

# Stories from Central

March/April 2026

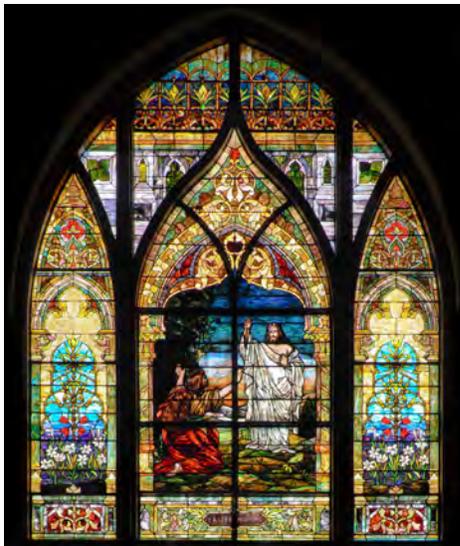
Jot & Tittle

## Celebrating Resurrection

*Written by Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor*

On April 5th we will formally celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. I say "formally," because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Every week – every day! – we are a resurrection people. It's what binds us together.

We act this out every Sunday. When worship ends and we're ready to leave, we all turn toward this:



*Stained glass in Sanctuary  
depicting "Easter Morning"*

In that moment we are all facing toward the risen Jesus, together – and when we face toward Jesus together, we are a true community for Christ.

When we face the same way on Sundays at 11am, may we be reminded that this is the Way that binds us together: the way of selfless love, the way of radical forgiveness, the way of true life.

## Central. United.

### Sermons – March 2026

- MAR 01 Social Principles:  
*Community of All Creation*
- MAR 08 Social Principles:  
*Economic Community*
- MAR 15 Social Principles:  
*Social Community*
- MAR 22 Social Principles:  
*Political Community*
- MAR 29 PALM SUNDAY - Social Principles:  
*Social Creed*

### Sermons – April 2026

- APR 02 *Maundy Thursday-6pm*
- APR 03 *Tenebrae Service-6pm*
- APR 05 **Easter Sunday**
  - 7:00 AM: Easter Sunrise Service
  - 7:30 AM: Easter Brunch
  - 8:45 AM: Sunday School
  - 10:00 AM: Worship in the Sanctuary
  - 11:15 AM: Egg Hunt
- APR 12 A Letter of Encouragement  
*Intro to 1 Peter*
- APR 19 The Joy of Being Rescued  
*1 Peter 1:17-23*
- APR 26 Youth/Confirmation Sunday  
*Children's Musical after Worship!*

# Central. Lent.

## Sundays in Lent

**March 1 | 2nd Sunday of Lent** - Social Principles: The Community of All Creation

**March 8 | 3rd Sunday of Lent** - Social Principles: Economic Community

**March 15 | 4th Sunday of Lent** - Social Principles: Social Community

**March 22 | 5th Sunday of Lent** - Social Principles: Political Community with special guest preacher Rev. Jennifer Copeland

# Central. Easter.

## Holy Week Worship

### Palm Sunday | SUN, MAR 29

- Meet us on the Church Street lawn at **9:30 AM for the Donkey Walk**, then bring your palm branches into the Sanctuary for **worship at 10:00 AM**.

### Maunder Thursday | THU, APR 02

- Join us at **6:00 PM** for a **somber service** to commemorate the **last supper** and Jesus' "new commandment" to his disciples

### Good Friday | FRI, APR 3

- At 6:00 PM, this service of "Tenebrae" allows us to keep watch through Jesus' crucifixion through music, readings, and the gradual extinguishing of candles

### Easter | SUN, APR 5

- **7:00 AM-Easter Sunrise:** He is risen! Meet on the Church Street lawn in front of the Sanctuary steps and celebrate as the sun rises
- **7:30 AM-Easter Brunch:** Gather in the Fellowship Hall to continue the celebration with sweet and savory treats
- **8:45 AM-Sunday School:** Join in a Sunday School class to learn more about resurrection
- **10:00 AM-Worship:** Easter Sunday worship in the Sanctuary with Communion
- **11:15 AM-Egg Hunt:** Join us on Church Street for an Egg Hunt for kids of all ages.

## Sundays in April

**April 12th:** The Easter celebration continues as we begin a series on 1 Peter, a letter of encouragement and instruction to all Christians

**April 19th:** 1 Peter 1:17-23 and the joy of being rescued

**April 26th:** *Youth and Confirmation Sunday!* Come support our amazing young people and stay after worship for the **Children's Spring Musical**

# Central.Giving.

## Looking Back at 2025

### A Year of Change, Blessing, and Generosity

Since our last *Stories from Central*, we have a recap of the giving in 2025. We recognize it as a year of both significant change and deep blessing in the life of Central United Methodist Church. While challenges emerged, so did unexpected moments of joy and hope—reminders of God’s faithfulness among us. From welcoming new leadership and imagining what’s ahead, to tangible acts of generosity shared within our community, we enter 2026 with gratitude and renewed optimism.

