

SERMON MESSAGES

The Month of June

7
JUNE Samson: Born with a Calling
Pastor Scott

14
JUNE Samson: Playing with Fire
Pastor Scott

21
JUNE Samson: The Slow Fade
Pastor Scott

28
JUNE Samson: Grace After Failure
Pastor Melissa

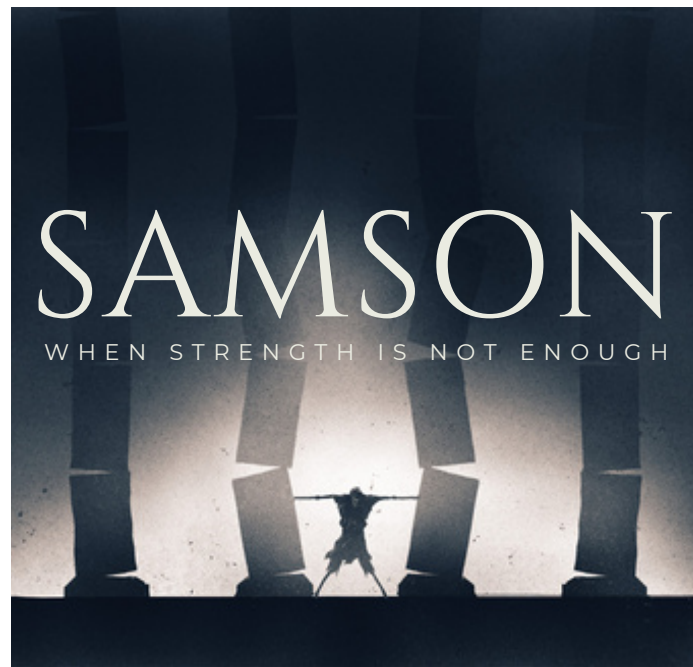
Samson: When Strength Isn't Enough

Sermon Series // June 7 - 28

Samson had power, potential and a calling from God—yet his life became a warning about compromise, pride, temptation and self-destruction. His story reminds us that outward strength does not always equal inward health. In a culture that celebrates talent, image and self-reliance, Samson shows us what happens when character fails to keep pace with gifting.

This four-week series explores the rise, failures and redemption of one of the Bible's most complicated leaders. This series speaks to anyone who has ever struggled between who God created them to be and the choices that pull them away.

Join us to discover that real strength is not found in ourselves, but in surrender to God.



Central Contributions

	5-APR	12-APR	19-APR	26-APR	ONLINE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	570	310	331	314	
<small>* worship attendance includes online</small> SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	135	148	155		
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 12,379	\$ 17,455	\$ 10,909	\$ 9,892	\$ 15,443
FAITH PROMISE	\$ 30,075	\$ 580	\$ 195	\$ 710	\$ 3,169
	Promised 7-1-25 to 6-30-26: \$110,251				

Summer Playlist

Sermon Series // July 5 - August 2

Summer Playlist is back! This annual summer sermon series is one of our favorite traditions as we explore how God can speak to us in many ways—including through music. Each week, we'll take a closer look at secular songs YOU chose and discover biblical truths and meaningful conversations that challenge, encourage, and help us grow in faith together.

Whether the songs are upbeat, emotional, nostalgic or inspiring, we believe God can use everyday moments and familiar lyrics to point us toward hope, truth and a deeper relationship with Him. You never know what song might make the playlist this year!

Want to know this year's featured songs? The playlist will be revealed during worship on **June 14th**, so make plans to join us for worship that Sunday!



THE CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

JUNE 2026 ISSUE

DON'T BE SCAMMED

Wednesday, June 17 // 5:45pm Worship Center

with **Ernie Gallo**,
Lenoir City Police Department

Scan QR code to
RSVP by June 14th



DON'T BE SCAMMED

Wednesday, June 17 // 5:45pm

Could you spot a scam before it happens to you or someone you love? Ernie Gallo from the Lenoir City Police Department will share the latest scam tactics targeting seniors and the simple steps you can take to protect yourself, your finances and your family. Scammers are getting more convincing every day — don't let you or someone you care about become the next target. **Lights snacks available at 5:45pm and the presentation will start at 6:00pm.** Bring a friend and leave feeling informed, empowered and prepared!

Hearing the Music of Fresh Expressions

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Monday, July 6 // 6:00pm Cracker Barrel

BEGINS

Monday, July 13 // 6:00pm Cracker Barrel

Join us for a six-week program designed to teach you more about the Fresh Expressions model of ministry and how that ministry model can help our church develop more meaningful connections with people in the community outside of Central. This initiative will seek to foster a deeper connection with people who are not connected to church or to faith and see how we can build a deeper relationship with them.

Through guided discussions, interactive sessions, and journaling activities, participants will explore how they are called to a greater understanding of how we can reach people outside the walls of Central in new and fresh ways.

Why should you participate?

- **Engagement:** Learn new ways to strengthen the outreach ministry at Central.
- **Commitment:** Find new ways to reach unchurched people for Christ.
- **Community Building:** Connect with other individuals in the church who have a
- **Heart:** Reach others for Christ in new and creative ways.

Space is limited 15 people. Contact Pastor Melissa at melissa@centralmethodist.com for more information.



