

CENTRAL CHIMES

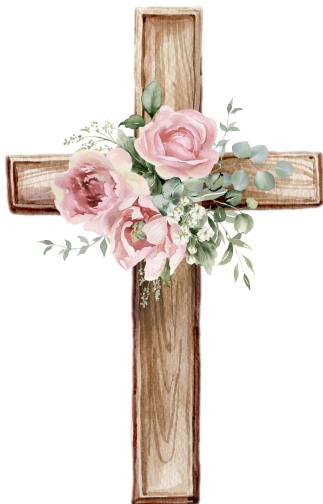
Hands, Hearts, and Prayers



Circle of Community – CUMC gather in a circle, holding hands at the close of worship.



Releasing into God's Grace – Parishioners place prayers in water to let go.



Music in Worship – Faby Rosado shares his musical gift.

PASTOR PAGE

“This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!” - Psalm 118:24 (CEB)

Dear Family and Friends of Central UMC,

Easter Sunday, April 5, marks the end of the season of Lent. Forty days of fasting gives way to a season of feasting! Easter is not just a single Sunday. Easter is a season, and it lasts fifty days.

We spend forty days walking toward the cross, and then we spend fifty days celebrating the empty tomb. We celebrate longer than we prepare. The Easter season stretches from Resurrection Sunday all the way to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit swept through the disciples and the church was born. Fifty days of alleluias. Fifty days of reminding one another that death did not have the final word. Fifty days of living as people who have been given a reason to hope.

Celebrating the entire season of Easter is an invitation to linger in joy. Like any spiritual gift, Joy grows when we nurture. Here are a few simple practices for the Easter season to encourage you to linger in a spirit of Joy:

Give thanks daily. Each morning, name one thing you are grateful for. Gratitude is the soil in which joy takes root.

Sing. There is a reason the church bursts into song at Easter. Music loosens something in us that ordinary words cannot reach. Sing in the car, in the kitchen, or outside as you walk in nature.

Gather at the table. Share meals with people you love. The earliest Christians recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. So can we.

Read slowly. Spend time in the resurrection stories of the Gospels this season. Read them as if for the first time, and let wonder do its work.

Tell someone. Joy multiplies when it is shared. Tell a neighbor, a friend, or a stranger what Easter means to you. The Easter greeting is simple and ancient: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

We are Easter people, and this season of fifty days is our reminder that joy is not a brief interruption in a difficult life. Welcome to the season of resurrection. Let's celebrate!

Grace and peace, Pastor Sarah

EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

The **Defying Limits** worship series is a reclamation of the radical, rule-bending identity that birthed Methodism. We'll use the book "Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity" by Dr. Ashley Boggan. What does she mean by "vile-tality"? For John Wesley, being "vile" was not about wickedness; it was a deliberate choice to step outside the "decency and order" of established church protocol and social norms to ensure the Gospel reached those on the margins.

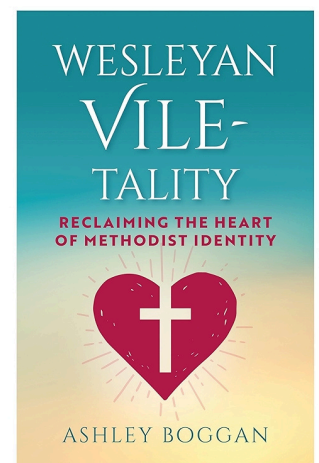
To understand our mission as Methodists, we must return to **April 1739 in Bristol, England**—the "ground zero" of our movement. It was here that John Wesley used the word "vile" to express the call he heard from God to defy the limits of polite society in order to live more fully as a disciple of Jesus.

This series invites us to embrace a spirit that pushes boundaries, ensuring that no person, regardless of identity or status, is excluded from God's love.

EASTER BIBLE STUDY: DEFYING LIMITS

Our Easter season Bible study follows the themes of the book Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity by Dr. Ashley Boggan. This six-session Bible study is designed to move from an understanding of Methodist history to a radical reclamation of Wesleyan vile-tality. Centered on the moment

John Wesley "submitted to be more vile" in spreading the love of God to all people, Ashley Boggan argues that Wesleyan vile-tality is at the core of who we are as Methodists. As rule-benders, rabble-rousers, and outcast-embracers, those early Methodists stood out and stood up. She traces how that original identity was lost as the predecessor denominations to The United Methodist Church grew and began to embrace respectability over "vile-tality." In an accessible and engaging account of a fascinating history, these stories of our past call us to understand who we were, question who we are, and reclaim who we should be.



Class meets via zoom on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. from April 13 to May 18. To sign up please email Pastor Sarah at pastor@cumcballston.org or call her at 703-527-1783.



MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER CHURCH

Join us on Thursday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a special Maundy Thursday Dinner Church service. As we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, we will gather around the table for a meaningful evening of worship, reflection, and Holy Communion.

