

Central United Methodist Church May 11, 2025



Lectionary readings for the
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025

Psalm 23
Acts 9:36-43
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

“Perhaps I can say this all more simply; I say the love of women healed me.” -Audre Lorde

As Mother’s Day approaches, I encourage you to look for mothers in your daily reading of the Bible. Mothers play a starring role in the story of our salvation. It’s true that some of the mothers in scripture have feet of clay. There are trickster mothers, bad moms, and mothers caught in power struggles. But by and large, the examples of motherhood are of strength, faith, and resilience. Mothers pray, protect, plead for justice, and stand up to tyranny. They nurse, nurture, navigate great distances, and lead people to God. Jesus’ encounters with mothers often reveal God’s care and mercy towards us.

There’s even a mother who corrected Jesus’ bigotry towards outsiders. Mothers in scripture and church history figure prominently. I cannot imagine Methodism’s founders, John and Charles Wesley, for instance, without their mother Susanna’s strong influence

As our hearts turn towards Mothers this weekend, please take a moment to ground yourself in this beautiful Mother’s Day prayer by Cole Arthur Riley:

God Our Mother,

We thank you for grounding your character in the tenderness, protection, and even sorrow of a mother. To know that no human experience –mother or child– is far from you gives us permission to uncover the particularities of how we were made to love and be loved.

On this day, we’re reminded that we do not begin with ourselves. Our beauty, our pain, do not exist in a vacuum but are tethered to those who’ve come before us.

We pray for the mothers who are grieving, who are proud and understanding that the story of what it means to be a mother is not singular. And as children, would you remind us that it is okay to lament the ways we have not been loved well, while also celebrating the miracle and mystery of those who love us fiercely. We are made of more than us.

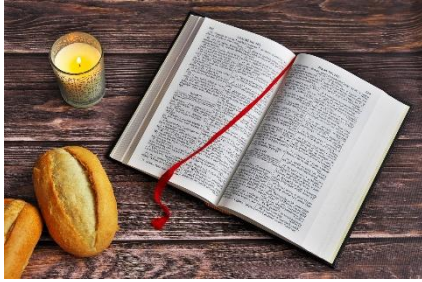
Help us to behold it. Amen.

Cole Arthur Riley “Black Liturgies”

Deep 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.com

Worship Service

Join us on **May 11, 2025**, 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.

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers are given by Rose and Ruby David in honor of Denis's Birthday on May 7th.

Fellowship

Nobody has signed up for Fellowship this Sunday.

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!

May 11, 2025 - Mother's Day

Reader: Ed Gut

Flowers: Rose and Ruby David in honor of Denis's Birthday on May 7th.

Fellowship: _____

May 18, 2025

Reader: Barb Smith

Flowers: _____

Fellowship: Tai Chi Class

May 25, 2025 - Memorial Day Weekend

Reader: Pam Castaneda

Flowers: Pam Castaneda in loving memory of her husband, Raul.

Fellowship: _____

Springfield Rally Day



May 7, 2025

Pastor Tim Biel, his son Tim, and Kathy Tiffin participated in the annual Springfield Rally Day this past Wednesday. It was a great day, the weather was fine, legislators were available to meet, there was much agreement between us and them, and the lunch at the Douglas Ave UMC was delicious! Read on to see the details and pictures.

Organizers of event:

- Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) Anti-Racism Task Force
- Conference Commission on Religion and Race
- United Voices for Children

Between Pastor Biel, his son Tim, and Kathy Tiffin we personally met with:

1. R. Senator John Curran, the 41st District
2. D. Representative La Shawn Ford, the 8th District
3. D. Senator Laura Fine, the 9th District

These legislators all agree with our three mission goals:

Environmental Justice
Immigration
Education and School/Mental Health Services

I left our one-page position statements with my two legislators:

4. D. Senator Ram Villivalam, the 8th District
5. D. Representative Kevin Olickal, the 16th District

Please look forward to a more detailed report of this great day!

-Kathy Tiffin

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 their 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.

For more information [click here](#).

Marvin Gayatgay Concert

SKOKIE CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A benefit concert for Kids Above All



Featuring
Marvin Gayatgay

Baritone
Philippine Madrigal Singers Alumnus
*"An affable man with pleasant presence - so pleasant
that is impossible not to like him"*
Broadway World

Millete Silverio
Pianist
Philippine Madrigal Singers Alumna

Back from a sold-out concert series in the Philippines!

My Way : A Musical Tapestry

Tickets \$20 General Admission
\$10 Students and under 18 y.o.

