

SERMON MESSAGES

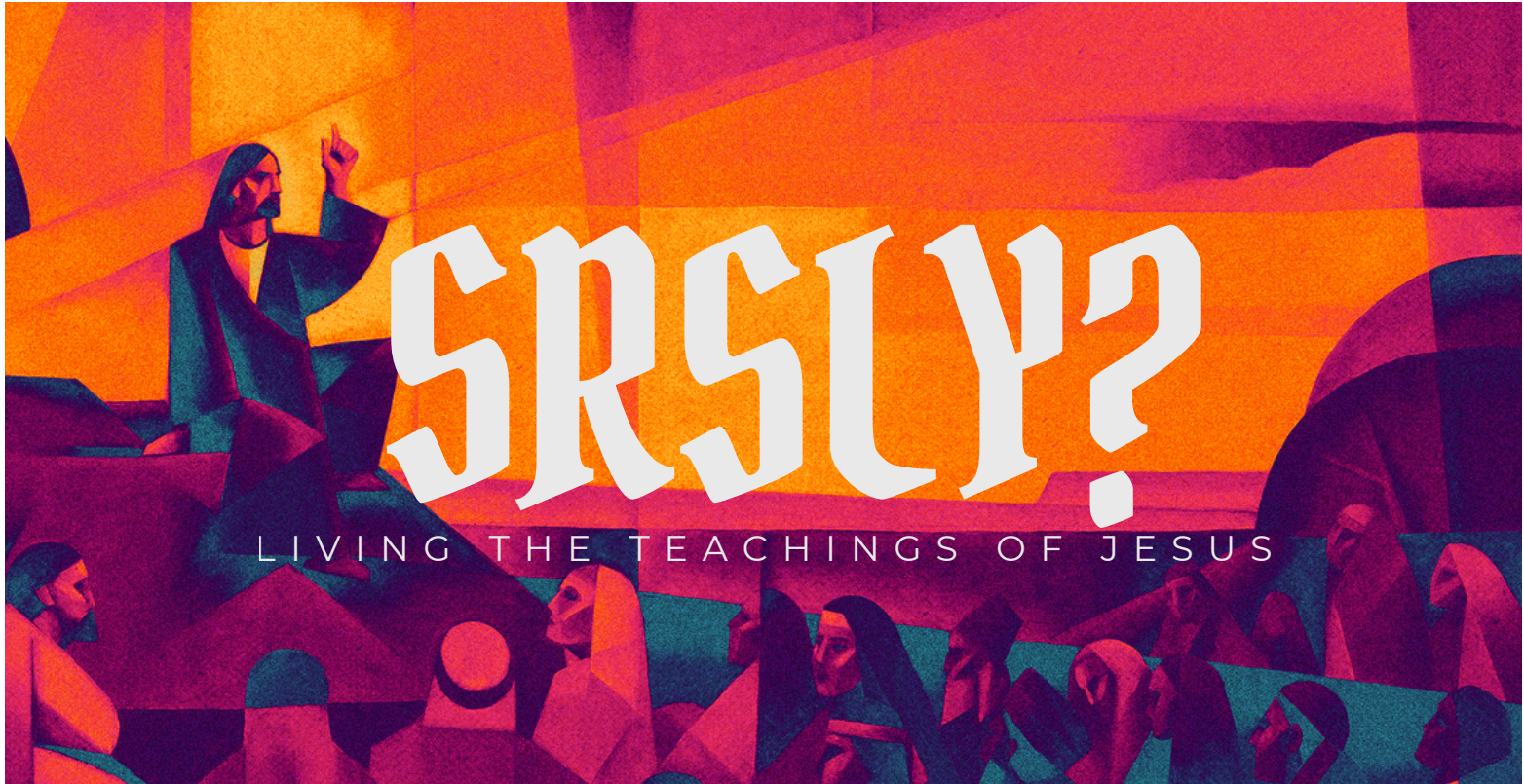
The Month of September

6
SEPT *SRSLY? You Can't Serve God and Money*
Pastor Scott

13
SEPT *SRSLY? Do Not Worry*
Pastor Melissa

20
SEPT *SRSLY? Do Not Judge*
Pastor Scott

27
SEPT *125 Year Celebration*
Ann Robins



SRSLY? Sermon Series // September 6-20

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

As we continue this 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.



