

# June 2026

The Center gives people of all faiths, backgrounds, and ages the space to dream, grow, and become fully alive- physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

*The Center*



The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community  
Parish and Community Center Foundation  
Sunday services: 8:30am and 12:30pm  
<http://www.thecenterpalos.org> 708-361-3650

## VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE!

A few weeks ago, when Amy, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, offered me the position of Pastoral Leader here at The Center, my wife, Maureen, said to me, “Well, you finally found what you’ve been looking for all these years.”

That was pretty perceptive, but actually, I found what I was looking for about twelve years ago, when Chris Hopkins invited me to join her in conducting some of the worship services here at The Center.

Prior to that opportunity, I was experiencing a “spiritual restlessness,” searching for something, not to replace the love and companionship of married life, but to complement and accompany that life, and to fill up a large part of me which did not disappear when I left active ministry as a Catholic priest.

Resigned priests often word it this way: “You can take the guy out of the priesthood, but you can’t take the priesthood out of the guy!” And so, while I was adjusting to married life, I began a search of various churches, and even a couple of funeral homes, to see if they might have an opening for me to do some part-time ministry. But for one reason or another, nothing worked out until, as I said, Chris Hopkins welcomed me here.

And lately, as I’ve driven by those other churches and funeral homes, I look at them and wonder what my life might have been like had I been accepted at one of those places. But overriding that kind of wondering, I’ve found myself thinking, “Well, Lord, You did it again, and I’m glad You did!”

The reason for that little comment to God is that over the course of my life, there are a great number of examples of God placing me where He wanted me to be, despite whatever direction I was going in at that time. At one retreat I was conducting, when I was talking about this ongoing push and pull by God, an image popped into my head, which I shared with the people at the retreat. I said, “God is the pinball wizard, and I’m the little steel ball He’s pushing around, and He’s perfectly willing to tilt the table to get me where He wants me to be!” This time, He tilted a table with various holes labeled “possible ministry” to the hole labeled “Wayside Chapel at The Center,” and for lots of reasons, this little steel ball is very happy about that!

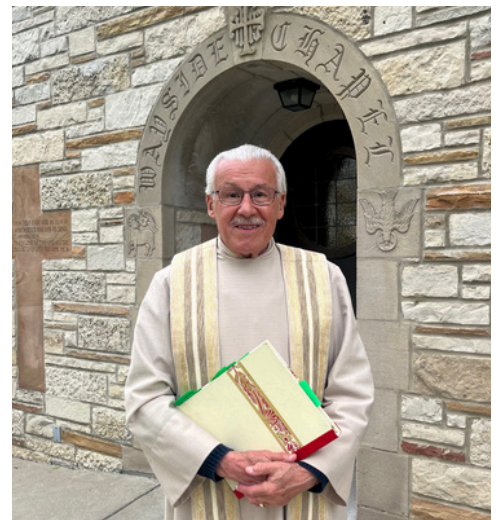
First of all, your open and welcoming spirit, your acceptance and support of my ministry, and your wish for me to be a part of your “Center Family,” has made me feel “at home” here.

But The Center is not just a home-away-from-home. Prayer and worship is the heart and soul of the life of The Center.

It is true that Paul Sanders envisioned, and then created, a “house by the side of the road,” influenced by a book titled “The Master of the Inn,” written by a doctor who built such an inn, where people “found” themselves by work, play, and fellowship.

But Paul Sanders was also a minister, and God was the center of his life, and so his vision for The Center was always that everything at The Center would also be rooted in God’s presence and love. In 1953, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Center, Paul wrote this in The Center newsletter:

“Looking at the realization of my dreams, I have been filled with gratitude and humility that I was able to share in this dream come true, knowing in my heart that this is a demonstration of what God can do, working through people.”



So, for over ninety years, under the leadership of Paul, Frank, and Dave Sanders, and now under Amy Donze, all that The Center does is God working through people.

