

Central United Methodist Church July 14, 2024



Lectionary readings for Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19, Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

When I get lemons served to me with my tea or water, I'll usually take a big bite out of them. How would you finish the phrase, 'When life gives you lemons...?'

Many of us grew up with the optimistic notion which concludes that saying with, '...make lemonade.'

However, seeing how unfair life can be and the state of injustice in our world there's a part of me that says, "Just get lost lemons!"

I want to smash them, throw them at a wall, chop them with a claw hammer and let life know that I'm done with it screwing us around.

Another lemon to crush between my teeth each time a loved one finds out they have cancer. Another for Chicago shootings, for car crashes, for terror in the Middle East, for kids addicted to drugs, and another and another.

I want our leaders to join us taking these unflinching bites of Life's lemons. I want to know that no one in our community will sugar-coat our hurts by downplaying or ignoring our suffering.

Thankfully, Jesus gets it. He sent out his followers without any creature comforts: no money, no bread, no bag. The first missionaries Christ sent out were intentionally insecure and vulnerable. They had to rely on the goodwill of strangers.

Following the lead of Jesus they had to 'unlearn self-sufficiency and arrogance,' listening to those they encountered rather than imposing their beliefs on others.

They respected the diets and customs of their hosts. They couldn't seek out more comfortable or luxurious accommodations but stayed with the first people to offer them hospitality.

They had to serve by giving and receiving. (And receiving!) Even if, and especially when, that meant receiving life's lemons. We, too, are called into this kind of resilient community of love with a fierce loyalty to Jesus.

Yours with a pucker,

-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 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 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.

Fellowship

NO FELLOWSHIP - June 23 - August 31

Nursery Moved



**Every Sunday
Ed. Building Room 8.
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Due to the renovation in Fellowship Hall, The Nursery has been moved to 2nd floor in the Ed. Building Room 8.

Looking Ahead

Sunday, July 14, 2024
Reader: Tina De Ocampo
Flowers: **Volunteer Needed**

Sunday, July 21, 2024
Reader: **Volunteer Needed**
Flowers: Pam Castaneda

Sunday, July 28, 2024
Reader: **Volunteer Needed**
Flowers: **Volunteer Needed**

Mission U



Mission u
July 2024
Northern Illinois



Welcome Home!

July 12-14 – Stronghold (1922 N IL Rte 2, Oregon IL)

July 19-21 – Wesley Woods (250 Stam St, Williams Bay WI)

Study Overview: How can we incorporate Jesus' preaching and teaching into our daily lives? Author, Ms. Fletcher, uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kingdom is like making a home with God. We will be invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

[click here](#) to learn more.

Backpack Drive

A flyer for the 'Back to School Backpack Drive' by Kids Above All. The flyer has a pink background. At the top left, the title 'Back to School Backpack Drive' is written in large white letters. Below it, the dates 'June 24 - August 23' are listed. A paragraph of text explains that Kids Above All invites everyone to help school-aged kids in their care by providing school supplies. On the right side, there is a photo of a smiling young boy wearing a backpack. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: 'To set up a time to drop off your donation, contact our Manager of Faith and Community Relations, Catherine Inserra. Phone: (847) 224-2870 Email: cinserra@kidsaboveall.org'. The Kids Above All logo is in the top right corner.

Back to School Backpack Drive

June 24 - August 23

Kids Above All invites everyone to step up this summer for the school-aged kids in our care to ensure they have the school supplies they need for the new school year!

To set up a time to drop off your donation, contact our Manager of Faith and Community Relations, Catherine Inserra.
Phone: (847) 224-2870
Email: cinserra@kidsaboveall.org

Each year, Kids Above All holds our annual Back-To-School Backpack Drive, working with generous individuals, as well as our community, corporate and faith partners, to provide backpacks and school supplies for the children, youth and young adults in our programs.

This year's flyer with the list of supplies needed is [here](#). Gift cards are also welcomed and appreciated.

As in year's past, an [Amazon Wishlist](#) is now available to make giving and delivery quick and simple.

For more information about making an in-kind donation of items, contact VP of BLDC Zulma Colon at zcolon@kidsaboveall.org.

[click here](#) to learn more.

Spring & Summer Ministry - Wild Church-



At Central UMC, we're excited to announce a variety of engaging events happening throughout the Spring and Summer months. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, outdoor adventures, or friendly competition, there's something for everyone!

