

**Happening today, 4/5:**

- 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service | *Church Street Lawn*
- 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)*

**Happening this week, 4/6-4/12:**

MON, 4/6	All Day	<b>Church Offices Closed for Easter</b>
	5:45 PM	Theology Pub   <i>Village Pub</i>
TUE, 4/7	10:00 AM	Eve Circle   <i>Parlor</i>
	10:00 AM	Ruth Circle   <i>Library</i>
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL   <i>Library</i>
WED, 4/8	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer   <i>Chapel</i>
THU, 4/9	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer   <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer   <i>Zoom</i>
SAT, 4/11	2:00 PM	Nature Hike with Alexandra Holland
SUN, 4/12	8:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Worship Service   <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 AM	New-ish to Central   <i>Library</i>
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir
	11:15 AM	After Worship Family Activities
	11:45 AM	Children's Choir
	11:45 AM	Reconciling Ministries Meeting   <i>Room 219</i>
	5:00 PM	Youth Group   <i>Youth Arena</i>

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

**Communications & Announcements:** Please send all announcement requests to [announcements@centralumc.org](mailto:announcements@centralumc.org) or submit a **Communications Request Form** at [CentralUMC.org/Communications](https://CentralUMC.org/Communications).

**Eco Tip:** God continues to bless all of us with new creation! Easter and springtime testify to God's love for us, human and non-human. This week, enjoy the beauty of nature and do something to protect and heal our beautiful Earth. Replace one plastic item in your life with a non-plastic substitute: e.g. metal straw, bamboo cutting board, cotton clothing instead of polyester, metal water bottle, etc.

**ABCCM Donations – Thank you!!**

**Thank you** to everyone who donated toilet paper and cat food for ABCCM! Your generosity is appreciated. The latest needs of the clothing closet are:

- Gently used backpacks
  - Men's athletic shoes and boots (especially size 10)
  - Men's jeans, especially waist sizes 32, 34, & 36 with inseams of 32–36
  - Men's T-shirts, especially long-sleeved shirts in sizes L, XL, and 2XL
- Please do not donate shirts with alcohol or tobacco logos. **Donations** may be placed in the **wooden tub in Fellowship Hall**. Items are picked up each Sunday and delivered to ABCCM Crisis downtown.

**Central.Giving.**

**Financial Update through February 2026:**

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

# EVERYONE WITHOUT EXCEPTION

**Ministry Staff**

- Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, *Senior Pastor*  
[MBrown@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MBrown@CentralUMC.org)
- Rev. Lisa Rettew, *Minister of Congregational Care*  
[LRettew@CentralUMC.org](mailto:LRettew@CentralUMC.org)
- Maggie Christy, *Director of Children and Youth Discipleship*  
[MChristy@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MChristy@CentralUMC.org)
- Corey Powell, *Organist & Director of Music Ministries*  
[CPowell@CentralUMC.org](mailto:CPowell@CentralUMC.org)
- Linda Haggard, *Director of Choral Music*  
[LHaggard@CentralUMC.org](mailto:LHaggard@CentralUMC.org)
- Richard Provine  
*Director of Central Brass*

**Sermon Discussion Questions**

Christ is risen – he is risen indeed! Continue to reflect on the Easter story by re-reading Matthew 28:1-10 and journaling or discussing the following:

- Imagine yourself as Mary Magdalene or one of the other women in the story. What would it have been like to feel the earth quake, see the angel roll the stone away, and watch the guards freeze with fear?
- When have you been afraid... and then had those fears relieved? (A near-miss auto accident, almost taking a fall, expecting judgment and getting forgiveness...)
- How does Jesus' death and resurrection offer you a release from fear?

**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: Matthew 28:1-10
- Tuesday: Matthew 28:11-20
- Wednesday: Acts 10:34-43
- Thursday: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Friday: Colossians 3:1-4
- Saturday: Jeremiah 31:1-6

**Next week in worship...**

How do we respond to the Easter message? The New Testament book of 1 Peter encourages us to live following Jesus' example and to let our suffering find purpose. Join us as we begin a series reflecting on this book with a look at 1 Peter 1:3-9.



Easter Sunday  
 April 5, 2026  
 10:00 AM

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY**

"Jubilate Deo"  
 Brass Choir

Hans Leo Hassler

*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

On the first Easter Sunday, when it was still dark,  
**The earth shook! An angel appeared!**  
 On the first Easter Sunday, when the women arrived at the tomb,  
**An angel appeared! The stone was rolled away!**  
 On the first Easter Sunday, when the guards were scared stiff,  
**The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid!**  
**Jesus is not here – he has been raised!"**  
 On this Easter Sunday, the light has dawned!  
**Our hearts are strangely warmed!**  
 On this Easter Sunday, love has conquered fear!  
**Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!**

**\*HYMN 302**

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"  
 Stanzas 1-4

EASTER HYMN  
 arr. Gary Senechal

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 28:1-10

Lily Everette

**ANTHEM**

"Jubilate Deo"  
 Chancel Choir

Benjamin Britten

**SERMON**

"Easter Earthquakes"

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**OFFERTORY**

"This Joyful Eastertide"  
 Chancel Choir

arr. Anna Laura Page

*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 94**

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

## SERVICE OF THE WORD AND TABLE

Hymnal 12, 15-16

Rev. Lisa Rettew  
Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

## COMMUNION MUSIC

- 303 "The Day of Resurrection"
- 322 "Up From the Grave He Arose"
- 314 "In the Garden"
- 307 "Christ Is Risen"
- 310 "He Lives"

**\*SUNG BENEDICTION** "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel  
Chancel Choir

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

## CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

**VOLUNTARY** "Voluntary on *Diademata*" arr. Brenda Portman

*\*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 for the cross this morning: place your flowers on the cross before the service or during one of the hymns.

