

**Central United  
Methodist Church  
January 5, 2025**



Lectionary readings  
for the Second Sunday after Christmas Day – Epiphany

January 5, 2025

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#), [Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14](#),

[Ephesians 3:1-12](#), [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

I do love planning road trip. Looking at maps, I lose myself in finding the best National and State Parks to visit, the stops that cater to plant-based eaters, and of course, which spots have those souvenir penny squisher machines. With the ease of mobile phones, I no longer have to check out books-on-tape and burn playlists onto CDs for the long drives.

But nothing can fully prepare you for what you'll encounter once you hit the road. Asking locals about their favorite places to visit has become part of my travel routine. Some of the best vacation experiences have come from changing plans to sightseeing based on that advice.

The wise Magi studied their maps and star charts before following an auspicious star that led them to Jesus. They prepared for a long trek. Even down to the detail of what gifts to bring a prophesied king.

What provisions do you imagine they brought along for the journey?

I wonder how they found the holy family after their journey from the East. After all, a star is not as precise as a GPS. We know that they stopped at the home of King Herod. After that, I believe that it was the stories of locals that guided the Magi on the last leg of their journey.

On this tenth day of Christmas, remember that your words might just guide another to Jesus' side.

Merry Christmas!

***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.com](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org.com)

## Worship Service

Join us this **January 5, 2025 - Second Sunday after Christmas/ Epiphany** - 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 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** <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



**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

The altar flowers are given by KC Serrano in honor of her birthday.

## Fellowship

Please join us for fellowship this Sunday - an

### **Epiphany Pot-Luck Sunday!**

Please bring in a dish to share!

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

## Looking Ahead

### **Readers, Flowers and Fellowship Oh My!**

**We are always looking for Volunteers. Please sign up, TODAY!**

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

Reader: Sylvia Pleas

Flowers: KC Serrano

Host Fellowship: Epiphany Sunday Potluck

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

Reader: **Volunteer needed**

Flowers: **Volunteer needed**

Host Fellowship: **Volunteer needed**

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

Reader: Nick Werth

Flowers: **Volunteer needed**

Host Fellowship: **Volunteer needed**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

Reader: **Volunteer needed**

Flowers: Remy Yabes

Host Fellowship: **Volunteer needed**



# LAKE NORTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2025

**February 1** 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Trinity UMC in Mount Prospect**  
605 W Golf Rd  
**Cost \$15 each**

**Classes:** Pick 2 Classes (All classes are offered in both sessions)

- **Net Zero for Your Green Ministry**  
- Richard Alton and the Net Zero Committee
- **Church Marketing and Worship Storytelling**  
- Rev. Scott Himel
- **Collaborative Models for Creative & Connectional Ministry** - Northside Co-op pastors
- **Pensions, Benefits, and Health Insurance**  
- Rev. Cheryl Weaver
- **Conflict Resolution and Team Dynamics (SPRC Encouraged)** - Rev. Hope Chernich
- **Caring for Our Neighbor in Uncertain Times**
- **Discipleship for New Leaders (Trustee and Finance Focus)** - Lake North Building and Location Team

**Registration:** [umcnic.org/calendar/lake-north-leadership-training-2025](https://umcnic.org/calendar/lake-north-leadership-training-2025)

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Jieun 'Mori' Siegel  
[pastormorio@gmail.com](mailto:pastormorio@gmail.com)



[Click here](#) to register.

## Central Caring Crafters



**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

**10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7**

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. 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)

## Tai-Chi Classes



**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)

## 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

### *Letting Go*

Dear Jesus,

Please hear my prayer. I go along each day, trying to run my life my own way. I forget to let go and give you control.

I wonder why things aren't going the way I want them to go. I forget to stop and ask what you want, Lord. Please help me to give you control, Jesus. I want to follow you. I want what you desire for me.

Help me to realize that when you close one door, you open the one you want me to walk through. Help me also to realize that what I desire may not be what is meant for me, or what is best for me. Maybe it will lead me away from what your great plan is for me.

Lord, let me accept each day as a gift. Let me follow the path you choose for me. Help me to be thankful for what you give me and not to worry about my needs. I trust you will take care of all my needs. Remind me that my role is to care for those around me and focus on those who need my help.

Help me not to be judgmental, as we are all equal in God's eyes. Help me to see the good in all your creations. Let me leave the judging to you, dear Jesus. Instead, I will concentrate on living to please you!

Help me, dear Jesus, be who and what you want me to be. Give me strength, faith and hope, and most of all, give me guidance each and every day. I let go and give you control.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

***-Mary Fairchild***



**[Central United Methodist Church](#)**

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