

Happening **today, 8/17:**

8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
9:30 AM	<a href="#">Blood Pressure Checks</a>   <i>Library</i>
10:00 AM	<b>Membership Sunday</b>   <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00 AM	<a href="#">Blood Pressure Checks</a>   <i>Library</i>
11:15 AM	<a href="#">Chalk The Block</a>

Happening this **week, 8/18–8/24:**

MON, 8/18	ALL-DAY	<i>Maggie Christy’s First Day</i>
	4:00 PM	Mt. City Montessori Back to School Night
	5:45 PM	Theology Pub   <i>Village Pub</i>
TUE, 8/19	ALL-DAY	<i>Regan Duke’s Last Day</i>
	12:00 PM	<a href="#">Dementia Partners AVL</a>   <i>Library</i>
	6:30 PM	Central at Asheville Tourists
WED, 8/20	6:00 PM	<a href="#">Dementia Partners AVL</a>   <i>Haw Creek Congregational Care Council</i>   <i>Zoom</i>
THU, 8/21	8:00 AM	<a href="#">Thursday Morning Prayer</a>   <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	<a href="#">Circle of Prayer</a>   <i>Zoom</i>
SUN, 8/24	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship   <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 AM	Leadership Central   <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	11:30 AM	<a href="#">Creation Care Committee</a>   <i>Conference Room</i>

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

**Eco-Tip:** A zero-waste economy and a circular economy both focus on sustainability, reducing harmful gases, and fighting climate change—but they take different approaches to get there. 🌍 Curious about how these ideas can help protect creation from harm? Take some time to learn more, and discover ways you can be part of the solution.

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

 **Pride Interfaith Worship | SUN, SEP 27**

An interfaith worship service prior to Blue Ridge Pride 2025

**Native Plants: Beauty and Blessing | OCT 2025**

A project to remove invasive species and plant native flora on the south end of our campus by CUMC’s Creation Care.

**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 Asheville 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.

**Deborah Circle Gathering | TUE, SEP 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](mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net).



Financial Update through **7/31/25:**

- Year to Date Offering: \$802,284.46
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,500,000.00

**Ministry Staff**

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

**Sermon Discussion Questions**

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

- What do you worry about? Is it the same thing most of the time, or periodic things depending on your situation?
- “A nail is driven out by another nail; habit is overcome by habit” (Erasmus). How does this quote apply to Jesus’ instruction, “Do not worry”?
- How might the habit of a tithe or an offering drive out worry over material needs? What does your practice of giving look like now? How could you make it more regular (weekly or monthly; an amount or percentage)?
- Try the habit of giving this fall and pay attention to how it changes your worries over material possessions.

**Daily Suggested Scripture Readings**

It’s been a Summer of Psalms! Although that sermon series has ended, the Psalms still have something to speak to us. 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 53
- Tuesday: Psalm 54
- Wednesday: Psalm 55
- Thursday: Psalm 56
- Friday: Psalm 57
- Saturday: Psalm 58
- Sunday: Psalm 59

**Next week in worship...**

It’s the last Sunday before school! (At least for our Asheville City and Buncombe County students... some are already back at it!) Join us for a special message, an acknowledgement of milestones and blessing for our students, and a big welcome for Maggie Christy our new Director of Children and Youth Discipleship!



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 17, 2025 | 10:00 am

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY** “Toccata on Old 100<sup>th</sup>” Robert Lau

*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** based on **Luke 12:22-31** Rev. Lisa Rettew

Who among us doesn’t need to hear these words:  
“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.  
For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.”

Who among us doesn’t need to hear these words:  
“God feeds the ravens and clothes the lilies;  
how much more will God feed and clothe you?”  
Every one of us worries. Every one of us needs to be reminded:  
“Instead, seek God’s kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.”

