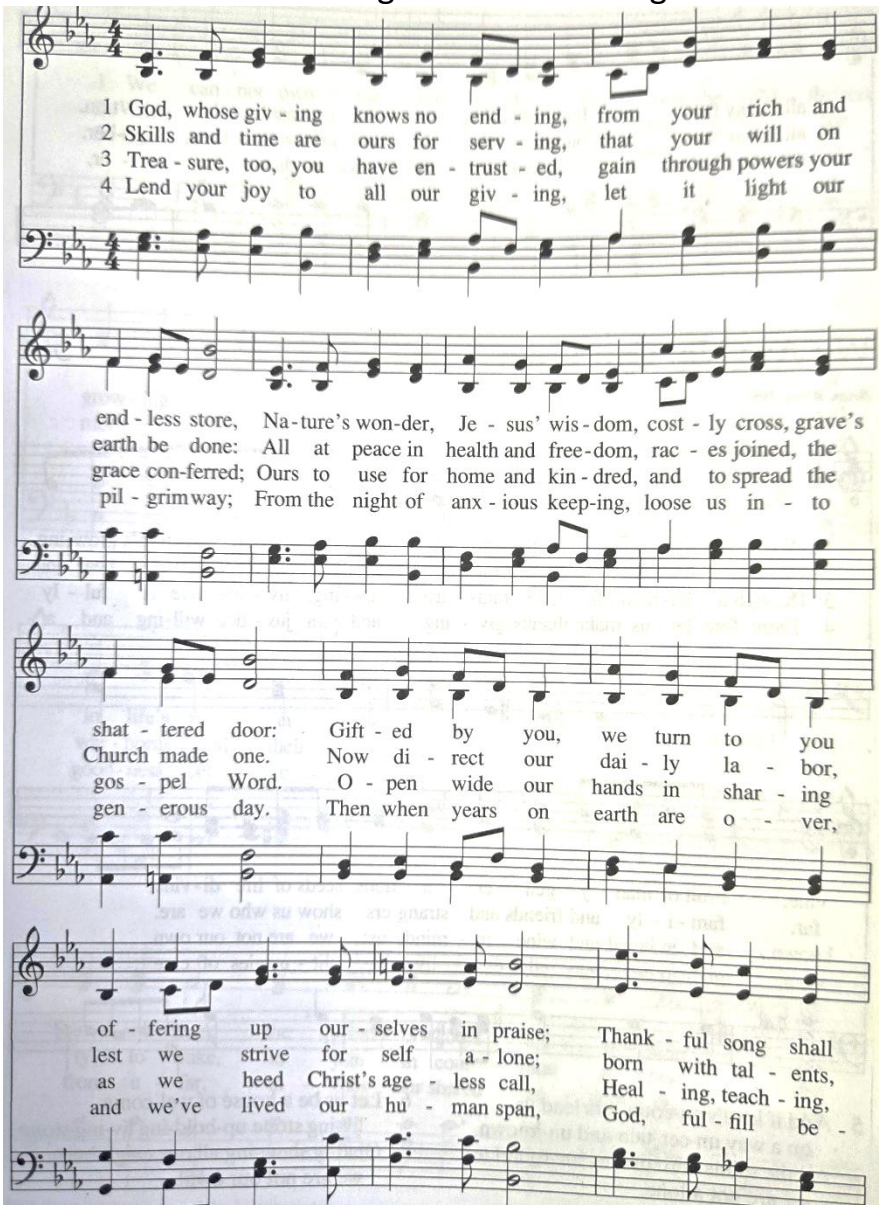
*Please be seated.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM** "Be Not Afraid"

