Central United Methodist Church
November 1, 2026



Lectionary readings for
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 1, 2026

Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ***18*** *I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.* Revelation 1:17-18

This weekend is traditionally a three-day Christian festival honoring God's faithfulness to those who have died. Beginning tomorrow, the days include: All Hallow's Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day.

These days remind us of the assurance that our lives are held eternally in God's hand and do not end with our passing. We recall that our baptism was a kind of death. We died to shortsighted 'wins' of greed, control, and revenge and rose into the life of Jesus Christ. What's more, the power of love that we manifest during our lives continues to strengthen and empower our beloveds and other believers for all time.

We are edified by stories of the saints of church and martyrs who died for their belief in and practice of Jesus' teachings. We study and sing of the giants in the faith who went before us.

Our connection to our dearly departed in Christ is strong. Often, in the final moments of their life people tell me of the loved ones who were in the room with us.

This Saturday, All Hallows Eve, (which was shortened to Hallow E'en) we will gather to give out candy to children and make Luminaries of Remembrance. The fun starts at 3:00pm. We'll wrap up a little after 6:00pm

The tradition of trick or treating has its roots in a Christian practice of offering small cakes to children who in turn prayed for the giver's dead relatives. The practice was called 'souling'.

On Sunday, All Saints Day, we will lift the names of those who died this year in celebration of their faithfulness and trust in God in worship. There will also be a chance to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

Send a quick email to the office if you have lost a loved one this year and want their name lifted up in worship.

November also signals the beginning of our Stewardship Season: A Future with Hope. Many thanks to Mary Wadleigh who will share a witness about generosity in worship. May her words turn our hearts and minds to God's abundance.

Have a Happy Holy Halloween and All Saints/Souls weekend,
-Pastor Biel

All Saints



All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the **tradition of the church**.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on."
to learn more **click here**.

On Sunday, November 2, 2025, Central UMC 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**

Fall Back @ 2 AM



Halloween On Concord Lane

SATURDAY OCT. 31, 2026 @ 3 PM

LUMINARY WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

CONCORD LANE - LOG CABIN PATIO

CANDY & CRAFTS

COME DECORATE A PAPER BAG LUMINARY TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED.



"This All Saints Weekend we recall the happiness of those who shared our walk of life, but whom we see no more. We remember their love and their joy. We forgive their faults so that goodness increases and weakness fades from sight.

These memories are a blessing forever. They remind us that their souls are bound up in ours forever. I invite you to bless their names with us in worship and on Saturday's Luminary Walk of Remembrance at the Log Cabin. In these acts we offer gratitude to God for sharing with us the lives of our dear departed.

Carrying on the tradition of faith is now our work to do. Members of our church and family cared for us, prayed for us, and labored for the salvation of all people. " - ***Pastor Biel***

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
to request the Zoom Link information.

