

Happening **today, 9/14:**

8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 AM	New-ish to Central <i>Library</i>
11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club
11:45 AM	Children’s Choir
11:45 AM	Young Parent Gathering <i>Conference Room</i>
5:00 PM	Youth Group <i>Haw Creek</i>

Happening this **week, 9/15–9/21:**

MON, 9/15	5:45 PM	Theology Pub <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 9/16	1:00 PM	Executive Team Meeting <i>Conference Room</i>
	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners <i>Library</i>
WED, 9/17	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer <i>Chapel</i>
	4:00 PM	Nominations Committee <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101 Begins <i>Rms 219 & 220</i>
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners <i>Haw Creek</i>
THU, 9/18	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	5:00 PM	Equal Plates Project Fundraiser <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
FRI 9/19	11:30 AM	Office Volunteer Picnic <i>Haw Creek Park</i>
SUN, 9/21	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks <i>Library</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 AM	Blood Pressure Checks <i>Library</i>
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club
	11:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	11:45 AM	Young Parent Gathering <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:00 PM	Youth Group <i>Haw Creek</i>

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

Eco-Tip: Doug Tallamy, an acclaimed entomologist, says **OAK TREES** do the best job of producing food for insects. There are 91 species of oaks in the United States. They serve all of us as a “keystone” plant. Add oak trees to your home landscaping and support your local insect friends.

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
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Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music
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Richard Provine, Director of Central Brass
RProvine@CentralUMC.org

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through 8/30/2025:

- Year to Date Offering: \$903,015.61
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000.00

Sermon Discussion Questions

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

- When was a time when you had to follow someone into a position? What was your relationship with your predecessor like?
- What do you think it would have been like for David, coming into King Saul’s court having been secretly anointed as Israel’s next king?
- How can you be attentive to the Spirit of God no matter who you’re following?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Today we continue our series on the story of David by looking at his relationship with King Saul. Get a sense of the place of this moment within the greater story with these daily readings:

- Monday: 1 Samuel 16:14-23
- Tuesday: 1 Samuel 17:1-58
- Wednesday: 1 Samuel 18:1-30
- Thursday: 1 Samuel 19:1-24
- Friday: 1 Samuel 20:1-42
- Saturday: 1 Samuel 21:1-15
- Sunday: 1 Samuel 22:1-23

Next week in worship...

Join us as we continue our 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. Next week comes the infamous story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil” Ned Rorem

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

Like Saul, sometimes our spirits are tormented

Tormented by the evil in the world;

Tormented by the evil in our hearts

Like Saul, we are seeking relief

Relief from the evil around and within

Unlike Saul, we want more than just relief

God, heal our hearts; God, heal this world

*HYMN 674 “See the Morning Sun Ascending” UNSER HERRSCHER

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lisa Rettew

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

ANTHEM “To Praise the Lord” Joseph Marin
Chancel Choir

MINISTRY MOMENT: John Pierce
BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

OFFERTORY “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” arr. Mack Wilberg
Chancel Choir

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 Samuel 16:14-23 Mark Knollman

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 “David and Saul” Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed** Rev. Lisa Rettew
Hymnal 881

***HYMN 593** “Here I Am, Lord” HERE I AM LORD

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Ain’t That Good News” arr. Marianne Kim

****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 Herb and Sue Mather to the glory of God and in honor and memory of our children and grandchildren.

The red rose on the altar today is placed in honor of Tommy Kinter, grandson of Jeff and Kim Lehnen, who was born on September 6, 2025.

*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

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.

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.

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:

- **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, 10 AM**, 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.

friendsGIVING Silent Auction & Sponsorships: This year’s **friendsGIVING** celebration on Wednesday, November 12 promises to be an evening full of energy and community spirit. Alongside live music and a thoughtful panel of speakers—made possible through our missions budget—we’re excited to add a new feature: a **silent auction** (with the possibility of a live auction, too!).

We’re inviting donations of items or baskets valued at **\$100 or more**. Gift certificates, sports tickets, themed baskets, or even time at a vacation home are all wonderful ways to contribute. These items not only make for exciting bidding but also help ensure the event’s success. Donations should be received by **October 31**. If you’d like to participate, please reach out to **Jonathan Meadows** at jonathanmeadows@gmail.com or **Vicki Leeds** at vsueleeds@gmail.com.

In addition to auction items, we’re also seeking **event sponsors**. If you’re a business owner or part of a group, consider becoming a **Silver Level sponsor (\$250)** or a **Gold Level sponsor (\$500)**. Sponsorship is a meaningful way to invest in this gathering and in the mission it supports.

Together, your gifts and generosity will make **friendsGIVING** a night to remember—a time of fellowship, generosity, and gratitude.

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.

Journey to Joy: Blessed Not Stressed | NOV 14–16, 2025
Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska
Are you longing for a weekend to relax, recharge, and find renewal? Join us at Lake Junaluska for *Journey to Joy: Blessed Not Stressed*, a time set apart for worship, laughter, learning, and deep spiritual connection.

This retreat, led by Leigh W. Young, will offer space to rest, grow, and rediscover the joy that God promises us. Together, we’ll share in community, encourage one another, and leave refreshed for the journey ahead.

For more information, visit LakeJunaluska.com/joy. Come ready to be blessed—not stressed. See you at the Lake!