One of our greatest reasons for thanksgiving is you. In 2025, Central demonstrated extraordinary generosity and ended the year in a strong financial position. Our \$1.55 million **operating budget was exceeded**, with total **tithes and offerings reaching \$1,721,596.87**. Pledge participation grew from 133 households in 2025 to 161 for 2026, with 64 new pledges and 48 households increasing their commitment. Additionally, 13 “Extra Mile” gifts totaling \$23,150 were given beyond pledged amounts, and six individuals shared their intention to include Central in their estate plans.

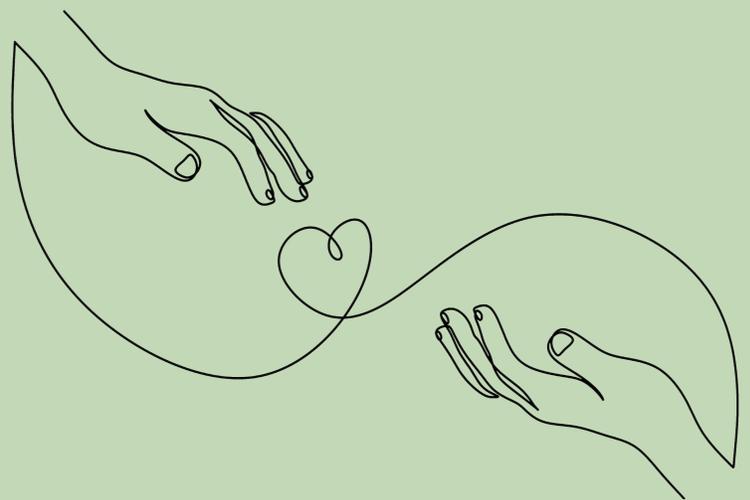
We also give thanks for the faithful members we lost this year. Even in grief, we witnessed remarkable generosity through a **legacy gift of \$216,798**, a lasting testament of love and an investment in the continued ministry of Central UMC.

With grateful hearts, we look forward to all God will do in 2026.

## Stewardship Reflections

When we offer ourselves in trust to God, we can expect good things to happen. Looking back on 2025, we are very grateful for how God has blessed Central UMC. We have been challenged by good preaching, good teaching, and by many good outreach opportunities to serve others. And we have responded faithfully by supporting the financial needs of our church. Central people, we have done well! We **exceeded** our budget for 2025! **Thank you** to everyone who made that happen.

~ Rev. Jim Kuse, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee



# Special Guest Preacher on March 22.

## Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland

Executive Director of the NC Council of Churches



*Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland*  
*Executive Director of the NC Council of Churches*

We're very fortunate to have the Executive Director of the NC Council of Churches join us for our Lenten series on the Social Principles! The NC Council of Churches educates, inspires, and mobilizes faith communities to advocate for justice. Since 1935 they have lived into a mission of "enabling denominations, congregations, and people of faith to impact our state on issues such as economic justice and development, human well-being, equality, and compassion and peace, following the example and mission of Jesus Christ."

Jennifer is a native of South Carolina and an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church. She loves South Carolina, but has managed to spend all but ten years of her adult life in North Carolina. Those ten years were spent pastoring United Methodist churches across the Upstate. She attended Duke University several times and in the process earned a BA, double majoring in English and Religion, a Master of Divinity, a PhD in

religion, and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. Prior to coming to the Council, she spent 16 years as the United Methodist Chaplain at Duke University, where she also taught undergraduate and divinity school classes, served on committees and task forces, and attended lots of basketball games. She writes frequently for various publications when time permits and preaches regularly in congregations across North Carolina. Jennifer has two adult children, Nathan, who is a software developer in Durham, and Hannah, who is a digital marketing analyst in Charlotte. Jennifer is the overjoyed grandparent of Benjamin and Theodore.

## Our United Methodist Social Principles From Holy Lent to Holy Action

Our focus this Lent is on the Social Principles contained in our United Methodist Book of Discipline. They are providing the topics for our Sunday sermons (Community of All Creation, Economic Community, Social Community, Political Community...) as well as the format for our study after worship.

As this newsletter goes to print, we have had bigger-than-expected attendance at our study sessions! All are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays in March at 11:15 AM. Remaining topics are the Economic Community (March 1st), the Social Community (March 8th and March 15th), the Political Community (March 22nd), and the Social Creed (March 29th).

The Social Principles give us a framework to discuss difficult societal issues and listen for how God might call us to action. We look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit speaks to us through these sessions.

Questions? Contact **Dianna Pierce** at [dianna.w.pierce@gmail.com](mailto:dianna.w.pierce@gmail.com).

# Central. Worship.

*Christmas Eve 2025*

## **Christmas Eve Service Shines with Joyful Harmony**

*A Heartwarming Night of Song, Reflection, and Community Spirit*



On Christmas Eve, the church sanctuary was filled with the soft glow of candlelight, gentle anticipation in the air, and the melodious voices of the Chancel Choir. Friends, families, and neighbors gathered to celebrate one of the most cherished nights of the year, sharing in the warmth and unity that define the holiday season and the birth of the Christ child.

