

Happening today, 12/7:

8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
10:00 AM	Worship Service   Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Table 2 Table: Lite Bites   Fellowship Hall
11:30 AM	Children’s Christmas Musical   Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Youth Group   Youth Arena

Happening this week, 12/8-12/14:

MON, 12/8	5:45 PM	Theology Pub   Village Pub
	6:00 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 12/9	10:00 AM	Deborah Circle   Member’s Home
	6:30 PM	Martha Circle   Kathy Leftwich’s home
WED, 12/10	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer   Chapel
	1:00 PM	History Committee Meeting   Conference Rm
	4:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting   Conference Rm
	6:00 PM	Unnamed Women’s Circle   Local Restaurant
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 12/11	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer   Zoom
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer   Zoom
FRI, 12/12	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Meeting   Green Sage Café
	3:00 PM	Inquirer’s Class Christmas Party   Weaverville Community Center
SAT, 12/13	9:00 AM	Parents’ Morning Out: Christmas Edition
	10:00 AM	Chancel Choir and Brass Rehearsal
SUN, 12/14	8:45 AM	Sunday School – All ages
	10:00 AM	Worship Service   Sanctuary
	11:00 AM	New-ish to Central   Library
	12:00 PM	Young Parent Group   Conference Rm
	3:00 PM	Inquirers Class Event   Fellowship Hall
	5:00 PM	Youth Christmas Party   Youth Arena

For more information about these activities, go to [CentralUMC.org/Events](https://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 5:00 PM, featuring Chancel Choir at 5:30 PM (nursery provided)
- 11:00 PM - Candlelight Communion Worship Service

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through 11/30/2025:

- Year to Date Offering: \$1,328,172.55
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

Ministry Staff

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor

[MBrown@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MBrown@CentralUMC.org)

Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care

[L Rettew@CentralUMC.org](mailto:L Rettew@CentralUMC.org)

Maggie Christy, Director of Children and Youth Discipleship

[MChristy@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MChristy@CentralUMC.org)

Corey Powell, Organist & Director of Music Ministries

[CPowell@CentralUMC.org](mailto:CPowell@CentralUMC.org)

Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music

[LHaggard@CentralUMC.org](mailto:LHaggard@CentralUMC.org)

Richard Provine, Director of Central Brass

Sermon Discussion Questions

As we make our list to prepare for the gift of the Christ child, continue to reflect by journaling or discussing these questions:

- What kind of “lists” do you make to prepare for the holidays?
- What kind of list would help you spiritually prepare for Christmas?
- Consider making a “list” each day this week using the Ignatian Examen. Read more about it at <https://www.jesuits.org/spirituality/the-ignatian-examen/>

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?

- Monday: Isaiah 11:1-10
- Tuesday: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- Wednesday: Romans 15:4-13
- Thursday: Matthew 3:1-12
- Friday: Isaiah 40:1-11
- Saturday: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Next week in worship...

We continue this season of preparation for Christmas and our theme of “The Gift of Christmas” with a special Christmas cantata from our Chancel choir and a reflection on who receives this gift (hint: it’s everyone!). Join us and bring a friend who could use some spiritual nourishment during this busy season.



**Eco-Tip:** Create holiday beauty with items from nature! Pinecones, acorns, evergreens, berries, and even sycamore seed balls can make lovely decorations. ✨ Get creative with what you already have — fabrics, ribbons, and paper make great upcycled décor. ♻️ Choose beeswax or soy candles to shine light without harmful additives to God’s creation. 🕯️💚🌍



Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

10:00 AM

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

“An Advent Alleluia”

Douglas Wagner

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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Ashley Arrington, Merry Michaelson, and Ray Arrington

*Readers light the first purple candle.*

Reader: On this second Sunday of Advent we remember that we are followers of the Way – the Way of Christ.

Mark 1:4 describes the path that leads to Christ: “And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

*Readers light the second purple candle.*

Reader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Way. May the Word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

\*HYMN 211

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1-4

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Andrew Mochrie

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

“The Gift of Christmas: Making a List”

OFFERTORY

“Alleluia! Rejoice! The Lord Shall Come” Patrick Liebergen

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** Rev. Lisa Rettew  
*Hymnal 12* Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**COMMUNION MUSIC**  
206 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  
216 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”  
215 “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”  
204 “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

**\*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** “Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland” J.S. Bach

*\*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 on the altar** are given to the Glory of God and with thanks to  
Central's children and youth, their music, and their discipleship,  
by Phil and Kathy Leftwich.

