

Central United Methodist Church October 12, 2025



Lectionary readings for
October 12, 2025
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalms 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

God made us a people on the move. Migration is as natural as nature itself. Our Christian story literally begins with Abraham and Sarah leaving their home at God's request.

The pages of scripture pulsate with the stories of God's will made clear to immigrants, refugees, and sojourners. Think of Ruth and Boaz, Joseph, Jonah, the Apostles! Just after his birth, Jesus' own family trusted God to cross a border, fleeing violence.

Following Christ means that you inherited your faith from migrants who came before you. Our ancestors encountered God on the move. Jesus himself was an immigrant and a refugee.

Jesus gave us the answer sheet to the exam for entering the Kin-dom of heaven, saying 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.' These are his words to those who inherit eternal life. For those whose law is love, Jesus in 'the stranger' includes refugees, the displaced, people whose legal status may be uncertain in our day.

God's command to the people in Leviticus 19:33-34 rings loud and clear during this time of actions and rhetoric against immigrants: *'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.'*

May we entertain angels unawares in our warm welcome in person, in policy, in public.

Love,
Pastor Biel

Bible Study



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

***On September 21, 2025**, our student Pastor Tae Yoon Kim will begin leading a 5-week study on the book of Micah.

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 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 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.

Charge Conference

An Invitation to Our Annual Charge Conference

Sunday, October 19, 2025

1 PM

Ed Bldg. Room 8

Dear Members and Friends of Skokie Central United Methodist Church,

We invite you to join us for our **Annual Charge Conference**, a critical and exciting moment in the life and ministry of our church family. This is the official meeting that connects our local mission to the broader Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, ensuring we remain aligned with the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our conference will be held on **Sunday, October 19, 2025 at 1 PM in the Education Building Room 8**. We are honored to welcome our District Superintendent, **Rev. Victor Melad**.

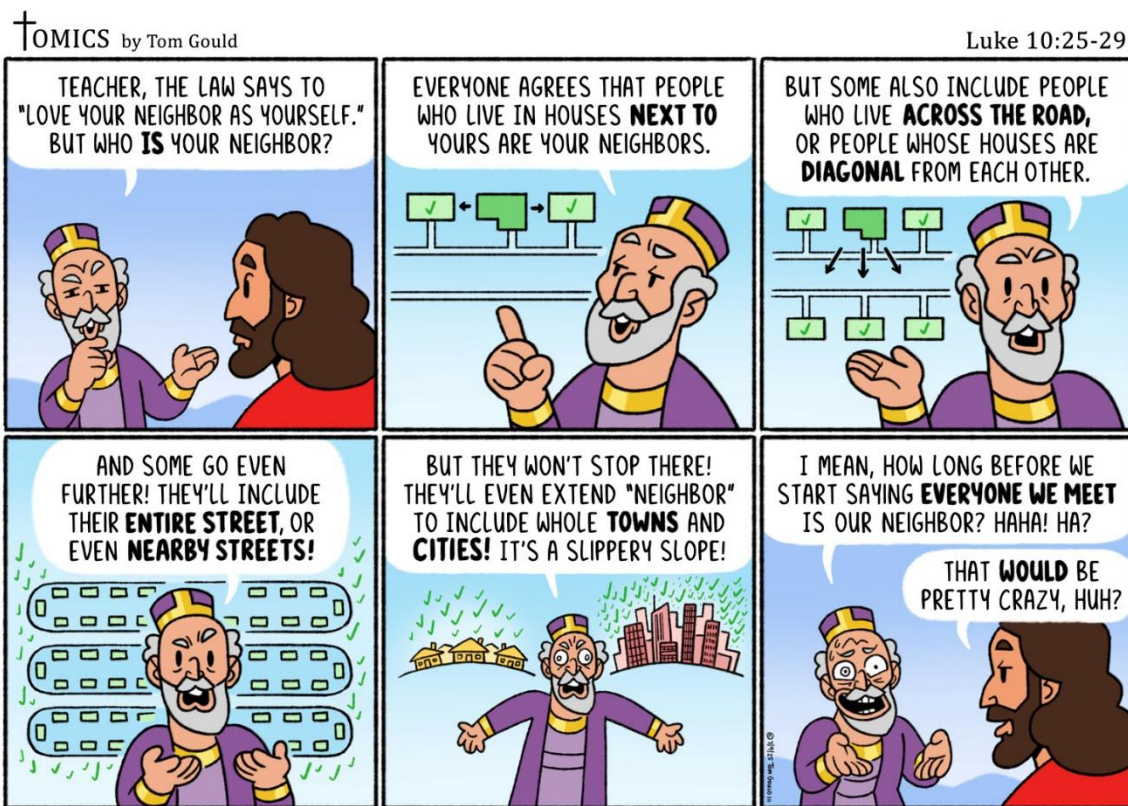
The Charge Conference serves as an annual review where our elected leaders, appointed clergy, and the District Superintendent come together to review and evaluate the totality of our mission and ministry from the past year. During this time, we will receive essential reports from key committees, formally approve the financial and compensation plans for our clergy for the upcoming year, and elect

the vital lay leadership who will guide our efforts next year. We will also affirm our candidates for licensed or ordained ministry, if applicable, and prayerfully adopt the objectives and goals that will shape our future ministry.