Large print hymnals 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

### 🌸 Flowers for the Cross | TODAY

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](mailto:alexandra@wncnature.com) to reserve a spot. Gathering site will be shared with participants.

## New-ish to Central Coffee Hour | SUN, APR 12 | 11:15 AM

☕ Are you new—or new-ish—to Central? We'd love to get to know you! Join the pastors for a casual time of conversation, coffee, and connection after worship next Sunday in the Library. This is a great opportunity to meet the pastors, connect with others who are newer to Central, and learn more about our church community. Whether you've been visiting for a while or this is your first Sunday, you're invited to join us! Can't make it this month? No worries! "New-ish to Central Coffee Hour" takes place monthly on the **second Sunday of each month**. Questions? Please reach out to **Pastor Mary**.

## Reconciling Ministry Group | SUN, APR 12 | 11:45 AM in Room 219

All are welcome to join the conversation as we continue our work of advocacy, inclusion, and support for LGBTQ+ persons in our church and community. We will also share updates about the group's ongoing support of the Moheto Kenya Scholarship Project. Come learn more, connect with others, and find ways to get involved.

## A Conversation on Transsexuality | SUN, APR 12 | 3:30 PM 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 clergy person 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.



## Eve Circle | TUE, APR 7 | 10:00 AM

Eve Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 7, at 10:00 AM in the Parlor at Central. **Cindy Oak** will share about her journey in **Congregational Care**. All are welcome! For questions or to express interest, contact **Donna Anderson** at [diballandy45@gmail.com](mailto:diballandy45@gmail.com) or **Sandra Wells** at [sandracwells@gmail.com](mailto:sandracwells@gmail.com).

## Deborah Circle | TUE, APR 14 | 10:00 AM

Deborah Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in a member's home. Using the United Women in Faith program guide, *Mapping Our Way Forward in Times of Change and Uncertainty*, the group explores topics of faith, service, and hope. At the April 14 meeting, we will focus on "Seeds of Hope," exploring climate justice and our efforts to care for creation. The discussion will include insights from Jane Goodall's *The Book of Hope*. All are welcome. Questions may be directed to **Susan Snell** at [ssnell123@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net).

## 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.

## Central.Congregational Care.



It is hard to admit out loud that we are having trouble handling our life issues by ourselves. But... "asking for help is the bravest thing you can do." ~C. Mackesy. Consider a confidential care relationship with a **Stephen Minister**. Contact **Pastor Lisa** today for more information.



The **Prayer Shawl Care Ministry** wants to help lift your spirits when life challenges bring you down. A handmade shawl created with prayers over every stitch can comfort you and be a reminder of God's never-ending love for you.

Contact **Pastor Lisa** if you would like to receive a shawl or have one delivered to someone going through a difficult time.

## Central.Family Life.

### Youth Money Wall Fundraiser for Wilderness Trail | Sundays in APR

Support our youth as they prepare for their summer trip with Wilderness Trail! Each Sunday in April, you can participate in our Money Wall fundraiser. Choose a numbered envelope from the display, place that amount in cash or a check inside, and return it. For example, choose **envelope #10 and give \$10**, or **envelope #50 and give \$50**. Every gift helps make this faith-filled backpacking experience possible for our youth. Thank you for your generosity!

### Family Life Council Meeting | SUN, MAY 3 | 11:15 AM | Youth Arena

Anyone involved in Family Life at Central United Methodist Church is invited to this open meeting. Grab lunch from Table 2 Table and join us to share ideas and dream together about Family Life Ministries at Central.

### Vacation Bible School 2026 | JUN 15-19 | 9:00 AM - NOON

Children ages 3 through rising 5th grade are invited to Vacation Bible School at Central United Methodist Church June 15–19 from 9:00 AM–12:00 noon. Each day, children will step into Bible times and watch God's Word come to life through music, crafts, games, and storytelling. Students in **grades 6–12 and adults are invited to volunteer!** There is no fee, and snacks are provided. Register your children by scanning the QR Code, or email [mchristy@CentralUMC.org](mailto:mchristy@CentralUMC.org).



### Cross Connection Mission Trip | June 21–27

Rising 7th graders and older youth and families are invited to consider joining this summer's mission trip with Cross Connection. Participants will spend the week serving 2–3 families through home repair projects while building relationships and growing together in faith. If you are interested go to [CentralUMC.org/Events](https://CentralUMC.org/Events) or scan the QR Code.



### Backpacking with Wilderness Trail | July 13–18

Rising 7th graders and older are invited to join us for a week of experiencing Christ through backpacking! This beginner-friendly trip is open to anyone—no backpacking experience or equipment is needed. Wilderness Trail will provide the gear and guide as we learn to work together as the body of Christ, overcome challenges, find joy in all circumstances, see God in creation, and recognize the holy ground around us each day. Best of all—it's a lot of fun! Learn more by scanning the QR Code or go to [CentralUMC.org/Events](https://CentralUMC.org/Events).

