

Happening today, 11/9:

8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
11:15 AM	Charge Conference & Ad Board Fellowship Hall
11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club
11:45 AM	Children’s Choir
12:00 PM	Young Parent Gathering Conference Room
5:00 PM	Youth Group 4 th Floor

Happening this week, 11/10-11/16:

MON, 11/10	5:45 PM	Theology Pub Village Pub
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 11/11	10:00 AM	Deborah Circle Member’s home
	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
	6:30 PM	Martha Circle Library
WED, 11/12	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer Chapel
	5:30 PM	friendsGIVING Highland Brewing Co.
THU, 11/13	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer Zoom
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer Zoom
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
SUN, 11/16	8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
	9:00 AM	College Mailings Conference Room
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks Library
	10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
	11:00 AM	Blood Pressure Checks Library
	11:00 AM	Security Training Chapel
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir & Kids Club
	11:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	12:00 PM	Young Parent Gathering Conference Room
	5:00 PM	Youth Group 4 th Floor

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

 **Eco-Tip:** Stay informed about COP30, taking place November 10–21 in Belém, Brazil. COP stands for the “Conference of the Parties,” the annual United Nations gathering where 198 countries work together on solutions to reduce the environmental harm caused by climate change. Developing nations often contribute the least to global pollution, yet suffer the greatest impacts. As people of faith, we are reminded of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:40: “...just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.” When we seek climate justice—especially for the most vulnerable—we are living out Christ’s call to care.

Central.Advent.

The Gift of Christmas Sermon Series | SUNDAYS, NOV 30-DEC 28 | 10 AM
Longest Night Service | THU, DEC 18 | 6:00 PM
Christmas Eve Services | WED, DEC 24

- 3:00 PM** - Family Friendly Candlelight Worship
- 5:30 PM** - Lessons & Carols: Central Brass prelude at 5:00PM, featuring Chancel Choir at 5:30 PM (*nursery provided*)
- 11:00 PM** - Candlelight Communion Worship Service

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
LHaggard@CentralUMC.org
- Richard Provine, Director of Central Brass
RProvine@CentralUMC.org

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through 10/31/2025:

- Year to Date Offering: \$1,131,120.62
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000.00

Sermon Discussion Questions

For the five weeks we’ll be looking at what makes us a “community for Christ.” Our membership vows ask that we participate in this community in five ways: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Today we talked about how we participate in a community for Christ by our gifts, our financial offerings.

- What is your own practice of talking about your finances? Do you share freely, or keep that private?
- The way you earn, spend, and give effects your relationship with others whether you make that information public or not. What is a time when your earning, spending, or giving had a positive or negative impact on your relationship with a person or a community?
- Review the pledge card in this bulletin or in our newsletter. Consider a regular practice of giving weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Any regular commitment – 1% or 10%, \$10 or \$10,000 – will strengthen your sense of community with God and with others!

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Continue to reflect on presence as an aspect of Christian community by reading about the early church in the book of Acts. How does their example inform the way you show up in our community for Christ?

- Monday: Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21
- Tuesday: Mark 11:41-44
- Wednesday: Luke 12:13-21
- Thursday: Luke 19:1-10
- Friday: John 6:1-13
- Saturday: Luke 6:27-38

Next week in worship...

We continue to reflect on what makes us a “community for Christ” with the next of the five categories for participation: service. Service is one of the best ways to connect with each other and experience real community! Join us and explore how God might be calling you to serve through Central UMC.



Consecration Sunday
November 9, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Bread Thou the Bread of Life” arr. Harold DeCou

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

Based on the United Methodist membership vows:
Leader: We gather together because we are a community.
People: We are “a community for Christ in the center of the city.”
Leader: How do we become a part of this community?
People: By joining in with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.
Leader: Who is welcome in our community for Christ?
People: Everyone – without exception!
All: If you are looking for community, there’s a place for you here.

*HYMN 64 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” NICA EA

SCRIPTURE READING John 6:1-13 Alan Brown

SERMON Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
“Finding Community with our Gifts”

MINISTRY MOMENT: Stewardship Stories Madi Holtzman

OFFERTORY “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” arr. Hal Hopson
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

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND TABLE
Hymnal 12

Rev. Lisa Rettew
Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

COMMUNION MUSIC
616 “Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast”
128 “He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”
381 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
398 “Jesus Calls Us”

*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 “Finale” Robert J. Powell

*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 Marvin Cole in loving memory of his wife, Mimi Cole.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Theodore Feury, father of Meg Ragland, who died October 27, 2025.

We extend our sympathies to the family of William Doyce Graham, father of Amanda Graham, who died November 3, 2025.

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
Peace Lights for Maureen Carr Memorial UWF Scholarship
This Advent and Christmas season, United Women in Faith will be placing a Peace Tree in the Memorial Garden in front of the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to participate by remembering or honoring a loved one. For each \$5 donation, a light will be placed on the Peace Tree. Net proceeds will go toward the Maureen Carr Memorial UWF Scholarship Fund. UWF will award two scholarships to Central’s high school seniors or college students in the spring.