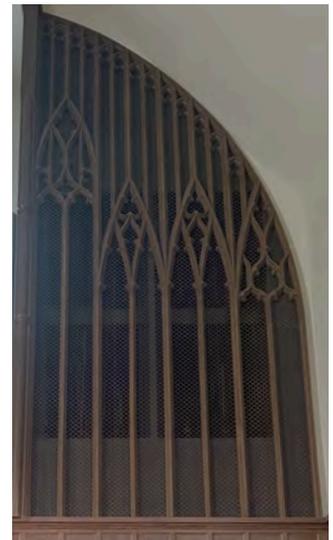
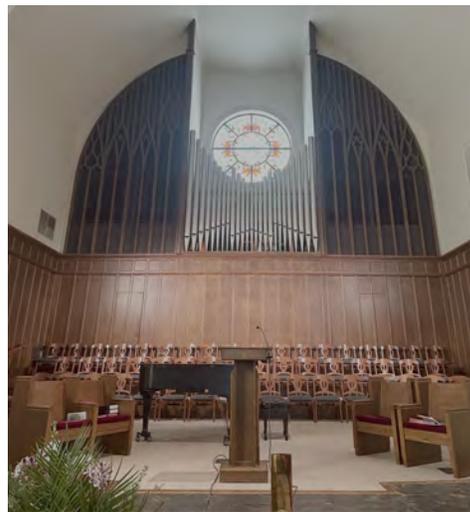
The service opened with a traditional procession to "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Between carols, scripture readings reflected on the birth of Christ and the message of hope that Christmas brings.

A highlight of the evening was "Silent Night," as the congregation joined together in song by candlelight—a moment that brought many to tears. The service concluded with a beautiful blessing from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, leaving hearts full and spirits bright.

*A Heartfelt Thank You  
for Supporting the New Organ Tracery!*

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Chancel Choir and to all who generously contributed to the financial support of our new organ tracery. Your commitment and collective efforts have made it possible to enhance our worship experience, and the beauty of the new tracery will be a blessing for years to come.

It is truly inspiring to see our church community come together in support of meaningful projects like this. Thank you once again for your unwavering generosity and faithful dedication to Central's music ministry.



# Central. Worship.

*Chancel Choir is grateful for new Chancel lighting!*

The Chancel Choir would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the building committee for the installation of the new Chancel area lights. These improvements have greatly enhanced both our rehearsals and worship services, allowing us to better see our music and participate fully. Thank you for your dedication and support in making our worship space brighter and more welcoming.



## *Congratulations to Central Youth Band Students*

We are proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of Central Youth Band students **Reid Brown**, a seventh grader at Asheville Middle School, and **Kai Provine**, a senior at T.C. Roberson High School, who participated in the All-District Band Concert on February 7.

Their dedication, talent, and hard work were showcased on stage, reflecting the excellence of their music programs. Congratulations to Reid and Kai, and to all the students involved, for representing their schools and Central Church with pride and for inspiring others through your performance!



*Reid Brown*



*Kai Provine*

# Oh, Jona!

## Children's Spring Musical



“Oh, Jonah!” is a lively children’s choir musical that brings the biblical story of Jonah to life through engaging songs and dramatic storytelling. Designed for young voices, the musical features catchy melodies, simple harmonies, and memorable lyrics that help children explore themes of obedience, forgiveness, and God’s love. With fun characters and opportunities for creative costuming and staging, “Oh, Jonah!” offers an entertaining and meaningful way for children to participate in worship and share an important message with the congregation.

Central’s Children’s Choir will present “Oh, Jonah!” on Sunday, April 26, following worship in the sanctuary. Please make plans now to attend. For more information, contact Linda Haggard.

# Celebrate Holy Week

## in Music and Song at Central UMC

As Holy Week approaches, we warmly invite you to experience the moving power of music at Central United Methodist Church. The Chancel Choir and other talented musicians from our congregation will share inspiring selections during our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday worship services.

Whether you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or simply listening, you are welcome to be part of our music ministry family. If you are interested in lending your voice or musical gifts to these meaningful celebrations, please reach out to Corey Powell, Linda Haggard, or Richard Provine to learn more about the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Children’s Choir, Wesley Singers, or Brass Ensemble. Rehearsals are open to all ages and experience levels—your presence can help make our Holy Week worship even more memorable for everyone at Central.

Don’t miss this special opportunity to help shape the musical spirit of Central as, together, we remember, mourn, and rejoice throughout Holy Week.

<p><b>SUN, MAR 29   Palm Sunday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Choir will process with palm branches.</li> <li>• Youth Choir will sing.</li> <li>• Chancel Choir will sing.</li> <li>• Brass Ensemble will play.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FRI, APR 3   Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b> 6:00 PM <i>Music provided by the Chancel Choir and special musicians.</i></p>
<p><b>THU, APR 2   Maundy Thursday Worship</b> 6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>SUN, APR 5   Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b> 10:00 AM - Worship Service <i>Music provided by the Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble, and outstanding organ music by Corey Powell.</i></p>

# Central.Congregational Care.

## Congregational Care Council



**New Ministry forming!!**

### Congregational Health Care Ministry



Central has a history of paying attention to the “health” of our congregation. Our hope is to continue the Blood Pressure Checks and providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to vital groups in our midst, BUT there is so much more that can be developed under the leadership of our own,

**April W. Messer, PhD, PMHNP-BC, CCRN** who is an Assistant Professor and serves as the Associate Director, School of Nursing at Western Carolina University.

