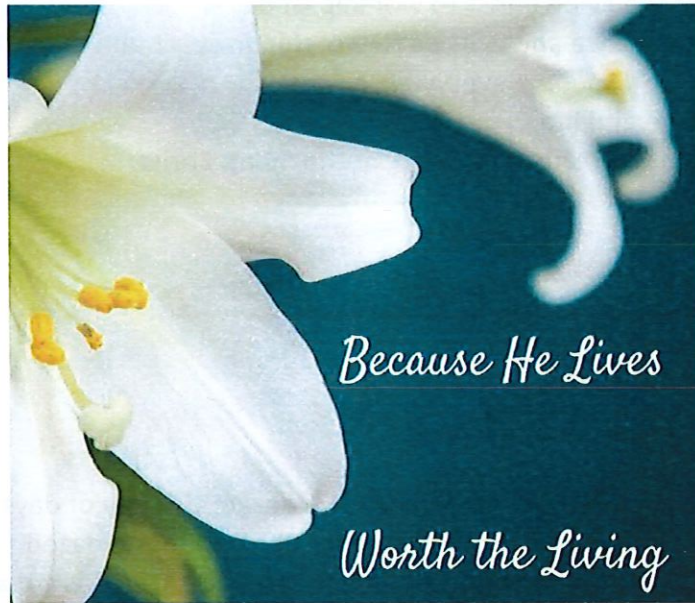


Central United Methodist Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
10:45 a.m.

Our Vision:

***Making Christ known by extending hospitality,
serving the community, pursuing justice and embracing all.***

201 - 3rd Avenue Knoxville TN 37917
www.knoxcentralumc.org

We Gather to Praise God

Prelude

In The Garden

arr. Joel Raney

Welcome

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

Rev. Jimmy Sherrod

Opening Prayer

Rev. Diana Brown Taylor

† Call to Worship

We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

We share God's love and life,

and are renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

The risen Christ is with us!

Praise the Lord!

† Opening Hymn

Christ is Risen

UMH 307

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never more shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

Scripture

John 10:1-10

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Amen.

A Time for Young Christians

Sunday school for nursery through 5th grade is offered every week following children's time except on Sundays when we celebrate Holy Communion (typically the first Sunday of each month).

Prayer Concerns

Sermon

Because He Lives: Worth the Living

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

Chorus

Because He Lives (refrain)

UMH 364

Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know he holds the future. And life is *worth the living* just because he lives.

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Offertory

God Leads Us Along

arr. Larry Shackley

Dedication of Gifts

The Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Anthem

I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Celebration of Holy Communion

UMH 12

The 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. And 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, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

We Are Scattered to Serve God in Our World

† Closing Hymn

His Eye is On the Sparrow (vv. 1-2)

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home?
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

[Refrain] I sing because I'm happy, (I'm happy), I sing because I'm free (I'm free),
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

† Benediction

Postlude

Celebration on "Warrenton"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Prayer List Sunday, May 3, 2026

Larry Brown (Megan Brown's husband) continues to recover at home from a heart attack and stent placement (621 Eleanor ST, 37917).

Al Curl received good reports from both the vascular surgeon and radiation therapist last week.

Joe Mahlum (husband of Marlene) is at Morning Pointe, Powell for respite (4262 Williamson Dr, 37938).

Nancy Morgan (Lori Guess's mother) is home with hospice care (3105 Atoka Ln, 37917).

Sally Ball Morgan hopes to have her gallbladder removed soon (6807 Shady Ln, 37918).

Kathleen and Andrew Palmer welcomed **Robert Justus Palmer**. His big brother is Harris. Everyone is doing well. Robert is the grandson of Jabette Carlson and the late Jack Carlson. He is the nephew of Jeanette and Sam Brewington and a new cousin for Sampson and John.

Ron O'Tool continues to recover from recent surgery (312 Hamilton Rd, 37920).

Larry Ward on the death of his sister **Donna Shirley**, who died Wednesday (4133 Stephanie, Jonesboro, AR 72405).

Presley Kate Copeland (Tyler Lewelling's 7-year-old niece) is experiencing vision problems and will see a neurologist soon.

We pray for peace in the Middle East and for wisdom and discernment from leaders here and across the world. We pray for those in harm's way, both civilians and service members, and for comfort for the families of those deployed.

Please remember to inform Kathy Gant, Pastor Jimmy or Rev. Diana of updates before Thursday at 10am.

Please continue to remember: **Pat Cowart** (Melanie Gangaware's mother), P.O. Box 892, Harrison, 37341, **Cyndi French** (4233 Drifting Drive, 37912), **David Helms** (801 E Inskip Dr, 37912), **Peter Keyes** (2806 N Decatur Rd, Apt. 212, Decatur, GA 30033), **Denver Meier** (6-year-old granddaughter of Mike and Jane Meier), **Joan Moon** (7655 Apple Cross, Corryton, 37721), **Charles Sartwell** (Ann Sartwell's father and former CUMC member, Ivy Park at Monterey, 1110 Cass St, Apt 101, Monterey, CA 93940), **Kathryn Tutterrow** (George Kiley's sister 1746 Loudon Ridge Rd, Lenoir City, 37771), **Carroll and Lucy Varnell** (4408 High School Rd, 37912), **Bill Winans** (3696 Halcyon Trace, Trussville, AL 35173), **A. C. Wilson** (4371 Lifespring Lane, #215, 37918), and **Rev. Grady Winegar** (The Village at Allandale, Virginia's Garden #206, 100 Strickland Court, Kingsport, TN, 37660).

Breakthrough Prayer

Holy Spirit, breakthrough with your resurrection power. We celebrate that Jesus is alive and know that it changes everything! Fill us with your power and welcome us into new life. Help us to love and serve others in response to your love for us. Renew us and release us into the joy and hope of resurrection living. Amen.

