



Seventh Sunday After Easter

May 12, 2024

8:45 and 10:55 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY

"The Peace May Be Exchanged"

Dan Locklair

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Patrick Neitzey

Easter people, raise your voices, for you belong to the Risen Christ!

We belong to Christ, and so we share in Christ together.

Just as we share in Christ together, so we are called to share Christ with the world.

We share Christ by proclaiming the good news of God's love to the world.

How will you share God's love with the world?

By loving, respecting, and honoring our neighbors, especially those the world neglects, overlooks, and ignores.

Easter people, you belong to the Risen Christ!

Because we belong to Christ, we will share Christ's love and belonging everywhere we go.

*HYMN 157

"Jesus Shall Reign"

DUKE STREET

FIRST READING

Luke 24:44-53

Rev. Caroline Camp

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:55)

Silas Woodrow Neitzey

Son of Patrick and Hannah Neitzey

Congregation: **With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Silas, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

ANTHEM

"Alleluia! Praise God with Gladness"

Joseph Martin

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lisa Rettew

LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal 895)

OFFERTORY "How Firm a Foundation" arr. Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir

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)

SECOND READING Acts1:1-11 Rev. Patrick Neitzey

CHILDREN'S TIME Rev. Ann H. Owens

Following Children's Moment (10:55 only), children in Kindergarten - 5th grade are invited to be part of Children's Church in the Chapel. Children from birth to 5 years old (not yet in kindergarten) may leave at this time to go to the nursery with our childcare staff. Children must have name tags on them. **The name tag table is located outside the Sanctuary by the Library.**

*HYMN 163 "Ask Ye What Great Things I Know" HENDON

SERMON "How to Tell a Story" Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Hymnal, 885) Rev. Caroline Camp

*HYMN 156 "I Love to Tell the Story" HANKEY

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

VOLUNTARY "The People Respond - Amen!" Dan Locklair

**Please stand, if you are able*

The flowers in the Chancel this morning are given by members of Central in memory or in honor of women in their lives who have been or are very special and much loved.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan Lifchez and her family on the death of her brother, Tripp Hunter, on May 5, and with the family of Phil Leftwich on the death of his sister, Linda Leftwich Moore on May 6, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The "New To Central" Class continues today in the library at 10:00 am (3rd floor, near the Sanctuary) at 10:00 am on May 12, 19, and 26. These sessions are recommended for anyone interested in joining the church as a professing member. Questions? See Luke Lingle at: llingle@centralumc.org.

The Central offices will be closed on Tuesday, May 14, due to an off-site team building staff event.

Martha Circle is a group of women aged 30s – 60s who meet monthly to enjoy a program, fellowship, and a service project or two (or three!). We welcome any new members (of any age) who are interested in joining us for fellowship as we seek to hear God's word for our lives. Martha Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 pm. We'll meet at a member's home, enjoy a potluck supper, and assemble the UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits. Come and join us! Want more information? Please contact Laura Steil at: laura.steil30@gmail.com or Kathy Leftwich at: kathleencleftwich@gmail.com.

May 19 is Graduation 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 celebrate their achievements.

Youth BBQ Fundraiser | April 21 - May 19: Central Youth Ministry is working hard towards a summer full of service and socializing! To help us go on a mission trip and to Wilderness Trail, we are selling barbecue prepared by George Pettus for \$15 per pound. Order at: tinyurl.com/centralyouthbbq24 by May 19 for pickup at our June 2 potluck.

General Conference Processing Session: Wednesday May 15 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. General Conference is the highest decision-making body in the United Methodist Church. It meets every four years - except during a pandemic! When General Conference met 4/24 - 5/4 in Charlotte it was the first time since 2019, with important votes about regionalization, removal of discriminatory language from our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality, and revising our social principles. Resources to learn more and get updates can be found at: <https://www.wnccumc.org/gc2024> On May 15 at 5:30 pm, Rev. Mary will host a gathering to better understand the results of General Conference and prayerfully consider our response.

Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 pm, you are invited to hear author and speaker, Elizabeth Slade as she reads an excerpt from her book, *Momentum: Montessori, A Life in Motion*—a captivating historical fiction novel offering a glimpse into the life of a remarkable woman, Dr. Maria Montessori, who defied social norms, becoming one of the first female doctors in Italy and going on to revolutionize education. Ms. Slade is the founder and Executive Director of Public Montessori in Action International. You may register for this free event at: mountaincitypublic.org/events. Proceeds from sale of signed copies will benefit Mountain City Public Montessori.

