

# SERMON MESSAGES

The Month of May

**3 MAY** *How to Talk About Jesus Without Making It Weird*  
Pastor Scott

**10 MAY** *Becoming a Person of Blessing*  
Pastor Melissa

**17 MAY** *Jacob // Israel*  
Pastor Scott

## Fifth Gospel

Sermon Series ~ April 12

Continue exploring what it means to live in such a way that others can see Christ in you. Discover how your everyday actions and conversations can point people to Jesus. You're invited to learn to share your faith, not just with words, but with a life that reflect His love, grace and truth.

**24 MAY** *Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego*  
Pastor Scott

**31 MAY** *Naomi // Mara*  
Pastor Melissa



## FORGOTTEN GOD A Note from Pastor Scott

Pastor Francis Chan wrote a book a number of years ago about the Holy Spirit called *Forgotten God*. His premise is we're often more familiar with God the Father and God the Son and forget God the Spirit. We live NOW in the age of the Spirit. We'll celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 24. My prayer for you is that you may experience the joy and the power of the Spirit in your life.

## Central Contributions

	MAR 1	MAR 8	MAR 15	MAR 22	MAR 29	ONLINE
<b>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b> <small>* worship attendance includes online</small>	305	253	280	289	383	
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	153	91	142	157	186	
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	\$9,018	\$13,531	\$22,402	\$5,104	\$5,220	\$18,758
<b>FAITH PROMISE</b> <small>Promised 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</small>	\$610	\$250	\$140	\$115	\$440	\$1,855
	<b>Received YTD</b>					<b>\$72,111</b>

WHEN YOUR NAME  
CHANGES



## When Your Name Changes

Sermon Series // May 17 - 31

This is a series on identity - who you are, who others say you are, and who God calls you to be. Throughout Scripture, names often mark turning points.

Sometimes God changes a name to reveal a new calling. Sometimes people give you names that shape or limit you. Sometimes you rename yourself based on your experiences or wounds.

This series explores how to recognize those voices to discover a deeper identity that is rooted not just in a label, but in God's love and purpose for your life. Find answers to: "Who names me?" and "Whose voice matters most?"

MAY PRAYER FOCUS

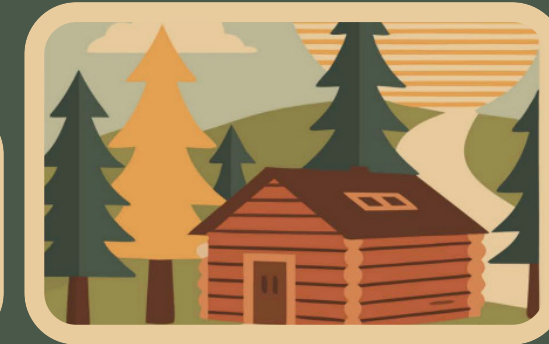
Our  
Country



# THE CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

MAY 2026 ISSUE



## SERVING OPPORTUNITY

*Camp in the Community // June 8-12*

## New Young Adult Group

Sundays // 10:00am Room B132

If you're 20 to 35 and want a place to talk about real life and real faith, come hang out with this group. You'll dig deeper into the Sunday message and have honest conversations that matter. Chase Wright is the facilitator. All are welcome!

## Prayer Room

Room A137

Central's prayer room (A137) has recently been updated to create a space that encourages people of all ages to be still, pray, reflect and linger in the Lord's presence.



We've added a prayer wall where you can add prayer requests and praises, a prayer board with prayer guides, resources, quotes and space to add your own encouraging notes, and even cushions that allow you to lay and pray.



We hope you'll be able to regularly enjoy time with the Lord in this peaceful space.

Be part of something meaningful this summer. Central has the incredible opportunity to host 50 children and camp counselors from around the world for a week of summer camp—and it's more than just an event. It's a chance to show up, serve and see God at work in real, everyday moments.

Here are the most needed ways to get involved:

- Serve lunch to kids and staff
- Host a dinner for the staff at Central
- Small group helpers or Junior Counselors
- Set up and clean up breakfast bar each morning

Every role matters. Every moment counts. However you choose to be involved, you're helping create a week that leaves a lasting impact.

Visit the Gathering Area or contact Hannah Collins at [hannah@centralmethodist.com](mailto:hannah@centralmethodist.com) to learn more.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Lenoir City High School

College/Undergrad

**Steven Abercrombie**

**Lilly Borders**

**Kara Gresham**

*East TN State, Nursing*

**Aiden Ma**

**Caleb Lantz**

**Abbey Mahurin**

*University of TN, Theater & History*

**Colton King**

**Anna Layer**

**Riley Pickett**

*University of TN, Advertising & Business Admin*

**Julia Stauffer**

*Wheaton College, Communications*

# CENTRAL KIDS

Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry Program

hannah@centralmethodist.com

# COME TO BREAKFAST!

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

## Come to Breakfast!

Sundays // 10:00am Kids Hallway // Pre K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join Central Kids this month to hear the story of Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to his disciples while they were fishing. Children will learn that Jesus' death was not the end of the story through art, cooking, games, missions, science, spiritual practices and storytelling. They'll experience this story in a way that will be meaningful for the rest of their lives!

ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS INVITED

# LOCK-IN & CAMPOUT



Friday, May 15 // 6:00pm - 8:00am  
*FREE! Scan code to register by May 10th*

Summer is almost here! Stay strong—you're so close. All 6th-12th graders are invited to kick things off at our Lock-In & Campout this month! All night fun with games, tents, a campfire, camp songs, an outdoor movie, a talk on God's creation and more. Bring a friend and scan the QR code above to sign up!

# CENTRAL STUDENTS

Student Ministry Program

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

## Sunday School - 1 John Series

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

Central Students will begin a new Sunday morning series called *1 John*. 6th-12th graders will discuss and discover the way to live a life of love for God and others.

## Youth - Essentials Series

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

All 6th-12th graders are invited to enjoy good food, time with friends and discussing as well as experiencing trust and love during Central Students' summer Youth series called *Essentials*.

## Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10

Central Kids is preparing something special for Mother's Day!

Our Pre K-K students will sing in our 11am service and our 1st-5th graders are working on a project that will be featured in both services.

Central Kids look forward to celebrating the women that care for us in our lives!

## May AT A GLANCE

**May 3**  
GRADUATE SUNDAY & BRUNCH  
10:00am

YOUTH STAR WARS NIGHT  
5:00-7:00pm

**May 10**  
No Youth due to Mother's Day

**May 15**  
LOCK-IN CAMPOUT  
6:00pm-8:00am

**May 17**  
No Youth due to Lock-In

**May 24**  
No Youth due to Memorial Day

**May 31**  
YOUTH VISIT MEMBERS NIGHT  
5:00-7:00PM

# 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. **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING UWF'S SPRING BAKE SALE!!**

Central's United Women in Faith's

**Tuesday, May 5**  
11:30am-1:00pm // Riverside Coffeeshop

Speaker - Angie Davidson,  
Executive Director of Riverside

Please bring a couple cans of canned chicken or canned tuna to donate to the food pantry at Wesley House Community Center.

# Spring LUNCHEON

## Hope Circle

Tuesday, May 26 // 6:30pm

Gather for meeting and dessert at Ann Stuart's home. For additional information contact Ann at 865-705-9242.

## DONATIONS NEEDED ~ Henderson Settlement Day Trip

Thursday, May 14

UWF is planning a day trip to Henderson Settlement and will take the following donations for their thrift store. **Drop off items at the donation center in the Gathering Area by Monday, May 11.**

- Men and boy's clothing
- Small appliances
- Kitchen items
- Sheets, towels, blankets
- Small home decor
- Canned foods for food pantry

All items need to be clean and gently used. Henderson Settlement is located in Bell County, KY and has a long history of affiliation with the United Methodist Church and United Women in Faith.

# EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Central Member - Blake Messler

Ten bat homes were installed throughout Alcoa's Springbrook Park as the result of an Eagle Project by Blake Messler, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 81 in Maryville. Our local bat population, the Little Brown Bat, will benefit from this project. These little insectivores offer natural pest-control for harmful insects like mosquitoes, allowing park goers an enjoyable experience.

"Bats are an important component of a healthy ecosystem. A female bat can consume 4500-8000 insects in one night," Blake explains. "The bat boxes will provide effective protection from elements and predators as well as optimal locations to raise pups."

Blake was fortunate to obtain three generous sponsors from the community. In a woodworking shop, he prepared 10 bat box kits from partially donated lumber. He then led his Troop members as they assembled each of the new bat homes. Way to go, Blake!



# May Birthdays

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

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

- 1 Raph Shanahan
- 1 Mark Collins
- 2 KadiAnn Tuck
- 3 Ava Gibson
- 4 Sandy Dunsmore
- 5 Melanie Milliken
- 6 Bella Ma
- 6 Wendy Messler
- 7 Brayden Hensley
- 9 Randy Gouge
- 12 Pauline Rains
- 12 Raiden McNelley
- 13 Donnie Malone
- 13 Lauren Bell
- 14 Dale Arnold
- 16 Josh James
- 16 Jacob Herron
- 17 Sharon Farr
- 17 Janice Rogers
- 17 Mary Fuson
- 19 Marilyn Jones
- 20 Elaine Crowder
- 20 Mike Easter
- 21 Chelsea James
- 22 Laurinda Hancock
- 23 Jane Everett
- 23 Ruth Vaught
- 24 Marlene Hillermann
- 27 Karen Katcham Tuck
- 29 Lenia Wunder
- 30 Jill Gresham