

Happening today, 11/30:

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

Happening this week, 11/30-12/7:

MON, 12/1	12:00 PM	Building Committee Meeting
	6:00 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 12/2	10:00 AM	Eve Circle <i>Parlor</i>
	10:00 AM	Ruth Circle <i>Library</i>
	1:00 PM	Executive Team <i>Conference Room</i>
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners, AVL <i>Library</i>
	5:00 PM	Allies for Equity <i>Zoom</i>
	6:00 PM	Hanging of the Greens <i>Sanctuary</i>
WED, 12/3	10:00 AM	Anna Circle <i>Parlor</i>
	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer <i>Chapel</i>
	5:30 PM	Old Testament 101 <i>Rm 219 & 220</i>
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners, AVL <i>Haw Creek</i>
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 12/4	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
FRI, 12/5	5:00 PM	1 st Friday Family Fellowship <i>New Belgium</i>
	7:00 PM	Asheville Choral Society Concert
SAT, 12/6	11:00 AM	Children’s Musical Rehearsal
	4:00 PM	Asheville Choral Society Concert
SUN, 12/7	8:45 AM	Sunday School – <i>All ages</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 AM	Table 2 Table: Lite Bites <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	11:30 AM	Children’s Christmas Musical <i>Sanctuary</i>
	12:00 PM	Young Parent Gathering <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:00 PM	Youth Group <i>4th Floor</i>

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

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

Central.Giving.

- Financial Update through 10/31/2025:**
- Year to Date Offering: \$1,131,120.62
 - Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

- As we anticipate the gift of the Christ child, continue to reflect by journaling or discussing these questions:
- It’s hard to live in uncertainty about the time of Christ’s return. How does your faith (or your faith community) give you comfort when you feel anxious, or even apathetic, about Christ’s coming?
 - Look for the ways you get sidetracked into the hustle and bustle of a worldly “Christmas season:” advertising, phone notifications, the pressure of your to-do list, etc. Choose just one to pay attention to, recognizing each time the feelings that come with it and letting them go with deep, prayerful breaths.
 - What practice(s) might you incorporate that will keep you in a “ready” state of mind and spirit? These could be individual or involve a group, like a small group or service team.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

- Advent is a great season for reading the lectionary (the traditional Scripture readings for each Sunday). Christians before us prayerfully selected these passages for the first Sunday of Advent. As you read them, ask yourself: Why would these be important to read in a season of preparation for Christmas? How do they help ready my heart to receive Christ again?
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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5 | - Thursday: Matthew 24:36-44 |
| - Tuesday: Psalm 122 | - Friday: Isaiah 64:1-9 |
| - Wednesday: Romans 13:11-14 | - Saturday: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 |

Next week in worship...
We continue this season of preparation for Christmas and our theme of “The Gift of Christmas” by looking at a very important part of gift-giving: making the list! Interestingly enough, making a list can help with our spiritual preparations as well. Join us and bring a friend who could use some spiritual nourishment during this busy season.

🌍👉 Eco-Tip: During Advent, consider the health of the planet as you shop for gifts. Packaging and shipping methods matter just as much as the gift itself. 📦 When appropriate, consider giving services or experiences instead of tangible items. It’s a meaningful way to show love for both people and creation



First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
10:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. Charles Mekealian
Central Brass

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Johnathan, Annabreea, & Jackson Kilby

- Reader 1: On this first Sunday of Advent, we look toward Christmas with hope.
- Reader 2: Isaiah 60:2-3 encourages our hope:
“See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”

Readers light the first purple candle.

- Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
- Reader 2: May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*HYMN 203 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” ELLACOMBE

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

OFFERTORY “The Coming Joy” Joseph Martin
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

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 24:36-44 Cooper Nelson

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 “Anticipating the Gift” Rev. Lisa Rettew

ADVENT RESPONSE from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*
Ever present God,
You taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of your Son.
Save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***HYMN 196** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” HYFRDOL

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” 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 by Alan Brown in honor of his wedding anniversary with Rev. Dr. Mary W. Brown, and their awesome kids, Eleanor and Reid.

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

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.”

Alternative Gift Fair: Loaves and Fishes | TODAY | 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 is TODAY Sunday, Nov. 30 at First Presbyterian Church.

Online ordering is available until Dec. 19 at: fpcasheville.org/loaves-fishes.
For more information, contact David Germer at dgermer@fpcasheville.org. Scan the QR Code to preview the participating organizations or make an online gift.



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!

Deborah Circle | TUE, DEC 9 | 10:00 AM
Deborah Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in a member’s home. All are welcome to join us. On December 9, we will celebrate the blessings of the season with lunch and Christmas fellowship, thanking God for the opportunities He gives us to serve women, children, and youth in need. We will also join the other Central United Women in Faith for the annual brunch on December 17. For questions, contact Susan Snell at ssnell123@bellsouth.net.

Parents’ Morning Out | SAT, DEC 13 | 9:00 AM-NOON
Parents, enjoy a morning out while your kids experience the joy of the Christmas story! Children **3rd grade and younger** are invited to participate in fun, interactive Christmas Story Stations.
Students in **4th & 5th grade** are welcome to assist, and **youth** are invited to help lead.



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.



We did it!!!

C4C Angel Tree UPDATE

We Did It, Central!
Because of your generosity, **44 children** will receive Christmas gifts this year—more than **80 gifts** in total!
Please turn in all gifts by **TODAY (Nov. 30)**, unwrapped and with name tags attached.

All 44 children have been sponsored!

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.

UWF Circles: All the UWF Circles are planning service projects, specifically supporting **ABCCM & C4C Angel Tree**. Want more info about UWF? Go to: centralumc.org/uwf.

ABCCM: 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*.

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.

OUR 2026 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

At present, we received 125 pledges with \$695,866 committed, giving us \$854,134 more to go to reach our \$1.55M goal. Every gift matters! Please prayerfully consider your 2026 commitment and visit CentralUMC.org/GIVE. Thank you!

