

SERMON MESSAGES

The Month of August

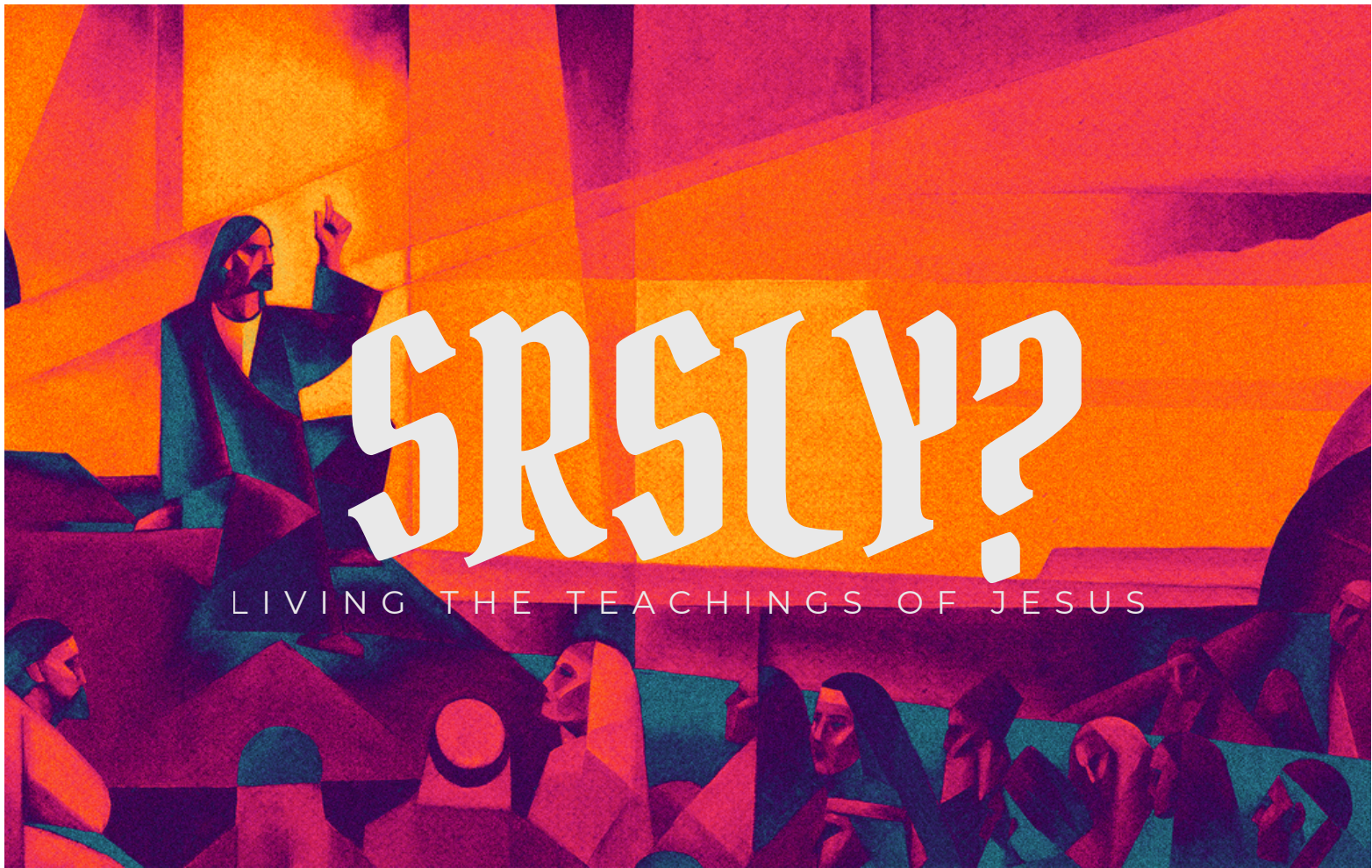
2 AUG Demons in Your Choir by The Red Clay Strays
Pastor Scott

9 AUG SRSLY? Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
Pastor Scott

16 AUG SRSLY? Unless Your Righteousness Exceeds the Pharisees
Pastor Scott

23 AUG SRSLY? Turn the Other Cheek
Pastor Melissa

30 AUG SRSLY? Be Perfect
Pastor Scott



SRSLY?
Sermon Series // August 9 -
September 20

The Sermon on the Mount contains some of the most familiar words Jesus ever spoke, but they are also some of the most challenging. These teachings are not simply ideals to admire – they are a call to a transformed life.

For this seven-week sermon series, you're invited to take Jesus seriously and learn what it means to live as citizens of God's kingdom in a world that often settles for less.

Central Contributions

	7-JUN	14-JUN	21-JUN	28-JUN	ONLINE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE * worship attendance includes online	295	332	297	325	
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	98	155	137	131	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 10,421	\$ 9,944	\$ 6,729	\$ 4,240	\$ 25,738
FAITH PROMISE	\$ 3,830	\$ 630	\$ 7,045	\$ 1,151	\$ 370
Promised 7-1-25 to 6-30-26:				\$135,334	



THE CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

AUGUST 2026 ISSUE



For 125 years, God has been faithfully at work through Central—and you're invited to celebrate! **Remember. Respond. Renew.** This anniversary theme is a chance to look back with gratitude and look ahead with hope.

Each month leading up to this date in worship we have celebrated with videos about our origin, our loving community, our hospitality and our missions. During the month of September, we will have special interactive displays from our past.

Join us on Sunday, September 27 for one combined worship service at 10:30am with Rev. Ann Robins, followed by a catered BBQ lunch.

Let's celebrate Central together! Your presence is part of our story, and we'd love to commemorate this milestone with you.

