



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

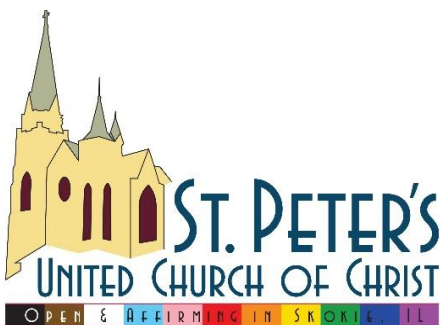
May 10, 2026

10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday

Of Easter

Mother's Day





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
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10, 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We long for community and the Presence of God.

All: In whom we live and move and have our being.

One: Christ tells us that we will never be alone.

An Advocate will share our journey.

All: With whom we live and move and have our being.

One: May the ever-present love of God be with you.

May the joy of Christ surround you.

May the presence of the Advocate lead you.

**All: In the fulness of God,
we live and move and have our being.**

One: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God.

GATHERING HYMN “For the Beauty of the Earth”

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our

glo - ry of the skies, for the love which
 day and of the night; hill and vale, and
 heart and mind's de - light, for the mys - tic
 sis - ter, par - ent, child, friends on earth, and
 world so free - ly giv'n; for that great, great

from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

You may be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Paul said to the people, “I see that you are very religious, in every way.” So are we. And when we look just a little bit deeper, we see that God is helping to examine our lives to change the world. Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

A: Holy Advocate,

Sometimes we forget that you know us at our very depth. We become anxious and afraid that you are not with us, and that our lives have lacked meaning and purpose. You have called us to great things, but we focus instead on what we lack, rather than on Whose we are.

By your mercy, help us to live out the commandments of Christ beyond these walls, beyond this hour, so that we may become justice, hope and peace for the earth and its people. Amen.

Pause for quiet prayer

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Friends, believe the Good News. We are created to live in community, to share with each other, to repair relationships and to bring healing to the world.

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, Halle”

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Roy Svenson

New Testament Scripture:

Acts 17:22-31

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

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 14:15-21

Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM “Your Love, O God”

SERMON

“God Made Known”

HYMN "God Made from One Blood"

1 God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,
 2 We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
 3 Through fam - ilies we've tast - ed the val - ue of trust
 4 Help fam - ilies in all of their var - i - ous forms

the cir - cles of nur - ture that raise us from birth,
 for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,
 and felt what it means to be lov - ing and just,
 to face with in - teg - ri - ty strug - gles and storms;

Com - pan - ions who join us to work through each stage
 The in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend
 Yet fam - ilies have al - so be - trayed their best goals,
 Grant peace to our homes that will nur - ture the bud

of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
 of par - ents and part - ners and chil - dren and friends.
 mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bru - is - ing their souls.
 of peace for the fam - ilies you made from one blood.

The Congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

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**

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

tune: All Creatures of our God and King

**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 *Unison*

A: Creator God, you bless our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge us. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Called As Partners In Christ's Service"

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

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:

Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2025.

The Whole World our Neighborhood: Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, by the Rev. Quentin Chin Posted on the United Church of Christ Worship Ways website.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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



**Strengthen
the Church**



SENT FORTH IN
LOVE

Supporting next generation leaders

Through the Church Assessment, Support, and Advancement (CASA) Program, new and renewing ministries receive grant funding to establish and strengthen transformative faith communities within the United Church of Christ.

One of these grant recipients is the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program at Kailua Christian Church. Their mission to cultivate a loving, Christ-centered community is reflected in their investment in young adults discerning pastoral and social service vocations. By partnering with The Institute for Human Services and offering hands-on, community-centered learning, housing support, and spiritual formation, KCC is developing the next generation of compassionate, justice-oriented Christian leaders.

A participant of the program shared, "This experience has prepared me to pursue ministry with greater intentionality, creativity, and resilience, equipping me to serve diverse communities with both grace and practical leadership."



Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support ministries like the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program all across the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between your Conference and the National Ministries.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/stc



News in the Pews

Happy Mother's Day! Let us thank God for our families and pray that all family members may grow close in love and respect for one another. May all church families also be mindful that we are indeed "members one of another" (Ephesians 4:25).

