


Happening today, 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

Happening this week, 11/24-11/30:

MON, 11/24	12:00 PM	Staff & SPRC Thanksgiving and Celebration
	5:45 PM	Theology Pub Village Pub
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
THU, 11/27	Thanksgiving – Offices Closed	
FRI, 11/28	Offices Closed	
SUN, 11/30	8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
	10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
	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:** At your Thanksgiving meal, express your gratitude to God, who created everything and entrusted us with the care of creation. Remember all the workers who helped grow, pick, clean, package, transport, and stock the food you enjoy today—farmers, harvesters, drivers, and store workers.

Request a Name Tag: Would you like a personalized Central UMC name tag? Name tags are \$15 (includes tax and shipping). You can request one by emailing Michelle at mhausler@centralumc.org, or by visiting centralumc.org/adults and clicking “REQUEST NAME TAGS.”

Central.Advent.

The Gift of Christmas Sermon Series | SUNDAYS, NOV 30-DEC 28 | 10 AM
Join us this Advent as we unwrap *The Gift of Christmas* together.

Longest Night Prayer Service | THU, DEC 18 | 6:00 PM
A service to acknowledge the pain we carry, even as Christmas draws near.

- 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

Congratulations to Marvin & Robin Thomas on the birth of their granddaughter, Genevieve Lynn Oldham, who was born November 14, 2025.

Congratulations to Leigh & David Young on the birth of their grandson, Harrison David Neal, who was born November 16, 2025.

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 have looked 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 witness.

- What “good news” have you naturally shared with others? (A favorite new restaurant, a must-watch TV show, a news article, a great hike...)
- How did you share that “good news”? What made it feel natural and positive?
- How can you apply that same approach to sharing the “good news” about Christ?
- Try it this week by telling someone about something good you’ve experienced at Central UMC – something they could come and experience, too!

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: Acts 1:6-11 - Thursday: Acts 10:34-48
- Tuesday: Acts 2:14-36 - Friday: Acts 13:26-41
- Wednesday: Acts 5:27-32 - Saturday: Acts 22:6-21

Next week in worship...

Believe it or not – it’s Advent! Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas. This year we will prepare by looking toward the GIFT of Christmas, starting with ANTICIPATION. Join us as turn our sights toward Christmas together!



Thanksgiving Sunday
November 23, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Do, Lord, Remember Me” arr. André Thomas
Youth 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 715** “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” DARWELL’S 148TH

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

MINISTRY MOMENT: Stewardship David Whilden

OFFERTORY “As the Deer” arr. Douglas Wagner
Wesley Singers

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 Acts 22:6-16 Anna Broome

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.

ANTHEM “Jesus, the King” Lloyd Larson
Wesley Singers

SERMON Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
“Finding Community with Our Witness”

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS Elizabeth Slaski, Ina Messer,
Hymnal 37 Josh Hager, Barbara & David Goist,
Merry Michalsen, & Ashley Arrington

*HYMN 102 “Now Thank We All Our God” NUN DANKET

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Now Thank We All Our God” Bach/Fox

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Pledge 2026 & Community Commitment: To register your Pledge or Community Commitment online, go to centralumc.org/give and click either “PLEDGE 2026,” or “COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST - COMMITMENT” button.

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 loving memory of Hayleigh Elizabeth Gibson by her parents, John and Elizabeth Slaski.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Nancy Hutchins, sister-in-law of Andrea Hunnicutt and Leslee Sprague, who died November 8, 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 **TODAY, Sunday, November 23.**

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.

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.


Alternative Gift Fair: Loaves and Fishes | SUN, NOV 30 | 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Honor a loved one this Christmas by giving a gift that supports local nonprofits. The Loaves & Fishes Alternative Gift Fair (a collaboration of Central UMC, First Presbyterian, and Trinity Episcopal) offers meaningful ways to support agencies doing vital work in Asheville.
The **in-person fair** will be next Sunday, Nov. 30 at **First Presbyterian Church**. **Online ordering** is available until **Dec. 19** at: fpcasheville.org/loaves-fishes.

Ruth Circle | TUE, DEC 2 | 10:30 AM
Ruth Circle members will gather at the home of Kim Everette on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10:30am for our annual Ruth Circle Christmas luncheon. Ruth Circle members will be helping to fill ABCCM Christmas Food Boxes by collecting bottles of gravy and boxes of mac and cheese for families in need of food assistance. Other food items are welcomed. Ruth Circle members would like to extend blessings of hope, peace, and joy to you and your family this holiday season. For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact Kim Everette. kimeverette525@gamil.com.

Hanging of the Greens | TUE, DEC 2 | 6:00 PM
It takes many people to prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas season. If you are interested in helping decorate, please join us for Hanging of the Greens! Meet in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00 PM to help us adorn the church. Everyone is welcome. Even if you can’t climb ladders or haul boxes, we’ll have a task for you. If you have questions, please contact **Alexandra Holland** at alexandra@wncnature.com.

Table 2 Table: Lite Bites | SUN, DEC 7 | 11:00 AM
Join us for a festive **appetizer and treat potluck** before the Children’s Christmas Musical! Please bring your appetizer or sweet treat ready to serve so it can be placed directly on the table—no additional cooking or re-plating needed. Drop items off with the **Bereavement Team in the Fellowship Hall before worship**. Come share a bite, enjoy warm fellowship, and stay for the Children’s Christmas Musical that follows! *Cost is free.*

Children’s Christmas Musical: Midnight Miracle | SUN, DEC 7 | 11:30 AM
Our Children’s Choir has been working hard to bring the joy and wonder of Christmas to life through this year’s musical, **Midnight Miracle**. After enjoying **Table 2 Table: Lite Bites** in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM, we invite you to come to the Sanctuary and support our kids as they share the Christmas story through music and song. Come celebrate the gifts and voices of our children!



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 we 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: This is the **FINAL WEEK** of this year’s Angel Tree Gift Collection. Your generosity this year has been incredible and all the gifts are fully sponsored! **Please deliver** all gifts to the church **unwrapped and labeled** with the child’s name by next **Sunday, November 30**. Collection bins are located by the parlor, staff offices and Fellowship Hall.

To learn more about the children, get all the details and sign up, please visit: bit.ly/C4CAngelTree2025 or scan the **QR Code**, or contact **Jill Dudley** at c4c@centralumc.org with any questions.



2) Kairos Prison Ministry: 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 Mondays. Below is a list of suggested items to donate. If you want to donate *fresh items* bring them to the **Crisis Ministry** at *24 Cumberland Ave.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Cereal	<input type="checkbox"/> Boxed Mac-n-Cheese
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Gallon Powdered Milk	<input type="checkbox"/> Condiments - Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup, or Relish
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruits & Veggies	<input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Rising Flour - small or regular bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Jelly
<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar - small tubs or regular bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Oil
<input type="checkbox"/> Eggs - 1 dozen	<input type="checkbox"/> Pinto Beans or Rice
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Tomatoes or Spaghetti Sauce	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearty Soups
<input type="checkbox"/> Butter or Margarine – sticks or tubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandwich Meat - 8, 12, 16 oz packages	<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Tuna or Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Meal, Grits, or Rice - hot or cold cereals
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh Fruit and Veggies
	<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks

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.