If you are in the medical field and would like to learn more about this new ministry or want to be a part of its development, please contact Pastor Lisa or reach out to **April** directly at [awmesserrn@gmail.com](mailto:awmesserrn@gmail.com)!

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## Bereavement Care Ministry



**Help us brighten up our tables for funeral receptions!** Do you have some artificial flowers to give to the church? Are you a floral arranger? Flowers can be dropped off in the church office/labeled “Bereavement” or **contact Pastor Lisa** for details!

## Homebound Care Ministry

**Looking to add some male volunteers** to spend an hour or so once a month fellowshiping with our male homebound peoples! **Contact Pastor Lisa** who will get you connected!



## Bereavement Care Ministry



**Recovery Care Resource Ministry:** March is National Social Worker Month, and Scott Abernethy, chair of our Recovery Care Resource (RCR) Ministry, along with the entire Congregational Care Council (CCC), would like to give a special “shout out” to the social workers in our congregation—especially those who helped make RCR a reality in 2023.

RCR is a unique care ministry designed to support individuals who are returning home from a hospital or rehabilitation stay, or recovering from a medical event, and who may not have easy access to support from family, friends, or neighbors. The ministry offers guidance and assistance in connecting with appropriate community resources.

For more information—or if this situation applies to you or someone you know, please contact **Pastor Lisa**.

# Central. Creation Care.

## Register Today: The Bishop's Climate Summit

**bishop's climate summit:**

for such a time as this...



**april 18, 2026 9a-4p**

maple springs umc, winston-salem



**registration now open**

(special discounts for groups of 5 or more)

"The Bishop's Climate Summit is an invitation for us to follow Jesus in a warming world. This is not about politics. It is about the praise of God and our stewardship of God's good creation—for ourselves and for our descendants. Together, we will learn how to care for God's gifts and protect those most vulnerable to the harm we now see across our communities and our

state. I hope you will join me for this important day of worship, learning, and faithful action."

"Caring for God's creation is central to our Christian witness. I invite you to join me at the Bishop's Climate Summit as we seek faithful, practical ways to respond to the challenges of a warming world."

~ *Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.*

*Resident Bishop, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church*

### **What Time Is It? It's Our Time.**

Throughout Scripture, God calls leaders to listen, respond, and act for the sake of their communities. Just as Moses and Esther stepped forward in pivotal moments, we are invited to consider how God may be calling us to lead faithfully in this season.

Today, our communities and our world are experiencing the growing effects of a changing climate. These realities touch every aspect of life and ministry and call the Church to thoughtful engagement, compassionate leadership, and hopeful action.

To support leaders in this work, Bishop Ken Carter and the Conference Creation Care Ministry Team invite you to participate in:

To **register** go to [wnccumc.org/bishopsclimatesummit](http://wnccumc.org/bishopsclimatesummit).

### **Why This Matters**

Our warming world is creating impacts unlike any seen before in human history. As United Methodists, we affirm that caring for God's creation and protecting those most vulnerable—including children, youth, and future generations—is part of our Christian witness.

As church leaders, it is time to prepare our hearts, minds, and ministries for faithful leadership in this moment.

### **What to Expect on April 18**

The Bishop's Climate Summit will include worship, conversation, learning, lament, and shared hope. Workshops will offer practical ideas and ministry tools that churches of all sizes can implement in their communities. More details about workshop tracks will be available soon.



United  
Women  
in Faith

# UWF Corner

Can you believe it is March already? February's snow, ice, and cold weather kept us on our toes, and in our hats and gloves! March and April will usher in warmer weather, longer days, and springtime flowers.

## Circle Happenings

Central's UWF circles have already been busy this year, all meeting together and beginning to focus on their year ahead, planning meetings, programs, goals, and service projects. Many of our circles use UWF resources, such as the program resource book, Mapping Our Way Forward in Times of Change and Uncertainty and the Daily Prayer Guide, Wayfinders Together.

These are great resources for our membership and offer wonderful readings, Bible stories, activities, and ideas for service, as well as information on advocacy days, daily prayers, a list of National Mission Institutions, and much more. As we navigate this year, we are offered the chance to move forward even in unknown, troubling, and changing times, by holding fast to God's promises. These resources continue to introduce and dive into several of United Women in Faith's programs: climate change, ending the school-to-prison-pipeline, Mission u, Soul Care, and the UWF Reading Program.

Other examples of our January and February programs include learning more about our home missionaries and deaconesses, celebrating United Women in Faith's rich history, sharing meals and outings together, and supporting local missions like ABCCM and Haywood Street Respite.

## Read Along with UWF

The 2026 Reading Program list of books was released late 2025 and there's a growing list of books to add to the UWF section of the library, and several that have already been purchased through the generosity of Ruth Circle, who are adding several books from each category for all age ranges to the UWF shelves. Glenda Fuhrmann, Anna Circle chair, will serve as the Reading Program Advisor this year making recommendations of books to read, shelving books, and promoting reading for all.

