

Today's Events: May 3

8:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 am	Family Life Council Meeting – <i>Youth Arena</i>
11:15 am	Table 2 Table – <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Reconciling Ministries Meeting – <i>Room 219</i>
5:00 pm	Youth Group – <i>Youth Arena</i>

This Week's Events: May 4 - 10

Mon., 5/4	12:00 pm	Building Committee Meeting- <i>Conf. Room</i>
	5:45 pm	Theology Pub – <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 pm	Brass Rehearsal – <i>Sanctuary</i>
Tues., 5/5	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
	10:00 am	Eve Circle - <i>Parlor</i> Ruth Circle - <i>Member home</i>
	2:00 pm	Dementia Partners - <i>Library</i>
Wed., 5/6	10:00 am	Anna Circle, <i>Parlor</i>
	11:00 am	Staff on Retreat Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i>
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room</i>
Thurs., 5/7	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	3:00 pm	Journey Group - <i>Library</i>
Fri., 5/8	11:00 am	Lee Loy Memorial Service - <i>Sanctuary</i>
	12:00 pm	Reception – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	5:00 pm	Choral Society Concert - <i>Sanctuary</i>
Sat., 5/9	11:00 am	Choral Society Concert - <i>Sanctuary</i>
Sun., 5/10	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
	10:30 am	Children's Church/Sunday School – <i>Chapel</i>
	11:15 am	Young Parent Conference – <i>Conf. Room</i> Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i>
	5:00 pm	Youth Group – <i>Youth Arena</i>

*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

You are a part of the priesthood of all believers! You are a minister of Christ. Continue to reflect on how that's possible and your unique calling by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- When did you first come to faith in Christ?
- What was most important to you in that initial stage of your faith? What kind of "pure, spiritual milk" nourished you at the beginning?
- How might God use you to share the basics that started you in the faith with others?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Take this week to read the short book of 1 Peter, a letter written to Christians experiencing a state of exile due to their faith.

- Monday: 1 Peter 1
- Tuesday: 1 Peter 2
- Wednesday: 1 Peter 3
- Thursday: 1 Peter 4
- Friday: 1 Peter 5
- Saturday: Skim back through 1 Peter, using the headings in your Bible to jog your memory of what you've read. What overall themes do you notice?

Next week in worship...

As we celebrate an infant baptism, 1 Peter 3:13-22 invites us to think about what baptism means for us as adults. Join us a bring a friend who needs a message of forgiveness and new beginnings!

Communications Changes

With our Communications Director, Michelle Hausler's departure, we have changes to announce for Communications:

For bulletin announcements: **Jan Griffin** will be producing our weekly worship bulletins. Please keep bulletin announcements to two or three sentences and have all announcements turned in by Wednesdays at noon. Longer announcements can be included in the e-newsletter and the Jot & Tittle.

Rachel Harris will continue to be responsible for all social media and the e-newsletter.

Anne Walling has graciously agreed to produce the Jot & Tittle (Stories from Central) publications. Please extend to her both patience and grace as she works to become familiar with the process!

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS are to be sent to announcements@centralumc.org. Anne, Rachel, and Jan will receive these emails.



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Kyrie from *Messe Pour Les Convents*" François Couperin
I. Plein jeu
II. Fugue sur la Trompette

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Rettew

The God who loves us and saved us is calling us: calling us to be a priestly people.
As a priesthood of believers, we offer this hour of worship to God. Through his death and resurrection, Christ overcame sin and death. Through the Holy Spirit, we are given grace and gifts for ministry.
We are ordained by our baptisms, initiated into ministry through the church. God has given us a variety of gifts and a diversity of callings.
As priests, we offer our whole selves to God's gracious purpose in the world.

***HYMN 79** "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" GROSSER GOTT
(Stanzas 1-4)

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 2:2-10 Jim Webb

SERMON "Priesthood of Believers" Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

OFFERTORY "O Lamb of God, I Come" Raymond Haan
Wesley Singers

While the choir makes their musical offering, 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** Hymnal 94
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE Hymnal pages 12, 15-16

COMMUNION HYMNS

- 398 "Jesus Calls Us"
- 415 "Take Up Thy Cross"
- 128 "He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"
- 402 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

***HYMN** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE "Tube Tune" Paul Fey

**Please stand, if you are able.*

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

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the Ushers.

