Today's Events: November 8

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
11:00 am Newish to Central Coffee Hour - *Library*
11:15 am "The Class Meeting" – *Parlor*
Parent Gathering - *Conference Room*
Youth Sunday School - *Youth Arena*
Children's Sunday rehearsal - *Chapel*
Youth Choir – *Choir Room*
11:45 am Children's Choir – *Choir Room*
2:00 pm Donna Vaughn Memorial Service - *Sanct.*
5:00 pm Youth Group, *Haw Creek*
7:00 pm AA in Espanol

This Week's Events: November 9 - November 15

Monday, 11/9	4:00 pm	Stewardship Committee - *Conf. Rm*
	5:30 pm	Missions Council Meeting - *Conf. Rm*
	5:45 pm	Theology Pub - *Village Pub*
	6:00 pm	AA Lambda Group
	6:30 pm	Brass Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*
Tuesday, 11/10	9:45 am	Staff Meeting - *Parlor*
	1:00 pm	Wesley Singers - *Choir Room*
	5:00 pm	Church & Society - *Zoom*
	6:30 pm	Martha Circle - *offsite*
	7:00 pm	AA in Espanol
Wednesday, 11/11	11:00 am	Centering Prayer - *Chapel*
	11:30 am	Trustees Meeting - *Conference Rm*
	12:30 pm	Haywood Street Worship
	5:30 pm	Basic Bible Literacy Class - *Rm 219*
	6:00 pm	AA Lambda Group
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*
Thursday, 11/12	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer - *Zoom*
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer - *Zoom*
	3:00 pm	Journey Group - *Library*
	7:00 pm	AA in Espanol
Friday, 11/13	6:00 pm	AA Lambda Group
Saturday, 11/14	10:00 am	Blue Ridge Consort Rehearsal
Sunday, 11/15	8:45 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Higher Education Committee - *Conf Rm*
	9:30 am	Blood Pressure check - *Library*
	10:00 am	Worship Service – *Sanctuary*
	11:00 am	Blood Pressure Check - *Library*
	11:15 am	"The Class Meeting" – *Parlor*
		Parent Gathering - *Conference Room*
		Tween Outing
		Kids' Play Time
	5:00 pm	Youth Group - *Central*
	7:00 pm	AA in Espanol

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

Continue to reflect on this week's message by discussing or journaling these questions:

- Do you spend most of your time mentally in the past, the present, or the future?

- The only moment we ever have is *now.* How can you stay mentally present in each moment this week? How can you invite Christ into the present moment with you?

- How might being more present moment and letting Christ lead your present actions affect how you are ready for whatever the future holds?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives some pretty serious messages in his final days. They convey the need for readiness and right priorities. As you read them, it might be helpful to keep our Methodist standard of "gracious accountability" in mind. How do you feel both grace and accountability in these passages? How can they inspire you to action while remembering God's infinite grace?

· Monday: Matthew 24:1-14
· Tuesday: Matthew 24:15-35
· Wednesday: Matthew 24:36-51
· Thursday: Matthew 25:1-13
· Friday: Matthew 25:14-30
· Saturday: Matthew 25:31-46

Next week in worship...

It's Children's Sunday! You won't want to miss this special Sunday when the children lead us in worship. Yes, you should make a special effort to be here so they feel our support. But more importantly: they have great things to teach us! Come and bring a friend to hear a good word through our youngest members.

Central
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given by Ross and Susan Robinson in gratitude for God's blessings on their family.

Ordinary Time | November 8, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Fantasy on Kingsfold" arr. H. Dean Wagner
Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP based on the traditional African-American spiritual
Rev. Lisa Rettew

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
See what the Lord has done!
Siblings, don't get worried
For the work is almost done
Siblings, don't stop praying
For the work is almost done
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
See what the Lord has done!

***OPENING HYMN 178** "Hope of the World" VICAR
stanzas 1, 2, 3, & 5

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:1-13 Ed Towson
The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Like a Bridesmaid Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

OFFERTORY "Adoro Te Devote" arr. Jason Krug
Handbell Choir

While the choir makes their musical offering, the ushers will pass plates for those who wish to offer a financial gift or a prayer request. You may also use this QR code to make a financial gift. Whether you place something in the plate or not, you are invited to pause as you pass it and reflect on what you hope to offer God this week.

***DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 94

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE Hymnal pages 12, 15-16 Rev. Lisa Rettew

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

***HYMN** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" DENNIS

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE "Prelude in E Minor" J.S. Bach

*Please stand, if you are able.

Reprinted and live-streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-744646.
All rights reserved.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the Ushers.

For Pastoral Emergencies Contact:
Rev. Lisa Rettew at 828-575-1257
OR
Rev. Dr. Mary Brown at 828-575-1261

Central.Giving.

Weekly Financial Update through 11/8/2026
2026 Year to Date Tithes and Offerings $1,158,921.02
Total Contribution Budget $1,550,000
Percentage Received: 74.77%

A livestream of the worship service is available in the library for families. Nursery is available in Room 309 for children aged 0-5.

For name tags:
https://centralumc.org/adults#name-tag.
The cost is $15 payable to Central UMC.

