

Central United Methodist Church November 30, 2025



Lectionary readings for
November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent:

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

I want to take a moment and thank everyone who attended the Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday. Your warmth and hospitality were exceptional. Throughout the course of the evening, village and township leaders expressed their joy to be able to gather in our sacred space. They spoke of the beauty of our sanctuary. They praised the intentional design of our accessibility.

The community felt at ease in the cheer of your welcome. Put simply, ours is a spiritual home even for some who may not attend worship. Meeting you made a difference for good.

A special thank you to those who set up, led worship, and stayed after to clean up: Mae, Kathy, Millete, John, Mar, Tae Yoon, Rev. Sylvia, and the Davuri Family: Yohan, Ruth, Preeti, and Ricky. All of your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Let's get ready to extend that radical hospitality again in a couple of weeks. I know that we will touch dozens of hearts with kindness during the **Santa in the Cabin event on Saturday, Dec. 13th**. Pray that God leads you to encounter someone who needs a blessing. You have so much love to share with our community.

Delighted to serve in God's chilly, windy vineyard with you,

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:

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org.com

Worship Service

Join us on **Sunday, November 30, 2025** - First Sunday of Advent 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.



New Tax Deduction 2026



Beginning in 2026, taxpayers who take the standard deduction can also deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married couples) for cash and check gifts made directly to qualified charities like Skokie Central Church.

What this means: If a person doesn't itemize deductions (and most of us don't), this gives you a new way to reduce your tax bill while supporting causes and charities you care about. It also means you can increase your support because it will cost you less at tax time!

[click here](#) to learn more.

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 this week are provided by **Pam Castaneda** in loving memory of Raul Castaneda.

Fellowship



Join us after the church service for Fellowship **Pot-Luck**.

Please **do not bring sweets** for this Sunday.

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

Everybody's Birthday

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Each birthday, a new thread is woven into the tapestry of our lives. Let's celebrate this collective journey by offering a gift of gratitude. A dollar or more per year, a small token of our appreciation for God's grace.



Together, we'll create a masterpiece of generosity and love.

Looking Ahead

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

November 30

Reader: Pam Castaneda

Flowers: Pam Castaneda

Fellowship: Pot Luck

December 7

Reader: David O Connell

Flowers: Mary Wadleigh

Fellowship: Marcel Ladieras

December 14

Reader: Remy Yabes

Flowers: Kris Mascari

Fellowship: Carol & Roldan

December 21

Reader: Tina

Flowers: Emelita Benigno

Fellowship: Tina

December 28

Reader: _____

Flowers: Doris Bloom

Fellowship: Pot - Luck

Mission



Supporting Our Mission: Families in Need

This mission is a direct reflection of our faith in action. It's about providing immediate, practical assistance to families within our community—and even within our own congregation—who are struggling with unexpected financial crises, food insecurity, or basic material needs.

Your generosity makes it possible to answer a prayer and change a life.

Financial Donations

A monetary gift is the most flexible way to help, allowing us to respond quickly to different crises, whether it's paying an unexpected utility bill, purchasing emergency groceries, or securing temporary shelter.

- **Designated Offering:** Please use an offering envelope and clearly write "Families in Need Mission" or directly on the check memo line.
- **Online Giving - Venmo:** If you give through Venmo please label the funds "Families in Need."

Donating Goods

Please contact the office for more details.

Niles Township Food Pantry - Winter Comforts

Supporting Our Mission: Winter Comforts

The Winter Comforts mission is a direct reflection of our faith in action, and it all started with Central's own knitters, crocheters and crafters!

We could use some socks and mittens to match up with the beautiful scarves and hats that the Caring Crafters have already made.

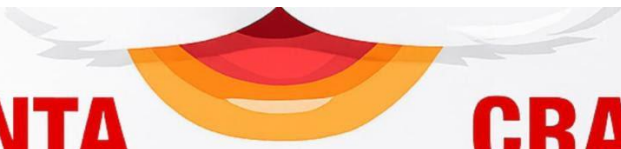
Please bring **MITTENS AND SOCKS** in the following sizes:

-infant to baby -2 year old (yo) -
4 to 8yo -8 to 12yo -large size

Your generosity makes it possible to answer a prayer and keep young people warm during our cold Chicago winter!



Santa In The Cabin



**SANTA
IN THE
CABIN**

&

**CRAFT
VENDOR
FAIR**

CABIN CAFÉ AND BAKE SALE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

- * **A wide variety of unique and handcrafted gifts**
- * **Free take-home craft for the kids**
- * **Enjoy lunch in the Cabin Café**

Central United Methodist Church

8237 N. Kenton Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076

Phone: 847-673-1311 www.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

Central Caring Crafters



**3rd Thursday of the month
Next meeting is Dec 18**

10 AM Ed Bldg. Room 7

The prayer shawl group is back as **Central Caring Crafters!** If you crochet, quilt, sew and have a heart for other crafts, gather with us to work, to learn how, or just come for the fellowship! Bring a bag lunch and stay for lunch and a treat. We hope to see you there!

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

Tuesday Morning Meditation



**Weekly on Tuesday
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

Resources for Grief and Loss



Grieving loss consciously is at the center of the spiritual path. It is soul work — healthy, cleansing, and intelligent. The process allows us to metabolize the pain of loss and continue living. It lets us open to love.

By honoring what has passed away, we are free to embrace the life that is here.

Yet grief is so deeply painful, so hard to endure.

A question I am often asked is: How do I find refuge in the midst? What can help me move through the pain of separation?

to learn more [click here](#).

Prayer of the Week

An Advent Prayer

Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past.
You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel.
You have challenged us in the words of the prophets.
You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.
Lord God, we adore you because you still come to us now.
You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.
You come to us through men and women who need our help.
You come to us as we worship you with your people.
Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end.
You will be with us at the hour of death.
You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.
You will still be God when our history has run its course.
We welcome you, the God who comes.

Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

- *Caryl Micklem, "Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship"*

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Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

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[Send Us An Email](#)



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