

Happening today, 1/11:

- 8:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary
- 11:15 AM New-ish to Central Coffee Hour | Library
- 11:30 AM Creation Care Meeting | Room 307

*See Children & Youth Activities below:

| New Sunday Rhythm for Children & Youth! | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Nursery | Elementary | Youth | | Parents |
| 9:30 AM-12:30 PM | | Sunday School 8:45-9:45 AM | | Sunday School 8:45-9:45 AM |
| | Worship 10:00-10:30 AM | Worship 10:00-11:15 AM | | Worship 10:00-11:15 AM |
| | Children's Church 10:30 AM-11:45 AM | | | |
| | Children's Choir 11:45 AM-12:15 PM | Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM-12:15 PM | Youth Choir 11:15 AM-11:45 AM | Young Parent Gathering 11:15 AM-12:15 PM |

Happening this week, 1/12-1/17:

| | | |
|-----------|----------|---|
| MON, 1/12 | 12:00 PM | Building Committee Conference Room |
| | 5:45 PM | Theology Pub Village Pub |
| | 6:30 PM | Brass Rehearsal |
| TUE, 1/13 | 10:00 AM | Deborah Circle Member's Home |
| | 1:00 PM | Wesley Singers |
| | 6:30 PM | Martha Circle Member's Home |
| WED, 1/14 | 11:00 AM | Centering Prayer Chapel |
| | 1:00 PM | History Committee Meeting Conference Rm |
| | 5:30 PM | NT 101 Room 219 |
| | 5:30 PM | Handbell Choir |
| | 6:00 PM | Unnamed Women's Circle Local Restaurant |
| | 6:30 PM | Chancel Choir |
| THU, 1/15 | 8:00 AM | Thursday Morning Prayer Zoom |
| | 10:00 AM | Circle of Prayer Zoom |
| SAT, 1/17 | All Day | Youth MLK Conference |
| | 8:00 AM | MLK Association Prayer Breakfast |
| | 2:00 PM | Possie Raiford Memorial Service Sanctuary |
| | 3:00 PM | Possie Raiford Reception Fellowship Hall |

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

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

John Wesley's General Rules provide a framework for Christian living – what kinds of actions should result when we are following Christ. We'll spend 3 weeks looking at all 3. Today we started with "Doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced." To reflect on how this applies for you, review Wesley's list below. Which examples of "harm" still apply today? Which need to be adapted? What "harms" would you add to this list?

- The taking of the name of God in vain.
- The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein or by buying or selling.
- Drunkenness: buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity.
- Slaveholding; buying or selling slaves.
- Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling.
- The buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty.
- The giving or taking things on usury—i.e., unlawful interest.
- Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation; particularly speaking evil of magistrates or of ministers.
- Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.
- Doing what we know is not for the glory of God, as:
 - The putting on of gold and costly apparel.
 - The taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - The singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God.
 - Softness and needless self-indulgence.
 - Laying up treasure upon earth.
 - Borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Continue to reflect on the first general rule of "doing no harm" with these daily Scripture readings:

- Monday: Deuteronomy 5:1-21
- Tuesday: Galatians 5:13-26
- Wednesday: Luke 14:25-35
- Thursday: Romans 12:9-21
- Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
- Saturday: Luke 6:27-36

Next week in worship...

We continue our series on Wesley's General Rules with a focus on the 2nd of the three: "do good." Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend is an especially good time to be inspired to do good in every way, at every opportunity, and of every possible sort. Join us and bring a friend!



Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

"Petit Offertoire"

César Franck

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

Adapted from the Wesley Covenant Prayer

God, we are no longer ours, but thine.
Put us to what thou wilt; rank us with whom thou wilt.
Put us to doing, put us to suffering.
Let us be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let us be full, let us be empty.
Let us have all things, let us have nothing.
We freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art ours and we are thine.
Thou art ours and we are thine.
So be it.

*HYMN 173

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

RATISBON

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Ending with the Lord's Prayer: Hymnal 895

MINISTRY MOMENT:

Cindy Oak

Congregational Care

OFFERTORY

"How Great Thou Art"

arr. Stuart Hine

Tom Russell, soloist; Karen Crutchfield, piano

While the musicians make 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

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

Peter Barrett

CHILDREN'S TIME

Maggie Christy

After Children's Time, children in kindergarten–5th grade are invited to continue worship in Children's Church in the Chapel. Children ages 5 and under may go to the nursery (Room 309, across from the church offices) with our childcare staff. For safety, all children must wear a name tag. Name tags are available near the Library.

ANTHEM “God of Grace and God of Glory” arr. Claude Bass
Chancel Choir

SERMON Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
“3 Simple Rules: Do No Harm”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed
Hymnal 881

*HYMN 408 “The Gift of Love” GIFT OF LOVE

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “O Thou of God the Father” J.S. Bach

**Please stand, if you are able.*

A livestream of the worship service is available in the library for families. Nursery is available for children ages 0-5.

The flowers in the Chancel are given by Cecelia Ward in honor of those who keep this beautiful church comfortable and secure.

The flowers in the narthex are in celebration of Harry and Marsha Wright’s tenth wedding anniversary and the reaffirmation of their wedding vows.

If you are interested in providing flowers for the Chancel, please contact Mary Margaret at marymargaretingle@gmail.com, especially for the weeks of March 1, March 29, and April 12.