While voting rights are legally restricted to the members of the Charge Conference, we strongly encourage all members of the congregation to attend. Your presence is a powerful affirmation of our shared covenant and connection. It is a wonderful opportunity to witness the business of the church, hear directly about our financial health, celebrate the successes of our ministries, and share in the vision for where God is calling us next.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this significant gathering. We look forward to seeing you there as we continue to fulfill the mission God has entrusted to us.

Cartoon



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 Kathy Ryan in honor of their granddaughter Addison Jackson.

Fellowship

Join us after the church service for Fellowship hosted Miriam Mohammad.

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!

October 12

Reader: Ed Gut

Flowers: Kathy Ryan

Fellowship: Miriam Mohammad

October 19

Reader: Tina De Ocampo

Flowers: Remy Yabes

Fellowship: Ernie and Millete & Remy Yabes

October 26

Reader: Pam Castaneda

Flowers: Pam Castaneda

Fellowship: Potluck

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.

Sally Vonner



United
Women
in Faith

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

REGISTER NOW FOR ONE OR BOTH DAYS!

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 25th and SUNDAY 26th

Join us for this two-day event!
Welcoming in person, speaking to
us for the first time,
United Women in Faith
General Secretary and CEO,
Sally Vonner.



"Love: Our Super Power"

Day One

Saturday, October 25
Belvidere: First UMC at 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast, Program, and lunch.
Childcare is offered.
Cost: \$15

"Let God and Let Go"

Day Two

Sunday, October 26, at Chicago:
St. Mark UMC at 10:00 a.m.
Worship.
Cost: Free

**HEAR GENERAL SECRETARY/CEO
OF
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
SALLY VONNER
SPEAKING & CELEBRATING**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 - Belvidere FUMC
[610 Bonus Ave.](#)**

[Belvidere, IL.](#)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 - St. Mark UMC
[8441S. Saint Lawrence Ave.](#)
[Chicago, IL](#)

We can ‘carpool’ to this event. I can take 3 or 4 people in my car. I do not have the exact timing on this event, but I will be sure my gas tank is full!

When Sally Vonner was interviewed in 2023 in a “Faith Talks” (FT) podcast, she talked about love and faith in action. Here are some of the questions and answers from that podcast with Jennifer R. Farmer.

JF: In this new capacity, what will be your primary focus?

Sally Vonner: My primary focus is to continue to expand United Women in Faith’s mission and reach as we put our love and faith in action to change the world, and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. My leadership style will be characterized by faith and trust in God, and inclusivity. I will draw upon the wisdom and ingenuity of our membership, the board of directors, the Program Advisory Group, and my colleagues.

JF: Why are you being installed in Dallas versus New York City where United Women in Faith is headquartered?

Sally Vonner: While the organization is headquartered in New York, I wanted the ceremony to be held in Dallas where I am from and be accessible to more members, family and friends. It is important to me that my leadership be grounded in our members. I am sending a message that I will lead this organization with values of inclusivity, compassion, and innovation.

JF: Can you talk more about your philosophy on leadership?

Sally Vonner: Regardless of the title one holds, leadership is a communal process. We rise and fall together. Great leaders seek counsel and that’s what I intend to do – center the wisdom and ingenuity of our membership and include their perspectives on matters great and small.

to register [Click here.](#)

-Kathy Tiffin

Embodied Crossings

EMBODIED CROSSINGS

MIGRATION, POWER, AND SACRED IMAGINATION

Together, let us listen deeply, reflect boldly, and imagine expansively at the intersections of theology, migration, and diaspora—especially in these turbulent times.

We will be accompanied by our panel speakers and clergy of color sharing sacred journeys of migration, faith, and resilience.

