

Happening **today, 8/3:**

- 8:45 AM Sunday School – *All ages*
- 10:00 AM Worship | *Sanctuary*
- 11:15 AM Table 2 Table | *Fellowship Hall*
- 11:45 AM 🇺🇸 Reconciling Ministries | *Room 219*

Happening this **week, 8/4-8/10:**

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|-----------|----------|--|
| MON, 8/4 | 5:45 PM | Theology Pub <i>Village Pub</i> |
| TUE, 8/5 | 2:00 PM | Dementia Partners AVL <i>Library</i> |
| | 5:00 PM | Allies for Equity <i>Zoom</i> |
| THU, 8/6 | 8:00 AM | Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i> |
| | 10:00 AM | Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i> |
| SAT, 8/9 | 2:00 PM | Eileen Fulton Visitation <i>Fellowship Hall</i> |
| | 3:00 PM | Eileen Fulton Memorial Service <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| SUN, 8/10 | 8:45 AM | Sunday School – <i>All ages</i> |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| | 11:15 AM | New-ish to Central Coffee Hour <i>Library</i> |

For more information about these activities, go to [CentralUMC.org/Events](#).

🌍 **Eco-Tip:** Over one-third of all food in the United States is wasted 🍌🍎, according to government groups. This waste harms people who don’t have enough to eat and contributes to greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. Out of gratitude for our bounty and to help others, address this problem in your own home.

Central.Congregational Care.



Recovering from a medical event? Maybe Recovery Care Resources can be of help!

Recovery Care Resources is a unique care ministry that Central provides for our church members and community! RCR is designed for those returning home from a hospital or rehab stay or recovering from a medical event but do

not have easy access to support from family, friend, or neighbors. RCR offers assistance in connecting with appropriate community resources. **Contact Pastor Lisa** for more details especially if this situation may apply to you. RCR wants your recovery to go smoothly and well!



Pastoral Care Ministry

Taking care of our church family is important to our pastoral staff. It is important to **let them know** if you are homebound, facing surgery, other medical procedures or treatment so that phone calls, visits, and Communion can be arranged.

Deborah Circle Gathering | TUE, SEPT 9 | 10:00 AM

Deborah Circle will meet at the home of a member on **Monday, September 9 at 10:00 AM**. We’ll enjoy fellowship after our summer break and plan our programs and service projects for the year, with a special focus on addressing food swamps and food deserts in our area—especially in the aftermath of the hurricane. **All are welcome!** For more information, contact **Susan Snell** at ssnell123@bellsouth.net.

Ministry Staff

- Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor
MBrown@CentralUMC.org
- Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care
LRettew@CentralUMC.org
- Regan Duke, Children and Youth Summer Intern
ChildrensMinistry1@CentralUMC.org
- Corey Powell, Organist & Director of Music Ministries
CPowell@CentralUMC.org
- Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music
LHaggard@CentralUMC.org
- Richard Provine, Director of Central Brass
RProvine@CentralUMC.org

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through 6/30/25:

- Year to Date Offering: \$724,619.09
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,500,000.00

Sermon Discussion Questions

Continue to reflect on today's message by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- If someone had asked you before today about "doubting Thomas," what would you have told them?
- What new insights did Brian offer you today about "doubting Thomas"?
- What is God calling you to do this week in response to this message?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

It’s a “Summer of Psalms!” As you read a Psalm each day, try reading them out loud. Listen for a line or phrase that feels especially meaningful. Consider re-reading that line out loud and then sitting in silence with it for 5 to 10 minutes.

- Monday: Psalm 39
- Tuesday: Psalm 40
- Wednesday: Psalm 41
- Thursday: Psalm 42
- Friday: Psalm 43
- Saturday: Psalm 44
- Sunday: Psalm 45

Next week in worship...

Rev. Lisa Rettew, our Minister of Congregational Care, will bring the message from Hebrews 11 about faith.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Lisa Rettew

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “The Grace of Jesus” Godwin Sadoh

Prayer cards and name tags are available in the attendance pad at the end of each pew. You can also find prayer cards in the pew rack in front of you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Rettew
Hymnal 658

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
But how can we believe without seeing?
We may not see Christ on the cross –
But we can experience the freedom of forgiveness.
We may not see the empty tomb –
But we can experience new life.
May we experience God’s love and believe!
May we show God’s love so that all might believe!

