

Central United Methodist Church June 29, 2025



Lectionary readings for
Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 29, 2025

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Beloveds,

I am walking on a cloud after seeing so many friends, delegates, and staff at the 186th Annual Conference. Several people stopped by our United Voices for Children table to tell us how they advocate for children in their home church. Thank you for the ways you serve children, engage your legislators, and keep your church relevant. Thank you for remembering us with your donations. Those offerings, such as the 5th Sunday Appeal, support the work of our three child-serving agencies: MYSI, Kids Above All, and Rosecrance.

This Sunday, June 29th is the next 5th Sunday Appeal. Look for an envelope at worship.

I wish this good feeling would last. Yet, if you pay attention to the federal government's activities, you're witnessing an impending crisis for Illinois children and families. Budget cuts will hurt the most vulnerable in our communities. Proposed cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will negatively impact families if they pass. Please urge your representatives not to go that route. I pray for your church's fruitfulness as you advocate by feeding, teaching, clothing, and standing up for kids in need.

United Voices for Children is a proud sponsor of this year's Data Book by Children's Advocates for Change. This resource ensures that lawmakers have all of the facts about Illinois children's access to healthcare, education, and housing. You can learn more at our website and at CAFC's site. [2025 Data Book](#)

Mark your calendars!

UVC will host an in-person Raising Our Voices event and lunch on Thursday, September 18th, at Community UMC in Naperville. 10am-noon. The cost is \$15. About Face Theatre will perform "Lives Out Loud." We will hear about legislation affecting our children, youth, and families. And we will name our 2025 Child Advocate Award recipients. Is there a child advocate you'd like to nominate? Click [here](#), Awards, to make your recommendation.

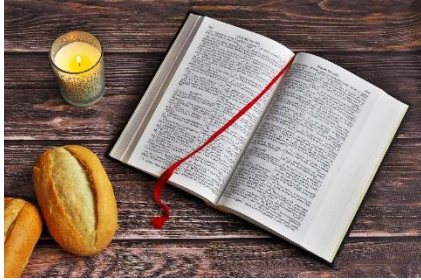
I hope to see you in Naperville on Sept 18th for inspiring theatre and faithful witness.

With a heart for children,

Rev. Tim Biel Jr

President of United Voices for Children

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 **June 29, 2025**, 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.

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 Ellen Nero.

Fellowship

NO FELLOWSHIP JUNE 15 - AUGUST 31

Fellowship will resume **Sunday, September 7.**

Thank you to all who have helped provide fellowship, including setup and clean up, this past year.

Enjoy your summer!

Open Church Council Meeting



Monday, June 30th at 7:30

On Monday, June 30th at 7:30 will be our first Church Council Meeting for the year. It will be an "Open Style" where everyone is invited. This meeting will be hybrid style so you can attend in person or attend via a Zoom Link (Click on the button below).

Here are some topics that will be covered:

1. Mission - Community Outreach
2. Landscaping
3. Weekly/Year Round Bible Study
4. Finances
5. Effects of Recent Physical Plant Upgrades
6. Communications within the church
7. Communications

- outside the church
8. Green Earth / Recycling
Save our Planet
Love our Planet
 9. Sunday Worship
What we love about
our worship service
What we need more of
 10. Brief Committee Reports
 11. Next meeting date

-Kathy Tiffin

[Zoom Church Council Meeting](#)

Looking Ahead

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

NO FELLOWSHIP JUNE 15 - AUGUST 31

June 29th

Reader: Kathy Tiffin

Flowers: Ellen Nero

July 6th

Reader: Pam Castaneda

Flowers: _____

July 27th

Reader: _____

Flowers: _____

July 13th

Reader: Tina De Ocampo

Flowers: _____

July 20th

Reader: _____

Flowers: Pam Castaneda

Apportionments



Apportionments allow us to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

What are Apportionments?

