






Happening **today, 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>

Happening this **week, 9/1–9/7:**

MON, 9/1	All-Day	Church Offices Closed
	5:45 PM	Theology Pub <i>Village Pub</i>
TUE, 9/2	10:00 AM	Eve Circle <i>Parlor</i>
	10:00 AM	Ruth Circle <i>Library</i>
	12:00 PM	Building Committee Mtg. <i>Conference Room</i>
	1:30 PM	Trustees Meeting <i>Conference Room</i>
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL <i>Library</i>
	5:00 PM	Allies for Equity <i>Zoom</i>
WED, 9/3	10:00 AM	Anna Circle <i>Parlor</i>
	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer <i>Parlor</i>
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101 Begins <i>Rms 219 & 220</i>
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL <i>Haw Creek</i>
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 9/4	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
SUN, 9/7	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
		Children & Youth Fall Kickoff!!
	11:15 AM	Table 2 Table <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club
	11:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	11:45 AM	Reconciling Ministries Group <i>Rm 219</i>
	12:00 PM	Young Parent Gathering <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:00 PM	Youth Group Cookout with Maggie <i>Haw Creek</i>

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

 **Eco-Tip:** Run-off fertilizer can pollute water , cause harmful algal blooms, and deplete oxygen needed by fish . Use fertilizer carefully and properly, making sure none washes into streams, rivers, or lakes.  .

- SAVE THE DATE!** Here are some upcoming events to mark on your calendar!
-  **Pride Interfaith Worship | SAT, SEP 27 | 9:00 AM**
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.

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:

- When have you been a stranger somewhere? When have you been alone and unknown?
- “Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them” (Hebrews 13:3). What would it be like to be in prison? How would it feel? How would it change the way you treat someone who is (or has been) incarcerated to put yourself in their shoes?
- “Remember those who are suffering as if you yourself were suffering” (Hebrews 13:3). When have you suffered deeply? Who do you know who is suffering now? How might your prior experience change the way you treat them?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Continue to reflect on our call to love *all* our neighbors (even those who are strangers to us) with these daily passages:

- Monday: Genesis 18:1-15
- Tuesday: Hebrews 11:8-16
- Wednesday: Hebrews 13:1-8
- Thursday: Ephesians 2:11-22
- Friday: Romans 12:9-21
- Saturday: Matthew 25:31-46

Next week in worship...

Join us as we begin a six-week series on the life of David! Each week we’ll look at a key relationship in David’s life and explore what it tells us about our relationships with God and others. We begin with David and Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Come and invite someone to join you – everyone is welcome, without exception.



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” arr. Diane Bish
Steve McClure, 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

Friends, let us love one another.

Yes – let us love one another!

Let us love those who are in prison
as if we were in prison with them.

**Let us love those who are suffering
as if we are suffering with them.**

Let us love those who are strangers
as if we weren’t strangers at all.

Yes – let us love one another!

***HYMN 185** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” LAUDES DOMINI

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lisa Rettew

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

OFFERTORY “What Wondrous Love Is This” Linda Wells
Patricia Sands, 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

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Ron Payne

CHILDREN’S SERMON Maggie Christy
Following Children’s Time, children in K – 5th 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 “Hospitality to Strangers” Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Affirmation for 1 Cor and Colossians
Hymnal 888

***HYMN 384** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” BEECHER

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Trumpet Tune and Air” Henry Purcell
Steve McClure, Guest Organist

**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 Bob Daniels in loving memory of Bunny Daniels and our parents and in honor of our children, grandchildren, and their spouses.

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

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
United Women in Faith Circles Resume!

Eve Circle Sharon LeDuc: skleduc@prodigy.net Donna Anderson: danderson45@charter.net	TUE, SEP 2 10:00 AM	Parlor
Ruth Circle Kim Everette: kimeverette525@gmail.com	TUE, SEP 2 10:00 AM	Library
Anna Circle Carol Rychly: rychly2@gmail.com Mary Ann Wansong: wansongma@charter.net	WED, SEP 3 10:00 AM	Parlor
Deborah Circle Susan Snell: ssnell123@bellsouth.net	TUE, SEP 9 10:00 AM	Member’s home
Martha Circle Kathy Leftwich: kathleencleftwich@gmail.com	TUE, SEP 9 6:30 PM	Local restaurant
Unnamed Women’s Circle Sarah Hope Carraway: sarahstrickland92@gmail.com	WED, SEP 10 6:00 PM	Local restaurant

For more info go to CentralUMC.org/UWF.

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.

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.

Ruth Circle | TUE, SEP 2 | 10:00 AM | Library
Join us for the United Women in Faith Ruth Circle. Celebrate the start of our Fall Programming with special guest, Jennifer Zimmerman from Haywood Street Respite. We look forward to sharing this special morning with you as we continue to put Faith, Hope, and Love into action on behalf of women, children and youth! All are welcome to attend! For more information, contact Kim Everette at kimeverette525@gmail.com

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.

Table 2 Table: 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**

Reconciling Ministries Group | SUN, SEP 7 | 11:45 AM | Rm 219
This monthly meeting will focus on finalizing Pride Festival week actions and the distribution of its updated Come to Me All booklet. All LGBTQA+ persons, their families and allies are encouraged to share our local-global mission.

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.

The Black Cultural Heritage Trail honors and preserves the rich heritage of Asheville's Black community. <https://bcht.exploreasheville.com/> Sites and stories range from well-known landmarks visible in the community today to the unsung heroes and underrecognized achievements and contributions by the Black community in the past. The Black Cultural Heritage Trail survived Helene and Allies for Equity would love for you to join us in the experience! There are 3 sections of trail opportunities. All sections are ¼ mile long and take approximately 10 minutes to walk. We have found that the Downtown Trail does require uphill travel upon return. The total time commitment for each trail group gathering should be around an hour and a half. To sign up go to CentralUMC.org/Events.

- **The River Area Trail:** facilitators Heather Cree and Riley Peltz, **Saturday, October 11th, 10am**, meet at The Grind, 346 Depot St.
- **The Downtown Trail:** facilitators Peter Barrett, Jim White, and Sarah White, **Saturday, October 18th, 10 am**, meet at Green Sage Café, 5 Broadway St.
- **The Southside Trail:** facilitator Sara Sterling, **Saturday, October 25th, 10 am**, meet at Vortex Donuts, 32 Banks Ave.

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.

Homebound Care Ministry: Whether you are in a care facility or just not able to get out and about, we want to visit you and keep you connected to our Church family. Please let Pastor Lisa know so she can arrange for one of our warm and friendly members to visit with you on a monthly basis.

Bereavement Care Ministry: During times of a family death, the “arrangements” can be daunting. If a reception following the funeral at our church is needed, please consider letting our Bereavement Care Ministry help you by contacting Pastor Mary.

