

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Defying Limits



In Death, There Is Resurrection

APRIL 5, 2026

4201 FAIRFAX DRIVE, SUITE 1, ARLINGTON, VA 22203

We Gather

Prelude "Rigaudon" by André Campra

Welcome
(Scan the QR code for digital connection card)



*Song "Christ the Lord Is Risen" TFWS #2116, vv. 1&7

*Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: We gather as people who believe that death does not have the final word.

People: God's love defies every limit.

Leader: We come not only to remember a resurrection, but to be shaped by one.

People: God's love defies every limit.

Leader: Come as you are. You are welcome here.

People: God's love defies every limit.

Leader: We worship the God who defied death, and who calls us to carry that same love into a world that needs it.

People: God's love defies every limit. Alleluia! Amen.

*Song "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" UMH #304

Prayers of the People

Leader: God, through your mercy,

People: Your love defies every limit.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

We Hear

Anthem "For Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" by Jay Althouse

Children's Sermon

Solo "The Lord's Prayer"
Dr. Carl Tanner, Tenor

Prayer of Illumination "Christ is Alive" UMH #318, v.5

Scripture Luke 24:1-12 (Common English Bible)

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. 5 The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8 Then they remembered his words. 9 When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. 11 Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. 12 But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“In Death, There Is Resurrection”

We Respond

Invitation to the Table

Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pardon

Leader to people:

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were still sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people:

Glory to God! Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the
breath of life. When we turned away, and our love
failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be
our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with
milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company
of heaven we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from
slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new
covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a
living hope through the resurrection of your Son from
the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people,
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called
us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be

with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Distribution Of The Communion Elements

Please come forward as you feel led. You'll be offered a piece of gluten-free bread to dip into the cup of grape juice.

Prayer after Communion

**Eternal God,
we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Solo "The Holy City Music"
 Dr. Carl Tanner, Tenor

*Giving our gifts to God and passing the peace



To donate online please scan the QR code.

To give cash or check please put your donation in the basket in the front of the sanctuary next to the baptismal font.

Prayer of Dedication

We Go

Announcements

*Song "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" UMH #302, vv. 1,2, & 6

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction "Go Now in Peace" UMH #665

Postlude "Trumpet Tune" by Henry Purcell

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Liturgist	Lane Timm
Reader of the Word	Tricia O'Hara
Pianist	Greg Capaldini
Communion Server	Pat Barham
Communion Steward	Pat Barham
Guest Musician	Dr. Charles Ciorba
Soloist	Dr. Carl Tanner
Preacher	Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Assistive Listening Available

You can now connect your Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids directly to our sound system using the *ListenWIFI* app on your smartphone. Look for laminated signs at the sanctuary entrances for simple setup instructions. Need help? Just ask a greeter or staff member—we're happy to assist!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Potluck Brunch – Today

After worship today, join us in the fellowship hall for a potluck brunch. Come enjoy good food, great conversation, and a joyful time of fellowship as we celebrate Easter together!

Easter Egg Hunt – Today

The Easter Egg Hunt is happening right after worship today! 🥚
All children are invited to join the fun—there are **eggs to find, prizes to discover, and lots of excitement to share!**

Grab your baskets and come celebrate together!

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.

Church Fellowship Videoke Night (Video Karaoke)

Join us Friday, April 17 from 5:00–8:00 PM for a fun evening of singing, laughter, and fellowship! *Videoke* is video karaoke—sing along to your favorite songs with lyrics on screen.

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.

Join the Choir!

Do you love singing? Come share your voice with our choir! We welcome all skill levels and would love to have you be part of our harmonious community. Practice sessions are at 9 AM on Sunday in the 2nd-floor music and meeting room.

Please reach out to our Music Director Greg Capaldini in person or send a message to conductor@cumcballston.org if you're interested and let your voice be heard!

*Please stand in body or spirit.

An Invitation to a Virtual Bible Study from Carroll Cobb

Hello everyone. The Rowdy, Motley, Jesus-lovin', and definitely crazy Bible Study crew is currently studying the book of Ezra. 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 703 527-8844 or office@cumcballston.org. And just know that we would love to have you join us!

Join the Prayer Chain

"Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2

Be part of a ministry of care, hope, and encouragement through prayer. Our Prayer Chain email goes out weekly, and more often as needed for time-sensitive requests, so that our church family can lift one another up.

Want to pray for others? Need prayer? Write your request on a Connect Card and place it in the offering basket, or email office@cumcballston.org

Your prayers matter. Together, we carry one another's burdens in love.

Considering Membership at Central UMC?

At Central, all are welcome to worship God and serve others. You don't need to be a member to take part in the life of our church. Still, for many, church membership is a meaningful step in growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Membership is a commitment to support the ministries of Central with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

If you're discerning this next step in your faith journey, we'd love to talk with you. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah at 703-527-1783 or pastor@cumcballston.org.

Church Office Closed – Easter Monday

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, April 6, 2026, in observance of Easter. The office will reopen on Tuesday, April 7 during regular business hours.

If you need assistance while the office is closed, please email or leave a voicemail. We will return your message as soon as possible after we reopen.

Sunday Parking Garage Reminder

The underground parking garage is available for all worship attendees on Sundays—**no key fob or permit needed** during worship hours!

- Enter the driveway **between the church/Unity Homes building and First Down Sports Bar** (off Fairfax Drive).
- Use the **garage entrance on the right** side of the driveway. Park in any space marked **“Church.”**

Follow the signs to the **church elevator** and come on up!

*Please stand in body or spirit.