

# Central United Methodist Church May 4, 2025



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Lectionary readings for the  
Third Sunday of Easter  
May 4, 2025

Psalm 30  
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

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Early in the morning, the other retreat leaders and I built a fire and prepared to serve a communion modeled on Jesus' first eucharist on the beach; smoked fish and bread. The campers rolled out of their cabins for the last day of camp and gathered around the fire. Together we recited these words from John's gospel account of the third resurrection appearance: *When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.*

*Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So, Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. John 21:9-13*

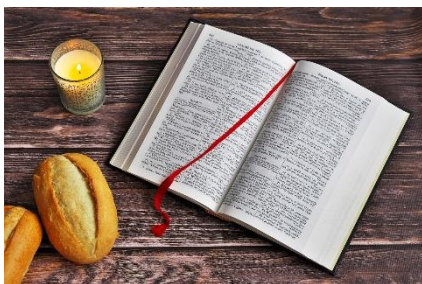
This was no Last Supper. This was the First Breakfast with Jesus after the Resurrection. The Last Supper pointed to the cross. On that beach, the cross is behind Jesus, and he pointed the disciples towards a new life; to feed, tend, and care for his flock. Jesus provides the food, just as God provides the elements we share in communion.

As our group passed around the bread and fish, there was such joy in serving one another. We recognized that the risen Christ still meets us at firesides, meals, workplaces (Peter was a fisherman, first), and anywhere else we are open to his encounter. Jesus was raised to a new life. And he particularly instructed Peter to meet him by caring for others.

Want to know how to work out your sanctification? Follow Jesus in compassion, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, tenderness, and grace.

Deep 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 by clicking on this link:

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

# Worship Service

Join us on **May 4, 2025**, 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 will also be available on **Zoom at 10:30 am.**

## 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 provided by  
**Mary Wadleigh.**

## Fellowship

Nobody has signed up for Fellowship this Sunday.

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!**

### **May 4, 2025**

**Reader: Mary Wadleigh**

**Flowers: Mary Wadleigh**

**Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_**

### **May 11, 2025 - Mothers' Day**

**Reader: Ed Gut**

**Flowers: Rose and Ruby David in honor of Denis's Birthday  
on May 7th.**

**Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_**

# Healthy Babies Drive

**May 15, 2025**

From **April 1 to May 15**, Kids Above All's Healthy Babies Drive collects childcare supplies such as baby clothes, diapers, baby wipes and more, so that their parents, caregivers, babies and toddlers have the essentials they need for a happy and healthy start to their lives together.

Contact Catherine Inserra at [cinserra@kidsaboveall.org](mailto:cinserra@kidsaboveall.org) for more information.

For more information [click here](#).

# Marvin Gayatgay Concert



**SKOKIE CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**A benefit concert for Kids Above All**



Featuring  
**Marvin Gayatgay**

Baritone  
Philippine Madrigal Singers Alumnus  
*"An affable man with pleasant presence - so pleasant  
that is impossible not to like him"*  
*Broadway World*

**Millete Silverio**  
Pianist  
Philippine Madrigal Singers Alumna

Back from a sold-out concert series in the Philippines!

# My Way : A Musical Tapestry

Tickets \$20 General Admission  
\$10 Students and under 18 y.o.

DATE: **MAY 16, 2025**

TIME: **7:30 PM**

**VENUE: CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
8237 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076

847-673-1311    [www.skokiecentralumc.org](http://www.skokiecentralumc.org)    [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

## Friday, May 16, 2025

Our church is hosting this fabulous concert by Marvin Gayatgay on Friday,  
**May 16, 2025, at 7:30 pm.**

Marvin will sing classic American songs and Filipino Songs.  
Our church's own Millete Silverio will be the pianist for the night.  
Surprise repeat and new guest performers will join Marvin on the stage.

Mark Your Calendar!

It is a benefit concert for Kids Above All.

