

Central United Methodist Church



Lectionary readings for
Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47

A friend recently told me they'd much rather attend a funeral than a wedding. It wasn't because of the ceremony or the persons up front, but the attendees.

Their logic is that people are invited to a wedding. But funeralgoers don't have to be invited. They are there out of respect and admiration for the deceased and their loved ones.

This Sunday, we celebrate Palm Sunday, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The service also has the story of Jesus' passion, his betrayal, arrest, trial and execution.

It is unsettling to go from hopeful shouts of 'Hosanna' to bitter cries of 'Crucify him.' Sunday's service follows the last days of Jesus' life: the praise and confidence as well as the tragedy of the cross and tomb.

Rev Garnaas Holmes writes, "The cross is God's non-violent resistance to our sin: God exposes and overcomes our violence and our separation from God."

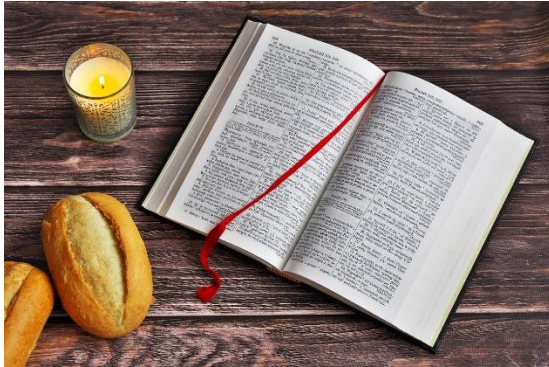
God judges all oppression. Even if the reasons are "righteous," we hurt God when we hurt others. Instead of punishment and retribution, God forgives us and reunites with us, setting us free from the power of sin.

This Holy Week isn't a funeral invitation, exactly. But it is an invitation to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is an invitation to take up our crosses: to identify our complicity in oppression and violence. And to turn towards the new life Christ sets us free for.

Hosanna, Son of God! Save us, indeed. May your Holy Week be especially blessed.

-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.

Worship Service

Join us this **Easter Sunday at 10:30 am** 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.

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers this Sunday are given by **Tina De Ocampo**.

Easter Flower Fund



**March 31, 2024
Easter Day**

Please consider donating funds to decorate the altar with various flowers this **Easter!** Please write in: **Easter Flower Funds** in memo line on the offering envelopes.

Fellowship

No one signed up for Fellowship this **Sunday, March 24, 2024.** Please consider signing up for upcoming Sundays.

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

The last Sunday of each month will be a Potluck. The signup sheet is available outside the kitchen.

Flower and Plant Fundraiser



Flower and Plant Fundraiser forms are now available! Please see **Karen Buccola** for the sign-up 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](#)

Please consider reading or bringing in flowers for the following Sunday:

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Flowers: _____ In honor
of _____

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Reader: _____
Flowers: _____ In honor
of _____

Sunday, April 21, 2024

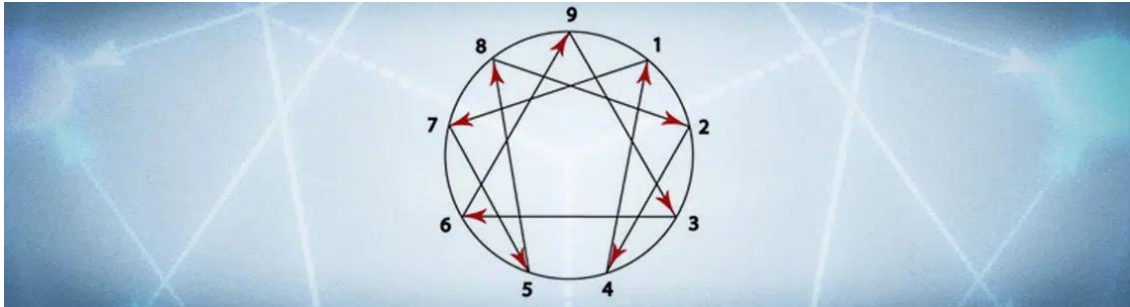
Reader: _____
Flowers: _____ In honor
of _____

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 sign-up sheet.

The Enneagram



Monday or Tuesday from 7pm to 8:30pm starting February 19th
Event location: **On Zoom**

[Practices That Lead To Transformation](#)

"There is a big difference between change and transformation. Change is when we take on something new. Transformation occurs when something old falls away, usually beyond our control."

"That changed my life."

Have you ever said that? I've heard sermons, listened to podcasts, taken classes, and read good articles in magazines that I then subscribed to, declaring that each one had changed me along the way. Maybe they did. But change is not transformation. **The wisdom teachers I respect insist that all great spirituality is about letting go.** And I really believe that. And yet I find that I am inclined to add things to my life as part of my commitment to practicing letting go of what I don't need... "[Click here](#) for more.

If you're interested or want to learn more, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

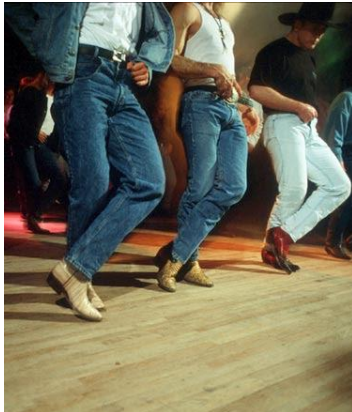
Office Hours

Wednesdays 9:00 am-3pm

Fridays 9:30 am-4pm



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

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

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

Dear God, thank you for the depth and light that life's challenges bring. Grant us strength to endure the bludgeons, hope to see beyond the pain, and gratitude for the joys and blessings along the way.

Amen.

Central United Methodist Church

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[Send Us An Email](#)



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