

Upcoming Sermon Series

The Month of March

1
MAR *Miracle Worker*
Pastor Scott

8
MAR *The Other Side of the Lake*
Pastor Melissa

15
MAR *The Upside Down Kingdom*
Pastor Scott

22
MAR *Master Developer*
Pastor Scott

29
MAR *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?*
Pastor Scott

The Jesus I Thought I Knew Sermon Series ~ February 22 - April 5

Most of us think we know Jesus. We know the stories, the miracles, the cross and the empty tomb. But familiarity has a subtle danger: it can convince us we've already seen all there is to see. We'll continue our series *The Jesus I Thought I Knew* by stripping 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.*



THE CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

MARCH 2026 ISSUE

Medical MISINFORMATION with Karen C. Johnson, MD, MPH

Wednesday, March 18 // 5:45pm



Medical Misinformation

Wednesday, March 18 // 5:45-7:00pm

We live in a time when health information is everywhere – on TV, online, in emails and shared on social media. Sometimes the information comes from people with no training or experience in health or public health. So how do we know what's accurate and what's misleading?

Join us for an informative and easy-to-follow presentation about **"Medical Misinformation" with Karen C. Johnson, MD, MPH.**

Dr. Johnson is an Endowed Professor and the former Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). She graduated from medical school and completed her Internal Medicine Residency at UTHSC, and also completed a Preventive Medicine Residency and a Master' of Public Health (MPH) at Johns Hopkins University. She's board certified in both Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Johnson conducts medical research at UTHSC to prevent disease and promote health and is currently the Principal Investigator for two NIH funded grants.

Light refreshments will be available at 5:45pm and the presentation will begin at 6:00pm. Come learn, connect and leave feeling empowered to navigate today's health information with clarity and confidence! *Questions? Contact Brenda Reeder at brendareeder49@gmail.com.*

We'll also be participating in Rise Against Hunger this year. Enjoy a fun morning with your church family as we pack meals for those in need. Come serve, connect and make a difference. **Scan the QR code to sign up today.**



Women's Bible Study -

Finding I Am

Beginning March 23

Mondays // 6:30pm Room C122

Looking for a place to grow in your faith and connect with other women? Sign up in the Gathering Area for a women's Bible study led by Melissa Best where you'll explore the seven "I Am" statements in the gospel of John.

NEXT Class

Sunday, March 15 // 10:00am

New to Central or want to learn more about us? Join our pastors for a special time to get answers to any questions you have and learn how you can get involved. Contact us at cumc@centralmethodist.com to let us know you're coming!

Missions Weekend Celebration

April 25-26

We're excited to welcome John Gargis to Central as our keynote speaker for Missions Celebration Weekend! John is a multi-gifted person who has served as a church planter, a pastor, author, and business and recovery leader. His message to us will be **"Guilt Free Missions."**



Central Contributions

	4-Jan	11-Jan	18-Jan	25-Jan		Online
Worship Attendance	295	323	346	184		
<small>* worship attendance includes online</small>						
Sunday School Attendance	156	154	136			
Contributions	\$ 5,503	\$ 22,915	\$ 18,245	\$ 2,236	\$ 46	\$ 22,575
Faith Promise	\$ 40	\$ 252	\$ 1,690	\$ -		\$ -
				Received YTD		\$68,278

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday • Maundy Thursday • Good Friday • Easter Sunday

Holy Week is a sacred journey that invites you to walk closely with Christ – from celebration and reflection to the joy of the resurrection. We invite you to join us for as many of these services as you can to pause, pray and experience the story of hope together as a church family.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29 // 9:00 & 11:00am
Celebrate Palm Sunday with your church family as we begin Holy Week in worship and praise.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 // 6:30pm
You're invited to experience an interactive Maundy Thursday worship service. You'll walk through the last night that Jesus was with his disciples through hands-on activities that all ages will appreciate. Join us for this memorable celebration of Holy Week.

Good Friday

Friday, April 3 // 6:30pm
Remember Christ's passion with a Tenebrae Service with special music from the work "It Is Finished" by Central Choir and traditional musicians.

Easter Sunday - Why The Resurrection Matters

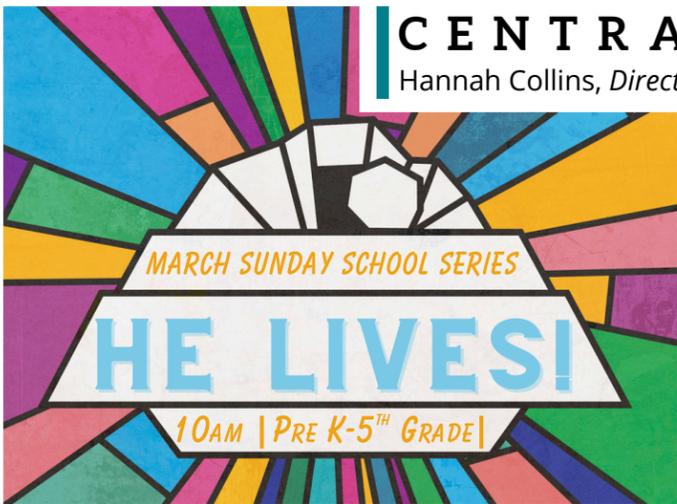
Sunday, April 5 // 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00am
Celebrate Easter with us and experience the joy of the Resurrection!
You can begin the day at our sunrise service at 7:30am led by our Central Students. Enjoy special music and a message at the modern worship service at 9:00am. At 11:00am our traditional service will feature our Central Choir, Brass instruments and a message. Whichever service you choose, there's a place for you to worship, celebrate, reflect and rejoice this Easter!

