

**Central United  
Methodist Church  
March 30, 2025**



Lectionary readings for Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

[Joshua 5:9-12](#)      [Psalm 32](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)      [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

*I am often struck by the dangerous narcissism fostered by spiritual rhetoric that pays so much attention to individual self-improvement and so little to the practice of love within the context of community. - bell hooks*

The authors of [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com) write: "Our selected texts are beautiful reminders that conditions change. Manna will give way to wheat and grain. Secrecy and anguish give way to mercy and redemption. Separation and distance give way to reconciliation and intimacy. The circumstances will not remain as they are, and these scriptures suggest that they cannot.

Divinity may be the substance of change.

We keep our faith, we hope, we pray, we gather knowing that the Creator will see to the natural shifts of a planetary system that relies on revolution. This keeps everything in balance. This is how forces are reconciled.

We are alive, living, on a living planet. What a mercy it is that we know change 'goin to come."

"God of Solidarity,

Thank you for being a God who enters the suffering of the world - who doesn't run from those in pain but rushes to the site of blood, of tears. Release us from empty cravings of unity that come at no cost to the oppressor and guide us toward a solidarity that demands something of us. Let us learn to risk ourselves on behalf of the vulnerable, believing that when one of us is harmed, we all are. Help us to remember that justice and liberation are not a scarcity, and that our survival and dignity are wrapped up in one another. And God, keep us from those who will demonize the fight in us. Who would prefer us to be complacent and far from one another? Secure in us the courage to stand, knowing together we will restore what the world has tried to suffocate in us. Amen."

*Prayer by 21st Century Theologian: Cole Arthur Riley*

***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

<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 17, 2025 6:00 PM Service	<b>Mother's Day Sunday</b> May 11, 2025 10:30 AM Service
<b>Good Friday</b> April 18, 2025 6:00 PM Service	<b>Marvin Gayatgay</b> Alumnus of the Philippine Madrigal Singers Friday, May 16, 2025 7: 30 PM Concert
<b>Easter Sunday</b> April 20, 2025 10:30 AM Service	<b>Graduation Sunday</b> June 1, 2025 10:30 AM Service
<b>Line Dancing</b> - Silent Auction With Nancy Friday, April 25, 2025 6 PM- 9 PM	<b>Father's Day Sunday</b> June 15, 2025 10:30 AM Service



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
8237 KENTON AVE. SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076  
(847) 673-1311 | [CENTRALCHURCH@SKOKIECENTRALUMC.ORG](mailto:CENTRALCHURCH@SKOKIECENTRALUMC.ORG)  
[WWW.SKOKIECENTRALUMC.ORG](http://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!

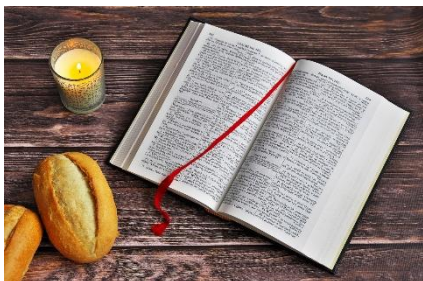
The scriptural passages in this devotional correspond to Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary – but since their themes are universal, this devotional can be used fruitfully during any Lenten season.

Large Print- [Click Here](#)

Booklet - [Click Here](#)

[centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org)

## Worship Service

Join us on **March 30, 2025 - Fourth Sunday in Lent** - 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 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](mailto: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



**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

The altar flowers this Sunday are provided by **Central Church**.

## Potluck Fellowship

This Sunday is Potluck Sunday. Please bring a dish to share.

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!

March 30 , 2025

Reader: Kathy Tiffin

Flowers: Central Church

Fellowship: POTLUCK

April 6th, 2025

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: Volunteer Needed

April 13 , 2025

Reader: Tina De Ocampo

Flowers: Tina De Ocampo

Fellowship: /Tae Yoon Kim

Easter April 20 , 2025

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: POTLUCK

April 27 , 2025

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: POT-LUCK

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mgcc@mgccpresbyterian.org)

[www.mgccpresbyterian.org](http://www.mgccpresbyterian.org)

  @mgccpresbyterian



## 2025 Living Color Fundraiser



**CENTRAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH-  
LOG CABIN FUND**



**Sunday March 30, 2025**

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

Order forms with payment need to be turned in by **Sunday March 30th, 2025.**

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

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone at Central who helped to make the **Spiritual Growth Retreat** a success. Our leaders and participants were Judy Reuter, Mary Wadleigh, Jo Ann Faber, Tina DeOcampo, Pastor Tim Biel and Kathy Tiffin. In the morning, we enjoyed breakfast snacks, music, discussions and listening to Deaconess Martha Lundgren.

Deaconess Martha talked about the sacredness of breathing, every breath is equally sacred, from the first breath to the last breath. She eloquently concluded her talk stating that "our first breath comes from God and when we return to God, we return our breath to God". To me, this message was moving.

Kathy Tiffin

NIC UWFaith Social Action Coordinator

## United Voices For Children

For more than 30 years, [United Voices for Children \(UVC\)](#) has helped congregations serve Northern Illinois' most vulnerable populations through our partnership with [Kids Above All, MYSI](#) and [Rosecrance](#). Be a part of this important work by supporting UVC's Fifth Sunday Appeal on **Sunday, March 30**. Through this collaborative giving effort, United Methodist congregations of all sizes can make a real difference in the lives of at-risk children, youth and families. [Learn more.](#)

**HOW TO GIVE:** Write a check to your local church and write, "United Methodist UMCOR Sunday offering" in the memo line. Churches can give through the NIC Apportionment process.

## 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](mailto:cinserra@kidsaboveall.org) for more information.

## Songs Of Change



MORTON GROVE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

PRESENTS

# SONGS OF CHANGE

LIVE AT THE LOG CABIN

ADAM GOTTLIEB  
&

# ON LOVE

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](mailto:MGCC@MGCCPRESBYTERIAN.ORG)  
[WWW.MGCCPRESBYTERIAN.ORG](http://WWW.MGCCPRESBYTERIAN.ORG)  
f i @mgccpresbyterian



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
(USA)

## 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](mailto: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

[centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org](mailto:centralchurch@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.

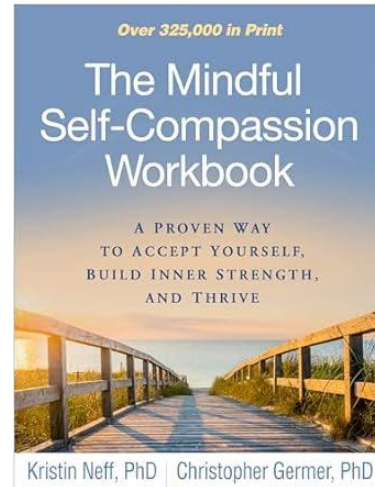
This science-based workbook offers a step-by-step approach to breaking free of harsh self-judgments and impossible standards in order to cultivate emotional well-being. In a convenient large-size format, the book is based on the authors' groundbreaking eight-week Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC) program, 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](mailto: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

Loving Creator of mine,  
I feel the pace quicken, the time draw near.  
I am filled with joy as I move toward Easter  
and the promised reconciliation with you.  
Teach me to follow the example of your Son,  
to be worthy of being called one of his people:  
a Christ-ian.  
Help me to live each day as he did  
turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.  
I await the new life with eagerness, faith  
and a deep gratitude.  
Author Unknown

## Central United Methodist Church

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