

Central United Methodist Church



Lectionary readings for Third Sunday of Easter
Psalm 4, Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Beloved,

In early autumn our endive had grown expansive enough to cover a portion of the parsonage driveway. I sat down on the sun-warmed concrete, lifted a great bunch of the deep green leaves and fragrant flowers into my lap and whispering the briefest of prayers, settled in to observe.

Within seconds I noticed the flowers' perfume and my mouth watered in response. Inches from my face and body, the honeybees' buzzing vibrated under my skin and in my bones. There were hundreds of our insect kin collecting the last bits of pollen from tiny yellow flowers before slowing down to survive winter. As a cloud of candy-scented sweetness enveloped me I considered how flowers miraculously respond to the buzz of bees by releasing their fragrance.

After a few minutes marveling at God's interactive dance of life before me I broke off a leaf of the endive and savored its bitter taste. Like horseradish and pepper, endive is a plant that bites you back!

One of the ancient church fathers said, "*Caro cardo salutis*," which translates: the flesh is the hinge of salvation. It's the third week of Easter and the resurrection appearances are undoubtedly 'fleshy.' Jesus shows his scars and wounds to disciples. Jesus broke bread with followers on the road to Emmaus and is recognized in the meal. This week Jesus asks for broiled fish to eat. I wonder if this proved he wasn't a ghost to his fearful disciples? Could Jesus' eating after the resurrection tie back to his statement that he wouldn't eat again until it was in paradise?" Or does resurrection just work up an appetite?

Jesus invites his disciples to 'handle me and see that it really is me.'

"The reality, beyond all the distress of sin and death is not up yonder;" writes Karl Rahner, "it has come down and dwells in the innermost reality of our flesh."

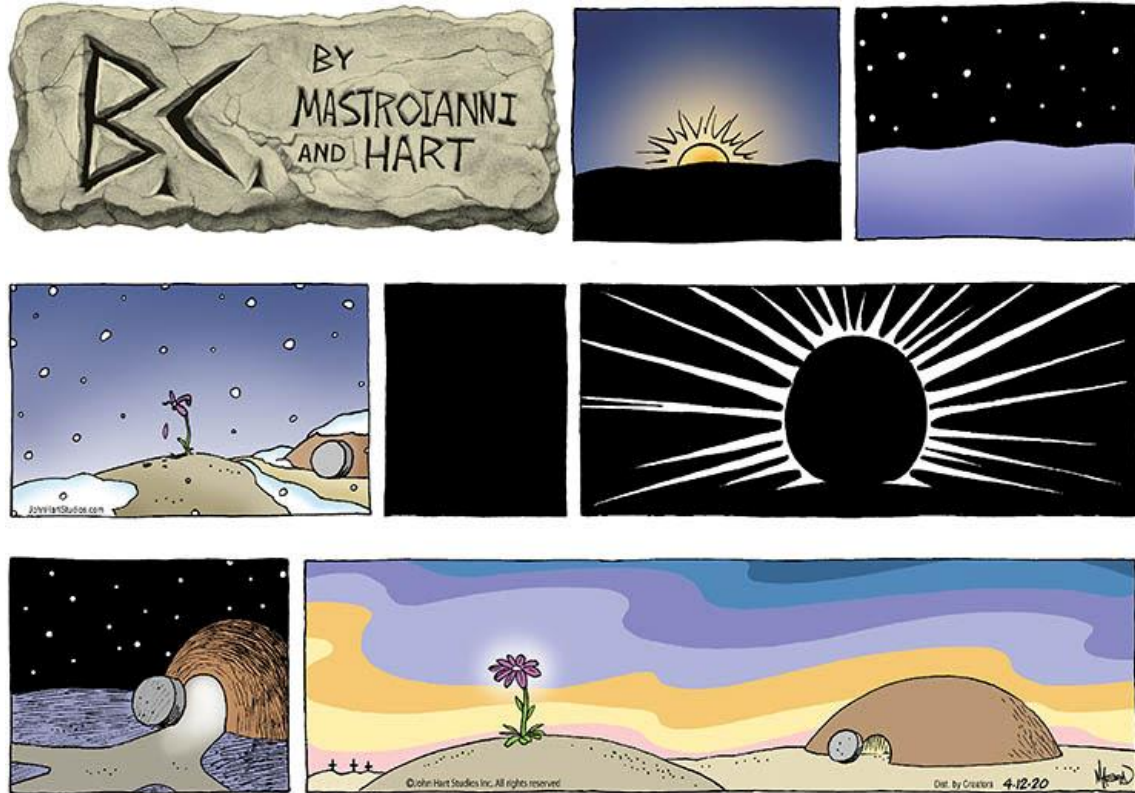
This is good news because we get to participate in the mystery and miracle of Easter as it hinges on the flesh. Jesus told us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, welcome the foreigner, uncover injustice and tackle the systems responsible for creatures and people suffering. These simple acts are kin'dom work.

