

Central United Methodist Church August 31, 2025



Lectionary readings for Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

“Don’t forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.” Hebrews 13:16

Recently, I read a warning for residents to lock their cars in August and September. Doors left open run the risk of intruders leaving zucchini on the seat.

During this late summer season, growers know the joy and pressure to do something with all the harvest. The kitchen counters in my home are covered with herbs and garlic drying out, bowls of tomatoes ripening (yes, we pick them unripe, before the squirrel-monsters take bites), bags of fresh beans, squash, and peppers. It is a delight. And it is a frustration. We have to act fast to cook, preserve, or give away this brief abundance.

It seems like late summer only gives us a few weeks to take in the harvest from all of spring and summer's work of planting and tending the garden. It's busy and hectic work, and also wonderful. There's nothing quite like finding tasty morsels growing on the vine. Thankfully, our garden is small and diverse enough that the work doesn't feel laborious.

The joy gardeners derive from sharing from their gardens is a huge bonus. We often know which relatives and friends will get the greatest satisfaction from our labors. A gift as simple as cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, or blackberries communicates such love. Sharing honors the Creator's plan of abundance.

Wealth, according to Robin Wall Kimmerer, is having enough to share. Relationships and gratitude are the currency of a gift economy. Sharing from abundance fosters well-being rather than accumulation. Gratitude creates fullness, which defies our current economy that relies on our emptiness and unmet desires. God delights in our sharing.

Blessings on you as you seek to share in ways that are pleasing in God's sight,

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.com

Worship Service

Join us on Sunday, **August 31, 2025, 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.



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



The altar flowers are given by Linda
Hovland in loving memory of Jim
Hovland.

Fellowship

NO FELLOWSHIP JUNE 15 - AUGUST 31

*****Fellowship will resume Sunday, September 7 - a Potluck! Please bring a dish to share.**

Last Sunday of each month will be a Pot-Luck.

Thank you to all who have helped provide fellowship, including setup and clean up, this past year.

Enjoy your summer!

Looking Ahead

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

NO FELLOWSHIP JUNE 15 - AUGUST 31

August 31st

Reader: __ Pam Castenda

Flowers: __ Linda Hovland

September 7

Reader: __

Flowers: __

Fellowship __ Pot- Luck

September 14

Reader: __ Mary Wadleigh

Flowers: __ Joy Hoffman

September 21

Reader: __

Flowers: __ Mae Williams

Fellowship: _____

September 28

Reader: __

Flowers: __ Barb Smith

Fellowship: _____

Super Heroes Clean Up Day

SUPERHEROES CLEAN UP DAY ***CLEAN SANCTUARY PEWS***

SUPERHEROES CLEAN UP DAY for the Sanctuary was on Saturday, August 16th . We started work in the Sanctuary at 9 AM and worked through 12 Noon. Coffee, juice and snacks were provided.

We worked by thoroughly cleaning the church pews from top to bottom and side to side! Mae and Will did the 'death defying work' of cleaning the gum and junk from off the undersides of the pews. This was a disgusting job and a job that kept giving. [NOTE: Please no gum in church from this day forward.]

Then we removed all of the books, papers, and pens from the pews, that was a big job!

Then we proceeded with normal cleaning duties. 1) We washed the pews with warm soapy Murphy Soap Oil. 2) Sanitized with Clorox wipes. 3) Rinsed and dried the pews. 4) We used furniture polish on all the pews. 5) Finally, John used his buffing device and polished all the pews.

We returned all the books, papers, and pens after they were all gently wiped with Clorox wipes. Everything was cleaned and sanitized. You should be able to smell the difference in the Sanctuary.

Then some of our "Foundational and Eiffel Tower People" used feather dusters and dusted high and low around the sanctuary. They also used furniture polish on the wooden frames and doors. All the windowsills and hand railings were also washed and cleaned.

Yes, indeed, "Many hands make light work"!

THANK YOU to our 14 people who helped with this especially important task.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!

The four couples who worked on this project included:

Kathy & John Tiffin; Jamie & Will Arvizu; Zack & Erica Panton; Rose & Ruby David.



And the six singular, excellent workers were:
Kris Mascari, Joy Yu Hoffman, Jo Faber, Mary Wadleigh, Diane Wolff-Klammer,
and Mae Williams.

Top Picture;

Left side:

Kathy & John Tiffin, Jamie & Will Arvizu.

Right side:

Zack & Erica Panton, Kris Mascari, Joy Yu Hoffman,
and Jo Faber.

Bottom Picture;

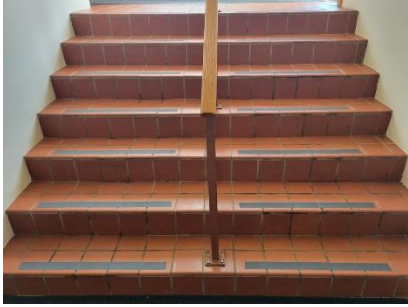
Back Row: Kathy Tiffin, Jo Faber, Rose David, Mary
Wadleigh, Kris Mascari, Joy Yu Hoffman, Erica
Panton, and Mae Williams.

Front Row: John Tiffin

-Kathy Tiffin



Cleaning Heroes



UPGRADED SAFETY ON STAIRS

TWO SUPERHEROES, Diane Wolff-Klammer and Mae Williams upgraded the stairs to Fellowship Hall, so they are safer. Diane and Mae spent four hours removing the old treads and installing the new Anti-Slip Treads, a sandpaper-like grit surface. This was time consuming, hard elbow-grease, and precise work.

THANK YOU Mae & Diane!