St. Mark begins his Gospel with the words "Here begins the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." All that The Center is about can be summed up in the words "Here continues the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." I feel greatly blessed that I've been asked to take part in this good news.

Sincerely,



Rev. Rich Homa

## SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

### SERVICES

#### 8:30 a.m. in the Parlor

This early morning Vespers is an informal gathering that incorporates silence, prayer, Scripture, and conversational reflection. It's a time of sharing collective wisdom and building community, and you are invited!

#### 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Each Sunday, we have a non-denominational service of music, meditative message, and prayer. Immediately following Vespers, we gather in The Great Hall of The Lodge for a time of fellowship and light refreshments. We would love to have you join us!

#### Communion Sunday

**Sunday, June 7, 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**

Join us as we gather for Communion. Non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread are provided, and all are welcome at the Lord's table.

#### Anniversary Dinner and Renewal of Vows

**Sunday, June 7 at 4:30 p.m.**

Whether or not you were married in our Wayside Chapel, we invite you to celebrate your May or June wedding anniversary here at The Center on June 7th. Beginning with fellowship in the Great Hall at 4:30 p.m., enjoy a delicious candlelight dinner followed by a meaningful Renewal of Wedding Vows ceremony in the Chapel. For reservations, please contact our front office at 708-361-3650 to make your payment of \$110 before June 2nd.

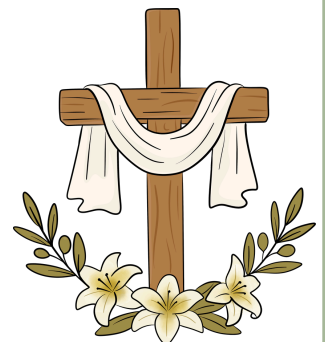
### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Direction (Companionship) is a long time non-denominational practice that offers a person confidential space to reflect on the connection between life and God's presence. A Spiritual Director is trained to listen with compassion and to help navigate through life's challenges from a divine perspective. To make an appointment, call The Center at 708-361-3650, and one of our spiritual directors will return your call to schedule a meeting. **The fee is \$30 per session.**

### FOLLOWING JESUS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ADULT CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

I invite you to join me in an exploration of Christian spirituality via ten sessions over the course of the summer which will explore different aspects of Christian spirituality. I envision each session being composed of some input to get the ball rolling, and then ample time for discussion and sharing about that topic.

This series will be offered on both Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30, and Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00, beginning Tuesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 18. To get some sense of attendance, please pre-register by using the link below or by calling our office at 708-361-3650. I hope you can be part of this series. There is no fee for this course, but we welcome and appreciate your donations!



Pre-register at this link: [thecenterpalos.org/following-jesus-an-introduction-to-adult-christian-spirituality/](https://thecenterpalos.org/following-jesus-an-introduction-to-adult-christian-spirituality/)

# A PRAYER FOR PEACE AT THE LABYRINTH

.....  
**THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4:00PM**  
.....

Let us meet at the Labyrinth to walk in silence with Love for peace. All are Welcome! No registration is necessary. We will walk rain or shine!

*Email [revc.spirituality@gmail.com](mailto:revc.spirituality@gmail.com) with any questions.*



## MEDITATION

**Loving-Kindness Meditation (Metta)**  
**Every Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. in the Forest View Room (FVR)**

All are welcome to gather in the Forest View Room for 45 minutes of getting centered. Metta includes a silent meditation, but it is primarily a group prayer for peace in the world, beginning with ourselves. No registration is necessary. Questions may be directed to Peggy Quinn at 773-841-3203.



### Zen Meditation

**Tuesday nights, 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor**

Jim Matson, a Zen Buddhist Priest, is teaching a class on the background and practice of Zen Meditation. He comes with 24+ years of experience and describes Zen Meditation as “the art of becoming aware of the movement of the mind. It permits an understanding and realization of the deeper and more subtle aspects of our lives and points toward a compassionate and more confident way of living.”

