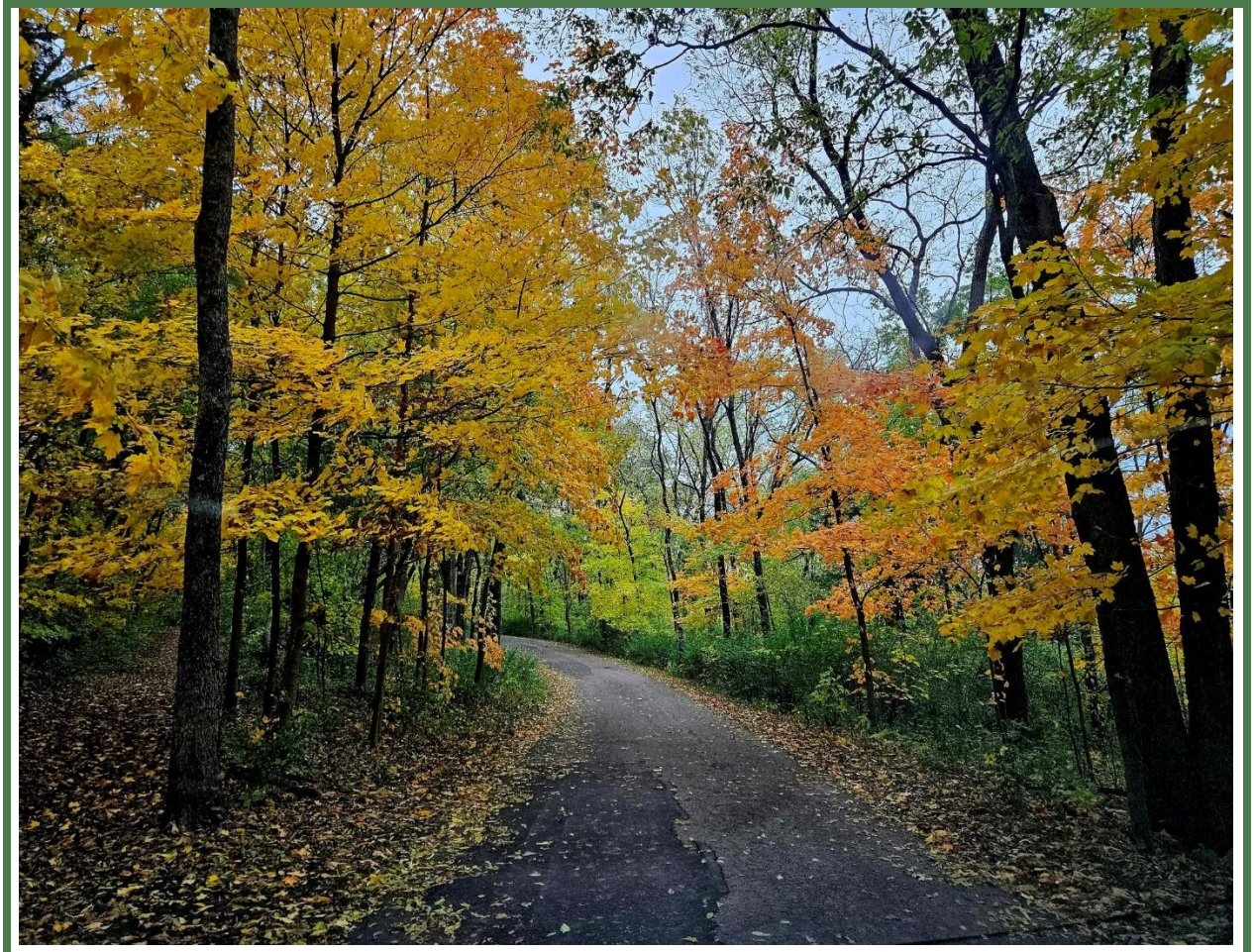
Central United Methodist Church
November 15, 2026



Lectionary readings for
25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026

Judges 4:1-7
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Psalm 123
Matthew 25:14-30

Your hand in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head. Psalm 23:5 "My Shepherd, You Supply My Need" Isaac Watts adapted by Mary Ruth Coffman

It's common for people of faith to struggle with teachings around money, stewardship, and generosity. For those living paycheck to paycheck, the call to extravagant generosity can feel like a real hurdle. Jesus calls us to abundant life, but we are all aware of extreme poverty, hunger, and inequality in the world. How can the Scriptures, which aren't univocal on matters of money, inform my faith and joy today?

At a young age, we learn to fear scarcity and look out for ourselves. Whole industries are built around protecting our interests. Yet our Christian walk invites us to trust in God's care and provision. We may ask for God's guidance on what we really need and learn that most of it is already taken care of. Forget "glasses half-empty" the early church spoke of overflowing cups! They defied the world's logic of acquisition and ownership with kingdom logic.

The work of stewardship and finance, the treasurer and the trustee committee, is holy work. It is a ministry. It is a calling. It matters to church members. Our attitudes about giving counter a culture that "extols acquisitiveness, excessive consumerism, and self-interest. It is one of the ways God is at work in the world today."

