

Happening today, 11/16:

8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
9:00 AM	Acolyte Training Sanctuary
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
11:30 AM	Creation Care Meeting Rm 307
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, 11/17-11/23:

MON, 11/17	5:45 PM	Theology Pub Village Pub
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 11/18	12:00 PM	Finance Meeting Conference Room
	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL Library
	4:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting Conference Room
WED, 11/19	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer Chapel
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101 Rooms 219-220
	6:00 PM	Unnamed Women’s Circle Local Restaurant
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL Haw Creek
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	7:00 PM	Congregational Care Council Zoom
THU, 11/20	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer Zoom
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer Zoom
SAT, 11/22	10:30 AM	Family Life to Asheville Christmas Parade
SUN, 11/23	8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
	10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
	11:15 AM	Youth Outing
	11:15 AM	Children’s Choir
	12:00 PM	Young Parent Gathering Conference Room

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

 **Eco-Tip:**   Check your food pantry and/or refrigerator for foods that need to be used right away. You’ll save on grocery shopping, avoid wasting resources, and enjoy God’s bounty!

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
CPowell@CentralUMC.org
- 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 five weeks we are looking at what makes us a “community for Christ.” Our membership vows put our participation in this community into five categories: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Today we talked about how we participate in a community for Christ by our service.

- When have you served as a part of the Central community? (Habitat work day; helping at Haywood Street; teaching Sunday School; serving as a greeter or usher; helping clean up after a meal...)
- How did that act of service improve your relationships and connection with this community?
- How are you being called to new ways of serving at Central?

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: John 13:1-17
- Tuesday: Galatians 5:1-17
- Wednesday: Galatians 5:22 – 6:5
- Thursday: 1 Peter 4:1-11
- Friday: Mark 10:35-45
- Saturday: Philippians 2:1-11

Next week in worship...

We finish our series on what makes us a “community for Christ” with the last of the five categories for participation: witness. We can’t truly be for “everyone without exception” without inviting others to join us! Come and learn some easy, natural ways to invite people into our community for Christ.



23rd Sunday After Pentecost
November 16, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal” arr. Dan Edwards
Handbell Choir

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 568 “Christ for the World We Sing” ITALIAN HYMN

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

MINISTRY MOMENT: Haywood Street Congregation Dave Holland

OFFERTORY “Let the Whole Creation Cry” arr. Brenda Austin
Handbell 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 Mark 6:7-13 William Coin

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 (3rd 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 Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
“Finding Community with Our Service”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The World Methodist Social Affirmation**
Hymnal 886

***HYMN 573** “O Zion Haste” TIDINGS

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Hymn to Joy” arr. Albert Travis

**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 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Givens Estates and in loving memory of Richard A. Wood, Jr. by his sister, Diane Wood Trainor.

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

Central United friendsGIVING UPDATE

YOU RAISED OVER \$25,0000
TO HELP FUND A VARIETY OF MISSIONS ORGANIZATIONS

friendsGIVING Thanks You!
Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the friendsGIVING fundraiser! Over 160 people gathered for an incredible evening of food, music, community, and generosity. Together, we raised more than \$25,000 to support the missions and outreach ministries of Central UMC. Your presence, your bids, your donations, and your joyful spirit made the night a tremendous success. Thank you for helping us share Christ’s love!

Usher and Greeter Safety Training | TODAY | 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. 16. 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!

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.

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.

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: 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!

Stewardship Reminder
If you haven’t yet turned in your 2025 pledge card, please bring it with you any Sunday through Nov. 23, and place it in the offering plate. You may also submit your pledge online at centralumc.org/GIVE by clicking the “Pledge” button (or scan the QR code). Thank you for your faithful commitment to Central’s ministries in the coming year!



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.



28 adopted—16 still to go!

There's still time!

We are 64% of the way there!!
You have sponsored 28 of our 44 children.
That still leaves 16 children.

C4C Angel Tree UPDATE

Thank you, Central! Together we’ve already sponsored **28 of our 44 children**—but that still **leaves 16 children** (over 80 individual gift slots) needing Christmas gifts.

Please help us finish strong by choosing a child or gift slot to sponsor this week. Visit bit.ly/C4CAngelTree2025 to sign up.

Gifts are **due Sunday, November 30.**

2) 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.

3) 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.