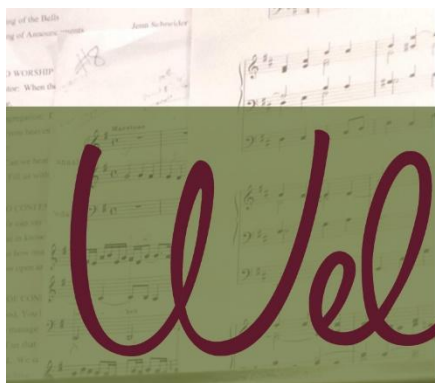




Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 23, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Thirteenth 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
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 23, 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 "Sonata No.5" by Handel

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS
ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?”

All: We come with our questions, our faith, and our longing to know Christ more deeply.

One: Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

All: We proclaim a Christ who meets us where we are and calls us toward love, justice, and abundant life.

One: Christ builds the church not from perfect people, but from ordinary people willing to follow.

All: We are the church—many voices, many stories, many gifts, bound together by grace.

One: And Christ entrusts us with the keys of the kingdom: the sacred work of opening doors rather than closing them.

All: May we open doors to belonging, compassion, healing, and hope.

One: Come, people of God. Let us worship the Living Christ and become the community we are called to be.

All: With open hearts and open doors, let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN "Built on the Rock"

1 Built on the rock the Church does stand, e - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the most
 3 We are in God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his
 4 So in this house, of an earth - ly frame, Je - sus his
 5 Here stands the font, be - fore our eyes tell - ing how

steeples are fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in
 high, is not dwell - ing; high in the heav'n's his
 own hab - i - ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his
 chil - dren is bless - ing; here now we come to
 God did re - ceive us; th'al - tar re - calls Christ's

ev - 'ry land - bells still are chim - ing and call
 tem - ple stands, all earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us life and sal - va -
 praise his name, faith in our Sav - ior con - fess -
 sac - ri - fice and what his ta - ble does give

ing, call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 ling; yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove, deigns to a -
 tion; were two or three to seek God's face, he in their
 ing; Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
 us; here sounds the Word that does pro - claim Christ yes - ter -

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
 day, to - day, the same, and our Re - deem - er for - ev - er.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks. Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: God changes more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives and our spirits are transfigured and made new.

All: 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!

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

David Iannotti

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 1:8-2:10

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

SERMON

“What is Our Name?”

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Lead Me, Guide Me”

Insert

HYMN OF RESPONSE "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

For if You lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The vocal line is on a single staff, and the piano accompaniment is on two staves (treble and bass). The lyrics are written below the vocal staff. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the hymn. The second system contains the second line. The third system contains the third line. The fourth system contains the fourth line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the treble, with some triplet figures indicated by a '3' over the notes.

VERSE

1. I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right-eous-ness, Be my
 3. I am lost if You take your hand from me, I am

help me o-ver my weak-est hour. Help me through the dark-ness
 aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put-ting all
 blind with-out Thy Light to see. Lord, just al-ways let me

D.C.

Thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 my trust in Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 Thy ser-vant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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 **"Sheep May Safely Graze"** **by Bach**

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: God of grace and love, we offer not money, but our generosity with it; not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; not our efforts, but Christ's gift, which transform us into Your children.

Receive these gifts and transform us in mercy and grace. Let our hearts, our lives, our spirits be transfigured and made new.

Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"I've Got a New Name Over in Glory"

I've Got a New Name Over in Glory

**I've got a new name over in glory,
and it's mine, mine, mine.**

**I've got a new name over in glory,
and it's mine, mine, mine!**

**I've got a new song over in glory,
and it's mine, mine, mine.**

**I've got a new song over in glory,
and it's mine, mine, mine!**

**I've got a new call over in glory,
and it's mine, mine, mine.**

**I've got a new call over in glory,
and it's mine, mine, mine!**

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:

Lawrence Gandiya, Zimbabwe. Found in Prayers Encircling the World: An International Anthology (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998), 91.

Thom Shuman, posted on his excellent blog, Lectionary Liturgies.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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

News in the Pews

With gratitude we come to give thanks to the Lord for God's boundless grace. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we extend the hand of friendship and love to all who have come.

Special thanks this morning to our guest musicians Judith Brown and Andrew Barnes Jamieson!

Our special Lorel Park outdoor worship service is next Sunday, 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.

A Just Harvest Kitchen this week! We're serving at AJH on the 29th from 11AM to 2:30PM. We need 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.

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/>.

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.

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.
- 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 Valerie Paige-Mahoney. **Happy Anniversary** to Laurie & Errol Mitchell and Christine & Peter Svenson. God's blessings to you on your special day!

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

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

Be Transformed

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Green

This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! And let us have a pop quiz. I bet you never expected that in church, did you? But here we go.

What was the name of the baby found along the banks of the Nile? Moses. Correct.

That was easy. Now for one a bit harder. Name the two midwives who disregarded Pharaoh's edict to kill all Hebrew baby boys, and who delivered Moses.

Pharaoh gave this horrific order to curtail the rapid growth of the Hebrew population who were enslaved in Egypt. It didn't work. It just made God bless the community more.

But back to the question. What were their names?

They were Shiprah and Puah. Don't worry if you didn't know the answer. I didn't either when this question appeared on the Bible content part of my ordination exams. It had me stumped, and my friends as well.

It's noteworthy that the midwives' names live on in the ongoing story of salvation because women were often written out of the manuscripts by the male authors of the time.

But here in the story of Moses, all we have are women defying authority. We have the midwives as the heroines who prevented a genocide. We have Moses' mother who hid her baby the first few months of life, before putting him in a basket made of reeds and floating him in the Nile. We have Moses' sister watching the basket bobbing on the banks of the Nile to ensure her baby brother is safe. Then we have the daughter of Pharaoh who adopts the babe as her son and gives him the name "Moses," which means "drawn from the water."

Each decisive, risky and faithful act of these women builds upon the next, ultimately transforming the Israelites from the enslaved to desert wanderers to recipients of the Promised Land. And that is how a better tomorrow is created — in stages and with the help of people working together. Bringing about change isn't a solitary act.

The world, which is always in some stage of transformation because God is never done with us, needs your hands this day to deliver hope or weave a basket of safety or raise a child whose voice will say to a pharaoh, "Let my people go."

We all have a part to play in heralding in God's kingdom. May your name be one that is remembered in the who's who of God's children who dared, risked and spoke up.

Gracious God, Your plans for a better tomorrow will never be thwarted. Peace will reign. Justice will prevail. The outcasts and forgotten will be welcomed. And so, Great God, here are our hands. Bless them and use them in transforming Your broken world. 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 1:8-2:10

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews^[a] you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses,^[b] "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter,^[b] and on this rock^[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was^[d] the Messiah.^[e]