

Central United Methodist Church



Lectionary readings for Easter Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Acts 10:34-43, 1Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Beloved,

As our Tuesday Morning group meditated on the Gospel story of the empty tomb this week, I noticed how Mary stayed near the tomb after the beloved disciple and Simon Peter went off.

Being a woman, the disciples didn't believe Mary's testimony. They needed proof, a male witness, an answer. The mystery of the Resurrection cannot be understood using reason, however. The text tells us that both men left without understanding.

But Mary, listening to her heart, stayed at the tomb that first Easter morning. Her grasp of Jesus comes from a place of deep love. And for that she meets the risen Christ.

Whether you possess wisdom, intellect, understanding or not, I pray that you have the love of Jesus that will make this Easter and the mystery of the empty tomb REAL for you once more.

Happy Easter!

-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.

Easter Worship Service

Join us this **Sunday, March 31, 2024** at 10:30 am - **Easter Sunday** - 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

to request the Zoom Link information.

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.



Easter Flowers

March 31, 2024

Thank You
to everyone who contributed to the beautiful altar flowers this Sunday!



Fellowship

Join us for Fellowship after service this Easter Sunday for a Potluck!
Please bring a dish to share.

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

Flower and Plant Fundraiser

March 31, 2024



Flower and Plant Fundraiser forms are **due this Sunday!** Please see **Karen Buccola** for the signup sheets.

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

Stronghold : Save The Dates

July 5-7, 2024 more details to come!



Gospel Readers and Flowers Sign Up



[Worship Calendar 2024 - Click Here](#)

for the following Sunday:

Please consider reading or bringing in flowers

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 _____

Volunteers will be needed for the dates above. Please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org or see Mar for the signup sheet.

Spiritual Renewal Day

April 6, 2024
Euclid Avenue 8:15 am- 1 pm
United Methodist Church in Oak Park

"Caring for Body & Soul Through Gratitude and Safety & Security"

United Women in Faith Lake North District is looking forward to seeing you and your UWFaith women at our Day of Spiritual Renewal, We will open the day at 8:15 AM with registration and a light breakfast and end at 1 PM following an amazing lunch.

See **Kathy Tiffin** for more details.

If you're interested, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Card Night



April, 19, May 17 and June 21st
Ed Building, Room 8

Join us for classic card games like Rummy and Canasta! See **Kathy Tiffin** for more details.

If you're interested, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Central Caring Crafters

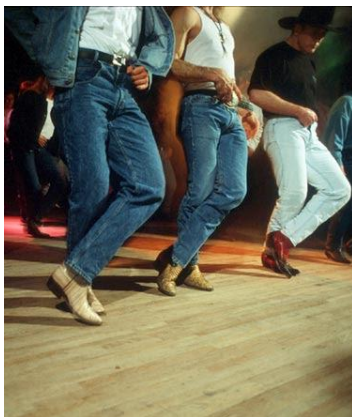


April 18, 2024

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

Spring Line Dancing



Friday, May 24, 2024
Fellowship Hall 6 pm - 10 pm
\$20.00 per person

Join us for a night of dancing!

"Line dancing is done individually. There are many different line dances and depending on the region or dance hall you're at the same line dances can also vary. Each line dance can be recognized by the name. For example, some commonly known line dances are: Tush Push, or the Watermelon Crawl. Line dancing can be better understood as a group of

people dancing in a line or rows to a choreographed dance with repeated sequence of steps, while facing the same direction. Like two step, once you learn the basic steps, picking up the dance combinations becomes easier due to the repetition."

See **Tina De Ocampo** for more detail.

If you're interested, please email the church office at: 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

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

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

Prayer of the Week

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

- Thomas Merton

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

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