Dorm Room Sponsors Needed—Join Central's Congregations 4 Children by sponsoring one of 30 Asheville High School (AHS) graduates that need extra support transitioning to college. Selected by an AHS guidance counselor based on need, each deserving student needs our support to have the necessities, the basics, and the extras for their dorm room. Individuals, Sunday School classes, Circles, Journey Groups, and friend groups are all encouraged to sponsor a student. Kim Sink will be in the Fellowship Hall today for info and sign-ups. Also find info and sign up at: <https://bit.ly/Dormsupplies2024>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Cont.)

Deadline for articles for the Jot & Tittle is Wednesday, May 15. Please send them to jgriffin@centralumc.org.

Tickets for the Broadway Dinner on June 7 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall are now on sale and may be purchased from any choir member. Tickets are \$25 for the dinner. The Broadway Show following the dinner is free of charge. Menu is:

Appetizer: Marinated olives, crackers, cheese

Salad: Mixed greens, shaved fennel, toasted walnut,
strawberries, goat cheese, balsamic vinaigrette

Main (Served family style): Coq au vin (chicken in wine sauce),
Rosemary garlic mashed potatoes

Roasted carrots with carrot top pesto

Greek yogurt, toasted pine nuts

Sauteed green beans with garlic, mint, pomegranate arils

Vegetarian entrée: Grilled cauliflower steak with mushrooms, red wine reduction

Dessert: Assortment of small pastries: cream puffs, eclairs, macarons

Vacation Bible School! July 15-19, 9 am - 12 noon (every day) - For ages 3 years old up to 5th grade. Youth and adult volunteers needed, 6th grade and up. 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 adventure! To sign up, email aowens@centralumc.org.



Child & Family Care Ministry - Busy, Active, Overwhelming! Today's families with young children and teens face so many challenges! Let our Child & Family Care Ministry embrace your family with support when needed: Maybe having meals delivered during a difficult time, maybe connecting with other families, or maybe finding a community resource. Please contact Pastor Lisa to get connected! If your child needs a "Worship Buddy" during in-person worship, please see an usher for help.

ECO-Tip: Avoid Creating Trash: Avoid creating trash wherever possible: when ordering food, avoid receiving any unnecessary plastic utensils, straws, etc. (ask in advance), buy ice cream in a cone instead of a cup, don't accept "free" promotional products, buy products with the least amount of packaging, etc. Every little bit of trash avoided does make a difference!

During worship services, the library is available for families wanting to watch the livestream.

Nursery is available in Room 104 for children ages 0—5 (not in kindergarten). See Ushers for assistance.

Participating in Today's Service:

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown, Senior Pastor, mbrown@centralumc.org
Rev. Patrick Neitzey, Director of Central East Campus, pneitzey@centralumc.org
Rev. Lisa Rettew, Minister of Congregational Care, lrettew@centralumc.org
Rev. Caroline Camp, Director of Youth Ministries, ccamp@centralumc.org
Rev. Ann H. Owens, Children and Family Minister, aowens@centralumc.org
Corey Powell, Organist & Director of Music Ministries, cpowell@centralumc.org
Linda Haggard, Director of Choral Music, lhaggard@centralumc.org

Sermon Discussion Questions

Continue to reflect on this week's message by thinking of one of your favorite stories and then discussing or journaling the following questions. When you're done, re-answer these questions with God or Jesus as the main character.

- Who is the main character?
- What does the main character want?
- What conflict does the main character overcome to get what they want?

Daily Suggested Scripture Readings

This week's passages are traditional for Ascension Sunday. As you read, ask yourself: what do these tell me about why and how Jesus ascended to be with God?

- Monday: Luke 24:44-53
- Tuesday: Acts 1:1-11
- Wednesday: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Thursday: Psalm 47
- Friday: Ephesians 1:15-23
- Saturday: Psalm 93

Want to read more?

- Donald Miller, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Own Life*
- William H. Willimon, *Acts: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*
- Luke Timothy Johnson, *Sacra Pagina: The Acts of the Apostles (Volume 5)*

Next week in worship...

We have so much to celebrate! It's Pentecost Sunday, which marks the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. We'll use that special occasion to recognize our confirmands and our seniors. Come and help make it a special day!