

**Happening today, 3/8:**

8:45 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship Service   <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:15 AM	New-ish to Central   <i>Library</i>
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Social Principles Class   <i>Fellowship Hall</i></b>
11:15 AM	Youth Expedition: Connect
11:15 AM	Children's Choir
11:15 AM	Young Parents Gathering   <i>Conference Room</i>
2:00 PM	Confirmation   <i>Youth Arena</i>
4:30 PM	Inquirers Class Chat & Chew   <i>Fellowship Hall</i>

**Happening this week, 3/9-3/15:**

MON, 3/9	11:30 AM	Building Committee   <i>Conference Room</i>
	1:00 PM	SPRC   <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:45 PM	Theology Pub   <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 PM	Brass Rehearsal
TUE, 3/10	10:00 AM	Deborah Circle   <i>Member's Home</i>
	1:00 PM	Wesley Singers
	6:30 PM	Martha Circle   <i>Library</i>
WED, 3/11	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer   <i>Chapel</i>
	5:30 PM	Handbell Choir
	5:30 PM	NT 101   <i>Room 219</i>
	6:00 PM	Unnamed Women Circle   <i>Local Restaurant</i>
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
THU, 3/12	8:00 AM	Thursday Morning Prayer   <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	Circle of Prayer   <i>Zoom</i>
SAT, 3/14	4:00 PM	Pictures & Projections Movie Club   <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
SUN, 3/15	8:45 AM	Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Blood Pressure Checks   <i>Library</i>
	10:00 AM	Worship Service   <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 AM	Blood Pressure Checks   <i>Library</i>
	11:15 AM	New-ish to Central   <i>Library</i>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Social Principles Class   <i>Room 219</i></b>
	11:15 AM	Youth Choir
	11:15 AM	After Worship Family Activities
	11:45 AM	Children's Choir
5:00 PM	Youth Group   <i>Youth Arenal</i>	

For more information about these activities, go to [CentralUMC.org/Events](https://www.centralumc.org/events).

## Holy Week at Central.

<b>SUN MAR 29</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	9:30 AM   Pet the Donkey 9:45 AM   Donkey Walk on Church Street 10:00 AM   Worship
<b>THU APR 3</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	6:00 PM   Worship Service
<b>FRI APR 4</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	6:00 PM   Tenabrae Service
<b>SUN APR 6</b>	<b>Easter</b>	7:00 AM   Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 AM   Easter Brunch 8:45 AM   Sunday School 10:00 AM   Worship Service 11:15 AM   Egg Hunt

### Ministry Staff

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor  
[MBrown@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MBrown@CentralUMC.org)  
Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care  
[LRettew@CentralUMC.org](mailto:LRettew@CentralUMC.org)  
Maggie Christy, Director of Children and Youth Discipleship  
[MChristy@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MChristy@CentralUMC.org)  
Corey Powell, Organist & Director of Music Ministries  
[CPowell@CentralUMC.org](mailto:CPowell@CentralUMC.org)  
Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music  
[LHaggard@CentralUMC.org](mailto:LHaggard@CentralUMC.org)

### Sermon Discussion Questions

This year our Lenten focus will be on the United Methodist Social Principles, a section in our Book of Discipline that “speak[s] to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions” (*UM Book of Discipline* p. 106.). Today we look at the section on the “the Economic Community.” Continue to reflect by journaling or discussing the following questions:

- “The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me” (Matthew 26:11). As a follower of Christ, how are the poor \*with\* you?
- What are the barriers to being with the poor?
- How might changes in your spending allow you to be with the poor on a regular basis?

### Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

As we move through our Social Principles this Lent, we highly recommend that you read one section each week alongside relevant Scripture readings.

- From the Social Principles: “The Economic Community,” found on pp. 26-33 of the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church* booklet (available in the back of the Sanctuary and in the library) or online at <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>
- From the Bible:
  - Amos 5:7-13
  - James 2:1-7, 14-17
  - Matthew 5:1-12
  - Matthew 25:14-30
  - Matthew 25:31-46

### Next week in worship...

We continue our Lenten focus on the United Methodist Social Principles, a section in our *Book of Discipline* that “speak[s] to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions” (*UM Book of Discipline* p. 106.). Next week we observe the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent by looking at Part III of the Social Principles: “The Social Community.” Join us and invite anyone you know who wants to see humanity live in true community!



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026 | 10:00 AM

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY**

“Kyrie”

Andrea Klouse

Youth Choir

*Prayer cards and name tags are available in the attendance pad at the end of each pew. You can also find prayer cards in the pew rack in front of you.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Excerpt from “A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed,” found in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,  
calls us by grace

**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,  
that we may be one  
in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day

God cries with the masses of starving people,  
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,  
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

**And so shall we.**

**\*HYMN 384**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER

**MINISTRY MOMENT**

John Scroggs

**Finance**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Lisa Rettew

Ending with the Lord's Prayer: *Hymnal 895*

**OFFERTORY**

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

arr. Sean Paul

Chancel Choir

*While the Choir makes their musical offering, the ushers will pass plates for those who wish to offer a financial gift or prayer request. You may also use this QR code to make a financial gift. As you pass the plate—whether or not you give—we invite you to pause and reflect on what you hope to offer God this week.*



