

# Upcoming Sermon Series

## The Month of February

- 1  
FEB

Life In Four Quarters: Playing to Your Strengths  
Pastor Scott
- 15  
FEB

Life In Four Quarters: Finishing Well  
Pastor Melissa
- 8  
FEB

Life In Four Quarters: Adjusting the Game Plan  
Pastor Scott
- 22  
FEB

The Jesus I Thought I Knew: From Messed Up to Messiah  
Pastor Scott



## The Jesus I Thought I Knew

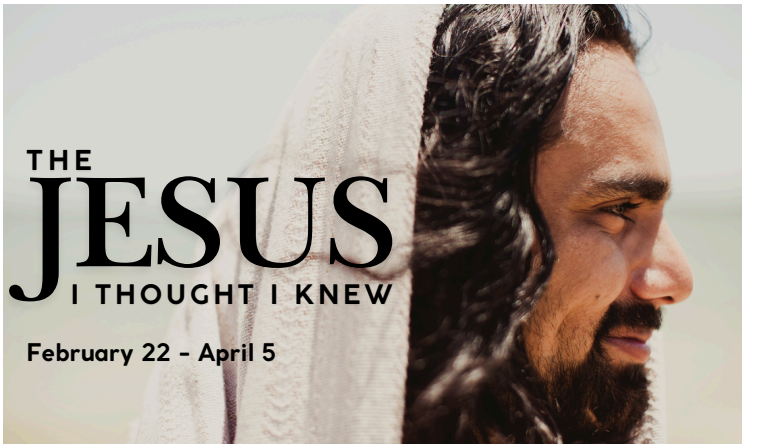
### Sermon Series ~ February 22 to April 8

Most of us think we know Jesus. We know the stories, the miracles, the cross, the empty tomb. But familiarity has a subtle danger: it can convince us we've already seen all there is to see. During Lent, we'll engage in a series called *The Jesus I Thought I Knew* because we want to strip away the noise of our assumptions, cultural overlays, and half-remembered Sunday school versions, and encounter Him again as He truly is. No Hype. No distractions. Just simply Jesus.

## Life in Four Quarters

### Sermon Series ~ January 18 to February 15

We'll conclude our series about the "four quarters" of life and uncover the practical, timeless wisdom Scripture offers for every stage. From laying a strong foundation in the early years, to navigating midlife with purpose, to embracing maturity with strength, and finishing well with hope, this series will equip you to live wisely, faithfully and fully—no matter where you are on the journey.



	7-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	28-Dec	Online
Worship Attendance	350	391	372	248	350
<small>* worship attendance includes online</small>					
Sunday School Attendance	167	146			
Contributions	\$ 22,880	\$ 24,249	\$ 14,110	\$ 15,898	\$ 48,719
Faith Promise	\$ 13,300	\$ 500	\$ 1,030	\$ 545	\$ 530
Promised 7/1/25 to 6/30/26	Received YTD				\$50,391

## Ash Wednesday Service

### Wednesday, February 18 // 6:30pm

Join our friends at Trinity UMC (300 W 2nd Ave. Lenoir City) for a special Ash Wednesday Service. Pastor Melissa will preach the message and both church choirs will lead worship together.

An offering will be received to benefit Good Samaritan of Loudon County. On this day, Christians receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of humility, repentance, and our dependence on God, remembering the words, "From dust you came, and to dust you will return." It is a solemn invitation to turn your heart to God and prepare your life for the hope of resurrection.



# THE CONNECTION

## Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE

Bring an entree or side dish to share!  
Drinks & desserts provided!  
Dessert Auction to benefit CK & CS Ministries!

## NEXT Class

Sunday, February 18 // 10:00am

To learn more about Central and ways you can connect and grow more in faith, plan on joining us. RSVP to [cumc@centralmethodist.com](mailto:cumc@centralmethodist.com).

## Online Giving Transition

We're transitioning to a new online giving system, and we're inviting **all recurring givers to make the switch by February 8**. This change will provide a simpler and more secure giving experience.

If you currently have a recurring gift in our previous system, please take a moment to cancel it by going to our GIVE page on our website. Then set up your new recurring gift through the updated form on that page. You'll find everything you need right there.

If you need any help, Joel or Karlee would be glad to walk with you through the process. Call the church office at 865-986-7329 (ext. 106) or email [finance@centralmethodist.com](mailto:finance@centralmethodist.com). Thank you for your continued generosity and the ministries it makes possible!

## Central's Birthday Bash

Wednesday, February 25 // 5:30-7:00pm

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate everyone's birthday with fellowship, a potluck supper, a fun game and a cake auction to benefit our Central Kids & Students ministries.

**Please bring a dish to share.** If you're interested in baking a cake for our auction, please contact Michelle Garcia, *Director of Student Ministries*, at 865-622-1899 or [michelle@centralmethodist.com](mailto:michelle@centralmethodist.com).

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Thursday, February 5 // 10:00am**  
*Valentine's Cards for Teachers*

**Sunday, February 8**  
*Meal for Cold Hands, Warm Hearts*

Please email [cumc@centralmethodist.com](mailto:cumc@centralmethodist.com) to sign up to serve for either of these.

## February Prayer Focus

### The Church to be anchored in Christ's love

As a way to cultivate a culture of prayer at Central, we created a prayer calendar with a special prayer focus for each month of 2026. **February's prayer focus is "The Church to be anchored in Christ's love."**

In prayer, we humble ourselves and seek the Lord's help to do far more than we could ever ask or imagine, so please join us as we grow in our own personal prayer lives by praying over this specific area.

