

**Happening today, 2/22:**

- 8:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Worship Service | *Sanctuary*
- 11:15 AM Creation Care Meeting | *Room 307*
- 11:15 AM Social Principles Class | Room 219**
- 11:15 AM **Youth Choir**
- 11:45 AM **Children's Choir**
- 4:00 PM **Confirmation** | *Youth Arena*
- 5:00 PM **Youth Group** | *Youth Arena*

**Happening this week, 2/23-3/1:**

MON, 2/23	12:00 PM	Building Committee   <i>Conference Room</i>
	5:45 PM	Theology Pub   <i>Village Pub</i>
	6:30 PM	<b>Brass Rehearsal</b>
TUE, 2/24	9:30 AM	UWF Meeting   <i>Parlor</i>
	1:00 PM	<b>Wesley Singers</b>
	2:00 PM	Dementia Partners AVL   <i>Library</i>
WED, 2/25	11:00 AM	Centering Prayer   <i>Chapel</i>
	5:30 PM	<b>Handbell Choir</b>
	5:30 PM	NT 101   <i>Room 219</i>
	6:30 PM	<b>Chancel Choir</b>
THU, 2/26	8:00 AM	<b>Thursday Morning Prayer</b>   <i>Zoom</i>
	10:00 AM	<b>Circle of Prayer</b>   <i>Zoom</i>
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly   <i>Conference Room</i>
SUN, 3/1	8:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Worship Service   <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 AM	Table 2 Table   <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	11:15 AM	Creation Care Meeting   <i>Room 307</i>
	<b>11:15 AM Social Principles Class   Room 219</b>	
	11:15 AM	<b>Youth Choir</b>
	11:45 AM	<b>Children's Choir</b>
11:45 AM	Reconciling Ministries Group   <i>Parlor</i>	
5:00 PM	<b>Youth Group</b>   <i>Youth Arena</i>	

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

Duke Energy offers a **Flex Savings Option** — a time-of-use rate that enables you to lower your energy costs by simply shifting your energy use to times of less demand for energy. This optional program can save you money if you observe the suggested off-peak times. Most household energy is used by: Home heating and cooling; Water heater; Refrigerator; Washer and dryer. Conserving energy at home is a way all of us can contribute to helping the environment and healing the harms of the past.

**Ministry Staff**

- Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor  
[MBrown@CentralUMC.org](mailto:MBrown@CentralUMC.org)
- Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care  
[LRetrew@CentralUMC.org](mailto:LRetrew@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 began with a look at the Wesleyan Quadrilateral as a tool for “sound biblical and theological” reflection. This is John Wesley’s habit of making decisions of faith by starting with Scripture and then putting it in conversation with Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Try it out for yourself this week; pick a topic and then ask yourself:

- Scripture: What does the Bible say about this topic? Are there specific verses that address it? Are there conflicting verses? What does the overall message of the Bible say about this topic?
- Tradition: What have Christians before us thought about this issue? Does the United Methodist Church (or other denominations) have a stance on this issue? If we disagree – why?
- Reason: What do my own reasoning capabilities say about this issue? What opinions makes sense? What opinions don’t feel quite right?
- Experience: What does my own experience say about this issue? What does my personal experience of God tell me?

**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: Read the “Preface,” found on pp. 17-20 of the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church* booklet (available in the back of the Sanctuary and in the library) and also online at <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>
- From the Bible:
  - Genesis 2:7-15
  - John 13:34-35
  - Matthew 25:31-46
  - Romans 8:31-39
  - Micah 6:1-8

**Next week in worship...**

This year our Lenten focus is 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.). Next week we observe the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent by looking at Part I of the Social Principles: “Community of All Creation.” Join us and invite anyone you know who is concerned about environmental justice!



**Financial Update through 01/31/2026:**

- 2026 Year to Date Tithes & Offerings: \$ 162,256
- Total Annual Budget: \$1,550,000



First Sunday of Lent  
February 22, 2026  
10:00 AM

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

**VOLUNTARY**

“Elegy”

Robert J. Powell

*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 brings good news to the poor,  
proclaims release to the captives,  
gives sight to the blind, and  
sets the oppressed free.

**And so shall we.**

**\*HYMN 143**

“If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee”

WER NER DEN LIEBEN GOTT

**THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*Hymnal 33*

**Membership:** Andrey Fedun, Linda and Arnie Rogers,  
Julia Rosemond, Ariston Schmidt, John Halsell  
Joan Signorille and Dennis Greeno, and Maggie Christy

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Lisa Rettew

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

**OFFERTORY**

“Love Divine”

Carl Nygard

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**

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Hymnal 95*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Micah 6:1-8

Tom Finger

**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

"How to Engage the Social Principles"

**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 430 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" MARYTON

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

**CHIMES OF THE TRINITY**

VOLUNTARY "Fugue in D Minor" Felix Mendelssohn

\*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 Amy and Lee Loy in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary.

If you are interested in providing flowers for the Chancel, please contact **Mary Margaret** at [marymargaretingle@gmail.com](mailto:marymargaretingle@gmail.com), especially for the weeks of March 29, April 12, and April 26.

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](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 much to our church family. 💖

**Social Principles Class Series | Sundays thru MAR 22 | 11:15 AM**

The United Methodist Church Social Principles guide us in living out our faith in the world—shaping how we care for creation, one another, and our communities. Join us **Sundays after worship.**

**Class Schedule:**

- **FEB 22:** Community of All Creation (Creation Care) – *Dianna Pierce*
- **MAR 1:** The Economic Community – *Rev. Jim Kuse*
- **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 | Sermon Sunday – No Class*

Have questions contact Sharon LeDuc at [skleduc@prodigy.net](mailto:skleduc@prodigy.net) or Peter Barrett [peterbarrett@comcast.net](mailto:peterbarrett@comcast.net).

**ABCCM Donations Needed!** 🍽️🐾: Our neighbors at ABCCM Crisis Ministry are in need of a few everyday essentials: **Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Dry Cat Food** (meow! 🐱). If you're heading to the store this weekend, please consider picking up an extra item or two. Donations may be placed in the **large wooden collection box in the Fellowship Hall**, or you may deliver items directly to **ABCCM Crisis Ministry, 24 Cumberland Avenue.**



United Women in Faith

**UWF Corner**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Unnamed Women Circle:** 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).

**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**.



**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**.

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!