

Today’s Events: July 12

8:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
10:30 am	Children’s Church - <i>Chapel</i>
11:00 am	Newish to Central Coffee Hour - <i>Library</i>
11:15 am	Children’s Playtime – <i>Chapel</i>
	Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i>
	Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i>

This Week’s Events: July 12-19

Mon., 7/13	12:00 pm	Building Committee Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:45 pm	Theology Pub – <i>Village Pub</i>
Tues., 7/14	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
Wed., 7/15	10:00 am	UMW Executive Committee Meeting, <i>Library</i>
	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i>
	12:30 pm	Haywood St. Worship – <i>Haywood St.</i>
Thurs., 7/16	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer - <i>Zoom</i>
Sun., 7/19	8:45 am	Sunday School
	9:30 am	Blood Pressure Checks - <i>Library</i>
	10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 am	Blood Pressure Checks - <i>Library</i>
	11:15 am	Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i>
		Children’s Play Time – <i>Chapel</i>
		Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</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

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 “soil” do you relate to in this parable: the hard path, rocky, thorny... or the good soil that’s bearing fruit? (It can be more than one!)
- Who is someone who scattered seed on the soil of your life? Who has taught or modeled the word of God to you?
- Write or call that person this week to tell them about the impact they had on you. If they are deceased, consider writing or calling a member of their family.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Continue to reflect on the parable of the sower by comparing and contrasting this passage in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Not only does this give you a chance sit with the parable all week, it can also allow you to see the parable from different “angles.” Every day before you read, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you!

- Monday: Matthew 13:1-9
- Tuesday: Matthew 13:18-23
- Wednesday: Mark 4:1-9
- Thursday: Mark 4:13-20
- Friday: Luke 8:4-8
- Saturday: Luke 8:11-15

Next Week in Worship...

Are you familiar with the Serenity Prayer? Reinhold Neibuhr’s prayer about serenity, acceptance, change, and wisdom is well-known for a good reason. Join us as we explore how it can be applied in some unexpected ways!



Ordinary Time
July 12, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “Chorale/Elegy” Christopher Uehlein

CALL TO WORSHIP based on Matthew 13:18-23 Rev. Lisa Rettew
God, we are here to listen.
Don’t let your word be snatched away.
God, we are here to praise.
Don’t let our troubles overshadow our joy.
God, we are here to change.
Don’t let the lure of wealth weaken our resolve.
God, we are here to listen and live differently for you.
Let our lives bear your fruit!

*HYMN 126 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” MIT FREUDEN ZART

MINISTRY MOMENT: ABCCM George Pettus

PASTORAL PRAYER ending with the Lord’s Prayer Rev. Lisa Rettew

OFFERTORY “Thank You Lord” Dan Burgess
Tom Russell, soloist

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 Matthew 13:1-9 Graham Hickson
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

SERMON “The Graciously Irresponsible Sower”
Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

AFFIRMATION from 1 Timothy (Hymnal 889) Rev. Lisa Rettew

***HYMN 500** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” MORRECAMBE

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

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE “Rigaudon” Andre Campra

**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 Joan Signorille and her husband, Dennis Greeno, in loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother, Kerry Greeno.

For name tags: <https://centralumc.org/adults#name-tag>. The cost is \$15 payable to Central UMC.

Plainclothes law enforcement officers are present during our services so that all may feel welcome, secure and free to worship, 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 June 2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$761,087
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

ECO Tip: Check out Bill McKibben, author, educator and environmentalist, for information about climate change effects around the world and things you can do to heal the earth.

 We all face difficult challenges in life. Sometimes having someone listen without judgement, show understanding, and compassion helps us keep our footing. Central has Stephen Ministers who commit to being this confidante. Even when it is hard to admit out loud our struggle to handle a life challenge, “asking for help could be the bravest thing you can do” (C. Mackesy)

 Central’s Pastors also are available to support you through phone calls, visits, and serving Communion. Please notify them if you are homebound, facing surgery, and/or any other medical treatment. Whether you may desire a Stephen Minister or pastoral care, please contact Pastor Lisa for a conversation to see how we can wrap our arms around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

 On Friday, July 24, join your Central UMC friends for a morning volunteering with **Habitat for Humanity!** The job site will be confirmed the week before. Jobs can vary and will be assigned that day. No experience or tools needed, but you may want sunscreen, sunglasses, a water bottle, gloves, and/or your own tools. Meet at 8:30 for instructions; work until noon; then join us afterward for lunch if you can!

Use the QR Code to register. Questions? Email Robin Smith at drtsmith@gmail.com.



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. Contact Maggie Christy at mchristy@centralumc.org if interested.

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.

 Donate your car. Change a life. **Working Wheels** accepts donated vehicles to help local working families access reliable transportation. Learn more or donate your vehicle at workingwheelswnc.org.

Donate Your Car.
Change a Life.
<https://workingwheelswnc.org/>

 **This Fall: Study about Small Groups - Try out a Small Group!** Join us for an 8-week exploration of the basic building block of the Methodist movement: John Wesley’s “class meeting.” Over the course of this experience we’ll gradually shift weight from a study to a small group experience, giving participants and understanding and a taste for why these weekly meetings are so important to our spiritual growth. We’ll end with an opportunity for those interested to form new small groups that continue meeting.

We will meet after worship (11:15am) in Room 219 from 9/13 to 11/15, skipping first Sundays of each month (for the Table2Table meal). Participants will need a copy of Kevin Watson’s book, *The Class Meeting*. It can be purchased from Amazon or picked up from our church office for a \$20 suggested donation. Registration is required using the QR code attached or this link: <https://bit.ly/2026fallstudygroup>



 **Faith Feeds**
Food Drive
Hunger calls. Your faith answers.

This summer, our neighbors are facing increasing challenges in finding healthy, affordable food to stock their pantries. With children home from school and prices soaring, the impacts of Helene continue to be felt in our community. We are partnering with ABCCM and the Churches of our community to ensure our neighbors are fed. The ABCCM Box is in the foyer on the second floor (outside the Fellowship Hall).

Items Needed:

Breakfast Cereal	Flour (Self-rising)	Sugar
Peanut Butter	Boxed Mac & Cheese	Jelly
Vegetable oil	Dry beans	Grits
Pasta Sauce	Oatmeal	Snacks

If you would like to contribute cold foods (to be delivered on Mondays), please bring:

Butter	Milk
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