

**Central United
Methodist Church
April 6, 2025**



Lectionary readings for Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

[Psalm 126](#)

[Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

[John 12:1-8](#)

“But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; was lost and has been found.” Our Lenten Devotion suggests we offer gratitude to God for something we notice in creation each day. This call prepares us to see life on Easter Sunday after the death of Good Friday; to be Easter people in a Good Friday world.

Over the past few weeks, I’ve paid more attention to the colors returning to our neighborhood: purple crocus, red maple buds, yellow forsythia and daffodils, pink dogwood blossoms, white buckthorn, etc. Many people are reclaiming the time-honored tradition of dying eggs with natural dyes. The internet is awash with people using onion peels, turmeric, beets, kale, tea, even black beans to add color to their eggs and other Easter decorations.

My attention turns to the colors of our food and the significance those colors have for the nourishment we receive. We should eat a rainbow of whole foods to get a variety of nutrients and vitamins for this temple, our bodies. This practice also causes me to celebrate the greening of Spring. The green energy all around us reminds me of the power of the resurrection that calls hope and life from places within us that seem overrun by the touch of death.

In this Sunday’s gospel, it appears that only Mary comprehends and companions Jesus in his upcoming death. Her anointing Jesus with burial perfume and wiping his feet with her hair is an act of tenderness and care that nurtured the Lord’s spirit. He defends Mary against Judas’ scolding, *“Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.”*

May we treat one another, the Body of Christ, with the honor and respect Mary gave Jesus.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Biel

Upcoming Events

Julian Davis Reid

'Notes Of Rest'

PRACTICING THE REST OF FAITH AND MUSIC

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 13, 2025
10:30 AM

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8237 KENTON AVE. SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076



UPCOMING EVENTS

Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2025
6:00 PM Service

Good Friday
April 18, 2025
6:00 PM Service

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025
10:30 AM Service

Line Dancing
- Silent Auction

With Nancy
Friday, April 25, 2025
6 PM- 9 PM

Mother's Day Sunday
May 11, 2025
10:30 AM Service

Marvin Gayatgay
Alumnus of the Philippine
Madrigal Singers
Friday, May 16, 2025
7: 30 PM Concert

Graduation Sunday
June 1, 2025
10:30 AM Service

Father's Day Sunday
June 15, 2025
10:30 AM Service



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8237 KENTON AVE. SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076
(847) 673-1311 | CENTRALCHURCH@SKOKIECENTRALUMC.ORG
WWW.SKOKIECENTRALUMC.ORG | PASTOR TIM BIEL JR. |

Coming Back to Life



In spring, after a long winter's nap, an amazing thing happens: the world comes back to life!

This devotional is full of ideas and activities that can help us wake up, too, preparing our hearts, minds, and communities for Easter's great celebration.

Each week, biblical texts and creation's wonders inspire practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, or with your congregation.

So, grab your favorite Bible and some candles (tealights work nicely!), and over the next 40 days, week by week, we'll look for treasures that can help bring us back to hope, back to love, back to life!

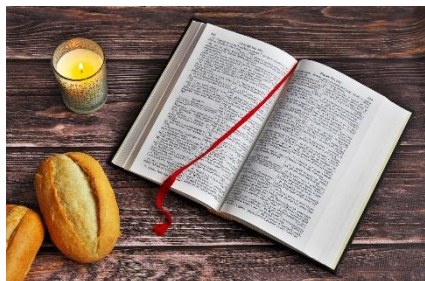
The scriptural passages in this devotional correspond to Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary – but since their themes are universal, this devotional can be used fruitfully during any Lenten season.

Large Print- [Click Here](#)

Booklet - [Click Here](#)

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

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 on 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 will also be available on **Zoom at 10:30 am.**

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.

Easter Flower Fund



Easter Sunday - April 20, 2025

Please consider donating funds to decorate the altar with various flowers this **Easter!** Please write in: **Easter Flower Funds** in memo line on the offering envelopes and on checks.

Fellowship

Join us this Sunday for Fellowship provided by Ellen Mitman and Remy Yabes.

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!

April 6th, 2025

Reader: Lydon De Ocampo

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: Ellen Mitman and Remy Yabes

April 13 , 2025

Reader: Tina De Ocampo

Flowers: Tina De Ocampo

Fellowship: /Tae Yoon Kim

Easter April 20 , 2025

Reader: Ruby David

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: POTLUCK

April 27 , 2025

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: The Aguilera

2025 Living Color Fundraiser



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH- LOG CABIN FUND

Flower and Plant Fundraiser is back! Order forms are located in the church office, see Karen Buccola for more details.