Anna Circle read and discussed the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver, and Ruth Circle is reading *The Women*, by Kristen Hannah, and will discuss at their March meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the reading program please be in touch with Glenda Fuhrmann ([glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com](mailto:glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com)) or me ([kathleencleftwich@gmail.com](mailto:kathleencleftwich@gmail.com)) for more information.

At our December Brunch and General Meeting, we recognized our members who participated in the UWF Reading Program and unfortunately, in the January/February issue of *Stories from Central: the Jot & Tittle*, I neglected to include the following members and their accomplishments:

- **Sandra Wells - Plan 1**
- **Donna Anderson - Plan 1**
- **Judy Peele - Plan 1**
- **Joyce Sheperd - Plan 3**

*Continues on the next page.*



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Blue Ridge District UWF Events

## Blue Ridge District UWF Events

Our District will sponsor the following events through the summer. All are invited to attend!

### **Book Studies - Held over Zoom, Saturdays, 10:00 - 11:30:**

- **May 2, 2026** - *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah
- **June 11 - 13, 2026** - *Spiritual Growth Retreat - Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani Larocca (Spiritual Growth)  
In Person book study, Lake Junaluska
- **August, 8, 2026** - *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
- **September 19, 2026** - *The Bookwoman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson

**March 21 - District Mission Study** - Practicing Hope - In-Person and over Zoom Abernethy UMC in Asheville, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**April 18 - Women's Prayer Breakfast** - Oak Grove UMC - Ellenboro, NC

**June 11 - 13 - Spiritual Growth Retreat** - Lake Junaluska, NC

**August 15 - District Annual Celebration** - Piney Mountain UMC

**August 21 - 22 - Mission u** - Catholic Conference Center - Hickory, NC

There are so many ways to be involved with United Women in Faith at Central UMC! We welcome all women of all ages, to our circle meetings, and to other UWF events. If you would like more information, please contact a circle chair, or me, and we'll find the circle that fits your interests best.

**Real Women. Real Faith. Real Community.**

*Kathy Leftwich, President, Central United Women in Faith Unit*

## United Women in Faith Monthly Meeting Information

**Anna Circle** - Meets the first Wednesday of each month, 10:00 AM Central UMC Parlor. Contact *Glenda Fuhrmann* ([glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com](mailto:glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com)) for more information.

**Deborah Circle** - Meets the second Tuesday of each month, 10:00 AM in a member's home. Contact *Susan Snell* ([ssnell123@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net)) for more information.

**Eve Circle** - Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 10:00 AM Central UMC Parlor. Contact *Donna Anderson* ([danderson45@charter.net](mailto:danderson45@charter.net)) or *Sandra Wells* ([sandracwells@gmail.com](mailto:sandracwells@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Martha Circle** - Meets the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM, Central UMC Library or at a member's home. Contact *Kathy Leftwich* ([kathleencleftwich@gmail.com](mailto:kathleencleftwich@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Ruth Circle** - Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 10:00 AM, Central UMC Library. Contact *Kim Everette* ([kimeverette525@gmail.com](mailto:kimeverette525@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Unnamed Women's Circle** - Meets the second Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, at a local restaurant. Contact *Sarah Hope Carraway* ([sarahstrickland92@gmail.com](mailto:sarahstrickland92@gmail.com)) for more information.



## Anna Circle

### **Mother's Day Remembrance**

The Anna Circle will be placing red and white carnations in the Chancel urns on Mother's Day, May 10th. We invite you to remember and/or



honor your mother, grandmother, mothers of your grandchildren, special aunt, or any woman who has provided nurturing in your life's journey. A donation of \$10 for each name remembered or honored will be used in support of local missions.

A list of names will be provided online and with the bulletin on Mother's Day.

Please provide: (1) Name of person remembered or honored (2) Mark in memory or in honor. (3) Name of contributor and phone number. (4) \$10 for each name.

Your list and donation can be put into an envelope marked for Anna Circle and placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. You can also mail this to Central UMC, 27 Church St. Asheville, NC 28801.

All checks should be made out to "CUMC-Anna Circle", marked for "Mother's Day" in memo line.

**ALL donations must be received by May 1st.** For questions, please contact Mary Ann Wansong, 828-275-9551. Thank you for your support of local missions.

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The Anna Circle will meet on March 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The program will be a book discussion, and all are welcome to attend. The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m. The program that day will focus on creation care. For more information, please contact **Glenda Fuhrmann** at [glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com](mailto:glendafuhrmann@yahoo.com)

## Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in a member's home. All are welcome.

On March 10, the group will continue using the United Women in Faith program book, *Mapping Our Way Forward in Times of Change and Uncertainty*. Participants will explore the history of the organization and reflect on its growth and change over the years, while remaining focused on its mission to serve women, children, and youth in need.

At the April 14 meeting, the circle will study the theme *Seeds of Hope*, with particular attention to climate justice. Jane Goodall's book, *The Book of Hope*, will serve as a resource for discussion.

For more information, please contact **Susan Snell** at [ssnell123@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net).

