



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 7, 2025

10:00am

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude

Baby Jesus, Born Today
Butterfly Choir

arr. Hudson

*Congregational Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Bishop Family

First Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

Second Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

(Light the second 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

Julianne MacDowell

Offertory

O Come, Little Children
Libby Alexander, organ

arr. Wood

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

Advent Blessing

Sonshine Choir

Libby Alexander, accompanist

Bless all you sons and daughters who await the coming child;
The only Son, the Promised One. Who comes to be born in a stable.
Bless all the children of the light, with their brilliant faces.
Lift high your candles, show the night;
That Christ overcomes the darkness.
Alleluia, Alleluia. The light of Light, overshadows.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Brighter than the things of Earth, Son of God, humble birth.
Bless all who worship in this place, the coming breath of heaven.
The One whose life and death becomes salvation to the nations.

Scripture

Hebrews 11:1; Matthew 25: 35-36

Sermon

Miracle on 34th Street

Rev. David Lee

*Congregational Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Bisbee

Sonshine Choir

Libby Alexander, accompanist

*Benediction

*Chiming the Trinity

*Postlude

Noel Toccata

arr. Young

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!

Prayer Concerns

For this week please pray for the following:

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

Ricky Shell

Ben and Emily Ousley

Mike Richardson

Kimberlyn Floyd

Mark Elliott (Stroke)

Sandra Raynor and Family

Ollie Anthony

The Young Family

Steve & Becky Hill (loss of grandson- Shields Fletcher)

Leena Wray

"Mom and Pop" Plunner

Deborah Martin (Stephen Agers sister-Cancer recovery)

Allison Bustillo Chinchilla (Crest graduate self-deported after ICE detainment)

Frank Richardson

Roger Davis

Gerald Lamonte Jennings (Cancer)

Ashley Allison

Jeannie Hamrick

Victims of Long COVID

Other:

Military & First Responders

End of Violence & Violent Rhetoric

Our Homeless Community

Wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan

Victims of extreme weather and wildfires

Those Grieving

Roger Lewis (Heart Surgery)

Aurora Lewis (Spinal Surgery)

Western NC

Breast Cancer Research

Division of our country



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!

Ministry Needs

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

Backpack Ministry: For November: **Individual Packs of Grits/Oatmeal**

Open Table: **Bottled Water**

Prayer List Clearing

The prayer list will be cleared and getting a refreshed look on Monday, December 15. 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.

It's Not Too Late!!

Lake Junaluska Retreat Registration Is Still Open!

The registration for the church wide retreat is open! Please fill out your registration card and return it to the office so you don't miss out on this experience. We do offer the registration ONLINE! Visit cumcshelby.org/church-wide-retreat and complete the form. You can also pay online using the same page and following the link at the bottom.

Community Christas Concert December 14 at CUMC- 3pm

Featuring choirs from:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Ascension Lutheran Church, Central United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, and Shelby Presbyterian Church

Staff Love Offering

Christmas is fast approaching! Each year, to show our appreciation to our staff, we collect a Love Offering for our staff to show our appreciation of all their hard work. If you would like to contribute, please drop it into the offering plate marked as "Staff Love Offering," or you may bring it by the Church office.

If you can contribute, please do so by Wednesday, December 19th. Help us show our love to our wonderful Staff!

Meal Train for the Youngs

Welcome Marigold Young! Help Casey and Rebekah adjust to life at home with Goldie. Sign up on the Meal Train link to bring a meal:

<https://mealtrain.com/d00943>

Red Kettle Campaign

Bell Ringers needed for Saturday, December 20th 10am-5pm- location to be determined. You'll only need to do 1 hour shifts. If you'd like to sign up contact Chris Mabry at chrismabry23@gmail.com



- **Sunday, Dec. 7**
 - Youth will be traveling to Navion today at 3PM for Christmas Caroling!
- **Sunday, Dec. 14**
 - 3pm Community Christmas Concert at church
 - Youth Christmas Party 5-7pm at the Maxwell's. Please bring a small gift for the gift exchange. \$10 limit
- **Sunday, Dec. 21**
 - Light Ball Dash- One-mile walk/run to enjoy the lights and benefit Feeding Kids Cleveland County. Registration is at 5:30 and the race begins at 6pm. Bring the entire family out and dress festive. It's a lot of fun if you've never done it before.

Fall Discipleship Opportunities

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

8am, Saturday Mornings before Open Table.

CUMC Room E210

Meets the 1st and 3rd 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

Daytime Ladies' Bible Study

Thursdays starting Sept. 18th at 9:30

Conference room

This is a 4 week advent study titled "A child is born" and written Amy-Jill Levine. If interested, contact Jessica Talbert

Disciple Class

The Disciple class will be starting back with the study of Colossians on Tuesdays from 3-5:30pm in the conference room. If you are interested, contact Rob Laney.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to the 59 families that have turned in Estimates of Giving cards so far. We continue to request Estimates of Giving to include in the 2026 Budget. If you have not turned in your card, please mail it or bring it to the Church Office.

If you plan to give online or through a bank draft, please notify us by phone or email so we can plan our budget with your gifts included in our expected contributions.

Feel free to contact the Office (704-487-6336) or me if you have any questions.

John Lattimore

Stewardship Chair

704-472-4568

jlattimore@hotmail.com

Scout Recruitment

Troop 104 is always looking for new members! If you or anyone you know has a child in their life 11 years old or up that would be interested in participating, please contact Randy Tuttle at rtuttle@bellsouth.net.



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
