Today's Events: November 22

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service – Sanctuary
11:15 am Administrative Board & Charge Conference - Fellowship Hall
Parent Gathering - Conference Room
Youth Sunday School
Kids With Purpose
Youth Choir - Choir Room
11:30 am Children's Choir - Choir Room
5:00 pm Youth Group - Haw Creek w/Covenant Community
7:00 pm AA in Espanol - Fellowship Hall

This Week's Events: November 23 - November 29

Monday, 11/23
5:45 pm Theology Pub - Village Pub
6:00 pm AA Lambda Group - Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Brass Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Tuesday, 11/24
7:00 pm AA in Espanol - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, 11/25
11:00 am Centering Prayer - Chapel
12:30 pm Haywood Street Worship
6:00 pm AA Lambda Group - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, 11/26
OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING

Friday, 11/27
OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING
6:00 pm AA Lambda Group - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, 11/29
8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service – Sanctuary
11:15 am Parent Gathering - Conference Room
Youth Sunday School
Kids With Purpose
Youth Choir - Choir Room
11:30 am Children's Choir - Choir Room
5:00 pm Youth Group - Central
7:00 pm AA in Espanol - Fellowship Hall

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

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

Continue to explore today's message by journalling or discussing the following questions:

- Who is the "ruler" of your life? Is it a political leader? A boss? A teacher? A family member? What kind of example do they set? What rules do they want you to live by?
- As followers of Christ, we claim Jesus as our true Lord. What kind of example did he set? What rules does he want us to live by?
- How can you live this week with Jesus as your Lord? How can you follow his example and his rules?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

This week's passages come from the "Reign of Christ Sunday" on our lectionary calendar. What do they tell us about Jesus as our Lord, our king, our ruler?

- Monday: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Tuesday: Psalm 100
- Wednesday: Psalm 95:1-7a
- Thursday: Ephesians 1:15-23
- Friday: Matthew 25:31-46
- Saturday: Philippians 2:1-12

Next Week in Worship…

We begin the season of Advent! The next four weeks are designed to prepare us for the arrival of Christ on Christmas with special decorations, candles, readings, and music. This year, we will look at the traditional Scripture lessons and stories through the eyes of a child. Come to church "Like a Kid at Christmas" as we ready our

Central
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The flowers in the Chancel *this morning are given in loving memory of Hayleigh Elizabeth Gibson by her parents, John and Elizabeth Slaski.* ***The white rose on the altar*** *is in memory of Fred Morgan, who died November 5, 2026.*

Reign of Christ Sunday | November 22, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Voluntary on Old 100th" Henry Purcell
Central Brass

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Rettew
"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."
Blessing and honor and glory and might be unto the Lamb!
Worthy is Christ who has ransomed us by his blood
from every tribe and tongue and nation,
and made his people a kingdom, a priests to our God.
Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come! Amen.

***HYMN 715** "Rejoice, the Lord is King" DARWELL'S 148th

PASTORAL PRAYER ending with the Lord's Prayer Rev. Lisa Rettew

MINISTRY MOMENT Security Update Ross Robinson

OFFERTORY "Simple Gifts" arr. James Curnow
Central Brass

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

SCRIPTURE READING Philippians 2:1-12 Chris Knollman

CHILDREN'S TIME Maggie Christy

SERMON Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
"Christ is Lord (and Caesar Isn't)"

NEW MEMBERS (Hymnal 34)
Rob Weigle, Pam Reece, and Tori Weight

***HYMN 327** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" DIADEMATA

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" arr. Albert Travis

*Please stand, if you are able.

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

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the Ushers.

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

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.

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.

Save the Dates!

- Parents' Day Out on 12/5 at 9am
  Longest Night on 12/21 at 6pm
- •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
- Vacation Bible School: August 2-6, 2027
- Wilderness Trail: July 12-18, 2027

Central.Giving.

Weekly Financial Update through 11/15/2026
2026 Year to Date Tithes and Offerings
$1,237,833.25
Total Contribution Budget $1,550,000
Percentage Received %79.86

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newish to Central Coffee Hour - 2nd Sundays of each month at 11:15am in the Library. Join our pastors for a chance to ask questions, learn about our church, and explore what it means to be a member!

ECO-Tip: Holiday Parties: When hosting holiday parties, consider the environmental impact of your beverage choices. Instead of serving bottled water, offer filtered tap water. You can also reduce waste by using reusable cups, mugs, and wine glasses. By making these simple swaps, you'll not only be kinder to the environment but also create a more sustainable holiday tradition for years to come.

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.

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. For more information, contact Jim Barrett at: jim.barrett@gmail.com.

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 1 at 6 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.

Our theme in worship for Advent is "Like a Kid at Christmas." Each week Pastor Mary will start the sermon sharing (anonymous) responses from our kids to a prompting question. All kids (ages 10 and under) are invited to contribute! Parents/guardians can go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HHKYFG7 to read the questions and submit their kids' responses. All responses will help inspire Pastor Mary's sermons; any responses she quotes in the sermon will be read anonymously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

Our annual Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 10:00am at the home of Kim Everette. We will take time to celebrate with each other the gift of friendship and the blessings of the season. We will collect peanut butter and jelly for ABCCM. Let's do This, Let's be Bold, Let's be UNSTOPPABLE! Together! We look forward to sharing the morning with you! For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact Kim Everette at kimeverette525@gmail.com.

Confirmation 2027 - Confirmation is a program of lessons, discussion, mentoring, and a retreat that helps youth critically engage with their faith and decide if they are ready to claim it. Grades 6 and up can participate and friends are welcome. Our 2027 confirmation class will meet with Pastor Mary and Maggie for 12 Wednesday evening sessions (5:30-7pm) starting January 6. A confirmation retreat is planned for 4/16-18. Confirmation Sunday will be April 25. Reach out now by emailing mbrown@centralumc.org or mchristy@centralumc.org.

ABCCM Crisis Ministry deeply appreciates the support of church has shown recently. Current needs in clothing are: men's jeans/slacks waist sizes 32-36; men's shoes sizes 9-11; men's/women's winter coats M-XXL; men's/women's sweatpants all sizes; mens belts 32-36; and toiletry kits. Food pantry needs are peanut butter & jelly (10-12 oz), healthy soups, mac & cheese, cereal/oatmeal, coffee (not pods), laundry detergent, canned veggies, canned chicken and canned tuna.

United Women in Faith will be placing a **Peace Tree** in the Memorial Garden in front of the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to remember or honor a loved one with a $5 donation to place a light on the Peace Tree. Net proceeds will go toward the Maureen Carr Memorial UWF Scholarship Fund. Members of UWF will be collecting submissions outside the sanctuary before and after services on November 8, 15, and 22, or on the website under "UWF." Please submit your donation to the church office by Sunday, November 22. For further information, please contact Alexandra Holland alexandra@wncnature.com.

Angel Tree Gift Collection: Happening now through December.6, we have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for 30 local children living in foster care. You can learn about this year's children and sign up before and after worship each Sunday in November. There will also be online sign-ups available. Please use the QR code to sign up. Gifts can be dropped off UNWRAPPED and LABELED in "Angel Tree" bins throughout the church until Sunday, December 6. Contact Jill Dudley at jmd0530@yahoo.com with any questions.