

**Central United
Methodist Church
March 23, 2025**



Lectionary readings for

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#) [Psalm 63:1-8](#)

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#) [Luke 13:1-9](#)

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

I've been driving and crying a lot today; with a broken heart and a renewed hope.

All week long, I have been looking forward to hearing Central Church's own Rynne "Hannah" Lamasan sing at the school's concert. Her solos on Children Go Where I Send Thee blew the audience away. The choirs were phenomenal this evening. Not only did they sound amazing. They also ministered with their music.

God is so good.

On my way to the Niles West Choir Concert, I learned of our beloved Denis Alfred David's death. Hot, fat tears rolled down as soon as I got the news and kept coming (even until now). A short text to Denis' daughter, Ruby. Memories of her father's kindness, warmth, and trust in God. Denis had a beautiful way of letting you know that the God he worshiped, revealed in Jesus Christ, loves everyone.

A short trip to pick up Rev. Sylvia for the show. My hand over my heart in mourning, digesting the sad news. We found our seats in the auditorium and, just as the lights were dimming, we were joined by the Reuters, I made sure I had tissues handy. "If any of these songs are emotional," I thought, "I'm going to need them."

I didn't expect the first choral piece to be *Pie Jesu*

Pie Jesu Domine, Dona Eis requiem (sempiternam).

Translation: Merciful Jesus, Grant them everlasting rest.

It's been a holy evening of mixed grief, joy, comfort, and solace. I carried a painful tragedy into a dark theater with dear friends. Talented, dedicated students and leaders gave us Sacred music. It washed over us and got into our bones. There's enormous pride filling my heart for our senior singer, Hannah. My tissues are soaked.

The grief is compounded as I embrace the hurt of each loved one we've had to give back to God over the years. Yet, also compounded are the assurances of God's promises; sung back to me by dozens of young voices.

We are so blessed by one another, revealing the glory of the Lord.

In sickness, in health, even at the hour of our dying, God is revealed. Tonight is catharsis. Tonight, I have been held by God in the company of the church. I am thankful as I offer into God's hands the soul of one of God's own sheep, Denis. I am so proud as I ask God to encourage another sheep leaning into adulthood and finding the power of her voice, Hannah.

Both of these remind us that we are always changing; being transformed into the image of God.

"...for this comes from the Spirit."

May you see the glory of the Lord. And may you be the glory of the Lord.

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



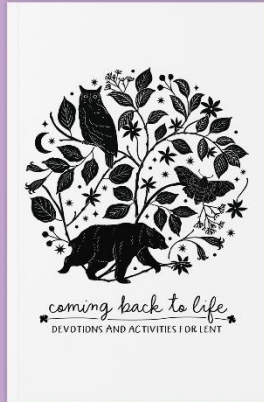
UPCOMING EVENTS

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



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8237 KENTON AVE. SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076
(847) 673-1311 | CENTRALCHURCH@SKOKIECENTRALUMC.ORG
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!

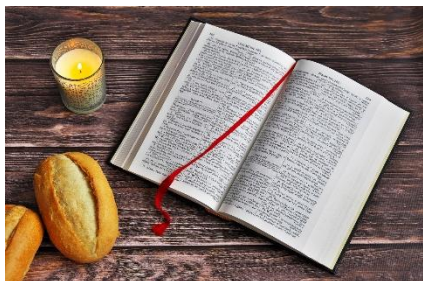
The scriptural passages in this devotional correspond to Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary – but since their themes are universal, this devotional can be used fruitfully during any Lenten season.

Large Print- [Click Here](#)

Booklet - [Click Here](#)

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org.

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 on **March 23, 2025 - Third 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**. Please request the Zoom link from the church office.

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

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



Sunday, March 23, 2025

The altar flowers this Sunday are provided by **Karen Buccola**.

Fellowship

This Sunday fellowship is provided by **Mae Williams**.

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 23 , 2025

Reader: Pam Castaneda

Flowers: Karen Buccola

Fellowship: Mae Williams

March 30 , 2025

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: POT-LUCK

April 6th, 2025

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: Volunteer Needed

April 13 , 2025, PALM SUNDAY

Reader: Tina De Ocampo

Flowers: Tina De Ocampo

Fellowship: /Tae Yoon Kim

Easter April 20 , 2025, EASTER SUNDAY

Reader: Volunteer Needed

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

Fellowship: POT-LUCK

Raul Castaneda



Raul Castaneda

May 30, 1943 - January 19, 2025

Pam would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness during this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness means more than words can say.