Together we will share a meal and enter more deeply into the story of Christ's love and service as we begin the journey toward the cross.

EASTER WORSHIP AND POTLUCK BRUNCH

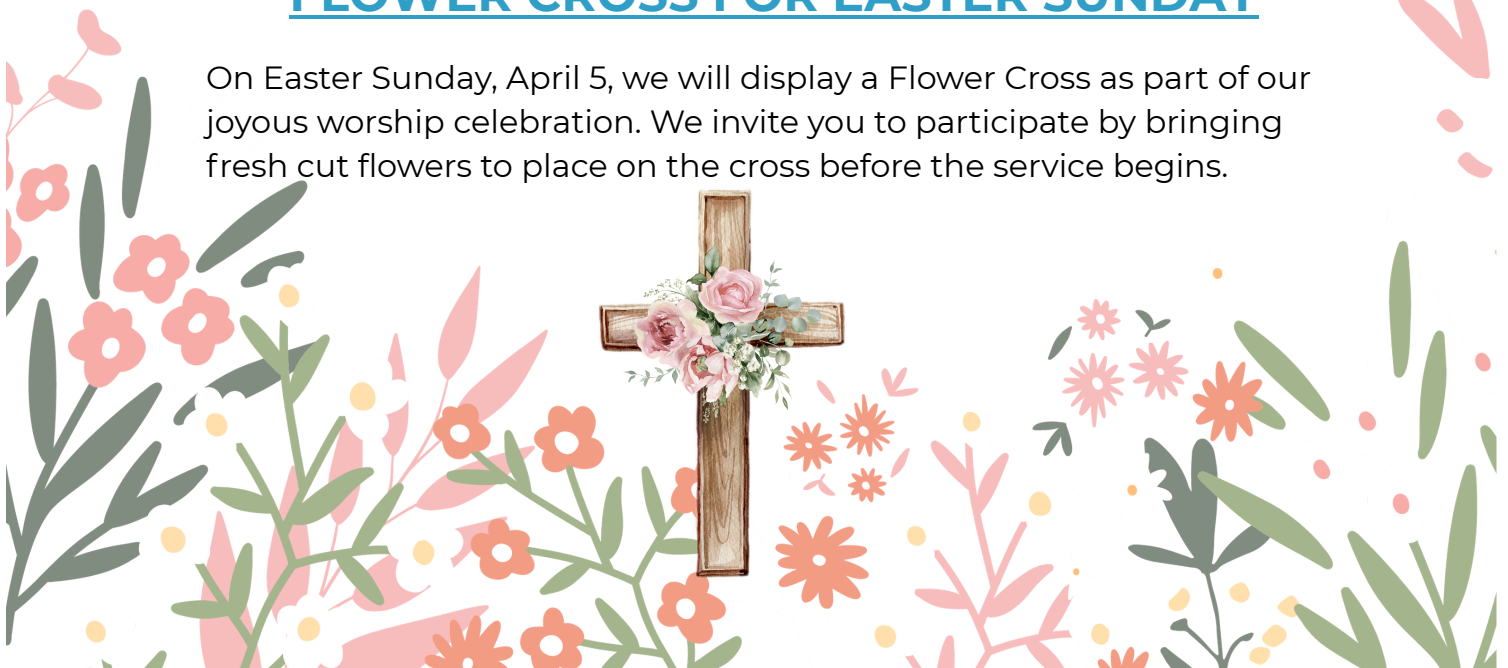
We invite you to celebrate Easter Sunday at Central UMC on April 5, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. Together, we will rejoice in the hope and promise of the Resurrection through vibrant worship, meaningful music, and the proclamation of Christ's victory over death.

After the service, please join us in the fellowship hall for a festive potluck brunch. Bring your favorite dish to share as we continue the celebration with food, fellowship, and community. Easter is a time of joy and renewal, and we would love for you to be part of this special day.

All are welcome—invite a friend!

FLOWER CROSS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, April 5, we will display a Flower Cross as part of our joyous worship celebration. We invite you to participate by bringing fresh cut flowers to place on the cross before the service begins.



HOPPIN' DOWN THE BUNNY TRAIL

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held after church on Sunday, April 5, and we can't wait to celebrate with kids ages 1–12! Last year's hunt was a huge hit, and this year promises even more fun as the children search for eggs and enjoy the excitement of Easter.

Want to join the fun? Volunteers are needed to:

- Hide the eggs
- Gather the kids by age groups (1–4, 5–8, 9–12)
- Help put supplies away afterward

If you would like to help with the egg hunt or have questions, please **contact Sharon Lovering via email at** kidmin@cumcballston.org. Thank you so much for your help in making this a fun and memorable event for our kids!