Plainclothes law enforcement offcers 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 offcers should you feel the need to ask for assistance or voice a concern.

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS for bulletins, social media, and newsletters are to be sent to announcements@centralumc.org.
Announcements for the worship bulletin need to be 80 words or less.

Announcements

ECO-Tip: Holiday Gathering: Turn Down the Heat. If you're hosting a holiday gathering, turn down the thermostat before your guests arrive. The extra body heat will keep things warm and can ensure no one gets overheated. Who would have guessed? Holiday gatherings save energy!

Social Principle Focus for November: ""I was a stranger and you welcomed me". (Matthew 25:35) "We affirm the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees, including displaced and stateless people." "We recognize that displaced people are particularly vulnerable...and open to exploitation, violence and abuse." "We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees." From the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, 2025-2028, page 54: The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, ¶G. Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees. For more information, or to get involved, contact Jim Barrett at: jim.barrett@gmail.com

Deborah Circle will meet on November 10, at 10:00 AM in a member's home. We continue to research opportunities for learning and service using the guidance of the United Women in Faith program book. We will especially be planning special projects for assisting others during the holidays. All are welcome. Any questions may be directed to Susan Snell at ssnell123@bellsouth.net.

Eve Circle will meet in the church parlor on Tuesday, November 10 at 10:00 am. The program on World Thank Offering will be given by members Peggy Pressley and Libby Flowers. Come share in fellowship and service. Everyone is welcome. Christmas is coming are you looking for a nice gift to give? The "Christmas Hope Sale" of Ugandan paper bead jewelry will be Sundays, December 6 and 13. Contact dlballandy45@gmail.com or sandracwells@gmail.com for more information.

Central's Creation Care Committee is sponsoring another tour of Curbside Management's ("Curbie") recycling facility on Wednesday, November 11th, 2026 at 10am. If you are interested, you can sign up by contacting Ellen Furney via email at efurney08@gmail.com.

Once again during 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 before and after services on November 8, 15, and 22. You may also find a submission form on the church website under "UWF." Please submit your donation to the church office by Sunday, November 22. A list of all those who are being remembered or honored will be handed out at the worship service on December 6. For further information, please contact Alexandra Holland alexandra@wncnature.com.



friendsGIVING IS BACK! Join the fun! November 19, 5:30 pm at Highland Brewing. Want to be a sponsor? Contact Bill Haynes at bleehaynes@aol.com. Want to donate a silent or live auction item? Contact Jonathan Meadows at JonathanImeadows@gmail.com or Vicki Leeds at vsueleeds@gmail.com. Register with the QR code.

Faith Feeds
Food Drive
Hunger calls. Your faith answers.

ABCCM needs: For the food pantry: Flour, Pasta sauce, Hearty soups, Oatmeal, Mac & Cheese, Rice, Peanut Butter and Jelly (both in 10 and 12 oz sizes). For the clothing room: tennis shoes, hoodies, men's belts and pants, toilet articles, sleeping bags, towels, blankets, children's and youth coats.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: From the first loop to the final fringe, each shawl is infused with blessings for the person who receives it. If you would like a prayer shawl for someone, please contact Pastor Lisa.

Central continues its care for people as they grieve a loved one's death. **Our Bereavement Care Ministry** works compassionately with families and the pastors to provide a reception after a funeral if desired. Please contact Pastor Mary for this support.

If you are interested in serving within these care ministries, please contact Pastor Lisa for more information.

Winter Lights at the Arboretum is looking for volunteers! Support a great organization and earn a free Winter Lights ticket for every 3 shifts. Contact Ella Bender at (828)412-8588 or ebender@ncarboretum.org.

Braver Angels WNC will host a free premiere screening of the one-hour documentary *A House United* on November 14, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.at the Skyland/South Buncombe Public Library. The documentary highlights everyday citizens, journalists, and leaders working to bring people together across political differences. The post-screening discussion will explore ways local groups and Braver Angels can collaborate to help build a more united community. Register at https://www.tickettailor.com/events/jojofilm/2466626

Angel Tree Gift Collection: This year's Christmas gift collection will run from Nov. 8th through Dec. 6th. We have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for 30 local children living in foster care. Please come learn more about this year's children and sign up outside of the sanctuary before or after worship each Sunday in November. There will also be online signups available for those unable to do so in person. Please use the following QR code for access. Gifts can be dropped off UNWRAPPED and LABELED in "Angel Tree" bins throughout the church until Sunday, December 6th. Contact Jill Dudley at jmd0530@yahoo.com for help signing up or with any questions.

Save the Dates!

- Children's Sunday on 11/15
- Friendsgiving 11/19 | 5:30pm at Highland Brewing
- Charge Conference & Administrative Board Meeting 11/22 | 11:15am in Fellowship Hall
- Parents' Day Out (Christmas Mini-VBS) on 12/5 | 9-11:00 am
- Christmas Eve Services:
  - Family Friendly Service | 3:00 pm
  - Lessons and Carols | 5:30 pm (Brass Prelude begins at 5:00 pm)
  - Candlelight Communion | 8:00 pm
- Wilderness Trail: 7/12-18, 2027