## Ruth Circle

Please join members of the Ruth Circle on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library at Central UMC. During our meeting, we will collect donations for the United Women in Faith Legacy Fund: Grace in Abundance. Members will also review and update our Circle goals for 2026. Our **ABCCM food collection for March is sugar and flour**. We look forward to sharing the morning with you! Let's be bold. Let's be unstoppable—together! For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact **Kim Everette** at [kimeverette@gmail.com](mailto:kimeverette@gmail.com).



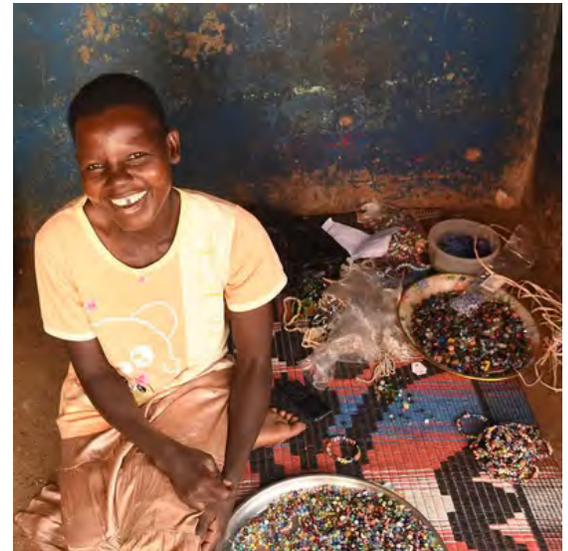
## Eve Circle

### Shop for a Cause with Eve Circle

Imagine a girl in Kenya finally able to attend school. Picture an orphan in Rwanda gaining the skills and confidence needed to build a brighter future.

You can help make that happen.

The Eve Circle of United Women in Faith invites you to shop for a cause close to our hearts on **April 19 and April 26**. After worship, we will be selling beautiful handcrafted paper bead jewelry made by women in Uganda. These vibrant bracelets, necklaces, and earrings are lightweight, durable, and uniquely stunning. Each bead tells the story of a woman supporting her family through her craft.



Every dollar raised will support two transformative missions:

- **the Zoe Program for orphan empowerment and**
- **scholarships for girls attending school in Moheto, Kenya.**

You will be able to find us after worship just **outside the Parlor**. All pieces are very reasonably priced, and we gladly accept cash or check.

Come browse, find something beautiful, and help change a life. For questions please contact Sue Mather at [suemather45@gmail.com](mailto:suemather45@gmail.com).

# Dorm Sponsors Needed!



Graduation is exciting. College acceptance is a proud moment of accomplishment. For some Asheville High seniors, however, outfitting a dorm room can be stressful.

Congregations for Children (C4C) is seeking sponsors for 20 Asheville High graduating seniors in need who are college-bound. Many are the first in their families to attend college, and all need help with dorm room essentials.

The list of needed supplies is extensive, so consider signing up as a pair, group, Sunday school class, or journey group.

**Email [c4c@centralumc.org](mailto:c4c@centralumc.org) to sign up or for more information.**

## Dorm Room Sponsor Supply List

*All items on the Required list must be provided.*

### Required Items:

- XL Single bed sheets. 2 sets. In student's preferred color
- Blanket. In student's preferred color
- Pillow
- Mattress pad, XL
- Comforter. In student's preferred color
- Towel Sets; towel, hand towel, washcloth. 2 sets. In student's pref color
- Laundry bag
- Laundry pods, small bag
- Dryer sheets, small box
- Waste basket, with trash bags
- Small Lamp with light bulbs
- Fan
- Power strip
- Plastic hangers; 18-24
- Dish soap (small bottle of)
- Kitchen sponge
- Plate, cup, bowl, cups, utensils (2 each of fork, spoon, knife). Must be non-breakable, light weight, microwaveable.
- Under-bed storage container with lid
- Shower caddy
- 3 drawer organizers. See picture at right.
- Dry-erase wall calendar/board with dry erase markers

### Optional items

- Item's from the student's wish list
- Clorox wipes
- Kleenex
- Alarm clock / clock radio
- 3M Command hooks, picture hangers



+ 2 options

Options

\$20<sup>82</sup>

Options from \$20.82 - \$41.64

Sterilite 3 Drawer Wide Cart, Clear Plastic Storage Drawers, Wheels Included, Black



# Central.Children.

## Upcoming Events!

### 3rd Grade Bible Classes | First Four Sundays in March | 9:15-9:45 AM

3rd Grade Bible classes will be held from 9:15–9:45 a.m. during the first four Sundays of March. Please note that a parent or guardian is required to attend with their child. We look forward to this special time of learning and growing together!

