

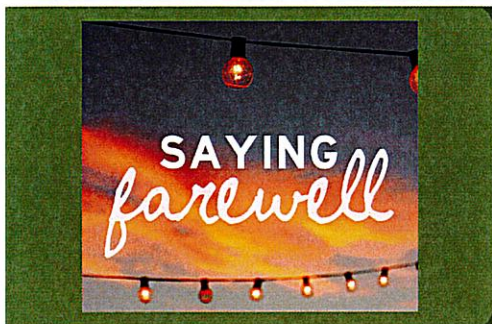
Jot & Tittle

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JOT & TITTLE—APRIL / MAY EDITION

Dear Central Family,

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol uses the word stave for the chapter headings. The old English stave is the plural of staff or the five lines and four open spaces where a composer writes music. Dickens could



have called each of the five sections a chapter, but he named them a stave to illicit the composition of the carol as the book unfolds. The words of the five sections fill in blank spaces between the lines and make a song. I like to think that life is like the composition of a great carol or piece of music; we

participate in the writing of the music on the lines and there is a lot of beautiful music that fills in the blank spaces. Sometimes it is obvious where the music is going and sometimes the flow of the song leads us in a different direction. The song continues and we move to a new chapter.

A new stave will begin soon for the Lingle family as June 9th will be my last Sunday serving as one of the pastors at Central UMC. It is hard to know in life when it is time for something new, and it is especially hard to leave a place that feels like home. We love Central, "we have sat around the table of life together," and for that our lives are forever changed. Central has supported us during some of the most difficult days of our lives and during some of the best and for that we will be eternally grateful. I do not plan
(Cont. on pg. 2)



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FROM PASTOR MARY:



Worship at Central UMC

April and May 2024

- April 7: Pastor Patrick steps into the pulpit to share a good post-Easter word with us.
- April 14: In Luke 24:35b-48 two disciples encounter the resurrected Christ... but almost fail to recognize him. We'll use this story to explore ways to "see" Christ in our daily lives.
- April 21: In celebration of Earth Day we will have a "blessing of the recycling bins"! Don't bring your recycling bin to church... but do come for worship where we'll reflect on our call to care for God's good creation. Everyone who attends will receive a sticker to place on your recycling bin as a reminder. We'll end worship by gathering outside with our neighbors at First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal churches for an Earth Day doxology.
- April 28: It's a pulpit swap! Come and welcome Rev. James Boyce, pastor at Hopkins Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He will be preaching at our 8:45 and 10:55 services. Meanwhile, Pastor Mary will preach at Hopkins Chapel at their 11am service.
- May 5: The children will be presenting a musical after the 10:55 service: "Daniel's Dangerous Dilemma." In preparation both our worship services will explore the Scripture behind that dilemma, Daniel 6:16-23.
- May 12: Happy Mother's Day! Come worship with us on this "Ascension Sunday," a day to remember and explore the meaning of Christ's ascension in Acts 1:1-11.
- May 19: On this Pentecost Sunday not only do we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit, we will also recognize our confirmands and graduating seniors. It's a great day for all of us to reconnect with our calling to follow and serve Christ.
- May 26: It's Trinity Sunday, a time to savor the mystery of our God who is three-in-one. We'll look at Matthew 28:16-20 and what it means to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



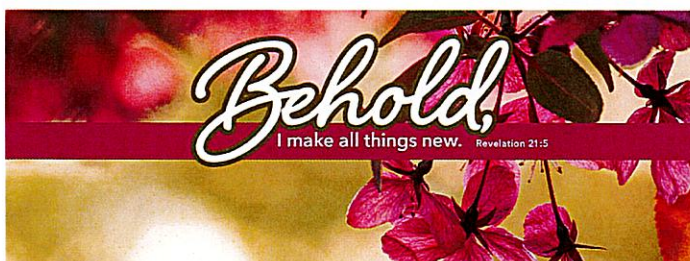
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to serve in a local church, however, I will continue under appointment with the Ormond Center at Duke Divinity School. I am an Agent of Thriving at the Ormond Center and work primarily with the place-making lab helping local churches discern how to activate underutilized church space.

I will close by sharing what is probably the most important thing that I have learned over the last twelve years. There is one sermon that Rob repeated each year, a sermon where he quotes his mom, "every moment offers an opportunity where our only appropriate response is, 'thank you.'" In this moment, the only appropriate response is - thank you. We will have time for celebration and grief, to reminisce and laugh, and yet, today, as a page in the chapter begins to be turned, as the song continues, please receive this word - thank you!

Peace,

Luke





The Coaster Sale at Christmastime netted \$1442.53 for the Sanctuary Renovation Project. \$363.47 was spent on supplies with a total of \$1806 in sales. 257 coasters were sold. Thank you to all who purchased a set!

"New to Central" Class Coming in May!

Do you want to learn more about what it means to be Methodist? Are you interested in finding a Sunday School class or small group? Do you need help finding your way around the building? All these are good reasons to attend the "New To Central" class this May! Meet in the Library (3rd floor, near the Sanctuary) at 10:00 am on May 5, 12, 19, and 26. These four sessions are recommended for anyone interested in joining the church as a professing member. Questions? See Luke Lingle at: llingle@centralumc.org.



Calling all our Givens Estates residents: let's have lunch!

