

# Central United Methodist Church



---

Lectionary readings for the  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

---

**Daylight Savings is this Sunday.** Be sure to set those clocks ahead an hour on Saturday night.

It may feel like getting robbed of an hour of sleep. Images of the dungeon in Princess Bride come to mind, for me. Can you hear the villain Count Tyrone Rugen imploring from a bound and tortured Westly, “We’ve just sucked one hour of your life away. Tell me, and remember this is for posterity, so be honest. How do you feel?”

One year, I neglected to set my clocks ahead. When I arrived at church to prepare for worship, I was surprised by the number of cars in the parking lot so “early”.

It dawned on me, the mistake I had made, and after a brief flicker of panic, I had to laugh.

Worship already started without me, so I quickly robed up and joined the other leaders in the chancel during the opening hymn.

Looking out at the congregation I exclaimed how impressed I was at their faithfulness. Here they all were at Church an hour early!

At least I didn't accuse them of being time travelers from the future.

The lead Pastor, liturgists and musicians didn't reach out flustered or concerned about my absence. They said that they figured the ‘new Dad’ could use the extra hour and that I wouldn't be that late.

What grace.

It reminds me of the saying “God is good ALL the time...”

**But, set your clocks ahead, it's Spring.**

So, if you find yourself wondering, like me, on Sunday if it's 7:00 a.m., or 6:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. remember we serve a God of Grace and forgiveness (if you happen to run late).

In Fall we will hear the sweet words God spoke in Exodus, “My presence will go with you and I will give you rest,” when we get that stolen hour back.

Trust Jesus' Blessings,  
**-Pastor Biel**



THE IMAGE OF JESUS  
AS A SNAKE ON A  
STICK SEEMS VERY  
DISRESPECTFUL.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THE CROSS IS  
HIS HUMILIATION  
FOR OUR  
SAKES...



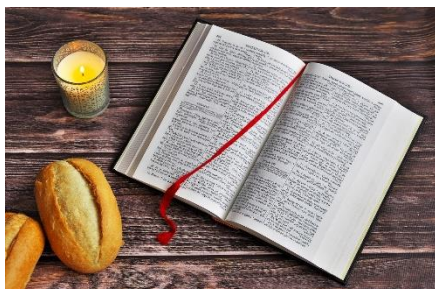
YEAH, BUT A  
SNAKE?



JOHN 3:14-21

© WETZSTEIN 21-03-10

## 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 by clicking on this link:

[centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org).



# Worship Service

Join us this **Sunday at 10:30 am** in the Sanctuary for our in-person service.

We celebrate the Lord's communion every Sunday and we invite all to partake regardless of membership.

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

to request the Zoom Link information.



## Guest Speaker



**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

During worship we will have a speaker from Children's Advocates for Change.

Children's Advocates for Change is an independent advocacy organization committed to the well-being of every Illinois child. We champion those policies and investments children need so that they are educated, healthy, and thriving.

[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](mailto: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 Sunday are given by **Tina De Ocampo** in honor of Christine's De Ocampo's birthday.

# Fellowship

Join us for fellowship after church this Sunday provided by Anong Santos.

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

The last Sunday of each month will be a Potluck. The signup sheet is available outside the kitchen.

## Flower and Plant Fundraiser



**Flower and Plant Fundraiser** forms are now available! Please see **Karen Buccola** for the signup sheets!

Flowers and Plants will be **delivered between 5/13-5/24**

## World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women Observance Day

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**  
**Location: Wesley United Methodist Church, [201 E 95th St., Chicago, IL 60619](#)**



**\*\*\*Carpool with Kathy leaves 7:15 am.**

**You're Invited!**

Registration begins at **8:30 a.m. Light breakfast**

Meeting, program and worship **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** with fellowship lunch following.

### **The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church**

**Women** (WFMUCW) is an association of Wesley based denominations that are active locally, nationally, and internationally. Each spring local members of the four denominations (African Methodist Episcopal [AME], African Methodist Episcopal Zion [AMEZ], Christian Methodist Episcopal Church [CME], and United Methodist Church [UMC]) **gather for a day of worship, study, and fellowship**. Hosting honors rotate and 2024 is being hosted by the United Women in Faith, Northern Illinois Conference. The study day focus is on: hunger, poverty, and education. The program chairs are Yvette Harris-Black (Spiritual Growth Coordinator) and **Kathy Tiffin (Social Action Coordinator)**.

[Click here](#) For More Details.

## Hear the Call: Share Your Gifts!

Do you feel a stirring within, a talent yearning to be used, a passion longing to contribute? The church community needs your unique spark! We're not just talking about singing in the choir or baking for bake sales (though those are wonderful too!). Every skill, every passion, every bit of your creative spirit has a place here.