Members of UWF will be collecting submissions outside the sanctuary the first three Sundays in November. You may also find a submission form on the church website under “UWF.” Please submit your donation to the church office by Sunday, November 16.
A list of all those who are being remembered or honored will be handed out at the worship service on December 7. For further information, please contact Alexandra Holland at alexandra@wncnature.com.

Deborah Circle | TUE, NOV 11 | 10:00 AM
Deborah Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month in a member’s home. All are welcome! This month we’ll honor veterans in our families and celebrate the freedoms they’ve helped secure. We also give thanks for our participation in the World Thank Offering and Moheto Chicken Project. Join us again on Dec. 9 for Christmas fellowship and on Dec. 17 for the annual United Women in Faith Christmas Brunch.

Martha Circle | TUE, NOV 11 | 6:30 PM | Library
Martha Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month in Central's Library or at a member's home. We'll welcome Maggie Christy, Central's Director of Children and Youth ministries as our guest. We'll also discuss upcoming plans for our December Appetizer and Dessert Fiesta, January's New Year Soup Supper, service projects for ABCCM and the C4C Angel Tree, and much more. We welcome old friends and new members anytime. Please reach out to Kathy Leftwich at kathleencleftwich@gmail.com with any questions! See you soon!

Unnamed Women’s Circle Dinner | TUE, NOV 19 | 6:00 PM
The Unnamed Women’s Circle will gather for dinner and conversation on Tuesday, November 19. All are welcome to join this time of fellowship and connection. The group plans to meet at a local Asheville restaurant (details to be shared soon). Come enjoy good company, laughter, and meaningful conversation with women of Central! If you are interested, please contact Sarah Caraway at sarahstrickland92@gmail.com.

Usher and Greeter Safety Training | SUN, NOV 16 | 11:15am
If you serve as an usher or greeter – or would like to serve! – please plan to attend a safety training immediately following worship in the chapel on Sunday Nov. 11. Ross Robinson will lead us in reviewing our emergency protocols. This is important to do annually and especially helpful before our busy Christmas season. Thank you!

Help Us Light Up Christmas at Central ✨
Do you have a working pre-lit Christmas tree you’re no longer using? Central is hoping to frugally replace a couple of our current trees that are no longer functioning, and we would love to give your gently-used tree a new home! Ideal size: trees 6 feet or taller are especially helpful for our larger spaces. If you’re planning to donate a tree or have an extra one tucked away, please reach out to Hayes Brown at hbrown@centralumc.org. Your gift will help brighten our spaces as we celebrate the season together.

Family Life Meetup for Asheville Christmas Parade | SAT, NOV 22 | 10:30 AM
Join your Central Family Life friends and families for the Asheville Christmas Parade! We’ll gather at Central UMC at 10:30 a.m., where you can conveniently park at the church, and then walk together to the corner of Patton Avenue and Church Street to enjoy the parade. Bundle up, bring your holiday cheer, and come make merry memories with our church family as we celebrate the start of the Christmas season together!



Giving to those in need.

Ways you can give at Central to make a difference during the Holidays!

Where You Can Help Your Neighbors This Holiday Season

As we move into the holidays, here are some meaningful ways you can serve our neighbors, starting now. Thank you for being a church that shares Christ’s love in tangible, joyful ways.

1) Angel Tree Gift Collection (November): C4C is sponsoring gifts for 44 children—29 at Black Mountain Children’s Home and 15 at Central’s Mountain City Public Montessori (our largest outreach yet!). To learn more about the children, get all the details and sign up, please visit: bit.ly/C4CAngelTree2025 or scan the QR Code.
Gifts need to be delivered by Sunday, November 30.
Contact Jill Dudley at c4c@centralumc.org with any questions.
(Launched last Sunday: 4 adopted—40 still to go!)



2) friendsGIVING | WED, NOV 12 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM: Join us for special evening of connection and generosity at Central UMC’s. We’ll gather at the Highland Brewing Co. event center to enjoy music, hearty appetizers, and inspiring stories from some of the mission partners that we support. Come ready to bid on some exciting silent auction items AND a live auction! This will be a meaningful opportunity to make new friends and give to causes that matter. Suggested donation is \$25. Register at centralumc.org/EVENTS or scan the QR Code.



3) Kairos Prison Ministry (November Collection): Help share Christmas joy with inmates and staff at Craggy Correctional Center. You can help by donating boxed cookies, candy, nuts, gum, or 16-ounce bottled drinks—all store-bought and unopened. (Please, no homemade goods, fruit, cosmetics, or money.) A donation box is in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Stewart Humphrey at jshumphrey1@hotmail.com.

4) UWF Circles & ABCCM: All the UWF Circles are planning service projects, specifically supporting ABCCM & C4C Angel Tree. Want more info about UWF? Go to: centralumc.org/uwf.
With SNAP benefits in danger, ABCCM needs your food donations. What you leave in the big wooden tub each Sunday is picked up and delivered to ABCCM on Monday. Everything is welcome. If you want to donate fresh items bring them to the Crisis Ministry at 24 Cumberland Ave.

Buncombe County is asking for food to help feed our neighbors until SNAP is restored. Items can be dropped off at the Public Libraries in Buncombe County. The food that is collected will go to MANNA. If you buy canned goods, be sure they have a pop top on them. Not everyone has a can opener.