FOR LC - Snow Cones in the Park

June 27 & July 18 // 10:30-11:30am LC Central Park & Splash Pad

Let's bless families in our community! Join us at the downtown Lenoir City park and splash pad as we hand out free snow cones. Wear your "I Am the Church" t-shirt and simply connect with other families while your kids play and enjoy the park. This is a relaxed way to serve, build relationships and show our community God's love.

Camp in the Community POTLUCK

Sunday, June 7 // 6:00pm Worship Center

All are invited to our Camp in the Community potluck dinner! Join us as we welcome the camp's staff. This is a great way to meet and encourage young adults from around the world.

RSVP to Hannah Collins with the total number of people in your group and what dish you plan to bring.



CENTRAL KIDS

Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries hannah@centralmethodist.com

Children's Ministry Program

Share Your Recipe

We plan to bless our camp families with a back-to-school event called *Cooks and Kicks*. At this event campers will reunite, enjoy hotdogs with their families, decorate a chef's hat and create a tasty dessert with their families. Campers will also receive a brand new pair of athletic shoes for school thanks to a grant from the Holston conference. But we also want to support our camper's parents and caregivers.

If you have any of the following:

- Low-cost, quick & kid friendly dinner recipes
- Kid-friendly & economical lunch and snack ideas
- Back-to-school routine or "life hacks"
- Advice for caregivers of young children



Scan the QR code to submit your recipe/advice or email them to hannah@centralmethodist.com by July 6th. We plan to make a recipe book and tips sheet to bless our camp families at this event.

Summer Playlist Featuring Central Kids

Sunday, June 19 // 9 & 11am Services

Central Kids (1st-5th grade) are invited to sing during our Summer Playlist series! On July 19, kids will sing background vocals.

Kids are already practicing with Mrs. Rachel during Sunday school. Join us this Sunday and watch for more details as the date approaches.



Summer is here and everything's better with friends. Grab your crew and come hang with us at Youth Disc Golf Night. **All 5th-12th graders** are invited for disc golf, games, laughs, and real conversations about why followers of Jesus need solid "soul friends" in their lives. Bring a friend and don't miss it!

CENTRAL STUDENTS

Student Ministry Program

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

Sunday School - Life of David Series

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

What life lessons can we learn from the shepherd boy who became king? We'd love for you to join us Sunday mornings to find out in our Summer series called *Life of David*.

Youth - Essentials Series

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

All 6th-12th graders are invited to have fun learning and experiencing perseverance, soul friendship and service – three essentials to the Christian faith – as we continue in our *Essentials* series.

June AT A GLANCE

June 6
HIKE & ESSENTIALS: PERSEVERANCE
9:30am-12:00pm
Carpool from Central

June 7
No Youth due to Hike

June 8-12
CAMP IN THE COMMUNITY

June 14
MISSION TRIP TRAINING
4:00-7:00pm

DISC GOLF & ESSENTIALS: SOUL FRIENDS
5:00-7:00pm

June 21-26
SMO MISSION TRIP

June 21 & 28
No Youth due to Mission Trip

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.



JUNE CIRCLE MEETINGS

Notice: Martha and Ruth circles do not meet in July or August.

Martha Circle

Tuesday, June 2 // 11:30am Riverside Coffee

Ruth Circle

Thursday, June 18 // 1:00pm Room A134/5

Hope Circle

Tuesday, June 23 // 6:30pm Sue Berger's Home

2026 Father's Day Booklet

Central UWF will collect donations and names for the Father's Day Recognition Booklet from **10:00am-12:15pm on Sunday, June 7 and Sunday, June 14**. Donation forms will also be available in the church office. Submit names online by scanning the QR code.



DISTRICT SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM
Saturday, August 22
9:00am-12:00pm
Worship Center



Affinity Groups

Something exciting is coming this summer! We're launching new Affinity Groups as part of our summer schedule—an opportunity to connect, build friendships and enjoy time together with other church members while doing things you love.

HIKING GROUP

If you enjoy getting outdoors and exploring local trails on short hikes, we'd love for you to join in. For more information about upcoming hike schedules, email Peggy Nicolai (panicolai@aol.com) or Marlene Hillermann (hillerme@att.net).

BIKING GROUP

Prefer life on two wheels? Join us for bike rides along our local greenways. To learn more about upcoming rides and schedules, email Pastor Melissa Smith (melissa@centralmethodist.com).

Don't miss this chance to stay active, meet new people and grow in community this summer—we can't wait to see you out there!

June Birthdays

Happy birthday to all our wonderful church family celebrating in June!

May God bless each of you with joy, good health and a year filled with His favor!

- 1 Denise Collins
- 2 Sheila Borders
- 2 Mitzi Stamps
- 4 Suzanna Jay
- 4 Tony Cole
- 4 Jack Horton
- 5 Susan Good
- 5 Jim Jarvis
- 7 Eddie Stamps
- 9 Kris Allen
- 10 Amy Malone Bomba
- 10 Hannah Collins
- 12 Michelle Garcia
- 14 Lexi Martin
- 15 Maxine Mantooth
- 18 Mary Bright
- 18 Holly Jones
- 19 Ronan Roberts
- 22 Adri Shanahan
- 24 Lee Sparks
- 25 Jess Fettig
- 27 Leslie Downey
- 27 Ken Jones
- 28 Kandi Lantz
- 28 Laurel Platfoot
- 29 Beth Brown
- 29 Carrie Cole
- 30 Megan Renea Caldwell
- 30 Jake Platfoot
- 30 Sophia Smith