Meet with Pastor Lisa and Pastor Mary and your fellow Givens residents on Wednesday, May 8 at 11:30 am in the small dining room at Market and Craft. Grab your lunch and come for a chance to get to know Mary and one another better! Questions? See Herb Mather: herbmather34@gmail.com

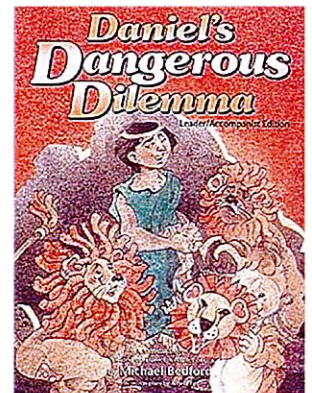
MUSIC MINISTRY

COMING SUNDAY, MAY 5, 12-1PM

Sunday, May 5 the Children's Choir will present:

Daniel's Dangerous Dilemma

in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:55 am worship service. This event will take the place of the churchwide potluck. Instead of everyone bringing a dish, we will have boxed lunches provided by Equal Plates Project. The cost will be \$5 per person to get a prepared lunch. This will allow us enjoy the Children's musical while we eat (see pg. 14)!



Third Annual Broadway Review

Friday, June 7 at 7:00 pm is our annual Broadway Review with dinner. The show will feature solos, duets, and group numbers from your favorite Broadway shows. If you are interested in singing either solo or in the group numbers, please contact Linda Haggard at: lhaggard@centralumc.org or Corey Powell at: cpowell@centralumc.org.

Equal Plates Project: Celebrating Volunteers and One Year in CUMC's Kitchen

Since transforming Central's kitchen into a commercial kitchen in March of 2023, Equal Plates Project has prepared and distributed over 30,000 scratch-made meals into the community, over 28,000 of which fed those facing food insecurity. "We could not be more grateful for our partnership with CUMC - the Church has again and again demonstrated the depth of their commitment to share space for the betterment of our whole community," says Madi Holtzman, Executive Director of Equal Plates. "Plus, being right downtown makes it super easy for our farm partners to deliver their incredible ingredients."

Equal Plates Project is unique in their approach to food justice. Not only are they preparing delicious scratch-made meals for those facing barriers to food access, they are also strengthening WNC's local economy and food system by purchasing products from small, local farmers at market value. Since opening the kitchen at CUMC, Equal Plates Project has invested over \$55,000 into small, local farms.

Equal Plates Project prepares meals for a variety of community partners. Monday through Friday, they provide lunch for the 85 residents living at Homeward Bound's Compass Point Villages. Equal Plates Project also supports Counterpoint's Safe Shelter and the Salvation Army's Code Purple Shelter with weekly meals.

Equal Plates Project aspires to build community through food. It feels especially impactful when a meal can be shared with other community members as done at United Way's Community Nights, Circle of Security Parenting groups, and right here at Central United Methodist Church after Sunday services.

Equal Plates is also the leading provider of prepared meals delivered to Buncombe County Medicaid clients through the state supported Healthy Opportunities Project (www.wnc-hop.org).

This deeply impactful work couldn't be done without the support of their volunteers and donors. Equal Plates Project would love to have your positive energy and support to help expand and deepen their impact in our community! If you would like to learn more, you can contact Katy Estrada via email at katy@equalplatesproject.org or by phone at 828-337-4710. Not able to volunteer but want to support this work? Donations can be made through www.equalplatesproject.org.

Volunteer shifts in CUMC's Kitchen

Monday-Friday: 10:00 am-12:30 pm

Monday-Thursday: 1:30-4:00 pm

Saturday: 10 am-2:00 pm

Ready to volunteer?

Sign up at: www.handsonasheville.org

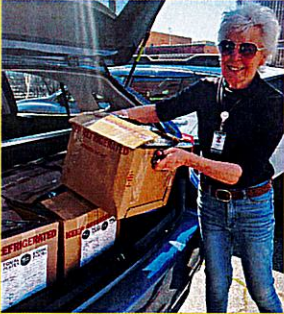


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Equal Plates Project: Celebrating Volunteers and One Year in CUMC's Kitchen

Volunteer Spotlight

Sara Sterling - Central United Methodist Church member



Sara delivers prepared meals for the Healthy Opportunities Pilot every Thursday afternoon.

When asked why she chose to volunteer with Equal Plates Project, she responded *"I was looking for a volunteer opportunity that spoke to me. What appealed to me about Equal Plates Project is that they use healthy, locally grown food, which helps local farms maintain their viability, to provide food to an underserved population."* Sara has volunteered with EPP for close to a year and continues to because *"the Equal Plates staff is very accommodating, the clients are great to get to know and it feels like I'm reaching out and feeding my community."* Sara hopes that *"more Central members will take advantage of this great volunteer opportunity."*

Volunteer Spotlight



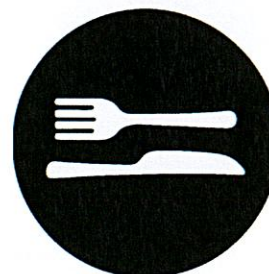
George Pettus - CUMC member and weekly volunteer - preparing a meal.

Volunteer Spotlight



Kate Burgess processing Swiss chard

Equal Plates Project Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



**EQUAL
PLATES
PROJECT**

Attendees Filled the Fellowship Hall

Interest was high March 17, to hear Luke Lingle, Central's Executive Pastor, present large-screen photographs and stories of his recent trip to Central's partner congregation, Moheto First United Methodist Church in Kenya. The congregations' cross-cultural relationship has blossomed since its 2020 COVID-19 pandemic start via internet Zoom meetings with the Reconciling Ministry Group. Since then, Moheto's pastor Rev. Kennedy Mwita has twice visited the Central congregation. Rev. Lingle's weeklong trip was the first in-person visit to Moheto on behalf of Central.

