

Today's Events: October 4

8:45 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 am	Table2Table Potluck – <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Sunday School Kids With Purpose Youth Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
11:45 am	Reconciling Ministries Meeting – <i>Room 219</i> Children's Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
5:00 pm	Youth Group & Blessing of the Animals - <i>Central</i>

This Week's Events: October 5-11

Mon., 10/5	5:45 pm	Theology Pub – <i>Village Pub</i>
Tues., 10/6	9:45 am	Staff Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
	10:00 am	Ruth Circle – <i>Library</i>
	1:00 pm	Wesley Singers – <i>Choir Room</i>
	2:00 pm	Dementia Partners AVL – <i>Library</i>
	5:00 pm	Church & Society Meeting - <i>Zoom</i>
Wed., 10/7	10:00 am	Anna Circle - <i>Parlor</i>
	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – <i>Chapel</i>
	12:00 pm	SPRC Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
	12:30 pm	Haywood St. Worship – <i>Haywood St. Sanc.</i> Basic Biblical Literacy Class, <i>Room 219</i>
	5:30 pm	Handbell Choir, <i>Handbell Room</i>
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – <i>Zoom</i>
Sun., 10/11	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 am	New-ish to Central Coffee Hour - <i>Library</i>
	11:15 am	"The Class Meeting" - <i>Parlor</i> Parent Gathering – <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Sunday School Kids With Purpose 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>

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	

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 this week's message by discussing or journaling these questions:

- Describe a time when you've walked up to a literal door and been nervous about opening it (a job interview, meeting a significant other's parents, introducing yourself to a new neighbor...).
- When it comes to the door of faith, were you (or are you) nervous about opening it?
- If you haven't gone through the door of faith, reach out to someone who has and ask them about what it was like when they said "yes" to God.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

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

- Monday: Romans 3:21-32
- Tuesday: Romans 4:1-12
- Wednesday: Romans 5:1-11
- Thursday: Galatians 2:15-21
- Friday: James 2:14-26
- Saturday: Psalm 51

Next Week in Worship...

After hearing God calling us home, stepping on the porch, and going through the door... we arrive in God's house! Just like any home, there are some "house rules." We know them (i.e., the greatest commandments in Matthew 22:34-40)... the hard part is following them. Not to worry, we've got a "method" for living by God's house rules! Join us and find out what it is and how you can take advantage of it.



Ordinary Time
October 4, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Aria" Craig Phillips

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 to be home in God's house.

*HYMN 340 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" RESTORATION

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 3:21-32 Patty Couch
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

SERMON "God's House: Through the Door" Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

OFFERTORY "Be Not Afraid" Craig Courtney
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 Hymnal 94
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

COMMUNION HYMNS
"Shepherd Me O God" Marty Haugen
Melisse Latini, soloist
616 "Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast"
355 "Depth of Mercy"
348 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

***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.**

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Tune” Paul Fey

**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 by Kristeen and Randy Booker in honor of their wedding anniversary and in thanks to our Central UMC family.

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: Utilize carpools to build relationships and lower CO2 emissions: We encourage our members to carpool whenever possible. Carpooling will enable you to make relationships with nearby church members and friends you invite who don’t attend our church. Do this for youth activities, choir practice, and Sunday mornings of course. Perhaps there's an elderly person near you who doesn't drive, or someone recovering from surgery at home who is mobile but can't drive yet. Make church attendance a possibility for others!

Social Principle Focus for October: "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ.... We are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict.... the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them." *Social Principles 165.C Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God".*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Table2Table Potluck is today after the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall! Tommy Hughes is preparing Asian chicken and rice for us! *Thank you for bringing breads, desserts, or salads to complement the meal.*

Reconciling Ministries will meet today at 11:45 in Room 219.

This **afternoon**, at 5:00pm, 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.

Eve Circle will meet in the church parlor on **Tuesday, October 6 at 10:00 am**. The program will be a presentation about Zoe and what it is like to see the group in person on a trip. The “Christmas Hope Sale” of Ugandan paper bead jewelry will be December 6 & 13. Come share the fellowship and joy. Everyone is welcome. Contact dlballandy45@gmail.com or sandracwells@gmail.com for more information.



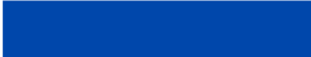
Make Plans to Attend the Church Street Organ Crawl Spooktacular and Fall Festival October 30th

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 First 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, which is happening on the front lawn and parking lot. There will be games, inflatables, costume contest, a 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)



We are putting together a team to serve in El Salvador, January 30–February 6! We will help build a home; but more importantly, we will build relationships and experience how God is working in another part of the world. Central UMC Missions will cover the cost of the mission trip; participants are responsible for flights, travel insurance, and personal snacks/food (roughly \$1,200). **Space is limited; deadline to register is October 31st.** Email Brenda Boyd with questions or to sign on! brendarenae@gmail.com



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!

- SAVE THE DATE!**
- 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.
Announcements for the worship bulletin need to be 80 words or less.