**Class fee: \$5 suggested donation per session**

## MINDFULNESS

**Sunday mornings 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Forest View Room (FVR)**

Mindfulness: the practice of being present to what is with kindness and curiosity. We invite you to come and find the support, guidance, and companionship that you need to be present wherever you are in life. Please contact Dan Morley with any questions you may have at 708-280-3945.

## PROGRAM

### Toastmasters

**Wednesday, June 3 and 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Toastmasters is an opportunity for folks who wish to improve their public communication skills, to develop the confidence to stand and speak before large or small groups of people. The Center's Toastmasters Club consists of staff, volunteers, and friends of The Center. No commitment is necessary to try it out: for more information, contact Lois Lauer.



### WomanTalk Discussion Group

**Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

“WomanTalk,” hosted by Kate Atkins-Trimnell, is a gathering of women who meet this month on the last Tuesday in the Parlor to nurture and support each other on their personal journeys of creativity and self-discovery. Rooted in Sarah Ban Breathnach's Simple Abundance, the group, now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, seeks ways to live authentically and joyfully. As June unfolds, we have the opportunity to rediscover life's enrichments and to seek out true contentment. Perhaps celebrate the season by making lemonade, enjoying s'mores, or celebrating the Solstice by camping out or relaxing in a hammock. What do you enjoy? We hope that you'll be able to join us. We often take a group outing together each month. If you have any questions, please contact our office by e-mail at [tarag@thecenterpalos.org](mailto:tarag@thecenterpalos.org).

## Reiki Circle

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month, June 28, July 26, August 23, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the FVR**

Join us for our monthly Reiki share at The Center! Whether you are trained in Reiki (I, II, or III) or not, you are welcome to participate. Reiki is a Universal Life Force Energy that can activate natural healing and restore physical and emotional well-being. We will meet together in circle and share healing Reiki energy. There is no fee but a donation to The Center is very much welcomed. No need to register. Please contact Eileen Hurn (773-550-6174) or Karen Signore (708-860-7813) for further information.



## JUNE/JULY 2026 ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

KIDS SEWING WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES Instructor: Angela Gonzalez  
Open to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Bring your own sewing machine or use one of ours.

### HANGING ORGANIZER

**Tuesday, June 30, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$32 Plus a \$5 Materials fee**

Organize your room with this multi-pocket fabric hanging organizer. We will learn how to turn corners on the sewing machine to stitch right angles.



### WATERMELON ZIPPER POUCH

**Tuesday, July 14, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$32 Plus a \$6 Materials fee**

Learn how to add a zipper to your project by making a fun, summer-themed pouch. Pick from colorful fabrics and customize with finishing details like hand-built seeds and stripes.

### OUTDOOR ART FOR KIDS, SUMMERTIME ART CAMP

**Class fee, per session: \$165 Plus a \$25 Materials fee**



A world of art and nature for kids entering grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. Drawing, painting, pottery, sculpture, crafts, and more! Classes take place outdoors as long as the weather allows. Students will be split up into different age groups depending on enrollment. Teachers plan new and different lessons all summer long so you can sign up for multiple sessions.

Within each two-week session, students meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Session 1: June 15 - June 26

Session 2: June 29 - July 10

Session 3: July 13 - July 24

Session 4: July 27 - August 7

## JUNE/JULY 2026 SCHEDULE OF ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

*Teens are able to register for most adult classes. Please inquire with interest*

**BASKET WORKSHOP** Instructor: Ann Marie Jagiella

**Two Thursday mornings, July 9 and 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$70 Plus a \$28 Materials fee**

Learn to weave your own basket made from natural and colorfully dyed reed.