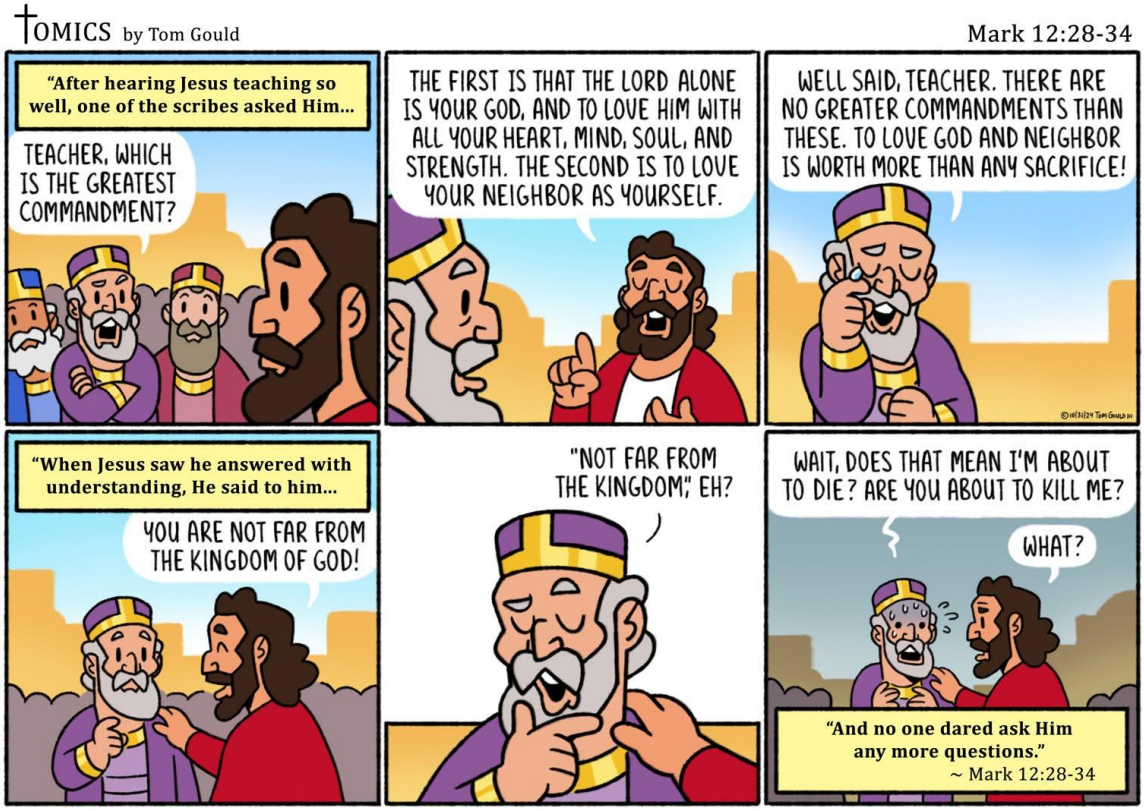
Bible Study



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


TOMICS by Tom Gould
Mark 12:28-34
"After hearing Jesus teaching so well, one of the scribes asked Him...
TEACHER, WHICH IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?
THE FIRST IS THAT THE LORD ALONE IS YOUR GOD, AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND, SOUL, AND STRENGTH. THE SECOND IS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.
WELL SAID, TEACHER. THERE ARE NO GREATER COMMANDMENTS THAN THESE. TO LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR IS WORTH MORE THAN ANY SACRIFICE!
"When Jesus saw he answered with understanding, He said to him...
YOU ARE NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD!
"NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM," EH?
WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN I'M ABOUT TO DIE? ARE YOU ABOUT TO KILL ME?
WHAT?
"And no one dared ask Him any more questions."
~ Mark 12:28-34

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.

Sanctuary Roof Replacement 2026

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.


Upcoming Events 2026
October
Oct 25 Charge Conference- Candy Drop Off
Oct 31 Saturday - Trick or Treat on Concord Lane!
November
Nov 1 All Saints Sunday - Stewardship Drive Speaker: Mary Wadleigh
Nov 08 Stewardship Drive Speaker: Nick Werth
Nov 15 Stewardship Drive Speaker: Rev. Benjie Benitez
Nov 22 Commitment Sunday - Stewardship Drive Speaker: Ed Gut
Nov 24 Tuesday - 7 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Location TBA
Nov 25 Thursday- Thanksgiving
December
Dec 12 Saturday - Santa In the Cabin
Dec 21 Monday- Winter Solstice - First Day of Winter
Dec 24 Thursday- Christmas Eve - Service 9 PM
Dec 25 Friday - Merry Christmas!
Dec 31 Thursday- New Year's Eve
January
Jan 1 Friday - New Year's Day!

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers are provided by Mar Haidari in celebration of her Mother, Daisy Serrano.

Fellowship



Join us for Fellowship provided by Tina De Ocampo

Several members of our congregation are known to have allergies and diet restrictions: Dairy, Gluten, Meat and Corn.

