

Central United Methodist Church November 9, 2025



Lectionary readings for
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
November 9, 2025

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father loved us and gave us eternal comfort and a good hope. May he encourage your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do or say. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

The past couple of weeks, Central Church has richly blessed the community and each other. I so enjoyed our witness on Halloween. Seeing the childrens' eyes light up when they came to our table of candy was a delight. The party-like atmosphere was a great way to meet our neighbors with crafts and news of Santa in the Cabin. Then, sharing moments in the encompassing dark with our Luminary Walk of Remembrance aglow was profound.

Monday night, before the Village Hall Meeting, a group of about 100 people showed up to express solidarity with our immigrant neighbors. There was connection around mutual aid efforts, rapid response, and policy-making to meet the needs of families and children negatively impacted by budget cuts and ICE activity.

On Wednesday, Central Church opened our kitchen up to a new movement of the Spirit prompted by the Niles Township Clergy Forum. Together, Mae Williams and Mary Wadleigh made soup with Loraine and Patricia of Kol Emet Synagogue along with Hazzan Sarah, their new spiritual leader. Next, they gathered at the Niles Township Government building's Community Room for a fundraiser called Soup Group. Kindness flavored the hot soup and warm hearts that night of interfaith community.

Earlier on Wednesday, a group of us delighted in each other's company as we celebrated several staff and volunteer birthdays. The feel-good moment reminded us of how much we enjoy coming together in love and laughter. Our ministry truly moves at the speed of relationships.

Next week, on Sunday, November 16, we will have the chance to make a pledge for our financial giving in 2026. The service will also highlight several people formally joining the church. It's good to recall that generosity blesses us.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity. 2 Corinthians 9:11

Trust Jesus' Blessing,
Pastor Biel

Bible Study



Join us for Bible Study from **9 am to 9:45 am** - Sunday morning via Zoom.

If you would like to be on the Zoom list for the Bible Study Class, please email the church office:

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org.com

Worship Service

Join us on **Sunday, November 9, 2025** - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost in the Sanctuary for our in-person service. We celebrate the **Lord's communion every Sunday and we invite all to take part regardless of membership.**

The worship service is available on Zoom at 10:30 am. Please email or click this link: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

to request the Zoom Link information.



New Tax Deduction 2026



Beginning in 2026, taxpayers who take the standard deduction can also deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married couples) for cash and check gifts made directly to qualified charities like Skokie Central Church.

What this means: If a person doesn't itemize deductions (and most of us don't), this gives you a new way to reduce your tax bill while supporting causes and charities you care about. It also means you can increase your support because it will cost you less at tax time!

[click here](#) to learn more.

Donate



We appreciate all the financial support that has been received to support the church and missions. You can now give your financial support to Central in many ways.

CASH and CHECKS– Cash and check donations can be placed in the offering box at our church services. Checks can be mailed to the church.

VENMO – Using the VENMO app, pay by credit card. Enter Central Church's Venmo email: centralchurchgiving@gmail.com.

ONE TIME DONATIONS OR SET UP RECURRING DONATIONS BY CREDIT CARD OR BANK TRANSFER USING THESE OPTIONS:

ONLINE GIVING – go to <https://onrealm.org/skokiecentralumc/give/now> ; or use the QR Code.

TEXT TO GIVE – Using our secure online giving platform, TEXT to 73256 and send the message GIVECHURCH. A response will appear with a link to our online giving web page.

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers this week are provided by Ruby David in honor of Denis & Rose David's Wedding Anniversary.

Fellowship



Join us after the church service for Fellowship provided by Sharmaine Mackenzie and The Nicolasin Family.

The following allergies and dietary restrictions within our congregation are known of: **corn, dairy, gluten, meat and onions.**

Looking Ahead

Readers, Flowers & Fellowship, Oh My!
We are always looking for Volunteers.
Please sign up, TODAY!