**BETWEEN SUNRISE AND SUNSET: A MID-YEAR MIXED MEDIA VISION COLLAGE JOURNEY.** Sunday, July 12, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Instructor: Karen Signore

**Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$12 Materials fee**

This workshop offers a blend of guided meditation, reflective journaling, and intuitive mixed media vision board creation- all inspired by the symbolism of sunrises and sunsets. Join us for a fun, relaxing afternoon and creative reset. You will celebrate your growth and blessings and identify what you're ready to release as the "sun sets" on the first half of the year, and envision what you're ready to rise into as you begin the second half of the year. Reconnect with your inner compass, leave with renewed clarity and possibility, and a heart-centered mixed media collage that captures your personal horizon for the months ahead.



**BOOK MAKING WORKSHOP** Instructor: Barb Thompson

**Tuesday, June 16, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Class fee: \$25 Plus a \$5 Materials fee**

Create a hardcover handmade book that opens flat for easy drawing and writing. The workshop will explore techniques in making a reverse piano hinge book.



**BUTTERFLY FLUID ART PAINT POURING CLASS** Instructor: Thomas Dunn

**Thursday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Class fee: \$35 Plus a \$15 Materials fee**

Create an original painting on canvas. Students will experiment with color while paint-pouring to create a symmetrical butterfly image.

**CERAMICS WORKSHOPS** Instructor: Robin Power

**FAIRY HOUSES**

**Two Wednesday afternoons, June 10 and 17, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$15 Materials fee**

Learn the steps to create a charming fairy house for your garden. On the first day of class, students will create with clay. On the second class, students will glaze their pieces, then we will call you to pick them up when they have been fired in our kiln.



**LUNAR TURTLE SCULPTURE**

**Two Wednesday afternoons, July 15 and 22, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$15 Materials fee**

Create a "Lunar Turtle" from clay. The pattern of 13 moons and 28 days on a turtle shell representing the lunar calendar stems from Native American symbolism. Work with clay on the first day, then glaze on the second. We will call you to pick up your creations after they have been fired in the kiln.

**COLLAGE WORKSHOP** Instructor: April Schabes

**Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Class fee: \$25 Plus a \$3 Materials fee**

April will have a fun paper collage project planned, all materials provided.

**CREATIVE ART JOURNALING** Instructor: April Schabes

**Meets the last Friday of each month throughout the year, Noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$260 for all of 2026**

Create a colorful artistic record of your days, your thoughts, your experiences- through words, collages, photos, poems, magazine images, drawings, watercolor, and a fun project to add to your journal each month! No excuses!



**ENAMELED JEWELRY WORKSHOP** Instructor: Aimee Leang

**Saturdays: June 20 or July 25, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Wednesdays: June 24 or July 29, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$35 Plus a \$18 Materials fee, per workshop**

Learn the art of enameling while torching your own colorful designs on copper pieces. Students will have the opportunity to create earrings or a pendant with their enameled creations.

**FELTED FOURTH OF JULY GNOME WORKSHOP** Instructor: Barb Simon  
**Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$25 Plus a \$8 Materials fee**

Learn the art of felting, and create your own patriotic gnome! The perfect mix of festive, fun, and handmade charm.



**FOLK ART WORKSHOP: SUMMER SOLSTICE WIND CHIMES**

**Saturday, June 20, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** Instructor: Lois Lauer

**Class fee: \$36 Plus a \$10 Materials fee**

Create your own sparkling wind chimes out of beads and bling, dangling from a wooden branch and ready to shine in the summer sun and tink in the breeze. We will have a collection of keys, buttons, beads, and pieces of jewelry for you to choose from. Although you are welcome to bring some sparkly objects of your own to incorporate.

**FOLK ART WORKSHOP: STEPPING STONES** Instructor: Lois Lauer

**Saturday, July 18, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Class fee: \$20 Plus a \$13 Materials fee**

Create your own cement stepping stones for your garden, with impressed designs from oak leaves, grasses, ferns, and other plants. It's sort of like making your own fossil impressions! You can also add pretty marbles or stones and impressed words in the cement. These stepping stones make a delightful pathway in your garden. We'll mix and pour the cement into round trays during this fun class.



