

SERMON MESSAGES

The Month of October

4
OCT *Connect: Come As You Are*
Pastor Scott

11
OCT *Grow: Finding Spiritual Friendship*
Pastor Scott

Walk This Way
Sermon Series
October 4 - November 8

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? During this series, we'll explore in-depth the essential practices that shape a life of discipleship. More than a program or checklist, *Walk This Way* is an invitation for us who call Central UMC our church home to embrace living as a disciple of Jesus.

Walk This Way is also the theme of our 2027 Generosity Campaign, following the discipleship path that defines us: **Connect • Grow • Serve • Give • Go**. This campaign is about more than what we give financially—it's about how we live as disciples of Jesus.

In the coming weeks, you'll receive a 2027 Commitment Card with an opportunity to make a financial commitment and consider how God may be calling you to serve and engage at Central.

Commitment Sunday is November 8, 2027. Between now and then, we invite you to prayerfully consider: What will I give to God in 2027, and how is He calling me to Connect, Grow, Serve, Give, and Go?



"I Am the Church" - Eaton Festival
Friday, October 16 // 4:00-8:00pm

Central's "I Am the Church" monthly mission for October is to serve at the Eaton Fall Carnival. Wear your "I Am the Church" t-shirt and help greet families and manage lines for the many inflatables. There are two shift options:

- **Shift 1:** 4:30-6:30pm
- **Shift 2:** 6:00-8:00pm

Contact Hannah Collins
(hannah@centralmethodist.com) if you'd like to join our team to serve!

Central Contributions						
	2-AUG	9-AUG	16-AUG	23-AUG	31-AUG	ONLINE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	384	335	316	296	329	
* worship attendance includes online						
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE		136	155	141	131	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 7,221	\$ 11,127	\$ 11,647	\$ 28,468	\$ 5,766	\$ 24,239
FAITH PROMISE	\$ 130	\$ 560	\$ 572	\$ 40	\$ 585	\$ 3,100
Promised 7/1/26 to 6/30/27: \$6,114						



THE CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE



A Letter from Pastor Scott

How God Forms Us

What a joy it is to celebrate 125 years of ministry at Central! One thing that was clear to me from reading through our church history is our mission remains the same as it did in 1901: make disciples of Jesus Christ. At Central, our vision is helping people find and follow Jesus.

During the month of October and November, we will revisit our mission of our church and five key words from our mission statement: Connect, Grow, Serve, Give and Go. James Clear says, "You are your habits." These habits of worship, community, serving, giving and sharing our faith are essential practices.

As we live into these habits, the Holy Spirit makes us more like Him and forms us in His Image. May we continue to grow in that process of life transformation!

You're invited to a Tennessee football tailgate! When the Vols take on Arkansas, we'll bring the game-day fun to the church parking lot with food trucks, yard games, and the game on the big screen!

Join us starting at 3:00pm for food, games, and fun, with kickoff at 4:15pm. Food trucks will be available for you to purchase your own food, so bring your appetite, a chair, and a friend!

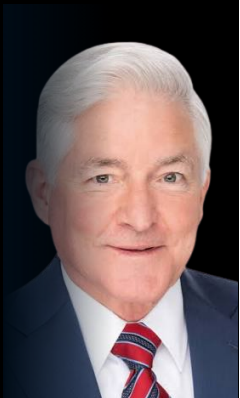
The Fun Bunch Presents

AN EVENING WITH With Don Dare
WATE Journalist

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

5:45 // Refreshments

6:00pm // Presentation



The Fun Bunch: Don Dare

Wednesday, October 21 // 5:45pm Refreshments
6:00pm Presentation

Our 60+ group has a new name: *The Fun Bunch*! If you're 60 years and up, you're invited to hear from WATE reporter Don Dare as he gives a special presentation. Enjoy fellowship and light refreshments. Please let Brenda Reeder (865-202-8650) know if you plan to join us by October 11.

Central Kids Hand Chimes

Sunday, October 25

11:00am Service

Our 1st-5th graders will open our 11am service by playing a hand chime piece. Please mark your calendars – we want as many of our children to participate as possible!