Sundays, Third Sundays of Month April-Aug 7:30 am-8:00 am

July 21 -Aug 18-

Yoga Breathwork Location: Parsonage Prayer Garden

TOMORROW - Saturday, July 13, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Christ on the Water Canoe Meetup: Location: Skokie Lagoons

Monday, July 15, 11:00 am - 11:45 am

Nature Walk: Location Emily Oaks

Monday, July 22, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 am

Pickleball Location: Oakton Park

Sunday, August 18, noon-1:00 pm

Kids on the Lawn Location: Concord Lane Church Lawn

We encourage you to register for these wonderful events!

Yes, registration is required.

[Click here](#) to register now!

Stop Video Game Gambling In Skokie



We need your help NOW to combat addictive new gambling machines in Skokie.

A proposal to legalize video gambling machines (known as video gaming terminals or VGTs) in Skokie has been brought to the Economic Development Commission and is likely to come before the Village Board for a vote. These machines,

which provide digital slots or other types of highly-engineered games that take advantage of human psychology, have been rejected by village leaders in two past legalization attempts and ought to be rejected again.

Instant-win rapid-betting games with animated digital displays are the most addictive and dangerous form of gambling, and they must be kept out of public restaurants and bars meant to be positive community gathering spaces...

There are heavy consequences for our growing addiction. A survey of addicted people (2) showed:

- 57% admitted stealing to finance their gambling.
- Divorce rates are 3x higher for addicted gamblers than others.
- 47% had made a definite plan to kill themselves.

It is also widely accepted that gambling addiction has the highest suicide rate of any form of addiction, at 1 in 5 addicted people attempting suicide (3).

This is also a problem that threatens continued growth in the next generation (4).

- 60-80% of high school students have gambled in some form in the past year.
- Youth gambling disorder rates are an estimated 2-7 times higher than adult rates.

Do we want more of an activity that increases crime, divorce, suicide, and is addicting kids? Do we want to signal that more gambling in Skokie is worth the costs?

[click here](#) to learn more.

Local Traffic Update



Local Traffic Update In The Skokie Area-

Local Traffic Updates in the Skokie Area.
Information is listed going from south to north.

SUMMARY:

1. Gross Point Road Reconstruction Completed

2. [Dempster Street](#) and the Edens Expressway.

- a. Ongoing to fall 2024
- b. Ramp closed from Edens Expy to Dempster St. Eastbound
- c. Est. end: Saturday, August 31, 2024 11:59pm
- d. Ramp closed to I-94/Edens Expy Westbound (North)
- e. Est. end: Saturday, August 31, 2024 11:59pm
- f. For more info [click here](#).

3. [Oakton Street](#) going over the Edens Expressway - by Niles West High School.

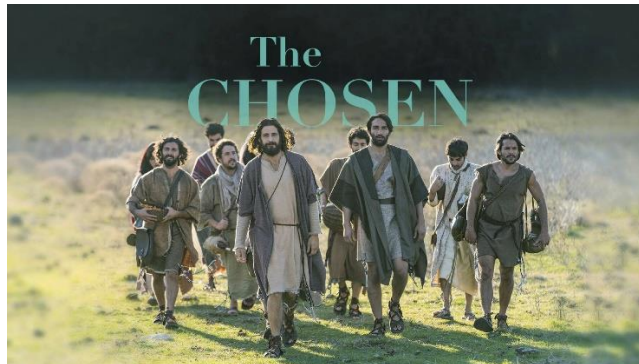
- a. Expect lane closures for roadway improvements
- b. Major upgrades and replacement of bridge
- c. Est. end: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:00am
- d. For more info [click here](#).

4. Old Orchard Road and the Edens Expressway.

- a. Ongoing to July 2026
- b. Ramp closed to I-94/Edens Expy Westbound (North)
- c. Use Skokie Boulevard to access I-94 west (North)
- d. Est. end: Sunday, November 17, 2024 6:00pm
- e. Expect weaving lane closures, both east and west
- f. Est. Total Completion of Project: 2026
- g. For more info [click here](#).
- h. Project Overview [click here](#)

Detours will remain in place until the fall of [2024. Old Orchard Road](#) remains open to eastbound and westbound traffic. Visit [Cook County's project website](#) for more information and updates.

The Chosen



The Chosen is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus and those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings.

[click here](#) to learn more.

[click here](#) to watch online for free.

Central Caring Crafters



**Thursday, July 18 , 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

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.

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

Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.
Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it.
Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings, sighs and laments,
nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called "I."
Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor.
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy,
and to be able to share it with others.

by St. Thomas More

Central United Methodist Church

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