**\*HYMN 89** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” HYMN TO JOY

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Rev. Lisa Rettew  
Ending with the Lord’s Prayer: Hymnal 895

**PSALTER** Psalm 80, Response 2 Melisse Latini  
*Hymnal 801*

**RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS** Ken and Lisa Carrig; Steve Reeder; Michael and Marty Leoce; Rhonda Freeman  
*Hymnal 37* Laura Bale

**OFFERTORY** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” Clara Scott  
“O Perfect Love” Josph Barnby  
Sheila Johnson & Rhonda Freeman, handbell duet

While the musicians make 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*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 12:32-40 Greg Petersen

**CHILDREN’S SERMON** Regan Duke  
*Following Children’s Time, children in K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to be part of Children’s Church in the Chapel. Children ages 5 and under may leave at this time to go to the nursery with our childcare staff. Children Must have name tags on them. The name tag table is located outside the Sanctuary by the Library.*

**SERMON** “How to Drive Out Worry” Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada  
*Hymnal 883*

**\*HYMN 451** “Be Thou My Vision” SLANE

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY** “Tuba Tune” C.S. Lang

**\*Please stand, if you are able.**

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 Doug and Louisa Combs in honor of a lifetime marriage of 55 years, on August 22. Doug and Louisa honor their faith, love, and long-term commitment to each other by the grace of God.

If you are interested in providing flowers for the Chancel, please contact Mary Margaret at [marymargaretingle@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Blood Pressure Checks | TODAY | 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!

**Chalk The Block | TODAY | After Worship**  
The young—and the young at heart—are invited to join the Children’s Ministry outside the Fellowship Hall and along the Church Street sidewalks to create positive, encouraging, and affirming sidewalk art. Help us bring beauty and color to our sidewalks as we cheer on our friends at Mountain City Public Montessori, who head back to school that week!

**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](mailto: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 Aug. 20, which may cause traffic delays on Church St.: **M–Th: 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!

**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!

**Chancel Choir Fall Kickoff | SAT, AUG 23 | 5:00 PM**  
Join us for dinner and fellowship at the home of Lauralee and Mike Bailey as we kick off the fall season! All Chancel Choir members, along with their families and friends, are invited. Questions? **Contact Linda Haggard.**

**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!

**Old Testament 101 | WEDNESDAYS, 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](mailto:JGriffin@CentralUMC.org).



United Women in Faith Circles Resume!		
Eve Circle	TUE, SEP 2	10:00 AM
Ruth Circle	TUE, SEP 2	10:00 AM
Anna Circle	TUE, SEP 3	9:30 AM
Deborah Circle	TUE, SEP 9	10:00 AM
Martha Circle	TUE, SEP 9	6:30 PM
Unnamed Women’s Circle	TUE, SEP 10	6:00 PM

**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**

**Youth Group and Cookout with Maggie Christy | SUN, SEP 7 | 5:00 PM**  
All middle and high school students—and their families—are invited to Haw Creek for an evening of youth group fun, food, and fellowship as we kick off the year and welcome our new Director of Children & Youth Discipleship, Maggie!

**PUSHOUT Documentary | SAT, SEP 13 | 10:00 AM:** Join us for a special screening of Pushout. This film challenges stereotypes and sheds light on the barriers Black girls face in our education system. All are welcome to attend and participate in a post-screening discussion.

**Upper Room Cost Update**  
The cost for The Upper Room devotional has increased. Starting July 28, the price will be \$2.00 for the regular print edition and \$3.00 for the large print edition. Copies are available in the reception area.

**Equal Plates Project Fundraiser | THU, SEP 18 | 5:00 PM:** Join Equal Plates Project (EPP) for a seasonal dinner & creative mocktails featuring local ingredients by James Beard – nominate chef, John Flee along with EPP chefs. For tickets and pricing scan the **QR Code:**



**A Service of Remembrance for Hurricane Helene | FRI, SEP 26 | 4:00 PM**  
On September 27, 2024, our community experienced the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene. In the days that followed, we came together—neighbor to neighbor—to survive, recover, and begin to rebuild. Now, one year later, we invite you to gather once again for *A Service of Remembrance*, a joint offering from First Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Central.

Through prayer, Scripture, and song, we will grieve what was lost, remember what we endured, and find hope in what still unites us. All are welcome.

**College Student Care Ministry:** Central UMC sends our college students a note, devotional, and small gift card four times a year to remind them they’re loved. If you’d like your student included, email their current mailing address to **Jan at [JGriffin@CentralUMC.org](mailto:JGriffin@CentralUMC.org)** by late September. First mailing goes out in October.

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## Central.Congregational Care.



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

**Recovery Care Resources** (RCR) is a unique care ministry offered by Central to support both our church members and the wider community. RCR is designed for individuals returning home after a hospital or rehab stay, or recovering from a medical event, who may not have easy access to help from family, friends, or neighbors. RCR provides assistance in connecting with appropriate community resources to help ensure a smooth recovery. If this sounds like a service that could benefit you or someone you know, please contact Pastor Lisa for more information.



**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.