**JAPANESE BLACK INK PAINTING** Instructor: Sandy Safranek

**Two Thursdays afternoons, July 9 and 16, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$18 Materials fee**

Learn the 2000-year old art form of Japanese brush painting known as Sumi-e. Students will use bamboo brushes to paint with black ink on rice paper while learning about the four traditional Sumi-e brushstrokes and variations on them. They will then complete their own Japanese-inspired black ink paintings of nature scenes, including elements such as bamboo, flowers, leaves, and/or animals. The compositions will illustrate the Japanese concept of "less is more."

**LAPIDARY (ROCK POLISHING)** Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

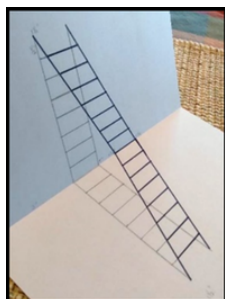
**Four Monday mornings starting June 29, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Instructor: Larry Rothenburger

**Four Thursday nights starting June 11, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Instructor: Jackie Burger. **Class fee: \$100 per four-week session**

Learn the art of rock polishing as you turn rough chunks of rock into beautifully polished gemstones. Create a pair of round or oval stones and then advance to more complex designs. Stones are not included but can be purchased from our instructor for projects.



**OPTICAL ILLUSIONS IN ART** Instructor: Sandy Safranek

**Wednesday, June 17, 1:00 -3:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$25 Plus a \$10 Materials fee**

Create optical illusions, based on the concept of Anamorphic Art, in which the artist uses visual tricks that fool our eyes. You will complete 3 different drawings of distorted images that will "spring to life" as 3-dimensional forms when you view them from a certain angle using the camera on your cell phone. Please bring a cell phone that has a camera to the workshop.

## **PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP: PAPER WEAVING**

**Tuesday, June 23, Noon - 2:00 p.m.** Instructor: Marilyn VandenBout

**Class fee: \$25 Plus a \$5 Materials fee**

Create your own handmade papers, then learn techniques in paper weaving to create original images ready to frame!



## **PLEIN AIRE WITH PASTELS LANDSCAPE DRAWING**

**Tuesday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. - Noon.**

**Class fee: \$25 Plus a \$10 Materials fee** Instructor: Heather Young

Plein Air refers to drawing or painting outdoors. We will set up at one of the many beautiful outdoor locations around the art center to draw the landscape or buildings. Then, work with colorful pastels to bring your image to life. Students will take home a finished piece of art in a mat, ready to be framed! Bring your own lawn chair, all art supplies will be provided.

## **POTTERY**

**Four Tuesday mornings starting June 2, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**or Four Tuesday mornings starting July 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Class fee for 4-week session: \$125 Plus a \$35 Materials fee** Instructor: Robin Power

**Three Monday afternoons starting June 15, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

**or Three Tuesday nights starting June 16, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Class fee for 3-week session: \$95 Plus a \$30 Materials fee** Instructor: Madeleine Burns

In this beginner's level class, students will take turns on the pottery wheel and create pieces by hand, learning the art of ceramics. Students will create with clay each week and then glaze on the last day. Pottery will need to be picked up after a final kiln firing.

## **SACRED SOUND AND RHYTHM: EXPERIENCE THE HARMONY WITHIN**

**Saturday, July 18, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Class fee: \$36 Plus a \$4 Materials fee.**

Instructors: Co-led by Eric Dean Spruth, MA, ATR and Dr. Cherie Lechner

Step into a deeply immersive and transformative experience where sound becomes medicine, rhythm becomes regulation, and your voice becomes a pathway back to yourself. In this unique workshop, we will explore the profound healing power of sound, music, and intentional expression together. You will leave feeling more aligned, more regulated, and more connected to your body, your voice, and your inner wisdom.

**STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP** Instructor: Savannah Kristof

**Sunday, June 14 or 21, and July 12 or 19 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$100 Plus a \$50 Materials fee per workshop**

Learn the steps to create a stained glass sun catcher from start to finish using the copper foil method. Students will choose glass colors and cut their glass, then grind, foil, and solder to finish their project. There will be multiple designs from which to choose, and they will be able to take their project home by the end of class. All supplies provided. Please wear closed-toe shoes.



**SUMMER DAYS, REFLECTIVE MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP** Instructor: Karen Signore

**Sunday, June 14, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$12 Materials fee**

Summer evokes a sense of adventure, lightness, expansiveness, and joy. Join us for a relaxing and rejuvenating afternoon as we celebrate the richness, warmth, and energy of summer and step into the season with intention and inspiration. Explore the personal symbolism and meaning summer holds for you through guided meditation and reflective journaling. Create a summer-themed collage choosing from a variety of patterned papers, images, embellishments, and paints. No art or journaling experience needed.

**TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP** Instructor: Jack Martin

**Thursday, June 25, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Workshop fee: \$20**

Travel Photography will cover simple photographic tools, techniques, tips, and tricks to improve your photography while on vacation or just taking shots around town. Learn what the pros know about simple composition, how to elevate the image, and how to deal with problem situations. Know what makes a great image and what went wrong with a failure. No experience necessary. This program will help the novice, along with the experienced photographer, all levels are invited. Presentation will cover all types of cameras, cell phones, DSLRs, mirrorless cameras, etc.



**WOODCARVING** Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

**Six Thursdays starting June 4, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Class fee: \$125 per six-week session**

Learn and practice the tools and techniques of woodcarving in basswood. New students will gain knife-handling skills and create beautiful, simple relief, or three-dimensional projects such as a star, shoe, or bird. If you are experienced, you may design your own projects. Wood and bench knives are available for purchase in class from the instructor (approximately \$25 for wood and bench knives)

## **REJUVENATE YOURSELF AT THE CENTER, YOGA, AND MORE!**

*Class will take place in the beautiful Forest View Room in The Lodge. Bring your own yoga mat and props.*

**GENTLE YOGA** Instructor: Maura Therese

**Four Friday mornings starting July 10, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Class fee: \$60**

These 75-minute hatha yoga classes are perfect for releasing tension, connecting with the breath, and helping students gain strength and flexibility.

**SUNDAY MORNING SUMMER YOGA SERIES** Instructor: Maura Therese

**Sundays, June 28, July 26, or August 23, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Class fee: \$15 per class**

Treat yourself to a yoga class that's "Easy like Sunday Morning", a gentle session to help you ease into your Sunday. Expect mindful, breath-led movement at your own pace and leave with that "good morning stretch" feeling. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga blocks if you have them. Register for one, two, or all three of the workshops!



**TRANQUIL YOGA** Instructor: Debbie Jacob

**Four Monday nights starting June 1, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$60**

**Three Thursday nights starting June 25, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$45**

Start your week off right with one hour of gentle yoga and a sprinkling of Qigong and natural movements for simple challenges to your everyday posture transitions. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga strap.

**GONG BATH** Facilitator: Debbie Jacob, Vibrational Sound Therapy Certified Practitioner

**Sunday, June 7, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., or Sunday, July 12, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Fee: \$25 per event**

Spend an evening immersed in the serene sounds and vibrations of the gong, accompanied by singing crystal and Tibetan bowls. Relax on your yoga mat and allow these ancient healing sounds and vibrations to wash over and through your body to deepen your state of relaxation. Don't forget to bring your yoga mat, pillow and blanket to maximize your relaxing experience. Will take place in the Forest View Room. Advance registration required.