-Kathy Tiffin

An Evening Of Classical Guitar

AN EVENING OF CLASSICAL GUITAR

WITH INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWNED GUITARIST

An Fran

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 14

DOORS 5:30PM SHOW 6PM

AT THE LOG CABIN
8237 KENTON AVE
SKOKIE, IL 60076

PLEASE BRING
CANNED GOOD(S)
FOR THE NILES
FOOD PANTRY



Questions?.....

Call the office at (847) 965-2982

Email mgcc@mgccpresbyterian.org

www.mgccpresbyterian.org

United Voices For Children



Save the date

September 18th, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Community United Methodist Church
20 Center Street, Naperville, IL



JOIN US FOR

2025 UVC Advocacy Focus: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



Event Highlights

- Special Performance of **Lives Out Loud**
from Chicago's award-winning About Face Theatre
- Annual Child Advocate Awards
- Federal and State Legislation Updates



About Face Theatre



Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann
Prairie Central District Superintendent



REGISTER NOW EMAIL NIK@UNITEDVOICESFORCHILDREN.ORG

\$15 registration includes lunch



Foundation

Sally Vonner

Save the
DATE

United Women in Faith
Northern Illinois Conference

**Two-Day
Celebration**

Join us for this wonderful two-day event as
we welcome in person, speaking to us for the
first time, General Secretary/CEO Sally
Vonner!

October 25-26, 2025

Saturday, October 25
UWFaithNIC Annual Meeting
Belvidere FUMC
610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008

Sunday, October 26
UWFaith Sunday
St. Mark UMC
8441 S. Saint Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL 60619

**HEAR GENERAL SECRETARY/CEO
OF
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
SALLY VONNER
SPEAKING & CELEBRATING**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 - Belvidere FUMC
610 Bonus Ave.
Belvidere, IL.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 - St. Mark UMC
8441S. Saint Lawrence Ave.
Chicago, IL

We can 'carpool' to this event. I can take 3 or 4 people in my car. I do not have the exact timing on this event, but I will be sure my gas tank is full!

When Sally Vonner was interviewed in 2023 in a "Faith Talks" podcast, she talked about love and faith in action. Here are some of the questions and answers from that podcast with Jennifer R. Farmer (JF).

JF: In this new capacity, what will be your primary focus?

Sally Vonner: My primary focus is to continue to expand United Women in Faith's mission and reach as we put our love and faith in action to change the world, and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. My leadership style will be characterized by faith and trust in God, and inclusivity. I will draw upon the wisdom and ingenuity of our membership, the board of directors, the Program Advisory Group, and my colleagues.

JF: Why are you being installed in Dallas versus New York City where United Women in Faith is headquartered?

Sally Vonner: While the organization is headquartered in New York, I wanted the ceremony to be held in Dallas where I am from and be accessible to more members, family and friends. It is important to me that my leadership be grounded in our members. I am sending a message that I will lead this organization with values of inclusivity, compassion, and innovation.

JF: Can you talk more about your philosophy on leadership?

Sally Vonner: Regardless of the title one holds, leadership is a communal process. We rise and fall together. Great leaders seek counsel and that's what I intend to do – center the wisdom and ingenuity of our membership and include their perspectives on matters great and small.

-Kathy Tiffin

Flags in the Garden



His universal love for all people.

Please feel free to bring a small flag or a small banner that represents your culture to be placed in the circle garden under our wooden church signs!

Central UMC is proud to have such a diverse community which is a reflection of God's own nature and

Have A Photo To Share?

Staff Parish is collecting images and photos of events around Central. Please email the office with images you're willing to share!

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Morning 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.

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

Tuesday Morning Meditation



**Weekly on Tuesday
Starting September 9
Log Cabin or Online
10:30 AM CDT**

Join us as we gather to practice Lectio divina on the weekly lectionary readings.

Lectio divina is a contemplative practice with its Christian roots in the Benedictine tradition. It combines slow, conscious reading of a biblical or sacred text with contemplation and silent prayer. It is meant to promote communication with God and a deeper knowledge of Christ, in our lives today.

During Lectio Divina we put aside thoughts of studying the text. This is not the time to consider the historical or theological meanings of what we are reading. We read with a willingness to enter into text in a felt sense. The purpose of this practice is to hear, in silence, the word of God, in this moment. What, through this reading, is God saying to me right now? What do I hear that helps me know what it means to walk the Christ path today?

Lectio Divina has traditionally been a communal practice; that is, one shared when in a group but it can be done when alone.

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

Center for Action and Contemplation



Discover contemplative wisdom and practices that are easy to understand and apply to your everyday life.

Contemplation is the practice of being fully present—in heart, mind, and body—to what is in a way that deepens awareness, encourages oneness, and strengthens compassion. A committed daily contemplative practice doesn't have to be long or complex—it simply needs to allow deep listening to open your heart to love.

Discover ways to embody the contemplative life with this collection of practices that help us align actions and values, re-engage with our True Self, and show up in service to the world. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Spiritual Gifts



Every child of God is filled with **the power of the Holy Spirit**, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ.

No one is without gift or purpose. Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.

[Click here](#) to take Spiritual Gift Assessment.
[Click here](#) to learn more.

Prayer of the Week

Pope John Paul II's Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace,
who are yourself our peace and reconciliation,
who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all people witnesses of truth, justice,
and brotherly love.
Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace.

Enlighten our rulers that they may
guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples on the earth
become as brothers and sisters.
May longed for peace blossom forth
and reign always over us all.
- Pope John Paul II

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

**8237 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076**

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Church Phone:
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[Send Us An Email](#)



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