




Happening today, 3/22:

8:45 AM	Sunday School
9:00 AM	College Mailings <i>Conference Room</i>
10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 AM	College Mailing Committee <i>Room 318</i>
11:15 AM	Creation Care Meeting <i>Room 307</i>
11:15 AM	Social Principles Class <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
11:15 AM	Youth Choir
11:15 AM	After Worship Family Activities
11:45 AM	Children's Choir
1:00 PM	Jordan Speece Recital <i>Sanctuary</i>
2:00 PM	Jordan Speece Reception <i>Parlor</i>
4:00 PM	Youth Return from IgniteUS

Happening this week, 3/23-3/29:

MON, 3/23	5:45 PM	Theology Pub <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 3/24	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
WED, 3/25	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer <i>Chapel</i>
	5:30 PM	NT 101 <i>Room 219</i>
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
	7:00 PM	Congregational Care Council <i>Zoom</i>
THU, 3/26	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer <i>Zoom</i>
SAT, 3/28	3:00 PM	Pollinator Garden Workday <i>Central Garden</i>
SUN, 3/29	8:45 AM	Sunday School
Palm	9:30 AM	Meet the Donkeys <i>Front Lawn</i>
Sunday	9:45 AM	Donkey Walk <i>Front Steps to Pritchard Park</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 AM	Prayer Shawl Committee <i>Room 218</i>
	11:15 AM	Social Principles Class <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	11:15 AM	Expedition Connect with Confirmation
	11:15 AM	After Worship Family Activities
	11:15 AM	Children's Choir
	1:00 PM	Asheville Youth Symphony Concerto Finals <i>Sanctuary</i>
	2:00 PM	Youth Sunday Prep <i>Youth Arena</i>

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

 **Eco Tip:**  Psalm 104 reminds us that God's creation is vast and interconnected. As you read this psalm, notice that very few verses mention humans. We are just one part of the whole creation. God created the animals, plants, moon and stars, sun, waters, birds, mountains —the list goes on! As you care for creation this week, remember that these acts are also expressions of love for God, our Creator .

Ministry Staff

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor
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 Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care
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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 Political Community.” Continue to reflect by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- What from Dr. Copeland’s message connected with your personal beliefs about faith and politics?
- What from the message challenged you? Why?
- How are you being called to let your faith inform your actions?

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 Political Community,” found on pp. 45-56 of the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church* booklet (available in the back of the Sanctuary and in the library) and also online at <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>
- From the Bible: *How does the command to love one another inform our political action?*
 - John 13:1-11, 31-35
 - John 14:1-17
 - John 21:15-19
 - 1 John 3:11-24
 - 1 John 4:7-21

Next week in worship...

It’s Palm Sunday! Gather outside the Sanctuary (on church street) at 9:30AM to meet our donkeys for the procession. At 9:45AM we’ll be joined by our friends from First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal for the annual “Donkey Walk” to Pritchard Park! Then we’ll gather in worship to wave palm branches, sing hosanna, and reflect on how Jesus’ triumphal entrance into Jerusalem intersects with the themes from the “United Methodist Social Principles” that we’ve been studying this Lent. Join us and bring a friend!



WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

J.G. Walther

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

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 calls nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

*HYMN 368

“My Hope Is Built”

THE SOLID ROCK

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 37:1-14

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lisa Rettew

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

OFFERTORY

“Forsaken”

Dan Forrest

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 *Hymnal 95*

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

NEW TESTAMENT READING John 11:1-45

Rob Walling

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

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

arr. Tom Trenney

Lauralee Bailey and Tom Russell, soloists

SERMON Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland
"Social Principles: The Political Community"

OUR SOCIAL CREED Rev. Lisa Rettew
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 428 "For the Healing of the Nations" CWM RHONDDA

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland

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 Donna and Ed Broadwell in honor of their wedding anniversary.

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 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.

🎵 Jordan Speece Senior Voice Recital | TODAY 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.

🌸 Flowers for the Cross | EASTER, SUN, APR 5

One of Central's most beloved Easter traditions is decorating the cross with fresh flowers! Whether you're attending the Sunrise Service, Worship, or both—be sure to take part. Bring fresh blooms from your yard or a local florist (but maybe skip your neighbor's yard 😊) and help transform the cross into a beautiful symbol of resurrection and new life. Let's celebrate Easter together in full color!

🌿 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.

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through February 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**.

Holy Week at Central.

SUN MAR 29	Palm Sunday	9:30 AM Meet the Donkeys 9:45 AM Donkey Walk on Church Street 10:00 AM Worship
THU APR 2	Maundy Thursday	6:00 PM Worship Service
FRI APR 3	Good Friday	6:00 PM Tenebrae Service
SUN APR 5	Easter	7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service (front steps) 7:30 AM Easter Brunch (Fellowship Hall) 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Egg Hunt (front lawn, weather permitting)



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 any time 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!