

CENTRAL CHIMES

PAGE 1

A Story Worth Telling

Worship God, Serve Others, and Embrace All



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Reader of the Word – Sharon Lovering

Pianist – Jacob Williams

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Choir – Leading worship in song

Liturgist – Lane Timm



Communion Steward Alexander Robinson with Pastor Sarah



Handmade cards for the troops
(see more inside)



Liturgist – Greg Capaldini

PASTOR'S PAGE

"Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others." 1 Timothy 6:17-18

Dear members and friends of Central UMC,

As I write this message, we're anticipating a likely shutdown of the government if our politicians do not reach an agreement for continued funding of government operations. While this is not the first time that many members of our community have lived through a shutdown, this year has brought so many changes to federal employment that this looming event brings more uncertainty than usual.

The scripture above reminds us not to put our hope in finances, which are uncertain. This reminds us that being uncertain about our economic future is not a new issue that the people of God face. Even when we may not know what the future holds for us, God desires us to cultivate a spirit of generosity. Because God is generous to us, cultivating generous spirits helps us to reflect God in us. Generosity includes, but is not limited to, giving money. When we join the UMC we promise to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

On October 19, we will have an opportunity to make our 2026 commitments to support Central UMC. (Note: we were planning to celebrate commitment Sunday on October 12, but I will be in Ohio for Mark Beckler's funeral that weekend, so we've moved this celebration to October 19.) We've mailed and emailed pledge cards, and there are now printed copies in the lobby if you need one. We're asking you to practice a spirit of generosity in whatever areas you are able to make a pledge. Can you commit to spending time in daily prayer for our church? Can you commit to being present in worship (virtually or in person) on a weekly basis? Can you make a pledge for your 2026 financial giving? Can you serve in a new way in the coming year? (Visit our October 5 ministry fair to talk with ministry leaders about ways to serve!) Can you witness to your faith in a new way and invite friends to join you in worship?

I hope you'll join us in worship on October 19 and celebrate whatever ways you are able to be generous with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Grace and peace, Pastor Sarah

LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

The Leadership board met after worship on September 7, 2025. We're thrilled that Kinhaven had their first day of school on September 2! We discussed the modifications to cleaning due to school hours. The board discussed and approved moving funds from our Wells Fargo checking account to our new checking account at Chase Bank. We will keep our safety deposit box at Wells Fargo. Continued discussion on staffing to cover facilities management, and reviewed two building issues that Gene resolved for us. Looked at upcoming events and agenda items. Ministry Fair will be October 5 after worship, so the leadership board meeting will start at 12:30 after the fair ends.

CENTRAL'S CHURCH CONFERENCE

Central's Church Conference and annual meeting of the corporation will be on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 12 noon following worship and fellowship. Please join us in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend. Only professing members of Central UMC are eligible to vote.

HYMN MASH-UP CHALLENGE: **GOSPEL FAVORITES EDITION!**

Think you know your gospel classics? Let's find out!

Below are **opening lines** from some beloved gospel hymns — but the titles have all been **mixed up and paired with the wrong songs**. The trick? **Each title belongs to a different opening line on this list**. Your challenge is to match every opening line with its **correct title** by swapping them around until they all make sense.

1. "I heard an old, old story..."

Scrambled title: Count Your Blessings

2. "When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed..."

Scrambled title: Victory in Jesus

3. "Would you be free from your burden of sin..."

Scrambled title: Dwelling in Beulah Land

4. "Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night..."

Scrambled title: There Is Power in the Blood

5. "Far away the noise of strife upon my ear is falling..."

Scrambled title: Jesus, I Come

Why This Game is Fun

It's a great reminder of how deeply these hymns are woven into our worship life — and how well you really know them beyond the first few words. You might even rediscover a hymn you haven't sung in years. (answer key on page 7)

DISCOVER & SERVE: MINISTRY FAIR

Join us after worship on Sunday, October 5 for our Ministry Fair! This is your chance to connect, ask questions, and learn more about the many ways to participate in the life of Central UMC. From supporting our Community Café that helps feed neighbors, to joining the Men's Group, to serving on Sundays as a Reader, Liturgist, AV volunteer, or Counter—there are so many opportunities to share your gifts and make a difference.

Tables will be set up in the fellowship hall where you can explore ministries, discover new ways to serve, and find your place in our community.

We can't wait to see you there!

GRANT HELPS NOURISH OUR COMMUNITY CAFÉ

We're thrilled to share that Central UMC has received \$11,000 in grant funding through the Arlington Food Security Mini-Grants to support our Community Café. This funding will help us sustain and grow our efforts to serve neighbors in need through nutritious meals, fellowship, and care.

The Arlington Food Security Mini-Grant program is offered through the Arlington County Department of Human Services, with funding allocated to organizations working to address food insecurity in creative, community-rooted ways. We're deeply grateful to Arlington County for this investment in our mission and look forward to sharing the difference it makes in the months ahead.

2025 WHITE HOUSE **CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FOR SALE**

Central UMC will again be offering the official White House Christmas ornament this fall. This year's ornament celebrates the 150th anniversary of State Dinners at the Executive Mansion.

Cut from delicate brass, etched and printed with enamel ink, and finished with 23-karat gold, the ornament features two highly recognizable plates from the White House State china collection. A red and gold twist cord makes it easy to hang on your tree.

Ornaments are \$24 each. Orders will be taken October 1–19. Please make checks payable to Central UMC and note "ornaments" in the memo line.

Checks may be turned in to the church office or given directly to Pat Barham, who is coordinating the project. All proceeds will support Missions for health kits.

Questions? Contact the church office at office@cumcballston.org or 703-527-8844.

