

Today's Events: September 27

8:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 am	“The Class Meeting” - <i>Parlor</i> Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Sunday School Kids with Purpose – <i>Chapel</i> Youth Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
11:45 am	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
5:00 pm	Youth Group – <i>Haw Creek</i>

This Week's Events: Sept. 28 – Oct. 4

Mon., 9/28	12:00 pm	Building Committee Meeting – <i>Conf. Room</i>
	2:00 pm	Newsletter Crew – <i>Conference Room</i>
Tues., 9/29	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
Wed., 9/30	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i>
	12:30 pm	Haywood Street Worship
	5:30 pm	Basic Bible Literacy Class – <i>Room 219</i> Handbell Choir Rehearsal – <i>Handbell Room</i>
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room</i>
Thurs., 10/1	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	3:00 pm	Thursday Journey Group - <i>Library</i>
Fri., 10/2	4:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal - <i>Sanctuary</i>
	5:00 pm	First Friday Family Fellowship - <i>Offsite</i>
Sat., 10/3	5:00 pm	Wedding - <i>Sanctuary</i>
Sun., 10/4	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 am	Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i> Table2Table Potluck – <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Youth Sunday School – <i>Youth Arena</i> Kids with Purpose – <i>Chapel</i> Youth Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
	11:45 am	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
		Reconciling Ministries Meeting – <i>Room 219</i>
	5:00 pm	Youth Group – <i>Central</i> Blessing of the Animals – <i>Front Lawn</i>

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. Dr. Mary Brown at 828-575-1261

OR

Rev. Lisa Rettew at 828-575-1257

Sunday Rhythm for Children & Youth!

Nursery Ages 0 - 4	Elementary Ages 4 - 3 rd grade	Tweens 4 th – 6 th grade	Youth 6 th – 12 th grade	Parents
9:45am- 12:15pm	Worship 10:00-10:30am	Worship 10:00- 11:00am	Worship 10:00-11:00am	Worship 10:00- 11:15am
	Godly Play 10:30-11:00am			
	Kids with Purpose 11:15 – 11:45am		Youth Choir 11:15 – 11:45am	Parent Gathering 11:15am – 12:15pm
	Children’s Choir 11:45am – 12:15 pm		Youth Sunday School 11:15 – 12:15 pm	

Sermon Discussion Questions

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

- How does a porch prepare us to enter a house? How is it a transition from outside to inside?
- How does repentance prepare us to encounter God? (Remember that repentance involves recognizing, confessing, and turning away from sin and then turning toward God’s will of love.)
- How is the Holy Spirit calling you to repent? Try praying Psalm 51 as a prayer of repentance.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

We are making our journey into the house of God’s grace! Last week we heard God calling: “I love you!” This week we step onto the porch through the act of repentance. Repentance sounds worse than it is; it means to admit our wrongdoings and make a change to live differently. As you read this week’s passages, notice how frequently “repent” is a first step toward relationship with God.

- Monday: Matthew 3:1-12
- Tuesday: Matthew 4:12-17
- Wednesday: Luke 15:1-10
- Thursday: Acts 2:37-41
- Friday: Acts 3:11-26
- Saturday: Revelation 3:14-22

Next Week in Worship

We continue our journey into God’s house by finally opening the door to go inside! But taking that step is not easy. What does it take to finally move into faith with God? Join us as we learn from those who have gone before us and let them lead us into God’s grace.



Ordinary Time
September 27, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

“A Joyful Song to the Lord”
Wesley Singers

arr. Patti Drennan

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on John 14)

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Welcome home, friends!

We are glad to be home in God’s house.

There’s plenty of room here:

Room enough for everyone!

Jesus has gone ahead of us;

Jesus has made all the preparations.

So come on in. Welcome home!

We are glad t be home in God’s house.

*HYMN 577

“God of Grace, and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER ending with the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Lisa Rettew

OFFERTORY

“A Song of Praise”
Chancel Choir

Ed Smart

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 READING

Revelation 3:14-22

Ben Bradley

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

CHILDREN’S TIME

Maggie Christy

SERMON Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
“God’s House: Onto the Porch”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE, AND PARDON (Hymnal 890)
Rev. Lisa Rettew

*HYMN 163 “Ask Ye What Great Things I Know” HENDON

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE “God of Grace and God of Glory” arr. Paul Manz

**Please stand, if you are able.*

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given in honor of the staff at Central UMC and the Congregational Care Ministry.