**\*DOXOLOGY Hymnal 95**

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

**SCRIPTURE READING**

James 2:1-7, 14-17

Monroe Duginske

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Maggie Christy

*After Children's Time, children in kindergarten–5th grade are invited to continue worship in Children's Church in the Chapel. Children ages 5 and under may go to the nursery (Room 309, across from the church offices) with our childcare staff. For safety, all children must wear a name tag. Name tags are available near the Library.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

“Social Principles: The Economic Community”

## OUR SOCIAL CREED

Rev. Lisa Rettew

from *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*

**We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.**

**We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.**

**We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.**

**We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.**

**We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.**

**We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.**

\*HYMN 463 "Lord, Speak to Me" CANONBURY

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

## CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY "Herzliebster Jesu" Johannes Brahms

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

**A livestream of the worship service is available in the library for families. Nursery is available for children ages 0-5.**

**The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given by Vicki and David Leeds in loving memory of Vicki's parents, Joanne and Eugene Hatton.**

**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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](http://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 much to our church family. 

### Social Principles Class Series | Sundays thru MAR 29 | 11:15 AM

*The United Methodist Church 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. Join us **Sundays after worship.**

#### Class Schedule:

- **MAR 8:** The Social Community, Part 1 – *Peter Barrett and Assistant*
- **MAR 15:** The Social Community, Part 2 – *Peter Barrett and Assistant*
- **MAR 22:** The Political Community – *Rev. Dr. Mary Brown*
- **MAR 29:** Our Social Creed: Putting Faith into Action – *Rev. Dr. Mary Brown*

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

### 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 AM 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** at [mchristy@CentralUMC.org](mailto:mchristy@CentralUMC.org).

### Jordan Speece Senior Voice Recital | SUN, MAR 22 | 1:00 PM

Join us for an exciting event! Jordan Speece, Soprano and Central Chancel Choir Student Intern will present her Senior Voice Recital at Central, in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in the church Parlor. Jordan has been our Soprano music intern for four years. We are thrilled to host her senior recital. It is **free** and open to everyone. We hope you will join us for this recital of outstanding vocal music! Reach out to **Linda Haggard** at [lhaggard@CentralUMC.org](mailto:lhaggard@CentralUMC.org) with questions.

## Central.Giving.

### Financial Update through 02/31/2026:

- 2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$ 290,553
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000

## Central.Congregational.Care.

 **Bereavement Care Ministry:** During times of a family death, "arrangements" can be daunting. If a reception following the funeral at our church is needed, please consider letting our **Bereavement Care Ministry** help you by contacting **Pastor Mary**.



## Homebound Care Ministry

Whether you are at home but not able to get out and about, or are in a care facility, we want to visit with you! **Pastor Lisa** can make these arrangements through our **Homebound Care Ministry**.



United Women in Faith

# UWF Corner

### United Women in Faith Monthly Meeting and Contact Information:

**UWF Mission Giving – A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial:** United Women in Faith invites you to participate in this year's Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering. One-half of the offering supports programs in the U.S. and one-half supports international programs, all aligned with this year's theme: **"The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children."**

Funds will support vulnerable children through National Mission Institutions, including five in North Carolina that provide education, after-school programs, mental health support, and more.

To learn more, contact a circle leader or **Kathy Leftwich** at [kathleencleftwich@gmail.com](mailto:kathleencleftwich@gmail.com).

### Shop for a Cause – Eve Circle | SUN, APR 19 & 26 | After worship

On April 19 and 26, the Eve Circle will sell handcrafted paper bead jewelry made by women in Uganda after worship, just outside the Parlor. Proceeds support the Zoe Program for orphan empowerment and scholarships for girls in Moheto, Kenya. Cash or check accepted. Shop, find something beautiful, and help change a life.

**Deborah Circle | TUE, MAR 10 | 10:00 AM | Member's Home:** All are welcome. The group will continue using the United Women in Faith program book, *Mapping Our Way Forward in Times of Change and Uncertainty*, exploring the organization's history and mission to serve women, children, and youth in need. On April 14, the circle will study the theme *Seeds of Hope*, focusing on climate justice, using Jane Goodall's *The Book of Hope* as a resource. For more information, contact **Susan Snell** at [ssnell123@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssnell123@bellsouth.net).

**Martha Circle | TUE, MAR 10 | 6:30 PM | Library:** At our March meeting is Tuesday, March 10 and we'll continue to discuss projects for the year, and participate in the 2026 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial service supporting National Mission Institutions. We'll also review our Martha Circle Cookbooks and talk about adding some of our more recent, and very delicious, recipes to them! Martha Circle is open to all women, of any age, and you do not have to be a member of Central to visit or join. We enjoy sharing our stories and our faith with one another, all while supporting each other in our day-to-day journeys. For more information, contact **Kathy Leftwich** at [kathleencleftwich@gmail.com](mailto:kathleencleftwich@gmail.com).

**Unnamed Women Circle | WED, MAR 11 | 6:00 PM | Local Restaurant:** Meets the second Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, at a local restaurant. Contact & info: **Sarah Hope Caraway** [sarahstrickland92@gmail.com](mailto:sarahstrickland92@gmail.com).