



## Central United Methodist Church

### Our Mission:

To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,  
GROW in their faith and SERVE in the church and world.

Rev. David Lee, Pastor

Dr. Tammy Bass, Director of Discipleship

Caroline Scism, Director of Children Ministries

Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries

Katie Bowers, Director of Youth Ministries

200 East Marion Street

Shelby, NC 28150

704-487-6336

<http://cumcshelby.org>



Please scan the QR code to the left and fill out the connect card  
to let us know you are worshipping with us and how we can  
connect you to our ministries.

# The Worship of God

December 21, 2025

10:00am

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. Raney

Central Ringers

Libby Alexander, keyboard

Rod Mauney, percussion

\*Congregational Song

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Dellinger Family

First Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of

Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.**

Second Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

*(Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.)*

Morning Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

Children's Message

Tammy Bass

Offertory

*For Unto Us a Child Is Born*

Handel

Libby Alexander, piano

arr. Wold

## Doxology #95

**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.**

Anthem

*Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

Courtney

Chancel Choir

Libby Alexander, piano

Emma Buckner, violin

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred,  
but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet newborn babe, how frail; and in a manger bed,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned  
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
to die, to live, and not alone for me.

Scripture

Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13: 1-3

Sermon

**It's a Wonderful Life**

Rev. David Lee

\*Congregational Song

*In The Bleak Midwinter*

\*Benediction

\*Chiming the Trinity

\*Postlude

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Thygerson

Libby Alexander, organ

\*Please stand if able

## **Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!**

Visitors are invited to visit the Welcome Table for a free gift and additional information about Central United Methodist Church. We are glad you are here!



## **Connect with us!**

Use this QR Code for a direct link to all things CUMC. Get easy access to online giving options, connect cards letting us know you were in worship (in person or online), updated bulletins, newsletters and more!

## **Prayer Concerns**

For this week please pray for the following:

\*All of those recovering or suffering from medical issues, physical and emotional.

### **CUMC Family**

12/15 Ollie Anthony

12/15 Jo Marsh

12/15 Frank Richardson

### **Other**

Military & First Responders

Our Homeless Community

Wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan

Our Nation, County, and City

### **Family and Friends**

12/15 Deborah Martin (Stephen Ager's sister; cancer recovery)

12/15 Gerald Lamonte Jennings (cancer)

12/15 Rodney Grant Jr. (Loss of leg)

12/17 Dale Eaker (Jessica Talbert's mom; cancer)

## **Ministry Needs**

Below is a list of volunteer and donation needs for some of our ministries:

Backpack Ministry: For December: **Mac and Cheese**

Open Table: **Bottled Water**

## **Confirmation Orientation**

Confirmation Orientation will be held today directly after the service with Pastor David.

## **Light Ball Dash**

Meet at Marion Elementary School at 5:30pm for registration. The walk/run starts at 6pm and raises money for Feeding Kids Cleveland County. Youth are encouraged to dress festive and bring the family to enjoy the lights!

## **Prayer List Clearing**

The prayer list has been cleared. If you have a prayer request that you would like to have stay on the list or a new concern, please contact the office and we will be glad to add it.

## **Holiday Hours**

Monday, December 22: Open 9-2

Tuesday, December 23: Open 9-2

Wednesday, December 24: Open 9-12

Thursday, December 25: CLOSED

Friday, December 26: CLOSED

## Fall Discipleship Opportunities

### Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

8am, Saturday Mornings before Open Table.

CUMC Room E210

Starting on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and meets

the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month.

### The Book of Matthew

Have you wondered about the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven? Good thing to wonder! Matthew's gospel pulls back the curtain and says, "Thanks for asking, here it is."

Taught by Dr. Tim Sieges, retired Director of Wycliffe Counseling Ministries

### Disciple Class

Disciple is an in-depth four-year Bible Study that meets every Tuesday afternoon in the conference room from 3-5PM. We will be completing I and II Timothy, as well as Titus, after the Christmas holidays and will then be starting Disciple IV sometime in February. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Rob Laney (704-472-5042) if you are interested in joining!





# GIVING

# Thanks

*As we prepare for Advent and Christmas,*

*consider how you can give back to the One who gave so much for you.*

Our gifts are an act of worship in response to God's generosity – an expression of our faith.

Sometimes gifts at year-end are contributions to fulfill a pledge or long-term commitment. Other gifts are over and above our regular contributions, which help the church expand its mission and ministry.

And, at times, our gifts may be a way to honor a loved one or the memory of one who has joined the Church Triumphant.

Year-end is a wonderful time to give thanks, celebrate what God has done in our lives, and invest in the life and mission of our church.

## WHY GIVE STOCK?

Appreciated stocks and mutual fund shares provide a cost-effective and savvy way to give.

EXAMPLE: Susannah wants to give \$10,000 to her church. She is in the 24% federal income tax bracket. She owns some stock valued at \$10,000 (\$9,000 of that is long-term capital gain).



	Option A - <b>Sell</b> stock & give proceeds	Option B - <b>Gift</b> stock to church through cash the Foundation
Current stock value	\$10,000	\$10,000
Capital gains tax (Fed 15%) + NC (5.25%)	\$1,823	\$0
Amount of Gift to Church	\$8,177	\$10,000

*Your United Methodist Foundation processes stock gifts as a courtesy service for you and your church.*

## WHAT TO KNOW

- ✚ **Charitable gifts** must be completed by Dec. 31 to be deducted this year.
- ✚ For **gifts of cash** you may elect to deduct up to 100% of adjusted gross income (AGI).
- ✚ **A gift of appreciated stock** preserves cash and avoids capital gains tax.
- ✚ **Consider pre-paying your 2026 gifts** to boost deductions. Itemize every other year. Creating a **Foundation Donor Advised Fund** can be an ideal way to accomplish this.
- ✚ **IRA ROLLOVER GIFT:** If you are age 73+ and are required to take a minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you can authorize direct gifts from your IRA to the church.

You reduce your taxable income, and the distribution counts toward your RMD.



Our Church is a partner of the  
United Methodist Foundation  
of Western North Carolina.

Learn more about planned gifts:



A.J. Thomas  
Director of

Client Relations  
[ajthomas@umfwnc.org](mailto:ajthomas@umfwnc.org)



## Central UMC Ministry Opportunity

This QR code will take you to a comprehensive list of opportunities to be involved and serve at Central. Check out the list! You will be proud of all that Central does to make a difference in people's lives! Find a place to serve! As you find your place to serve, help new people find the information and a place to plug in! Together we shine the bright light of Christ!

Central UMC is a *Safe Sanctuaries* church. Please be sure that your Children are always accompanied by a parent or responsible adult caregiver including if and when they need to use the restroom during service. We appreciate your assistance as we strive to ensure the safety of all.

**Restrooms** are located outside the right-hand side of the sanctuary, as you look at the chancel area.

**Childcare** is available for infants and preschool aged children. Our nursery staff awaits you in room E105.

**Hearing devices** are available for those who need them.

**Large print Bibles & Hymnals** are available for those who need them. The Ushers are at each door and will happily assist you with any of these.

### SERMON NOTES

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