

CENTRAL CHIMES

PAGE 1

JUNE 2025

New Signage, New Visibility!



We're excited to share the exterior signage that was recently installed to help folks find our church and Kinhaven School!

PASTOR'S PAGE

"The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Colossians 3:16 (CEB)

Dear Members and Friends of Central UMC,

This summer, we invite you to join us for a special 12-week worship series titled "Singing Our Faith." Starting on June 15 we will explore how the music we sing shapes what we believe, how we worship, and how we connect to the wider body of Christ across time and cultures. From timeless hymns and heartfelt spirituals to contemporary praise and sacred jazz, each week will focus on a different genre of sacred music and the theological truths it carries.

St. Augustine is often attributed as saying, "The one who sings prays twice." John and Charles Wesley embraced that idea and collaborated to create hymns we still in our church today. "The Wesleyan tradition was born in song and early Methodist people found their true identity as the children of God through singing."¹ This worship series will give us a chance to experience that truth in new and familiar ways. Together, we'll reflect on Scripture, deepen our understanding of worship, and celebrate the Spirit's movement through music.

We want your voice to help shape this series! On June 1 we'll be inviting everyone to complete a brief music survey—either online or in person. This is your chance to share the songs that have shaped your faith and the genres that stir your spirit. Please see page 3 for details on that survey.

Whether you are a lifelong choir member, a melody-in-your-heart kind of worshiper, or somewhere in between, we hope you'll join us and invite a friend to worship. Come ready to sing, to listen, and to be moved. This summer, let the word of Christ dwell in us richly through every song we sing!

Blessings, Pastor Sarah

¹ Paul W. Chilcote and Randy L. Maddox, "A Faith That Sings: The Renewing Power of Lyrical Theology," in *The Quest for Love Divine: Select Essays in Wesleyan Theology and Practice*, (Cambridge, UK: The Lutterworth Press, 2022), 199–214.

MUSIC MINISTRY MUSINGS

Emoji Hymn Challenge

Each line of emojis represents the title of a well-known hymn. Can you figure them out?

1. 🕊️ 🕊️ 🕊️ 👑 🙏 🦵
2. ✨ 🙏 🙌 🙌
3. 🙏 👑 👁️ 👁️
4. 🙄 👫 🙏 🛎️
5. 🌍 🤝 🕊️

Here are the hymn titles to use:

- For the Healing of the Nations” (UMH 428)
- Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! (UMH 64)
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus (UMH 526)
- Be Thou My Vision (UMH 451)
- Amazing Grace (UMH 378)

Please review the answers located on page 7 of the newsletter.

Jacob Williams

Worship Coordinator and Accompanist

MUSIC SURVEY

We'd love your input! Please take a few minutes to complete our music survey to help us plan music and upcoming programs. You can take the survey online by scanning this QR code or [clicking this link](#), or you can fill out a paper survey at worship on June 1.



These are the questions we hope you'll answer:

1. If you could only listen to one genre of music for the rest of your life, what would it be?
2. Who is your favorite music artist?
3. What is your favorite song of all time?
4. What is your favorite non-traditional church music? This could include praise and worship, contemporary Christian music on the radio, Vacation Bible School, or campfire songs.
5. What is your favorite hymn?

HAPPY HOUR AT IMMIGRANT FOOD

Join us on June 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for Happy Hour to share free appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks at Immigrant food located at 4245 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22203.



RSVP to office@cumcballston.org or 703-527-8844 so we can save you a seat!

CUMC MEN'S GROUP: COME JOIN US!



Our Central United Methodist Church Men's Group had a fantastic time at our first gathering—a bowling outing at Bowlero in Annandale! It was an enjoyable afternoon for all, filled with fun, laughter, and the chance to connect with other men in the church community.

We'd love to welcome anyone interested, young, old, and everyone in between to join the group.

Our next meetup will be a Men's Breakfast at First Watch (5880 Crossroads Center Way, Falls Church, VA 22041) on Saturday, June 14th, at 10:00 AM. It's a great spot with delicious food and plenty of free parking—perfect for a relaxed morning together. Whether you joined us for bowling or are brand new to the group, we'd love to have you with us!

If you're interested in becoming part of the Men's Group or would like to RSVP for the breakfast, please contact the church office at 703-527-8844 or email office@cumcballston.org. All men are welcome!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

My mom and her two sisters moved to the area from Charlottesville for work, began attending, and joined Central Church. All three were married there in 1946.

As our older son once said of himself, he was "born at church," which was true for me as well. In 1948, I was christened at Central. As a child, I participated in the children's and youth choirs, attended Sunday School, and later joined the Methodist Youth Fellowship. I am still in contact with many from that group today. I joined Central in 1960.

Other ways I have volunteered include feeding the homeless on Fridays, helping at bazaars, funeral and wedding receptions, serving as Council on Ministries chair, participating in the worship committee and choir, setting up for communion, and helping with monthly mailings. I now help as Reader of the Word. I also participated in EMMAUS, with Richard and Carroll Cobb as my sponsors. I can't forget my 50-year friendship with my Circle 7 sisters. We have supported each other through good and bad times.

