CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORLD SERIES OF STEWARDSHIP

BUILD YOUR RUNS:
Inspire Others to Give

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

4201 FAIRFAX DRIVE, SUITE 1, ARLINGTON, VA 22203

We Gather

Prelude "Ave Verum Corpus" (W.A. Mozart)

Welcome
(Scan the QR code for digital connection card)

*Song "Take My Life, and Let It Be" UMH #399, v.2

*Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, church! God has called each of us by name.
People: We have come to worship, knowing there is a place for each of us on this team.
Leader: We do not come to worship because we are perfect.
People: We come to worship because we are loved.
Leader: Everything we have belongs to God.
People: We offer God our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.
Leader: Come with your whole heart, for the Giver of every good gift welcomes us.
People: With all that we are, we worship God!

*Song "Whom Shall I Send" UMH #582

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

We Hear

Anthem "Dreamers and Doubters" (J. Martin)

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination "Jesus Calls Us" UMH #398, v. 4

Scripture 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 (Common English Bible)

Brothers and sisters, we want to let you know about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia. 2 While they were being tested by many problems, their extra amount of happiness and their extreme poverty resulted in a surplus of rich generosity. 3 I assure you that they gave what they could afford and even more than they could afford, and they did it voluntarily. 4 They urgently begged us for the privilege of sharing in this service for the saints. 5 They even exceeded our expectations, because they gave themselves to the Lord first and to us, consistent with God's will. 6 As a result, we challenged Titus to finish this work of grace with you the way he had started it.

7 Be the best in this work of grace in the same way that you are the best in everything, such as faith, speech, knowledge, total commitment, and the love we inspired in you. 8 I'm not giving an order, but by mentioning the commitment of others, I'm trying to prove the authenticity of your love also. 9 You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although he was rich, he became poor for your sakes, so that you could become rich through his poverty.

10 I'm giving you my opinion about this. It's to your advantage to do this, since you not only started to do it last year but you wanted

to do it too. 11 Now finish the job as well so that you finish it with as much enthusiasm as you started, given what you can afford. 12 A gift is appreciated because of what a person can afford, not because of what that person can't afford, if it's apparent that it's done willingly. 13 It isn't that we want others to have financial ease and you financial difficulties, but it's a matter of equality. 14 At the present moment, your surplus can fill their deficit so that in the future their surplus can fill your deficit. In this way there is equality. 15 As it is written, 'The one who gathered more didn't have too much, and the one who gathered less didn't have too little.'

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Build Your Runs: Inspire Others to Give"

We Respond

Sermon Reflection Questions

1. The Macedonians gave out of their lack and begged for the privilege of giving. What do you think made that possible for them? What helps you give gladly, and what gets in the way?

2. Paul says, "A gift is appreciated because of what a person can afford, not because of what that person can't afford, if it's apparent that it's done willingly." How does this change the way you think about your own prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness? Where might you be holding back because you think what you have to offer is too small?

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Beverly Morris Armstrong - 5/22/26

David Sibert - 4/16/26
Ronald Lee Hardman - 4/26/26
Bill Papiernak - 5/8/26
James F. Almand - 5/14/26
Susan Weaver - 5/26
Kathy Kane - 6/27/26
Nansalmaa Tseren - 8/7/26
Christine Bonneville - 9/5/26
Joseph Eddie Blankenship - 9/7/26
Johnny Cole - 9/8/26
John Strong - 9/26

All Saints Day by Beth A. Richardson

For all the saints...
Who birthed and nurtured,
others and fathers,
Grandfathers and grandmothers,
Aunts, uncles, cousins, friends,
We are grateful. Alleluia, alleluia!

For all the saints...
Who loved and cherished,
Husbands, wives, partners,
Friends and lovers,
We are grateful. Alleluia, alleluia!

For all the saints...
Who died too soon,
Whose absence pains us still.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

We remember with tears,
Aches in our hearts,
And yet, we are grateful. Alleluia, alleluia!

For all the saints...
Who taught and mentored,
Teachers and spiritual directors,
Older friends and younger prophets,
Guiding us, inspiriting us,
We are grateful. Alleluia, alleluia!

For all the saints...
Who watch over us,
Pray for us,
Sit with us,
Guide us,
We are grateful.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

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.
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, God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of our ancestors, God of generations yet to be born.

We come to this table because you are here.
We come because you have come to us in Christ Jesus.

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!

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Pastor: Blessed indeed is Christ Jesus, who comes to us not because we are worthy, but because, through your grace, you call us friends.

We come to remember how much you love us, how deeply you have embraced us, how thoroughly you have forgiven us.

We come to remember the words and actions of our savior Jesus Christ, who, on the night he was betrayed, took the bread, and 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.”

