

Today's Events: September 6

8:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:45 am	Reconciling Ministries Meeting – <i>Room 219</i>

This Week's Events: September 7 - 13

Mon., 9/7		LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED
Tues., 9/8	9:45 am	Staff Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Wed., 9/9	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i>
	12:00 pm	Haywood St. Worship – <i>Haywood St. Sanctuary</i>
	5:30 pm	Basic Biblical Literacy Class, <i>Room 219</i> Handbell Choir, <i>Handbell Room</i>
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Thurs., 9/10	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
Sat., 9/12	11:-00 am	Memorial Service for Mary Margaret Ingle, <i>Sanctuary</i>
	12:00 pm	Memorial Reception, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
Sun., 9/13	8:45 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Tween Training - <i>Sanctuary</i>
	10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 am	New-ish to Central Coffee Hour - <i>Library</i>
	11:15 am	Children's Playtime – <i>Chapel</i> Creation Care Meeting, <i>Room 307</i> Godly Play Experience and Training Children & Youth Choir – <i>Choir Room</i> Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i>
	5:00 pm	Youth Group, <i>Haw Creek</i> Inquirer's Class Chat 'N Chew, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>

Sunday Rhythm for Children & Youth!

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

A Way Home 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.

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

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

Sermon Discussion Questions

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

- What about Pastor Lisa's sermon resonated with you?
- What about Pastor Lisa's sermon challenged you?
- How is God calling you to act in response to Romans 13:8-14 and Pastor Lisa's message?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

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

- Monday: Exodus 12:1-14
- Tuesday: Psalm 149
- Wednesday: Ezekial 33:7-11
- Thursday: Psalm 119:33-40
- Friday: Romaons 13:8-14
- Saturday: Matthew 18:15-20

Next Week in Worship...

We begin our fall sermon series on what it's like to "come home" to God's house! Join us for a message about God's expansive "front porch." Come and bring a friend who needs to hear that God *always* loves us!



Faith Feeds

Food Drive
Hunger calls. Your faith answers.

Here is the newest list of needs for ABCCM's Crisis Ministry:
Thanks so much!

Breakfast Cereal	Peanut Butter (10 o416 oz)	Jelly or Jam	Grits
Hearty Soups	Oatmeal	Sugar	
Boxed Mac & Cheese	Pasta Sauce	Cooking Oil	



Ordinary Time
September 6, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Lisa Rettew and Steve Oak

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Let Us Break Bread Together" arr. Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP: Kathy Leftwich

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

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

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 13:8-14 Kathy Leftwich
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

SERMON "No Debt but Love" Rev. Lisa Rettew

OFFERTORY "Offer Them Christ" arr. David Clydesdale
Lauralee Bailey, soloist

While Lauralee makes her 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"

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE (Hymnal pages 12, 15-16) Rev. Lisa Rettew

*HYMN "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"
**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. David Lowe

**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 aged 0-5.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the Ushers.

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given in loving memory of Wayne Hinson by his wife, Pam.

The white rose on the altar today is placed in memory of Mary Margaret Ingle, who died August 21, 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.
Financial Update through August 2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$972,193
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

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

ECO-Tip: Get rid of your junk catalogs. Over 100 million trees are cut down annually to produce junk mail. You get waste, clutter, and deforestation. Opt out of unwanted catalogs through Catalog Choice, a free service from the Story of Stuff.org.

 **Recovery Care Resources** is designed for those returning home from a hospital or rehab stay or recovering from a medical event but do not have easy access to support from family, friends, or neighbors. **RCR** offers assistance in connecting with appropriate community resources.
Contact Pastor Lisa for more details especially if this situation applies to you or someone you know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you know that we have a Central Ministry that focuses on our College Students? Four times a year, starting in October, 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 student’s address to Jan Griffin at jgriffin@centralumc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

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.