Get Away With Me - Prayer Retreat Friday, September 11 // 9:00am-12:00pm

Do you feel frazzled? Tired? Burned out? You're invited to join Pastor Scott and Michelle Garcia for half a day to nurture your relationship with God and grow in prayer. There'll be three brief teachings and experiential practices: time in a group, time alone and a time for questions. **Sign up in the Gathering Area or scan the QR code to the left.** Come step away from the busyness of life and make space to rest, reflect and reconnect with God.

Central Contributions

	5-JUL	12-JUL	19-JUL	26-JUL	ONLINE
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE *worship attendance includes online	272	322	358	326	
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	131	141	144	126	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 4,768	\$ 33,572	\$ 14,396	\$ 6,924	\$ 16,079
FAITH PROMISE	\$ 70	\$ 120	\$ 200	\$ 525	\$ 212
	Promised 7/1/26 to 6/30/27:				\$135,334



THE CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE

9:00am Coffee & Fellowship
10:30am Combined Worship with Rev. Ann Robins
11:45am Catered Lunch

Sunday, September 27
Combined Worship // 10:30am

REMEMBER • RESPOND • RENEW

For 125 years, our church has been a place where faith has grown, lives have been changed and generations have come together to worship and serve. Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness, remember our history and look with hope toward the future! We'll gather for coffee and fellowship at 9:00am, worship all together at 10:30am with a message from Rev. Ann Robins and enjoy a catered lunch at 11:45am. **Please let us know you're coming to the luncheon by signing up in the Gathering Area or online by scanning the QR code provided above.** Come celebrate 125 years of God's faithfulness and discover what He has in store for the years ahead!



I AM THE CHURCH Monthly Missions

We invite you to join us as we go into our community to show them Jesus this fall:

- **Thursday, September 3 // 6:30pm** - Pack protein snack bags for Lenoir City High School football team.
- **Friday, September 4 // 2:00pm** - Pick up meal boxes, deliver and hand out to Lenoir City High School band.
- **Friday, October 16 // 5:00pm** - Serve (4:30-6:30pm or 6:00-8:00pm) at Eaton Elementary's Fall Festival.
- **Monday, November 16 // 11:00am** - Prepare and deliver snack baskets for staff appreciation at hospitals and nursing homes.
- **Thursday, December 3 // 5:30pm** - Bless Lenoir City Christmas Parade attendees and hand out invites to Christmas Eve services.

You also have the opportunity to join rotating teams to help with Cold Hands Warm Hearts by cooking, delivering and/or serving meals.

125 Celebration
Central Kids Singing
Sunday, September 27

10:30am Combined Worship
All generations will come together to celebrate Central's 125 years together! Our children will sing during this service. Please make plans to attend this special service and encourage your children to help lead us in worship!

FAITH BUILDING TIPS

- Talk about your message takeaways together.
- Look for ways to put them into practice throughout the week.

CK Worship & CK Worship Jr.
Sundays // 9 & 11am Services
Our children in Pre-K through 5th grade will dismiss from the Worship Center after prayer for our kids worship time. Children will engage in offering, a message-discovering game, scripture lesson and worship. **Be sure to ask what your child has learned, as their lesson will mirror the message you heard in worship.**

FLAG FOOTBALL

ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS INVITED!

Sunday, September 27 // 5:00pm

READY TO RUN IT?! Football season is here, and we're bringing the fun to Youth! Whether you've got serious football skills or have never played a game in your life, come hang out, compete and have a blast with us. No experience needed. Just bring yourself, bring some friends and come ready to play. Think you've got what it takes? We'll see you on the field!