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given by Donald Landes in thanksgiving for the new Confirmands, and for the wonderful and talented children and youth at Central, and the outstanding performances they gave last Sunday.

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.

Central.Giving.

Financial Update through March 2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$421,744
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

ECO-Tip: Our food sources are important, even essential, in God's plan for creation. We can look for locally grown produce and protein. We can encourage farmers who are using regenerative soil practice. Our choices can heal rather than harm our environment. Let the "meditation of my heart" include how humans use, not abuse, God's gift of creation.



Central's Child & Family Care Ministry can embrace your family with support when needed! Today's families with young children and teens face so many challenges! You do not have to go it alone. Please reach out to Pastor Lisa or Maggie Christy and let us wrap our care around you!

SUMMER NEWSLETTER CHANGE!

Instead of a newsletter this summer, we are planning to send out a very detailed calendar for the month July. **Please send any event that needs to be on the calendar during the month of July to announcements@centralumc.org no later than May 12.** Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Table 2 Table Potluck Gathering is happening TODAY! – Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for our Table 2 Table Potluck, where good food and good company come together! All are welcome! There is no cost, though donations are welcome to help offset the cost of the meal. Pull up a chair, share a meal, and connect across tables. We can't wait to gather with you!

Reconciling Ministry Group will meet this morning in Room 219 at 11:45 a.m. The Reconciling Ministry Group advocates for LGBTQ+ inclusion, diversity and equity justice, and promotes the Moheto UMC High School Girls' Scholarships Fund in Kenya. Pastor Mary Brown will join us for conversation about our mission. Help shape RMG's future!

Family Life Council will meet today at 11:15 am in the Youth Arena. Anyone involved in Family Life at Central 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.

Eve Circle - On May 5, Maggie Christy will share with Eve Circle the path that led her to work with all ages of youth at Central. Meeting will be in the parlor at 10:00 am. Visitors are always welcome! If interested or have questions, contact dlballandy45@gmail.com or sandracwells@gmail.com.

Ruth Circle - Members of the Ruth Circle will gather at the home of Kim Everette for our annual Ruth Circle Luncheon on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 10:00 am. For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact Kim Everette at kimeverette525@gmail.com.

Anna Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 6 at 10:00 am in the parlor. Our meeting will include a discussion of our mission plans for the summer and fall, and a program on Centering Prayer will be led by Emma Durr. For interest in our circle, contact Glenda Fuhrmann at glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

Equal Plates will be hosting their Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Haw Creek Commons on Thursday, May 14 from 4-6 p.m. All are invited to celebrate the opening of their new facility with them!

The Blue Ridge Ringers present "POP! GO THE HANDBELLS" at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary of Central United Methodist on Sunday, May 17. The concert is FREE but donations are gratefully accepted!

SAVE THE DATES!

We have two summer events we want to remind everyone about – the Broadway Review is happening on Friday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and Vacation Bible School from June 15-29 (you can sign up in Realm). Look for more later about these upcoming events!

ABCCM Donations – Thank you!!

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

- Gently used backpacks
- Men's athletic shoes and boots (especially size 10)
- Men's jeans, especially waist sizes 32, 34, and 36 with inseams of 32–36
- Men's T-shirts, especially long-sleeved shirts in sizes L, XL, and 2X

Please do not donate shirts with alcohol or tobacco logos. Donations may be placed in the wooden tub in the Fellowship Hall. Items are picked up each Sunday and delivered to ABCCM Crisis downtown.

Dorm Room Sponsors Needed - Four Asheville High seniors are awaiting sponsorship in Central's Congregations for Children (C4C) Dorm Room Sponsor mission project. Sponsoring a student for the whole list is best. Monetary donations are also welcome – specify Congregations for Children (C4C). An Amazon list is available to order & ship directly. Email Kim Sink to sign up or get more info at c4c@centralumc.org.

A Word from Your SPRC Chair:

"Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church."

We presently have needs for shifts at the front desk, audio/visual needs for Sunday and live streaming, ushers, greeters, Sunday morning coffee ministries with the un-housed, altar guild, communion set-up, finance committee, among others. We even need a treasurer for our church. There is a need to match every gift – particularly your gifts. Consider ways that you can share the love of Christ. – Robin Smith