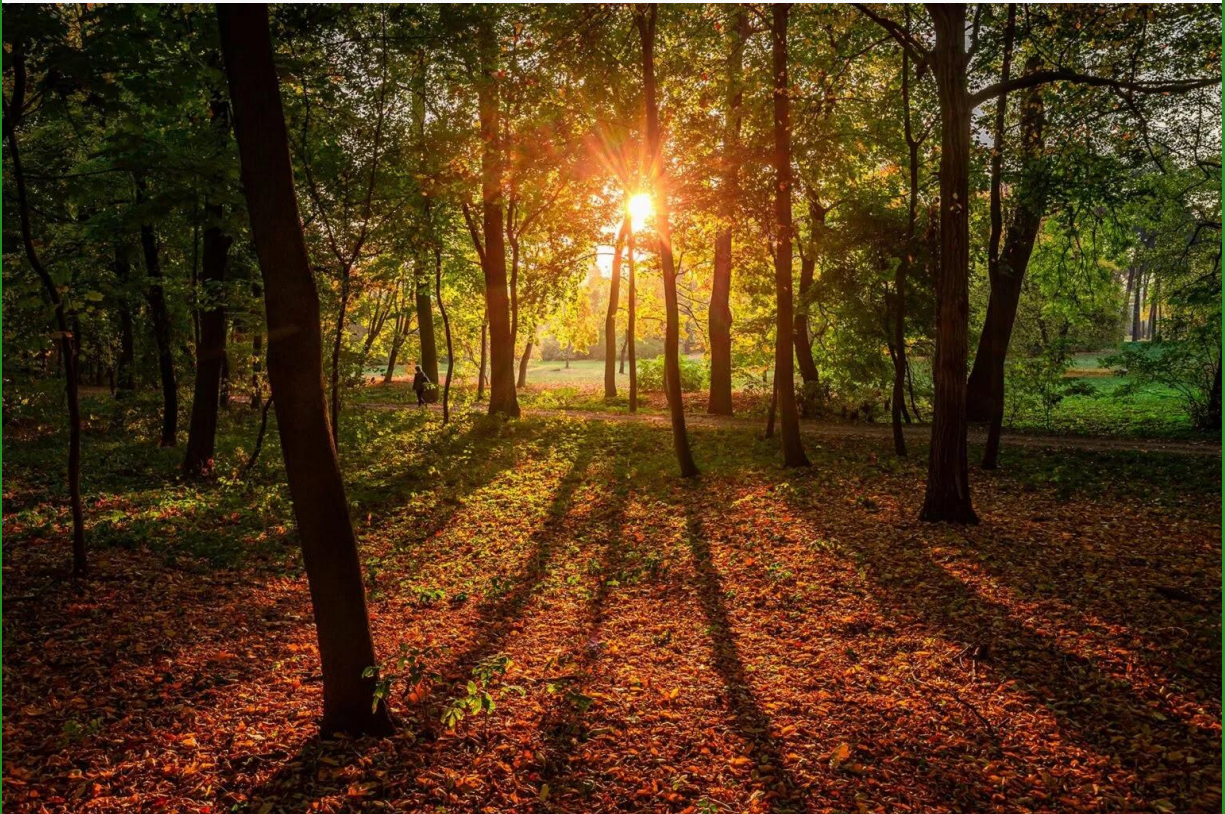


Central United Methodist Church



Lectionary Readings for October 29, 2023 Twenty-Second Sunday After
Pentecost:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46

Beloved,

Have you ever heard of the term: Rockhound? For Rockhounds, rocks draw our attention and beg to be picked up and admired whether they are on the beach or trail, at a garage sale, or being worn by a friend. We often have a rock we picked up in our pocket for use as a 'worry stone'.

I lose myself in reading descriptions about local geology at museums. And when my wife, Victoria, shops for beads for her next work of art, I can be found examining the bins with stones.

The conditions must be just right to make rocks and crystals capture my imagination. I love how unlikely crystal formations are. I love how light plays on the surface of and within the crystalline structure of semi-precious gemstones. I marvel at the hard work of miners who brave the depths of earth's crust to bring gems to the surface.