Think about it:

- The musician with a heart for worship: Can you imagine leading us in joyous hymns or composing a piece that touches hearts?
- The tech whiz with a knack for problem-solving: Can you streamline our communication, build a user-friendly website, or help us connect with the wider community online by using Zoom's fun features and camerawork?
- The organizer who thrives on making things happen: Can you plan events, coordinate volunteers, or breathe life into fundraising initiatives?
- The artist with a vision for beauty: Can you beautify our space, create meaningful visuals, or even choreograph a moving dance for a special occasion?

- The writer with a gift for storytelling: Can you share inspiring testimonies, craft compelling newsletters, or even pen a play for the next church production?
- The counselor with a listening ear and a gentle heart: Can you offer guidance and support to those in need, fostering a community of care and compassion?

These are just a few examples, the possibilities are endless! What gifts and talents are uniquely yours? How can you use them to build up, inspire, and make the church community a beacon of hope and love?

Here's your call to action:

- Talk to your pastor or church leaders. Share your ideas and see how your skills can be put to use.
- Connect with other members. Maybe you'll find others who share your passion and together you can create something amazing.
- Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. You might surprise yourself with what you can accomplish.

Remember, every contribution, makes a difference. By sharing your gifts, you not only enrich the lives of others, but you also discover a deeper sense of purpose and belonging within the church community.

So, let's hear the call, answer with enthusiasm, and together, let our individual lights shine brightly, making the church community a vibrant tapestry of shared gifts and talents.

**“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”**

– St. Catherine of Siena

[Click Here](#) to explore your gifts!

Got an idea? We want to hear from you! Please email the church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)



# Gospel Readers and Flowers Sign Up



[Worship Calendar 2024 - Click Here](#)

Please consider reading or bringing in flowers

for the following Sunday:

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteers will be needed for the dates above.** Please email the church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org) or see Mar for the sign up sheet.

## Stronghold : Save The Dates



**July 5-7, 2024 more details to come!**

## International Women's Day

**Friday March 8, 20204**

"International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Marked annually on March 8th, IWD is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- educate and awareness raise about women's equality
- call for positive change advancing women
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for **women-focused charities**



Everyone, everywhere can play a part in helping forge gender equality. From a wide range of IWD campaigns, events, rallies, lobbying, and performances - to

festivals, parties, fun runs, and celebrations - all IWD activity is valid. That's what makes IWD so inclusive.

So make IWD your day and do what you can, in your own way, to help forge a gender equal..." [Click here](#) to learn more.

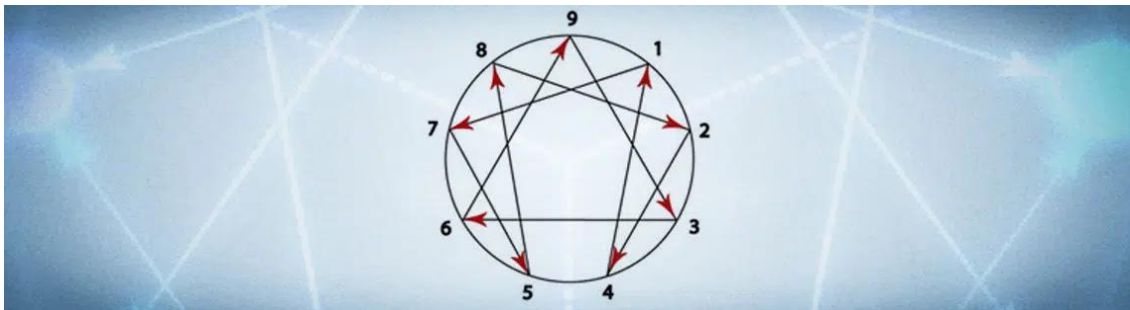
The IWD 2024 campaign theme is **Inspire Inclusion**.

When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

The **#InspireInclusion** campaign aims to forge a more inclusive world for women.

Learn more about the IWD 2024 campaign theme [click here](#).

## The Enneagram



**Monday or Tuesday from 7pm to 8:30pm starting February 19th**

Event location: **On Zoom**

Join us for a **6-week group study** of ***The Path Between Us: An Enneagram Journey to Healthy Relationships*** by **Suzanne Stabile**

"Most of us have no idea how others see or process their experiences. And that can make relationships hard, whether with intimate partners, with friends, or in our professional lives. Understanding the motivations and dynamics of these different personality types can be the key that unlocks sometimes mystifying behavior in others—and in ourselves.

This book from Suzanne Stabile on the nine Enneagram types and how they behave and experience relationships will guide readers into deeper insights about themselves, their types, and others' personalities so that they can have healthier, more life-giving relationships. No one is better equipped than Suzanne Stabile, coauthor, with Ian Morgan Cron, of *The Road Back to You*, to share the Enneagram's wisdom on how relationships work—or don't.