THE CENTER FOR ASIAN/ASIAN
AMERICAN MINISTRY

RUEBEN P. JOB INSTITUTE FOR
SPIRITUAL FORMATION



SPEAKER: DR. ELEAZAR S. FERNANDEZ



Rev. Dr. Grace Cajuat



Pastor CJ Woo



Rev. Avani Christian

Date: October 28, 2025 (Tue)
10:30 am–3:00 pm

Location: Chapel of the Unnamed
Faithful | Garrett Seminary

Please Scan Here to
Register

Embodied Crossings: Migration,
Power, and Sacred Imagination



Hope In A Hurting World

HOPE IN A HURTING WORLD

FAITH GIVES US THE COURAGE TO GO TO THE HARD PLACES

This event provides space for exploring how grief and hope connect and how our faith, spiritual resources, and inner strength can help us mobilize love, peace, and justice as we seek healing. Together, we will bring experiences from our diverse backgrounds to share our wisdom, foster a sense of community, and generate ideas for addressing grief and healing in our own faith-based and spiritual settings.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025
9AM-3PM

Scan QR Code or visit tinyurl.com/yu87km8j
Tickets \$20 until Sep 30th | \$30 after Oct 1st
Space is limited.

✉ darlena@courage2love.org

**Chicagoland
Trauma Informed
Congregations Network**



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION
5416 S. CORNELL AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60615



Advocate Health Care, The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation, Chicago Department of Public Health, Kids Above All, Nehemiah Trinity Rising, Northern IL Conference of the United Methodist Church

Thursday, October 30, 2025
9am to 3:30pm

Catholic Theological Union Conference Center
[5416 S. Cornell Ave.](#)
[Chicago, IL 60615](#)

Tickets are \$30. Space is limited. Free parking is available on site.

Luminary Walk Of Remembrance

FRIDAY OCT. 31, 2025- 4 PM - 8 PM

LUMINARY WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

CONCORD LANE - LOG CABIN PATIO
CANDY & CRAFTS

COME DECORATE A PAPER BAG LUMINARY TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED.



Sunday, October 26th - Candy drop off

Central Church in the Spirit of Generosity

As we prepare to embrace the Wesleyan spirit of "being the church where the people are," Central Church is gearing up for our biggest outreach night of the year: Halloween on Friday, October 31st!

Concord Lane is a local hotspot that sees an estimated 800 trick-or-treaters every year. This massive turnout is a golden opportunity for us to connect with families, share God's love, and launch our beautiful Luminary Walk of Remembrance craft activity.

Our Need: A Mountain of Treats!

We need a mountain of candy! Candy is our "ticket" to meaningful engagement, allowing us to connect with families and invite them to participate in the Luminary Craft for All Saints' Day.

We can't do this without your generosity. Your donation ensures that every single child who visits the Central Church station leaves with a full bag and a heartfelt connection to our community.

How You Can Help

Please consider purchasing and donating individually wrapped, fun-sized candy to stock our Halloween distribution table.

- What to Donate: Individually wrapped, shelf-stable candy (chocolate, non-chocolate, lollipops, etc.).
- When to Donate: Please drop off your donations by **Sunday, October 26th** to the office or with Mar.

Every bag, box, or bulk purchase makes a huge difference. Thank you for helping Central Church embody the light and joy of the Gospel on Concord Lane this Halloween night!

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 October 16

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.

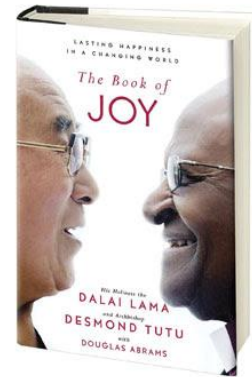
Below is a list of suggested items - because the Mini Food Pantry is outside, it's important to only contribute non-perishable items, such as:

- [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

The Book of Joy



Wednesday, October 1 , 2025 - November 5, 2025

7 PM - 8:30 PM CDT

On Zoom

[Thrift books](#)

Free Movie: **[Mission: JOY Finding Happiness in Troubled Times](#)**

An instant *New York Times* bestseller. Over 1 million copies sold!

Two spiritual giants. Five days. One timeless question.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet.

In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

They traded intimate stories, teased each other continually, and shared their spiritual practices. By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our time and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy.

This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from the first embrace to the final good-bye.

We get to listen as they explore the Nature of True Joy and confront each of the Obstacles of Joy—from fear, stress, and anger to grief, illness, and death. They then offer us the Eight Pillars of Joy, which provide the foundation for lasting

happiness. Throughout, they include stories, wisdom, and science. Finally, they share their daily Joy Practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives.

The Archbishop has never claimed sainthood, and the Dalai Lama considers himself a simple monk. In this unique collaboration, they offer us the reflection of real lives filled with pain and turmoil in the midst of which they have been able to discover a level of peace, of courage, and of joy to which we can all aspire in our own lives.

Interested? E-mail the church office for the zoom link.

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.

Prayer of the Week

A Pope's Prayer for Immigrants

Merciful God, we pray to you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life.

Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished.

May we never forget them but honor their sacrifice with deeds more than words.

We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.

In caring for them may we seek a world where none are forced to leave their home and where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering, and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.

Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.

- by Pope Francis

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

8237 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

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centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Website:
www.skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311

[Send Us An Email](#)



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