DATE: **MAY 16, 2025**

TIME: **7:30 PM**

VENUE: CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8237 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076

847-673-1311 www.skokiecentralumc.org centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Friday, May 16, 2025

Our church is hosting this fabulous concert by Marvin Gayatgay on Friday,
May 16, 2025, at 7:30 pm.

Marvin will sing classic American songs and Filipino Songs.
Our church's own Millete Silverio will be the pianist for the night.
Surprise repeat and new guest performers will join Marvin on the stage.

Mark Your Calendar!

It is a benefit concert for Kids Above All.

Evening Tai-Chi Class



Learn Tai Chi and Build Better Lives for Kids

Monday evenings, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

May 5 through June 16 - no class on Monday, May 26, Memorial Day.

This slow, meditative exercise is designed to improve energy, relaxation, balance and overall health.

A suggested donation of \$10 per class will help support Kids Above All, a Methodist affiliated, child-serving agency in Cook, Kane, Lake and DuPage counties currently helping 4,450 kids and families through early childhood programs, safe/supportive housing and trauma-informed therapy.

Classes are taught by Jas and Jo Faber, certified instructors by Hsu Fun-Yen Tai Chi Academy in 1994. They have donated their time teaching classes for three years at Central Church, and Jas is an instructor at Wing-Tsun Martial Arts in Glenview.

To register, please email the Central church office at
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

Pancake Breakfast

**Come to
The Central United Methodist Church
For Boy Scout Troop 72's annual
All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast!**

**Saturday, May 17th from 7:30 to 11:30am
Adults: \$10, Kids <10: \$5
Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kenton, Skokie, IL
In Fellowship Hall**

**Meal includes pancakes, sausages,
drinks, and fruit**

**All proceeds benefit the church
Donations are accepted too!**



Fill The Truck

186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Fill the Truck Mission Challenge Collection Drive

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center 1551 Thoreau Dr. N. Schaumburg, IL



Monday, June 9

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 10

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Times subject to change



The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's Most Needed Items.

MIDWEST MISSION CURRENTLY HAS A URGENT NEEDS FOR:

Home Care Kits

- Liquid Household Cleaner, 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap, 42 - 64 oz.
- Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.
- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Round Buckets With Resealable Lid

Adult Bicycles

Personal Dignity Kits

- Hand towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (no multipack)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz. (stick, roll on, or pump)
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags

If you prefer to make a financial contribution or a bulk purchase:

- Send a check or bring it to AC written to the Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance #50000150 in the memo section
- Give to Midwest Mission #50000150 through the online apportionment process.
- For competitive prices on Midwest Mission's bulk supply wish-list items, check the website below for a links

Midwest Mission will be on site to accept the above Most Needed Items and any Midwest Mission kits, bleacher lumber, retired firefighting gear (including jaws of life), treadle sewing machines, gently used hand tools. New or slightly used medical supplies, medical equipment, blankets and bicycles will also be accepted.

For questions email message with NIC Mission Challenge in the Subject Line to dnlpbrg@gmail.com.

Find out more at umcnic.org/2025MissionChallenge



Grace
is Sufficient

Sunday, May 25th 2025

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's Most Needed Items.

For Annual Conference, this year there is a request to "Fill the Truck" for the Midwest Mission Collection Drive. Please see the flyer for this event.

The Mission Committee was thinking, we could collect for:

"Personal Dignity Kits"

If we could make 10 Dignity Kits, that would be great! Feel free to donate the items or \$\$.

Personal Dignity Kits

- Hand Towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (single packaging)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz.
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags

Please donate or bring items to church until **Sunday, May 25th**.

For more information [click here](#).

Northern Illinois Justice For Our Neighbors

grace umc
3325 w wrightwood ave,
chicago, il 60647

sunday, june 1st
2:00 pm

with special guest
congresswoman Della G. Ramirez

Spring Fundraiser

save the date!

Join NIJFON, in
collaboration with the
UMC, for a powerful
opportunity to support
immigration legal services

Northern Illinois
**Justice
For Our
Neighbors**
A United Methodist Immigration Ministry

For more info [click here](#).

2025 Annual Conference

Grace
is Sufficient



**186th Northern Illinois
Annual Conference**

**Monday, June 9 -
Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

**Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center
1551 N. Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg Ill.**

Monday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The 186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference will be held on Monday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, [1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, Illinois](#). We will gather under the name Grace is Sufficient.

For more information [click here](#)

Call the church office if you would like to attend. **847-673-1311.**

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 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

Dear Lord, thank you so much for another day of life on Earth. Thank you for another beautiful sunrise to enjoy. Thank you for the wonderful sounds of nature, from the cool breeze brushing through the trees to the birds' singing melodies. You are a wonderful God, full of grace and mercy. I praise you for allowing me another day to spend with my family. Amen.

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](#)



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