- Why do Sixes seem so intimidated and put off by Eights, who only wish the Sixes would stop mulling things over and take action?
- Why do Fives seem so unavailable, even to their closest family and friends, while Twos seem to feel everybody else's feelings but their own and end up irritating people who don't want their help?
- How in the world can Fours be so open and loving to you one day and restrained and distant other times?

The Enneagram not only answers these questions but gives us a way out of our usual finger pointing and judging of other people—and finding them wanting, perplexing, or impossible. Suzanne's generous, sometimes humorous, and always insightful approach reveals why all the types behave as they do. This book offers help in fostering more loving, mature, and compassionate relationships with everyone in our lives.

Free Self Test/Number Guide: [Click here](#)

Link to book on Amazon: [Click here](#)

Thriftbooks: [Click here](#)

View Intro playlist by the Author: [Click here](#)

In-depth look by the Author UMC Podcast: [Click here](#)

We also invite you to stop by during office hours for a self guided **"know your number"** retreat in the Education Building.

### **Office Hours**

**Wednesdays 9:00 am-3pm**

**Fridays 9:30 am-4pm**

### **Practices That Lead To Transformation**

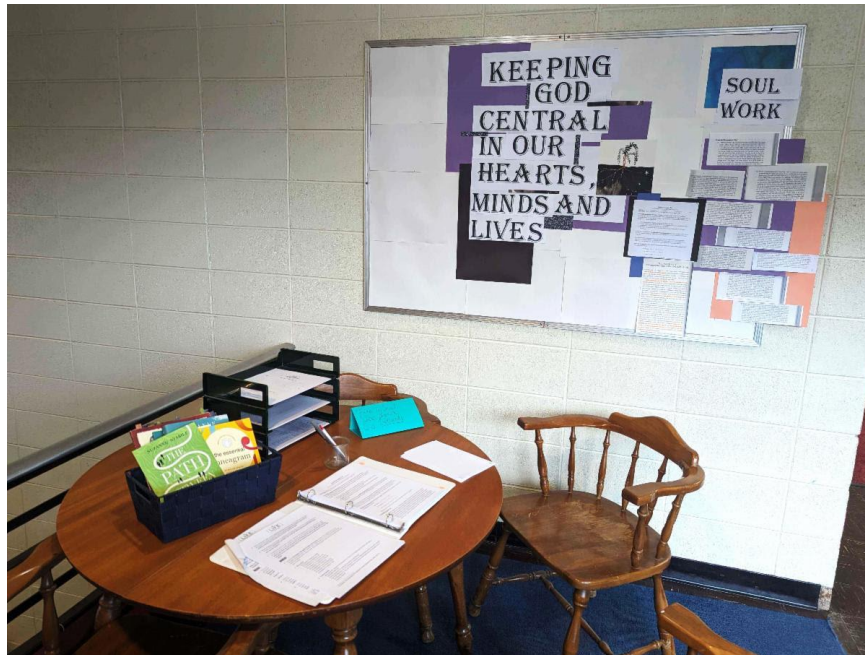
"There is a big difference between change and transformation. Change is when we take on something new. Transformation occurs when something old falls away, usually beyond our control."

"That changed my life."

Have you ever said that? I've heard sermons, listened to podcasts, taken classes, and read good articles in magazines that I then subscribed to, declaring that each one had changed me along the way. Maybe they did. But change is not transformation. The wisdom teachers I respect insist that all great spirituality is about letting go. And I really believe that. And yet I find that I am inclined to add

things to my life as part of my commitment to practicing letting go of what I don't need..."[Click here](#) for more.

If you're interested or want to learn more, please email the church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)



## Central Caring Crafters



**March 21 ,2024**

The prayer shawl group is back as **Central Caring Crafters!** We are exploring the scope of our group to include quilting, sewing and other crafts that you have a heart for. We will meet at **10:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month** in the **Education Building, Room 7**. Bring a bag lunch and stay for lunch together or just come to gather for exchange of patterns and ideas. We hope to see you there!

If you're interested, please email the church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)



# Tuesday Morning Meditation



Join us weekly on **Tuesday at 8:00 am** on Zoom.

**Lectio divina** is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer. It is a form of prayer that involves reading a passage of the Bible slowly and intentionally. The phrase "lectio divina" means "divine reading" in Latin.

If you're interested, please email the church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

# Tai-Chi Classes



Interested in learning Tai-Chi? Join our free class in the **Ed. building Room. 9 on Tuesday mornings, 9:15 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.

**\*\*New evening class added** Fridays from **March 15 to April 26 from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm.** Current students can join at 7:15 pm for practice.