Questions? **Contact Maggie.**

### Save the Date and Event Sign Ups:

**3/29 Palm Sunday** - Donkey Walk 9:45am (donkey available at 9:30 for all the petting and fun)

**4/5 Easter Sunday** - Easter Egg Hunt after worship

**4/26 Youth and Confirmation Sunday & Children's Spring Musical**

**6/15-6/19 Vacation Bible School.** Sign up by scanning the QR Code



# Central.Youth.

## Youth Adventures

Save the Date and Upcoming Events:

**3/15 Make-up Confirmation Class**, 4pm

**3/20-3/22 IgniteUs Retreat.**

**4/26 Youth/Confirmation Sunday**

**6/15-6/19 Vacation Bible School.** Sign up by scanning the QR Code



**6/21-6/26 Mission Trip.** Sign up by scanning the QR Code



**7/13-7/18 Wilderness Trail.** Sign up by scanning the QR Code



# Office Volunteer



Central Office Volunteers are gathering for a St. Patrick's Day themed luncheon and get-together in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 18! This will be a great opportunity to meet new members of our team and reconnect with old friends. Who knows, someone might even discover a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow! Please contact Jan at 828-575-1260 to RSVP before **March 11, 2026**.

Be sure to wear your **green!**

## Help Us Stay Connected

We're updating our church records to help us better care for one another and stay connected as a community. Please take a moment to complete our short contact update form by **scanning the QR Code**.

*The Realm directory is available only to Central members who use Realm, and your information will only appear if you choose to opt in. Your preferences matter. You are always in control of what is shared. All information is secure and never shared outside of Central UMC.*

Thank you for helping us stay connected!



## Love Offering for Andie Simpson

For nearly 30 years, Andie Simpson has faithfully and quietly cared for Central UMC in ways both seen and unseen. Her steady presence, servant heart, and deep love for this church have helped make Central the welcoming community we cherish. As a tangible expression of our gratitude and appreciation, we invite you to participate in a **Love Offering** to bless and support Andie during this season.

### To give:

- Scan the QR code or visit [CentralUMC.org/Give](https://CentralUMC.org/Give) and select "Love Offering – Andie" from the dropdown menu
- Write a check to Central UMC and note "Love Offering – Andie" in the memo line

**Deadline to give: March 8.** Thank you for helping us love well and honor someone who has given so



# CENTRAL AT-A-GLANCE MARCH 2026 CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Creation Care-11:15a Table 2 Table-11:15a Youth Choir-11:15a Children's Choir-11:45a Social Principles -11:30a RMN-11:45a Youth Group-5p	2 Choral Society Reh.-5p Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	3 Eve Circle-10a Ruth Circle-10a Dementia Partners AVL-2p Allies for Equity-5p	4 Anna Circle-10a Centering Prayer-11a NT 101-5:30p Handbell Choir-5:30p Dementia Partners AVL-6p Chancel Choir-6:30p	5 UWF Meeting-10a Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a Choral Society Reh.-5p	6 First Friday Family Fellowship-5p Asheville Choral Society Concert-7p	7 Asheville Choral Society Concert-4p
<b>8 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> New-ish to Central-11a Social Principles-11:15a Children's Choir-11:15a Expedition Connect-11a Confirmation-2p 	9 SPRC-1p Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	10 Deborah Circle-10a Wesley Singers-1p Martha Circle-6:30p	11 Centering Prayer-11a NT 101-5:30p Handbell Choir-5:30p Unnamed Women Circle-6p Chancel Choir-6:30p	12 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a	13	14 Pictures & Projections Movie Club Awards Ceremony-4p 
<b>15 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Blood Pressure Checks-9:30a & 11a Social Principles-11:15a Youth Choir-11:15a Children's Choir-11:45a Confirmation-4p Youth Group-5p	16 Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	17 Finance Meeting-12p Wesley Singers-1p Dementia Partners AVL-2p	18 Centering Prayer-11a Receptionists' Lunch-12p NT 101 5:30p Dementia Partners AVL-6p Chancel Choir-6:30p	19 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a	20  IgniteUS Youth Retreat Spring Begins 	
<b>22 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> College Mailings-9a Youth Choir-11:15a Children's Choir-11:45a 	23 Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	24 Wesley Singers-1p	25 Centering Prayer-11a NT 101 5:30p Chancel Choir-6:30p Congregational Care-7p	26 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a	27	28
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> Donkey Walk-9:45a Expedition: Connect w/Confirmation-11:15a Children's Choir-11:15a Asheville Youth Symphony Concerto Finals-1p	30 Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	31 Wesley Singers-1p	 March*			

# CENTRAL AT-A-GLANCE APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Anna Circle-10a Centering Prayer-11a NT 101-5:30p Dementia Partners AVL-6p Chancel Choir-6:30p	2 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a <b>Mundy Thursday-6p</b> 	3 First Friday Family Fellowship-5p <b>Tenebrae Worship Service-6p</b>	4
5 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Flowers at the Cross-9a <b>Egg Hunt-11:15a</b> 	6 <b>Church Offices Closed for Easter</b> Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	7 Eve Circle-10a Ruth Circle-10a Wesley Singers-1p Dementia Partners AVL-2p	8 Centering Prayer-11a Unnamed Women Circle-6p	9 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a	10	11
12 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> New-ish to Central-11:15a Youth Choir-11:15a Children's Choir-11:45a Youth Group-5p 	13 Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	14 Deborah Circle-10a Martha Circle-6:30p	15 UWF Exec Meeting-10a Centering Prayer-11a Stewardship Meeting-5p Dementia Partners AVL-6p Chancel Choir-6:30p	16 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a		
19 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Blood Pressure Checks-9:30a & 11a Youth Choir-11:15a Children's Choir-11:45a Youth Group-5p 	20 Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	21 Finance Meeting-12p Wesley Singers-1p Dementia Partners AVL-2p	22 Centering Prayer-11a Chancel Choir-6:30p Congregational Care-7p	23 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a	24	25 Children's Choir Rehearsal-11a  Wild Asheville Community Chorus Concert-5p 
26 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Youth/Confirmation Sunday</b> (Youth Choir sings in Worship)  <b>Children's Spring Musical-11:30a</b>	27 Theology Pub-5:45p Brass Rehearsal-6:30p	28 Wesley Singers-1p	29 Centering Prayer-11a Chancel Choir-6:30p	30 Thurs. Morning Prayer-8a Circle of Prayer-10a		

