

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." ²⁰ But, he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

(Exodus 33:12-23, New Revised Standard Version, NRSV)

Loose Lines from Daniel's Den...

October has finally arrived! Let's hope some nice autumn weather arrives with it! One thing we do know, Halloween will be here soon. It seems like stores have had Halloween merchandise on display since the beginning of August, though. Sometimes, I like to stop and look at the children's Halloween costumes along the aisles. Most of the time, they depict princesses, or superheroes, or cartoon characters. Coincidentally, most of the time, the costumes are tied in with a movie that is being shown in theaters. While I am in the Halloween section, I also try to check out the adult masks I find there. Usually, they are a collection of ghoulish clowns, ghosts, goblins, and various monsters.

Masks used to be the best part of a Halloween costume. Now not so much, because masks can obscure person's vision. That is dangerous. Someone could trip over an unseen obstacle, or miss a stairstep and fall down, or walk out in front of an oncoming automobile! Many costumes no longer come with masks and use face paint instead. When I was growing up, I wore two kinds of masks on Halloween. A "Lone Ranger" type mask that covered my nose and eyes. A "Groucho Marx" type mask that had fake glasses, a fake mustache, and a great big fake nose. As I got older, I found out that a stocking pulled down over my head would do just fine. I would not advise anyone to do this anymore, because your neighbors would probably call the police!

When Moses met God, God spoke to him from a burning bush. At other times, God spoke out of thick smoke. Moses did not see God's face. By the time the events of Exodus 33:12-23 occurred, Moses and the Hebrews had been through a lot: the plagues of Egypt, Passover, the escape through the Red Sea, and the journey into the wilderness. There in the wilderness, God fed to Hebrews with quail and manna that fell from the sky. God provided water for them from a rock. God had given them the Ten Commandments and the Law. Yet the Hebrews continued to complain and rebel against God. The Hebrews complained and rebelled to the extent that they made an idol, in the form of a golden bull, and worshiped it. When God decided to wipe out the Hebrews because of their sins and start over, Moses interceded on the Hebrews' behalf. God changed his mind and spared the Hebrews, but God threatened to remove himself from their presence because they were "a stiff-necked people".

When Moses journeyed up the mountain to intercede with God on behalf of the Hebrews yet again, Moses insisted that God remain present with the Hebrews. When God relented and promised to remain with the Hebrews, Moses wanted some assurance of God's promise, so Moses asked to see God in all of God's glory. God agreed, but told Moses, *...you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.* God would only allow Moses to see God's back.

The Bible says after Moses would speak with God, the skin on Moses' face shone. Moses' shining face frightened the Israelites such that, eventually, Moses had to wear a veil – a mask. When Moses spoke with God or spoke God's Word to the people, Moses would remove the veil. After Moses addressed the people, he would put the veil on his face until he went to speak with God.

We use masks to hide our faces. We use masks so that people cannot see our true identities. Masks are quite effective for trick-or-treaters, but masks are quite ineffective when it comes to hiding from God. God knows our true identities. While it was true in the time of Moses that no one could look upon the face of God and live due to the rebellious, sinful, nature of human beings, that is no longer the case! You see, God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus has looked upon us, our rebellion and our sin, and chosen to offer us forgiveness. Jesus made that offer through his crucifixion and resurrection. There is no need to hide. There is no need for a mask. That is why we can sing, *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.*



Deacon's Dialogue October 2026

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Central, you are a generous and giving people. Throughout the years, you have given back to this community in more ways than can be counted. In most recent years, you have helped to provide nutrition to vulnerable children and their families, helped to ensure unhoused folks could get relief from the cold and have a hot meal, welcomed individuals (through AA & Al-anon) who have struggled with alcoholism or substance abuse, as well as their families, created hope in survival bags for those who have suffered overdose, given encouragement to those seeking an education, provided comfort and respite to those grieving profound losses, and so much more. Have you ever asked yourself what our community would do without us? Why does our outreach matter? And where can we stand in the gaps?

