


Happening **today, 8/24:**

- 8:45 AM Sunday School – *All ages*
- 10:00 AM Worship | *Sanctuary*
- 11:00 AM **Leadership Central** | *Fellowship Hall*

Happening this **week, 8/25–8/31:**

MON, 8/25	5:45 PM	Theology Pub <i>Village Pub</i>
TUE, 8/26	12:00 PM	Building Committee Mtg. <i>Conference Room</i>
	1:30 PM	Church & Society <i>Zoom</i>
WED, 8/27	1:00 AM	Chancel Choir Begins!
THU, 8/28	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
SUN, 8/31	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Meeting <i>Conference Room</i>

For more information about these activities, go to CentralUMC.org/Events.

 **Eco-Tip:** Each year in Buncombe County, residents and visitors use about **132 million plastic shopping bags** — **100 million by locals** and **30 million by tourists**. These bags can be recycled into **decking boards** (like Trex), but **only if** they are taken back to participating local stores. Do **not** place them in the city recycling bin — they cannot be processed there.

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

-  **Pride Interfaith Worship | SAT, 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.

Eve Circle Resumes | TUE, SEP 2 | 10:00 AM | Parlor

Eve Circle will be resuming monthly meetings. Members will share reports on books from the 2025 UWF reading list. Over the summer, the group provided meals at Haywood Street Congregation and collected supplies for Homeward Bound. For more information or to get involved, contact **Sharon LeDuc** at skleduc@prodigy.net.

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.

Ministry Staff

- Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor
MBrown@CentralUMC.org
- Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care
LRettew@CentralUMC.org
- Maggie Christy, Director of Children and Youth Discipleship
MChristy@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 7/31/25:

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

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

- What is (or was) your favorite school supply? Notebooks, pens, backpack, clothes?
- If your life was a school notebook, what kind of condition would it be in? What would its contents be like?
- When you think of Christ making you new, what kind of change do you pray for?
- How can you contribute toward God making all things new?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

As our students go back to school, it’s a special opportunity to read and pray together. With each daily passage consider what these words might have to say for a new school year:

- Monday: *Proverbs 3:1-12*
- Tuesday: *James 1:2-8*
- Wednesday: *Philippians 4:1-9*
- Thursday: *1 Timothy 4:7b-16*
- Friday: *Proverbs 1:1-7*
- Saturday: *Psalm 119:105-112*

Next week in worship...

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2). This well-known passage can have special meaning for us in a tourist town and a society of us-and-them thinking. Join us as we reflect on its meaning for us today.



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 24, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

“Aria”

Noel Rawsthorne

Sharon Boone, Guest Organist

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

In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.

Everything old has passed away.

Everything has become new!

This newness is from God,
who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.

Rejoice and be glad!

Everything has become new.

***HYMN 400**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Ending with the Lord’s Prayer: *Hymnal 895*

OFFERTORY

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

ST. ELIZABETH

Summer Choir and Sharon Boone, Guest Organist

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

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 5:16-21

Beth Devereaux

BLESSING FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Maggie Christy

Adapted from *Every Moment Holy, Volume 1*

Leader:

May we learn to love learning, O Lord, for the world is yours,
and all things in it speak – each in their way – of you:

All:
of your mind, your designs,
your artistry, your power,
and your unfolding purpose.

Leader:
You are the source of all knowledge.
You are the source of all wisdom.

Students:
As I learn, may I remember
that all the world is your creation
that all stories are part of your story
that all ideas are seeking your thoughts.
As I learn, may I above all learn about you.

Parents and Families:
Bless our students with teachers who are passionate,
with mentors who are compassionate,
and with administrators who are full of joy and wisdom.

Leader:
When subjects at first seem tedious,
reward our students with new insights –
and remind them that you are with them in all circumstances.
Give them not just knowledge,
but patience, endurance, and discipline.

Students:
Grant us a deeper knowledge of truth.
Guard our minds against error;
guard our hearts against temptation.
Keep us from falling into the traps of shame or pride.
Help us be good stewards of the minds you have given us.

Leader:
Above all, remember:
You are more than your grade point average.
You are loved and forgiven.
You are a child of God –
and God goes with you, always. Amen.

SERMON “New School Supplies” Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles Creed
Hymnal 881

***HYMN 577** “God of Grace and God of Glory” CWM RHONDDA

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Postlude in D” Healey Willan
Sharon Boone, Guest Organist

**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 for all the Saints who are now in heaven above, who from their labors rest in God above, by Harry and Marsha Wright.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Sandra Dotson, sister of Linda Marshall, who died August 14, 2025.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Carl Orndoff, brother of Sharon LeDuc, who died August 21, 2025.

The red rose on the altar today is placed in honor of Elizabeth “Shev” Rose Doliner, daughter of Joe & Link Doliner, who was born on August 8, 2025.

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

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

Leadership Central | TODAY | 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.

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

For more info go to CentralUMC.org/UWF.

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. Interested? Contact Kathy Leftwich at kathleencleftwich@gmail.com for more info.

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.

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.


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 by late September. First mailing goes out in October.



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.