The presentation highlighted the great ministries of his hosts, Rev. Mwita and wife, Elnora, a lay pastor serving nearby United Methodist congregations. They gave generous hospitality and, he noted, that extends to their congregations and larger community. Pastor Luke was especially impressed by the poor economic conditions of rural western Kenya. It severely impacts family livelihood and

limits children's educational progress toward daily food security and employment. This Moheto church, the first Reconciling Ministry Congregation in Africa, has grown quickly. Its worship is vibrant in joyful singing, dancing, preaching, and ministry to serve many needs. Pastor Luke preached and taught lay leaders throughout the district to learn more about the United Methodist Church in .

Climaxing Pastor Luke's presentation, it was announced that Central's commitment to Moheto, supported by the Reconciling Ministry Group, Missions Council and Trustees, approved Central's Foundation Fund giving \$25,000 to open the educational opportunity for more Moheto children. With leadership by Pastor Mwita and Central, other U.S. United Methodist congregations will be invited to help sustain children's chance for a life changing high school education. Responding to the news, attendees strongly affirmed this action.

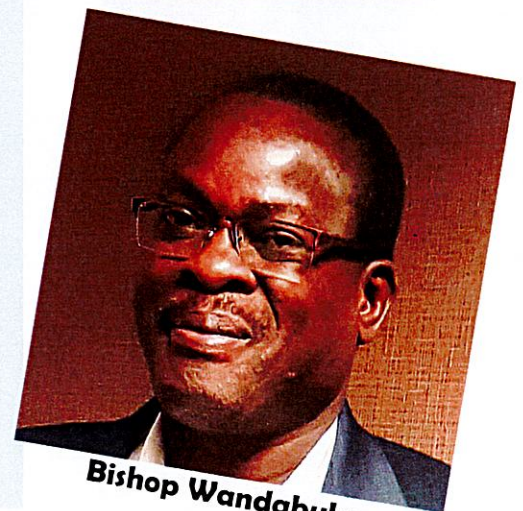
Central's Invitation to International Guests

Long awaited, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will receive thousands of worldwide elected delegates and visitors meeting at the Charlotte Convention Center April 23-May 3. Some CUMC staff and members will be visiting. It's open and free to visitors.

Central has extended an invitation for Moheto's Pastor Kennedy Mwita to return and accompany the Ethiopia-Kenya Conference Bishop, Daniel Wandabula of Uganda, to visit Asheville for worship and meet Central's congregants on Sunday, April 28. This is an important opportunity to meet African United Methodist guests!



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



Bishop Wandabula



Meet CUMC's Students In Kenya

Here in Asheville, it's easy to take our children's education for granted. We have good schools and the cost of public education is paid through our taxes.

It's different in Kenya. In Kenya, elementary schools are funded through the national government. So are universities.

The government doesn't pay for high school. In Kenya, students' families pay the cost of their children's high school education. This means that most children – especially girls – don't go to high school.

CUMC has been working with First United Methodist Church Moheto in Moheto, Kenya, to see that at least some girls go to high school. This year, 2024, we are sponsoring 10 girls.

Over the next few issues of the Jot and Tittle, we'll introduce you to the students we sponsor.

Christine M. "I could not have joined high school without your support. I would like to be a fashion designer and I will be able to support other needy families."

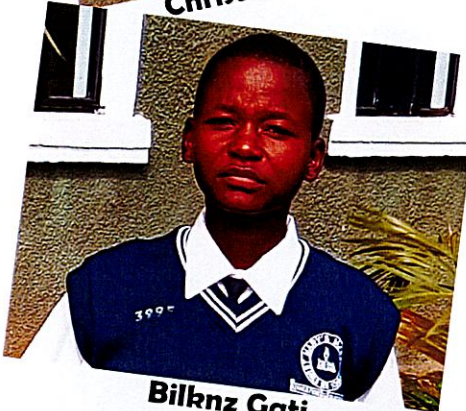
Bilkinz G. plans to become a high school teacher, teaching business and geography. "I am glad to write this letter of appreciation to you all that have been supporting my studies. The only gift I can give you is the best results on the National Examination. God bless you so much."

Ann M. is aiming to become a nurse. "I am very thankful and appreciate you all for the support you have been giving me. I promise to produce the best results in all my examinations."

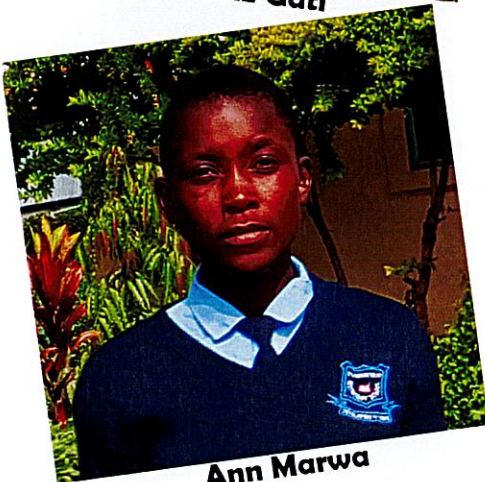
We will introduce more students in the next issue of the Jot and Tittle. Please join us in supporting these students.



Christine Matinde



Bilkinz Gati



Ann Marwa

In Memory of: Judy Clark
By: Marilyn & Daniel LaSure

In Memory of: Judy Scroggs
By: Steve & Cindy Oak

In Memory of: William & Elizabeth Williams
By: Ann Beck, daughter



*Memorial
Gifts*

Mission News

CREATION CARE



Our church will celebrate the 2024 Earth Day on Sunday, April 21 in both worship services and, from 9:30-11:00 am, on the front lawn and in the Fellowship Hall. At 10:00 am, Anna Alsobrook from MountainTrue will speak in the Fellowship Hall about "Plastics and the Environment." All are invited to attend this 30-minute talk.