May our giving align with God's purposes. May you be set free from mere obligation to true joy in the Lord,

Pastor Biel

Giving chart - **click here**
Pledge card - **click here**

more copies available at the Sunday morning sign-in table.

Worship Service

Join us on **November 15, 2026 - 25th Sunday After Pentecost** 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**. Click on this link to request access. **centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org**

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:

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org


fall colors
red leaves
gold leaves
orange leaves
none
brown leaves
green leaf
every color at once
GRANT SNIDER

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.

Sanctuary Roof Replacement 2026

If your financial situation is such that you could offer up extra support for Central Church this is a fine time to respond. Visit the QR Code to give electronically or visit":

https://onrealm.org/skokiecentralumc/give/roof.


Upcoming Events 2026
November
Nov 08
Stewardship Drive Speaker: Nick Werth
Nov 15
Stewardship Drive Speaker: Rev. Benjie Benitez
Nov 22
Commitment Sunday - Stewardship Drive Speaker: Ed Gut
Nov 19
**Thursday - 7 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving @ Central UMC
Nov 26
Thursday- Thanksgiving
December
Dec 12
Saturday - Santa In The Cabin
Dec 21
Monday- Winter Solstice - First Day of Winter
Dec 24
Thursday- Christmas Eve - Service 9 PM
Dec 25
Friday - Merry Christmas!
Dec 31
Thursday- New Year's Eve
January
Jan 1
Friday - New Year's Day!

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers are provided by Mae Williams in honor of Avery and Micha.

Poinsettia Flowers



Sunday, November 29 , 2026

Christmas Poinsettia Order forms and payments will be due on **Sunday, November 29, 2026**. 6" single plants blooms at **$22 each** for placing on the altar for Christmas. Order forms will be located on the sign-in table or at the church office.

Fellowship



Join us for Fellowship provided by our Filipino friends.

Several members of our congregation are known to have allergies and diet restrictions: Dairy, Gluten, Meat and Corn.

Looking Ahead

Readers, Flowers & Fellowship, Oh My!
We are always looking for volunteers.
Please sign up, TODAY

November 15
Reader: _____Pam Castaneda _____
Flowers: ____Mae Williams___
Fellowship: _____Filipinos and Filipinas_____

November 22
Reader: _____
Flowers: _____
Fellowship: _____ _____

November 29
Reader: _____Katy Washington_____
Flowers: _____
Fellowship: _____ _____

United Women In Faith

United Women in Faith

The link below will list and describe what is going on throughout our Northern Illinois Conference, for United Women in Faith.

One particularly exciting event will be on **Saturday, March 13th, 2027, here in this church**. This is the yearly World Federation of Methodist and Uniting

Church Women. The program includes scripture readings, social action program summaries, inspiration, and music.

We have been asked to provide breakfast snacks and a light lunch.

Click here.

Also in this Insight Publication are various articles:
Lois Moreland Dean was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Women in Faith Corporation, 2026-2030.

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND has nearly reached its goal of $60M.
Becky John, is our new UWFaith Northern Illinois Conference secretary.
The 2027 Reading Program Link is in this article.

Reports about "What is happening" in our five NIC Districts:
- Lake North District
- Lake South District
- Prairie Central District
- Prairie North District
- Prairie South District

Information about Cunningham Children's Home is listed here.
Emma Norton Volunteer Day is described.
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House is described.
Church and Society Events are listed.
Order your daily Prayer Guide here!

World Federation
Of Methodist and Uniting
Church Women

Dear United Women in Faith,

"The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (formerly World Federation of Methodist Women) is a fellowship of such officially recognized groups of Methodist, United and Uniting Church Women organized in Units from the respective participating nations to affirm its purpose "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known"."

https://wfmucw.org/about
https://wfmucw.org/about/the-tree-of-life

National Units are combined within nine geographical Areas. The Area and Unit Officers co-ordinate programs and provide a global network for sharing information on program activities. Two years ago, I worked with this wonderful group of women in preparing the 18 page program. In 2024 their programs included: No Poverty; No Hunger; and Quality Education. Many churches explained how they helped in reaching these goals. I talked about our mini food pantry.

This event is on Saturday, March 13th, 2027, here in this church. This is the yearly meeting of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Every four years, the United Women in Faith is the host. I anticipate that other leaders in the NIC United Women in Faith will help us in the setting up, serving, program, and clean up from this event.

The WFMUCW programs include scripture readings, social action program summaries, inspiration, and music. We have been asked to provide breakfast snacks and a light lunch.

-Kathy Tiffin
United Women in Faith NIC
Social Action Coordinator

A Future Of Hope



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.

To join our Tai- Chi online **click here**.

Practice Tai Chi from your chair with this gentle 10-minute seated Tai Chi practice for balance and alignment. Relax the body through gentle movements - Tai Chi is a moving meditation. Guided by instructor Arlene Faulk, who shares: "Doing this chair tai chi practice every day for a year launched me on the road to walking again and good health."