## Contact us:

### Staff:

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*Minister of Congregational Care*

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### **Stories From Central: Jot & Tittle Submission Deadlines:**

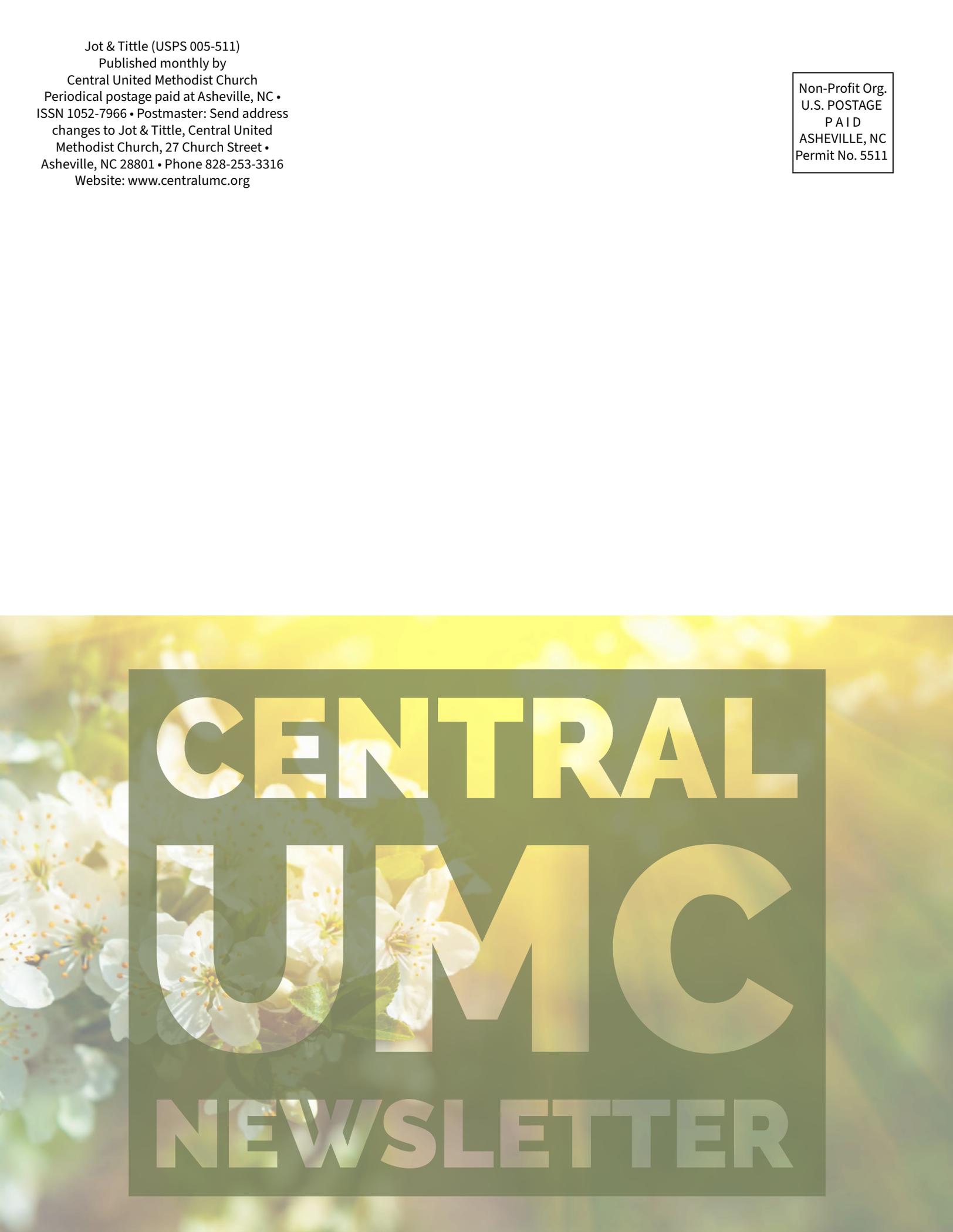
May/June Deadline - April 20, 2026

July/August Deadline - June 20, 2026

Email Michelle at [mhausler@CentralUMC.org](mailto:mhausler@CentralUMC.org) or go to [CentralUMC.org/Communications](http://CentralUMC.org/Communications) to fill out a Communications Request Form

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