Looking Ahead

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

November 1
Reader: ____Mary Wadleigh_____
Flowers: ___Mar____
Fellowship: _____Tina De Ocampo ___

November 8
Reader: ____Pam_____
Flowers: __Ruby David_____
Fellowship: _____ _____

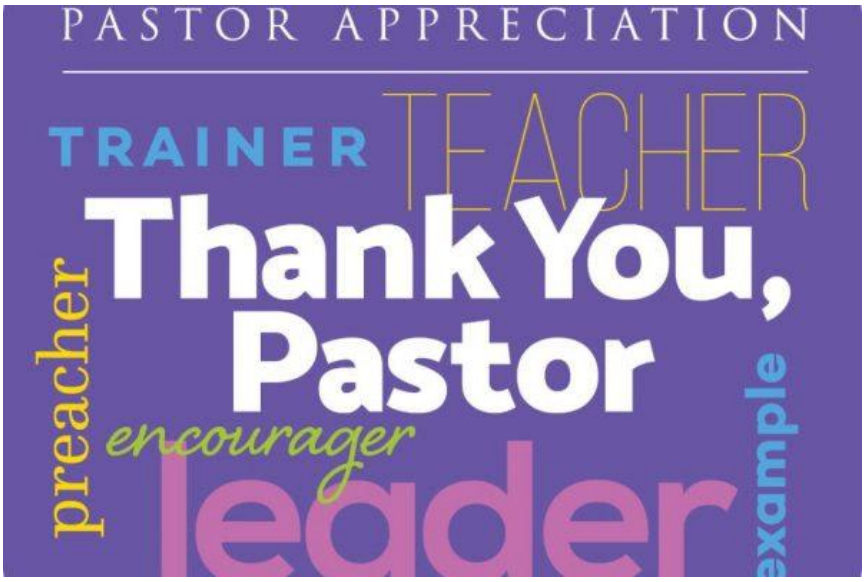
November 15

Reader: _____
Flowers: _____
Fellowship: _____ _____

November 22
Reader: _____
Flowers: _____
Fellowship: _____ _____

November 29
Reader: _____
Flowers: _____
Fellowship: _____ _____

Pastor Appreciation



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!
October is a special time to express our gratitude to our pastors and clergy, who faithfully serve and shepherd our congregation 24/7. Rooted in the biblical call to honor church leaders (*1 Timothy 5:17*), this month offers us a wonderful opportunity to bless them and their families.

How you can participate:

- **Write a note or send a text: Share a specific sermon, memory, or moment that impacted you.**

- **Give a blessing: Personal gifts or gift cards are always appreciated.**

Thank you for taking time this month to shower our pastors with love, appreciation, and encouragement!

Lay Academy

LAKE NORTH
FALL 2026
LAY ACADEMY

CARING Lay Servant Ministries COMMUNICATING LEADING

SATURDAYS, NOV. 7 AND 14
8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

EUCLID AVENUE UMC
405 S. EUCLID AVE., OAK PARK

All class times must be attended to receive course credit.

Cost $40 - to learn more click here.

A Future Of Hope



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

Tuesday Morning Meditations



Weekly on Tuesday
Ed Bldg. or on Zoom
10:30 AM CDT

One ancient practice central to Christian prayer is called lectio divina or "divine reading." In lectio divina, we begin by reading and savoring a short passage of scripture. Our inner posture is one of a listening heart with an unhurried expectation that God has a message to convey especially suited to our circumstance. We read and ruminate with the ears of our heart open, alert to any connections the Spirit may reveal between the passage and our life situation. We ask, "What are you saying to me today, Lord?" Listening in this way requires

patient receptivity in which we let go of our own agendas and open ourselves to God's shaping purpose.

Once we have heard a word that we know is meant for us, we feel naturally drawn to prayer. From listening we move to speaking—perhaps in confession or sorrow, perhaps in joy or thanksgiving, perhaps in anger or hurt, perhaps in trust or surrender. Finally, after pouring out our heart to God, we come to rest simply and deeply in the wonderful, loving presence of God.

Reading, reflecting, responding, and resting—this forms the basic rhythm of lectio divina. God is present in you through the Spirit who speaks to you in scripture and prays in you and for you. Ask for grace to listen to what God says, then choose one of the short biblical passages here and follow the steps: read, reflect, respond, and rest.

1. Read the scripture slowly.
Watch for a key phrase or word that jumps out at you or promises to hold a special meaning for you. It is better to dwell profoundly on one word or phrase than to skim the surface of several chapters. Read with your own life and choices in mind.

