

Today’s Events: August 2nd

8:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service – Sanctuary
11:15 am	Children’s Playtime - Chapel
	Table2Table Independence Day Celebration – Fellowship Hall
11:45 am	Reconciling Ministries Meeting – Room 219

This Week’s Events: August 3-9

Mon., 8/3	5:45 pm	Theology Pub – Village Pub
Tues., 8/4	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
	2:00 pm	Dementia Partners AVL – Library
	5:00 pm	Church & Society Meeting - Zoom
Wed., 8/5	12:00 pm	Chapel Centering Prayer – Chapel
	12:00 pm	Haywood St. Worship – Haywood St. Sanctuary
	6:00 pm	Unnamed Women’s Circle – Tupelo Honey
Thurs., 8/6	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – Zoom
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – Zoom
	11:00 am	Social Principles Meeting – Room 219
Sun., 8/9	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – Sanctuary
	11:00 am	New-ish to Central Coffee Hour - Library
	11:15 am	Children’s Playtime – C chapel
		Young Parent Gathering – Conf Room
		Youth Sunday School – Youth Arena

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

A WayHome Offering

During the communion service today, you are invited to leave an offering on the altar rail. This offering, called “A Way Home,” will go toward bus tickets and bus passes to help those in need and currently living on the streets to get to and from work or to reunite with family members outside Asheville. We invite you to give as you feel led to this offering of empowerment and reconciliation.

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:

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Continue to reflect on God’s desire to lighten our burdens with these daily readings.

Monday: Genesis 32:22-31

Tuesday: Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Wednesday: Isaiah 55:1-5

Thursday: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Friday: Romans 9:1-5

Saturday: Matthew 14:13-21

Next Week in Worship...

We take a look at the infamous story of when Peter walked on water, fell in the water, and then was rescued out of the water. If you’ve ever gone out on a limb in faith and “fell,” this one’s for you! Join us and bring a friend.

For Pastoral Emergencies Contact:

Rev. Lisa Rettew at 828-575-1257

OR

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown at 828-575-1261



Ordinary Time
August 2, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

arr. Lowell Mason

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Steve Oak

We are here to bear one another’s burdens;
When we do, we fulfill the law of Christ.
When we pray for one another
We fulfill the law of Christ.
When we stand by one another
We fulfill the law of Christ.
When we give to one another
We fulfill the law of Christ.
When we advocate for one another
We fulfill the law of Christ.
We are here to bear one another’s burdens
And so fulfill the law of Christ.

*HYMN 660

“God is Here”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:22-26

Steve Oak

The word of God for the people of God

SERMON

“Take Up Your Cross”

Rev. Lisa Rettew

“But the Lord is Mindful of His Own”

Felix Mendelssohn
Heather Cree, violin

OFFERTORY

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.



Hymnal 94

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

SERVICE OFWORDANDTABLE (Hymnal pages 12, 15-16)

*HYMN “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”
 Blest bethetie thatbinds ourheartsin Christianlove;
 the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lisa Rettew

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Tune” Robert Lau

*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.

Largeprintbulletins andhymnals are available from the Ushers.

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given by Traci and Ricky Silver in honor of Ricky's parent's 72ⁿ wedding anniversary on July 16 and in celebration of the birth of their second granddaughter, Etta Rom Turner, on July 20th

The flowers in the Narthex today are given by Pat and Terry Wright in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on August 3rd.

The white rose on the altar today is placed in memory of Milton Young, who died July 25, 2026.

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.

FinancialUpdatethrough June2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings:\$761,087
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

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

ECO-Tip: Katherine Hayhoe's book [Saving Us](#) gives practical and possible solutions to the harm of climate change. She is a Christian environmentalist on the faculty at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Her videos and blogs can give us hope for a better future despite climate change.

CENTRAL'S  MINISTRY

Under the coordination of April Messer, PhD, PMHNP-BC, CCRN, our Congregational Care Council will be launching a Health Care Ministry in 2027. In the meantime, stop by the Library for a Blood Pressure Check on third Sunday of each month!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reconciling Ministry Group will meet in Room 219 today at 11:15 a.m. This group includes LGBTQ+ and allies in advocacy action and service to this congregation and beyond.

The Blue Ridge District of the United Methodist Church is embarking on a year-long project to promote Immigrant Justice. The first step is to educate ourselves about immigration issues, so our District is sponsoring three workshops.

The first workshop will be viewable twice on Monday, August 3, 2026, with the renowned author, advocate, and seminary academic dean Dr. Alexia Salvatierra on the topic of "Immigration & Our Christian Faith. Consider participating at either the 10:00 a.m. version or at 7:00 p.m. using the Zoom link below at the Blue Ridge District website: <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/19913487>, or you may join us here at Central in the Chapel to view it at those times. Please enter the south side sanctuary door where Central folks will be waiting to greet you.

Meet the Author: Our Own David Ourisman! Sunday, August 30th at 11:15am in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to being a part of our Central UMC family, Rev. Dr. David Ourisman is also an ordained United Methodist minister, teacher and author, who served 17 years in the pastorate and now enjoys being a guest speaker and teacher. With a graduate degree in Preaching and the New Testament, he published his first book in 2000 and has taught in both theological seminaries and secular settings. Pastor Mary referenced David's newest book, "One Life, Four Stories: Invitations to Faith & Wonder" in her July 12th sermon! Come hear more about it from David himself after worship on Sunday, August 30th. Malaprops will be on hand with copies to purchase!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)



Thank you from ABCCM for all the food donations and generous giving we have experienced in the last few weeks. We are so grateful for the kind hearts and generosity of our congregation which has allowed us to feed people that are hungry and must make tough decisions on where to put their dollars these days. Do you know that in western NC, about 1 in 4 children—roughly 25%—face food insecurity. This is significantly higher than the rest of the State average where about 17% of all children face food insecurity. Your kindness and generosity continue to feed families and children that are missing meals at school this summer. Thank you for caring and forgiving. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to either Lisa or myself. --George Pettus

Items Needed:

Breakfast Cereal	PastaSauce	Sugar
Peanut Butter	BoxedMac&Cheese	Jelly
Vegetable oil	Drybeans	Grits
Hearty soups	Oatmeal	Snacks

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

Butter	Milk	Yogurt
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This Fall: Study about Small Groups- Tryout 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 Sunday of each month (for the Table 2 Table 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>