CENTRAL KIDS

Hannah Collins, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry Program

hannah@centralmethodist.com



Sunday School - Jesus Lives! Series

Sunday Mornings // 10:00-10:45am

For the next seven weeks, Central Kids will study **Jesus Lives!** In this unit children will explore the details of Jesus' resurrection.

Join us Sundays at 10:00am as we prepare for the Easter season with exciting lessons featuring themes like games, cooking, storytelling and drama, science, and more.

Palm Sunday - Singing Songs of Praise

Sunday, March 29 // 9 & 11am Services

Palm Sunday is made special by seeing God's children wave palms and sing songs of praise. Help us share this joy with our congregation.

All of Central Kids, Pre K-5th grade, will process and sing for both our 9 and 11am services. To respect your time, families are welcome to exit during *Passing of the Peace* in the beginning of the 11am service. We hope we can fill our Worship Center with young voices praising God!



All 6th-12th graders are invited to a day at the Island in Pigeon Forge on Saturday, March 28 from 10am-4pm. We were all disappointed to leave Resurrection early, so we're going to take a day to experience some of the things we didn't get to do.

We'll enjoy lunch, shopping, exploring and the SkyFly Soar America ride at the Island. **If you went to Resurrection there is no additional cost. If you did not, you are invited to join us for only \$10.** Everyone, please RSVP to Michelle by Sunday, March 15th. Everyone will be in charge of paying for their lunch and can bring spending money for shopping.

CENTRAL STUDENTS

Student Ministry Program

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

Sunday School - Jonah Series

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

What can we learn from the life of Jonah? This month, 6th-12th grade students will read through and discuss this fascinating book of the Bible.

Youth - Don't Worry Series

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

All 6th-12th graders are invited to enjoy fun games, good food, and deep discussions on worry and trust in our new series, *Don't Worry*.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Program

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

Martha Circle

Tuesday, March 3 // 1:00pm Room A134

Report on Wesley House Community Center by Sandy Dunsmore.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, March 19 // 1:00pm Room A134

Hope Circle

Tuesday, March 24 // 6:30pm Kate Layer's Home

Dessert and meeting

Tennessee Valley District Time Apart

March 21 // 9:00am-12:00pm Church Street UMC in Knoxville

For registration information contact Sandy Dunsmore at 865-271-7426.



The Week of Wonder

Sunday, March 29 // 3:00pm

Our Palm Sunday outreach event will allow families to experience the deep love of Jesus with those they love most. They'll walk through Holy Week in self-guided, hands-on stations that will help the power of this week come alive for all ages. The event will end with a snack and egg hunt.

In order to make this event engaging and impactful for attendees, we need YOUR help! We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can serve the Lord at this special afternoon. Contact Hannah Collins at hannah@centralmethodist.com for questions or to let her know how you'd like to serve.

- **Supplies preparation** (anytime week of March 23rd)
- ***Station Set-Up** (12:00-2:30pm)
- ***Station Guide** - oversee supplies and help direct families; *instructional meeting week before* (2:15-4:45pm)
- **Clean Up** (5-6pm)
- **Egg Hunt Runners** - drop eggs as children chase you during the hunt (3:30-5pm)
- **Welcome & Registration of Families** (2:15-4pm)

**most needed*

Updated Church Website

www.centralmethodist.com

We're excited to share our newly updated church website — designed to make it easier to stay connected and even easier for new people to learn about us.

By keeping our website welcoming and easy to use, we're helping extend hospitality beyond our building. Scan the QR code and take a few minutes to explore the new site — and consider sharing it with someone who might be looking for a church home.



March Birthdays

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

- 1 Susan Woods
- 2 Dan McCammon
- 4 Caitlin Lantz
- 4 Paul Platfoot
- 6 Ron McKean
- 6 Katherine Lantz
- 8 Polly Hall
- 8 Haleigh Davis
- 13 Harry Gillman
- 13 Kara Gresham
- 14 Larry Hawk
- 14 Cheryl Lawrence
- 15 Bob Caldwell
- 19 Aaron Duckworth
- 19 Donna Morgan
- 21 Jackie Harmon
- 22 Rachel Dunsmore
- 22 Jerry Ma
- 23 Scott Layer
- 23 Marian Zerbi
- 23 Charlotte Ann Collins
- 23 Hazel Irvin
- 24 Mary Dutton
- 24 Caden Jay
- 24 Sammye Nelson
- 25 Randy Vaught
- 26 Josh Galyon
- 26 Shirley Huffman
- 28 Sharon Carrouth
- 28 Angie Lockridge
- 28 Lesley Kargol
- 30 Eddie Morgan
- 30 Marge Ridner
- 30 Cindy Conti
- 30 Amber Lantz