2. Reflect on a word or phrase.
Let the special word or phrase that you discovered in the first step sink into your heart. Bring mind, will, and emotions to task. Be like Mary, Jesus' mother, who heard the angel's announcement and "treasured" and "pondered" what she had heard (Luke 2:19).

3. Respond to what you have read.
Form a prayer that expresses your response to the idea, then "pray it back to God." What you have read is woven through what you tell God.

4. Rest in God's presence.
Be still and let God's loving spirit pour out on you.

Try It Out

- Do Justice, Love Kindness (Micah 6:8)
- God's New Thing (Isaiah 43:19-21)
- Do Not Fear (Isaiah 43:1-2, 4)
- Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:13-16)
- Be Still (Psalm 46:10-11)

Click here to learn more or view other spiritual practices.

If you're interested, please email the church office at:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Central Caring Crafters



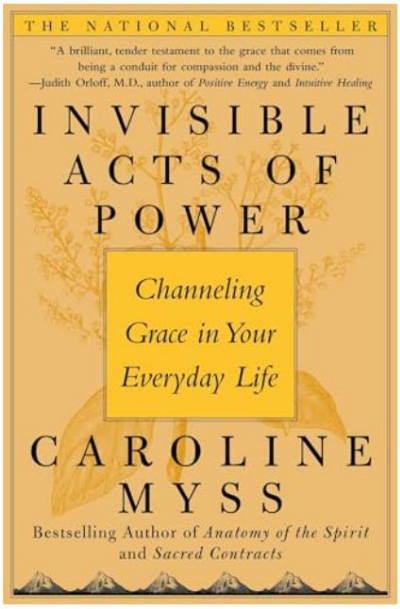
3rd Thursday of the month
Next meeting is Nov.19.

10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7

If you crochet, quilt, sew or 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**

Invisible Acts of Power



Book Study Weekly
On Zoom
6 PM - 7 PM

To listen to the audiobook preview click here.

TedX Talk - Choices That Change Your life click here.

1 book available in the office.

For more than two decades, internationally renowned pioneer in energy medicine Caroline Myss has been studying how people use their personal power. Through her special brand of spiritual insight and intuition, her popular workshops, and her bestselling books, Myss has helped hundreds of thousands of people meet the lifelong challenge of managing their spiritual energy and improving their lives.

Now, in this inspiring new book, Myss expands her message about power in an entirely new spiritual direction. With characteristic originality, she explains how we become channels for divine grace and a conduit for miracles through kind, compassionate, generous actions, or, as she calls them, invisible acts of power.

When we act compassionately, without a private agenda or expectation of credit or reward, God works invisibly, anonymously through us. And as we move from visible acts, such as giving a friend a helping hand, to invisible acts, such as prayer and healing, we undergo a profound journey of personal empowerment.

The myriad simple but profound ways that people connect to create small miracles, gain a greater sense of spirituality, and transform their own -- and others' -- lives in an instant will inspire you to your own invisible acts of power...and attract them to you.

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

Tagalog (Filipino dialectic**):**
O mga pinagpalang naninirahan sa langit, mga banal na kaibigan ng Diyos, nilingon ninyo ang aming mga kahinaan habang pinagmamasdan ang kadakilaan ng Poong Maykapal. Ipanalangin ninyo kami na mga naglalakbay pa sa lupa, upang pagkalooban kami ng biyaya na madaig ang tukso, mapanatili ang malinis na puso, at balang araw ay makasama ninyo sa ligaya na walang katapusan. Amen.

English:
O blessed citizens of heaven, holy friends of God, turn your eyes upon our weaknesses as you gaze upon the greatness of the Almighty. Pray for us who are still journeying on earth, that we may be granted the grace to overcome temptation, maintain a pure heart, and one day share with you in unending joy. Amen.
-*https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/about-novenas.html*

Central United Methodist Church

Send Us An Email

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

8237 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Church Email:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Website:
www.skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311

Central United Methodist Church | 8237 Kenton Ave | Skokie, IL 60076-2611 US