

# Central United Methodist Church



## From Pastor Biel

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, May 14, 2023,

**Mother's Day.**

Acts 17:22-31   Psalm 66:8-20   1 Peter 3:13-22   John 14:15-21

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*Verbum Spirems Amorem*

Latin for "The Word breathes Love."

In her early days in the convent, Sister Kathleen Flood would skip out of services that contained Psalms of lament. When called to meet the Mother Superior about her absence, Sr. Kathleen said that she didn't feel the things in those painful and depressing psalms, so didn't need to attend. To which her Mother Superior replied, "Who told you that you were praying the Psalms for yourself?"

When you select bible passages to pray, don't just pick your favorites. It is our job to lift up those who are hurting in our prayers. Choose the difficult ones, too! As you pray these, call to mind people in difficult circumstances. Know that the sorrowful words of lament that are in the Psalms and Lamentations and Prophets were penned by people who trusted God enough to say what they really felt. They offered God their lives, hurts, blemishes - everything to God and let God take care of it. Furthermore, people around the world (and maybe next door) are having experiences that evoke similar feelings as people did then.

I lift up this reflection as the holiday, Mother's Day, approaches. For many people, Mother's Day brings painful feelings. The founders of Mother's Day warned about its message of peace and resistance to war being sugar-coated, dressed in flowers, candy and cards and robbed of the conviction to end war. Pray for peace. Also, offer a prayer for those who have recently lost a child or a parent figure. Remember those who cannot have children. Whisper the names of those who had troubled relationships with their own mothers. Breathe the love of the Word; in and out.

Sister Kathleen Flood learned the power of people praying the psalms of lament over her at the passing of her mother. She tells of a deep peace knowing that her sisters had her in mind when they prayed the psalms that include a pillow drenched with tears and eyes tired from weeping. The word breathed love.

The word is a whole food. It needs our rumination. Praying with scripture is like chewing during a meal. We sit. We take small devotional bites. Our commitment to spending time with the text in prayer draws out flavors and nourishment. We bring it up again and again. In contemplation, we taste its sweetness and truth. We must make time to just sit and rest in God's word, especially the difficult passages. Like milk separating from cream, we have to sit long enough for the cream to rise to the top.

May you experience a blessed Mother's Day that breathes love into your weekend and your prayer walk continues to deepen, *Verbum Spirems Amorem*,

*Pastor Biel*

For a little history on Mother's Day try this link:

<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/holidays/mothers-day/the-original-mothers-day-proclamation>

## 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 this **Sunday at 10:30 am** in the Sanctuary for our in-person service.

Masks and social distancing will be optional.

The worship service is available on Zoom at 10:30 am. Please email or click this link: [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org) to request the Zoom Link information.

## Altar Flowers



The altar flowers this Sunday are given by Kristen Mascari in loving memory of her mother, Betty Rooney.

## Fellowship



This Sunday, Fellowship will be hosted by the DeOcampo, Guerra and Mohammad families.

## Tai Chi Classes



Interested in learning Tai Chi? Join our free class in the Log Cabin 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.

## Diaper Drive

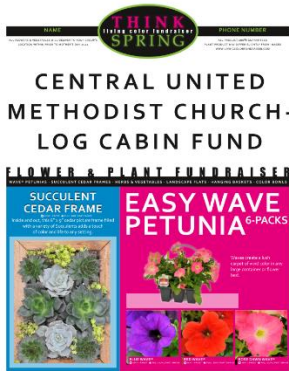


This Sunday, **May 14**, is the last day to bring wipes and diapers of all sizes for the Kids Above All's Diaper Drive to make sure children have the essentials they need for the best possible life.

Use the button below to learn more information about this year's drive or give easily through their [Amazon Wishlist!](#)

Or you can click [here](#) to learn more about Kids Above All.

## Living Flowers



The flowers will be delivered on **Thursday, May 18**. Your order can be picked up in Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, May 18** between

**11 am and 4:30 pm; Friday, May 19, between 10 am and 2 pm, Saturday, May 20, between 9 am and noon, and after church on Sunday, May 21.**

**Help is needed to unload the flowers, organize them and be there when the orders are picked up.** Even a couple of hours would be greatly appreciated. Contact the church office at [centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org) or 847-673-1211, or Karen Buccola at [klbuccola@aol.com](mailto:klbuccola@aol.com) or 312-343-4139 if you can help.

## Garage Sale



Central will be participating in the first annual Skokie Community-Wide Garage Sale on **Friday, June 2 - Sunday June 4, 2023**. More information to follow.

Now is the time to go through your basement, garage, etc. to see what "stuff" you would like to get rid of.

## Church Summer Retreat

Come and join us at Central's Summer Retreat from **Friday, July 7 to Sunday, July 9, 2023**, at Stronghold Camp Conference and Retreat, 1922 IL-2 N. Oregon, Illinois 61061.

It is open to members and friends of Central Church.

Click [here](#) for the Registration form. Forms will also be available in the Narthex on Sunday. Forms should be turned into the church office by **Sunday, May 28**, together with a downpayment of \$110.

# Mini Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who brought food for our Mini Food Pantry. The Pantry needs filling every day, especially in the cold, snowy weather. 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)

# 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&nbsp;>:

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.

## Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor  
Rev. Adrienne Stricker, Deacon

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