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

The flowers today are given in honor of all the mothers, like-a-mothers and mother figures in the church from the Women's Guild. Happy Mother's Day!

The landscaping committee is looking for someone to do the edging around the church, once a month from May - October. Please contact the office if you are able to volunteer.

Please donate to the Pollinator Garden project! We are in the process of updating our front lawn/sign area, and we need your help. Donations of any size can be placed in our offering, sent/brought to the office, or through electronic giving. Talk to Carolyn Kuechler for more information.

The UNDY 500 is back all of May! The "Undy 500" is a collection we do every year for The Night Ministry, who serves Chicago's most needy. All of May we will be collecting Men and Women's BRAND-NEW underwear in COLORS ONLY. All sizes are needed including PLUS sizes. We will have spots in the

sanctuary and Lanford Hall for your donations. Thank you so much!

The Women's Guild will meet this Wednesday, May 13th at 11:30AM. All women of the church are welcome, please join us!

Our New Members will be officially welcomed into the church during our May 17th worship service. Please attend and show these new folks some St. Peter's UCC love.

A Just Harvest service is this month! We are collecting donations totaling \$500 for the cost of the meal and asking for volunteers to serve. Join us **Sat. May 30th from 11:30AM-2:30PM** at the kitchen. Contact Chad McCoy if you'd like to serve. Donations can be given in the offering, office or through your electronic giving. Thank you!

Pentecost is May 24th! You are welcome to wear red. May 24th is also our focus Sunday for the "Strengthen the Church" offering. Give if you are able.

Please let us know about any Graduations or other special events you'd like to share! We'll include those in our upcoming May and June Announcers.

Experience hope in action! Tour the Night Ministry - the Night Ministry will again be hosting a behind-the-scenes tour this **Thursday, May 14th from 5-7PM.** The Night Ministry has been a longtime community partner of St. Peter's UCC. Contact MaCheaux Ransom to register:
macheaux@thenightministry.org.

Our People

Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:

- Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable 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 this week Gianna Iannotti, Evelyn Georgia Loach, Jake Ryan and Jessica Schneider. **Happy Anniversary** to Mandy and Mike McDonald. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Mark Loach, our Nursery attendant is Laurie Mitchell. 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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

Witness of Love

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

White

John 14:15-21

When asked to sum up the Christian faith, Karl Barth, the Swiss Reformed theologian who published his multi-volume theological summa and magnum opus known as Church Dogmatics, did not reply with an equally extensive, deep-dive answer. Rather Barth was uncharacteristically short in his summation, replying simply, “The most profound truth I have ever known is this: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

Love. It is the heart of the Gospel, and it really is all we need in the world. Love is the very essence of God. So, when Jesus, before finally ending his post-resurrection Earthly tour to take his place at the right hand of God, tells his friends, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” he was pointing to the greatest commandment of all: To love one another.

Loving others as Jesus loved was the very mandate he gave to the 12 who were gathered in the Upper Room on what we now observe as Maundy Thursday. In Latin, maundy means “mandate.” So, Jesus wasn’t suggesting but mandating that we love even when friends hurt and deceive us, just as Judas did after hearing Jesus speak those “love” words. Love through the betrayals. Love through the tears. Love through the gunk in life.

How are we doing with being the great witnesses of love in the world these days? Is love just lip service or are our actions speaking louder than all-too empty sentiments? Are we loving with the unselfish and non-judgmental love of God? Are we letting the love of God infiltrate political camps, dismantle harmful ideologies and remove the hateful distrust of all those who look or think differently than us? For that, my friends, is the love Jesus speaks of. It’s a love he shows you and me — always. It’s time we start witnessing to that kind of love.

Holy and Ever-Present God, may this day we become the powerful witnesses to Your love, caring for others as Your Son taught us by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, befriending the lonely, tending the sick, and visiting those who are imprisoned. 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.)

Acts 17:22-31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor^[a] he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God^[b] and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

John 14:15-21

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep^[a] my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,^[b] to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be^[c] in^[d] you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”