

Happening today, 3/15:

- 8:45 AM Sunday School
- 9:30 AM [Blood Pressure Checks](#) | Library
- 10:00 AM Worship Service | Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM [Blood Pressure Checks](#) | Library
- 11:15 AM New-ish to Central | Library
- 11:15 AM Social Principles Class | Room 219**
- 11:15 AM Youth Choir
- 11:15 AM After Worship Family Activities
- 11:45 AM Children's Choir
- 4:00 PM [Confirmation \(Make-Up Day\)](#) | Youth Arenal
- 5:00 PM [Youth Group](#) | Youth Arenal

Happening this week, 3/15-3/22:

MON, 3/16	5:45 PM	Theology Pub Village Pub
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 3/17	12:00 PM	Finance Meeting Conference Room
	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL Library
WED, 3/18	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer Chapel
	12:00 PM	Receptionist Lunch Fellowship Hall
	5:30 PM	NT 101 Room 219
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners Haw Creek
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 3/19	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer Zoom
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer Zoom
FRI, 3/20	3:00 PM	Youth Leave for IgniteUS YMCA Camp Hanes
SUN, 3/22	8:45 AM	Sunday School
	9:00 AM	College Mailings Conference Room
	10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
	11:15 AM	Creation Care Meeting Room 307
	11:15 AM	Social Principles Class Room 219
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir
	11:15 AM	After Worship Family Activities
	11:45 AM	Children's Choir
	1:00 PM	Jordan Speece Recital Sanctuary
	2:00 PM	Jordan Speece Reception Parlor
	4:00 PM	Youth Return from IgniteUS

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

This year our Lenten focus will be on the United Methodist Social Principles, a section in our Book of Discipline that “speak[s] to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions” (*UM Book of Discipline* p. 106). Today we look at the section on the “the Social Community.” Continue to reflect by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- Who is often excluded in today’s society? Who has “restricted access” to certain groups, benefits, privileges, or basic needs?
- When have you been excluded from groups, benefits, privileges, or basic needs?
- Using the answers above, make a list of who is *included* in the body of Christ (with Paul’s list in Galatians 3:28 as inspiration!).

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

As we move through our Social Principles this Lent, we highly recommend that you read one section each week alongside relevant Scripture readings.

- From the Social Principles: “The Social Community,” found on pp. 33-45 of the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church* booklet (available in the back of the Sanctuary and in the library) or online at <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>
- From the Bible:
 - Genesis 1:26-31
 - Philippians 2:3-8
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
 - Luke 10:25-37
 - Galatians 6:1-10

Next week in worship...

We continue our Lenten focus on the United Methodist Social Principles by looking at Part IV: “The Political Community.” We’re very excited to welcome special guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland! Dr. Copeland is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Council of Churches, which was founded in 1935 to address racial inequality. Their primary program areas right now are environmental justice and health and welfare, but also include advocacy around gun violence prevention, public education, raising wages, overdose awareness, racial equity, HIV advocacy, mental health advocacy, death penalty abolition, cash bail reform, and immigrants’ rights. As a United Methodist clergyperson and the leader of the NC Council of Churches, Dr. Copeland is uniquely equipped to speak to “the Political Community.” Join us and bring a friend!

Eco-Tip 🌍: **Psalm 33:4–9** reminds us that God spoke creation into being—the heavens, the waters, and the earth. The psalmist praises the power of God’s word, a word that still speaks to us today, guiding us in how we care for God’s creation.

This week, consider:

- ✦ What choices can you make to **conserve energy**? 💡
- 🌿 How might you **spend time enjoying nature**? 🌳
- ♻️ What small steps can you take to **reduce harm to the earth**?



Central
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026 | 10:00 AM

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Come and Find the Quiet Center” arr. John Matheny
Handbell 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Oak

Excerpt from “A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed,” found in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace

**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

And so shall we.

***HYMN 340** “Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” RESTORATION

MINISTRY MOMENT

Gene Charleton

Reconciling Ministries

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Steve Oak

Ending with the Lord’s Prayer: *Hymnal 895*

OFFERTORY

“My Song Is Love Unknown” Cathy Moklebust
Handbell 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 Hymnal 95** “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 3:23-29 Ben Strupp

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.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

“Social Principles: The Social Community”

OUR SOCIAL CREED

from *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God’s gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God’s handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God’s Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

*HYMN 436 “The Voice of God Is Calling” MEIRIONYDD

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY “Psalm 77” Jacques van Oortmerssen

**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 this morning are given by Vicki and David Leeds in loving memory of Vicki’s parents, Joanne and Eugene Hatton.