## Evening Tai-Chi Class



### **Learn Tai Chi and Build Better Lives for Kids**

**Monday evenings, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**May 5 through June 9**

This slow, meditative exercise is designed to improve energy, relaxation, balance and overall health.

A suggested donation of \$10 per class will help support Kids Above All, a Methodist affiliated, child-serving agency in Cook, Kane, Lake and DuPage counties currently helping 4,450 kids and families through early childhood programs, safe/supportive housing and trauma-informed therapy.

Classes are taught by Jas and Jo Faber, certified instructors by Hsu Fun-Yen Tai Chi Academy in 1994. They have donated their time teaching classes for three years at Central Church, and Jas is an instructor at Wing-Tsun Martial Arts in Glenview.

To register, please email the Central church office at: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@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](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

# Pancake Breakfast

**Come to  
The Central United Methodist Church  
For Boy Scout Troop 72's annual  
All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast!**

**Saturday, May 17th from 7:30 to 11:30am**

**Adults: \$10, Kids <10: \$5**

**Central United Methodist Church**

**8237 Kenton, Skokie, IL**

**In Fellowship Hall**

**Meal includes pancakes, sausages,  
drinks, and fruit**

**All proceeds benefit the church**

**Donations are accepted too!**





# Fill The Truck

186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

## Fill the Truck

Mission Challenge Collection Drive

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center 1551 Thoreau Dr. N. Schaumburg, IL



**Monday, June 9**

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 10**

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\*Times subject to change



The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's Most Needed Items.

### MIDWEST MISSION CURRENTLY HAS A URGENT NEEDS FOR:

#### Home Care Kits

- Liquid Household Cleaner, 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap, 42 - 64 oz.
- Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.
- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Round Buckets With Resealable Lid

#### Adult Bicycles

#### Personal Dignity Kits

- Hand towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (no multipack)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz. (stick, roll on, or pump)
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags

#### If you prefer to make a financial contribution or a bulk purchase:

- Send a check or bring it to AC written to the Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance #50000150 in the memo section
- Give to Midwest Mission #50000150 through the online apportionment process.
- For competitive prices on Midwest Mission's bulk supply wish-list items, check the website below for a links

Midwest Mission will be on site to accept the above Most Needed Items and any Midwest Mission kits, bleacher lumber, retired firefighting gear (including jaws of life), treadle sewing machines, gently used hand tools. New or slightly used medical supplies, medical equipment, blankets and bicycles will also be accepted.

For questions email message with NIC Mission Challenge in the Subject Line to [dnlpbrg@gmail.com](mailto:dnlpbrg@gmail.com).

**Find out more at [umcnic.org/2025MissionChallenge](http://umcnic.org/2025MissionChallenge)**



**Grace**  
is Sufficient

## **Sunday, May 25th 2025**

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's Most Needed Items.

For Annual Conference, this year there is a request to "Fill the Truck" for the Midwest Mission Collection Drive. Please see the flyer for this event.

The Mission Committee was thinking, we could collect for:

"Personal Dignity Kits"

If we could make 10 Dignity Kits, that would be great!

Feel free to donate the items or \$\$.

Personal Dignity Kits

- Hand Towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (single packaging)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz.
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags

Please donate or bring items to church until **Sunday, May 25th**.

For more information [click here](#).

## **2025 Annual Conference**



**Monday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

The 186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference will be held on Monday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, [1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois](#). We will gather under the name Grace is Sufficient.

For more information [click here](#)

Call the church office if you would like to attend. **847-673-1311.**

## Tuesday Morning Meditation



### **Weekly on Tuesday Log Cabin & Online 10:30 AM**

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.

# 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)

# 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

Dear God, thank you for this new day, a gift of your love and grace. I am grateful for the blessings in my life, for the opportunity to experience your creation, and for the people who bring joy and support. Guide me and protect me today, that I may walk in your path with wisdom and strength. Grant me peace in my heart and mind, that I may face the challenges and opportunities of the day with courage and faith. Help me to see your presence in all things, and to live a life that is pleasing to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

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