CENTRAL STUDENTS
Michelle Garcia, Director of Student Ministries

Sunday School - Praying the Psalms Series
Sunday Mornings // 10:00-10:45am Room A135
All 6th-12th graders are invited to explore, connect with and pray some of the Psalms this month in our new series, Praying the Psalms.

CENTRAL KIDS
Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries
Children's Ministry Program
hannah@centralmethodist.com

"The Lord was with Joseph."
Genesis 39:2

JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

CENTRAL KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES
Sundays // 10:00-10:45am Kids' Hallway

Sunday School - Joseph's Journey Series
Sunday Mornings // 10:00-10:45am Kids' Hallway
After studying Jacob and Esau's story, Central Kids will transition into spending this month learning about Joseph's story. As they engage in hands-on learning with art, cooking, drama and more, children will remember that God is with them wherever they go. **The memory verse of the month is Genesis 39:2, "The Lord was with Joseph."**

Student Ministry Program
michelle@centralmethodist.com

Youth - Unshakeable Series
Sunday Nights // 5:00-7:00pm Room A134/5
How can we remain unshakeable in our faith when our hearts are anxious and when we're waiting on God? Students will discuss this in September along with enjoying games, meals, fellowship and prayer 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

SEPTEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

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

HOLSTON CONFERENCE UWF ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, September 19
Ebenezer UMC, Knoxville
See UWF Bulletin Board for registration information

Martha Circle

Tuesday, September 1
11:30am // Riverside Coffee Shop
Martha Circle will gather for lunch and meeting at Riverside Coffee Shop, 16239 Highway 70 East.

Ruth Circle

Tuesday, August 25 // 1:00pm Room A134
Gathering for meeting.

Hope Circle

Tuesday, September 22
6:30pm Anne Yocum's Home
Gather for dessert and meeting at Anne Yocum's home. For additional information, contact her at 865-382-8559.

all are welcome!

TAILGATE

TENNESSEE VS ARKANSAS

Saturday, October 10

FOOD TRUCKS YARD GAMES GAME LIVE STREAM

Tailgate
Saturday, October 10 // Time TDA

Join us for a Tennessee football game, Tailgate style! When the Vols take on Arkansas, we'll be bringing the game-day fun to the church parking lot with food trucks, yard games, good food, great people, and of course, the game on the big screen!
Time will be announced closer to the date. Mark your calendar and get ready for football, fellowship and plenty of Big Orange spirit! Invite a friend to join you!

September Birthdays

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

- 1 Elijah Whitt
- 2 Jane Saylor
- 3 Drew Herron
- 3 Noah Thacker
- 4 Jason Stamps
- 4 Lyra Owens
- 6 Brenda Fitz
- 8 Barbara Solano
- 8 Cristiana Wright
- 8 Fletcher Pickett
- 9 Charlene Duckworth
- 9 Pam Kirthlink
- 9 Joel Patten
- 11 Teresa Weaver
- 12 Amy Williams
- 12 Skylar Williams
- 13 Lucas Smith
- 14 Anne Platfoot
- 14 Chris Shanahan
- 15 Ronnie Powell
- 16 Shelly Hall
- 16 Kara Scheetz
- 16 Maggie Layer
- 18 Veda Kirby
- 18 Lisa Lantz
- 18 Alex Herron
- 19 Chris Fuson
- 20 Belinda Hedge
- 21 Scott Hall
- 21 Larry Scheetz
- 21 Hudson Collins
- 22 Jonah Stauffer
- 22 Vincent Shanahan
- 23 Autumn Davis
- 23 Summer Davis
- 24 Harold Freedman
- 24 Jennifer Hensley
- 25 Ann Gentry
- 27 Kim Everett
- 27 Hung Ma
- 27 Tim Leonard
- 29 Patty Cole