

Central United Methodist Church May 1, 2022



From Pastor Biel

Lectionary Readings for **Sunday, May 1, 2022, Third Sunday of Easter.**

Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelations 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

“Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord” (John 21:12).

Resurrection is not mere resuscitation.

Like the Easter Morning encounter between Jesus and Mary, his disciples don't know who this lone figure on the beach is at first glance. When Jesus shares with them a meal of fish and bread, they recognize Jesus. The same holds true for the two who encounter Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. Their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread.

After the resurrection, Jesus' appearance is different. Jesus is back. And with him comes abundance in the face of apparent scarcity; a catch of 153 large fish after a night of fishing and catching nothing.

If you recall, Jesus sent out the disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit in last week's reading. This Sunday, we will find them 'gone fishin.' What happened? They fell back to an old routine that some of them kept before they met Jesus. We'll explore this more on Sunday in worship as well as the marvelous story of Saul's conversion experience that began with an encounter with the risen Jesus on the Road to Damascus.

Sent out by Jesus, the church today, just as the disciples then, can expect “a new era of bountiful love and mercy, of grace upon grace” (John 1:16), which is the essence of the Gospel according to commentator, Matthew Meyer Boulton. It doesn't mean that their work was or our work will be easy or familiar. It DOES mean, however, that answering Jesus' call is not something we do alone, but with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Looking at the days ahead for Central Church, beloved, may you sense where Jesus is sending you and know, deep in your consciousness, that God will remain faithful the whole way.

Deep blessings,

Pastor Biel

A Love Letter to the Future

Of Buildings and Visions Thereof

By Christopher Bartlett

Last night, the Building Visioning Task Force held its third meeting. As a quick reminder, this group is working on the question of how to use the capital improvement funds available to us from the sale of the Elston Avenue property that closed earlier this year.

This work is going to be done in three phases. First of all, we have a list of repairs that absolutely cannot wait. This list was compiled by Ed Gut and Edgar and Diane Wolff-Klammer. We reviewed it and have referred it to the Trustees for action with our endorsement.

The second phase involves a rigorous examination of the condition of the Log Cabin. It appears that there are serious structural issues in that building that may well be getting worse over time. In order to come up with alternative plans for what to do about the cabin, we have determined that we'll need to bring in outside help. We need to evaluate the foundation and major structural supports, as well as evaluate the cost of replacing some logs that appear to be in poor condition. Our goal is to have this survey complete by the end of May.

The third phase is where all of you come in. We've been trying to talk about future visions for Central UMC, so that we would have guidance on the building-oriented decisions we've been asked to bring to the congregation. After a lot of excellent discussion, we concluded that we did not represent enough of Central UMC's people to do that. Therefore, we will be asking the congregation to contribute ideas and dreams for Central UMC. I'll write about this in more detail soon, but I want to bring a fortunate fact into this conversation. We will be having a retreat from July 15-17, a couple of hours west of here. One purpose for that retreat will be to hold a long visioning discussion, with facilities in mind. The task force will take the results from this retreat and put together proposals based on that work.

What this means is that I'm asking as many of you as can to come to the retreat. Bring children; it's a campground with lots of opportunities for cool family activities. We want the young folk to be a real part of the vision work we need to do; after all, we will hand the church on to them in the not-too-distant future, and their dreams must be heard and encouraged.

That's all for this week. We have a lot of good, plain work to do over the next few months. We also have a brilliantly talented and dedicated congregation to do that work. As I prayed last night at the end of our meeting, may God show us things that are even better than we could have imagined.

Amen

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study from 9:30 am to 10:15 am - Sunday morning via Zoom. If you are not 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 **Sunday, May 1 at 11 am** in the Sanctuary for our in-person service. We will continue to wear masks and social distance at the worship service.

The worship service will also be available on Zoom at 11 am. Please contact the church office if you need access to the Zoom Link.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers this Sunday are given by Evelyn DeOcampo in celebration of her daughter, Alexis' birthday.

A sign up sheet for altar flowers for July and August is available on the table in the Narthex.



We Stand with Ukraine



Thank you to all who donated to the Bishop's Appeal for funds to help Ukraine and who stand in solidarity with those experiencing violence, displacement and suffering in the midst of war. [Learn more](#) about the ways United Methodist prayers, aid and witness are being directed to Ukraine.

We have raised **\$2,225** so far. However, the need is great and we know the people of Ukraine will need assistance in the long term.

You are encouraged to donate to Central and designate "Ukraine Assistance" on the memo line of your check.

Meditation on the Gospel

Meditation on the Gospel will continue on **Tuesday, May 3, at 8 am**. The meetings are on the Zoom platform.

If you wish to participate, please text Pastor Biel or email the church.

Tai Chi



Join us for free Tai Chi lessons, given by a church member, every Tuesday morning at 9:15 am in the Log Cabin.

Contact the church for more information

at centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org. or 847-673-1311 - or just turn up on Tuesday morning.

