

Today’s Events: August 16

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	Children’s Playtime - <i>Chapel</i>
	Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i>
	Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i>

This Week’s Events: August 17-23

Mon., 8/17	5:45 pm	Theology Pub – <i>Village Pub</i>
Tues., 8/18	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
	12:00 pm	Finance Committee - <i>Conference Room</i>
	2:00 pm	Dementia Partners AVL - <i>Library</i>
Wed., 8/19	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i>
	12:00 pm	Building Committee – <i>Conference Room</i>
		Haywood St. Worship – <i>Haywood St. Sanctuary</i>
Thurs., 8/20	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
Fri., 8/21	5:00 pm	First Friday Family Fellowship
Sun., 8/23	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 am	Usher Training - <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 am	Children’s Playtime – <i>Chapel</i>
		Young Parent Gathering – <i>Conf 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

For Pastoral Emergencies Contact:
Rev. Lisa Rettew at 828-575-1257

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

Thank you to Sharon Boone, our guest organist, who is filling in for Corey Powell while he is enjoying his vacation.

Sermon Discussion Questions

Continue to reflect on today’s message by journalling or discussing the following questions:

- What from today’s message resonated with you?
- What surprised you? What did you disagree with?
- How is God calling you to act as a result of today’s message?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

Let this week’s Lectionary readings guide your daily quiet time with God:

- Monday: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3
- Tuesday: Genesis 2:4-25
- Wednesday: Psalm 148:1-14
- Thursday: Acts 17:22a, 24-28
- Friday: John 1:1-5
- Saturday: Psalm 98

Next Week in Worship...

We welcome Derrick Luruth Scott, III, all the way from the Sunshine State! Derrick has been leading ministry in the collegiate and young adult context for over 20 years. He is currently working as the Founding Executive Director and Digital Campus Minister of Studio Wesley, Associate Director of Learning and Innovation for the Texas Methodist Foundation and Wesleyan Impact Partners, and Program Director for faith250. Derrick’s many volunteer leadership roles include serving as co-lay leader of the Florida Conference of the UMC from 2022-2026 and as Vice Chair of the Reconciling Ministries Network board. Join us and bring a friend to hear a great message from a great human!



Ordinary Time
August 16, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Lisa Rettew

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “Laudate Dominum” W.A. Mozart
Jordan Speece, soprano; Sharon Boone, guest organist

CALL TO WORSHIP: Nathan Rawls

What is required of us?
To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.
How do we do justice in our relationship with Earth?
Work with her, not against her, in her struggle to heal and to be as fruitful as she was created to be.
What will it mean to love mercy?
It will mean finding joy in kindness to the Earth and to each other. It will mean showing love by nurturing the health of all, even when doing so requires sacrifice.
And what will a humble walk with God entail?
The release of arrogance, acknowledgement of our dependence on the Earth, the honoring of her needs. When we stop our strutting and walk, instead, with mindfulness, perhaps we will have eyes to see what God will reveal.
In quietness now, I ask you to consider two things: your current relationship with creation, and your specific intentions for that relationship during the year ahead.

*HYMN 150 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” HOLY MANNA

MINISTRY MOMENT: LED Light Replacement Bob Maynard

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

OFFERTORY “I Waited for the Lord” Felix Mendelssohn
Jordan Speece and Linda Haggard, sopranos; Sharon Boone, guest organist
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 “Psalm 90:1-2” Ellen Furney
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

CHILDREN’S TIME Maggie Christy

SERMON Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris
“Earth Hope, Earth Wisdom: Being Alive to God’s Healing Planet”

*AFFIRMATION
A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada (Hymnal 883)
Sharon LaDuc

*HYMN 189 “Fairest Lord Jesus” ST. ELIZABETH

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE “The Heaven’s Declare” Benedetto Marcello
Sharon Boone, guest organist

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Today’s Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris
Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris brings a special message for “Feast of Creation in Christ” Sunday, the first new feast day added to the Revised Common Lectionary since 1983. Dr. Harris is Professor of Black Feminist and Womanist Theologies at Wake Forest University. Her scholarship critically examines intersections between race, religion, gender, and environmental ethics. She is an author, community leader, educational consultant, and former broadcast journalist. Join us and invite a friend who is passionate about creation care!

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 Doug and Louisa Combs in celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary. The actual date is August 22nd. And, we honor our family, friends and church communities for all of the blessings God has provided us.

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, 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 July 2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$883,502
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

ECO-Tip: Blessed Tomorrow is a faith-based organization that granted our church \$500 for native plants to add to our pollinator gardens last fall. Their ministry includes actions by and for people of faith as they work to care for Creation. Their annual forum offers inspiration and action – and the possibility of grant money for specific projects. Check out Central’s pollinator gardens on the east and south edges of the campus.

New Opportunity!
FREE MOMS start-up on UNC-A’s campus!
See August Jot & Tittle for more information
Child & Family Care Ministry/Cameron Smith, contact
clg7498@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Faith Feeds
Food Drive
Hunger calls. Your faith answers.

Due to our congregation’s generosity, the food list below has changed. We no longer need any canned items other than soups and pasta sauce currently. The ABCCM Box is in the foyer on the second floor (outside the Fellowship Hall).

Items Needed:		
Breakfast Cereal	Pasta Sauce	Sugar
Peanut Butter (10 or 16 oz.)	Boxed Mac & Cheese	Jelly
Vegetable oil	Grits	Snacks
Hearty soups	Oatmeal	

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

Butter	Yogurt
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We would like to remind you of a Central Ministry that focuses on our **College Students**. Four times a year your college student will receive a note from the church, letting them know we are thinking of them, including a devotional and a gift card for a treat. If you would like your student to be a recipient of this, please send their current college address to Jan Griffin at jgriffin@centralumc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

C4C – The Annual School Supply Drive for Emma Elementary begins on August 16th and will end September 6th. The following items are needed: Facial Tissues; Baby Wipes, Colored Cardstock/Colored Paper/ Construction Paper; Sharpies Big/Small, Black/Multicolored; Index cards (lined and unlined, different sizes); Pencil top erasers; Colored Pencils; Crayons; Pencil Boxes; Playdough; Gallon Ziploc Bags (press to close type); Markers; Highlighters (Big and Small/multicolored). Donations may be placed in the bin marked Emma School Supplies outside of the Church Office. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

--Congregations for Children (C4C)

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 and refreshments will be provided by members of the Faith Discernment Sunday School Class!

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>.



Jordan Speece, Central's wonderful Soprano Chancel Choir Intern will begin her master's program in Voice Performance at Northwestern University later this month. Jordan has served as our Soprano intern for the past four years. We are so grateful to have had Jordan as part of our Music Ministry programs during her time attending Mars Hill University. Jordan's voice is transcendent. She makes our choir better in every way. Today is Jordan's last official Sunday to sing in worship. We hope she will come to visit and sing for us again in the future. I know you will take an opportunity to thank Jordan for her years of singing and praising God through her music talents here at Central. We wish you all the best as you begin this new life chapter. We love you, Jordan.