We will also have Aurora Wynne from Asheville's new Sustainability Team with educational materials about the city's environmental programs. Canvas bags (to replace plastic grocery bags) will be available, as well as packets of native flower mixes. The



Martha Circle will be providing cookies. Committee members will be demonstrating sustainable household products, and eco-friendly prizes will be given at the recycling game. Recipes for a plant-based diet will be shared.

We are inviting the two other churches in the Church Street Collaborative (First Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal) to join our celebration, and our church is invited to attend their Earth Day events at noon on the same Sunday, April 21. Stay tuned for how all three churches will share an Earth Day moment. Come join us!

Hiking the Spiritual Disciplines: Gratitude



Join Central members on April 20 at 2:00 pm for a stroll to explore gratitude in nature. Our hike will be led by Alexandra Holland, a botanist, Blue Ridge Naturalist, and long-time Central member. We'll spend time discussing the wonders of the trees, flowers, and ferns around us while practicing specific ways to incorporate acts of gratitude into our daily lives. Be prepared to walk about a mile on a well-maintained trail; wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Due to parking issues, we'll be carpooling a short distance to our destination. Please contact Alexandra at: alexandra@wncnature.com by April 15 to register for the hike and for all the details. Stay tuned for future hikes incorporating other spiritual disciplines!

Sponsored by Central's Creation Care committee as part of our Earth Day celebration.



The Pollinator Garden (just south of the Treasured Elm Trees) is entering its third year. The retaining wall on the lower side of the garden has been rebuilt and then mulched. (Thanks, Hayes!)

There will be a gardening workday on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 am until noon. Would you like to be a helper? Do you have plants or seeds to donate? Contact Sharon at: skleduc@prodigy.net.

(Creation Care events cont. on pg. 9)

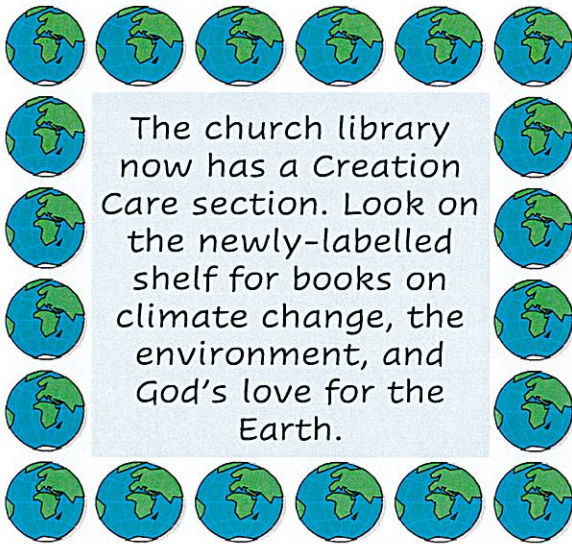
Mission News (Cont.)

CREATION CARE



what really is our responsibility!
(Cont. from pg. 8)

The church's website includes a section on Creation Care (under Missions). There are many interesting articles and links to be found there. Recently, Jill Dudley heard from a girls' environmental group who discovered our website and used it for a report on sustainability. The girls also sent us a link to a website on recycling, which is now included as part of our website. Check it out!



The church library now has a Creation Care section. Look on the newly-labelled shelf for books on climate change, the environment, and God's love for the Earth.

The next Asheville Greenworks Hard2Recycle event will be May 18 at A.C. Reynolds high school. See the Greenworks website for time and accepted items. The Greenworks volunteers have collected and recycled literally tons of items not accepted by other recycling groups, so their work helps to keep pollution out of our environment.



ECO-Tip:

Green Paper: In general, try to buy products/containers made from recycled material as often as possible to support the recycled product market. When purchasing paper products (printer paper, toilet paper, etc.), look for unbleached paper that has been recycled using a minimum of 50% post-consumer waste.

The EPA estimates that a typical person generates 4.3 pounds of waste a day. The amount of time that waste products take to fully decompose is a significant environmental concern. Landfill gas emissions are composed of roughly 50% methane.



- Let's take a thorough look at how long it takes for different waste items to decompose in Landfills.
- The average American throws away an estimated 185 pounds of plastic annually. Plastic bag decomposition takes 10-20 years. A plastic bottle takes 450 years to fully decompose.
 - Paper waste, based on volume, is the largest element of American landfills. Paper products take 2-6 weeks to fully decompose.
 - Common grocery store fruit decomposition times—a banana peel takes 3-4 weeks, an orange takes 6 months.

The Church & Society Committee changed its regular meeting time to 4:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (March 19 and April 16) in CUMC office Conference Room. Virtual attendance is possible. For link, please contact: skleduc@prodigy.net. The committee is supporting the pulpit exchange with Hopkins Chapel AME Zion on April 28. Rev. Dr. Mary Brown will be preaching at Hopkins Chapel at 10:30 a.m. Rev. James Boyce will preach at both the 8:45 and 10:55 services at Central.



The "ME CHURCH SOUTH" window box in the hall in front of the library will have an acknowledgement and signage panels mounted before the next Jot & Tittle. Watch for it!



On Wednesday, May 8, from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall there will be a presentation by Noel Nickle from the North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NCCADP). The NCCADP is a statewide coalition of member organizations and individuals committed to ending the death penalty and creating a new vision of justice. Noel will introduce "Racist Roots," a powerful 25-minute film produced by the Center for Death Penalty Litigation. This film reveals the North Carolina death penalty's deep entanglement with slavery, lynching, and racism. Noel will be joined by Jean Parks, a murder victim's sister. For almost two decades, Jean has participated in efforts to release North Carolina from the burden of having a death penalty system. She spreads the word that she and many other murder victim family members believe the execution of a human being cannot bring justice or healing.