***HYMN 159** “Lift High the Cross” CRUCIFER

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:24-28 Kay Sharpton

SERMON “Confessing Thomas” Rev. Brian Combs

OFFERTORY “Slow Down” Chuck Girard
Kathy Barber, soloist

While the choir makes their musical offering, the ushers will pass plates for those who wish to offer a financial gift or prayer request. You may also use this QR code to make a financial gift. As you pass the plate—whether or not you give—we invite you to pause and reflect on what you hope to offer God this week.



***DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”
Hymnal 94

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND TABLE Rev. Brian Combs
Hymnal 12 Rev. Lisa Rettew

COMMUNION MUSIC
617 “I Come with Joy”
613 “O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread”
365 “Grace Greater Than Our Sin”
467 “Trust and Obey”

*HYMN “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” DENNIS
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

*BENEDICTION Rev. Brian Combs

*CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

*VOLUNTARY “Earth and All Stars” arr. Michael Burkhardt

**Please stand, if you are able.*


There will be no Children’s Church today. A livestream of the worship service is available in the library for families. Nursery care is available in Room 104 for children ages 0–5.


The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given by Ruth Circle in honor and loving memory of our sisters.

If you are interested in providing flowers for the Chancel, please contact Mary Margaret at marymargaretingle@gmail.com, especially for the weeks of November 9, and November 16

Plainclothes law enforcement officers are present during our services so that all may feel welcome, secure, and free to worship, fellowship and experience God’s grace freely. Our staff members are in direct communication with the officers should you feel the need to ask for assistance or voice a concern.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Table 2 Table Lunch | TODAY | 11:15 AM
Join us after worship for Table2Table! Enjoy a delicious meal provided by the Equal Plates Project as we gather around the table for food, fellowship, and learning. A suggested donation of \$10 per person helps support Equal Plates' important work—kids 4 and under eat free! Menu will be: Vegetable & cheese frittata, turkey (or pork) breakfast sausage, fruit, biscuits, apple butter, jam, and butter. 
RSVP today at centralumc.org/EVENTS or scan the QR code.

 Reconciling Ministries Meeting | TODAY | 11:45 AM
Join us in Room 219 after the meal. Share with LGBTQA+ people and allies serving local and global needs. During our meeting we will finalize plans for the Blue Ridge Pride Festival, September 26-28.

New-ish to Central? Join Us for Coffee! | SUN, AUG 10 | 11:15 AM
If you're new—or still feel new—at Central, we’d love to get to know you! Join us for our next “New(ish) to Central” Coffee Hour in the library. Pastor Mary will be there to answer questions and help you connect with others. Our next Membership Sunday is August 17.

Serve at Haywood St. Congregation | WED, AUG 13 | 11:00 AM
Haywood St. hosts a free Welcome Table meal every Wednesday. On Aug. 12, Central will provide volunteers to help serve. Contact Pastor Mary to sign-up or for more info.

Summer Sunday Singing Is Here!
Ever wanted to sing in the choir—or just love to sing? Join Linda and Corey in the sanctuary at 9:15 AM on Sundays this summer for fun, no-pressure singing. No robes, no procession—just music, fellowship, and joy. All are welcome!

Old Testament 101 | WEDS, SEP 3-DEC 17 | 5:30 PM: Ever wished you knew the Bible better? This fall, Rev. Mary Brown and Rick Kuenning will co-lead a 12-week in-person group study titled Old Testament 101. Whether you're new to the Bible or simply looking to deepen your understanding, this accessible overview will help you become more confident in reading and interpreting the Old Testament. Each week, participants will explore key themes, historical context, and how these ancient scriptures continue to speak into our lives today. Participants should plan to spend approximately 30 minutes per day reading and preparing for discussion. Choir members are welcome to participate and may step out after the first hour if needed. Space is limited to 35 participants. Cost: \$15 (scholarships available). To register, please contact Jan Griffin at JGriffin@CentralUMC.org.