Apportionments are the way that congregations are connected to the conference and the world. Apportionments are used to fund the global mission and witness of our church, to help provide the necessary structure to respond in moments of crisis locally, nationally, internationally, and to develop and nurture the leaders we need today and tomorrow.

The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations send some of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together. Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all – collective goods.

What is Connectional Giving?

Connectional Giving is one of the founding ideas that the United Methodist Church was built upon.

Participating in connectional giving helps us to be in mission with people and congregations around the world - giving every church, regardless of size, a larger mission footprint.

Connectional giving includes Apportionment giving (Northern Illinois Conference Fund and [General Church Apportioned Funds](#)) as well as [Mission Link \(The Advance\)](#) giving.

Why Give to Apportionments?

Apportionment giving is based upon the desire to meet the needs of God's family NOT just in our neighborhoods, but around the world. Apportionments are also based on our need to give in order to be spiritually healthy, complete children of God.

We send the Apportionment funds out of our blessing that Christ might be known in transformative ways. Apportionments provide avenues for giving so that we can be strong

local churches & annual conferences and a strong connection throughout the world as we seek to be in mission and ministry together. The funds demonstrate our connectedness to one another, to God and to the body of Christ.

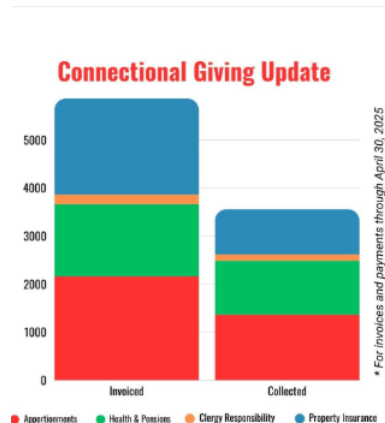
Are These "Special Gifts"?

Apportionments are not to be considered "special gifts," but rather, they are similar to our tithes that we give to our local church. These funds are to be set aside and given first priority in our church budgets.

Apportionments are our first-mile of mission giving. They form the framework for the rest of our connectional ministry and mission. First-mile giving ensures 100 percent of gifts to Advance Specials, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Imagine No Malaria, Love Offerings, Special Sundays and many others that benefit the desired mission or ministry.

We encourage all churches to go the second mile to become a [Mission Links](#) church by participating in The Advance mission giving and continuing to support the good work across the connection.

[Click here](#) learn more.



Connectional Giving Update

Posted: May 6 2025 at 12:00 AM

In an effort to be more transparent, the Finance and Administration office is going to be consistently sharing where we are as a conference are in regards to the giving versus what is needed for us to continue our impact. This giving supports our ministries, outreach programs, employees and daily operations.

Update: 5/06/25

Currently, as of the end of April 2025, our collection rates are as follows:

- NIC and General Church Apportionments - 63%*
- Health and Pension - 75%
- Clergy Responsibility - 65%
- Property Insurance - 47%

[Click here](#) To learn more.

Mission



International students at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston) are unable to go home this Summer for fear they will not be able to come back into the country in the Fall. These students need our support for the next two to three months.



HOW WE CAN HELP:

- **Purchase \$25 gift cards for Walmart or Jewel**

Send to: Broadway UMC
Attn: Rev. Alka Lyall
3338 N Broadway St
Chicago, IL 60657



- **Monetary Donations**

- On-line donations can be made by scanning the QR code or with the link at umcnic.org/news/help-for-international-garrett-students.
- Checks can be made out to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, please note International Student Support
 - Send to: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Attn: Thehil Russelliah Singh, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60201



Questions or for more information: Lisa Rogers
jlrogers204@comcast.net

Learn more at umcnic.org/news/help-for-international-garrett-students.



Northern Illinois Conference
The United Methodist Church

The Immigration Team of the NIC Conference Commission on Religion and Race has been presented with an urgent need to support some international students at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston.

These international students are unable to travel back home this summer. They fear they will not be able to return to the country after the summer break is over. As you can imagine, these students need support in many ways.