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

Social Principles Class Series | Sundays thru MAR 29 | 11:15 AM

The United Methodist Church Social Principles give us a framework to discuss difficult societal issues and listen for how God might call us to action. We look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit speaks to us through these sessions. Join us **Sundays after worship**.

Class Schedule:

- **MAR 15:** The Social Community, Part 2 – *Peter Barrett and Assistant*
- **MAR 22:** The Political Community – *Rev. Dr. Mary Brown*
- **MAR 29:** Our Social Creed: Putting Faith into Action – *Rev. Dr. Mary Brown*

Have questions? Contact Dianna Pierce at dianna.w.pierce@gmail.com.

3rd Grade Bible Classes | First Four Sundays in March | 9:15-9:45 AM

3rd Grade Bible classes will be held from 9:15-9:45 AM during the first four Sundays of March. Please note that a parent or guardian is required to attend with their child. We look forward to this special time of learning and growing together! Questions? Contact **Maggie at**

mchristy@CentralUMC.org.

Jordan Speece Senior Voice Recital | SUN, MAR 22 | 1:00 PM

Join us for an exciting event! Jordan Speece, Soprano and Central Chancel Choir Student Intern will present her Senior Voice Recital at Central, in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in the church Parlor. Jordan has been our Soprano music intern for four years. We are thrilled to host her senior recital. It is **free** and open to everyone. We hope you will join us for this recital of outstanding vocal music! Reach out to **Linda Haggard at** lhaggard@CentralUMC.org with questions.

Nature Hike | SAT, APR 11 | 2:00 PM

Join Alexandra Holland and the Creation Care committee in a nature hike on April 11. We'll enjoy God's creation and signs of new life as the season of spring unfolds. Please contact **Alexandra at** alexandra@wncnature.com to reserve a spot. Gathering site will be shared with participants.

Holy Week at Central.		
SUN MAR 29	Palm Sunday	9:30 AM Pet the Donkey 9:45 AM Donkey Walk on Church Street 10:00 AM Worship
THU APR 3	Maundy Thursday	6:00 PM Worship Service
FRI APR 4	Good Friday	6:00 PM Tenabrae Service
SUN APR 6	Easter	7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 AM Easter Brunch 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Egg Hunt

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through 02/28/2026:

- 2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$ 290,553
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

Central.Congregational Care.



Bereavement Care Ministry: During times of a family death, “arrangements” can be daunting. If a reception following the funeral at our church is needed, please consider letting our **Bereavement Care Ministry** help you by contacting **Pastor Mary**.



Homebound Care Ministry

Whether you are at home but not able to get out and about, or are in a care facility, we want to visit with you! **Pastor Lisa** can make these arrangements through our **Homebound Care Ministry**.



United Women in Faith

UWF Corner

United Women in Faith Monthly Meeting and Contact Information:

UWF Mission Giving – A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: United Women in Faith invites you to participate in this year’s Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering. One-half of the offering supports programs in the U.S. and one-half supports international programs, all aligned with this year’s theme: **“The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children.”**

Funds will support vulnerable children through National Mission Institutions, including five in North Carolina that provide education, after-school programs, mental health support, and more.

To learn more, contact a circle leader or **Kathy Leftwich at** kathleencleftwich@gmail.com.

Shop for a Cause – Eve Circle | SUN, APR 19 & 26 | After worship

On April 19 and 26, the Eve Circle will sell handcrafted paper bead jewelry made by women in Uganda after worship, just outside the Parlor. Proceeds support the Zoe Program for orphan empowerment and scholarships for girls in Moheto, Kenya. Cash or check accepted. Shop, find something beautiful, and help change a life.

Staff Update: Michelle Hausler:

Michelle Hausler, who has served as our Director of Communications since 2024, will be leaving her position effective April 6th. We share this news with mixed feelings - sad to see Michelle go, but very happy for her as she has found what she describes as her "dream job" as the Assistant Director of STEM Success! In this role, Michelle will support first-generation college students in STEM majors as they find their footing at WCU and work toward completing their degrees.

Help us send her off with lots of love with a financial gift! Go to www.centralumc.org/give anytime before March 29th - select "Love Offering Michelle" from the drop down menu.

Thanks for all you've done, Michelle - and best wishes in your new adventure!