






Happening **today, 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	<b>Youth Choir</b> & <b>Kids Club</b>
11:45 AM	<b>Children’s Choir</b>
11:45 AM	Young Parent Gathering   <i>Conference Room</i>
5:00 PM	<b>Youth Group</b>   <i>Haw Creek</i>

Happening this **week, 9/22–9/28:**

MON, 9/22	5:45 PM	Theology Pub   <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 PM	<b>Brass Rehearsal</b>
TUE, 9/23	12:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting   <i>Conference Room</i>
	1:00 PM	<b>Wesley Singers</b>
	4:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting   <i>Conference Room</i>
WED, 9/24	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer   <i>Chapel</i>
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101   <i>Rms 219 &amp; 220</i>
	5:30 PM	<b>Handbell Choir</b>
	6:30 PM	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
	7:00 PM	<b>Congregational Care Council</b>   <i>Zoom</i>
THU, 9/25	8:00 AM	<b>Thursday Morning Prayer</b>   <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>   <i>Zoom</i>
FRI 9/26	4:00 PM	A Service of Remembrance   <i>Sanctuary</i>
SAT 9/27	9:00 AM	Pride Interfaith Worship   <i>Sanctuary</i>
	10:00 AM	Blue Ridge Pride Festival   <i>Pack Square Park</i>
SUN, 9/28	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service   <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 AM	<b>Youth Outing</b>
	11:15 AM	<b>Children’s Choir</b>
	11:45 AM	Young Parent Gathering   <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:00 PM	<b>Youth Group</b>   <i>Haw Creek</i>

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

 **Eco-Tip:** The first of John Wesley’s Three Simple Rules is “Do No Harm.” You can apply that rule when you purchase anything by considering its lifespan and ultimate disposal . Help protect our environment, God’s lovely creation, from future harm   .

**United Women in Faith Ruth Circle Meeting | TUE, OCT 7 | 10:00 AM**  
Please join Ruth Circle members on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 10:00am at the home of Kim Everette for our United Women in Faith Ruth Circle meeting. Our guest speaker will be Karen Crutchfield, Central UMC Creation Care, for a presentation on Recycling and Beyond. At our October meeting, we will collect for the UWF World Thank Offering and will collect pasta sauce, regular and wheat pasta noodles for ABCCM. We believe love in action can change the world! For more information, please contact **Kim Everette** [kimeverette525@gmail.com](mailto:kimeverette525@gmail.com).

**Ministry Staff**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor  
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Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care  
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**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 journaling or discussing the following questions:

- When have you “geared up” for a trip, event, or other challenge?
- What life challenges are you facing right now?
- What spiritual “gear” do you need to carry?


**Daily Suggested Scripture Readings**

Today we continue our series on the story of David by looking at the epic story of David and Goliath. Get a sense of the place of this moment within the greater story with these daily readings:

- Monday: 1 Samuel 24
- Tuesday: 1 Samuel 25
- Wednesday: 1 Samuel 26
- Thursday: 1 Samuel 31
- Friday: 2 Samuel 1
- Saturday: 2 Samuel 2
- Sunday: 2 Samuel 6

**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 friendship between David and Jonathan. Come and bring a friend!



**Central**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 21, 2025  
10:00 am

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY** “Voluntary in D Minor” Charles Wesley  
Karen Crutchfield, 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

When the evil powers of this world taunt us, what shall we do?  
**When the evil powers say, “Come fight us!” – who will stand up?**  
God will stand up. Do you believe it?  
**God has stood up. We believe it!**  
God stands for the smallest and the weakest,  
**and we stand with God.**

**\*HYMN 110** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” EIN’ FESTE BURG

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

**ANTHEM** “Come Worship the King” arr. Lloyd Larson  
Chancel Choir; Heather Cree, violin


**MINISTRY MOMENT:** Gene Charleton  
**Reconciling Ministries Network**

**OFFERTORY** “Laudate pueri Dominum” Felix Mendelssohn  
Women’s Choir  
  
“Ye Sons of Israel Praise the Lord, sing praises to this Holy name. The Lord’s name, glorious, holy, and blessed, from this time forth and forever more.”

*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 17:32-49 Laura Traister



**CHILDREN’S SERMON** Maggie Christy  
*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 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor across from church offices) 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 Goliath” Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The United Methodist Social Creed**  
We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God’s gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God’s handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God’s Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

**\*HYMN 128** “He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought” HE LEADETH ME

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

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY** “Toccata in G Major” Johann Pachelbel  
Karen Crutchfield, 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 placed by Jan Griffin with love and grateful acknowledgement and thanksgiving for our wonderful Reception, Library, and Newsletter Volunteers.

**We would like to wish a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday** to Willie Greene.  
Willie will turn 100 years old on September 23, 2025.

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

**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:** 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 next 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. [bcht.exploreasheville.com](http://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](http://CentralUMC.org/Events).

- The River Area Trail:** facilitators Heather Cree and Riley Peltz, **Saturday, October 11, 10 AM**, meet at The Grind, 346 Depot St.

- The Downtown Trail:** facilitators Peter Barrett, Jim White, and Sarah White, **Saturday, October 18, 10 AM**, meet at Green Sage Café, 5 Broadway St.
- The Southside Trail:** facilitator Sara Sterling, **Saturday, October 25, 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 [jonathanlmeadows@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanlmeadows@gmail.com) or **Vicki Leeds** at [vsueleeds@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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! To let us know you’re interested in volunteering, or to learn more, email [C4C@centralumc.org](mailto:C4C@centralumc.org).

**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](http://LakeJunaluska.com/joy). Come ready to be blessed—not stressed. See you at the Lake!