Following the film there will be a panel discussion and Q&A. The event will also include a call to action to write a postcard to Gov. Cooper calling on him to commute all NC death sentences. This is a free event and all are welcome!

From the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, 2017-2020 - Section 164 G. We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore and transform all human beings. ...We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we must see all human life as significant and valuable. ...For this reason, we oppose the death penalty (capital punishment) and urge its elimination from all criminal codes."



2024 Budget
\$2,011,406

Revenue Received
\$306,009
February 2024

Revenue Received
\$269,044
February 2023



United Women in Faith

Please join us on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, for our **Ruth Circle** meeting. Ruth Circle members and friends will meet at the Church Library at 10:00 am. We will be taking a deep dive into the United Women of Faith 2024 Vision and Goals, concentrating on Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration.

Ruth Circle members will answer the call for the Day of Giving for the United Women in Faith Legacy Fund. We will be collecting peanut butter and jelly for the month of April as a donation to

ABCCM. We invite you to gather, pray, reflect, and put your faith into action. In addition, our speaker will be Judy Li, who will talk to us about bee keeping.

In May we will gather for our annual Ruth Circle luncheon at the home of Kim Everette.

During the summer months Ruth Circle will meet socially for food, fun, and fellowship. We hope you will join us! Everyone is Welcome!

For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact Kim Everette at: Kimeverette525@gmail.com.

The **Anna Circle** meets in the church parlor at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of every month (except July and August). Our program on April 3 will be a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.

Our May 1 program will center on completing a mission project for UMCOR. As an ongoing service project, Anna Circle members make pillows for patients in hospice care. If you can cut, sew, stuff, or hand stitch there is a place for your skills in our pillow ministry. (You can read more about this on the next page.)

If you would like to join our group of dynamic women, you would be welcomed! For more information contact Carol Rychly at: crychly@charter.net.

Deborah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month in a member's home at 10:00 am. Our next two meeting dates are April 9 and May 14. We continue to follow the United Women in Faith program book, with our program for April focusing on studying God's gift of hospitality, both as a host and as a guest.

Our May meeting will continue that theme of ways of sharing hospitality with many in community fellowship. All are welcome to join us. Questions can be directed to Susan Snell at: ssnell123@bellsouth.net.

Unnamed Women's Circle Meeting - Looking for a small group for women in their 20s, 30s, & 40s? We are a growing group of about 20 young women who have been meeting since May of 2022. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. We gather for food and fellowship at a local restaurant downtown. Our gatherings consist of lively conversation and shared laughter. We are always welcoming new friend!

Nursery is available for children ages 0-5 (not yet in kindergarten) at the church. We will meet on April 10 and May 8. If you would like to attend one of our next meetings, email Ann Owens at: aowens@centralumc.org. We hope to see you there!



United Women in Faith

(Cont.)



Anna Circle Ministry – Pillows for Care Partners ***Calling All Fabric "Collectors"***

The Anna Circle (United Women in Faith at Central) has been sewing pillows for Care Partners for over 12 years. We make 4 different designs with a total of over 500 pillows sewn and delivered each year. This is a hands-on project requiring members to cut out fabric, machine sew, stuff, and hand close all these many pillows.

We are constantly hearing from the staff at Care Partners Solace Center how comforting these pillows are to patients and their families. One family member wrote to us saying, "My mother recently passed away,

but her last few months were spent enjoying your pillows..... Even though relatively unresponsive toward the end, we would find her clutching those carrots..... I think they were comforting to her and helped with the grasping and clenching." We are so blessed to be able to make and give an item of love which provides comfort.

We would like to ask anyone who sews, quilts, and/or crafts, if they would like to donate any unused 100% cotton fabric to this ministry. We only use unused fabrics (no sheets, please). All colors and designs are welcome. With the increase in cost of fabric, we are reaching out to you for help to continue this ministry.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ann Wansong at: wansongma@charter.net. Thank you!

Mother's Day Remembrance

The Anna Circle will be placing red and white carnations in the Chancel urns on Mother's Day, May 12. 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 the following information and mail to Central UMC, 27 Church St. Asheville, NC 28801. Attn: Anna Circle. Please include: (1) Name of person remembered or honored, (2) Mark in memory or in honor, (3) Name of contributor and phone number. Checks should be made out to "CUMC-Anna Circle", marked for "Mother's Day" in memo line.

ALL donations must be received by May 1. For questions, please contact Mary Ann Wansong at: wansongma@charter.net. Thank you for your support of local missions.

Donkey Walk

Palm Sunday 2024 was one to remember!

We gathered out front of the Central sanctuary steps with our friends at Trinity Episcopal and First Presbyterian for our annual Palm Sunday Parade and Donkey Walk. We then paraded over to Pritchard Park and quickly filled it up! Although many were in attendance this year, no guest was gushed over like our two miniature donkeys! Mowgli and Lola visited from The Little Iris Farm in Fairview, NC. They were so friendly and let humans of all ages give them love. Thanks to everyone who helped lead and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance to Jerusalem!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



April 7 | 12:00-1:30 pm

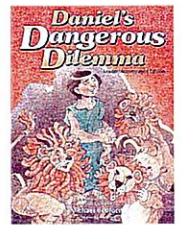
Join us in the Fellowship Hall right after 10:55 am worship, for a churchwide spring celebration! Our friends from the Central kitchen at Equal Plates Project will be providing the main dish and one side. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

If you've seen a few Central folks with purple "Everyone Without Exception" shirts and have wanted one – join us for the Spring Potluck to get one for yourself!