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.

We come as we are, because there is no other way to come to your table.
We come as we are, because we know that only through Christ can we be healed.

We come because we long to feel your presence, O God, and to know that you are with us.
We long to be healed and made new. We come to proclaim our hope in you, our source and our life and our redeemer.

We come because this is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there's always room for more.

Renew our communion with all your saints: for saints no longer with us, especially those we have honored here; for all saints now living among us, who gift us with their presence in our lives; and for saints who will come after us, continuing Your Good News into the future.

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!**

*Please stand in body or spirit.

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.

*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.

*Song UMH #95 Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

We Go

Announcements

*Song "Take Time to Be Holy" UMH #395

*Benediction

*Sung Benediction

"Hold You in Our Circle" by Emily Roblyn © Copyright 2003

Hold you in our circle, Hold you in our love.
Hold you in our circle, Hold you in our love.

Postlude "Sung Outside the Prince's Door" (E. MacDowell)

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Liturgist	Brian Mills
Reader of the Word	Dainty Ignacio
Pianist	Greg Capaldini
Communion Server	Dainty Ignacio
Communion Steward	Pat Barham
Preacher	Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen

Assistive Listening Available
Connect your Bluetooth hearing aids to our sound system with the ListenWIFI app on your smartphone. Find setup instructions on signs at the sanctuary entrance, or ask a greeter for help.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Day

Today is All Saints Sunday, a time when we remember with love those who have gone before us in faith. As Hebrews reminds us, we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses” who encourage us in our journey of faith. During today’s worship, we’ll give thanks for those from our church family and those connected to Central who have died, honoring their memory and the lasting impact they’ve had on our lives.

Commitment Sunday – November 8

Join us on Sunday, November 8, for Commitment Sunday as we celebrate the many ways we share our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness at Central. As part of our *World Series of Stewardship* series, we invite you to prayerfully consider your commitment for 2027 and return your pledge card by mail, in worship, or online using the QR code. Commitment cards are available on the lobby table.

Together, we can make a difference through God’s work in our church, community, and world.

Church Conference on November 8

Central’s annual Church Conference and meeting of the corporation will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 12 noon, following worship and fellowship, in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend, though only professing members of Central UMC are eligible to vote.

In addition to regular church business, the agenda will include the election of the Parsonage Committee and authorization for the committee to purchase a condominium to replace our current parsonage.

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.

Love One Another Hospitality Guide

Our "Love One Another" Hospitality Guide is now available! Printed copies are available in the lobby, and you can also download a digital copy using the QR code. The guide is designed to help us put hospitality into practice by inviting others to take a seat at the table with us. It includes conversation starters and even recipes shared by members of our church family, both past and present, to help inspire us to follow Jesus' commandment to love one another by building relationships around the table.

We hope you'll take a copy and find a simple way to invite someone to the table.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Virtual Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study led by Carroll Ellis Cobb has just begun a study of the book of Job. The group meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. The Bible study is open to everyone – young and not-so-young, single and married, those who've 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.

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.

Serve in Worship: Liturgists & Readers of the Word

Interested in serving during our worship service? We'd love to have you join us! Consider serving as a Liturgist to help lead parts of our worship service, or as a Reader of the Word to share God's Word with our congregation. Both are wonderful ways to participate in worship and serve our church community. If you're interested in either opportunity, please see Pastor Sarah or email her at pastor@cumcballston.org to sign up or learn more.

The Last Supper: Planning for the End of Life

Church of the Covenant invites the public to a two-part workshop on end-of-life planning on Sundays, November 1 and 8, from 12:15–2:00 p.m. Led by Rev. Caitlin Culp and death doula Kristen Patterson, MS, MPH, the workshop includes lunch and compassionate discussion on advance health care directives, burial options, memorial service planning, and legacy letters.

Location: Fellowship Hall, Church of the Covenant, 2666 Military Road, Arlington, VA. Registration: Scan the QR code to register. Registration is not required but is appreciated to help plan for lunch.

🎶 Join the CUMC Choir! 🎶

Do you love to sing? Come share your voice with the CUMC Choir! We welcome singers of all skill levels and would love to have you join our musical community. Rehearsals are Sundays at 9 a.m. in the 2nd-floor Music & Meeting Room. Please reach out to Greg Capaldini in person or email conductor@cumcballston.org if you're interested—and let your voice be heard!

The November issue of the Central Chimes is now available!

Find updates on upcoming events, worship and fellowship opportunities, church news, and ways to get involved at Central UMC. Pick up a copy at the sanctuary entrance or welcome table, or receive it by email or mail.

To subscribe, indicate your preference on a Connection Card or contact the church office by email or phone.

*Please stand in body or spirit.