Happening today, 9/7:

Happon	rapporming today, of 7.				
8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages				
10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary				
	Children & Youth Fall Kickoff!				
11:15 AM	Table 2 Table Fellowship Hall				
11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club				
11:45 AM	Children's Choir				
11:45 AM	Reconciling Ministries Group Rm 219				
12:00 PM	Young Parent Gathering Conference Room				
5:00 PM	Youth Group Cookout with Maggie Haw Creek				

Happening this week, 9/8-9/14:

	<u> </u>		
MON, 9/8	5:45 PM	Theology Pub Village Pub	
TUE, 9/9	10:00 AM	Deborah Circle Member's home	
	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers Begins!	
	2:00 PM	SPRC Meeting Conference Room	
	5:30 PM	Missions Meeting Highland Brewing	
	6:00 PM	Martha Circle Library	
WED, 9/10	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer Parlor	
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101 Begins Rms 219 & 220	
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir Begins!	
	6:00 PM	Unnamed Women's Circle Local restaurant	
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir	
THU, 9/11	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer Zoom	
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer Zoom	
SAT 9/13	10:00 AM	PUSHOUT Documentary Fellowship Hall	
	10A-2P	Hard 2 Recycle North Buncombe High School	
SUN, 9/14	8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages	
	10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary	
	11:15 AM	New-ish to Central Library	
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club	
	11:45 AM	Children's Choir	
	11:45 AM	Young Parent Gathering Conference	
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For more information about these activities, go to **CentralUMC.org/Events**.

Eco-Tip: In just four years, Asheville's food scraps drop-off program has diverted over **1 million pounds** of organic matter —and turned it into useful compost ♥. Join the City of Asheville's Food Waste Reduction program 🍎 🧪 !

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

- 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



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 journalling or discussing the following questions:

- What is your position in your family of origin? Oldest child? Middle? Youngest? Only? What was it like growing up?
- Have you ever felt like the 7th of 7 brothers like David? Like the littlest, the forgotten?
- What keeps you from believing that God is calling *you*?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Today we begin a series on the story of David, starting with his anointing by the prophet Samuel. Get a sense of the place of David's call in the greater story by reading up to this moment in the book of 1 Samuel:

• Monday: 1 Samuel 1:1-20 • Tuesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-20 Wednesday: 1 Samuel 8:1-22 Thursday: 1 Samuel 9:1-27

• Friday: 1 Samuel 13:1-15 Saturday: 1 Samuel 15:1-35 Sunday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Next week in worship...

We continue our series on the story of David with a look at David's relationship with the King before him, Saul, in 1 Kings 16:14-23. If you've ever struggled with your relationship with a predecessor, this story might speak to you! Come and invite a friend to join you.



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 2025 10:00 am

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

"Aria"

Craig Phillips

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

Here we are, God.

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening

Did you call us, God?

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening

Have you come for us, God?

Speak, Lord for your servants are listening

Here we are; we are listening. Speak, Lord; speak to us today.

*HYMN 660

"God Is Here"

1 Samuel 16:1-13

ABOTT'S LEIGH

SCRIPTURE READING

"David and Samuel"

Reid Weathersbee Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

OFFERTORY

SERMON

"Come, O Spirit, Truth Divine"

Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

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. Lisa Rettew Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Hymnal 12

COMMUNION MUSIC

632 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

629 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

530 "Are Ye Able"

393 "Spirit of the Living God"

1

*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. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY "Fugue in G Major" J.S. Bach

*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 in loving memory of Wayne Hinson by his wife, Pam.

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!

Deborah Circle	TUE, SEP 9	Member's home
Susan Snell: ssnell123@bellsouth.net	Snell: ssnell123@bellsouth.net 10:00 AM	
Martha Circle	THE CEDO	Local restaurant
Kathy Leftwich:	TUE, SEP 9 6:30 PM	
kathleencleftwich@gmail.com	6.30 PIVI	
Unnamed Women's Circle	WED, SEP	
Sarah Hope Carraway:	10	Local restaurant
sarahstrickland92@gmail.com	<u>m</u> 6:00 PM	

For more info go to CentralUMC.org/UWF.

Old Testament 101 | WEDNESDAYS, THRU 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.

Table 2 Table: Children & Youth Fall Kickoff | TODAY: 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

- 11:15 AM | Youth Choir & Kids Club
- 11:45 AM | Children's Choir

Reconciling Ministries Group | TODAY | 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 | TONIGHT | 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!

Deborah Circle Gathering | TUE, SEP 9 | 10:00 AM: Deborah Circle will meet at the home of a member. 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.

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.

Hard 2 Recycle | SAT, SEP 13 | 10:00 AM-2:00 PM: Asheville Greenworks will hold a Hard 2 Recycle event at North Buncombe High School. Bring your small electronics, Styrofoam, and other items. Check their website for more details. Help keep these items from the local landfill.

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

Pride 2025 at Central UMC: This September, Central United Methodist Church will once again be active in Asheville's Pride Festival, celebrating inclusion, diversity, and equity in community life. Here's how you can take part in this vibrant weekend:

welcome.

- Pride Interfaith Worship | SAT, SEP 27 | 9:00 AM 10:00 AM: Central will host the first Pride Interfaith Worship Service, building on last year's UMC-initiated worship gathering. This one-hour service will conclude with coffee and treats on the Central UMC lawn.
- Pride Festival at Pack Square | SAT, SEP 27 | 10:00 AM 5:00 PM Central's Reconciling Ministries Group (RMG) will join with other UMC congregations in a shared booth under the banner of the Blue Ridge UMC District. Stop by to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

Habitat Work Day | FRI, OCT 10 | 8:30 AM: Join Pastor Mary and other Central UMC friends for a Habitat Work Day! No skills required - just a willingness to come, learn, and work with us from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM on a Habitat work site (location will be emailed out that week). Afterward we'll have lunch together. Feel free to invite a friend who doesn't go to Central!

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.

Reading Buddies: We are excited to be able to go back to Emma Elementary this year to volunteer as Reading Buddies! We need new volunteers! Being a Reading Buddy requires about an hour of your time per week. You meet one on one with a child to listen to them read and to offer them help with their reading skills.

Training and all your materials are provided There will be a new buddy orientation in mid-September, and then the program will begin in October.

Please consider volunteering a little time to make a big difference in the life of a child! Email C4C@centralumc.org to learn more and express interest.

Emma School Supply Drive a SUCCESS! | THANK YOU!

Congregations for Children (C4C) helped the students and teachers of Emma Elementary get ready for Back to School. Continuing our support of the school in many projects for many years, the School Supply Drive was a huge success.

Thank you for making the Emma School Supply Drive a great success. They are grateful for Central's contribution. Email C4C@centralumc.org to learn more about Central's support and work with community public schools.