

Central UMC Bulletin for March 30, 2025

Here is today's bulletin. Livestream will begin shortly. You can find our stream on YouTube at CUMCFairmont.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in lent

WELCOME

SONG "Spirit of the Living God" UMH 393

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Melt me mold me

Fill me use me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me (Repeat)

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PRAYER

SONG "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free

My God my Savior has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me

His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free

My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace
My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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GOOD NEWS FOR GOD'S CHILDREN
OFFERTORY

RECOGNITION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERING

You are invited to send in your offering in several ways:

Mail to: Central UMC

301 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont, WV 26554

Setup a recurring payment with your local bank using Bill Pay. There is no
charge for this service and it will be sent directly to the church.

Visit cumcwv.org and click the Give tab

You can also access our giving platform by clicking on About under Facebook
or YouTube

Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PUBLIC DOMAIN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SONG "Reckless Love of God"

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me

You have been so so good to me

Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah
When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down

Coming after me
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah

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SONG "King of My Heart"

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart

Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh

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MESSAGE "Steadfast Love" Pastor Brad Bennett

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32 (NRSV)

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 So he told them this parable: ...

11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

25 "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' 31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

10 Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SONG "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory
Behold the Man upon a cross

My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished
I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom
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BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY Bible study on Wednesdays at 6pm.

April 2: John 12:1-8

April 9: Luke 19:28-40; Luke 22:14-23:56

April 16: Luke 24:1-12

For all Zoom meetings:

[wvumc.zoom.us/my/bradbennett](https://wvumc.zoom.us/j/7466042578) Meeting ID: 746 604 2578 passcode:
grace

Or dial +1 301 715 8592 and enter the Meeting ID: 746 604 2578.

Lent and easter charge-wide services:

Steadfast love

Maundy Thursday: April 17, 7pm @Trinity UMC

Good Friday: April 18, 7pm @Central UMC

Easter sunrise: April 20, 6:30am at Palatine Park

Worship Series: Lent and Easter Series: Steadfast Love

April 6 – Fill Me with Laughter

April 13 – Open the Gates

April 20 – A New Cut

Motivating Recovery: Tuesdays at 6PM

PRAYER CONCERNS: Faith Bowyer, Steve Westfall, Jason Leichliter, Cathy Reed, Chuck & Dawn McClain, Jodi, Christine Cicci, Michael & Brenda Cook, Steve Smith, Bill Wilson, McKinzie Moore, Susan Schmidt, Susan Hinerman, Lesa & Tim Moore Family, Joe Luketic, Dave Raddish, Alex Atwell, Roseann Carr, Jennifer Wella, Dusty Garrison, Mike and Carol Yost, Mickey Swisher, Betty Bennett, Elizabeth Swiger, Dora Kay Grubb, Frank Martino, Linda Ayers, Rod Millson, Rev. DD Meighen, Harry Windon, Patricia Carr, Betty Smith, Jim Hunt, Don Dotson, Jason Dodd at Woodlawn Assisted Living.

Prayer Room Available:

Did you know we have a prayer room? Located at the end of the hall when you come in the back door, it's a quiet and powerful place to pray – anytime! However, it's mostly accessible during office hours, Monday – Thursday, 10am – 2pm. We are placing our current prayer list in the prayer room for your convenience.

Esther Sunday Circle

Sunday, March 30th after church

Ladies, if you are interested in joining the Esther Circle, please join us after church for a light lunch and fellowship.

We are redefining the Esther Circle. We are planning outreach events and fundraising to assist in community and church needs.

The Esther Circle supplies "Birthday in a Bag" to the church food pantry as one of our existing outreach services. This outreach provided a bag with basic necessities for a birthday celebration like; cake mix, icing, foil pan, oil, birthday banners, plates and napkins, etc.

Help us develop ideas for further outreach!

"Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

Esther 4:14

First Sunday Pastries

April 6th make sure to visit the "Central Perks" coffee bar by the gym to have some coffee and pastry before church. The coffee bar is available before each Sunday Service but the first Sunday of the month offers various pastries to enjoy!

H&H Chapel's first pie sale is Fri. April 4.

Orders are due by Sunday March 30.

Give your orders to Sandra Swiger (304/366-8675).

The price of pies will be \$15.00 ea.

Pies are coconut cream, lemon, butterscotch & chocolate.

Workdays are Mon. 3/31 @ 9am, Tue. 4/1 @ 9am,

Thur. 4/3 @ 3pm, & Fri. 4/4 @ 7am.

Pies need to be picked up at noon on Fri. Apr.4.

All help is appreciated.

Steadfast Love: A Lenten Journey Through Worship and Song

This Lent, we invite you to immerse yourself in worship through our Steadfast Love Lenten Playlist, a collection of songs carefully selected by our Music Director, Sunny Moore, to inspire and prepare our hearts as we journey toward Easter.