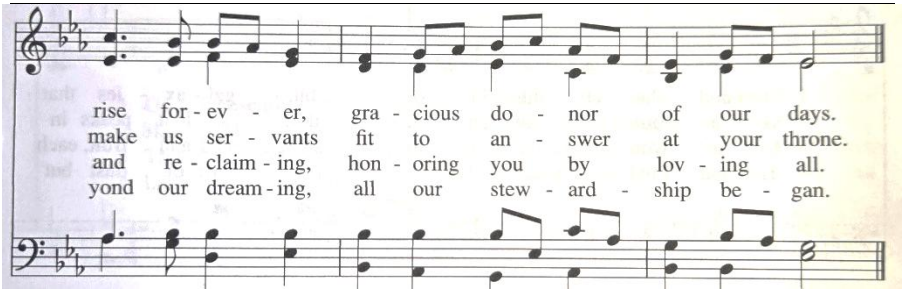
**SERMON** "The Image of God"

## HYMN OF RESPONSE:

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"




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**CALL TO PRAYER**
**JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS**
**SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

**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: As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment,**
**may we become imitators of you, Gracious God,**
**who holds nothing back from us,**
**but is generous and gracious with all that is yours.**
**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"May the God of Hope Go With Us"



## 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:*
*Nancy C. Townley, posted on the Ministry Matters website.*

*Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website, October 19, 2013*
*Thom Schuman, posted on Lectionary Liturgies.*
*http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/*

| FOR WORSHIP TODAY | |
|---|---|
| INTERIM MINISTER | Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR | Ben Westphal |
| DEACON | Denise Hopp |
| LIVESTREAM RECORDING | Jen Schneider |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT | Rita McMahon |

# News in the Pews

**Hebrews 5:7 reminds us that Jesus "offered up prayers and supplications" and was heard by the Father. As we gather for worship today, may we bring our own prayers before the Lord and draw closer to Him and to one another. Welcome, brothers and sisters in Christ.**

**Looking for volunteers for the St. Peter's table at the craft show!** Contact Wendy for more details (wensven55@gmail.com) and thank you!

**Memorial service for Mark Williams** - A Just Harvest will be holding a memorial service for Mark Williams on Saturday, October 24th at 1PM. Location is Good News Community Church, UCC, 7649 North Paulina Street, Chicago, IL 60026. Repass to follow after.

**Our Pet Blessing is *October 25th at 3PM*!** Pastor will bless each and every 4-legged friend that comes to our event. We'll have a short service, treats for all, and our pet raffle. C.A.R.E. will be on hand with adoptable animals and information, and short leashes. $5 suggested donation.

**A Just Harvest is this month!** We'll be collecting donations totaling $500 for the cost of the meal and looking for volunteers to serve in the kitchen on our day, which is ***Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 11:30AM to 2:30PM***. Contact Chad McCoy if you'd like to help.

**Haunted Heritage Cemetery Walk 2026.** On ***Saturday, October 31st from 11AM-1PM*** hear dramatic and amusing tales of Skokie's biggest BOO!ms and Busts from the ghosts who lived them! Tickets can be purchased here: https://ilskokieweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?module=PST&keyword=heritage

**Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall and colder weather.** We made it through summer, thanks to all of you for donating! Now we need a good supply for the fall/early winter. If you can donate, bring your items to the shelves outside the offices, to the office doors or on Sundays. Thank you so much!

**Calling all Crafters.** Our annual craft show will be on ***Saturday, November 7th from 10AM-3PM***. 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:**

- The family of Mark Williams who passed away October 3rd.
- We have been praying for Annie's friend Renee for a long time due to her progressive illness (PSP). On 9/14 she fell and broke her neck. She is now in the "step-down" ICU. She is improving a little bit every day, regaining some feeling and mobility. She had a very long road with rehab ahead of her, with the hope of eventually getting home.
- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- 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.
- 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 this week** to Shawna Frenzel and Ryan Loach.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Rita McMahon, 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."

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# MISSION MOMENTS

## October 18, 2026
## Thessalonians 1:1-10
## Living Messages

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. I Sing A Song of the Saints of God (*#295 in The New Century Hymnal) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one too.

They loved their God and they lived that love,
It was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,

They lived not only in ages past:
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with living saints,
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;
for the saints are folk like you and me,
And I mean to be one too.

**The New Century Hymnal. Cleveland, Ohio. The Pilgrim Press; United Church of Christ. © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Hymn #295 Words, Lesbia Scott. Music, John H. Hopkins.*