Greater Chicago Food Depository

On Wednesday, April 27, at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Chicago's Food Bank, Jas and Jo Faber and Kathy Tiffin repacked thousands of oranges for distribution to local food agencies in the area. The details include: 1) repacking 415 boxes of oranges; 2) total weight was 14,525 pounds of oranges; 3) repacked the oranges into small bags holding 8 to 10 oranges; 4) the oranges will be distributed to local food agencies; 5) each volunteer generated 325 snacks for the food agencies; and 6) the hours worked by Jas, Jo and Kathy will be credited to the Niles Township Food Pantry, here is Skokie.



The picture shows Jo and Jas Faber, our fearless leaders in food repacking, and their very capable assistant, Kathy Tiffin.

Central Church Summer Retreat

Come and join us at Central's Summer Retreat from Friday, July 15 to Sunday, July 17, 2022, at Stronghold Camp Conference and Retreat, [1922 IL-2 N. Oregon, Illinois 61061](#). It is open to members and friends of Central Church.

Handouts with more information will be available at church on Sunday.

Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry Program Launch - **May 2 at 6 pm**. As part of its mission to modernize approaches to men's ministry, the Commission on United Methodist Men has introduced UNITED Men's Ministry, a resource that focuses more on process than a specific program. The innovative online resource provides a package that includes leader coaching, online learning, support, topical studies and connection. Every church leader who feels their men's ministry effort could use a restart, an upgrade, or a boost is encouraged to visit UnitedMensMinistry.com to register for the informational launch.

Breathe Again

Breathe Again: Healthy Air is Health Care Webinar - **May 3 at 7 pm**. May is Clean Air Month! Join via Zoom to learn the causes of air pollution, how it affects our health, and how you can act to improve air quality. This is a social action event sponsored by United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference (formerly United Methodist Women). **Click to register.** You will receive a confirmation email from Cheddar Up shortly after registering. If you do not get a confirmation, please email Lmosikowicz@comcast.net. Your Zoom link to the event will be emailed to you on May 1.

Somewhere Over the Border

"Somewhere Over the Border" Special Preview - (May 13) 7:30 pm at Windy City Playhouse, [3014 W Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL](#). Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON) is partnering with **Teatro Vista to bring this play** exclusively to NIJFON friends and family on this night as an opportunity to share a beautiful immigration story and also as an organizational fundraiser! **Click here** for details and to buy tickets.

TURN IT UP!

Turn It Up for Spiritual Healing and attend the United Women of Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) assembly, either in person or virtually, on **May 20 - 22** at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Click on this [link](#) for more information.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Early-bird Registration Ends April 29 - **Today!**

Save money and register today for the 2022 Northern Illinois Annual Conference through April 29. The cost of registration increases from \$80 to \$95 starting **April 30**. Registration closes **May 29**. Please note there will be no on-site registration. *Make sure you have a file copy (.jpg, jpeg, png) of your proof of vaccination card handy to upload during registration, which is required.

Annual Conference will meet in person **June 8 - 10** at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. The AC Committee is diligently working to make this a safe gathering for everyone while continuing to monitor COVID-19 infection rates for the area. For current requirements for AC members to attend, [please read the health and safety statement](#).

Clergy Session will be held May 24 in person at New Lenox UMC starting at 9 am. [Click for details](#). You may register through [AC registration](#). If excused from AC but attending the Clergy Session only, contact Marva Andrews at mandrews@umcnic.org for registration. **Laity Session** will be held June 8 from 11 am - 12 pm at the Schaumburg Convention Center.

More info:

- [Click](#) to download an abbreviated agenda.
- [Click to learn more](#) about this year's speakers and leaders.
- [Download a Fact Sheet](#) with more details and information.

For more dates and information, visit umcnic.org/AC2022.

- The worship services and plenary sessions will be livestreamed on the [NIC YouTube Channel](#) for guests and observers. Clergy and lay members of AC must be present in person to vote.

[Annual Conference Registration](#) [Annual Conference Updates](#)

Diaper Drive



Kids Above All's Diaper Drive is back, and you can make sure children have the essentials they need for the best possible life by bringing new wipes and diapers of all sizes to church this **Sunday, May 1**. The Diaper Drive ends on **May 15**, after which we will deliver the donations to Catherine Inserra at Kids Above All.

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.

Mini Food Pantry

The Mini Food Pantry is a great success and we are having to fill the pantry several times during the week. This is an ongoing mission, so please keep on bringing non-perishable items to the office on Wednesdays between 9:30 am and 4 pm and on Friday mornings between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. If everyone donated two items a week, it would keep the Pantry filled.

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

Donate



We thank you for your generous financial gifts. Your generosity helps support the missions of Central Church.

Please use the Donate button below.

You can also donate on the Church's Venmo account:

Venmo Account:

centralchurchgiving@gmail.com

User Name:

CentralChurch-Skokie.

Of course, there is always the US Postal Service or personal delivery!

Contact Doris Bloom for more information (djbloom@att.net).

DONATE

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Send Us An Email



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