November 9

Reader: Jaden Ocampo

Flowers: Ruby David

Fellowship: Sharmaine Mackenzie and The Nicolasin Family

November 16

Reader: Ed Gut

Flowers: Ellen Nero

Fellowship: Tai- Chi group

November 23

Reader: Tina

Flowers: _____

Fellowship: Trustees

Mission



Supporting Our Mission: Families in Need

This mission is a direct reflection of our faith in action. It's about providing immediate, practical assistance to families within our community—and even within our own congregation—who are struggling with unexpected financial crises, food insecurity, or basic material needs.

Your generosity makes it possible to answer a prayer and change a life.

Financial Donations

A monetary gift is the most flexible way to help, allowing us to respond quickly to different crises, whether it's paying an unexpected utility bill, purchasing emergency groceries, or securing temporary shelter.

- **Designated Offering:** Please use an offering envelope and clearly write "Families in Need Mission" or directly on the check memo line.
- **Online Giving - Venmo:** If you give through Venmo please label the funds "Families in Need."

Donating Goods Please contact the office for more details.

Poinsettia



Order by Sunday, November 16 , 2025

Christmas Poinsettia order forms and payments will be due on **Sunday, November 16, 2025**. Six inch single bloom plants at **\$16 each** to be placed on the altar for our Christmas Service.

Order forms will be located on the sign-in table or at the church office.

Chris Walters

“If I can show ways to *redirect* your taxes to benefit you and your family, your church, and your core charitable values, will you share time with me to discuss this with you?”

November 18

11:30 AM



Rev. Chris Walters
President & CEO

Midwest Methodist
Foundation

Skokie Central UMC in the Log Cabin
Lunch will be served. Please RSVP.

RSVP: 847-673-1311 | centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org



MidwestMethodist.org • MethodistGift.org
312-803-4801

Movie Screening

MISSION: JOY

FINDING HAPPINESS IN TROUBLED TIMES

November 21, 2025

6 PM - 9 PM

Log Cabin

View Trailer: [click here](#)

Free movie: [click here](#)

Experience the incredible friendship between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu in this laugh-out-loud film. Despite difficult journeys, they made happiness a habit – finding joy in adversity and fighting for a better world.

Santa In the Cabin



**SANTA
IN THE
CABIN**

&

**CRAFT
VENDOR
FAIR**

CABIN CAFÉ AND BAKE SALE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

- * **A wide variety of unique and handcrafted gifts**
- * **Free take-home craft for the kids**
- * **Enjoy lunch in the Cabin Café**

Central United Methodist Church

8237 N. Kenton Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076

Phone: 847-673-1311 www.skokiecentralumc.org

Morning Tai-Chi Class



Weekly on Tuesday Log Cabin- 9 AM

Interested in learning Tai-Chi? Join our free class in the **Log Cabin, Tuesday mornings, 9:00 to 10:00**

a.m. Classes are taught by certified instructors, Jas and Jo Faber. This slow, meditative exercise is designed to improve energy, relaxation, balance and overall health.

If you're interested, please email the church office

at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Central Caring Crafters



3rd Thursday of the month Next meeting is Nov 20

10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7

The prayer shawl group is back as **Central Caring Crafters**! If you crochet, quilt, sew and have a heart for other crafts, gather with us to work, to learn how, or just come for the fellowship! Bring a bag lunch and stay for lunch and a treat. We hope to see you there!

If you're interested, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Yoga With Victoria

MORE INFO & REGISTER



YOGA SAMPLER WITH VICTORIA BIEL
FRIDAYS 6:30-7 P.M.
FULL SESSION: \$225/\$281
DROP-INS: \$28/\$35

9/19: VINYASA	10/24: IYENGAR
9/26: YIN	11/7: EFT AND
10/3: HATHA	SOMATIC EMBODIMENT
10/10: RESTORATIVE	11/14: SOUND
10/17: KUNDALINI	11/21: LAUGHTER

RESTORATIVE YOGA WITH VICTORIA BIEL
THURSDAYS 7-8:30 P.M.
9/18-10/30: \$175/\$219
11/6-12/18: \$150/\$188
DROP-INS: \$26/\$33



8031 FLORAL AVE. | (847) 929-8001
MUSEUM@SKOKIEPARKS.ORG

SKOKIE HERITAGE MUSEUM

SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday Morning Meditation



Weekly on Tuesday
Log Cabin or Online
10:30 AM CDT

Join us as we gather to practice Lectio divina on the weekly lectionary readings.