**Basic Biblical Literacy:**
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm starting 9/9
Have you wanted to read the Bible but struggled to make sense of it? Join Rick Kuenning and Pastor Mary for an 11-session class designed to introduce you to major themes of the Bible on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in Room 219 starting 9/9 and ending 11/18. Participants will need a Bible; Central has plenty to share as needed. Register online using the QR code or this link:
<https://onrealm.org/centralumc/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZDgyMjkwNDEtNmViNi00ZjE0LWE4ODQtYjQ4YzAwZDJkNzY0>

**This Fall: Study about Small Groups - Try out a Small Group!**
Join us for an 8-week class on the basic building block of the Methodist movement: John Wesley’s “class meeting.” Over the course of this class, we’ll gradually shift from a study to a small group experience, giving participants an opportunity for those interested to form new small groups that continue meeting. We’ll 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*, which are available in the church office for a \$20 suggested donation. Registration is required using the QR code attached or this link: <https://bit.ly/2026fallstudygroup>

Learn About Local Efforts to Support Immigrant Neighbors
Please mark your calendars for two events to learn about immigrant justice. On Sunday, September 13 at 3:00 the UMC Blue Ridge District will host a one-hour workshop by Zoom with Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo. Explore the intersections of faith, Methodist history, and migration with a premier scholar and gifted teacher (also the son of deceased Central member Doug Wingeier). He serves as the Executive Director of the UMC Global Board of Higher Education. The Zoom link is:
<https://wnccumcorg.zoom.us/j/84594453657?pwd=EgGWMqDq8aZrN1UPYy9S7yAJkYkVF1.1>
The second event is by Pisgah Legal Services, a local non-profit law firm supported by Central UMC, and many other churches, individuals, and foundations. Among Pisgah Legal’s many programs is the Justice For All Program that serves immigrants and their families. Our Blue Ridge District is hosting a lunch and learn event at Abernethy UMC at 1418 Patton Avenue at 11:00 on September 30. Lunch will be provided after the presentation about how current immigration policies are affecting our immigrant neighbors and how PLS provides critical, free civil legal aid across 18 WNC counties with limited staff compared to the need. If you prefer to participate by Zoom, the link is:
<https://wnccumcorg.zoom.us/j/86009505770?pwd=Kpkukxbfy2YVJLwTfzPrwzRziZTR7h.1>

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

Save the date! The **friendsGIVING** event returns to Highland Brewing, November 19, 2026 (5:30-8:30 pm).

If you enjoy singing at any level, please consider joining one of our choirs for adults, youth, and children. Schedules are as follows: **The Chancel Choir** – rehearse Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. **The Wesley Singers** - begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 8 at 1:00 pm in the choir room. **Youth Choir** - begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 13 at 11:15 a.m. in the choir room. All youth and friends in grades 6-12 are invited. **Children's Choir** - begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 13 at 11:45 a.m. All children and friends in kindergarten - 5th grade are invited. This is part of our **Fall Kick-off for all youth and children's programing**. Kona Ice will be here at Central for everyone! We have a choir for every age, and all are invited! Please reach out to Linda Haggard or Corey Powell with questions and to get more information. Come sing with us! lhaggard@centralumc.org or cpowell@centralumc.org

Deborah Circle meets on the second Tuesday of the month in a member’s home. For our September 8 meeting we will be following the United Women in Faith program guide, Mapping Our Way Forward in Times of Change and Uncertainty; our program centering on caring for others while practicing self-care. All are welcome. Questions? Susan Snell at ssnell123@bellsouth.net.

Creation Care Committee invites you to take a tour of the Landfill on Thursday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m. The Landfill is a very interesting place to visit. It's relevant to the Committee's focus on conservation and recycling, among other things. If you're interested in this informative one-hour tour, please send your name, email and cell phone # to Ellen Furney at efurney08@gmail.com. There is a limited number of seats available.

C4C Reading Buddies Do you have a couple of hours per week to volunteer as a **Reading Buddy**? C4C is sponsoring a Reading Buddy program at Emma Elementary, beginning in late September. Reading Buddies meet one on one with a child once a week to listen, encourage and help strengthen reading skills. Training and materials are provided. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to: C4C@centralumc.org.

The Church & Society Committee offers five \$100 scholarships to church members for Building Bridges AVL. This 9-week educational workshop series addresses: racial justice, racial dialogue, and anti-racism in our community. Speakers and small group discussion cover a myriad of topics including "whiteness", racial identity, personal racism, institutional and systemic racism, and more. The goal is to understand how the Black community has been negatively impacted by tourism, gentrification, freeway development, government policy (esp. housing, education, health care, criminal legal system). Dates are Sept 14 - Nov 9, Mondays from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. The location will be provided to those registered. Total cost is \$135. With a scholarship participant will pay remaining \$35. If interested in a scholarship, email Sharon LeDuc at skleduc@prodigy.net.