

Central United Methodist Church July 24, 2022



From Pastor Biel

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, July 24, 2022,

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost.

Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." Luke 11: 1

Desire. When focused on the appropriate results, desire is a powerful force for good. When used to objectify, desire can be a destructive force. The unnamed disciple in the unnamed location in Luke's Gospel desires to pray as Jesus prays. "Teach us to pray."

When was the last time you asked Jesus to "teach" you something about life and faith? It takes humbling ourselves to even notice that we still don't know how to live into a prayer as simple and as profound as the Lord's Prayer which Jesus delivers in Luke 11. And so, like the disciple, we, too, do well to invite Jesus to teach us to pray. We begin with a desire to pray.

Look at each line of the Lord's Prayer and consider what desires emanate from these words. To name a few: holiness, forgiveness and the ability to forgive, daily needs met, the inbreaking of God's kin-dom. You get the idea.

Jesus turned peoples' hearts and minds towards the flaming Spirit that swept them off their feet. He ignited desires in them for freedom and service that did not exist before. He inspired hopes and dreams that few dared pursue until he came along. The collective longed for something better than colonizing *Pax Romana* and the Roman collaborators in Temple leadership. For love's sake, Jesus released his followers from old routines and childish grudges.

Following him, they found joy and adventure and danger. Like you, they knew shock and sadness, violence and discrimination. To hold all this in tension, the Lord's Prayer offers a place to rest and re-center oneself in the things God desires; mutual holiness, forgiving, feeding, the inbreaking of God's kin-dom.

Receive Jesus' admonition to be bold and brash as you cultivate your desire for goodness and love to grow in our world. He said, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be open."*

May the desires of your heart come true.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Biel

Outdoor Worship Service

This Sunday, **July 24, at 11 am**, our service will be held **outdoors at Lot 5, Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, West Harts Road, southwest of Touhy in Niles.**

Bring your own chair.

Bring something to share for the picnic after the service.

Masks are optional.

If it rains, the service will be held in the Central Church Sanctuary.

A detailed map will be emailed separately.

The worship service will also be available on Zoom at 11 am. Please email the church office to receive a copy of the Zoom Link.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

There will not be a Bible Study on Sunday, July 24.

A Love Letter to the Future

Getting Away from It All

By Christopher Bartlett

There's something about changing the setting for a regular activity that alters your perspective on it. I remember showing up for evening events at high school and feeling like it was almost like being in a completely different place, even though it was the same building.

For those of us who attended the retreat at the Stronghold Campground last weekend, that perspective change was strong. We had church out under a tree, with the wind,

and birdsong as part of the music and the message. I was reminded that church is more than a building, that the building is, in fact, only a tool, a place to focus our energy on worship and from which to go out into the world and live the disciple life as best we can. I was also reminded that we are part of a vast web of life, only comprehensible in whole by its Creator.

Perspective shifts are a good thing to experience. It's easy to fall into patterns of thinking that do not allow for new information or a different viewpoint. Going along the worn grooves of past experience is the easy way, which has its uses, but there are times when it leads us astray. Having a different setting breaks those patterns, or at least suggests that we question them again, to see if they still hold true.

The other useful thing about retreats is that you are, well, retreating from the everyday cares of the world. It allows for a single focus on the people who are there and the work you are there to do.

And work we did. In addition to spending time with good people, we also worshipped, and we dreamed. We talked about what we wanted to see Central doing out in the world and in our congregation. Those discussions will inform the work of the Building Visioning Task Force that was created to come up with plans for our campus, informed by the visionary discussions at the retreat. I'll have more on those discussions at another time, but a clear vision emerged that we will be able to present to you all soon.

If you have ideas for how Central UMC can take part in the work of peace, social injustice, health and wellness, family and soul work, please get in touch with me or with Marides Haidari. We want to know what matters to you in these areas, which emerged as the top concerns at the retreat. In time, we will have specific plans to present for how to move forward in these areas and what we might do to our campus to make them happen more effectively.

Stay Tuned! And in the meantime, we're having church outside again this Sunday. You'll find details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Mission Project

Girls 4 Ghana Pads Project

www.G4Gghana.org

During our church's retreat weekend, the ladies traced and cut out 180 pieces for the reusable feminine pads. This was done in less than two hours! We have amazing mission oriented ladies at our church.



The ladies who traced and cut this weekend are:

Mary Wadleigh, Tina De Ocampo, Malou De Ocampo, Sally Guerra, Miriam Mohammad, Lucy Ling Bailleaux, Carol Tacorda, Esther (Carol's mother) and Kathy Tiffin.

Kathy, Lucy, Esther, Sally and Malou are pictured working on the project.

Many thanks to Kathy Tiffin who has coordinated this worthwhile mission project.

Mini Food Pantry

We are running low on food for the Mini Food Pantry. This is an ongoing mission, so please keep on bringing non-perishable items to the office on Wednesdays between 9:30 am and 4 pm and on Friday mornings between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. Or bring them to church on Sunday.

If everyone donated two items a week, it would keep the Pantry filled.

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

Donate



We thank you for your generous financial gifts. Your generosity helps support the missions of Central Church.

Please use the Donate button below.

You can also donate on the Church's Venmo account:

Venmo Account:

centralchurchgiving@gmail.com

User Name:

CentralChurch-Skokie.

Of course, there is always the US Postal Service or personal delivery!
Contact Doris Bloom for more information (djbloom@att.net).

[DONATE](#)

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor
Rev. Adrienne Stricker, Deacon

8237 Kenton Avenue,
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Church Email:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311

[Send Us An Email](#)