We are launching an effort to meet immediate needs with the help of our congregations. We will be collecting \$25 Jewel and Walmart gift cards as well as monetary donations.

We need your help!

You can help in two ways:

1. Purchase \$25 gift cards for Walmart or Jewel

Send to: Broadway UMC, Attn: Rev. Alka Lyall, [3338 N Broadway St, Chicago, IL 60657](#)

2. Make a Monetary Donation:

On-line donations can be made [here](#).

Checks can be made out to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, please note International Student Support.

Send to: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Attn: Thehil Russelliah Singh, [2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60201](#)

Morning Tai-Chi Class



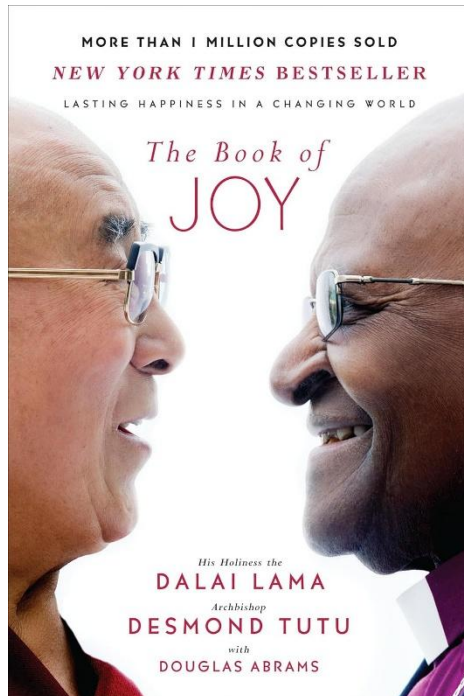
Weekly on Tuesday Log Cabin- 9 AM

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

The Book of Joy



Starting Wednesdays, July 9, 2025
6 weeks book study and discussion
7 PM - 8:30 PM CDT
On Zoom
[Thriftbooks](#)

An instant *New York Times* bestseller. Over 1 million copies sold!

Two spiritual giants. Five days. One timeless question.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet.

In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

They traded intimate stories, teased each other continually, and shared their spiritual practices. By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with

tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our time and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy.

This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from the first embrace to the final good-bye.

We get to listen as they explore the Nature of True Joy and confront each of the Obstacles of Joy—from fear, stress, and anger to grief, illness, and death. They then offer us the Eight Pillars of Joy, which provide the foundation for lasting happiness. Throughout, they include stories, wisdom, and science. Finally, they share their daily Joy Practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives.

The Archbishop has never claimed sainthood, and the Dalai Lama considers himself a simple monk. In this unique collaboration, they offer us the reflection of real lives filled with pain and turmoil in the midst of which they have been able to discover a level of peace, of courage, and of joy to which we can all aspire in our own lives.

Interested? E-mail the church office for the zoom link and or a book while supplies last.

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

Dedication of Merits

May all places be held sacred.

May all beings be cherished.

May all injustices of oppression, devaluation, and theft be fully righted, remedied and healed.

May all who are captured by hatred be freed to the love that is our birth right.

May all who are bound by fear discover the safety of understanding.

May all who are weighed down by grief be given over to the joy of being.

May all who are lost in delusion find a home on the path of wisdom.

May all wounds to forests, rivers, deserts, oceans,

all wounds to Mother Earth be lovingly restored to bountiful health.

May all beings everywhere delight in whale song, birdsong and blue sky.

May all beings abide in peace and well-being, awaken and be free.

-One Earth Sangha

One Earth Sangha strives to support humanity in a transformative response to ecological crises based on the insights and practices of the Buddhist tradition.

**Central United Methodist
Church**

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

**8237 Kenton Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076**

**Church Email:
centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org**

**Church Website:
www.skokiecentralumc.org**

**Church Phone:
(847) 673-1311**

Send Us An Email



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