Location

301 Hickory Creek Rd  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

Mailing

P.O. Box 448  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

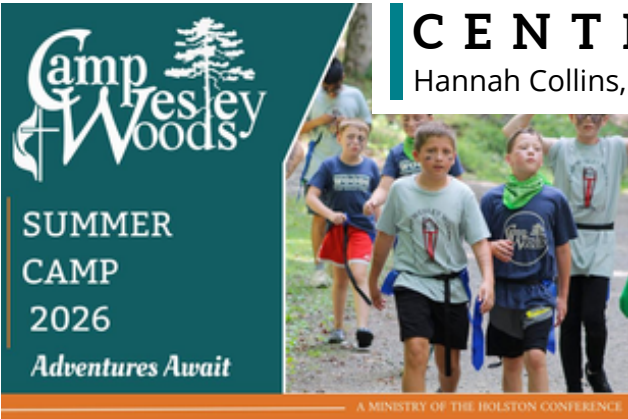
865-986-7329

We're Social

@youarecentral

Learn more at [www.centralmethodist.com](http://www.centralmethodist.com)





## CENTRAL KIDS

Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry Program

hannah@centralmethodist.com



### Pre-K & K Valentine's Song

Sunday, February 8 // 9:00am Service

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten students are invited to sing a special song about love on February 8th at the 9am service.

Please make plans for your Pre K/K student to **arrive at church at 8:55am** so they can share their special song with the church. The song is titled "Love One Another" by Yancy and can be found on Youtube if you'd like to practice at home.

### Camp Wesley Woods

Camp Wesley Woods is an incredible opportunity for children in 2nd grade and up to experience the love of God and create memories that will last a lifetime. Are you interested in sending your child(ren) to Camp Wesley Woods this summer? Central would love to support you! Contact Hannah Collins with your child's name, their age and which camp they're interested in (Discover or Base camp). Once we hear from all interested families, we'll give you more information as to how we can support your family.



Enjoy a fun evening out with your Central Student family by going ice skating for FREE! On Friday, February 6th, we'll meet at the church at 6:00pm for pizza before heading to the Ice Chalet. We'll return to the church around 9:00pm for students to be picked up. **If you plan on joining us, please RSVP Michelle at 865-622-1899 by Sunday, February 1st.**

## CENTRAL STUDENTS

### Student Ministry Program

Michelle Garcia, Director of Student Ministries michelle@centralmethodist.com

#### Sunday School - Colossians

##### Sunday Mornings

10:00-10:45am // Room A134/5

All 6th-12th graders are invited to do a deep dive into the book of Colossians to find encouragement in living for Christ here and now.

#### Youth - Meant for More

##### Sunday Nights

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

Students will enjoy fun games, dinners provided and relevant discussions in our new series, *Meant for More*, which will help students explore how God sees them, how He wired them and what He wants for them.



### February AT A GLANCE

#### February 1

YOUTH

5:00-7:00pm

#### February 6

ICE SKATING @ ICE CHALET

6:00-9:00pm

#### February 8

NO YOUTH

for Super Bowl Sunday

#### February 15

YOUTH VALENTINE'S NIGHT

5:00-7:00PM

#### February 22

YOUTH

5:00-7:00pm

#### FEBRUARY 25

BIRTHDAY BASH

5:30-7:00PM

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### Women's Ministry Program

All women in our church family are invited to UWF events. *You do not need to be a member of UWF to attend our meetings.* Contact Sandy Dunsmore at 865-271-7426 for additional information about UWF.

#### Martha and Ruth

February 19 // 1:00pm Room B125

Circles to have a joint pledge service.

#### Hope Circle

February 24 // 6:00pm

Gather for dinner and meeting. Location is TBD.

## BIBLE BUDDIES

### Central Kids Bible Reading

Our Bible reading emphasis will continue through the 1st quarter of this year. **Once children have read 14 days, parents can contact Hannah for their first prize!** After that, children will continue to track daily reading with sticker charts and can return the completed sticker chart for a new prize.

We're so proud of our kids and families for reading their Bible so faithfully this month! Our children have been sharing their excitement about what they've been reading with us during CK Worship, and it's been so encouraging. Way to go, Central Kids!



## RESURRECTION

### January 2026 Highlights

Central Students and leaders went to Pigeon Forge last month for Resurrection 2026, an annual youth conference. Even though it was a shorter weekend, they were able to worship, hear God's Word, eat great food and enjoy incredible fellowship together.

We praise God for their safety during the winter storm and are excited to see how they apply what they learned this weekend to strengthen their relationship with Him!



## February Birthdays

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

- 2 Aiden Layer
- 3 Louise Coulter
- 3 Steve Rodier
- 4 P.A. Malone
- 5 Andrew Herron
- 6 Joel Malone
- 7 Sarah Hartzler
- 8 Sam Thacker
- 9 Hope Turner
- 10 Gerald Augustus
- 10 Amanda Hensley
- 10 Joan James Minor
- 10 Ally Stamps
- 13 Pat Grayson
- 15 Deborah Ault
- 15 Alicia Baldwin
- 17 William T. Irvin
- 17 Jaxon Chandler
- 19 Shirley Buse
- 19 Adelaide Shanahan
- 20 Sage Hanks
- 20 Dianne Kelley
- 21 Peggy Nicolai
- 22 Neal Jones
- 22 Theo Irvin
- 23 Frank Kargol
- 24 Kristi Rogers
- 24 Max Layer
- 25 Callie Mae Garcia