Come join us on Friday, April 17 from 5:00–8:00 PM for an evening of singing, laughter, and fellowship! Videoke—also known as video karaoke—lets you sing along to your favorite songs with lyrics on screen, so everyone can join in the fun.

Everyone is welcome—bring your voice, your joy, and a dish to share if you'd like. We can't wait to see you there!

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

[SUNDAY BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE](#)

The Sunday church bulletin is now available on our website for all who attend online. You can download it or view it during the service to stay connected with announcements, readings, and service details.

Access it here: www.cumcballston.org/worship-and-events/

LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE – CLASSICAL EDITION

by Greg Capaldini, CUMC Music Director

As we enter into the Easter Season, it's naturally a time to think about making some serious noise. I'm happy to share a list of choral and symphonic works that do so.

Among choral works look for one's entitled "Requiem" or some variant. And the first magic word is "Sanctus," the portion we recite as "Holy, Holy, Holy" at Communion. Gabriel Fauré's Requiem is mostly sedate, but in this section he lets loose with the text "Hosanna in excelsis." Maurice Dufay does much the same, and even doubles the volume. Even the gentle, unaccompanied setting by Ildebrando Pizzetti blossoms at this point. Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, incorporating devastating poetry by Wilfred Owen, has a rare moment of exultation in this portion.

The other magic words in Requiem settings are "Dies Irae," the evocation of violent end times. W.A. Mozart gives us two brisk minutes of operatic drama, and Giuseppe Verdi calls for trumpet players in both the orchestra and the back of the auditorium. Hector Berlioz shamelessly calls for four brass groups in the room's four corners, this on top of a main orchestra with 12 horns and 16 timpani, no lie. (He bragged that the noise gave someone a seizure at one performance.)

As for instrumental works, the so-called "Organ Symphony" of Camille Saint-Saëns quickly comes to mind with that instrument's grandiose entrance in the work's concluding portion. Alexander Scriabin's Poem of Ecstasy culminates with some serious racket, no surprise since the composer was, to put it nicely, kind of nuts. Among evocations of nature, the prize goes to Jón Leifs, the Icelandic composer who depicted the volcano Hekla with unrestrained violence in the work bearing its name. And if it's man-made noise you prefer, try George Antheil's Ballet Mécanique.

My favorite high-decibel example comes from Gustav Mahler, and no, I'm not talking about the finale of his Resurrection Symphony, glorious as it is. Rather, look for the Symphony of a Thousand, his Eighth, for an amazingly constructed crescendo in its last six minutes. The work calls for eight vocal soloists, two adult choruses, a children's chorus, and a huge orchestra – easily a troupe of several hundred if not a thousand.

Have at it – you've earned it!



HYGIENE KITS FOR CONFERENCE

We are happy to continue our tradition of sending **Hygiene Kits** to Conference, helping those who have been affected by tornadoes, floods, and other emergencies.

In the past, proceeds from our White House ornament sales have gone to support missions at Conference. This year, you can be part of this meaningful project by donating to **Missions**—just put “**Kits**” in the memo line of your check.

By donating, you help us purchase supplies in bulk to make complete kits, ensuring every kit reaches someone who truly needs it. Your generosity provides comfort and care when it matters most.

We will be collecting donations **through the middle of May**. Thank you for helping our church make a real difference in the lives of those in need!

For questions or more information, please see **Pat Barham** or contact the church office at office@cumcballston.org

LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that **Greg Capaldini** has been confirmed as our permanent Music Director! Greg has done an outstanding job stepping into expanded duties, including providing accompaniment and special musical services following Jacob Williams' departure in January 2026.

At the **Church Conference** following the service on **March 22, 2026**, **Gene Cross, Lane Timm, Carroll Cobb, and Pat Barham** were approved as members of the new Parsonage **Committee (Phase II)**. This committee will work with real estate professionals to determine whether to renovate the existing parsonage or purchase a new parish home.

New Restricted Access signs have been installed on all exterior CUMC doors to help prevent unauthorized entry. Access to private areas is now allowed only with management permission.

Easter is April 5, 2026! Donations of individually wrapped candy (no lollipops or nut-containing candy, please) are appreciated for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Next Board Meetings: April 12, 2026, and May 31, 2026 (May and June combined).

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.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE. WE CAN BE, TOO.

Join Us Online!

Can't make it to church in person? Watch our Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. live on cumcballston.org, YouTube, or Facebook.

Follow us for updates and community highlights:



Facebook Live

www.facebook.com/cumcballston



Instagram

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



Youtube

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

Support Our Church



Your gifts help us serve our community and grow our ministries.

Scan the QR code to donate via PayPal, or give in person at our Sunday service (10:30–11:30 a.m.).

Checks can also be mailed to:

Central United Methodist Church
4201 Fairfax Drive, Suite 1
Arlington, VA 22203