

Today's Events: June 21

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| 8:45 am | Sunday School |
| 9:30 | Blood Pressure Checks - <i>Library</i> |
| 10:00 am | Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| 11:00am | Blood Pressure Checks - <i>Library</i> |
| 11:15 am | Children's Playtime - <i>Chapel</i> Young Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i> |

This Week's Events: June 22-29

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|--------------|----------|---|
| Mon., 5/22 | 5:45 pm | Theology Pub – <i>Village Pub</i> |
| Tues., 5/23 | 9:45 am | Staff Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i> |
| Wed., 5/24 | 11:00 am | Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i> |
| | 1:00 pm | Community Chamber Conference Series - <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| Thurs., 5/25 | 8:00 am | Thursday Morning Prayer – <i>Zoom</i> |
| | 10:00 am | Circle of Prayer – <i>Zoom</i> |
| | 11:00 am | Congregational Care Council – <i>Cindy Oak's home</i> |
| Fri., 5/26 | 4:00 pm | Wedding Rehearsal - <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| Sat. 5/27 | 5:00 pm | Wedding - <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| Sun., 5/28 | 8:45 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| | 11:15 am | Children's Playtime – <i>Chapel</i> Young Parent Gathering – <i>Conf Room</i> Stewardship Comm. Meeting – <i>Rm 307</i> Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i> |

Sunday Rhythm for Children & Youth!

| Nursery | Elementary | Youth | Parents |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 9:30am-12:30pm | Worship 10:00-10:30 am | Worship 10:00-11:15 am | Worship 10:00-11:15 am |
| | Children's Church 10:30-11:45 am | | |
| Children's Play Time 11:15-11:45 am | | Youth Sunday School 11:15-11:45 am | Young Parent Gathering 11:15-11:45 am |

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS for bulletins, social media, and newsletters are to be sent to announcements@centralumc.org.

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

Continue to reflect on today's message by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- What threatens to separate you from the love of God? Busy-ness? Financial stress? Relationships? Illness?
- Bring that potential separator clearly to mind and then read Romans 8:38-39 out loud.
- Be still (try setting a timer for 10 minutes!) and know that God loves you – always.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

This year Vacation Bible School focused on Paul's letter to the Romans. Challenge yourself to read it this week! There's some difficult material in here – remember that you can reach out to Pastor Mary or Pastor Lisa with questions.

- Monday: Romans 1 - 3
- Tuesday: Romans 4 - 5
- Wednesday: Romans 6 - 7
- Thursday: Romans 8 - 10
- Friday: Romans 11 - 12
- Saturday: Romans 13 - 16

Next Week in Worship...

Here at Central UMC we welcome "everyone without exception." What does it mean to "welcome" someone? Why does it matter if we welcome *everyone*? Matthew 10:40-42 has something to teach us! Join us to experience that welcome and learn how to share it with others!



Ordinary Time
June 21, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

VBS Children's Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP: A Recap of our 2026 VBS Daily Themes

Rev. Lisa Rettew

On Monday we read Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God's love is a gift!

On Tuesday we read Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

God's love changes us!

On Wednesday we read Romans 8:38: "For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love."

God's love is always with us!

On Thursday we read Romans 5:8: "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

God's love saves us!

On Friday we read Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ."

God's love is worth sharing!

Every day we learn that:

God loves us first and most and always!

***HYMN 154** "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" CORONATION
(Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 6)

MISSION MOMENT Immigration Justice Peter Barrett

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Lisa Rettew
Ending with the Lord's Prayer (Hymnal 895)

OFFERTORY "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go" Ralph Manuel
Chancel Choir

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"

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8:31-32, 38-39

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
"God's Love is Always With Us"

***AFFIRMATION FROM ROMANS 8:35, 37-39** (Hymnal 887)
Rev. Lisa Rettew

***HYMN 384** "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" BEECHER

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE "Rondeau" J. Mouret

***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 Fred, Marcia, and David Ayers in loving memory of our son and brother, Brad, on what would be his 55th birthday.

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 May 2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$645,833
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

ECO-Tip: There are many good suggestions for using less fossil fuel when we drive: drive slower, no sudden acceleration, consider the use of heat or air conditioning, etc. With the current high price of gasoline, perhaps you can practice better driving habits AND reduce your use of fossil fuels that pollute our air and water.



At Central, praying for others is the beginning of wrapping our love around you when you are facing a tough time or experiencing a deep joy. We believe this scripture from Matthew 8:20 that "where two or three gather in my (Jesus) name, there am I with them." Our Circle of Prayer group believes that through their prayers on behalf of others that they are "standing in the gap for your needs and seeking God's blessings for you."

If you feel there is often a strong sense of God's direction in your prayers, maybe you are being called to participate in this intercessory prayer group, either by Zoom or in person. Please contact Pastor Lisa for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Backpacking with Wilderness Trail – rising 7th graders through graduating seniors are invited to join us July 13-18. No experience necessary! Just a desire to spend time in nature with God and good friends. Scholarships available! Sign up now on Realm. For more information, email mchristy@centralumc.org.



Calling EVERYONE – are you 18 or older, able to pass a background check, and willing to share God's love by supervising, teaching, or feeding our young friends? We need your help! We need more safe adults to volunteer for Children's Church, after worship Children's Playtime or Kids with Purpose, Youth Group, providing youth meals and special events.

We Are Hiring! – We need a Nursery Supervisor, Nursery Staff and Nursery Substitutes. If this is something you might be interested in doing, please contact Maggie Christy at mchristy@centralumc.org.

This summer Central's **Church & Society Committee** would like to offer you the opportunity to visit St. James AME Church in a small group with others from our congregation (<http://www.stjames-asheville.org/>). You may remember St. James' pastor, Reverend Bynum, who brought the message to Central at the Easter Sunrise service this year. Many of us also enjoyed connecting with members of the St. James congregation at the brunch that followed the service. Dr. Bynum is a proponent of cross-congregation connection, and St. James has a very welcoming approach to their services. Each group will be facilitated by a member of Church & Society. If you are interested in joining a group, please visit this link for the more information and to sign up: <https://onrealm.org/centralumc/Registrations>.