Children's Musical & Lunch | May 5 | 12:00-1:00 pm

This event will take the place of the church-wide potluck. Instead of everyone bringing a dish, we will have boxed lunches, proved by Equal Plates Project. The cost will be \$5/per person to get a prepared lunch. This will allow us to grab food quicker and enjoy the children's musical while we eat (see pg. 3 for more details).



Vacation Bible School | Monday July 15 – Friday July 19 | 9 am – 12 noon

Get the inside scoop from Jesus' mom, Mary!

We're going back to Hometown Nazareth, where we'll learn how stand up for our faith among people who doubt that a carpenter's son is really God's Son. We hope you'll join us for another fun year of learning, singing, crafting, and more!

To register your child and/or sign up as a youth or adult to volunteer, either click [here](#).



Confirmation Sunday | May 19 | 10:55 am Worship Service

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of another wonderful confirmation year. So far we have learned about John Wesley, Prayer, The Quadrilateral, Free Will and Grace, with more to come! These confirmands have been attentive, inquisitive, and an all-around pleasure to hang out with and to teach.

We hope you will join us in welcoming this new group of members into our church community on Sunday, May 19, at the 10:55 am worship service.



Children's Sunday School - During the season of Lent, we have used our Godly Play curriculum to travel with Jesus to Jerusalem. Each week we talked about a different part of Jesus' final week of life, from riding in on a donkey to being buried in the tomb. Our teachers, Pam Lofton, Erin Hykin, April Messer, and Rev. Ann took turns setting the stage for the Mystery of Easter.

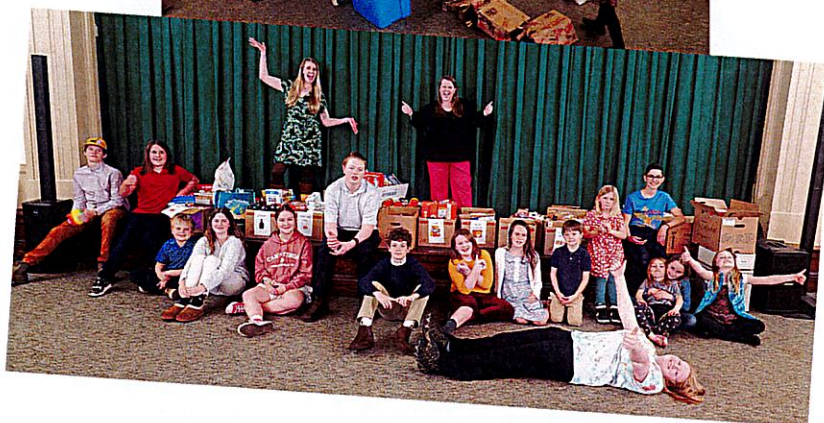


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (cont.)



Lenten Food Drive Was A Success!

Our C4C Holiday Food Drive was a great success. Our donation table overflowed with breakfast, pantry items, and lunch & dinner items. Thank you for your generous donations. Our kids and youth had fun sorting them. This food drive supported the Resource Center at Emma Elementary School to keep students and their families fed through the Spring Break week.



We are already looking ahead to repeating this success next year. Can you take the reins from Ann and shepherd this project in 2025? Email us at c4c@centralumc.org



Dorm Room Sponsor

Please sign up to be a Dorm Room Sponsor. Help college-bound seniors in our community set off fully supplied. Congregations for Children Dorm Room Sponsor project connects us with Asheville High School seniors that needs extra support transitioning to campus. From sheets to staplers and everything in between, this project gets a deserving student all they need for their dorm room. Many of the students sponsored are the first in their family to attend college. All need our support to have the necessities, the basics, and the extras for their dorm room.

In April, the supply list and the specific students will be provided. Shop for items in April & May. Delivery to Asheville High will be in mid-June. Specific details will be provided as these dates get closer.

The list of supplies is specific, long, and totals around \$300. So feel free to partner with your Sunday school class, your journey group, your circle, your friends, to share a student. Learn more and sign up for a student at <https://bit.ly/Dormsupplies2024>. Email us at c4c@centralumc.org with questions.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (COMI!)

Save the Date for School Supply Drive in July

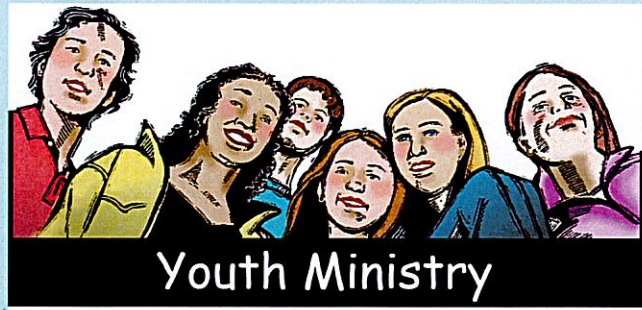
Congregations for Children will once again provide school supplies to Emma Elementary School. The Drive will start in July. Keep your eyes peeled for more details in the next Jot and Tittle.



Thanks and Please Join Us!

Many thanks to our amazing C4C volunteers—helping with school supplies, books for the Book Barn, Reading Buddies, Teacher Appreciation, food drives, dorm room sponsors, and the Emma Community Market. It takes many hearts and hands from our congregation to partner with the children and families of the Emma community. Thank you! We appreciate all of you, and so do the recipients of your care.