CROP WALK | OCTOBER 18, 9:00 AM

Mark your calendar for the 48th annual Arlington CROP Hunger Walk on Saturday, October 18. The walk covers 3–6 miles through Arlington and is part of a nationwide effort organized by Church World Service (CWS) to fight hunger both locally and globally.

This year is especially critical. Until recently, more than 88% of CWS's funding came from federal sources. Because of major federal cuts to food aid programs and refugee support, CWS has been forced to reduce services, lay off staff, and in some cases close offices. Locally, the Arlington Food Assistance Center is also facing a serious budget shortfall due to increased demand.

CROP Hunger Walks cannot make up all the difference, but they remain a major source of support. We walk to help hungry people — and sadly, we walk because our leaders have cut off food for starving children. A percentage of funds raised will stay right here in Arlington to help our neighbors.

Steve Barham, who has faithfully participated for many years, will be walking again this year. If you would like to support this effort, you can:

- Make checks payable to CWS/CROP with “CROP Walk” in the memo line.
- Give your donation directly to Steve.
- Mail donations to the church office (marked for the CROP Walk).
- All funds will be turned in on the day of the walk.

Thank you for helping our hungry neighbors, near and far.

FALL FESTIVAL AT CAMP HIGHROAD – OCTOBER 25

You're invited to a day of family fun at Camp Highroad's Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 1–7 PM in Middleburg, VA.

Camp Highroad, established in 1949 and set on 620 acres of beautiful wooded land, is a Christian outdoor ministry where children, teens, and adults can grow spiritually, mentally, and physically.

This year's festival will feature live music, a barbecue cook-off, bonfire and s'mores, ziplining, canoeing, archery, and more. It's a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship, fun, and the outdoors together.

For details and tickets, visit camphighroad.org/events or call 540-687-6262.

CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

With creativity and care, members and friends of Central have been busy preparing Christmas cards for Making Cards for Our Troops, Inc.. Bonni Bonneville-Hix, Rose Freeman, and Kay Bond prepared 190 handmade cards, and Sharon Lovering contributed 72 more — together, that's 262 cards! These cards will be sent overseas so service members can share them with their loved ones during the holidays.

The organization works year-round to ensure deployed troops have cards to send home, with early deadlines to make sure they arrive in time for Christmas. This effort reminds our troops that they are remembered and appreciated, especially during a season when separation from family can be hardest.

We give thanks for Sharon, Bonni, Rose, and Kay for sharing their time and talents in such a meaningful way!

MEN'S GROUP – GAMES, FOOTBALL & FELLOWSHIP

All men of Central are invited to our regular monthly Men's Group gathering on Sunday, October 19, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy board and card games together, plus watch the football games on TV. It's a relaxed setting to share laughs, build friendships, and strengthen one another in faith.

These monthly gatherings are a great way to grow in fellowship with other men of the church—encouraging each other as we live out our faith in daily life. Bring yourself, invite a friend, and feel free to bring a snack to share.

And don't forget—our next gathering is scheduled for Sunday, November 16. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

To RSVP for the October 19 gathering, please email office@cumcballston.org or call the office at 703-527-8844.

STAY CONNECTED – YOUR WAY

Would you like to receive the Central Chimes right in your email inbox? It's quick, convenient, and helps us save resources—just email us at office@cumcballston.org or call 703-527-8844 to switch.

Printed copies are available for pick-up at the church anytime during Sunday services throughout the month, and of course, we're still happy to send them to your home by mail if that's easiest for you. Whichever way you choose, we're glad to keep you connected with all that's happening at Central United Methodist Church.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mark Beckler

We hold all who loved Mark in prayer following his unexpected passing while scuba diving in South Carolina. Mark served as our Leadership Board Chair and was deeply valued for his dedication, generosity, and love for community. He joined Central United Methodist Church as his spiritual home in 2003 and treasured the relationships he built here. We give thanks for his life and the legacy of service he leaves behind. Calling Hours are set for October 10 from 4-8. Memorial Service on October 11 at 4:00. First Presbyterian Church Wooster, Ohio.

Read Mark's full obituary:

<https://www.mcintirebradhamsleek.com/2025/09/22/colonel-ret-mark-milo-beckler/>

Scott Hollingsworth

We continue to hold Dianna and her family in prayer following the passing of her son, Scott Hollingsworth, on August 5, 2025. Scott, who joined Central United Methodist Church in 1975, was remembered as a man with a heart of gold, devoted to his family and friends. Services were held in late August.

Read Scott's full obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/arlington-va/scott-hollingsworth-12484222>

Gertrude McKenna

We also remember with love our church member, Gertrude Helen McKenna, who passed away on July 27 at the age of 98. Her daughter, Gail Keong, shared her gratitude for the many cards and prayers from our congregation during Gertrude's time in assisted living. Services and burial were held in Whitehall, NY, on August 4.

Read Gertrude's obituary: <https://www.jillsonfuneralhome.com/obituary/Gertrude-McKenna>

HYMN MASH-UP CHALLENGE: — ANSWER KEY

Here's how the titles should have been paired:

1. "I heard an old, old story..." **Correct title:** Victory in Jesus

(This title was incorrectly paired with #2.)

2. "When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed..." **Correct title:** Count Your Blessings

(This title was incorrectly paired with #1.)

3. "Would you be free from your burden of sin..." **Correct title:** There Is Power in the Blood (This title was incorrectly paired with #4.)

4. "Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night..." **Correct title:** Jesus, I Come

(This title was incorrectly paired with #5.)

5. "Far away the noise of strife upon my ear is falling..." **Correct title:** Dwelling in Beulah Land (This title was incorrectly paired with #3.)

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