*Pre-registration is required 24 hours in advance for all Log Cabin classes and workshops. Class and materials fees are due at time of registration; we cannot reserve space without payment. No refunds or transfers of fees are available for cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to the beginning of class. Any cancellations made by students will subtract a \$10 administration fee. To register you can visit our website at [thecenterpalos.org](http://thecenterpalos.org) You can also call 708-361-3650 or visit our main office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily.*





# FARM & NATURE DISCOVERY SCHOOL



We have officially made it through our 2025-2026 school year! What a beautiful year we had filled with adventure, laughs, and making lasting memories. One of my favorite things to do at the end of the year is slowly walk down memory lane and think of everything I am thankful for from the school year. I'd love to share some of those with you now.

I am so grateful for the teaching team that I have with me. They are hands down, the most dedicated, loyal, passionate, and hardworking team I have ever had the pleasure of working with. They never hesitate to go above and beyond to make sure these children have the best experience. Our teachers never fail to provide a loving, fun, and creative space for these students to grow and learn. They effortlessly work together, build each other up, and support each other. I know employees tend to roll their eyes when they hear "we are a family here," but I don't think any of our teachers would roll their eyes. I would like to think they would agree 100%.

I will always be grateful for this unique environment we have the privilege to teach in. What a gorgeous space to come just be in! The space to explore a full pumpkin patch, a hill to sled down, wildlife and farm animals to learn about, hay rack rides, and magical spaces to inspire and spark curiosity. If I need to take a break from my computer screen, I just get to walk into a classroom and get my fill of hugs and smiles from the kiddos. I can just shut my laptop and head out with a class to get some fresh air and photos to share. I will never take for granted how truly blessed I am to lead such a school. A school that can be a safe space for all children, families, and teachers to learn, grow, and play together.



I am extremely appreciative for the opportunity to get to know these beautiful children and their families. Sending a child to school for the first time can be scary for parents and their child. We feel so honored when families trust in us to help them through that transition and be their family's first experience with school. We have the most generous and supportive families in our community. They never fail to show up and are always asking how they can help. A huge thank you to all of our school families. We couldn't have this beautiful, growing community without you all. A special shout-out to The Hive and their president, Brittany Stevenson. This is a group of school moms who have dedicated their time, creativity, and resources to help plan, prepare, and implement several fundraising events for us! Without them, we wouldn't have been able to secure our new cubby system for our halls.

We will be having a Summer School the first week of June. This is an opportunity for current students to spend one more week with their friends. It is also an opportunity for new students already registered for the '26-'27 school year to explore their future educational space and program! Students will spend their mornings exploring different parts of our farm and acreage, participating in fun activities and games!

Registration for our 2026-2027 school year is open on our website. We have plenty of space in our afternoon classes. We have also opened up a "Late Bird" Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten class that provides the same curriculum of morning JK/K classes. It runs from 12:15-3:30, Monday through Friday. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our school, feel free to reach out to me, Danielle Bell, via phone at 708-361-8933 or by email at [FarmandNature@TheCenterPalos.org](mailto:FarmandNature@TheCenterPalos.org)



## Something Fresh Is Growing at The Children's Farm!

We're excited to partner with The O.A.K. Farm and Kitchen LLC to offer a limited number of Summer CSA shares!

A full-season Summer CSA share is \$1,000, providing fresh, seasonal produce and proteins to your kitchen throughout the summer. When you purchase a share, you're not just buying groceries. You're becoming part of a community that values real food, responsible farming, and local agriculture. This is your opportunity to invest in your family's health while supporting local, sustainable farming.

Our Summer CSA runs July through October, providing four months of fresh, seasonal food straight from the farm to your table. Pickups will be conveniently located in our farm store and occur twice per month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends of the month.

We anticipate each share will provide enough food to cover a large majority of dinners over a two-week period for a family of two. For a family of four, we recommend purchasing two shares to ensure you have enough to fill the table.