The best thing about being part of C4C is knowing that you are participating in a local mission and outreach. It makes you feel happy to be a small positive part of the children's lives. We always can use more volunteers—**come join the blessing!** If you are interested in volunteering for any part of the C4C activities, please send us an email at: c4c@centralumc.org and tell us what you would like to help with!



While the days were short and the nights were long, Central Youth Ministry found a way to bring light to the world and stay warm. The beginning months of 2024 were all about connection – connecting to youth groups in our district and connecting to each other within the Central community.



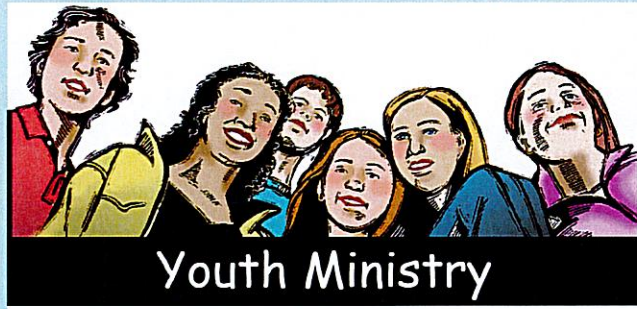
In January, we kicked off the new year by driving down to Covenant Community Church to participate in NextGen worship, a district-wide gathering of youth and their leaders meant to bring everyone together to praise God! We walked into a room full of nearly 175 energetic teenagers. We played basketball

and video games in the sanctuary. Alan Brown, Executive Director of Wilderness Trail, led us in a giant rock-paper-scissors tournament. We ate pizza and chowed down on desserts before putting the room back together for worship. Will Busch (of Camp Tekoa fame) smashed some old plates and preached about how God puts us back together again.

In February, Central Youth focused on connecting to each other. We had an absolute blast at our lock-in! We set up our sleeping bags in the Youth Arena and immediately got to work putting together appreciation goodies for the downtown fire department, our friends at Equal Plates Project, and our partners at Mountain City Public Montessori and Haw Creek Elementary. We went out to dinner and then played games and watched movies all night. The next morning, we got up and sorted through our Souper Bowl donations before going to worship.

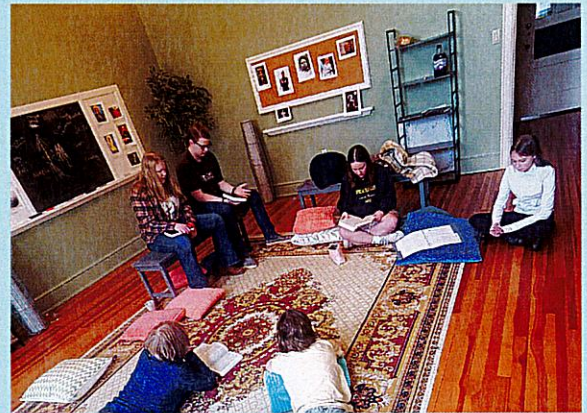


(Cont. on pg. 17)



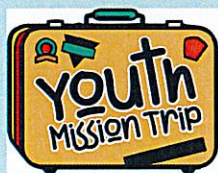
(Cont. from pg. 16)

In between the big events, we have been faithful in our fellowship and learning about life in a faith community. February started the season of Lent, so we are focused on the journey to the Cross in both Sunday School and in youth group. In Sunday School, we are breaking down the timeline of Holy Week and looking at each day separately. At youth group, we are discussing the Last Seven Words of Jesus. We are really wrestling with the question of "Why?" Why, God? Why did you send your Son to die for us? Why did Jesus come back from the dead? Why are we called to live this way of life?



We are in the latter half of the school year, so we are getting ready to shift to end-of-year celebrations and get ready for the summer. **May 19 is Senior Recognition Sunday.** We will celebrate our high school seniors in worship and will send love to our college and graduate students. If you have a loved one who is graduating from high school or higher education, we want to recognize their achievements. Reach out to Rev. Caroline Camp at ccamp@centralumc.org for more information.

June 2 is Barbecue Sunday! In April and May, we will be selling barbecue by the pound as a fundraiser for youth missions this summer. Be on the lookout for an order form and youth selling barbecue outside of worship in May. You will pick up your barbecue at the June potluck!



June 23-29 is the Youth Mission Trip! We are headed to the Outer Banks for a mission trip with Carolina Cross Connection. This organization is dedicated to connecting churches with communities while transforming youth's relationship with each other and with Christ. CCC is a reconciling organization and strives to provide safe and welcoming camp experiences to our LGBTQ+ youth. Register by scanning the QR code.



Calendar of Events

April 2024

Monday, April 1 Office Closed - Holiday

Tuesday, April 2

- 10:00 am Ruth Circle, Library
- 12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
- 2:00 pm Dementia Group, Library
- 2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room

Wednesday, April 3

- 10:00 am Anna Circle, Parlor
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, April 4

- 9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room
- 10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library
- 3:30 pm Thursday Journey Group, Library

Sunday, April 7

- 8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 am Sunday School Hour
- 10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm Spring Festival/Church Potluck
- 12:00 pm Reconciling Ministries Luncheon, Room 220

Tuesday, April 9

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting, Conference Room
- 12:00 pm Building Committee Meeting, Conference Room
- 12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
- 2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room
- 5:30 pm Missions Committee Meeting, Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Martha Circle Meeting, Library

Wednesday, April 10

- 12:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting, Library
- 1:00 pm Staff Pastor Parish Relations Meeting, Conference Room
- 6:00 pm Unnamed Women's Circle, TBD, Nursery available 5:45—8:15 pm in Room 104
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, April 11

- 9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room
- 10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

(Cont. on pg. 19)

Calendar of Events

April 2024 (Cont.)