To try chair Tai-Chi - **click here** - Arlene Faulk

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

Tuesday Morning Meditations



Weekly on Tuesday
Ed Bldg. or on Zoom
10:30 AM CDT

One ancient practice central to Christian prayer is called lectio divina or "divine reading." In lectio divina, we begin by reading and savoring a short passage of scripture. Our inner posture is one of a listening heart with an unhurried expectation that God has a message to convey especially suited to our circumstance. We read and ruminate with the ears of our heart open, alert to any connections the Spirit may reveal between the passage and our life situation. We ask, "What are you saying to me today, Lord?" Listening in this way requires patient receptivity in which we let go of our own agendas and open ourselves to God's shaping purpose.

Once we have heard a word that we know is meant for us, we feel naturally drawn to prayer. From listening we move to speaking—perhaps in confession or sorrow, perhaps in joy or thanksgiving, perhaps in anger or hurt, perhaps in trust or surrender. Finally, after pouring out our heart to God, we come to rest simply and deeply in the wonderful, loving presence of God.

Reading, reflecting, responding, and resting—this forms the basic rhythm of lectio divina. God is present in you through the Spirit who speaks to you in scripture and prays in you and for you. Ask for grace to listen to what God says, then choose one of the short biblical passages here and follow the steps: read, reflect, respond, and rest.

1. Read the scripture slowly.
Watch for a key phrase or word that jumps out at you or promises to hold a special meaning for you. It is better to dwell profoundly on one word or phrase than to skim the surface of several chapters. Read with your own life and choices in mind.

2. Reflect on a word or phrase.
Let the special word or phrase that you discovered in the first step sink into your heart. Bring mind, will, and emotions to task. Be like Mary, Jesus' mother, who heard the angel's announcement and "treasured" and "pondered" what she had heard (Luke 2:19).

3. Respond to what you have read.
Form a prayer that expresses your response to the idea, then "pray it back to God." What you have read is woven through what you tell God.

4. Rest in God's presence.
Be still and let God's loving spirit pour out on you.

Try It Out

- Do Justice, Love Kindness (Micah 6:8)
- God's New Thing (Isaiah 43:19-21)
- Do Not Fear (Isaiah 43:1-2, 4)
- Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:13-16)
- Be Still (Psalm 46:10-11)

Click here to learn more or view other spiritual practices.

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

Central Caring Crafters



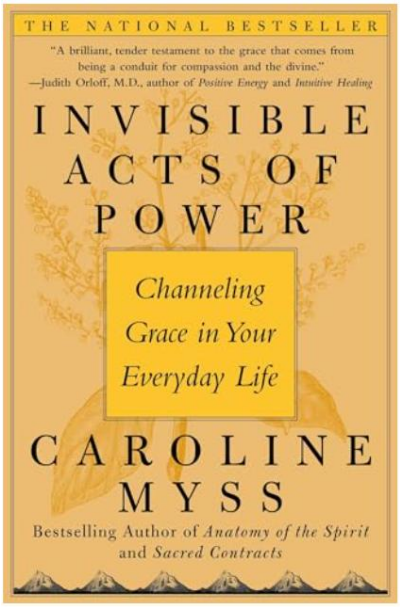
3rd Thursday of the month
Next meeting is Nov.19.

10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7

If you crochet, quilt, sew or 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**

Invisible Acts of Power



Book Study Weekly
On Zoom
6 PM - 7 PM

To listen to the audiobook preview click here.

TedX Talk - Choices That Change Your life click here.

1 book available in the office.

For more than two decades, internationally renowned pioneer in energy medicine Caroline Myss has been studying how people use their personal power. Through her special brand of spiritual insight and intuition, her popular workshops, and her bestselling books, Myss has helped hundreds of thousands of people meet the lifelong challenge of managing their spiritual energy and improving their lives.

Now, in this inspiring new book, Myss expands her message about power in an entirely new spiritual direction. With characteristic originality, she explains how we become channels for divine grace and a conduit for miracles through kind, compassionate, generous actions, or, as she calls them, invisible acts of power.

When we act compassionately, without a private agenda or expectation of credit or reward, God works invisibly, anonymously through us. And as we move from

visible acts, such as giving a friend a helping hand, to invisible acts, such as prayer and healing, we undergo a profound journey of personal empowerment.

The myriad simple but profound ways that people connect to create small miracles, gain a greater sense of spirituality, and transform their own -- and others' -- lives in an instant will inspire you to your own invisible acts of power...and attract them to you.

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

The Scoop Around Skokie




SANTA IN THE CABIN
&
CRAFT VENDOR FAIR
CABIN CAFÉ AND BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Visit and take pictures with Santa in the Log Cabin's loft
Shop our wide variety of unique and handcrafted gifts
Free take-home craft for the kids
Enjoy lunch in the Cabin Café
Central United Methodist Church
8237 N. Kenton Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076
Phone: 847-673-1311 www.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

"In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and Saviour. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen." -**Julian of Norwich**

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

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Skokie, Illinois 60076

Church Email:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Website:
www.skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311

Send Us An Email

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