Steve and I were married on the same day of the week (Sunday), date (June 29th), and hour (3 P.M.) as my parents—only 23 years later—at Central. On June 29, 2019, we renewed our vows and had a reception to celebrate our 50th anniversary, complete with a cake that looked like our wedding cake from 50 years earlier. About 75 people attended. It was probably the last big event in the old church.

At one time, I was one of four generations that belonged to Central. My great aunt, Elizabeth Bragg, was at one point the church historian; my mom, Louise Hood, got me involved with Methodist Women; then myself, and our two sons (Steven and Jeffrey), who were also christened at Central.

I have watched the church transform its building twice in my lifetime. The original church had outside steps that went straight to the county sidewalk. Then, most of the steps were inside. And now, we worship in our beautiful new building. Each change has been an improvement. I am happy to worship here.

In my lifetime, I have formed many friendships with people at Central. I have seen many come and go, but we all shared one common bond: the desire to worship our Lord.

Pat Barham

CAFÉ TRANSITION

Last month our ministry partner, Provision Church, who ran the weekly Community Cafés in our fellowship hall were forced to cease their operations due to lack of funds. Central UMC members stepped up immediately to meet the need to keep these cafes open as a new ministry of our congregation. The Community Café is a beautiful expression of hospitality and care and we need your time and talents to keep it going strong! Every Wednesday and Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., we open our doors to serve meals and offer connection to our hungry neighbors. Whether you can serve for an hour or a whole day, your presence makes a difference. Come and help in the kitchen or visit with our guests and simply offer a listening ear. If you're available to help out on a Wednesday or Thursday, reach out to the church office at 703-527-8844 or office@cumcballston.org. Let's keep showing up with compassion, one meal at a time.

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY INVITATION

Hello everyone. The Rowdy, Motley, Jesus-lovin', and definitely crazy Bible Study crew will begin our study of the book of 1 Chronicles on Tuesday, June 3. We meet via Zoom on Tuesdays, with 2 sessions: one at 2:00 pm and another at 7:00 pm. It is open to everyone – young and not-so-young, single and married, those who have studied the Bible a lot and those who've never been in a Bible Study at all – all from the comfort of your home. We are very informal, and all of us are learning as we go, discussing about 1 or 2 chapters each week. We learn, we laugh, we talk, and we laugh some more, and it is meant to be uplifting, encouraging, lighthearted and fun as we try to understand what God is telling us in the pages of His Word.

So, if you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office at office@cumcballston.org. And just know that we would love to have you join us!

Carroll Ellis Cobb

UNITY HOMES TAKES HOME TWO MAJOR AWARDS

Unity Homes at Ballston was honored with two different awards recently! The project was awarded HAND's 2025 Housing Achievement Award: Best Large Affordable Housing Development and ULI Washington's 2025 Awards for Excellence: Excellence in Affordable Housing Development.

A year after opening to residents we're proud to celebrate a vibrant, supportive community. The 144 affordable units are home to 199 residents. This project also celebrates a powerful vision brought to life through collaboration and commitment.

UMC VISION STATEMENT

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and **lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Love Boldly: We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

Serve Joyfully: With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)

WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

Pentecost is coming up on Sunday, June 8, and we'll be celebrating the birthday of the Church!

Show your spirit by wearing red to worship that day. It's a fun way to remember the fire of the Holy Spirit and part of the celebration.

CHURCH CONFERENCE ON JUNE 22, 2025

We're holding a Church Conference on Saturday, June 22, at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary. This will be an in-person meeting only—there won't be an online option.

At this meeting we will:

- Elect our Leadership Board and Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development for the next leadership year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), and
- Approve a revised 2025 church budget that reflects some recent changes to our staffing.

This is an important time for the life of our church, and all Professing Members of Central UMC are encouraged to come and vote. We hope you'll make plans to be there!

ANSWERS TO THE EMOJI HYMN CHALLENGE:

1. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! (UMH 64)
2. Amazing Grace (UMH 378)
3. Be Thou My Vision (UMH 451)
4. What a Friend We Have in Jesus (UMH 526)
5. For the Healing of the Nations (UMH 428)

God is everywhere. We can be, too.

Since we moved to our new building we have enhanced our online experience and are now live streaming our Service directly on our website at <https://www.cumcballston.org>. This change aims to provide you with a more user-friendly and integrated way to join us from the comfort of your home.

We appreciate your continued support and flexibility as we make this transition. Should you encounter any difficulties or have questions during this process, please feel free to reach out to us.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new online platform and creating an even more engaging virtual community.

Thank you for being a valued part of Central United Methodist Church.



Facebook Live

Visit

www.facebook.com/cumcballston



Instagram

Visit

<https://www.instagram.com/cumcballston/>



Youtube

Visit

<https://www.youtube.com/@CUMCBallstonVA>

If you encounter any difficulties accessing the website, you can livestream the event from our YouTube (YT) or Facebook (FB) accounts.



- Donations can be made to Central United Methodist Church as follows:
- PayPal by using the QR code on the left.
- Checks or cash donations can also be dropped in the offering box at the in-person, 10:30-11:30 a.m. worship services on Sunday mornings.
- Checks can be mailed to:
Central United Methodist Church
4201 Fairfax Drive, Suite 1
Arlington, VA 22203