Hymns, Chicken & Fellowship
Wednesday, August 19 // 11:30am Worship Center
If you're 60 or older, you're invited to join us for a special afternoon of worship and fellowship! Come ready to sing your favorite hymns, enjoy a delicious potluck lunch and spend time with friends.

Chicken and dessert will be provided. **Bring your favorite side dish to share.**

Please RSVP to Brenda Reeder (865-202-8650 or brendareeder49@gmail.com) **by August 9** so we can plan for everyone. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful time together!

Fall Small Group Kickoff
Sunday, August 2 // 10:00am

Learn about all the small groups we offer on Sundays and throughout the week so you can find a place to connect with others, grow in your faith and learn more about God. There will be no Sunday school that morning. Invite a friend and get plugged in!

To learn more about the new groups, scan the QR code above or visit our website at www.centralmethodist.com/fall26.



MOVIN' ON UP

CENTRAL KIDS

Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry Program

hannah@centralmethodist.com

Sunday, August 2

10:20-10:50am // Room A138/9

Rising 6th graders and their families are invited to celebrate their transition to Central Students! We'll celebrate our new students with a video slideshow and breakfast. Central Kids that have read 100+ days of their Bible this year will also be invited to the breakfast to celebrate.

Sunday, August 2 // 9 & 11am Services

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All who are attending school this semester are invited to bring your backpack to worship so we can bless your backpack. *Blessing of the Backpacks* allows our congregation to pray for students, teachers, and experiences that this school semester will bring. We'll ask students to come forward with their backpacks at the time of blessing in each service.



fall retreat

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

All 6th-12th graders are invited to our Fall Retreat at Fall Creek Falls State Park Friday, September 18th to Sunday, September 20th at Turkey Pen Bunk Lodge. We'll enjoy nature by hiking to the waterfall, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding and peddle boats.

Our theme is "Rivers of Living Water" (John 7:38). We'll have four sessions discussing our relationship with God based on four different water analogies found in Scripture.

The cost is \$70/person and scholarships are available. Register on the church website at centralmethodist.com/fallretreat and submit payment by Sunday, September 6th.

CENTRAL STUDENTS

Michelle Garcia, Director of Student Ministries

Student Ministry Program

michelle@centralmethodist.com



Bible Dedications

Sunday, August 16 // 9 & 11am Services

Our Pre-School, Kindergarten and 3rd graders will be receiving new Bibles in our 9 & 11am service on August 16th. **If you have a child entering one of these grades, please let Hannah Collins know in which service your child would like to receive their Bible.**



August AT A GLANCE

August 2
MOVIN' ON UP
10:00am

No Youth due to School Starting

August 9
CONFIRMATION BEGINS
10:00am

FALL KICKOFF POOL PARTY
5-7pm Pickett's Home

August 16
YOUTH
5:00-7:00pm

PARENT MEETING
7:00pm

August 23
YOUTH WORSHIP NIGHT
5:00-8:00pm

August 30
YOUTH
5:00-7:00pm

Youth - Unshakeable Series

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

How do you find the strength to stay grounded when the world feels unsteady? In our new series, we'll learn how to be unshakable, while also enjoying dinner together, fun games, small group discussions and praying together.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Program

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



United Women in Faith

AUGUST CIRCLE MEETINGS

Hope Circle

Tuesday, August 25 // 6:30pm Kate Layer's Home

Gather for dessert and meeting. Contact Kate (423-748-8787) for additional information.

**Notice: Martha and Ruth circles will resume meetings in September.*

District Social Action Program

Saturday, August 22 // 9:00am Worship Center

Discover how something as simple as learning to read can shape a lifetime.

Join the United Women in Faith of the Tennessee Valley and Smoky Mountain Districts for a special morning featuring "Early Literacy and Its Impact on Lifelong Success." Guest speaker Wendy Wand, Executive Director of Friends of Literacy, will share how early literacy changes lives and strengthens communities.

Registration begins at 9:15am, with the program starting at 10:00am. Everyone is welcome! To register or learn more, contact Becky Moses at 865-816-0024 or sunnybrook@charter.net.



Save THE DATE

FALL BAKE SALE
Sunday, October 18
9:45am-12:15pm



For LC: Snow Cones at the Splash Pad

RESCHEDULED!! Saturday, August 22 // 10:30-11:30am

Due to weather, we had to reschedule our *Snow Cone at the Splash Pad* from last month. Families, if you'd like to join us at the Downtown Lenoir City Central Park & Splash Pad as we hand out free snow cones to our community, contact Pastor Melissa (melissa@centralmethodist.com) or Hannah Collins (hannah@centralmethodist.com).

August Birthdays

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

- 1 Alex Malone
- 1 Don Worner
- 1 Michael Stockham
- 3 Alice Quick
- 3 Sandra Gillman
- 3 Ryan Hensley
- 3 Sharon Yarbrough
- 3 Steve Robinson
- 4 Michael Helton
- 4 Nathan Helton
- 4 Betty Moore
- 4 Ellis Rogers
- 6 Brian Williams
- 7 Pierson Layer
- 9 Carolyn Haynes
- 9 Makayla McLeod
- 10 Tammie Jay
- 10 John Tuck
- 10 Steven Abercrombie
- 12 Marilyn Read
- 12 John Stauffer, Jr.
- 13 Mike Haynes
- 15 Kate Layer
- 16 Felicia Patten
- 18 Eunice Warter
- 18 Stephen Lantz
- 19 Jan Harmon
- 19 Ann Greiwe
- 21 Paul Lawrence
- 23 Cadence Jean Malone
- 26 David Coulter
- 30 Spencer Stamps
- 30 Mary Beth Hensley
- 31 Sandra Augustus
- 31 Danny Lantz