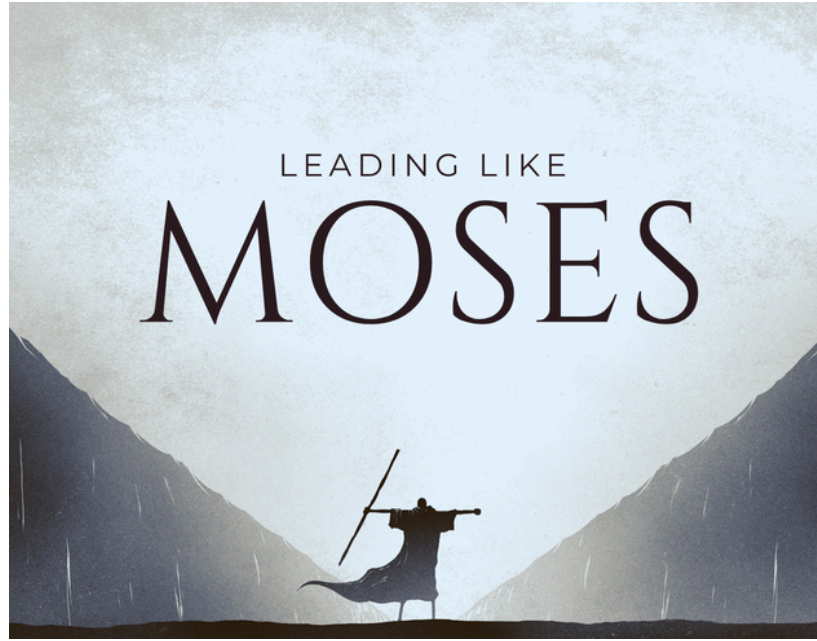


CENTRAL KIDS

Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry Program

hannah@centralmethodist.com



Sunday School - Leading Like Moses Series

Sunday Mornings // 10:00-10:45am Kids' Hallway

After completing their study of Joseph, Central Kids will dive into Moses's story! They will remember God's powerful acts through hands-on activities. The memory verse for this month is Exodus 6:6, "I will set you free with great power."



October is here! Cooler weather, changing leaves, campfires, and s'mores are calling! All 6th-12th graders are invited to Youth Campfire Night for outdoor games, worship, a campfire message, and plenty of s'mores. Bring some friends and come hang out!

CENTRAL STUDENTS

Michelle Garcia, Director of Student Ministries

Student Ministry Program

michelle@centralmethodist.com

Sunday School - Not What You Think Series

Sunday Mornings // 10:00-10:45am Room A135

Join Central Students this month as we explore some surprising things Jesus said and did in our new series called *Not What You Think* about the book of Mark.

Youth - Your New Playlist Series

Sunday Nights // 5:00-7:00pm Room A134/5

Enjoy fun and good food with us as we start a new series called *Your New Playlist*. We'll talk about how our thoughts can be like a soundtrack, how to spot a broken one, and how to turn down the dial on unhealthy thoughts.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Program

All women in our church are invited to participate in United Women in Faith programs. For additional information contact Sandy Dunsmore at 865-271-7426.

Fall Bake Sale

October 18

9:45-12:15pm



United Women in Faith

OCTOBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Martha Circle

Tuesday, October 6

11:30am // Riverside Coffee Shop

Gather at Riverside Coffee Shop, 16239 US-70W, for lunch and meeting.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, October 15 // 1:00pm Room A134

Gathering for meeting.

Hope Circle

Tuesday, October 27

6:30pm // Janice Willocks' Home

Enjoy chili and hotdog roast at Janice Willocks' home. For more information, contact her at 865-556-5580.

The United Women in Faith are collecting the following for Henderson Settlement, a United Methodist Mission in Eastern Kentucky: **cake mix and ready-to-use frosting and birthday candles**. Bring donations to the UWF box in the Donation Center by Sunday, October 18.



The Ultimate Falloween Bash

Sunday, October 25 // 4:00-6:00pm

FALLoween is our biggest on-campus outreach that allows us to welcome our community and spread the love of Christ. There are several way to serve and join in on the fun:

- set-up (on Saturday or Sunday)
- food prep team
- host a Trunk-or-Treat car
- serve during the event (food/crafts table or Fun Zone helper)
- clean up
- donate candy

Reach out to Hannah Collins (hannah@centralmethodist.com) to serve! Thank you in advance for joining our team and providing this event for our community.



Save THE DATES

WORLD THANK OFFERING PROGRAM FOR ALL CIRCLES

Tuesday, November 3
1:00pm // Room B125,
Guest Speaker from Good Samaritan Center, Lenoir City

TN VALLEY DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, November 14
Norwood UMC
Pastor Melissa Smith will be one of the speakers.

October Birthdays

Happy birthday to all our wonderful church family celebrating in October! May God bless each of you with joy, good health and a year filled with His favor!

- 2 Robby Borders
- 2 Melanie Prater
- 2 Kathy Proaps
- 4 Steven Eckert
- 5 Chris Collins
- 8 Stacy Evans
- 8 Brenda Reeder
- 9 Jacqueline Moore
- 11 Larry Katcham
- 11 Henry Rains
- 13 Shirley Yount
- 14 Wes Tomaszek
- 17 Barbara Pardue
- 18 Al Borders
- 19 Judy Cole
- 20 Rhonda Rasar
- 21 Jason Thacker
- 23 Henry John McCool
- 24 Amy Rogers
- 27 Margie Atherton
- 27 Kevin Cook
- 29 Joe Dunsmore
- 30 Chris Garmon
- 31 Drew Downey