This is the last Sunday to turn in your order forms!



Refugee Assistance Drive

"You shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt." Leviticus 19:34

**LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

Refugee Assistance Drive

Local non-profit RefugeeOne has resettled 500 refugees to our area in just the past six months!

Help us welcome our new neighbors by donating one or several of the following items during each week in Lent:

Sunday, March 9th: baby wipes
Sunday, March 16th: toilet paper
Sunday, March 23rd: liquid laundry detergent
Sunday, March 30th: liquid dish soap
Sunday, April 6th: paper towels
Sunday, April 13th: all-purpose spray cleaner (no bleach)

*Hosted by mgcc's
Mission Team*

Bring the items to worship on Sundays at the Great Hall of the Log Cabin, or if you would like to coordinate a midweek drop-off, please contact Deanna at mgcc@mgccpresbyterian.org. We are sorry, we cannot accept items that are not listed.



Questions?.....

Please call the office at (847) 965-2982 or email mgcc@mgccpresbyterian.org

www.mgccpresbyterian.org

  @mgccpresbyterian

Healthy Babies Drive

From April 1 to May 15, Kids Above All's Healthy Babies Drive collects childcare supplies such as baby clothes, diapers, baby wipes and more, so that our parents, caregivers, babies and toddlers have the essentials they need for a happy and healthy start to their lives together.

Contact Catherine Inserra at cinserra@kidsaboveall.org for more information.

Songs Of Change



MORTON GROVE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

PRESENTS

SONGS OF CHANGE

LIVE AT THE LOG CABIN



April 6
12:30-1:30PM

8237 KENTON AVE
SKOKIE, IL 60076

Don't forget! We're doing a drive for
the refugees each week of Lent -
BRING YOUR PAPER TOWELS TO DONATE!



QUESTIONS?

CALL THE OFFICE AT (847) 965-2982

EMAIL MGCC@MGCCPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

WWW.MGCCPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

[f](#) [@mgccpresbyterian](#)

Joy Hoffman



Monday, April 7, 2025 Northwestern Campus

Scott Hall in the University Guild Lounge,

601 University Place - 1:30 p.m.

Joy Yu Hoffman will be performing on her Kong Hou Double Strung Harp on Monday, April 7th. She will be performing at University Guild, Scott Hall, Evanston.

Kathy Tiffin welcomes you as her guest to this lovely event. The music will take you around the world, Ireland, New York, France, and China. A reception will follow the concert.

Tai-Chi Classes



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

Log Cabin & Online

10:30 AM

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.

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 centerchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Mindful Self-Compassion Workbook

8 weeks Zoom Online Study
Wednesday - 7 PM - 8:30 PM
Starting March 12 - April 30

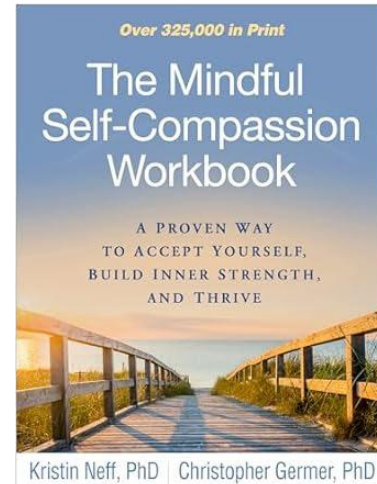
Are you kinder to others than you are to yourself? More than a thousand research studies show the benefits of being a supportive friend to yourself, especially in times of need.

This science-based workbook offers a step-by-step approach to breaking free of harsh self-judgments and impossible standards in order to cultivate emotional well-being. In a convenient large-size format, the book is based on the authors' groundbreaking eight-week Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC) program, which has helped tens of thousands of people worldwide. It is packed with guided meditations (with audio downloads); informal practices to do anytime, anywhere; exercises; and vivid stories of people using the techniques to address relationship stress, weight and body image issues, health concerns, anxiety, and other common problems. The seeds of self-compassion already lie within you--learn how you can uncover this powerful inner resource and transform your life.

Resources:

[Mindful Self-Compassion Workbook](#)
[Self-Compassion-Exercises](#)

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

Heavenly Father,

I offer you the day ahead of me: all of my hopes, fears, conversations, struggles, and blessings. Help me to make myself 100% available to you. Give me the grace to say yes to you in the big things and in the small things of the day. Open my eyes to see the needs of the people around me, the people I will come across in my family, in my work, and in every small interaction. And give me the wisdom to seek you and your dream for my life in every small moment of this day.

Amen. - Author Unknown

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. | Skokie, IL 60076 US