

# Central United Methodist Church June 28, 2026



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Lectionary readings for 5th Sunday after Pentecost  
June 28, 2026

Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

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Jesus said “Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me. Anyone who welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward.” Matthew 10:40-41

Katy Washington will lead our worship on Sunday. While she and I have been practicing this gospel reading Jesus’ words shocked me. Not the words of welcome, but the ‘prophets’ reward.’ As she read them, I recalled Jesus’ warning in Matthew 23 that Jerusalem, “You kill prophets and stone those sent to you.” Is this what he meant by a ‘prophet’s reward?’ He prayed these words, grieved by the religious and political leaders’ violence against truth-tellers and justice-seekers.

Jesus warned his disciples that he sent them out as sheep among wolves. They will be turned over to the authorities and flogged. And, as we know, killed. When we stand in solidarity, welcoming those who are targeted by the empire, we can expect to be targeted as well. We become bound to those we welcome.

As author Stan Mitchel says, "If you claim to be someone’s ally, but aren’t getting hit by the stones thrown at them, you aren’t standing close enough."

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, it’s a blessing to remember our interdependence. Independence allows us to be our genuine selves. Interdependence calls us family. As the new Methodist motto says, we are free to ‘love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.’ It also means that when we are welcomed, we gain a community and solidarity.

Jesus warned that following him would set people against their families of origin. Public theologian, Nichola Torbett writes, “When we ‘come in the name of Jesus’—in other words, when we understand the full power and beauty of our vulnerability and everyone else’s—we risk losing relationships that required us to play small.”

We have one another’s back. We are not struggling with our cross alone, but welcome each other into a new entity, the church, that cements the vulnerable with us in a foundation built on Jesus’ love.

Trust Jesus Blessings and even the Prophets’ Reward,

***Pastor Biel***

A teal-colored poster for 'Wild Church Service'. At the top, the words 'Wild Church' are in white, and 'Service' is in orange. To the right of 'Church' is a small orange star. Below the title is a smiling sun with rays. To the right of the sun, the text 'Let's come to worship God outdoors!' is written in white. Below the sun, it says 'Every Sunday' in white. To the right, a white oval contains the text '9:15 AM Till 9:45 AM' in teal. Below that, it says 'June - August' in white. At the bottom left, it says 'Northside Of Education Building Bring Your Own Chairs!' in white. Below that, it says 'Central United Methodist Church 8237 Kenton Ave, Skokie, IL 60076' in white. On the right side of the poster is a large orange spiral graphic.

**Wild  
Church** ✨  
**Service**

Let's come to worship God outdoors!

**Every  
Sunday**

**9:15 AM  
Till  
9:45 AM**

**June - August**

**Northside Of Education Building  
Bring Your Own Chairs!**

**Central United Methodist Church  
8237 Kenton Ave, Skokie, IL 60076**

## Worship Service

Join us this **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 take part regardless of membership.

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.

# 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](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> ; 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.

# Roof Replacement



"Expect to see repairs to the Sanctuary roof taking place soon. We have the resources from the sale of the Elston Building in 2020 to make these repairs. However, giving to our general fund is well below average.

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>.

*-Pastor Biel*

# Sanctuary Roof Replacement June 2026

The roofing company is working long hours when the weather is cooperating. In the picture you see the roofers clearing off the old tar paper, insulation, and shingles off the decking. The roofing experts are drinking water and juice all day to prevent physical exhaustion.

After the 'roof decking' is cleared, it must be covered with insulation and sheathing to keep the overnight weather out of the building. So, a day's work is two big jobs: clear the roof and cover the roof with new products.

I am anticipating that "everything" will be done by Wednesday, July 1st. By "everything", I mean:

- 1) the roof is done
- 2) the flashing installed
- 3) grounds clean up
- 4) sanctuary all dusted, vacuumed, polished
- 5) summer landscaping completed.

Enjoy the picture of the completed Log Cabin roof with the two doves resting on the roof ridge.

**-Kathy Tiffin**  
**CUMC Trustee Chair**



## Altar Flowers



The altar flowers are provided by **Mae Williams** in honor of **Doris Bloom's Birthday**.

# Fellowship



Join us after the church service for fellowship - A **Pot Luck!** Please bring a dish to share.

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

# Looking Ahead

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

**June 28**

**Reader:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Katy Washington** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flowers:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mae** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fellowship:** **POT LUCK**

**July 5**

**Reader:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pam** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flowers:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Remy** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fellowship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**July 12**

**Reader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flowers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fellowship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**July 19**

**Reader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flowers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fellowship:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Summer Concert Series

## RAISING THE ROOF

### CONCERT SERIES



Join us for an outdoor concert series, on the beautiful back porch of the Central United Methodist Church Log Cabin! Bring your own chair or blanket to sit on!



### Concert Opera of Greater Chicago

Presenting two concerts highlighting Broadway, Opera, and Mariachi music.

**JULY 18TH** 2-5pm

**JULY 25TH** 2-5pm



### More Whiskey

Local indie folk band

**JULY 31ST** 7-9pm

📍 8237 Kenton Ave. Skokie, IL 60076

For more information, reach out to:

[CentralChurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:CentralChurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

TICKETS ARE \$25!