Lectio divina is a contemplative practice with its Christian roots in the Benedictine tradition. It combines slow, conscious

reading of a biblical or sacred text with contemplation and silent prayer. It is meant to promote communication with God and a deeper knowledge of Christ, in our lives today.

During Lectio Divina we put aside thoughts of studying the text. This is not the time to consider the historical or theological meanings of what we are reading.

We read with a willingness to enter into text in a felt sense. The purpose of this practice is to hear, in silence, the word of God, in this moment. What, through this reading, is God saying to me right now? What do I hear that helps me know what it means to walk the Christ path today?

Lectio Divina has traditionally been a communal practice; that is, one shared when in a group but it can be done when alone.

If you're interested, please email the church office
at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Mini Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who brings food for our Mini Food Pantry. The Pantry needs filling every day. Please bring something on Sunday - even a couple of cans would be gratefully accepted.

Please do not bring any containers - empty jars, etc.

Below is a list of suggested items - because the Mini Food Pantry is outside, it's important to only contribute non-perishable items, such as:

- [Canned goods](#) with ring-pulls
- Hygiene products: toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, soap, menstrual products, etc.
- Tuna and crackers
- Spices; salt and pepper
- Cooking oil
- Sugar
- Tea and coffee
- Peanut Butter
- Kids' snacks
- Dish Soap
- Stove-top Stuffing
- Non-perishable foods
- Bottled water



Thank you for your support in helping others less fortunate.

If you have questions or suggestions, please email the church office at
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Center for Action and Contemplation



Discover contemplative wisdom and practices that are easy to understand and apply to your everyday life.

Contemplation is the practice of being fully present—in heart, mind, and body—to what is in a way that deepens awareness, encourages oneness, and strengthens compassion. A committed

daily contemplative practice doesn't have to be long or complex—it simply needs to allow deep listening to open your heart to love.

Discover ways to embody the contemplative life with this collection of practices that help us align actions and values, re-engage with our True Self, and show up in service to the world. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Spiritual Gifts



Every child of God is filled with **the power of the Holy Spirit**, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ.

No one is without gift or purpose. Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep

passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.

[Click here](#) to take Spiritual Gift Assessment. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Resources for Grief and Loss



Grieving loss consciously is at the center of the spiritual path. It is soul work — healthy, cleansing, and intelligent. The process allows us to metabolize the pain of loss and continue living. It lets us open to love.

By honoring what has passed away, we are free to embrace the life that is here.

Yet grief is so deeply painful, so hard to endure.

A question I am often asked is: How do I find refuge in the midst? What can help me move through the pain of separation?

to learn more [click here](#).

Prayer of the Week

Dear God,

We ask for joy in our lives. Help us to find happiness in the simple things and to share our joy with others. Let our laughter and smiles be contagious, spreading positivity wherever we go. May we find joy even in the midst of challenges.

Thank you for the moments of joy that brighten our days. Help us to cherish them and to seek out more opportunities for happiness. May we find joy in our relationships, celebrating the connections we have with family and friends. Help us to recognize the beauty and wonder in the world around us, finding joy in nature and the everyday miracles of life.

Guide us to be sources of joy for others, bringing light and happiness into their lives. Let us approach each day with a joyful heart, grateful for the opportunities and experiences that come our way. Thank you for the gift of joy. Help us to embrace it fully and to spread it generously to those around us.

Amen - <https://www.tmumc.org/stories/posts/a-prayer-for-joy>

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor
8237 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Church Email:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Website:
www.skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311

[Send Us An Email](#)



Central United Methodist Church | 8237 Kenton Ave | Skokie, IL 60076-2611 US