Whenever we meet as Central Church, we embody the promises of Easter through such bodily practices as prayer and movement, eating together, crafting and singing. The Enneagram group that journeyed together during Lent worked especially hard at becoming healthier individuals and that makes for a healthier community. Our hearts expanded as we addressed the beliefs and behaviors that lead to suffering and those that strengthen our relationships.

The message of Easter enfolded among us compels us to awaken. And awakening to the New Kin'dom involves the senses. For me, someone who feels closest to the divine in nature, this is good news. God's promises to me are most real, for instance, as I track the flight of a honeybee and smell the pollen clinging to its fuzzy body and the release of flower scent triggered by the buzz that fills my ears and makes my hairs stand on end.

Rev. Suzanne Guthrie declares that "awakening to the New Creation requires embracing and thoroughly loving the creation at hand. Jesus' friends could only be persuaded by the sensuous; seeing wounds, tasting bread, sharing fish. May the astonishing truth of God-made-flesh fill your whole being with an Easter "Halleluia!"

Trust Jesus Blessings,
-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 **Sunday, April 14, 2024** at 10:30 am - **Third Sunday of Easter** - 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.

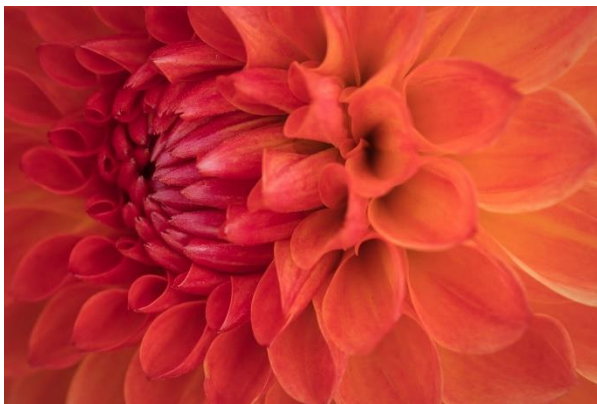
VENMO – Using the VENMO app, pay by credit card. Enter Central Church’s Venmo email: centralchurchgiving@gmail.com.

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



April 14, 2024

The altar flowers are given by Barb Smith in memory of her grandson, Leam.

Fellowship

Join us for Fellowship after service this Sunday provided by Tina De Ocampo.

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

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, May 5, 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.

Scouts Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser



Scouts Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Breakfast includes: pancakes, sausage links and fruit cups; coffee, orange juice and water.

Adults: \$10

Children 6-12: \$5

7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

- Central UMC - Fellowship Hall - 8237 Kenton Ave, Skokie, IL -

Cards Night



April 19, May 17 and June 21st
Ed Building, Room 8 6-9pm

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



Tuesday, April 16, 2024
10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7

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. 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

Spring Line Dancing



Spring Line Dancing

Friday, May 24, 2024

Led by Nancy Corbridge - 847 212 0237

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

Fellowship Hall - 6pm -10pm

\$20.00 Per Person

Friday, May 24, 2024 Fellowship Hall 6 pm - 10 pm

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

Feed My Starving Children



Saturday, May 25, 2024
[740 Wiley Farm Court](#)
[Schaumburg, IL 60173](#)
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Join our volunteer team from Central Church to help pack lifesaving meals. If you're interested, please email the church office at: centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org or call 847-673-1311.

"As a Christian nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit."

"You will hear us say this repeatedly: "We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed." We truly mean this. This means reaching the hard-to-reach people and places, the "least of these." They will be found, and they will be fed. With God's help we will work together with organizations and ministries across the globe to end hunger..."

[Click here](#) to learn more.

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

"My Father, when I cannot be cheerful or happy, I can be true and obedient, and I will not forget that joy has been, and may still be. If there is no hour of solitude granted me, still I will commune with thee. If I may not search out and pierce my thought, so much the more may my living praise thee. At whatever price, I must be alone with thee; this must be the demand I make. These *duties* are not the life, but the means which enable us to show forth the life. So must I take up this cross and bear it willingly.

Why should I feel reproved when a busy one enters the room? I am not idle though I sit with folded hands; but instantly I must seek some cover. For that shame I reprove myself. Are they only the valuable members of society who labor to dress and feed it? Shall we never ask the aim of all this hurry and foam, of this aimless activity? Let the purpose for which I live be always before me; let every thought and word go to confirm and illuminate that end; namely, that I must become near and dear to thee; that now I am beyond the reach of all but thee..."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

8237 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Church Email:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311

Send Us An Email



Central United Methodist Church | [8237 Kenton Ave.](https://www.facebook.com/centralchurchskokie), [Skokie, IL 60076](https://www.facebook.com/centralchurchskokie)