**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: Lite Bites | TODAY | 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* | TODAY | 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](mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net).

**Martha Circle | TUE, DEC 9 | 6:30 PM**  
Martha Circle members will meet at the home of Kathy Leftwich for our  
annual **Appetizer and Dessert Fiesta** (with ornament exchange!). Bring an  
appetizer or dessert to share, and an inexpensive tree ornament to  
exchange. We will collect boxed macaroni and cheese for ABCCM's food  
drive. We'll talk more about our continued service projects, the UWF  
Christmas Brunch on Wednesday, December 17, and the coming year's  
opportunities. All are welcome to join us for this meeting. Come! And  
experience great food, fellowship, fun, and a celebration of Advent. For  
more information, please email **Kathy Leftwich** at  
[kathleencleftwich@gmail.com](mailto:kathleencleftwich@gmail.com).

**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. For questions **contact  
Maggie Christy**. Register on **Realm** or at [CentralUMC.org/EVENTS](https://CentralUMC.org/EVENTS).

**Family Life Christmas Caroling | SUN, DEC 21 | 11:30 PM**  
Families, children, youth, and adults of ALL ages are invited to join us for  
Christmas caroling at **Brooks-Howell**. We’ll share the gift of music and  
holiday cheer with the residents — a beautiful way to spread love this  
season. After caroling, we’ll head to **Asheville Pizza & Brewing** for pizza.  
Then we will head to **Whit’s Frozen Custard** for a sweet treat!

If you have questions, contact **Maggie or Linda**. Come help us make spirits  
bright – we’d love to see you there!

**Youth Christmas Party | SUN, DEC 14 | 5:00 PM**  
All middle and high school youth are invited to our **Youth Christmas Party!**  
We’ll enjoy games, music, and plenty of holiday fun together. Please bring a  
favorite snack or dish to share (sweet or savory) if you’re able. Friends are  
always welcome—come celebrate the season with us! 🎄🌟Contact **Maggie**  
for more details.

**ABCCM’s Return to Bethlehem Cast Volunteers | THU-SUN, DEC 11-14**  
Roles remain for ABCCM's **Return to Bethlehem**,  
where church members from across the  
community come together to share the story of  
Jesus' birth with our neighbors. The event runs  
from Thursday, Dec. 11, through Sunday, Dec. 14.  
Cast and crew are especially needed for Saturday,  
the Dec. 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14. To learn more  
and sign up go to [abccm.org/return-to-bethlehem/](https://abccm.org/return-to-bethlehem/) or email [pam.barbee@abccm.org](mailto:pam.barbee@abccm.org).




**Christmas Eve Offering to Haywood Street  
Congregation**

Over 16 years ago, this congregation felt called to dedicate our "Haywood  
Street campus" to a special purpose: a church that would "include the most  
excluded," following the vision of Rev. Brian Combs. Central UMC provided  
volunteers and funding for meals, worship, respite, and genuine "relationship  
above all else" with our siblings on the streets.  
The Haywood Street Congregation will always be a special part of our DNA at  
Central. For that reason, the offering taken up at our Christmas Eve services  
will go entirely to support Haywood Street. You can read more or donate  
directly at [www.haywoodstreet.org](https://www.haywoodstreet.org).

**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](mailto:mhausler@centralumc.org), or by visiting  
[centralumc.org/adults](https://centralumc.org/adults) and clicking **“REQUEST NAME TAGS.”**

**Stories from Central: Jot & Tittle Deadline | WED, DEC 10**  
The deadline for stories and announcements for the Jan/Feb 2026 Stories  
from Central: Jot & Tittle is Wednesday, Dec. 10.You can submit stories or  
announcements at [centralumc.org/communications](https://centralumc.org/communications). You can also email  
**Michelle** at [mhausler@centralumc.org](mailto:mhausler@centralumc.org).



**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.

**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](https://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.. 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 \$736,286  
committed, giving us \$813,714 more to go to reach  
our \$1.55M goal. Every gift matters! Please prayerfully  
consider your 2026 commitment and visit  
[CentralUMC.org/GIVE](https://CentralUMC.org/GIVE). Thank you!