Looking Ahead ~ Our Calendar

Weekly:

Builder's Class Bible Study via Zoom, Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Central Harmony, Wednesday at 5:30-6:15

Choir, Wednesday at 6:15 – 7:45 pm

Worship, Sunday at 10:45 am

Monthly:

1st Tuesday – Prayer Group, 10am, # 213
Caswell Manor Lunch Prep.

1st Wednesday – Serve Caswell Manor Lunch

2nd Tuesday – Trustee Meeting, # 209

3rd Thursday – VMC Lunch Prep

3rd Friday – Serve VMC Lunch

May 3	4 th and Gill Home Tour
May 4	Justice Knox Meeting, Room 209, 10:30am
May 5	Prayer Meeting, Room 213, 10am
	Primary Voting, FH
May 7	WOW dinner
May 17	Book Club, Room 213, Noon
May 20	Beaumont Graduation, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

The WOWS women's group is going to dinner! All women of the church are welcome to join us Thursday, May 7, 5:30 pm, at Bravo on Bearden Hill, Kingston Pike/106 Major Reynolds Place 37919. RSVP to Elizabeth Thomas so that we can plan for a reservation – elizabethstomas@comcast.net, 865-755-5234.

The Central UMC Book Club May book selection is the Pulitzer Prize-winning book Gilead. Set in 1956 Iowa, Gilead is structured as a heartfelt letter from 76-year-old Reverend John Ames to his young son. Ames, facing death, reflects on faith, his abolitionist family history, and the beauty of ordinary life, while grappling with his jealousy towards a prodigal family. Gilead is a 2004 novel by American writer Marilynne Robinson. It won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Copies are reasonably priced and readily available. The Central UMC Book Club will discuss Gilead Sunday, May 17 immediately following worship from noon to 1pm in Room 213. Light snacks will be served. Contact Sue Renfro for more information.

We're Hiring! Come join our Central team! We are seeking a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries to help us build a dynamic ministry that forms young disciples! This position is 15 hours per week. Contact Rev. Jimmy Sherrod at jimmy@knoxcentralumc.org for full job description or to submit a resume.

The May/June issues of the Upper Room are available throughout the building.

Tuesday, May 5 is Election Day and we will once again host our Election Day Cafe where we offer refreshments to the community when they come in to vote. We have a few spots left for table hosts and we will always welcome more food. Please see the sign up sheets in the hallway behind the sanctuary.

**Tennessee Valley District
Hands on Mission Project for Liberia**

LAST DAY!!!

Food Bucket List

Pack in a new 5 gallon bucket with lid

2 bags sugar (4-5 lb each)

Rice (2-1lb bags or 1-4 lb bag)

1-2lb bag dried beans

1 container oatmeal (18oz or less)

1 cooking oil (48 oz or less)

There is a \$5 shipping fee for the food buckets.

Plus for 2026, the Tennessee Valley District invites everyone to sponsor Virtual Kits for Zimbabwe. \$5 donation for a Virtual Zimbabwe kit (food, school, health supplies) materials will be purchased in Zimbabwe and assembled for children at Ishe Anesu. Items will be purchased at wholesale prices to maximize our support for Ishe Anesu this year.

Worship Team Interest Meeting! Would you like to serve once a month or every other month? We have options for how you can use your talents and partner with us in the worship service:

Acolyte or Crucifer: Do you have talent in being present or would you like some practice? Carry the light or the cross into the sanctuary and take them back out again at the end of service. We have new people serving here and would love to train a few more people! This could be a once every other month commitment.

Communion: Would you like to help set the stage for worship? You would learn to set up the communion table before service and clean up the elements after the service. We offer communion once a month so if we have 2-4 people willing to help, this would also be a once-every-few-months commitment.

Flower Guild: Are you artistic or would you like to become better at arranging gorgeous decorations?! Melynda and her team are looking for helpers to plan and arrange the Altar flowers. With a few more volunteers this could be a rotation of once every other month. They are good at training if this is something you would like to know more about!! Come find out more to see if this is a good fit for you! The meeting is Sunday, May 24th in room 209 right after the service from 12-1:15. Contact Celeste Davenport at 865-414-4724 for more information.

Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting with us today, we invite you to let us know you were here. In front of you in the pews you will find a visitor card. If you are willing, leave us your name and phone number or e-mail address so that we can connect with you and find out more about you and share more about who we are as well.

Care and Prayer

If you have a prayer request, let us know so we can be in prayer for you. Either use the visitor cards in front of you or e-mail Kathy Gant at gants@att.net

Sunday Morning Coffee

The coffee is on! Every Sunday morning at 9:30 am, you are invited to join us for coffee. Connect with Central folks for fellowship and conversation. Coffee is available from 9:30 until 10:45 am.

The Central Hub

Keep up with what's going on each week by subscribing to our weekly e-newsletter. You can subscribe by going to knoxcentralumc.org and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Spiritual Discipline of Giving and Financial Update

Giving financially is a spiritual discipline and has the power to shape and transform us. When we give, it expresses priorities in our lives. All are encouraged to give out of the abundance that God has provided us. We aren't currently passing the offering plates, but we do ask you to consider giving to the ministries of Central Church in one of the following ways.

- Place your gift in the offering Plate on Sunday Morning. You'll find them as you exit the sanctuary.
- Mail a check to 201 Third Ave. or bring it by the office.
- Give online (text to give) and through the Vanco Mobile App.
- Set up an automatic withdrawal through your checking account. Please reach out to Laurie in the office to sign up.
- Scan the PayPal QR code to donate through PayPal.



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www.knoxcentralumc.org



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