Our Lenten Playlist features the following songs:

- March 30: King of My Heart – John Mark & Sarah McMillan
- April 6: What a Beautiful Name – Hillsong Worship
- April 13: Power of the Cross – Keith & Kristyn Getty
- April 20: Death Was Arrested – North Point Worship

We encourage you to listen, reflect, and allow these songs to deepen your worship experience. You can access the playlist here: [YouTube Playlist](#).

New Giving Platform: Central will soon be migrating to a new online giving platform called tithe.ly which will also host our new website. This will reduce our hosting costs and only charge transaction fees. Each transaction will have a cost that can be absorbed by the donation or paid by the giver. 2.9% + \$0.30 for debit/credit, 1% + \$0.30 for ACH, 3.5% + \$0.30 for AMEX

If you would like to try our new platform you can use the QR code. Please let us know how it works for you!

Flooding in southern West Virginia and Kentucky: In addition to Early Response teams to the area, here is another urgent need.

Due to the historic flooding in the southern coalfields, the New Vision Depot's supply of UMCOR Cleaning Kits (flood buckets) is rapidly depleting. Now is the time for the UM Connection to respond and resupply the Depot with flood buckets. We are being asked to help with this urgent need. See the included list for cleaning kit supplies and instructions.

You may bring your completed buckets and/or supplies to the church and we will coordinate delivery to our regional drop off point - LIFE UMC

Below is a list of items that are being collected:

Cleaning Kit Materials

- One five-gallon round bucket with lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
No screw lids.

May be used, but must be free from all residual product.

Advertisement on the outside acceptable.

- One 32–64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16–40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner

No spray cleaners

- One 16–34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap
- One 4–8 oz. pump spray air freshener
- One 6–14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10–20 wipes also acceptable)

Pump spray bottles must have protective covers.

- One scrub brush

With or without handle

- 18 re-usable cleaning wipes

No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels

Remove from packaging.

- Five scouring pads

No stainless steel or pads with soap in them

Remove from packaging.

- 36–50 clothespins
- One 50–100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33–45-gallon sizes)

Remove from packaging.

- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1–3 mm thickness)

No surgical masks

- Two pairs kitchen gloves

Durable for multiple uses

Remove from packaging.

- One pair work gloves

Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Last updated September 2024

Assembly Directions

- Place all liquid items on the bottom of the bucket.
- Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items.
- Scouring pads and trash bags can be separated to fit all items in the bucket.
- Clothespins may also be placed in a small re-sealable bag.
- Secure the lid on the filled bucket.

Important Notes

- All items must be new except for the bucket and lid.
- All cleaning agents must be in liquid form. No powders are accepted.
- If items have been omitted, label bucket. Please indicate which items are missing.
- Sponges have been removed from the list of supplies due to the challenge of locating the non-cellulose sponges that prevent mildew.

- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters,

advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols

Calling all soup makers!! Make a pot of your favorite soup and join us after worship on APRIL 6TH for our Chili/Soup Cookoff and Pretzel Luncheon! We will supply the drinks, pretzels, bowls and crackers. Sample them all and vote for your favorites!

Step Up for Mission in Motion!

Join the Mission in Motion Step Challenge this Lent! The West Virginia Annual Conference Wellness Team invites clergy and laity to step up for missions by walking millions of steps from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (April 19, 2025) while raising funds for conference-affiliated mission projects. We are currently over 2 million.

Each district will compete as a team, led by their District Superintendent, with the winning district recognized at Annual Conference. Steps will be tracked using the StepUp app.

How to Join:

1. Download & set up the StepUp app: <https://get.thestepupapp.com>.
2. Contact your district admin for an invite. (or Pastor Brad)
3. Accept the invite & start stepping!

Support Missions:

Encourage family, friends, and your congregation to sponsor your steps—either a lump sum or per step. Example: \$1 per 10,000 steps = \$100 for 1 million steps!

Donating Funds:

Donations should be given through your local church. Churches will send a check payable to WV Conference Treasurer with "MIM Steps Challenge Fund Raiser" in the memo line to:

WV Conference Treasurer, PO Box 2469, Charleston, WV 25329-2469.

For questions, contact Rev. Dan Lowther at dclowther@gmail.com or (304) 642-0897.

Let's step up for missions and wellness together!

SPRING LAY ACADEMY:

Our Spring Lay Academy will be held at Life UMC on Saturday, May 3rd. I've emailed the folks I had on our lay servant email list. Please share the information below with your congregations too.

Classes offered are:

Basic (Leadership 101) with District Superintendent Amy Shanholtzer

Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders with Deborah Shaffer, a
Certified Lay Minister in the Little Kanawha District

Leading Public Prayer with Rev. Sam Haught

Rediscovering Your Spiritual Gifts with Pastor Pamela Todd

The link to the registration form is on our district website and here:

<https://wvumc-reg.brtapp.com/MonValleyDistrict2025SpringL...> Folks
need to register by April 18th.

You can call the district office if you have questions. (304) 366-6811