Pay at the door!

Cash or Venmo: @CentralChurch-Skokie



SUN, SPLASH & GOOD TIMES

SUNDAY

JULY 12,

AT 12 PM - 2 PM



Oakton Pool  
4715 Oakton St.  
Skokie, IL 60076



**Sunday July 12**  
**12 PM - 2 PM**  
**4715 Oakton St.**  
**Skokie IL, 60076**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
POOL PARTY**

**SPONSORED BY CENTRAL UMC**

**Space is Limited**  
**RSVP is needed**  
**Three spaces are left open!**

Everyone is welcome—bring your family, your friends, and your favorite beach towel. Whether you're looking to dive into the deep end or just lounge by the side and chat, we can't wait to spend the day together as a community.

The Skokie Water Playground is the larger of the two outdoor aquatic facilities at the Skokie Park District, next to the Oakton Community Center, at the corner of Skokie Blvd. and Oakton St.

Take a leisurely dip in our 14,000 square foot main pool with beach entry, play in our fully accessible splash pad, take a ride down one of our three big slides or take the challenge, stand beneath the big red bucket, and get drenched by 300 gallons of water! Then take a break and visit our concession stand and have a cool drink or a frozen treat.

### **Features**

- Concession stand
- Five Slides
- Fully-accessible Sprayground
- Interactive Multi-level Play Area
- Lap Lanes

**Must have your own: Swimsuit, towel, cover up, sunscreen and hat.**

**\*\*\*THREE\*\*\* spots available  
please email the church office if you're interested.**

*Picnic Day at  
Central!*



Pack your picnic baskets, food to share, a blanket and or chairs!

South Side of the Church building  
on Concord Lane.

*Saturday July 18  
10 AM - 1PM*

## Mission u 2026



## Summer Mission u

Join the United Women in Faith of the Northern Illinois Conference this summer for inspiring teaching events open to all:

- July 10-12 – Weekend teaching at Stronghold Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, [1922 IL RT 2 North, Oregon](#)
- July 19 – Korean One-Day teaching at Woori UMC, [2403 Diehl Rd., Naperville](#)
- Aug. 8 - One-Day teaching Euclid Avenue UMC, [405 S. Euclid Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302](#)

Invite friends, family and neighbors. All Are Welcome!

Hosted by the United Women in Faith of the Northern Illinois Conference

to learn more [click here](#).

# CI In July

## CHRISTMAS INSTITUTE in July

Organized by the  
NIC Filipino American  
United Methodists



**CHRISTIAN RETREAT FOR YOUTH AGES 12 TO 25**  
Theme: Safe in God's Arms, Together in God's Heart

Sun., **July 19** to Tues., **July 21**

**Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest, IL**

**\$50 per person** covers lodging, meals, and activities

Registration is first-come, first-served until July 10.

**This event is open to youth ages 12 to 25 across our conference and beyond.**

While it is organized by the Filipino American group, all youth are welcome to attend regardless of background.

### Questions?

General: **Gigi Mencias**  
708-769-2238, [gigimencias@gmail.com](mailto:gigimencias@gmail.com)  
Registration: **Marie Esguerra**  
779-361-9462 (text only)

Sponsored by:



**Register and find out more:**  
[umcnic.org/calendar/youth-christmas-institute-2026](http://umcnic.org/calendar/youth-christmas-institute-2026)

"He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you." - Psalm 91:4

# Host A Traveling Musician

Traveling Musician Seeking Housing / Host for 6 Nights (July 31 – Aug 5)

A traveling musician looking for a welcoming place to stay for a six-night stretch from **Friday, July 31st through Wednesday, August 5th.**

Ideally, they are looking for a quiet room or a guest house where they can rest and recharge.

- Dates: Checking in July 31, checking out August 5 (6 nights total).
- Space Needed: A private bedroom and access to a bathroom and kitchen.

If you have a spare room, an empty apartment or a guest suite available during these dates, please contact Alvaro at 847- 421- 4287.

Thanks so much for considering!

## 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](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

## Central Caring Crafters



**3rd Thursday of the month**  
**Next meeting is July 16 .**

**10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7**

If you crochet, quilt, sew and 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](mailto: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](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

## Prayer of the Week

During the Holy Eucharist,  
when the priest says,  
Lift up your hearts,"  
the people respond,  
We lift them to the Lord,"  
that is exactly what I will be  
teaching you how to do:  
to lift up your heart to God.  
in order to do this,  
you need to practice letting go of everything  
except your patient love for God.  
as you let go and love God,  
you will discover a darkness...  
do not be afraid.  
This darkness is the cloud of unknowing.  
it is the cloud that always exists  
between you and God,  
because God will always remain  
beyond your knowing.  
  
As you discover this darkness,  
saints and angels will be throwing a party  
in your honor.

The Cloud of Unknowing Distilled  
-Daniel London

# Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

8237 Kenton Avenue  
Skokie, Illinois 60076

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[centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

Church Website:  
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Send Us An  
Email



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