The white rose on the altar today is placed in memory of Gloria Orr, who died September 13, and Nancy Stancil, who died September 21, 2026.

A livestream of the worship service is available in the library for families. Nursery is available in Room 309 for children ages 0-4.



After Children’s Time, Godly Play class is available for children ages 4 – 3rd grade, and “Tween” Worship bags are available for kids 4th – 6th grade.



Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the Ushers.



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 August 2026:
2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$972,193
Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Learn About Local Efforts to Support Immigrant Neighbors
Pisgah Legal Services, a local non-profit law firm supported by Central UMC, and many others, serves thousands of low-income residents each year in 18 counties, including 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 am on September 30. To sign up for lunch, email Lori Hicks at lhicks@wnccumc.org. If you prefer to participate by Zoom, the link is: <https://wnccumcorg.zoom.us/j/86009505770?pwd=Kpkukxbfy2YVJLwTfzPrwzRziZTR7h.1>

Table2Table Potluck is happening next Sunday after the Worship Service. Tommy Hughes will be preparing Asian chicken and rice for us! **Don’t forget to bring breads, desserts, or salads to complement the meal.**

October 4 at 5PM all humans and animals are invited to come to Central's front lawn for a **Blessing of the Animals**. This brief service witnesses to God's and our love, care, and concern for all of creation and our mutual interdependence with all of God's creatures. All animals must come with appropriate leashes, leads, or crates.

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.

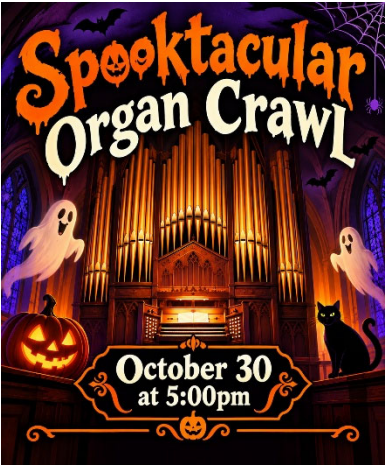


A little update about ABCCM’s Crisis Ministry:
The last several weeks there has been little or nothing in the Donation box and I don’t want folks to forget about ABCCM when the need is so great! I know with gas over \$4/gal, the crunch is real for everyone and groceries are SO expensive. Our donations have really fallen off from everywhere at ABCCM. The pantry has gotten short on so many items, and it has become difficult to supply even basic food items to folks living on the margins. -- George Pettus

It would be helpful to receive:
Flour Pasta sauce Hearty soups Oatmeal Mac & Cheese
Peanut Butter and Jelly (both in 10 and 12 oz sizes).

These seven items would be so helpful in feeding folks that come to the Crisis Center on Cumberland Avenue.
Thanks so much!

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)



Make Plans to Attend the Church Street Organ Crawl
Spooktacular and Fall Festival
October 30th

The three organists from Central UMC, 1st Presbyterian, and Trinity Episcopal Churches will present a Spooktacular Organ Crawl followed by Central's Annual Fall Festival festivities. The Crawl will begin in Central’s sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. followed by a walk to 1st Presbyterian and then Trinity, with 15 minutes of delightfully spooky organ music in each location. Both Trinity and 1st Presbyterian will have trick-or-treating. Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes. We will end up back at Central by 6:00 pm and the fun continues with our annual Fall Festival, happening on the front lawn and parking lot. There will be games, inflatables, costume contest, chili cookoff, and more! Here are some ways you can get involved: donate candy, make chili for the chili cookoff, host a booth, help with setup or cleanup. Please reach out to Maggie Christy if you would like to get involved.

friendsGIVING IS BACK! Join the fun! November 19, 5:30 pm at Highland Brewing. Want to be a sponsor? Contact Bill Haynes at bleehaynes@aol.com. Want to donate a silent or live auction item? Contact Jonathan Meadows at Jonathanlmeadows@gmail.com or Vicki Leeds at vsueleeds@gmail.com.



- SAVE THE DATE!
- Sunday 10/4 at 11:15am: Table2Table meal - bring bread, salad, or desserts
 - Sunday 10/4 at 5pm: Blessing of the Animals on the Church Street lawn
 - Friday 10/30 from 5-7pm: Spooktacular Organ Crawl & Fall Festival
 - Thursday, 11/19 5:30pm: friendsGIVING at Highland Brewing

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS for bulletins, social media, and newsletters are to be sent to announcements@centralumc.org.