

Happening today, 3/29:

8:45 AM	Sunday School
9:30 AM	Meet the Donkeys Front Lawn
9:45 AM	Donkey Walk Front Steps to Pritchard Park
10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
11:15 AM	Prayer Shawl Committee Room 218
11:15 AM	Social Principles Class Fellowship Hall
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 Sanctuary
2:00 PM	Youth Sunday Planning Meeting Youth Arena

Happening this week, 3/30-4/5:

MON, 3/30	5:45 PM	Theology Pub Village Pub
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 3/31	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
WED, 4/1	10:00 AM	Anna Circle
	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer Chapel
	5:30 PM	NT 101 Room 219
	6:00 PM	Dementia Partners Haw Creek
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 4/2	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer Zoom
Maundy Thursday	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer Zoom
	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service Sanctuary
FRI, 4/3	6:00 PM	Tenebrae Worship Service Sanctuary
Good Friday		
SUN, 4/5	7:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Service Church Street Lawn
Easter	7:45 AM	Easter Brunch Fellowship Hall
	8:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Worship Service Sanctuary
	11:15 AM	Egg Hunt Front Lawn (weather permitting)

For more information about these activities, go to [CentralUMC.org/Events](https://www.centralumc.org/Events).

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)

Ministry Staff

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor
MBrown@CentralUMC.org
 Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care
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 Maggie Christy, Director of Children and Youth Discipleship
MChristy@CentralUMC.org
 Corey Powell, Organist & Director of Music Ministries
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 Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music
LHaggard@CentralUMC.org

Sermon Discussion Questions

Continue to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- How is Jesus' entry into Jerusalem different than a normal royal entrance?
- What kind of crowd would Jesus' entrance have attracted?
- How can we be ready to join the crowd envisioned in Revelation 7, people from "every nation, all tribes and peoples and languages... with palm branches in their hands?"

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Today begins "Holy Week," the week before Easter. Read these passages each day to keep watch with Christ through his death... and anticipating resurrection!

- Monday: John 12:1-11
- Tuesday: John 12:20-36
- Wednesday: John 13:21-32
- Thursday: John 13:1-17, 31-35
- Friday: John 18:1 – 19:42
- Saturday: Matthew 27:57-66

Next week in worship...

It's Easter Sunday! Join us at 7am on the Sanctuary steps (facing Church Street) for a short but joyful outdoor worship service with our friends from St. James AME. Afterward we'll celebrate with brunch in the Fellowship Hall. At 10am we'll fill our Sanctuary with "Hallelujahs!" – and cap it all off with an Easter Egg hunt on the front lawn around 11. Join us and let your friends and family know that they are welcome to celebrate Easter with us!

 **Eco Tip:**  Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 Ways to participate in Creation Care this week: avoid Styrofoam (takes over 500 years to disintegrate); avoid single-use plastics (they are small and wash into water supplies); drive fewer miles (fossil fuels emit CO2); eat foods that do less harm to our world (plant sources over meat). These, and many other ways, can help us live abundantly without harming anyone or anything in God's creation. 



Palm Sunday
 March 29, 2026
 10:00 AM

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

"Chorale Prelude on *Ellacombe*" arr. Richard E. Brown
 Brass 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

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Based on Psalm 118

Hosanna!

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

The stone the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone!

Hosanna!

God is good; God's love endures forever!

Hosanna!

Lift up your branches; join in the procession and shout, "Hosanna!"

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

*HYMN 280

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

ST. THEODULPH

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kent and Sarah Caraway,

Hymnal 33

Jessica Norris, John Halsell, Laura Traister

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lisa Rettew

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

OFFERTORY

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates"

William Mathias

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"

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Joyce Robinson

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Maggie Christy

ANTHEM

“Saw Ye My Savior”
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harlan

SERMON

“A Social Creed for Palm Sunday”

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

OUR SOCIAL CREED

from *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*

Rev. Lisa Rettew

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.

THE DRAPING OF THE CROSS

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Robert J. Powell

**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 to the glory of God and in honor of our wedding anniversary by Stewart and Linda Humphrey.

Large print Bibles are available at the usher’s desk at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need assistance.

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 | Final Class Today | 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 **TODAY after worship**.

- **Today:** Our Social Creed: Putting Faith into Action – *Rev. Dr. Mary Brown*
Have questions? Contact Dianna Pierce at dianna.w.pierce@gmail.com.

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.

A Conversation on Transsexuality from Lived Experience | SUN, APR 12 | 3:30pm in room 219

Central UMC’s Reconciling Ministries and Church and Society groups invite you to a conversation with Rev. Dr. Phillippa Faye Phanuef, a transsexual clergyperson in the UMC. Phillippa is an ordained elder in the New York Annual Conference, currently serving North Chili UMC in Rochester, NY. During a visit to the area she generously offered this time to share from her own experience, answer questions, and even apply the Wesley Quadrilateral to transsexuality.

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**.



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.

Anna Circle | WED, APR 1 | 10:00 AM

Anna Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 1, at 10:00 AM in the church parlor. The program will be “A Call to Prayer and Self-denial.” This is a crucial program with an emphasis on children this year. All are welcome to attend. Contact: **Glenda Fuhrmann** glendafuhrmann@yahoo.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!