### What Are the Benefits of Joining our CSA?

1. Superior Quality
2. Superior Taste
3. First Dibs on High-Demand Items
4. Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food
5. Convenience
6. Great Value
7. Experience the Rhythm of Seasonal Eating

### What Might a Share Look Like?

- 1 lb ground beef
- 2 bone-in pork chops
- 1 pack cheddar bratwurst
- 2 lb chuck roast
- 8 oz kale, shishito peppers, and tomatoes
- 1 large yellow squash
- 2 cucumbers
- Chives & thyme

Each pickup will include:

5 - 7 varieties of fresh, seasonal produce grown using sustainable, organic practices

One dozen farm-fresh eggs

Approximately 5 pounds of beef and pork varieties

We would love to have you join us this summer and experience the difference of locally and responsibly raised food. For more information or to purchase shares, visit our website. Contact tarag@thecenterpalos.org with any questions.



# Open Farm Hours June, July & August

Saturday & Sunday  
10am-2pm

ANIMAL BARN • HAYRACK RIDES  
WALKING TRAILS • CONCESSIONS

Admission: \$9/person for ages 2+



...plus, shop our Farm Store!

Honey, Fresh Eggs & Produce,  
Local Beef & Pork, & MORE!



## We still have space available... 2026 OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMPS FOR TEENS

AT THE CHILDRENS FARM



**OUTDOOR  
ADVENTURE  
FOR TEENS**  
\$2360  
Grades 8th - 10th

- Twelve Night Sessions
- Drop Off - Sunday 4:30 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Off Site Adventure Challenges
- Wilderness camping
- Animal & Horse Time
- Creek-walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & Cookouts
- Off site campout
- Group Activities
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living
- 3 sessions offered

**RANCH  
CAMP**  
\$2360  
Grades 8th - 10th

- Twelve Night Sessions
- Drop Off - Sunday 4:30 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Horse Chores
- Daily Horse Care + grooming & saddling
- Daily Riding Lesson & Group Rides
- Creek-walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & cookouts
- Off site campout
- Group Activities
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living
- 3 sessions offered

**TEEN  
LEADERSHIP**  
\$1390  
Grades 10TH - 12TH

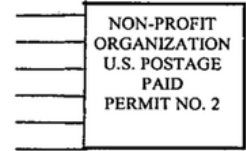
*Designed for teens with a desire to become part of our camp leadership team at The Center. Participants who successfully complete this program will be eligible to attend other weeks of camp as a Counselor in Training.*

- June 17 - 26
- Drop Off - Wednesday 4 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Camp Leadership Training
- Team Building
- Off Site trips
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living

**NEED BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!**



The Center



The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community  
Parish and Community Center Foundation  
12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, IL 60464  
708-361-3650  
Website: <http://www.thecenterpalos.org>  
Email: [admin@thecenterpalos.org](mailto:admin@thecenterpalos.org)

**DATED MATERIAL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# Summer Supper Series

**Gather at the table. Savor the season. Experience the farm.**

Join us for an outdoor farm-to-table dinner series in our open-air pavilion. Each meal is prepared by O.A.K. Farm & Kitchen's chef and farmer, Kat, using regenerative proteins and fresh, seasonal ingredients from The Children's Farm. Following dinner, guests are invited to enjoy a hayrack ride and guided tour led by our farmers and growers. See firsthand the animals, pastures, and fields that nourished your meal, and ask questions along the way. Slow down, share a meal, and experience the beauty and abundance of the farm!

**3 Suppers, 3 Seasons, 3 Different Menus**  
**\$45 per person, per meal, or \$120 for the full series**

<b>SAT. JULY 11</b>	<b>5PM-7PM</b>	<b>BBQ SAMPLER</b>
<b>SAT. AUGUST 8</b>	<b>5PM-7PM</b>	<b>HAND THROWN PIZZAS</b>
<b>SUN. SEPTEMBER 13</b>	<b>1PM-3PM</b>	<b>OKTOBERFEST FEAST</b>