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. 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

www.mgccpresbyterian.org

  @mgccpresbyterian

United Women In Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Northern Illinois Conference
Spiritual Growth Retreat
Coordinated by Deaconess Catherine Inserra
with support from the UWFaith NIC Leadership Team
Saturday, March 22, 2025

Sacred Breaths: Contemplating Mortality as an Act of Devotion

First United Methodist Church in Park Ridge
418 West Touhy Avenue
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068



Guest Speaker: Deaconess Martha Lundgren
Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time: 9 AM – 2 PM Doors open at 8:15 AM

The cost per person is \$15 all-inclusive.

A scholarship is available for youth between 14 – 21 years of age.
There is a limit of 120 attendees - Register early! Plan to carpool.
Refreshments and lunch will be included.

Please invite your friends, including young adult women, & youth, for this meaningful and timely experience during Lent. (you do not need to be Methodist)

There will be times of sharing, prayer, contemplation, conversation, movement, stillness, focused breathing, and music. Weather permitting, there is a garden to enjoy.

Martha Lundgren is a United Methodist deaconess who responded to a call to provide faithful care to dying persons. She is a spiritual care volunteer at Aperion Wesley Place and Chicago Methodist Senior Services Hartwell Place where she leads weekly prayer services for residents with dementia and practices the ministry of presence. She also volunteers with "Widows Supporting Widows", a women's health organization serving widows seeking to understand their experience and focus on growth. Martha is pictured here with the plaque at Wesley Place that honors Isabelle Reeve, first licensed deaconess and trained by Lucy Rider Meyer.

(Mural in Tucson, AZ. Photo credit Deaconess Martha Lundgren, June Neumann & web)

To register [click here](#).

Please [click here](#) for more details.

In this Insight Publication are various articles:

Our 2025 Leadership Team

Winter Mission Recap

Unit Survey

Spiritual Growth Retreat

Social Action

Reading Program

District News

Community, a story about a Marine's Gift

Kids Above All

National, a story about the book "Pushout, the Criminalization of Black Girls in School"

Assembly 2026, workshop proposals

Day of Giving

2025 Living Color Fundraiser

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.



Songs Of Change



MORTON GROVE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

PRESENTS

SONGS OF CHANGE

LIVE AT THE LOG CABIN

ADAM GOTTLIEB
&

GRACE

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
WWW.MGCCPRESBYTERIAN.ORG
f i @mgccpresbyterian



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(USA)

Joy Hoffman



Monday, April 7, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.

Northwestern Campus -- 601 University Place

Scott Hall in the University Guild Lounge

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

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

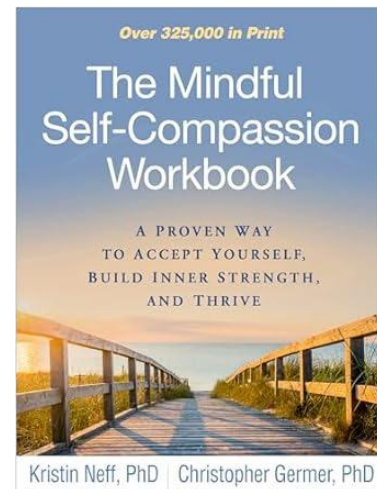
Thank you for your support in helping others less fortunate.

If you have questions or suggestions, please email the church office at centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

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

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

In Times of Sorrow

May you see God's light on the path ahead

When the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear,

Even in your hour of sorrow,

The gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard may hardness

Never turn your heart to stone,

May you always remember

when the shadows fall,

You do not walk alone.

- Author Unknown

Central United Methodist Church

Rev. Timothy Biel Jr., Pastor

8237 Kenton Avenue

Skokie, Illinois 60076

Church Email:

centralchurch@skokiecentralumc.org

Church Phone:

(847) 673-1311

[Send Us An
Email](#)



Central United Methodist Church 8237 Kenton Ave., Skokie, IL 60076