If you're interested, please email the church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

## Prayer of the Week

Lord, You know better than I myself  
that I am growing older and will someday be old.  
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking  
I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to  
straighten out everybody's affairs.  
Make me thoughtful but not moody;  
helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom,  
it seems a pity not to use it all;  
but You know, Lord,  
that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;  
give me wings to get to the point.

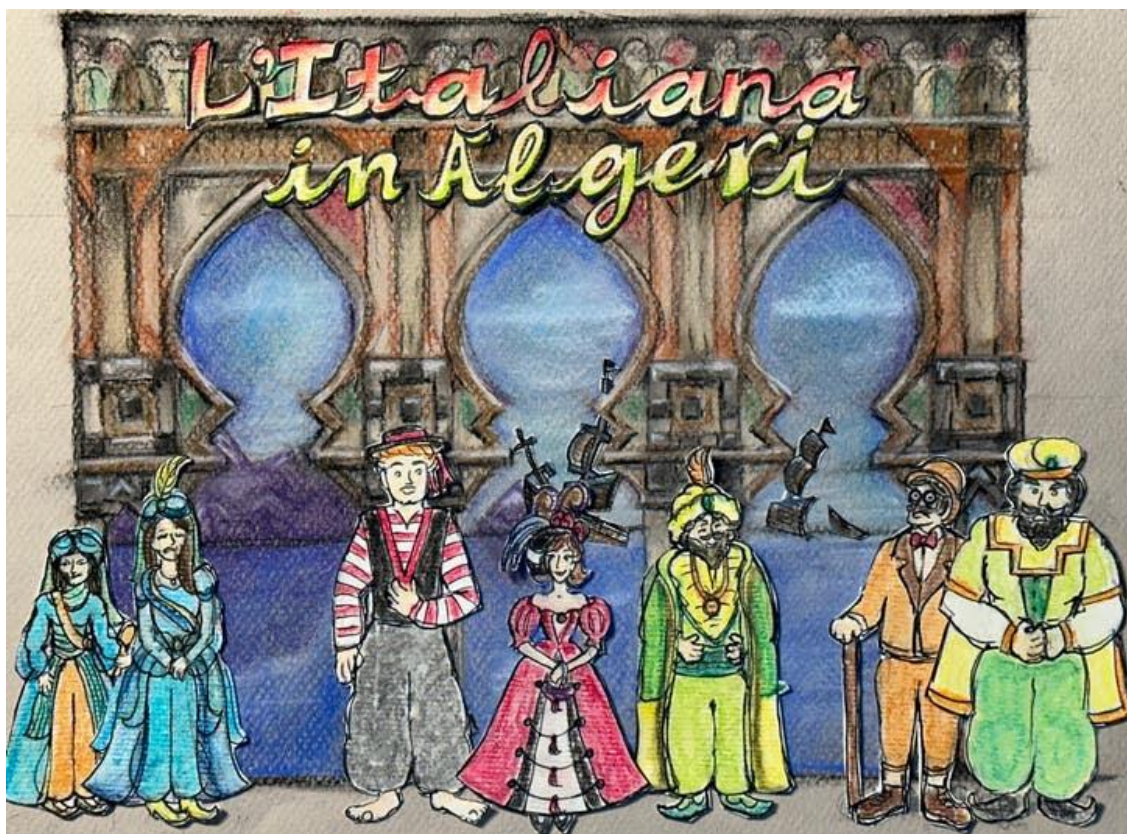
Seal my lips on my aches and pains;  
they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them  
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for improved memory,  
but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness  
when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.  
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person  
is one of the crowning works of the devil.  
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places  
and talents in unexpected people;  
and give, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

Anonymous – 17th century.  
Found in an old English Church

## Come Laugh With Us! Rossini's "L'Italiana in Algeri"



**Friday, March 15, 2024 at 7:30pm**  
**Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 1:00pm**  
**At Central United Methodist Church**

Join us for one of Rossini's great comedies in a fully staged production directed by Vernon Hartman of the Metropolitan Opera; with piano accompaniment and English supertitles.

Cast:

- Elvira: Kate Uyeno & Dora Rivera
- Haly: Zachary Mendenhall
- Zulma: Annie Bennett
- Mustafa: Alvaro Ramirez
- Lindoro: Alain Arvelo
- Isabella: Paula Schaeffer
- Taddeo: Kevin Wheattle
- Maestro Anatoliy Torchinskiy, Piano

Tickets: \$30 Walk-ins Welcome. CASH or CHECK only, at the door.

Follow the link to our webpage to purchase tickets online!  
[Click here](#) for more details!

---

## Central United Methodist Church

[Send Us An Email](#)

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor



**8237 Kenton Avenue  
Skokie, Illinois 60076**

Church Email:  
[centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

Church Phone:  
**(847) 673-1311**

Central United Methodist Church | 8237 Kenton Ave., Skokie, IL 60076