The gaps have been on my mind quite a bit, and The Holy Spirit seems to be nudging our faith community to acknowledge them and to prayerfully discern how we can work alongside God to stand in those gaps here in Mount Airy. This summer, we were invited by a regional representative of the North Carolina Council of Churches, Donna Parks Hill (also a United Methodist), to apply for a program recently made available to rural churches in our state called The Abundant Life, an initiative of the Partners in Health and Wellness division of The NC Council of Churches. The goal of this program is to equip churches in our state to become hubs of ministry in behavioral health.

According to the Council, behavioral health encompasses “how we think, feel, act, and connect.” Resources that support behavioral health often take the form of: “prevention and well-being, mental health, stress management, and substance use and recovery.” Church, we already participate, formally or informally, in helping people in our congregation and our community in these ways. But we now have the opportunity to partner with the North Carolina Council of Churches (NCCC) to discern where our community may be missing some of these systems of support and how we can help.

Central was chosen as a third cohort in this Abundant Life program to engage in discernment, visioning and ultimately application for grant funding between now and Spring of 2027. This will be a serious and slowly paced process that could lead to major impact. Possible ministries we may engage in could relate to behavioral health facets such as: caregiver support, mental health counseling, mitigation of the loneliness epidemic, substance abuse, etc. However, one person or even 2-3 people cannot form this team by themselves.

Please prayerfully consider being part of this Abundant Life Team and, as you are able, journey with me over the coming months. God is doing a new thing at Central, and you can make a difference by becoming part of it.

Grace and peace,
Kennette



grace note

Definition: *Noun:* an extra note added as an embellishment and not essential to the harmony or melody.

Happy fall! I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. The cooler temperatures have been so lovely. I look forward to spending some time outside enjoying this stunning weather.

On October 4th, we will celebrate world communion Sunday. This is a beautiful tradition each year on the first Sunday in October that celebrates the oneness of the body of Christ across different denominations. With this in mind, I chose an anthem for the choir to sing that speaks to this unity. We will sing *When We Gather at the Table* by Joel Raney and Joseph Martin. The words *when we gather at the table, we are one* are a central message of how we are sharing in the body of Christ as a family with our brothers and sisters when we partake in communion. In addition, we will sing a hymn titled *Bread of the World* following communion. This hymn, although perhaps unfamiliar to the congregation, is perfect for the occasion and is not a hard hymn to learn. The hymn highlights Jesus' sacrifice for the entire world. The moving lyrics of the first verse, *Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed, by whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead*, are such a poignant reminder of who created life, but also whose death freed us.



Fall, Faith & a Little Trunk-or-Treat Fun

October is here, bringing cooler days, colorful leaves, and lots of exciting things happening in our Children's Ministry! This is always such a fun and busy time of year, and we are looking forward to all the opportunities we have to learn, serve, celebrate, and grow together in faith.

As we enjoy everything this fall season brings, we are reminded that God is with us through every season of life. Whether we are gathering for worship, preparing for special events, serving others, or simply spending time together, each moment gives us another opportunity to share God's love with our children and families. We have lots to look forward to this month, and as always, thank you for the many ways you support our Children's Ministry! Your prayers, helping hands, donations, encouragement, and participation make so much of what we do possible. Here's to a fun, faith-filled October!

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes that's the book for me...

During our Bible Presentation Service on September 13th, we were delighted to present Bibles and Bible Storybooks to this year's kindergarteners and third graders. We pray these meaningful gifts will deepen their faith, help them discover God's Word, and remind them of the love of their church family. It was a joyful milestone for our students and congregation as we celebrated their growing journey of faith together.

Trunk-or-Treat

We're excited to once again support Central Methodist Child Center's Trunk-or-Treat festivities this October by providing special treat bags for the children to enjoy!

During October, we will be collecting peanut-free candy and small prizes to help fill the treat bags. An [Amazon Wish List](#) is also available, making it easy to purchase the items needed and have them shipped directly to the church. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated too and will be used to purchase additional treats and prizes.



We will need one or two volunteers who are willing to decorate their vehicle that morning and help pass out treat bags during the Child Center's festivities. This will take place on Thursday and/or Friday of that week, with the exact day and time to be announced. If you are interested in helping, please let me know!