Our church family reminds me of a faceted, natural gemstone. People of faith have a complex make up. People with a wide variety of gifts and graces make up the gem of Central Church. We are formed under stress. Some of us have traveled great distances to be here. We live with pressures that are invisible to the outside world. In my experience, we are beautiful. We are strong. We reflect light to one another.

For those who love palindromes, we are a *mega gem*. (sorry, I couldn't resist!)

Turning a faceted gem, looking within from different angles, reveals unique things from each viewpoint. Turning the gem of your church you will see the facets of our life together in the Spirit. You will find prayers answered. Milestones celebrated. The sick visited. Turn the gem and see how we correspond with the imprisoned. How the hungry are fed. That those who mourn are comforted. Scripture is studied and meditated on. The blessings of farewells are shared.

Keep turning the gem, and you will see such loving activity from your leaders: dedicated individuals working together to make music, keep accurate records, plan our spending, create safe places, and enliven the worship experience. The beauty of the Central Church gem shines out in all these ways as we offer one another care and wisdom and knowledge of God's love...and so much more.

Through Zechariah, God said:
*The Lord their God will save his people on that day
as a shepherd saves his flock.
They will sparkle in his land
like jewels in a crown.*

Beloved, you are God's gem. Like jewels in a crown, keep blessing God. Like a rock in God's pocket, know that you are admired, your life appreciated, and that your innermost being has sacred worth.

Trust Jesus' Blessing,

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

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.

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers this Sunday are given by Tina De Ocampo in honor of Junn De Ocampo.

Fellowship

Join us for Fellowship after church this Sunday provided by Tina, Miriam, and Sally.

This Sunday we welcome kids to come dressed up in their costumes for Fellowship and receive some candy treats!

Starting in November we will have the last Sunday of each month as a potluck for Fellowship. There is a signup sheet outside the kitchen for Fellowship from now until the middle of May 2024.

United Women In Faith

United Women in Faith Conference- This Saturday, October 28th, 2023 at Cary United Methodist Church 8:30am-12:45pm [click here](#) to Register.

Any questions, contact Kathy Tiffin at ktsstiffin@gmail.com

Happy Filipino American History Month!

"Why October?"

Filipino American History Month (FAHM) in October commemorates the first Filipinos to arrive in the continental United States at what is now Morro Bay, California on October 18, 1587.

In 1992, the Filipino American National Historical Society introduced FAHM, and in 2009 U.S. Congress officially recognized October as FAHM in the U.S.

History & Heritage

"History is inclusive of heritage and culture, but it's also about the ways we have built and changed this nation...whereas heritage is more limited to what we pass down in terms of culture, tradition, and legacies. - the late Dr. Dawn Mabalon, renowned historian and community leader, who was also believed to be the first Pinay to earn a Ph.D. in American History from Stanford University..."

[Click Here](#) to learn about 10 ways to celebrate Filipino American History Month!

Fifth Sunday

October 29, 2023

Fifth Sunday Appeal

Since 1979, Northern Illinois congregations have provided over one million dollars to support United Voices for Children's [affiliated agencies](#)—[Kids Above All](#) (formerly ChildServ), [MYSI](#) and [Rosecrance](#)—through the Fifth Sunday Appeal. Through this collaborative giving effort, dozens of United Methodist congregations of all sizes are able to make a real difference in the lives of children, youth and families in need. United Voices for Children is grateful to the 117 congregations in the Northern Illinois Conference who have participated in the Fifth Sunday Appeal in the past.

Every year, United Voices for Children recognizes people and organizations that provide remarkable ministry service or advocacy efforts on behalf of children, youth, and/or families throughout the NIC. Honored this year are **St. Mark**

UMC Freedom School, Rev. Tura Foster Gillespie, Dr. Dana Weiner, Shelley Frizelis, and Tanya Lozano Washington.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

Giving envelopes will be available in the Narthex.

Healing Service- After worship we invite those in need of healing prayers and anointing to come forward to the altar.

Also, as a reminder this will be the last Sunday to hand in orders for **Poinsettias**. Order forms are also in Narthex.

