

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FORWARD THROUGH THE FLAME:



DISCIPLES SERVE JOYFULLY

JUNE 14, 2026

4201 FAIRFAX DRIVE, SUITE 1, ARLINGTON, VA 22203

We Gather

Prelude "Majesty" by Jack Hayford

Welcome

(Scan the QR code for digital connection card)



*Song "Living for Jesus" TFWS #2149, v.4 (no refrain)

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts.

People: We are loved. We are called.

Leader: Christ equips us and sends us into the world.

People: To Love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Leader: We love, serve, and lead in our neighborhood and to the ends of the earth.

People: We do not go alone. God goes before us.

All: Forward through the flame! Let us worship God!

*Song "Here I Am, Lord." UMH #593

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

We Hear

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination "Come Away with Me" TFWS 2202, v.1

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Scripture 1 Peter 4:8-11 (Common English Bible)

Above all, show sincere love to each other, because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins. 9 Open your homes to each other without complaining. 10 And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. 11 Whoever speaks should do so as those who speak God's word. Whoever serves should do so from the strength that God furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To him be honor and power forever and always. Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ"

We Respond

Sermon Reflection Questions

1. Peter writes that we are to be "good managers of God's diverse gifts." What does it mean to you to be a "good manager" rather than an "owner" of your gifts and abilities? How does this shift in perspective change the way you approach service?
2. Joyful service flows from our response to God's goodness. When have you felt like serving others was a burden rather than a joy? What made the difference?
3. Consider your unique combination of gifts, passions, and life experiences. Where do you sense God calling you to serve right now? Is there something holding you back from saying "yes" to God's call?

Prayer

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.

Miracle Sunday Introduction

*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.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*Song UMH #95 Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

We Go

Announcements

*Song "Take My Life, and Let It Be" UMH #399

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
TFWS #2171, v.1

Postlude "Great is the Lord" by Michael W. Smith

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Liturgist	Jeanie Cross
Reader of the Word	Alisa Thomas
Pianist	Lane Timm
Preacher	Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen

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

Church Bowling Afternoon – Saturday, June 20

Looking for a fun afternoon of fellowship? Join us for a church bowling outing on Saturday, June 20 at 2:00 PM at Lucky Strike Bowling, 320 23rd Street S, Arlington, VA 22202. Whether you're a seasoned bowler or haven't bowled in years, everyone is welcome!

RSVP is appreciated to help us plan. Please contact the church office at 703-527-8844 or office@cumcballston.org.

Virginia Annual Conference

Please keep our delegation in your prayers as they attend the Virginia Annual Conference at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, June 17–20. Pastor Sarah, Vivian Joel, Tricia O'Hara, Gene Cross, and Steve and Pat Barham will join clergy and lay members from across the conference for worship, fellowship, and the work of the church.

We ask for your prayers for safe travels, wisdom, and God's guidance throughout the conference.

Those wishing to follow along online can find livestream information and conference updates at vaumc.org/ac2026.

Share Your Musical Gifts This Summer

Musicians and singers of CUMC, have you ever wanted to share your gifts in Sunday worship without making a regular time commitment? Each Sunday from the July 4th weekend through Labor Day weekend, there will be opportunities to contribute by playing an instrument, singing, or even gathering an informal group.

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There may be openings for preludes and postludes, accompaniment for congregational hymns, or special music in place of the usual choir anthem.

If you are interested, please email Greg Capaldini at conductor@cumcballston.org or leave a message with the church office at 703-527-8844.

An Invitation to a Virtual Bible Study from Carroll Cobb

The Tuesday Bible Study led by Carroll Ellis Cobb will begin a study of the book of Esther on Tuesday, June 16. The group meets 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.

So, if you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office at office@cumcballston.org.

The First 15 Course – Emergency Preparedness Training

Join us Monday, October 19 from 6:30–9:00 PM for *The First 15*, a free emergency preparedness and response training offered in partnership with Arlington County Emergency Management.

This hands-on course equips participants to respond in the critical first minutes of an emergency before first responders arrive. Training includes emergency planning, building a basic emergency kit, calling 9-1-1 effectively, situational awareness, psychological support, and basic first aid skills such as bleeding control. This training is open to all and especially valuable for those involved in church ministries, hospitality, or community outreach.

There is no cost to attend. To reserve your spot, contact the church office at 703-527-8844 or office@cumcballston.org

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 Conference on June 28, 2026

We will hold a Church Conference on Sunday, June 28, at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary. This will be an in-person meeting only—there will not 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, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

This is an important time in the life of our church, and all Professing Members of Central UMC are encouraged to attend and participate in this time of prayerful discernment and voting. We hope you will make plans to be there.

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