

Today's Events: September 20

8:45 am	Sunday School
9:30 am	Blood Pressure Checks - Library
10:00 am	Worship Service – Sanctuary
11:00 am	Blood Pressure Checks - Library
11:15 am	Kids with Purpose – Chapel
	Stewardship Committee Meeting – Library
	“The Class Meeting” - Parlor
	Youth Sunday School
	Parent Gathering – Conference Room
	Youth Choir – Choir Room
	Youth Sunday School – Youth Arena
	Three Church Children’s Music Workshop – 1 st Pres.
5:00 pm	Youth Group – Youth Arena

This Week's Events: Sept. 21 - 27

Tues., 9/22	9:45 am	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
	12-4:30 pm	Montessori Event – Fellowship Hall
	1:00 pm	Wesley Singes – Choir Room
Wed., 9/23	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Meeting – Candler Dripolator
	11:00 am	Centering Prayer – Chapel
	12:30 pm	Haywood Street Worship
	1:30 pm	Property Committee Meeting – Conf. Room
	5:30 pm	Basic Bible Literacy Class – Room 219
		Handbell Choir Rehearsal – Handbell Room
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
	7:00 pm	Congregational Care Council
Thurs., 9/24	8:00 am	Thursday Morning Prayer – Zoom
	10:00 am	Circle of Prayer – Zoom
Sat., 9/26	10:30 am	Interfaith Pride Worship Service – Sanctuary
	12:00 pm	Blue Ridge Pride Festival – Pack Square
Sun., 9/27	8:45 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service – Sanctuary
	11:15 am	“The Class Meeting” - Parlor
		Kids with Purpose – Chapel
		Youth Sunday School – Youth Arena
		Parent Gathering – Conference Room
		Youth Choir – Choir Room
	11:45	Children’s Choir – Choir Room
	5:00 pm	Youth Group – Haw Creek

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

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 did your parents or guardians call you home as a kid? What did that look and feel like?
- Have you ever felt God calling you “home,” spiritually speaking? Did it feel like a “God-shaped vacuum” (Blaise Pascal) or a restless feeling (Saint Augustine) or something else?
- Before we say anything, God has already said, “I love you.” This week, try starting your prayers with, “I love you, too, God.” Notice how that makes you feel. Open yourself to feeling God’s love for you.

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

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

- Monday: 1John 4:7-12
- Tuesday: Romans 5:1-11
- Wednesday: John 3:1-21
- Thursday: John 13:31-35
- Friday: John 15:12-17
- Saturday: Psalm 136

Next Week in Worship

We continue our journey into God’s house by stepping up onto the porch! John Wesley (the founder of our Methodist movement) had a very specific way in which we take that step – and it’s one we should take over and over again in our lifetimes. Join us to find out what it is and take that step together



Ordinary Time
September 20, 2026
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “Chorale” Robert Hebble

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on John 14) Joe McGuire

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 66 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” LAUDA ANIMA

MINISTRY MOMENT: Reconciling Ministries
Maggie Charleton & Marcia Longknight

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER ending with the Lord’s Prayer Joe McGuire

OFFERTORY “Come, Worship the King” Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir; Heather Cree, violin

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 1 John 4:7-21 Lauralee Bailey
The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

CHILDREN’S TIME Maggie Christy

ANTHEM	“All Things New” Chancel Choir	Elaine Hagenberg
SERMON	“God’s House: Calling Us Home”	Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
*THE APOSTLES CREED (Hymnal 886)		Joe McGuire
*HYMN 172	“My Jesus, I Love Thee”	GORDON
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Dr. Mary Brown
CHIMES OF THE TRINITY		
POSTLUDE	“Fugue in F Major”	J.S. Bach
*Please stand, if you are able.		

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given in appreciation for the online services provided by Central.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Gloria Orr, who died September 13, 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

ECO-Tip: Come clean with household products. Use non-toxic, natural cleaning products instead of chemical-based ones that harm your health and the environment. White vinegar is an option, as are other branded products from eco-friendly suppliers. Browse for “natural cleaning products.”



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.

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

LAST CHANCE! Today is your last chance to send us your college student’s address! We have a Central Ministry that focuses on our College Students and four times a year your college student will receive a note from the church to tell them 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 this week to Jan Griffin at jgriffin@centralumc.org.

Church Street Mini - Festival for Children and Tweens! -- TODAY
11:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All children ages 5 years old through 7th grade are invited to participate in our Three Churches Mini Music and Fun Festival at First Presbyterian Church, across the street from Central. Lunch is provided for everyone at no cost to families; snacks and beverages are also provided during break times. Dr. Kari Adams from UNCG will lead the music portion of the afternoon. Kari is a fun and wonderful clinician. She has planned many music activities and fun games for the children, including singing and playing instruments. The children will be divided into two groups for most of the afternoon. Five-year old through 3rd grade will be together and 4th through 7th grade will be together. Our Central children and tweens will join forces with children and tweens from First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal. Church staff members from all three churches and other parent volunteers will chaperone the afternoon activities.

We will begin our afternoon of fun in the Central choir room at 11:45. 3:00 p.m. -- Parents and families gather at the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary for a short program by our children and then dismissal.

Queer Bible Study

By popular demand, starting today, September 20, there will be a study of the book "God, Gospel, and Gender" by Margie Baker during the Sunday School hour. This study is open to all ages and will be held in the 4th Floor Youth Arena, hosted by the Young Adult’s Journey Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

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 hicks@wnccumc.org. If you prefer to participate by Zoom, the link is: <https://wnccumcorg.zoom.us/j/86009505770?pwd=Kpkukxbfy2YVJLwTfzPrwzRziZTR7h.1>

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.



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 or 16 oz)	Jelly or Jam	Grits
Hearty Soups	Oatmeal	Sugar	
Boxed Mac & Cheese	Pasta Sauce	Cooking Oil	

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 JonathanMeadows@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.

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

STORIES FROM CENTRAL DEADLINE: September 21