

Ministry Staff

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Central.Congregational Care.

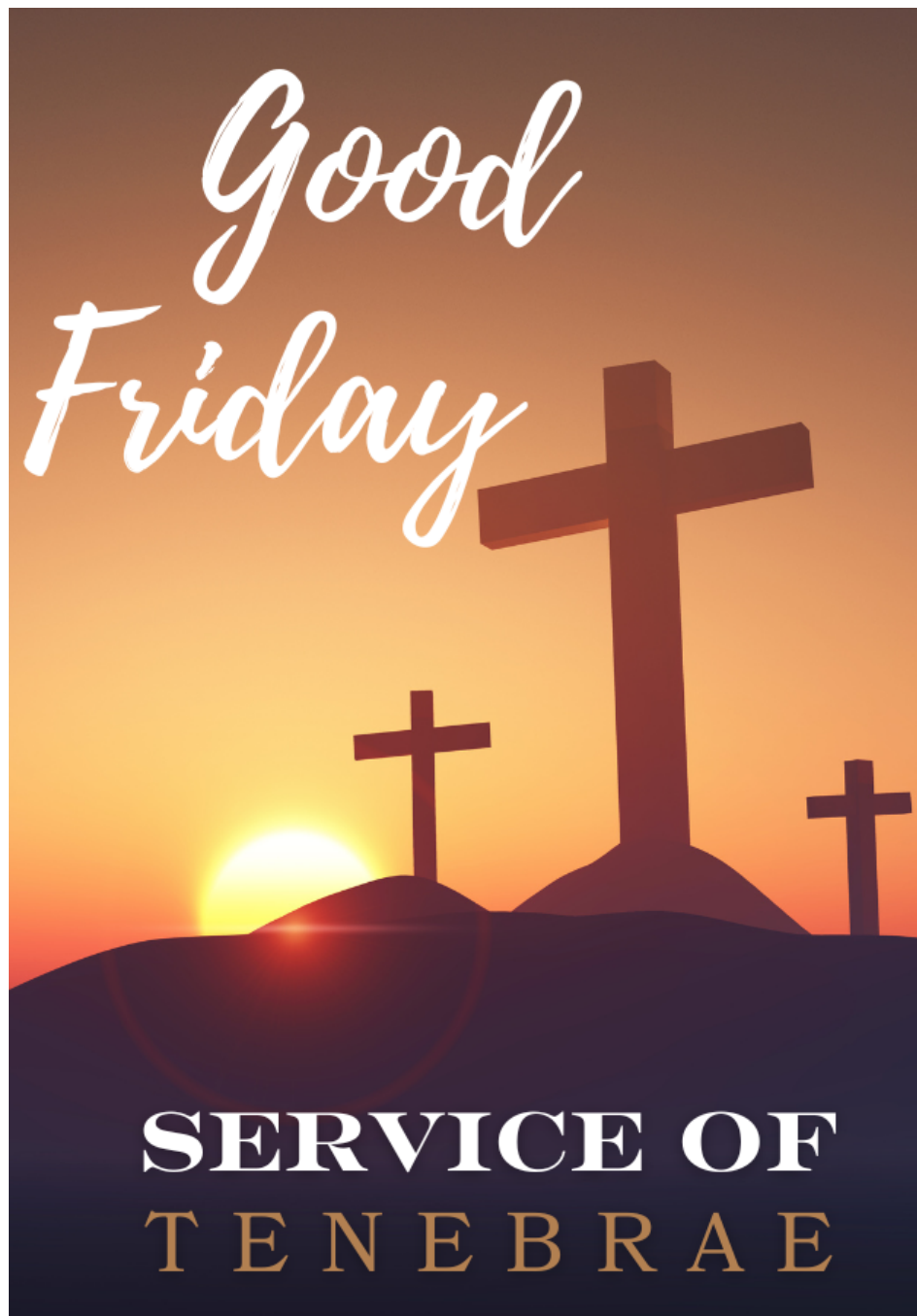


It is hard to admit out loud that we are having trouble handling our life issues by ourselves. But...“asking for help is the bravest thing you can do.” ~C. Mackesy. Consider a confidential care relationship with a **Stephen Minister**. Contact **Pastor Lisa** today for more information.

During worship service, the library is available for families wanting to watch the livestream. Nursery is available in Rm 309 for children ages 0-5 years. [See Ushers for assistance.](#)

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**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27 Church St., Asheville, NC 28801
centralumc.org
(828) 253-3316



Friday, April 3, 2026
Central United Methodist Church

Good Friday
April 3, 2026 | 6:00 pm

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,
and we loved darkness rather than light.

***HYMN 296** "Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle" PICARDY

***PRAYER** Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Almighty God,

We are here to remember what we would never forget:

**That your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross
for the salvation of the world.**

We remember – but we would rather forget the details.

We would rather forget the depth of his suffering.

Be with us as we keep watch.

Hold us as we listen.

Help us to be here, now – even as we hope for Sunday.

Amen.

OFFERTORY "O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head" David N. Johnsonker
Chancel Choir; Ina Messer and Joshua Hager, soloists; Jeryl Sloan, flute

You are invited to enter into a spirit of reflecting on Christ's offering for us and what we might offer in return. The altar rail is open for those who might like to kneel and pray. Any monetary gifts left at the altar will go to the "Way Home" Offering, providing bus tickets for people who need help with transportation.

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

The readings given below are by James J. Charlesworth. We are thankful for the accuracy of his translations that give special sensitivity to Jews, Judaism, Jesus' Jewishness, and the Jewish origins of Christianity.

First Reading John 18:1-11 Robin Smith

Second Reading John 18:12-14

***HYMN 290** "Go to Dark Gethsemane" REDHEAD
Stanzas 1-3

Third Reading John 18:15-18 Susan Cooper

Fourth Reading John 18:19-24

ANTHEM "Forsaken" Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir; Eric Sands, cello

Fifth Reading John 18:25-27 Anne Walling

Sixth Reading John 18:28-32

ANTHEM "The Savior Prays Alone" Ken Medema
Chancel Choir; Jordan Speece, soloist

Seventh Reading John 18:33-38a Kathy Leftwich

Eighth Reading John 18:38b-40

ANTHEM "Ah, Holy Jesus" Winifred Douglas
Chancel Choir

Ninth Reading John 19:1-11 Bill Haggard

Tenth Reading John 19:12-16

HYMN 285 "To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord" KINGSFOLD

Eleventh Reading John 19:17-22 Melisse Latini

Twelfth Reading John 19:23-24

ANTHEM "Surely, He Hath Borne Our Grievs" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel
Chancel Choir

Thirteenth Reading John 19:25-27 Alexandra Holland

Fourteenth Reading John 19:28-30

ANTHEM "When Jesus Wept" Peter Paul Olejar
Chancel Choir; Joanna Beck, soloist

Fifteenth Reading John 19:31-37 Tom Russell

Sixteenth Reading John 19:38-42

Silence

***HYMN 286** "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" PASSION CHORALE

***Dismissal** Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

Depart in silence.

***Please stand, if you are able.**