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

Adult Sunday School OPEN HOUSE! | THIS JANUARY: Why not make trying out a Sunday School class one of your New Year’s resolutions? A small group experience helps our faith grow deeper and our connections grow stronger. We have 9 great options, each with its own vibe—and during January, all are ready to welcome visitors!

Expect to be greeted with smiles and name tags—and maybe even some special treats. You might even try a different class each week to explore all the options available. To see a full list of our Adult Sunday School classes, go to CentralUMC.org/Adults, or simply scan the QR code.

Eco-Tip: You may already know the high costs that meat, eggs, and dairy can inflict on the planet, animals, and water. Reducing the amount of animal products in your diet—even by a small percentage—can make a big difference in caring for God’s creation. Try a new plant-based recipe and see what you discover!

NT 101 | WEDNESDAYS, JAN 7-APR 1 | 5:30-7:00 PM: Join Rick Kuenning and Pastor Mary for a 12-week study of the New Testament! We will meet Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7pm in person from January 7 to April 1 (excepting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18). Participants will do about 15 minutes of reading each day to prepare for questions and discussion during class. NT 101 will provide beginners with a great overview and long-time students of the Bible with a better understanding of the big picture of God's story. Pre-registration is required so you can get a copy of the workbook and complete the first week's reading (suggested donation, \$20). To register, email Mary Brown at mbrown@CentralUMC.org.

Valentine's Parents' Evening Out | FRI, FEB 13 | 4:30-7:30PM
Parents, enjoy a night out while we take care of the kids! Children 3rd grade and below are invited to join us for a fun, safe, and love-filled evening of activities while parents enjoy a Valentine’s break. Students in 4th and 5th grade are invited to assist, and youth and adults are welcome to help make the evening special! This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy some time together—or parents enjoy a date night! More details and sign-ups coming soon. Contact Maggie for questions.

Central.Congregational Care. News

January 2026 marks the 5th anniversary of Central’s Congregational Care Council (CCC).

What has this meant for Central? The leaders of our church’s 10 care ministries gather monthly to share updates and plan ways to support our church family. This coordination has resulted in more comprehensive responses to the needs that arise.

How have these ministries impacted you? Our prayer is that you have experienced CCC’s impact by seeing Central become a more caring congregation—one where no one has to walk through life’s challenges alone.

Your CCC has been intentional in its work. We strive to be compassionate and respectful, and we are committed to connecting with you through unconditional love. Thank you, Central, for allowing us the privilege of walking alongside you.

Central’s Circle of Prayer group meets on Thursday mornings both In-Person and by Zoom. A ministry of caring, concerns and joys submitted are prayed over and followed-up upon. If you feel called to care for people in this way, please contact Pastor Lisa and join this dedicated group of prayers. If you need prayerful support, please make your request by clicking on the Prayer Request Prompt on Central’s website or by filling out a pew card. YOU are important to us!

Well-Being Community Resource List: Looking for a community well-vetted community resource? Try clicking on Central’s website for Congregational Care Ministries! Scroll down to Well-Being Community Resource List (CentralUMC.org/Well-Being) to find information about community agencies under 12 categories. Brief summaries of services and contact information are provided!



Deborah Circle | TUE, JAN 13 | 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. At our January 13 meeting, we will introduce the new United Women in Faith program book, *Mapping Our Way Forward in Times of Change and Uncertainty*. We will explore how to stay grounded and find balance in God’s Word through our history, especially as we prepare to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 19. Our February 10 meeting will continue the story, with a particular focus on the history of home missionaries and deaconesses, as we have members of our circle who have served in these roles. For questions, please contact Susan Snell at ssnell123@bellsouth.net.

Martha Circle | TUE, JAN 13 | 6:30 PM: Looking for a way to usher in the new year? Come and join members of Martha Circle on Tuesday, January 13, at 6:30 PM for our Annual Soup Supper. We’ll meet at Cindy Lund’s home to share a meal together, catch up with friends, and make new ones. Bring your favorite soup to share (or bread or a dessert) and join us as we kick off the year with food, fellowship, and faith. Martha Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Library or at a member’s home. In January, we’ll continue planning for this year’s projects and programs in our Circle and Unit. If you need more information, please email Kathy Leftwich at kathleencleftwich@gmail.com.

Unnamed Women’s Circle | WED, JAN 14 | 6:00 PM: The Unnamed Women’s Circle is an open small group for women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. Our name honors the many unnamed women of the Bible whose stories still shape our faith. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Questions? Contact Sarah Caraway at sarahstrickland92@gmail.com.

United Women in Faith Worship Service Choir | SUN, FEB 1: All women are warmly invited to participate in a special combined choir for the United Women in Faith worship service on Sunday, February 1! Women interested in singing are welcome to join the Women of the Chancel Choir and the Wesley Singers for this meaningful service.

Rehearsals: You may attend any of the following rehearsals—come to one or as many as you’re able:

- Tuesdays, JAN 6, 13, 20, or 27 at 1:30 PM or
- Wednesdays, JAN 7, 14, 21, or 28 at 7:15 PM

Please note: choir participants will not wear robes for this service. Questions? Contact Linda Haggard for more information.



Financial Update through 12/28/2025, including “year-end” gifts:

- Year to Date Offering: \$ 1,596,256.40
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

We are grateful to share that Central UMC received \$1,596,256 in contributions for 2025—surpassing our \$1.55M annual budget! Thank you for your faithful generosity!