

Today’s Events: July 26

- 8:45 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship Service – Sanctuary
- 11:15 am Children’s Playtime – Chapel
- Parent Gathering – Conference Room
- Family Life Council Meeting – Youth Arena

This Week’s Events: July 27-Aug 2

Mon., 7/27	5:00 pm	Asheville Resource Festival – Church St.
	5:45 pm	Theology Pub – Village Pub
Tues., 7/28	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
Wed., 7/29	10:00 am	UWF Executive Committee Meeting - Library
	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – Chapel
	12:30 pm	Haywood St. Worship – Haywood St.
Thurs., 7/30	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer - Zoom
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – Zoom
	2:00 pm	Newsletter Crew – Conference Room
Fri., 7/31	ALL DAY	CUMC OFFICE CLOSED
Sun., 8/2	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – Sanctuary
	11:15 am	Table2Table – Fellowship Hall
		Children’s Play Time – Chapel
		Parent Gathering – Conference Room
		Youth Sunday School – Youth Arena
	11:30 am	Reconciling Ministries – Room 219

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

For Pastoral Emergencies Contact:
Rev. Lisa Rettew at 828-575-1257
OR
Rev. Dr. Mary Brown at 828-575-1261

CENTRAL UMC OFFICES WILL BE
CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 31

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 discussion the following questions:
- When was the last time you lost something and frantically searched for it?
 - What did it feel like when you found it?
 - How is the kingdom of heaven like *that*?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Let this week’s Lectionary Passages guide your daily refection:

- Monday: Genesis 29:15-28
- Tuesday: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
- Wednesday: 1 Kings 3:5-12
- Thursday: Psalm 119:129-136
- Friday: Romans 8:26-39
- Saturday: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Next Week in Worship...

Rev. Lisa Rettew preaches on what it means to take up our cross and follow Jesus in Matthew 16:21-26. Join us for communion and stay after worship for our Table2Table potluck meal!



Ordinary Time
July 26, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “Hymn” Karl Jenkins

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Rettew

What is the kingdom of heaven like?
Jesus tells us. The kingdom of heaven is like:
A mustard seed
Yeast mixed in with flour
Treasure hidden in a field
A merchant searching for pearls
A net that catches many fish
What is the kingdom of heaven like?
Precious; expansive; sometimes hidden; always worth finding
May we find that kingdom here!

*HYMN 103 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ST. DENIO

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Hymnal 33)
Juniper Grier Warren
Daughter of Taylor Warren and Hillary Burdette Sapp

MISSION MOMENT: WILDERNESS TRAIL Frank Day

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

OFFERTORY “Take it to the Lord in Prayer” arr. Joel Raey
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 “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal 94

SCRIPTURE READINGMatthew 13:44-52Maria CamposThe word of God for the people of GodThanks be to God

CHILDREN’S TIMEMaggie Christy

SERMONRev. Dr. Mary Brown“What’s It Like to Seek the Kingdom of Heaven?”

*A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE KOREAN METHODIST CHURCH (Hymnal 884)Rev. Lisa Rettew

*HYMN 540“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”ST. THOMAS

*BENEDICTIONRev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE“How Firm a Foundation”arr. Don Hustad

**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 Mary Margaret Ingle and Kim, Brad and Lily Everette in loving memory of Walter Ervin Ingle.

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

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ECO Tip: Single-use plastic bags have been banned in Bangladesh and Ireland since 2002, in the European Union since 2019, and are now banned or restricted in 130 countries. The latest figure calculated for Buncombe County is 132.6 MILLION plastic bags used in one year. These bags in our county will not degrade or decompose for hundreds of years, adding to pollution and unsightly roadsides. Use canvas grocery bags to reduce this harm to God’s creation.



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.

Prayer Shawls are available in the room behind the Reception Desk for ANYONE to take to someone in need of comfort. Just be sure to sign the “sign out” list for tracking purposes! Thank you for YOUR care!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reconciling Ministries Group will meet on Sunday, August 2, at 11:45 a.m. in Room 219. Everyone is invited. Reconciling Ministries is a Central group that meets monthly, and which advocates for LGBTQ+ in the United Methodist Church.



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 CerealCanned Vegies (green beans)Sugar

Peanut ButterBoxed Mac & CheeseJelly

Vegetable oilDry beansGrits

Hearty soupsOatmealSnacks

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

ButterYogurt

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ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

Rising Kindergarteners!

Is your child or a child you know about to start Kindergarten? We are so excited to celebrate with you! Please let Maggie Christy (mchristy@centralumc.org) know so that they can receive a special Kinder gift!



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.

Central Methodist Theology Pub Group. What’s it all about?

Theology pub is a gathering to kick around theological topics and share life experiences. We’re always looking for new folks to join in. We meet weekly at The Village Pub: 100 Fairview Rd in Asheville on Mondays at 5:45, generally ending around 7:15. Everyone without exception is welcome and there is absolutely no need to have a deep Biblical knowledge or any Biblical knowledge at all.

Typical topics include grace, mercy, good/evil, discipleship, the Beatitudes, church and society, etc., with the goal being to grow as followers of Christ. Each week brings a new topic and list of open-ended questions to discuss. No lectures, no outside reading or prep -- just come and share your thoughts, drink a beer (if you wish) and enjoy some pub food. We’d love to have you!

C4C – Filling Emma Elementary’s Clothes Closet

Congregations 4 Children (C4C) and Growing in Faith Through Service (GIFTS) Sunday School Class request your help with donations of these essentials for the children at Emma.

What Is Needed:

NEW: **Pants** – Sweatpants, black – Unisex, all sizes, 5/6, 7/8 & 10/12
NEW: **Underwear** -- Boys and girls, all sizes, Small, Medium & Large
NEW: **Shirts** – Boys and girls, all sizes, Small, Medium & Large
NEW: **Shoes** – Tennis (athletic shoes – Youth sizes 1,2,3,4,5,6, &7 (No “child sizes”) – All students
Donations can be made beginning **August 2 through August 30, 2026**. The bin for the Emma Clothes Closet will be located in the office hallway just past the Reception Desk.

Coming this Fall: Small Group and Biblical Literacy Studies

Wednesdays at 5:30pm starting September 9: A "basic biblical literacy" course co-lead by Rick Kuenning and Pastor Mary Sundays at 11:15am starting September 13: A study about small groups in our Methodist tradition that gives participants a chance to try out a small group; based on Mark Watson's book, "The Class Meeting." See our weekly emails for details or email Pastor Mary at mbrown@centralumc.org.

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