Lastly, this Sunday will be the last day **Deacon Adrienne Stricker** will be serving us at Central. We wish her many blessings and joy on her next appointment.

A Letter From Deacon Adrienne

Thank You, Central Church,

I remember the first time I worshipped at Central. It was 2012, and I had the morning free. At the time, I served at Northminster Presbyterian Church of Evanston as the Director of Christian Education. I walked the several blocks between my apartment on Kilpatrick Avenue and Central on a beautiful fall morning. I sat somewhere in the middle (as I usually do when visiting a new church) and absorbed as much as I could unfolding around me: people entering, some old, some younger; the sound of a musician warming up; the way the sunlight danced in the stained glass. I was happily surprised to realize that Communion was offered every Sunday, and with liturgies that inspired my imagination. The music was so beautifully diverse, interwoven so intentionally with the prayers - something I hadn't experienced in quite the same way in other churches. There was warmth in the air. I tucked that Sunday away in my memories as I continued to serve in ministry throughout the years. But I stayed curious about Central.

In the spring of 2018, I began to look for a new local church to serve as a Deacon. Though I had moved to the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago by that time, Central kept coming into my mind. Once I learned Pastor Biel was going to be appointed in July of that year, I introduced myself, and we talked about the possibility of Central becoming my local church connection as a Deacon (the official term is "secondary appointment"). I came to the church in August of 2018, and you all welcomed me with open arms. For Deacons, secondary

appointments are a little open-ended, allowing Deacons to serve in different ways. I began co-leading worship with Pastor Biel and set up prayer stations

for special events throughout the church year. I imposed ashes on Ash Wednesday with Pastor Biel at the train station on a 20-degree morning. I helped plan a retreat to Wisconsin. I preached a few times each year and was thrilled to start teaching a book study in early 2020.

Then COVID hit, and time felt different for all of us for so long. From my home, participating in virtual services, I witnessed the way you all care for each other; not out of obligation, but deeply. I got to listen in on conversations about merging Elston and Central - and to see the Spirit's movement in calling you to be one church, stronger together. You all generously surrounded me with love and support for my family as we welcomed my son, Samuel, into the world in 2022, and baptized him later that year.

And life quickly picked up speed. In some ways, it feels like my time at Central was just getting started. The needs of our world are so great, and there are creative ministries yet to be born and flourish in the church that will impact not only Skokie but communities far beyond. I longed to be a part of those ministries. And yet - I know that God was with all of us as we journeyed alongside each other these last 5 years. God was with us in all our small moments together; in every moment when we shook hands, looked into each other's eyes, and said, "Good morning. Peace be with you." What we were really saying to each other is, "You are a child of God. I see you. You are loved." This is what we always say to each other by being part of a community - in all the diverse ways we are in community together. Being present with the Central community was - and will continue to be - such a joy. And I am beyond thankful to have served with Pastor Biel, whom I now consider a brother and dear colleague.

My next secondary appointment will be with First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst, where I look forward to preaching and finding creative ways to serve and resource the congregation. Thank you, Central, for our time together. Thank you for being who you are. Thank you for letting me walk alongside you and thank you for showing God's love to your community.

Sincerely,

Deacon Adrienne

Giving Statements

Giving Statements through September 30, 2023 have been sent out through e-mail. Anything given **after** September 30, 2023 will **not** be reflected. If you have any questions, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

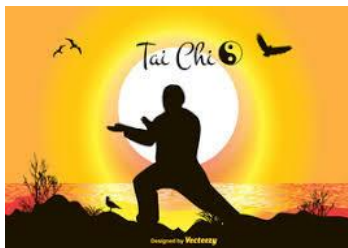
All Saints Day

On Sunday, November 5, we will be honoring those who have passed away. If you have somebody you would like to honor, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Tuesday Morning Meditation

Join us weekly on Tuesday at 8:00 am on Zoom. If you have questions, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

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.

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



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 –

<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.

Central United Methodist Church

[Send Us An Email](#)

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

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Skokie, Illinois 60076

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(847) 673-1311



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