Sunday, April 14

- 8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 am Sunday School Hour
- 10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Children's Church, Chapel (following Children's Time at 10:55 worship, children are invited to the Chapel for a story and discussion)
- 12:00 pm Children and Youth Programming
- 12:30 pm Creation Care Committee, Conference Room
- 2:00 pm Ad Board Meeting, Chapel

Monday, April 15

- 9:00 am Montessori School Enrollment Event, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 16

- 12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
- 2:00 pm Dementia Partners, Library
- 2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room
- 4:00 pm Church & Society Committee Meeting, Conference Room/Zoom

Wednesday, April 17

- 10:00 am UWF Executive Committee Meeting, Library
- 5:30 pm Montessori School Board Event, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, April 18

- 10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

Friday, April 19

- 5:00 pm Central UMC Table at Downtown After 5, Lexington Avenue

Saturday, April 20

- 2:00 pm Creation Care Earth Day Gratitude Hike, **TBD**

Sunday, April 21

- 8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 am Sunday School Hour
- 9:45 am Creation Care - Anna Alsobrook, Presentation on Plastics, Fellowship Hall
- 10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Children's Church, Chapel (following Children's Time at 10:55 worship, children are invited to the Chapel for a story and discussion)
- 12:00 pm Children and Youth Programming

Tuesday, April 23

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting, Conference Room
- 12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
- 2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room

(Cont. on pg. 20)

Calendar of Events

April 2024 (Cont.)

Wednesday, April 24

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, April 25

9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room

10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28

5:00 pm, Friday—12:00 pm, Sunday Youth Spring Retreat

Sunday, April 28

8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

9:45 am Sunday School Hour

10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:30 am Children's Church, Chapel (following Children's Time at 10:55 worship, children are invited to the Chapel for a story and discussion)

12:00 pm Children and Youth Programming

Tuesday, April 30

12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220

2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room

5:30 pm Worship Design Conversation, Conference Room

Calendar of Events

May 2024

Wednesday, May 1

10:00 am Anna Circle, Parlor

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, May 2

9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room

10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

3:30 pm Thursday Journey Group, Library

Sunday, May 5

8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

9:45 am Sunday School Hour

10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

12:00 pm Reconciling Ministries Luncheon, Room 220

12:00 pm Children's Musical, Lunch and Show, Fellowship Hall

5:00 pm Blue Ridge District Youth Worship, Off-site

(Cont. on pg. 21)

Calendar of Events

May 2024 (Cont.)

Monday, May 6

12:00 pm The Methodist Home for Children Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 7

10:00 am Ruth Circle, Library
10:30 am Staff Meeting, Conference Room
12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room
3:30 pm Thursday Journey Group, Library

Wednesday, May 8

11:30 am Central at Givens Gathering, Givens Estates Small Dining Room at Market and Craft
5:30 pm Racist Roots Showing and Discussion, Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Unnamed Women's Circle, TBD, Nursery available 5:45—8:15 pm in Room 104
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, May 9

9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room
10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

Sunday, May 12

8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:45 am Sunday School Hour
10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:30 am Children's Church, Chapel (following Children's Time at 10:55 worship, children are invited to the Chapel for a story and discussion)

Tuesday, May 14

12:00 pm Building Committee Meeting, Conference Room
12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
2:00 pm Wesley Singers Practice, Choir Room

Wednesday, May 15

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, May 16

9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room
10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

Friday, May 17 - Saturday, May 18

5:00 pm—2:30 pm, Saturday Confirmation Closing Retreat
5:00 pm Central UMC Table at Downtown After 5, Lexington Avenue

(Cont. on pg. 22)

Calendar of Events

May 2024 (Cont.)

Sunday, May 19 - Pentecost Sunday, Senior Recognition Sunday, and Confirmation Sunday

- 8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 am Sunday School Hour
- 9:45 am Prayer Shawl Meeting, Conference Room
- 10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Children's Church, Chapel (following Children's Time at 10:55 worship, children are invited to the Chapel for a story and discussion)
- 12:30 pm Creation Care Committee Meeting, Conference Room

Tuesday, May 21

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting, Conference Room
- 12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220
- 2:00 pm Dementia Partners Meeting, Library
- 4:00 pm Church & Society Committee Meeting, Conference Room/Zoom

Wednesday, May 22

- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, May 23

- 9:15 am Staff Worship Check-in, Conference Room
- 10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

Sunday, May 26

- 8:45 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 am Sunday School Hour
- 10:55 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Children's Church, Chapel (following Children's Time at 10:55 worship, children are invited to the Chapel for a story and discussion)

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day Holiday, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 28

- 12:00 pm Men's Emmaus Group, Room 220

Wednesday, May 29

- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, May 30

- 9:15 am Worship Check-in
- 10:00 am Circle of Prayer Meeting, Library

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house

Blooms that have petals

Spring precipitation

Puffy and white in the sky

Soil

Lawn

Must be weeded and tended

Tiptoe through these

Baby sheep

We need food and this

God made this from nothing

A sign of God's promise

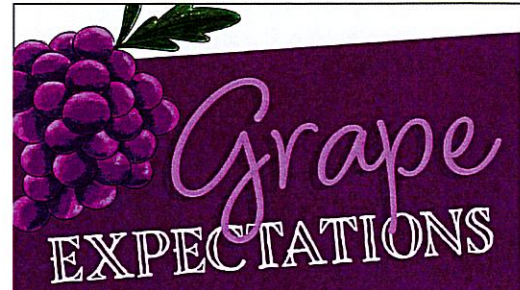
These, in April, bring May flowers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

Kids' Page



Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



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