

Central United Methodist Church November 23, 2025



Lectionary readings for
Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday
November 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place called "The Skull," they nailed the hands and feet of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to a tree pole -the cross. They did the same for the two criminals, putting one on each side of him. "Father, forgive them!" Creator Sets Free cried out. "They do not know what they are doing." Luke 23: 33-34 First Nations Version

The Christian Year ends this Sunday with Luke's account of Jesus' Crucifixion. Christ the King and The Reign of Christ are two of the names we use to refer to this holy day. Keeping with the tradition of changing "kingdom" to "Kin-dom," I like to hold the name "Christ our Kin" this Sunday. When we open ourselves to grace, attending to the suffering in the world, we truly meet Jesus as "kin" and king. We taste the kin-dom of Jesus in this life.

Jesus proclaimed a Kin-dom of God that takes place on earth, among the poor and oppressed, not only in some great beyond. He contradicted any expectation that he would bring a violent restoration of Davidic Monarchy.

How is it that a man publicly executed as a traitor could also be king? Thorns a crown? Dying words a promise of walking together in the garden? "The fatal torture of a helpless criminal is not most people's idea of a coronation ceremony." (Garnaas Holmes)

Yet, that's exactly the point. Jesus is not the nationalistic king people expected. He does not oppress, he liberates. He neither manipulates nor coerces his followers for his way is love and "love does not insist on its own way." He rules in gentleness and mercy. Even with the last breaths he drew on earth, Jesus asked for forgiveness upon the soldiers and religious leaders attending his murder that they coordinated.

By Jesus' example we can despise systems of oppression and love our people. We can hold leaders accountable as a way of loving our people. United Methodist churches work to meet our neighbors' basic needs because God cares about 'daily bread,' and the 'kindom' come on earth. We also work for the more-than-human kin we share the planet with. In humbly following Christ we need to see ourselves as members of the whole community of creation. Jesus' kin-dom invites us to abide by rules that allow all people and life to flourish.

May we continually return to give thanks, yes, lament, and heal.

"Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
Zechariah 9:9.

Trust Jesus' Blessings,

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

Worship Service

Join us on **Sunday, November 23, 2025** - Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday 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.

†OMICS by Tom Gould

Luke 21:17-19



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 **Mariebhez Troska** in memory of James and Malou De Ocampo.

Fellowship



Join us after the church service for Fellowship provided by the **Trustees**.

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 23

Reader: Tina De Ocampo

Flowers: Mariebhez Troksa

Fellowship: Trustees

November 30

Reader: Pam Castaneda

Flowers: Pam Castaneda

Fellowship: Pot Luck

December 7

Reader: David O Connell

Flowers: Mary Wadleigh

Fellowship: Marcel Ladieras

December 14
Reader: Remy Yabes
Flowers: Kris Mascari
Fellowship: Carol & Roldan

December 21
Reader: Tina
Flowers: Emelita Benigno
Fellowship: Tina

December 28
Reader: _____
Flowers: Doris Bloom
Fellowship: Pot - Luck

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.

United Women In Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Sunday, November 23rd, after Fellowship time

Good Morning! I have talked with several of our ladies, and we are excited to start up two meeting dates to accommodate your personal time.

For our traveling ladies, we will meet on Sunday, November 23rd, after Fellowship time.

Both programs will be about: Hosting Jesus at our Thanksgiving Table. Also, I would like to hold an election to vote for a new President for our local United Women in Faith!!! This will be a short program.

There are so many great plans ahead for United Women in Faith and Sally Vonner's recent speeches have been an inspiration. Some of the big, interesting, and spiritual activities that are scheduled include:

--Christmas Drive for Kids Above All
complete by: Dec 16, 2025
--Winter Mission U,

all Zoom sessions: Jan 11-25, 2026
--Three Day Spiritual Assembly

of women in Indianapolis: May 15-17, 2026
--Reading Program includes
many subject areas: 2026

See you soon!

Kathy Tiffin,
United Women in Faith,
Unit President

Movie Screening

MISSION: JOY

FINDING HAPPINESS IN TROUBLED TIMES

TONIGHT- 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.

Restart Show

RESTART *Show* *Soirée Lyrique*

IN COLLABORATION WITH CONCERT OPERA OF GREATER CHICAGO



Sofia Kyrylyuk-Catran, Violin



Anatoliy Torchinsky, Piano



Solange Siot, Soprano



Paula Schaefer, Mezzo



Alvaro Ramirez, Bass



Aaron Wardell, Baritone



Tatyana Torzhavska, Soprano

EXCERPTS FROM MADAMA BUTTERFLY, TOSCA, DON GIOVANNI, MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, CARMEN,
LA FORZA DEL DESTINO, OPERETTAS, AND MUSICAL THEATER.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND
AT 1:30PM.**

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8237 KENTON, SKOKIE IL 60076

PH: (224) 595-1526
WWW.SOIREELYRIQUE.ORG

TICKETS: \$20.00
STUDENTS \$10.00
GROUP PRICES AVAILABLE

PURCHASE TICKETS: CHICAGOCONCERTOPERA.COM

TOMORROW-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2025 @1:30PM.

In collaboration with Concert Opera of Greater Chicago,
please enjoy the great music of

RESTART Show -- Soiree Lyrique

STARRING:

Anatoliy Torchinskiy at the Piano
Sofiya Kyrylyuk-Catron with Violin

SINGING:

Solange Sior, Soprano
Paula Schaeffgen, Mezzo
Alvaro Ramirez, Bass
Aaron Wardell, Bariton
Tatyana Torzhevskaya, Soprano

LOCATION: Central United Methodist Church

[8237 Kenton Ave, Skokie, IL 60076](#)

Central United Methodist Church

has an elevator, handicap accessible entry door, and
handicap accessible washrooms.

Interfaith Thanksgiving



The Niles Township Clergy Forum Presents
An Interfaith Community
Thanksgiving Service

25 NOV | 7:30 PM

Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kenton Ave Skokie
with Keynote Speaker:
Rabbi Cantor Rob Jury

Donations will support the work of
Turning Point Mental Health Services

Refreshments provided by Skokie
Community Foundation from Will's Place.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025 at 7:30pm.

Niles Township Clergy Forum
Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

Central United Methodist Church
[8237 Kenton Avenue](#)
[Skokie, IL 60076](#)

Keynote speaker is: Rabbi Cantor Rob Jury

Donations will support the
"Turning Point Mental Health Services"
at [8324 Skokie Boulevard - Skokie, IL 60076](#)

****Fabulous Refreshments**** provided by:
Skokie Community Foundation from "Will's Place".
Central United Methodist Church
has an elevator, handicap accessible entry door, and
handicap accessible washrooms.

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 Dec 18

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



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

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Before I begin, I would like to offer a brief prayer of thanksgiving that I have relied upon heavily, especially throughout the past year as we have suffered as a community, and as a nation, and as a world, in so many ways:

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Loving Creator,

We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong.

We asked for wisdom, and you gave us problems to solve.

We asked for prosperity, and you gave us purpose and brains to use.

We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome.

We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait.

We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help.

We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and to lead with integrity.
Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted.
And yet, we received everything that we needed.
For this, we give thanks.

- Written and offered by **Dr. Colleen Hanycz** on 1/25/21 at the “Introduction to the Xavier Community” event upon her selection as the 35th president of Xavier University

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