The Children's Advisory Team will meet on Monday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. to fill and prepare the Trunk-or-Treat bags. We will also have a brief team meeting that evening.

Thank you for helping us make this a fun and special celebration for the preschool children! Whether you donate candy, prizes, funds, your time, or a combination of them all, every little bit helps us share some extra joy with our Child Center families!

You are the Light... Carry the Light!

"Let your light shine before others..." Matthew 5:16

Would your child like to help lead worship on Sunday mornings?

Children and youth are invited to serve as acolytes by lighting altar candles, carrying the cross, and helping with worship. It is a meaningful way to grow in faith and serve God and our church family.

No experience is needed; training will be provided.

If your child is interested or you would like to learn more, please contact Kisha. We would love to welcome new acolytes this school year!

**Would you like other ways children and youth can serve during the service? See Kisha or Logan for additional opportunities.*

Thank you for your continued support of our Children's Ministry!

Central Happenings



A great big **CONGRATULATIONS** to the Childcare Center for receiving their fourth star in the ECERS rating scale.

The Church and the Child Center Board are so very proud and recognize the hard work of Hannah and her staff!



POINSETTIAS

to be placed around the altar
Sunday, December 13th and 20th

The cost is \$16.00 for a white 6.5" plant, wrapped with a hand tied bow. Orders must be received by **Sunday, November 1st**.

Order forms will be available in the bulletin & church office during the month of October!



Sunday, September 13th was Bible & Bible Storybook Sunday where we paused to celebrate our kindergarteners and third graders and present them with new bibles! Congratulations Sloan, Daxton, and Molly! We look forward to continuing this journey with you!

Save the Date!!

What: Yadkin Valley District Fellowship Event

When: October 17th, 11:30am -3pm (it's a drop in)

Where: The Red Barn at Tanglewood Park

All are invited to enjoy an afternoon of food, fellowship, music, and family fun at our Yadkin Valley District Family Fun Day!

Finance Update! Our Stewardship Campaign for 2027 will kick off this month.

Please be on the lookout for a letter from Pastor Danny as well as your new pledge card. Your pledges provide the foundation for our budget next year. Thank you for your continued investment in the life and ministry here at Central.

FLU VACCINE CLINIC

SPONSORED BY THE
Women's League of Mount Airy
& Surry County Health Department

**OCTOBER 3RD
9AM-12PM**

HOLY ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH
(PARKING LOT)
1208 N. MAIN STREET
MOUNT AIRY, N.C. 27030



NEW THIS YEAR!

BLESSING OF THE STUFFIES

CHILDREN, you are invited to bring your special lovelies to receive a blessing as well.

October 4th 2:30pm

1909 North Main Street | Mount Airy, NC 27070 | 336-786-8324

All things bright and
beautiful, all creatures
great and small,
all things wise and
wonderful, the Lord God
made them all!



October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				Nominations - 7pm 7pm - Al-Anon	Staff Meeting 12:30 pm	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Blessing of the Animals 2:30pm Disciple IV 5pm 7pm - AA & Al-Anon	 morning devotions WPAQ SPPRC @ 5:30pm Abundant Life @ 7pm	9:30am:Class Meeting 7pm - Class Meeting	6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	7pm - Al-Anon	Autumn Leaves Festival 	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		9:30am:Class Meeting		Food & Fellowship Team Meeting - 10am 7pm - Al-Anon		Yadkin Valley District Fellowship Event 11:30am-3pm Tanglewood Park
7pm - AA & Al-Anon	Finance @ 5:30pm	7pm - Class Meeting	6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	7pm - Al-Anon		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Laity Sunday - St. Paul UMC 2:30pm Disciple IV 5pm 7pm - AA & Al-Anon		9:30am:Class Meeting				
		7pm - Class Meeting	6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir	7pm - Al-Anon		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Disciple IV 5pm 7pm - AA & Al-Anon	Children's Committee 5:30pm Church Council @ 7pm	9:30am:Class Meeting		7pm - Al-Anon	 CMCC's Trunk or Treat 6pm-8pm	
			6:30 - Bells 7:30 - Choir			