


Happening **today, 9/28:**

8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 AM	Ad Board <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
11:15 AM	Youth Outing <i>Stepp’s Hillcrest Orchard</i>
11:15 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, 9/29-10/5:**

MON, 9/29	5:45 PM	Theology Pub <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 9/30	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
	5:30 PM	Mission Meeting
WED, 10/1	10:00 AM	Anna Circle <i>Parlor</i>
	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer <i>Chapel</i>
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101 <i>Rms 219 & 220</i>
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners <i>Haw Creek</i>
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 10/2	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
SUN, 10/5	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 AM	Table to Table: Urban Forester Presentation
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club
	11:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	11:45 AM	Reconciling Ministries Group <i>Rm 219</i>
	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](https://centralumc.org/Events).

 **Eco-Tip:** It’s time to “leave the leaves!” 🍂 The “fall”-ing leaves nourish the soil, provide shelter for small living creatures, and create a protective blanket below the tree itself. If your yard has many trees, you might need to mulch and return the leaves to the ground. 🌿 Leaves are yet another gift from our Creator God. ✨

Eve Circle | TUE, OCT 7 | 10:00 AM: Our meeting will be held at the **Brooks Howell Chapel at 10:00 am**. The program will be a presentation by Mary Z and Marcia Longknight on their visit to Moheto, Kenya. The World Thank Offering will be conducted by Libby Flowers. Please contact **Sharon LeDuc at skleduc@prodigy.net** if questions. All are welcome!

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 at kimeverette525@gmail.com**.

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
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Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music
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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:

- Who was your first “best” friend?
- Who is someone that draws you closer to God just by being around them?
- Have you ever had a “holy” friend – someone who naturally gives you the gracious accountability that helps your relationship with God?

If not – consider attending a Sunday School class or expressing interest in a Journey Group; learn more at www.centralumc.org/adults


Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

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

- Monday: 2 Samuel 7
- Tuesday: 2 Samuel 9
- Wednesday: 2 Samuel 11
- Thursday: 2 Samuel 12
- Friday: 2 Samuel 15
- Saturday: 2 Samuel 18
- Sunday: 2 Samuel 19

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 incident between David and Bathsheba. Come and bring a friend!



Central
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN 559**

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

MINISTRY MOMENT:

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

OFFERTORY

“Chorale”

“Total Praise”

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Robert Hebble

arr. Smallwood

arr. Craig Curry

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Matt Addis

Carol Ann Coyle, Stina Harmening,
Kimberly Greenway, Dawn Holland, Dave Holland,
Thomas Gaeng, Amanda Graham

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.

From Proverbs 27:9, 17, and 19


We gather for worship because we need one another.
“The sweetness of friends comes from their advice.”

We gather for worship because we are better together.
“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens a friend.”

We gather for worship because God made us for community.
“As water reflects the face, so the heart reflects one person to another.”

God made us for one another – and we are glad you are here!

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”		
<i>Hymnal 94</i>					
SCRIPTURE READING		1 Samuel 18:1-5		Amanda Graham	
CHILDREN’S SERMON			Maggie Christy		
<i>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 (3rd floor across from church offices) with our childcare staff.</i>					
<i><u>Children Must have name tags on them.</u></i>					
<i>The name tag table is located outside the Sanctuary by the Library.</i>					
SERMON		“David and Jonathan”		Rev. Dr. Mary Brown	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:			A Modern Affirmation		
<i>Hymnal 885</i>					
*HYMN 140		“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”		FATIHFULNESS	
*BENEDICTION			Rev. Dr. Mary Brown		
CHIMES OF THE TRINITY					
VOLUNTARY		“Tuba Tune”		Paul Fey	
<i>*Please stand, if you are able.</i>					

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 dedicated to the Glory of God, with appreciation for Central's support of the Reconciling Ministry Group and Pride Festival for over fifteen years. Flower stems may be picked after the worship service for home or sharing.

The white rose on the altar today is placed in memory of Jacob C. Barrineau, father to Sonya Monts, and grandfather to Henry and Clara Monts, who died September 23, 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

Table 2 Table & Urban Forestry Presentation: by Creation Care Committee
Sun, Oct 5 | 11:15 AM | Fellowship Hall
Enjoy a delicious all-church meal prepared by Equal Plates Project (suggested donation: \$10/person; max \$30/family—kids 4 and under eat free). During the meal, we’ll hear from **Keith Aitken, Asheville’s Urban Forester**, who will speak about how the city is rebuilding its tree canopy after Hurricane Helene and share plans for a more resilient, sustainable urban forest. Sponsored by Central’s Creation Care Committee. RSVP at centralumc.org/EVENTS.

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 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 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.

Blood Drive at Central UMC | SUN, OCT 19 | 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Central United Methodist Church will host a Community Blood Drive on Church Street. This is an opportunity to give the gift of life by donating blood, and your generosity can make a real difference for patients in need across our community. To participate, please register online at thebloodconnection.org using **Sponsor Code 13769**. Walk-ins are also welcome as space allows. Join us and help us share life and hope with our neighbors.



 **Fall Festival 2025! | SUN, OCT 26 | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Haw Creek**
Autumn is in the air, and that means it’s time for our Annual Fall Festival! Once again, we’re gathering at Haw Creek Commons for an afternoon filled with seasonal fun for all ages. Families, friends, and neighbors are invited to join us for games, activities, delicious food, and plenty of laughter. Costumes are welcome—so feel free to bring your best fall or Halloween spirit to the celebration!

This event is completely free and open to everyone in the community.

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 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! To let us know you’re interested in volunteering, or to learn more, email 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. Come ready to be blessed—not stressed. See you at the Lake!