Downtown After 5 | FRI, AUG 15 | 5:00 PM
Wear your Central UMC t-shirt and join us as we take our fellowship to the streets at Downtown After 5, Asheville’s free live music festival series in the heart of downtown. Connect with our community, enjoy good music, and spend time with your Central family. Keep an eye out for Regan while you’re there—she’d love to see you! Questions? Contact Regan

Membership Sunday | SUN, AUG 17
If you’d like to officially join the church, please fill out the Intent to Unite form on our website at CentralUMC.org/MEMBERSHIP-REQUEST. Pastor Mary or Pastor Lisa will follow up with you to set up a time to talk. Joining the church is more than a formality—it’s a public profession of your faith in Christ and a meaningful commitment to live out that faith in community with Central UMC. Have questions? Pastor Mary would love to talk with you!

Blood Pressure Checks | SUN, AUG 17 | 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Take a moment to care for your health! Free blood pressure checks will be offered in the Library at two convenient times: 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM. Registered Nurses (RNs) will be on hand to provide quick, confidential screenings. Whether you're managing a health condition or staying proactive, this is an easy way to check in on your wellness. All are welcome—no appointment necessary!

Mt. City Montessori Back to School Night | MON, AUG 18 | 4:00–6:00 PM:
We'll have a table with refreshments and flyers about upcoming children and youth events. Want to help? Contact Cameron Smith at clg7498@gmail.com.


Welcome Back Mt. City Montessori School | WED, AUG 20
Over 180 students will return to campus, bringing energy and life to our shared space! Traffic Alert: Please note that afternoon carline will resume on August 20, which may cause traffic delays on Church St.: M–T: 2:50–3:10 PM, and F: 12:50–1:10 PM. To avoid congestion, consider parking at the Buncombe Street Parking Garage during these times. Thanks for helping us support our neighbors and share our space with grace!

Asheville Tourists Game | TUE, AUG 19 | 6:30 PM:
Let’s go out to the ballgame! Join your Central friends at the Asheville Tourists game. Our group tickets are 13/person. Game starts at 6:30pm; gates open at 5:30pm. Register & pay online by Monday 8/11. Let’s see how many people we can get to fill the stands, wear our Central t-shirts (if you have one), and root, root, root for the home team!!! Register at CentralUMC.org/Events or scan the QR code. 

A Big Day at Central! | SUN, AUG 24:
Join us for a special day of welcome, celebration, and preparation:

- Welcome Breakfast for Maggie Christy | 8:45 AM
Come meet and greet Maggie Christy, our new Director of Children and Youth Discipleship, during a breakfast in her honor during the Sunday School hour.
- Promotion Sunday | During Worship
We’ll celebrate all children and youth moving into new age groups and classes. Families are encouraged to attend as we bless our young people and the adults who guide them.
- Leadership Central | 11:15 AM – 3:30 PM
All committee and ministry leaders are invited to this important mini-retreat to connect, plan, and set direction for the coming year. Lunch provided!

Children & Youth Fall Kickoff | SUN, SEP 7
Celebrate the start of Fall Programming! After Worship, join us for our Table 2 Table all-church meal provided by Equal Plates Project. Suggested donation: \$10 per person. Kids 4 and under eat free. Max family cost: \$30. Everyone is welcome—whether you can cover the meal or not. Plus, Kona Ice will be on site for a sweet treat!

 Program Kickoff Times

- Youth Choir & Kids Club – 11:15 AM
- Children’s Choir – 11:45 AM

Welcome Cookout for Maggie Christy at Haw Creek | SUN, SEP 7 | 5:00 PM
Round out your Sunday at Haw Creek for a special Welcome Cookout for our new Director of Children & Youth Discipleship, Maggie Christy!

SAVE THE DATE! Here are some upcoming events to mark on your calendar!

- A Service of Remembrance for Helene | FRI, SEP 26 | 4:00 PM
A joint offering from First Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Central United Methodist Church.
- Native Plants: Beauty and Blessing | OCT 2025
A project to remove invasive species and plant native flora on the south end of our campus.
- Three Church Concert & Service, Habitat Fundraiser | FRI, NOV 7
A joint concert of First Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Central United Methodist Church fundraiser for Ashville Area Habitat
- friendsGIVING | WED, NOV 12
An evening at Highland Brewing event center to enjoy music, hearty appetizers, and inspiring stories from some of our mission partners.